A fascinating, autumnal voyage around the azure Aegean Sea. This Greek travel adventure explores some of the most inspiring monuments of the ancient world, combining the Northern shores with some classic Greek island-hopping.
With the heat of the summer abating, this is the perfect time to explore Greece and its fascinating islands.

Relax on the island of Tinos, where the shrine to Our Lady of Tinos is a major landmark, before using Volos as a base to wonder at the spectacular Byzantine monasteries at Meteora, one of the most remarkable sights in the Mediterranean. Mount Olympus, home of the gods, lies near Thessaloniki, then cruise past Mount Athos to Philippi, where the apostle St Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity.

Experience some of the less-visited Greek islands, from historic Samothraki to picturesque Chios, and Patmos, the “Jerusalem of the Aegean”, where St John is said to have written the Book of Revelation.
## YOUR ITINERARY

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Port</th>
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<td>13 OCT</td>
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*Ship at anchor  Ports introduced in 2018 are shown in gold

Please note – this is the cruise itinerary. If you have booked a longer programme with the pre-cruise hotel stay and land tour, you can find this information on pages 12-13.

## VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Aegean Odyssey**’s maiden island calls to Cycladic Tinos, rugged Samothraki and magical Chios
- Follow in the footsteps of Alexander the Great during an extended stay in Thessaloniki and scale the monasteries in the sky at Meteora
- Discover Philippi where St Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe
- Cruise around Mount Athos with deck commentary from Professor Robin Cormack
- In Patmos, visit the 10th century monastery featuring an El Greco icon, that together form a UNESCO World Heritage Site
13 OCTOBER 2018  **ATHENS, GREECE**

Embark *Aegean Odyssey* in Piraeus, the port of Athens, in the afternoon. The ship sets sail this evening.

14 OCTOBER  **TINOS, GREEK ISLANDS**

Located in the Cyclades, this charming island is where Hercules killed the sons of Boreas, causing The God of the North Wind to cast an eternal breath across the landscape in revenge, which you may still feel.

**INCLUDED EXCURSION**

**TINOS HIGHLIGHTS (Half day, AM)**

Your first stop is the medieval convent of Kechrovouni, where a nun named Pelagia is said to have received a vision from the Virgin Mary in 1822, shortly after the formation of modern Greece. Her holy communion led to the discovery of a miraculous icon buried near the town of Tinos in what is today the site of the Panagía Evangelístria Church. This miraculous discovery is celebrated by pilgrims throughout the year, as thousands travel to visit the most important Marian shrine in Greece. Your tour will also include the mountain of Xomburgo, the ruins of a Venetian castle and the unusual village of Volax, which is surrounded by huge red boulders of volcanic rock that stand in stark contrast to its charming white houses.

15 OCTOBER  **VOLOS, GREECE**

According to Greek myth, this port city was home to Jason and his crew of Argonauts who set sail from the coast of Thessaly aboard the Argos in search of the legendary Golden Fleece.

**INCLUDED EXCURSION**

**REMARKABLE MONASTERIES AT METEORA (Full Day)**

Perhaps the highlight of any trip to Greece is the sight of these Byzantine monasteries atop the rock towers of Meteora. These sandstone "columns in the sky" soar up to over a thousand feet above sea level and are crowned with dwellings built by anchorite monks from the 11th century onwards. You will visit the oldest and most accessible monastery, Agios Stephenos, now a convent, where the Byzantine Emperor Paleologos stayed in 1333 en route to a battle on the plains below. Then visit the Varlaam Monastery, which requires climbing about 150 steps, but is well worth the effort, both for the commanding views of the Pindus Range and the fabled frescoes, including an apocalyptic vision of hell. Following the visit, we will continue driving through this unearthly landscape, viewing new sights as we descend slowly to the plain.
16 OCTOBER  THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Arrive in Thessalonica at breakfast time. Also known as Salonica, the city became part of the Byzantine Empire in 395AD and today is Greece’s second city.

INCLUDED EXCURSION  Choice A
BYZANTINE THESSALONIKI (Half day, AM)
A World Heritage Site and an open-air museum with Christian monuments dating from the 4th to the 21st centuries, this walking tour of the city includes the 5th century basilica Agios Dimitrios; the palace of the Emperor Galerius and the 4th century Rotunda, his mausoleum; the marvellous mosaics of the Agia Sofia, patterned after Justinian’s Hagia Sophia in Constantinople; and the Museum of Byzantine culture. You will also see the 15th century White Tower and the International Trade Fair grounds, built on the site of an old Jewish cemetery that was razed to the ground during World War II.

