

# A JOURNEY TO PEAK PERFECTION, MOUNT OLYMPUS AND CAPITALS OF COOL



Embarkation: Piraeus (Athens)

Disembarkation: Fusina

Ship: EXPLORA I

Duration: 7 Nights / 8 days







GREECE

1

# **Progressive Athens**

Port: Piraeus (Athens)

Arrival Method: DOCK

Departure: 19:00

Athenians don't live in the past. Ahead of its time, Athens exudes glamour and a sense of possibility - housing galleries, gelaterias, bijoux boutiques alongside a plethora of museums. And you can't help but marvel at the archaeological wonders of the Acropolis and the Parthenon. Stroll through vibrant streets and markets, dance at buzzing bouzoukia, sing along in tavernas. At night, head to the harbour, where dimly lit bars serve the local ice cold beer. And, as you inhale the salty air and watch Greek fishing boats peacefully depart for their catch, reflect on this ancient city's progressive attitude.



□ DAY

2 At sea



□ DAY

GREECE

3

# **Extolling Ancient Olympia**

Port: Katakolon Arrival Method: DOCK Arrival: 08:00 Departure: 18:00

The three-street town of Katakolo in the Peloponnese serves as the gateway to Ancient Olympia, a sanctuary of outstanding cultural significance and site of the first Olympic Games in 776BC. Time travel to classical antiquity as we tread among ruins of the stadium, temples to Hera and Zeus and the Doric columns of the palaestra wrestling grounds, deepening our understanding at the archaeological museum and Museum of the History of the Olympic Games. Ninety minutes into the remote Arcadian Mountains is the majestic and stirring Temple of Apollo Epikourios, or switch from ruins to restoration and head to one of the region's nearby vineyards and olive oil estates or pick from a plethora of beautiful beaches, enjoying a sundowner at a taverna overlooking clearest blue Greek waters.





GREECE

4

# Refined Fiskardo

Port: Fiskardo (Kefalonia) Arrival Method: DOCK Arrival: 08:00 Departure: 20:00

Experience the vibrant, cosmopolitan charm of Kefalonia. Wind through the crescent-shaped Venetian architecture surrounded by the sounds of classical music. Head to pebbled coves, bijoux boutiques and gelato caverns, or snorkel, dive, kayak and hike through nature in all its Mediterranean glory, surrounded by the scents of pine, lavender and cedar. Slip across to the secluded beaches of Ithaca – home to Homer's 'The Odyssey' and vibrant underwater reefs. And relax at lavish seafood eateries and sip robola as you mingle amid refined, elegant guests.



<sub>©</sub> DAY

ITAL'

5

# Beautiful Bari

Port: Bari Arrival Method: DOCK
Arrival: 11:00 Departure: 21:00

Stroll into Bari Vecchia, an atmospheric tangle of medieval streets, Romanesque churches, Baroque palaces and Greek, Roman and Norman history. Amidst nonnas rolling their orecchiette, pause at the basilica, housing the relics of Saint Nicholas, the 1170 cathedral, the Norman fortress and the harbour-front theatre, where Pavarotti and Nureyev performed. Head south to find numerous fine beaches (amongst the best in Italy) dotted with countless coves and bays, particularly in pretty Polignano a Mare. Puglia's capital is an easy catapult to the region's famous trulli in Alberobello, the UNESCO town with 1500 conical houses or choose to make your way to cinematic Matera, where the limestone cliffs are peppered in ancient caves, many now masquerading as chic restaurants.





CROATIA

6

# The Zing of Zadar

Port: Zadar Arrival Method: DOCK Arrival: 14:00 Departure: 21:00

Head back in time through impressive walls and city gates to a treasure trove of architecture and natural beauty. Hike, ride or climb through an enchanting heartland of national parks; cruise up pine-cloaked rivers, swim under a crescent of cascades and spot sapphire dragonflies over emerald pools. Dance across the Monument to the Sun, follow whispers to remote turquoise shallows and hear the rhythm of the ocean from an underwater Sea Organ. Visit the Venetian towers, atmospheric wells and a superbly carved Romanesque Cathedral or climb a bell tower with far-reaching views. Infused in sunshine, Venetian charm and (according to Hitchcock) the world's best sunset - intriguing Zadar is a cultural gem resplendent.



□ DAY

CROATIA

# Croatia's Eye of Istria

Port: Rovinj Arrival Method: TENDER
Arrival: 09:00 Departure: 20:00

Squeezed onto a tiny yin-yang island of terracotta roofs and green gardens, pretty little Rovinj is the belle of Croatia. Pastel-coloured houses teeter over the crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic and climb up the hillside to the iconic bell tower of St. Euphemia Church, a permanent reminder of the city's Venetian roots. Delve into the maze of narrow streets lost in time, galleries and museums overhung with wooden balconies and Italianate shutters. Circle the city in a flat-bottomed batana fishing boat or kayak around the pine-forested shores of outlying islands, forage for local wines and honey in timeless markets and taste the flavours of the Istrian Peninsula in waterfront cafes.





