

# FROM ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM 2024

- Aboard the 24-cabin M/S Galileo
- Mar.-Apr. 2024
- 8-day cruises from Athens to Athens





# AT A GLANCE



## AN ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY-THEMED CRUISE WITH AN EXPERT GUEST LECTURER

A voyage through history dedicated to the Golden Age of Greek civilization and beyond, this cruise comes complete with a guest lecturer, Eugenia Alexiou. Eugenia has a Master's degree in Byzantine Art, is an expert historian and, as a graduate of the Athens' Tour Guide Academy, is the perfect tutor through all the classical sites and sights we visit. This journey to off-the-beaten track locales in the Peloponnese peninsula is a masterclass on the journey through classical antiquity and the Roman conquest, ending with the transition to the Christian empire of Byzantium.

Highlights include:

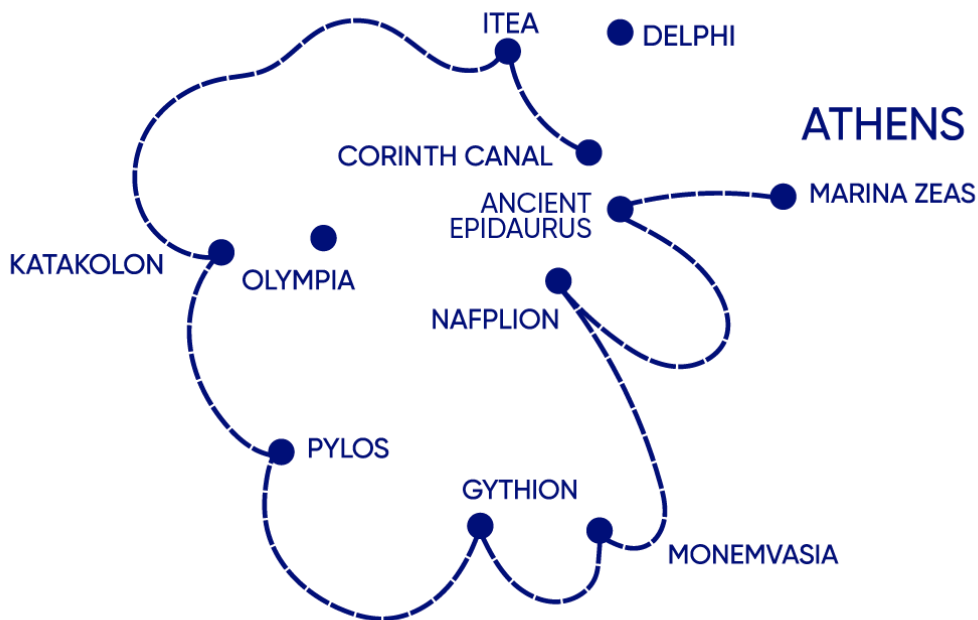
**Mycenae - Delphi - Olympia - Ancient Epidauros - Nafplion - Pylos**



# ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM CRUISE ITINERARY 2024

## FRIDAY DEPARTURES | 7-NIGHTS/8-DAYS

### FROM ATHENS TO CORINTH, GREECE



#### DAY 1 - MARINA ZEA – NAFPLION

Embarkation between 2-3 pm. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet your crew and fellow passengers. Sail for Nafplion, the first Capital of modern Greece and main port of eastern Peloponnese. Nafplion is known for Bourtzi, a fortress built on a small island nearby the port, and Palamidi, the hill fort of "999 steps", which is a protected habitat of European Ecological Network Natura 2000. Dinner on board and late night arrival. Overnight in port.



#### DAY 2 - NAFPLION (ANCIENT EPIDAUROS OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

We leave our ship early in the morning to drive to Ancient Epidaurus for our optional excursion. Epidaurus was known throughout the Greek world as a healing sanctuary and it is reputed for its theater, which is once again in use today and is still marvelled for its exceptional acoustics from the stage to any of its 15,000 seats. Lunch onboard and afternoon at leisure to discover the greater Nafplion area. Overnight in port.