INCLUDED EXCURSION  Choice B
ANCIENT DION (Half day, AM)
Founded in the 5th century BC at the foot of Mount Olympus, Dion was home to the gods of classical Greece and became a place where festivals and games lasting nine days took place, all dedicated to the divinities of art and culture, known as the nine muses. Today the site features an Archaeological Park, Roman theatre and a Hellenistic theatre that is still in use, as well as a museum housing an array of artefacts from across the area’s history, including remains from the first cult of Zeus and its sanctuary, vases, jewellery and statues from the Villa of Dionysos. Construction materials, building tools and coins unearthed during the excavation also provide a deeper look at everyday life in this ancient city.
CRUISE VIDEO

Scan the QR code below to go straight to the online video for this cruise*

* UK version

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

TRACES OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT
(Full day, $79 per person)

During this tour to the archaeological museum near Pella (the ancient city of Macedon) you will discover some exceptional 4th century BC floor mosaics along with objects from everyday life that help provide a more intimate insight into every facet of the city. Next, the town of Veria is where Apostle Paul famously preached and is our stopping place for a traditional Macedonian lunch, before visiting the Royal Tombs of Vergina, burial site of Macedonia’s kings including the father of Alexander the Great. Here you will tour the unique museum and descend underground to see tombs filled with ancient artefacts and other masterpieces of ancient Greek art, including golden laurel wreaths, silver vessels, miniature sculpture and paintings.

17 OCTOBER  CRUISING MOUNT ATHOS, GREECE

Today Aegean Odyssey cruises close to the spectacular peninsula of Mount Athos, a ‘Holy Mountain’ topped by stunning Greek Orthodox monasteries that is a must see from the ship’s decks. Professor Robin Cormack, who has spent extended time here, will give a fascinating commentary from the Bridge as we sail past.

ON-BOARD ENRICHMENT

Voyages to Antiquity prides itself on the enrichment programme, and today’s deck commentary is a true example. Throughout your voyage, Robin Cormack and Roderick Beaton will provide insightful talks on the history of the area and sites we are visiting. (More details are available on page 15). New for our 2018 Aegean Experience programmes, we also have a local Greek expert on board who will give short destination talks on topics concerning the local customs and culture of the areas visited. Look out for these in your Daily Programme on board.

18 OCTOBER  KAVALA, GREECE

Once an important seaport for ancient Macedonia, Kavala boasts a stunning Byzantine castle overlooking its bustling harbour, built by the Byzantine Emperor Andronicus II Palaeologus in the 14th century.
ANCIENT PHILIPPI (Half day, AM)

Philippi is where the apostle St Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. Founded by Philip of Macedonia in 356 BC, this extraordinary archaeological site has extensive ruins to explore including a large Roman forum, sacred gates, baths, wrestling rings and even a public latrine with marble seats. You will also see the reputed “jail” of St Paul; a theatre from the classical period; and two Byzantine basilicas. After stopping at the stream where St Paul’s first European convert was christened (marked by a Greek Orthodox basilica) time permitting you may choose to remain in town at leisure before returning to the ship.
Samothraki, Greek Islands

This ruggedly beautiful island in the north-western corner of the Aegean is where a magnificent Hellenistic sculpture of Nike was discovered during the 19th century, which is now on display in the Louvre, Paris.

Included Excursion

Samothraki Highlights (Half day, AM)

During the time of antiquity, initiation into Samothrace's mystery cult of the Great Gods brought with it the promise of protection at sea and the opportunity to “become a better and more pious person”. The Samothrace Temple Complex still maintains the aura of a place where momentous events occurred. Your guided tour here includes all the major ruins, from the Propylon gatehouse of Ptolemy II, to the temple of Hieron and the remains of the largest covered round space in ancient Greece, the Arsinoé Rotunda. From here the tour moves to the local Folklore Museum, which is filled with paraphernalia relating to cattle farmers and more urbane households, including tools, authentic costumes and decorative plates, an ornate iconostasis and a ‘mesandra’ wardrobe.
20 OCTOBER  **CHIOS, GREEK ISLANDS**

Famous for its production of mastic and its claim as the birthplace of Homer, Chios has been invaded on more than one occasion, but the artistic and spiritual strength of its people has endured and today it thrives.