ITALY

8

# Waltz into Venice

Port: Fusina Arrival: 08:00 Arrival Method: DOCK

Delve into ancient palaces, century-old galleries, and modern-day exhibits as you whirl through Venice. Walk through masterpieces, catch an opera, gaze at medieval buildings, blow Murano glass and drift down the Grand Canal by gondola to visit churches, convents and campi "squares" that vary in spirit and scale. Cross hump-backed bridges, reach teeming Piazza San Marco's Basilica and Doge's Palace, or duck down passages to escape reality. From palazzos to perfumeries and the must-see Bridge of Sighs, you're only moments from a place of beauty in this liquid-gold city of treasures.



# **EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES**

10 Experiences



#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

Athenian Icons - the Acropolis and the Parthenon

From the marinas of Zea and Mikrolimano on the sparkling Aegean, you'll head to Athens, birthplace of democracy and centre of the ancient world. Experience the pinnacle of Athenian heritage, the Acropolis hill, crowned by the Parthenon temple to Athena that has stood since the 5th century BC. Climbing to the summit, you'll see the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, and the Erechtheum, before reaching the magnificent Parthenon itself. The new Acropolis Museum is a short walk away and houses more than 4,000 fascinating treasures from Greek history, from the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Era.

Port:

Activity Level:

Piraeus (Athens) Price From:€95.00

Moderate Experiences: Destination

Essentials

Duration: 4.30 Hrs Available In: English

Features: History & Heritage, Refreshments Included, UNESCO Heritage

Sites



## MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

## Ancient Corinth and its Mighty Canal

Explore the magnificent ancient metropolis of Corinth, where excavations began in 1896 and continue to yield discoveries today. The agora, theatre, odeon, and healing Sanctuary of Asklepieion are just some of the astonishing sites to have been unearthed in this city, where St Paul himself lived for two years. After your immersion in Corinth's captivating past, sample delicious Greek fare at the excellent Almiriki restaurant. Finally, head to the mighty Corinth Canal, a stunning feat of engineering that links the Ionian and the Aegean seas. At 6.4 km (3.98 mi) long and 24.8 m (81 ft) wide at sea level, it was proposed in classical times but not completed until 1893.

Port: Piraeus (Athens) Price From:€110.00

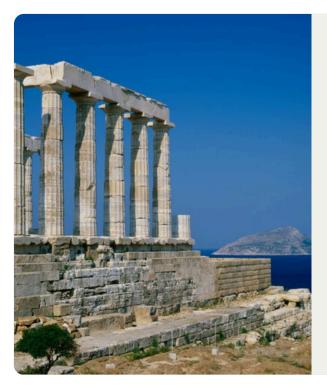
Activity Level: State Moderate Experiences: Destination

Essentials

Duration: 6.00 Hrs Available In: English

Features: History & Heritage





#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN FUROPE

# Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon

Cited as the place where the grief-stricken ancient King Aegeus cast himself into the Aegean, giving his name to the sea in the process, Cape Sounion is still encircled by mesmerising, turquoise water. Before arrival in Sounion, you'll be driven between the marinas of Phaleron, Glyfada and Vouliagmeni on a route that offers spectacular views. At the top of the cape stand the remaining 15 Doric columns of the Temple of Poseidon, which has stood since 440 BC. A guide will show you the towering columns up close—one still bearing the etched signature of the English poet Lord Byron—which gaze across the high clifftops of the peninsula of Attica.

Port: Piraeus (Athens) Price From:€70.00

Activity Level: See Moderate Experiences: Destination

Essentials

Duration: 4.00 Hrs Available In: English

Features: History & Heritage, Refreshments Included



#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

## Picture-Perfect Padua

Journey inland through the serene Italian countryside to Padua, a city of history, culture and UNESCO recognition. Upon arrival, a guide will lead you from Prato della Valle, an elegant park adorned with stone statues, to the famous Piazza del Santo to visit the resplendent Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua. Later, discover more photogenic piazzas, and landmarks like Palazzo Bo and the historic Caffé Pedrocchi. End your day in the city with an aperitivo of a sumptuous spritz with stuzzichini — little bites, like canapés.

Port: Fusina (Venice) Price From:€130.00

Activity Level:

High-energy Experiences: Destination

Essentials

Duration: 5.00 Hrs Available In: English

Features: History & Heritage, Architecture, Light Snacks And Refreshments





#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

## Colour and Culture in Murano and Burano

Adventure across the Venetian Lagoon and discover two of the most celebrated and colourful of its more than 40 islands. Depart from the pier on a motorboat and head to Murano, a hub of Italian glass production since the late 1200s—it housed 37 factories in its heyday. Amongst the ancient stone streets, you'll discover glassblowing secrets and charming boutiques in abundance. Continue to Burano, where Venetian fishermen gather and craftswomen still produce some of the finest lace in Europe and pause to admire the island's picture-perfect, brightly painted houses.