#### DAY 3 - NAFPLION (MYCENAE OPTIONAL EXCURSION) – MONEMVASIA

Today, we will drive through the colorful city and the beautiful countryside of Argolis towards another major centre of Greek civilization, Mycenae, for an optional excursion. Visit the remains of the glorious ancient city including the Lion's Gate, the Cyclopean walls, the Palace, the Agamemnon Tomb and the museum following by a short guided walk in the historical center of Nafplion. Lunch on board and sailing towards Monemvasia. Early evening arrival and time at leisure for exploring this remarkable medieval fortified town and birthplace of one of the most important greek poets, Giannis Ritsos, who enjoyed international reputation and radiation. Overnight at sea to Gythion.

# ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM CRUISE ITINERARY 2024

## FRIDAY DEPARTURES | 7-NIGHTS/8-DAYS

### FROM ATHENS TO CORINTH, GREECE



#### DAY 4 - GYTHION (DIROU CAVES OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

Morning arrival in Gythion, the ancient naval base of Spartans. Optional excursion to Mani peninsula and Cape Tenaro, plus the spectacular Dirou Caves with their stalactites and stalagmites. Leaving Gythion we will cross the scenic Mani Peninsula to reach Diros and visit the spectacular cave, the entrance of which remained sealed for about 4.500 years until being discovered around the 60s. After visiting the cave, we will drive to nearby Areopolis for a short stroll through the town. Mani, which is at the tip of the Peloponnese, is a distinctive area and desolate region of underground lakes and rivers, windswept landscapes and towers, which keeps the spirit of the warriors once lived and fought here alive. Dinner onboard and late evening sailing to Pylos. Overnight at sea

#### DAY 5 - PYLOS (METHONI / KORONI OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

Morning arrival in Pylos, a picture-perfect seaside town of the SW Peloponnese. Sitting on the backside of stately Navarino Bay, Pylos was site of several famous naval battles, one of which, occurred in 1827, led to the independence of Greece, in 1829. Today, our optional excursion takes us by bus along the coast of Western Peloponnese crossing the Messenian countryside between Methoni and Koroni. First stop in Methoni which is a charmingly picturesque little town with the imposing Medieval Castle being the central attraction. Next destination is Koroni, once a Venetian naval fortress. This delightful town, clustered on a hillside, has narrow, cobbled streets and stairways leading up to a Venetian castle protected the waterways. Visiting the old town in the Castle we will discover little gems of architecture being well preserved. Sip your refreshment at the colorful port and enjoy some free time before we return to the ship for lunch. Late night sailing to Katakolon. Overnight at sea.

#### DAY 6 - KATAKOLON (OLYMPIA OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

Early morning arrival in port of Katakolon, in Pyrgos, which in ancient times was the natural harbour for Ancient Olympia and in the Middle Ages was the site of the so called "Pontikokastro", or "Beauvoir" or "Bel Vedere" Castle. Katakolon is also known for being the birthplace of Yiannis Latsis, the Greek shipping multi-billionaire tycoon, who's paternal home operates today as Museum of Ancient Greek Technology as well as its historical lighthouse. Today, our optional excursion takes us by bus to Olympia, one of the most famous and important sites in the ancient world. Olympia is revered as the birthplace of the Olympic Games and the greatest Pan-Hellenic sanctuary for the worship of Zeus. The most thrilling site at Olympia is the very stadium, which looks much like it did more than 2,000 years ago. Explore the Temple of Hera, the magnificent temple of Zeus, the Philippeion, built to honour the family of Alexander the Great, and the Leonidion, lodging place for the athletes. We later visit the Olympia Museum, one of the most beautiful museums in the world, hosting many astonishing exhibits. Traditional lunch in the town of Olympia and optional visit to the museum of the History of the Olympic Games of Antiquity (provided it is open in the afternoon). Time at leisure and depart for Itea in the Gulf of Corinth. Overnight at sea.



# ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM CRUISE ITINERARY 2024

## FRIDAY DEPARTURES | 7-NIGHTS/8-DAYS

### FROM ATHENS TO CORINTH, GREECE



#### DAY 7 - ITEA (DELPHI OPTIONAL EXCURSION) – CORINTH

Morning arrival in Itea, the second largest city of the Municipality of Delphi. Proceeding to Delphi for our optional excursion, we will pass by the Corinth Canal. Unlike other archaeological sites in Greece, Delphi is built on the side of a mountain and the panoramic views are truly inspiring. Delphi was revered for hosting the most important oracle in the classical world and visitors from across the Greek world travelled here to consult with the oracle. We will walk around the ruins complex including the Sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, the Castalian Spring and the Gymnasium and visit the adjoining museum. Return to the ship for lunch and afternoon sailing. Later in the evening Captain's Farewell Dinner and arrival in Corinth. Due to its rich ancient history as well as to the presence of St. Paul the Apostle in the city, some locations all over the world have been named Corinth. Overnight in port.