**INCLUDED EXCURSION  Choice A**

**CHIOS HIGHLIGHTS (Half day, AM)**

During the Middle Ages some of the richest and most powerful families of Chios built huge walled estates across the plains to the south of the capital. At the time, the island was under the rule of Genoa, so many of these houses became surprisingly Italianate in style. The village of Pyrgi is renowned for its geometrically patterned black and white houses and has a church dedicated to the Holy Apostles featuring a highly decorated interior of medieval frescoes. Mesta is a fine example of a fortified settlement, with a large central tower to protect peasantry from Saracen pirates. It has two churches dedicated to the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, patron saints of the Aegean and Dodecanese islands. You will also visit a Mastichochoria (literally “mastic village”) to learn more about how this aromatic natural sap, often referred to as the “tears of Chios”, has been harvested since antiquity.

**INCLUDED EXCURSION  Choice B**

**NEA MONI & ANAVATOS (Half day, AM)**

The 11th century monastery of Nea Moni stands at the site where a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary is said to have been discovered. During the Greek War of Independence, the monastery was sacked by Ottoman invaders and in 1881 was badly damaged by an earthquake, but it has since been restored and contains some wonderful mosaics and frescoes. Not far from here is the Byzantine village of Anavatos, built atop a steep hill that is inaccessible from most directions. For centuries it was considered unassailable, until the infamous massacre of 1822, when its menfolk were slain and hundreds of women threw themselves and their children over the cliff to avoid being captured. Since then the settlement is a ghost town, but it has been well preserved as an important reminder of an appalling event.
21 OCTOBER  PATMOS, GREEK ISLANDS

Patmos may be one of the smallest islands in the Dodecanese, but it compensates for size with beauty and history. Called the “Jerusalem of the Aegean,” the island has long been a site of Christian pilgrimage.

INCLUDED EXCURSION

ST JOHN’S PATMOS (Half day, AM)

Emperor Domitian’s Christian persecutions were still at their height when St John fled to Patmos in 95AD to write his Gospel and dictate his Book of the Apocalypse. On this tour you will visit the small cave where St John received his revelations, which has been converted into a beautiful chapel built around a stone orifice said to have been used by the saint as a pillow; followed by the medieval village of Chora and the Monastery of St John the Theologian, founded in the 10th century, which houses many religious relics, including the skull of St Thomas. Together, these three locations form an exceptional example of a Greek Orthodox pilgrimage centre and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There will then be free time to explore the whitewashed houses and Byzantine churches of Chora.

22 OCTOBER  ATHENS (PIRAEUS), GREECE

Disembark *Aegean Odyssey* after breakfast, in the port of Piraeus.
Voyages to Antiquity cruises include shore excursions in almost all ports of call. Some ports offer different sightseeing opportunities—in these instances, we may offer additional, optional alternatives at extra cost.

WHAT TO EXPECT  Our sightseeing programmes are outstanding, but can be challenging. Visits to historic sites and natural wonders often require walking over uneven surfaces, up and down multiple steps or steep paths. Therefore a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is recommended. Some passengers may decide to take a break from excursions on more strenuous days and instead explore the environs of the port.

Look for the symbols alongside each excursion description. The key to these symbols may be found on page 5. These give a good idea of the level of walking involved.

Tour durations are approximate and, to avoid overcrowding and ensure you enjoy the best experience, the sequence of site visits and operating times may vary. The staff on board Aegean Odyssey will brief you each evening on the plans for the following day and all departure times and meeting points will be advised in the Daily Journal. Some countries require you to carry certain documents ashore and this will be advised on board at the appropriate time.

As a result of severe weather or unforeseen changes to opening/closing times, we reserve the right to alter, cancel or substitute an included excursion at any time. This happens extremely rarely and every reasonable effort is made to ensure that the advised schedules are followed. If a change is made, guests will be advised in their final documents or at the shore excursion briefings on board.

EXCURSIONS WITH THE EXTENSIVE WALKING SYMBOL  Some excursions which feature in our programmes are not suitable for guests with any mobility restrictions. In accordance with our Fitness to Travel statement and in order to ensure Voyages to Antiquity can deliver a high quality land programme, the ship reserves the right to transfer you to an alternative excursion if they believe that your original choice is unsuitable. Please consider your fellow guests and only select this option if you are certain you able to meet the activity level.