Port: Fusina (Venice) Price From:€115.00

Activity Level: State Moderate Experiences: Destination

Essentials

Duration: 5.00 Hrs Available In: English

Features: Must-See Experience, Architecture, History & Heritage, Arts &

Culture



#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

## Venetian Lagoon Cruise

Discover the Venetian Lagoon's magical secrets from teal waters on an easy-going motorboat trip. Glide along Giudecca Canal, past the Byzantine charm of Saint Mark's Basilica, and out towards San Giorgio Maggiore, passing San Servolo and the tranquil monastery of San Lazzaro degli Armeni. Then, continue into the canal that divides the verdant island of Vignole and bustling Sant'Erasmo, before heading towards Murano, an island famed for its unique glassmaking craft. On your return journey, you'll pass the Venetian Arsenal and the island of San Pietro di Castello.

Port: Fusina (Venice) Price From:€90.00

Activity Level: Effortless Experiences: Destination

Essentials

Duration: 2.30 Hrs Available In: English
Features:Must-See Experience, Architecture, History & Heritage





MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

# Venetian Wonders: Gondola Ride & Prosecco Delight

From the pier, board your private motorboat to Saint Mark's Area, where your guide awaits. Embark on an hour-long narrated stroll through Venice's iconic landmarks, including the Marciana Library and the Loggetta by Jacopo Sansovino. Saint Mark's Square buzzes with life—locals, musicians, artists, and charming pigeons. Marvel at the vibrant clock tower with its bronze Moors, the Procuratie Vecchie and Nuove, and the majestic Saint Mark's Cathedral. Adjacent to the Cathedral, the Gothic masterpiece, Doge's Palace, showcases its stunning façade and multi-arcaded loggia.

Enhance your Venetian experience with a thrilling gondola ride through Venice's enchanting canals. Afterward, unwind with a glass of local wine at a café in Saint Mark's Square. Enjoy some leisure time to explore the city on your own before reuniting with your assistant at a designated meeting point in Saint Mark's Area for a walk back to your motorboat destination, Fusina.

Port: Fusina (Venice) Price From:€185.00

Activity Level: Righ-energy Experiences: Enchanting

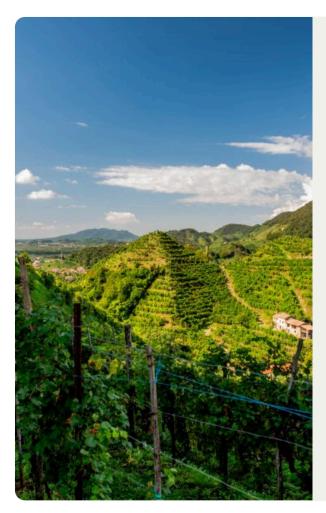
Explorations

Duration: 5.00 Hrs Available In: English

Features: Must-See Experience, Refreshments Included, Memorable

Moment





#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

## Enchanting UNESCO Prosecco Hills Tour

Nestled in northern Treviso, between the celebrated wine towns of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, the Hills of the Prosecco DOC Region offer a picturesque escape just an hour from Venice and close to the breathtaking Veneto Dolomiti mountains. This enchanting landscape features dramatic ascents and rolling slopes, all blanketed in lush vineyards that reflect a rich, centuries-old winemaking heritage. Every corner of this region exudes the aroma of wine and history, with charming medieval hamlets and towns dotting the valleys. In 2019, the "Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene" earned a place on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its cultural landscape. Immerse yourself in the pinnacle of Italian winemaking by visiting a local winery, where you can explore the entire winemaking process and savor the renowned Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco D.O.C. G. After this delightful experience, relax on a scenic drive back to the Venice-Fusina pier

Fusina (Venice)

Port: Price From:€190.00

Activity Level: Experiences: Enchanting

Explorations

Duration: 4.00 Hrs Available In: English

Features:Must-See Experience, Gastronomic Experience, Memorable

Moment

#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

## Explore Athens by E-bike

Get up close and personal with Athens, Greece's epochal capital that was the centre of the ancient world for millennia, and which can today be safely explored by e-bike. Your route takes in the Acropolis, which has stood above the city for thousands of years, and other Athenian treasures, including the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, the Temple of Zeus, and the Arch of Hadrian. Later, you'll head to Plaka, a vibrant district at the foot of the Acropolis known for its warm hospitality and easy-going people.

#### MEDITERRANEAN & WESTERN EUROPE

## Accessible Acropolis of Athens

Immerse yourself in the Acropolis of Athens. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, perched on the verdant hillside overlooking the city, is one of the best-preserved monumental complexes in the world. After a short drive from the dock, you'll arrive at the Acropolis and roll back the clock to ancient Greece as you explore the ruins, guided by an expert with tales to tell. Enjoy an accessible route to the very top of the Acropolis. Check out the Parthenon, the Propylaea and the Erechtheion. Visit the Museum of Acropolis to discover artefacts and stories from the site's long and dazzling history.