THE SHORE EXCURSION TEAM  Our Shore Excursion Manager and Graduate Assistants are on hand to make sure you get the most out of your excursion experience. Informative briefings will be provided on the tour options and more generally on upcoming ports of call, and the team can field any further questions in the Reception area.

During the excursions, we endeavour to have a representative on every coach, but this is not always possible and cannot be guaranteed. The role of the team ashore is to ensure the smooth running of the excursion in conjunction with the local guide and operator. This often means rotating between groups. Though always keen to assist, the team therefore cannot be responsible for providing walking support or making sure that everyone in the group is present at a particular time. Please ensure that you sign up for your preferred excursions at the embarkation desk at the start of the cruise. Some excursions may operate subject to minimum numbers, and we need to know in advance how many passengers are joining each excursion in order to book coaches and guides.

OUR GUIDES  A good local guide, keen to share his or her knowledge and enthusiasm for a particular attraction can transform a visit. All of our shore excursions feature qualified, highly-rated English-speaking guides with just this expertise and passion.

SHOPPING  Whilst Voyages to Antiquity shore excursions focus on the history and culture of a particular destination or attraction, some offer the chance to visit local workshops and view demonstrations of crafts and artistic techniques. Unlike other cruise operators, we have no affiliation with any shopping establishment. We do not assume responsibility for purchases made ashore and recommend insuring anything you choose to ship home.

TRANSPORTATION  Various modes of transportation may be used depending on the excursion. Motor-coaches are deluxe, air-conditioned vehicles unless not available in that port. Wi-Fi is not generally available on coaches.

CLOTHING TIPS  Although high summer temperatures are not expected at this time of year, we strongly recommend the use of sun hats and sunscreen during excursions. Sturdy walking shoes are also advised, especially when visiting archaeological sites. Please dress respectfully for visits to sites of a religious nature—generally this means that shoulders and knees should be covered. Further clothing tips will be provided at the on-board briefings, along with weather forecasts for the following day.
Voyages to Antiquity offers a variety of cruise packages, some of which include land touring elements before and/or after the cruise itself. In this case, a three-night, pre-cruise land tour of Greece’s ancient sites.

10 OCTOBER ATHENS, GREECE
Upon arrival in Athens, we transfer you to your centrally located hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

11 OCTOBER ATHENS, GREECE
Greece’s capital is a unparalleled treasure-trove of ancient wonders, from the iconic Acropolis and Parthenon to temples, stadia and theatres galore. Gritty and edgy, yet warm and welcoming, modern-day Athens also captivates its visitors.

INCLUDED EXCURSION Choice A

ACROPOLIS & MUSEUM (Half day, AM)
The zenith of artistic and architectural achievement in the 5th century BC Athenian ‘Golden Age’, the collection of temples atop the Acropolis are unmissable. The Parthenon takes top billing, but the Erechtheion, with its beautiful caryatid porch, the grand Propylaia gateway and the tiny, stunning Temple of Athena Nike also merit attention. Below the temple complex is the Theatre of Dionysos, where the dramas of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were first performed. The Acropolis Museum is a grand timeline of Acropolis history and artefacts, with the original Erechtheion caryatids and Parthenon frescos on display.

INCLUDED EXCURSION Choice B

BYZANTINE ATHENS (Half day, AM)
Never in the history of Christianity has a school of artists infused such a high degree of spirituality into its work than the Byzantine icon painters and mosaicists. Our alternative excursion reveals the glory of Byzantine art on a visit to the Byzantine Museum, with its extraordinary breadth of exhibits dating from the 4th to the 19th centuries; and the Kaisariani Monastery on the slopes of Mt Hymettos, with its Roman foundations and colourful frescos.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - $35 per person (Half day, PM)
Founded at the end of the 19th century to house and protect antiquities from all over Greece, the National Archaeological Museum is an extraordinarily rich repository of ancient art and sculpture. Marvel at Cycladic, Minoan, Mycenaean and Classical Greek masterpieces, and standout highlights including the iconic golden mask of Agamemnon, the bronze horse and jockey of Artemision and vibrant Minoan frescos from Santorini.
12 OCTOBER ATHENS/OSIOS LOUKAS/DELPHI, GREECE

En route to Delphi, we visit the historic walled monastery of Osios Loukas, a triumph of Middle Byzantine architecture and art.

Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual centre of the earth. The shrine of Apollo, set 600m up on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, can still exert a potent grip on the visitor. Here was the most respected oracle of antiquity, where the great Athenians would come to hear the thoughts of the gods as interpreted by the ‘inspired’ priests and priestesses. Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings and, though much was destroyed by earthquakes and zealous Christians, in the ruins of the sacred way, temples and a theatre with splendid acoustics, you can still imagine the site as it once was, as well as admire breathtaking views to the blue waters of the Gulf of Corinth. The accompanying museum houses many treasures including the stunning bronze Charioteer.

We stay at a hotel in this beautiful village, where dinner is included.

13 OCTOBER DELPHI/CORINTH CANAL/PIRAEUS, GREECE

The Rio-Antirrio Bridge is one of the longest multi-span cable-stayed bridges in the world, and we cross it this morning as we drive to Corinth for our sightseeing programme.

The concept of cutting a canal through the Isthmus of Corinth to link the Ionian and Aegean Seas was first proposed in the 6th century BC by the tyrant Periander, founder of Ancient Corinth. The magnitude of the task defeated him so he opted instead to build a paved slipway across which sailors dragged small ships on rollers – a method used until the 13th century. Nero, one of Rome’s most infamous emperors, inaugurated one attempt in 67 AD with his golden spade, but this attempt took a while to finish as it wasn’t finally completed until 1893. Enjoy a brief photo stop before continuing your tour to the once rich and powerful city of Ancient Corinth.

A city blessed with a superb location, fertile plains and virtually impregnable refuge. Excavations reveal that the ancient city was huge and wealthy; a survivor of the numerous invasions but devastated by earthquakes. St Paul lived and worked in Corinth for 18 months, making converts where he could. The Bema (platform) where the Roman governor tried him is still visible. See one of Corinth’s most striking ancient buildings – the Temple of Apollo, seven of whose original columns still stand. Walk through the remains of the Market Place, a colonnaded square once surrounded by many small shops. See the celebrated Fountain of Priene, which has produced water since earliest times, and the Lechaion Road, formerly the main thoroughfare to the port of Lechaion.

Your day will also include a traditional Greek lunch before continuing to Piraeus to embark Aegean Odyssey.
A quintessential element of the Voyages to Antiquity experience is our programme of on-board lectures from world-renowned guest speakers, carefully chosen for their expertise, their passion and enthusiasm for their subject, and their ability to engage with an audience. 6-9 talks per cruise, held in the Ambassador Lounge, add an extra dimension of understanding and appreciation to a destination or culture. Topics range from art and history to archaeology and architecture, food and wine to theology and the natural world.

**PROF ROBIN CORMACK**
Emeritus Professor, Courtauld Institute of Art, London

Robin Cormack is an art historian who works on Mediterranean art, particularly from Antiquity and Byzantium, but also from the Renaissance. He teaches in the Classics Faculty, University of Cambridge, as well as giving lectures in Europe and the USA. He has curated a dozen public exhibitions of Russian and Byzantine art, and co-curated the Royal Academy exhibition, Byzantium 330-1453. His books are on Byzantine art and icons, the most recent is the second expanded edition of *Byzantine Art* (Oxford, 2018).

He has a special side-interest in British architects who worked in Khartoum and New Delhi, and since he has always made it an aim never to write or lecture about monuments and sites unless he has visited them and studied them at first hand, travel is one of the things he does most often. Fortunately his wife, Professor Mary Beard, agrees with this aim, and travels too (and not just on twitter). So do his children who are both academics working in Africa, and who spend time in Cairo and South Sudan.

**PROFESSOR RODERICK BEATON**
King’s College, London

Roderick Beaton is a leading authority on Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean world from the Middle ages to today. He holds the Koraes Chair of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature at King’s College London, where he is also Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies.

He has lived for several years in Greece and has travelled widely throughout the region – on land, often on foot, as well as by sea! A fluent Greek speaker, he has often appeared on Greek TV and radio talking about his work.

Nearer home, Roderick has a lifelong commitment to sharing his enthusiasm for the post-classical Greek world with audiences up and down the UK. He has also given talks about his work in many European countries, the USA and Australia.

Roderick is the author of several award-winning books on Greek literature, culture, and history from the twelfth century to the present. He has translated Modern Greek poetry and fiction and is himself a published novelist. His most recent book, *Byron’s War: Romantic Rebellion, Greek Revolution* (2013), won the Runciman Award and the Elma Dangerfield Prize in 2014 and was shortlisted for the Duff Cooper Prize 2013. In 2013 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA).
LECTURES

THE IMPORTANCE OF MOSAICS (Robin Cormack)
One of the distinctive features of Byzantine churches and monasteries is the desire for expensive monumental mosaics. This lecture looks at some of the highlights to be seen on this cruise and asks how mosaics were made — and why.

THESALONICA: CITY OF MANY NAMES — AND MANY CULTURES (Roderick Beaton)
Today Greece’s second city, Thessalonica had previously been home to Byzantines, Venetians, Slavs, Turks and (until 1943) a thriving Jewish community. The talk uncovers the traces of the city’s past inhabitants and shows how their ghosts are woven into the fabric of the places that you will visit.

QUESTIONS AROUND THE VICTORY MONUMENT OF SAMOTHRACE (Robin Cormack)
Greek and Roman sculptures were prized up to the 19th century for their pure white glistening surfaces. But the artist Alma-Tadema in the middle of that century showed the Parthenon marbles as painted in bright colours. Who was right? Do we have the answer today?

THE MASSACRE OF CHIOS AND THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (Roderick Beaton)
In 1822, the island of Chios was caught up in a revolution against Ottoman Turkish rule, with consequences that shocked all Europe and inspired a famous painting by Delacroix. The talk tells the story and explains how these events helped shape the world of nation-states that we know today.

PIETY AND PROMISCUITY (Robin Cormack)
The founder of the monastery at Chios known as Nea Moni was the emperor Constantine IX Monomachos (1025-1055). His contemporaries were shocked at the number of his wives and mistresses, but they praised him for his patronage and support for church building all around the empire. Is there a connection between these two activities?

FROM LIBERATION TO ‘CRISIS’: HOW GREECE HAS BECOME MODERN (Roderick Beaton)
Born out of revolution in the 1820s, Greece today seems to be going through a ‘midlife crisis’. The talk explores the ways in which Greeks in recent times have learned to live with their ancient past, while playing a full part in the conflicts and achievements of modern Europe.

Specific lecture topics are subject to change
**READING GUIDE**

Oxford’s renowned bookseller Blackwell’s has designed a reading guide specifically for this outstanding cruise itinerary.

Order online at [blackwell.co.uk](http://blackwell.co.uk), or enjoy a 10% discount when quoting ‘voyages’ if you order directly on 01865 333623.

Book descriptions may be found at [voyagestoantiquity.com](http://voyagestoantiquity.com).

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*Note: All prices are subject to change.*
**FICTION**

*Rachel Cusk*

*Outline*


*Vassilis Vassilikos*

*Z*


*Mary Renault*

*The Last of the Wine*


*John Fowles*

*The Magus*


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**MAPS & GUIDES**

*Mediterranean Cruise Map*

Freytag and Berndt

ISBN: 9783707912906, £8.99

*Eyewitness Cruise Guide to Europe*


*Athens*

*Marco Polo Pocket Guide with Map*


*Athens: The Hidden Gems*


*Eyewitness: Greece, Athens & The Mainland*


*The Blue Guide: The Aegean Islands by Nigel McGilchrist*

Carrying an average of just 350 passengers, the premium class Aegean Odyssey is small enough to sail along rivers such as the Yangon and Guadalquivir, and into the most characterful ports of call inaccessible to the mega-ships. The service is more personal, the atmosphere more convivial and you get plenty of time to interact with the guest experts.

Yet on the other hand she is large enough to offer a superb range of amenities, including a choice of dining venues and comfortable bars, a relaxing spa centre and one of the best stocked libraries at sea. Cabins and staterooms are spacious and intelligently designed, and dedicated solo cabins at a low supplement are available across almost all categories, including balcony level.

**ON-BOARD FACILITIES**

- A choice of restaurants
- Three lounges
- Four bars
- Lecture theatre
- Library
- Shop
- Internet centre
- Outdoor pool
- Athena Health Spa and gym
- Beauty salon
- Medical centre
DELIGHTFUL DINING
Fortunately, the fascinating and beautiful regions sailed by *Aegean Odyssey* are also renowned for their strong culinary traditions, sublime local ingredients and delicious signature dishes. We draw on these inspirations to deliver a dining experience of sustained quality in keeping with your chosen itinerary.

MARCO POLO Though the more 'formal' dining option, with full waiter service and multi-course meals, Marco Polo has a casual country club elegance appreciated by guests. Join us here for dinner (and lunch on full days at sea) and enjoy a selection of expertly prepared dishes reflecting the countries visited and accompanied by complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks*.

TERRACE CAFE With a mix of indoor and alfresco seating, the informal Terrace Cafe is a charming alternative to the white glove refinement of the Marco Polo restaurant. Here, friendly staff serve up splendid breakfast buffets and mouthwatering lunch and dinner delights from a variety of stations, including sizzling grilled meats and succulent fish, crisp pizzas and indulgent pasta, fresh salads and fruit, again to the accompaniment of complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks*.

* Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner

AFTERNOON TEA AND LATE NIGHT SNACKS
There is something uniquely pleasurable about afternoon tea aboard a classic cruise ship, and you won’t want to miss the scones, pastries and finger sandwiches served up in the Terrace Cafe most days of your cruise.

And if you can manage even more gastronomic delights, hors d’oeuvres and late night snacks, from filo prawns to chocolate-dipped strawberries, are available in the Charleston Lounge at 5pm and 10.30pm.

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**MARCO POLO RESTAURANT**

**Appetisers**

- SHRIMP ROYALE
  Tiger prawns marinated in pink Champagne sauce on radicchio and endive
- ANGUS BEEF CARPACCIO
  Served with porcini mushrooms, arugula lettuce and fresh parmesan flakes
- SEA SCALLOPS AND CHERRY TOMATO BROCHETTE
  Served on gorgonzola-flavoured spinach with light tarragon foam

**Soup & Salad**

- WEST INDIAN PUMPKIN & GINGER SOUP
- INSALATA DI TAORMINA
  Mediterranean-style salad with lobster, salmon, shrimps, green beans, endive, shallots and roasted pine seeds

**Main Courses**

- CASARECCE ALLA SORRENTINA
  Fresh sautéed pasta with tomatoes, garlic, basil, oregano, parmesan and mozzarella
- GRILLED FRESH SEA BREAM FILLET
  Served with Mediterranean herbs, almond broccoli, green asparagus, butter-sautéed Parisienne potatoes and sauvignon sauce
- GLAZED BARBARIAN DUCK SUPREME
  In Grand Marnier sauce served with red cabbage and almond potato
- LIGHT MEDIUM FRENCH LAMB RACK
  In thyme-ciabatta crust with vegetable ragout and lemon potato

*From the Vegetarian Kitchen*

- GRILLED EGGPLANT AND BELL PEPPER MASALA
  Braised in yogurt with Indian spices, served with coconut-pistachio basmati rice
- ASPARAGUS AND ZUCCHINI TARTER
  Served with wild rice and sun-dried tomato coulees

**Desserts**

- WARM CHOCOLATE SOUFFLÉ CAKE
  Served with raspberry sorbet
- APRICOT - MANGO TART with mocha sauce
- ICE COUP “BELLINI” with peach and vanilla ice cream
- CHEESE TROLLEY with a selection of International cheeses
- SLICED FRESH FRUITS
- SELECTION OF ICE CREAM & SORBETS

* Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner

voyagestoantiquity.com
AWARD-WINNING ENRICHMENT

Voyages to Antiquity operates the most culturally immersive cruise programme, with internationally renowned guest speakers, a comprehensive selection of expertly-designed shore excursions in every major port of call, an extensive onboard library and a host of other enrichment elements from reading lists prepared by Blackwell’s of Oxford and onboard book clubs to exclusive private visits and local entertainment.

EXPERT GUEST LECTURERS  2-3 guest speakers, pre-eminent in their profession and expert in their field, accompany every departure. 6-9 talks per cruise, 45 minutes each, is the norm, often focusing on history, archaeology, art and mythology, but also on more unusual subjects such as botany and viticulture. Talks are delivered in the Ambassador Lounge with a host of visual aids (music, video and high quality maps) and recorded so passengers can catch up at their leisure if they are not able to attend in person. These guest lectures are specifically designed to complement shore excursions, not simply repeat or pre-empt the insight presented by the excellent local guides.

SHORE EXCURSIONS AND PRIVATE VISITS

More than 90% of Voyages to Antiquity’s shore excursions are included in the cruise fare. We use the best available guides, coaches and land agents, and excursions are meticulously planned, well-paced...
and guided in English. QuietVox sets are issued to all guests, enabling them to hear the guide’s commentary even as they linger to take photographs or make their own explorations. The core shore excursion programme is complemented with exclusive private visits, such as that to the Palazzo Gangi in Palermo where the sumptuous ballroom scenes of Visconti’s *The Leopard* were filmed.

**EVERYDAY ENRICHMENT** Aboard or ashore, every day brings enrichment opportunities. The detailed Daily Journal details lectures and excursions, but also local cultural performances, musical concerts, wine tastings, interactive classes and fun quizzes. *Aegean Odyssey*’s library, surely the biggest in terms of books-to-passenger ratio, houses hundreds of volumes specially selected by Blackwell’s of Oxford to complement the itinerary programme, along with maps, guidebooks, the latest popular fiction, classics and poetry. In this guide, we provide passengers with a recommended reading list, also prepared by Blackwell’s.

**... AND REFRESHMENT FOR BODY AS WELL AS MIND**

Small ship though she is, *Aegean Odyssey* offers plenty of other amenities to enhance your time aboard and occupy relaxing days at sea. Unwind on the sun deck’s padded wooden loungers and cool off with a splash in the outdoor pool; enjoy a cocktail or aperitif in one of several comfortable bars before dinner, and appreciate the music of the resident pianist or string trio afterwards.

**ATHENA HEALTH SPA** Pampering opportunities abound at the Athena Health Spa, with its full menu of revitalising therapies and treatments including massages and facials. The adjoining fitness centre awaits those seeking to stay active, saunas and steam rooms are available, and nail and hair treatments are provided at the beauty centre.

**SERVICE WITH A SMILE**

Ask any world traveller where they receive the best service and they will likely answer the Far East.

Of all the nationalities in this part of the world, it is the Filipinos who carry the highest reputation for attention to detail. Fluent in English and always ready with a smile, our Filipino crew will win your heart.
Categories GG, I, II and some HH cabins have partially restricted view.

**KEY**
- Single Cabins
- Third Pullman berth in these cabins
- Third/Fourth Pullman berth in these cabins
- # Cabin for guests with disabilities
- Elevator

*Categories GG, I, II and some HH cabins have partially restricted view*
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Itinerary changes**

The cruise and tour programmes featured in this brochure are planned many months in advance. Occasionally changes have to be made to the itineraries due to circumstances beyond the control of Voyages to Antiquity.

**Responsibility**

The responsibility of Voyages to Antiquity and the operator of the vessel is strictly limited according to the Terms and Conditions set forth in the Passage Contract that you receive prior to embarkation. You are urged to read the Passage Contract carefully. A sample is available to be mailed on request or can be viewed and printed from the Voyages to Antiquity website at any time. Transportation on board the ship is provided solely by the ship operator and pursuant to the Passage Contract. Voyages to Antiquity reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a guest for any reason. Voyages to Antiquity shall not be responsible for any act, event or omission during the time passengers are not aboard the Voyages to Antiquity vessel. Voyages to Antiquity acts only as an agent for the supplier of off-ship services such as airlines and other off-ship transportation carriers, meals, shore excursions, accommodations, air ambulance and shoreside physicians. Guests agree not to hold Voyages to Antiquity, its owners, agents or representatives liable for any loss, injury, expense or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act or omission, whether negligent or otherwise, of any third party person or firm which is to, or does, provide goods or services in connection with the trip or any available option. Without limiting the foregoing, Voyages to Antiquity shall have no liability to passengers for the quality of services at, and the condition, cleanliness or safety of a hotel, housing facility, or conveyance, or for any transportation delay, including but not limited to liability for inconvenience, shortened holiday time, additional expenses, or any other kind of damage. Voyages to Antiquity expressly disclaims all responsibility of any nature whatsoever for any loss, damage or injury to property or person resulting from air, rail, motorcoach or any other form of transportation other than that actually provided by the Voyages to Antiquity vessel.

**Services provided by independent contractors**

All shoreside tours and services described in this brochure or on the website are provided by independent contractors. Voyages to Antiquity acts solely as ticketing agent for all shoreside activities and has no legal obligation or liability of any kind to guests for acts or omissions in connection with or arising out of arrangements with independent contractors, including but not limited to airline carriers, ground/tour operators, and hotels since they are neither agents for nor employees of Voyages to Antiquity.

**Guests with special needs**

The tour programmes featured in this brochure include extensive sightseeing and to fully participate each guest must be reasonably fit and have no walking difficulties. Whenever possible Voyages to Antiquity will try to accommodate guests with special needs as long as the mobility issues are not an impediment to others on the guided tours. For further details, refer to the Essential Travel Information leaflet or to that section of the Voyages to Antiquity website.

**Errors & omissions**

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