#### DAY 8 – CORINTH TO ATHENS

Disembarkation at 7:00 am after breakfast. Bus transfer to ATH airport (for guests flying up to 12:00 noon) and to the center of Athens -exact place t.b.a. (for guests with post cruise arrangements). [Bus transfer service is included in the cruise fares]



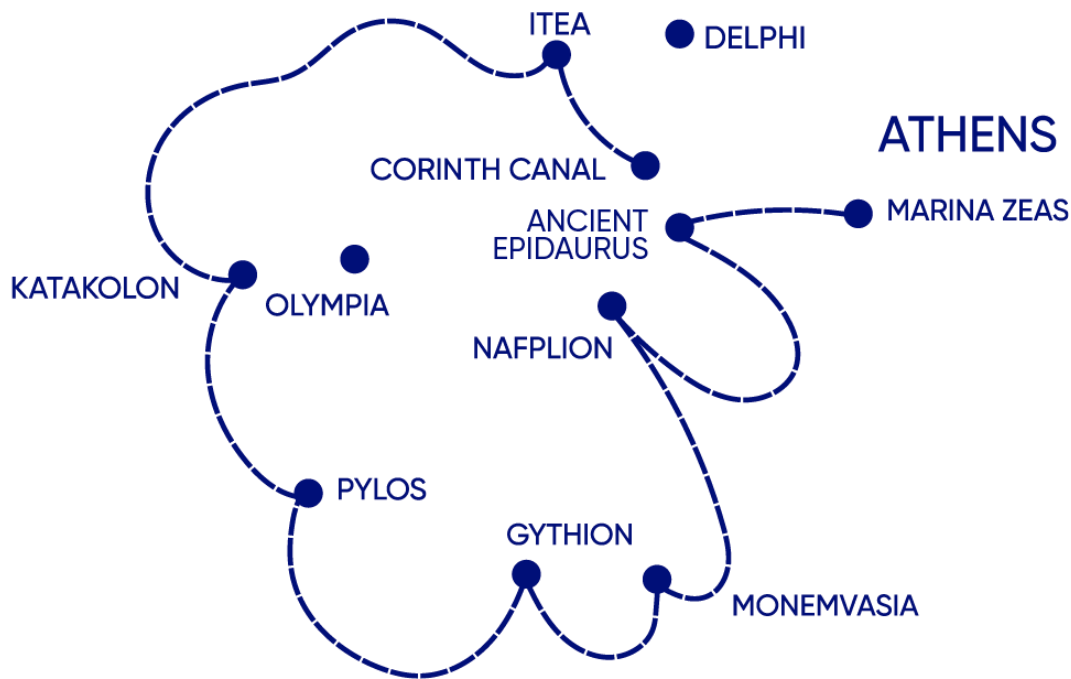
Itineraries can be changed at the discretion of Variety Cruises and of the Vessel's Captain in case of adverse weather conditions - winds of 6/7 Beaufort or more depending on the vessel- on port authorities not allowing a vessel to leave port or in case of other extraordinary conditions. Such itinerary changes do not automatically entitle passengers to any refunds, but Variety Cruises guarantees that passengers are disembarked at the advertised port of disembarkation on time for their flights.



# ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM CRUISE ITINERARY 2024

## FRIDAY DEPARTURES | 7-NIGHTS/8-DAYS

### FROM CORINTH TO ATHENS, GREECE



#### DAY 1 – ATHENS TO CORINTH

Bus transfer from Marina Zeas / Athens to Corinth port. The bus departs Marina Zeas at 4pm sharp for embarkation between 5.30-6 pm. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet your crew and fellow passengers. Dinner on board and sailing to Itea. Overnight at sea.

#### DAY 2 - ITEA (DELPHI OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

Early morning arrival in Itea, the second largest city of the Municipality of Delphi. Proceeding to Delphi for our optional excursion, we will pass by the Corinth Canal. Unlike other archaeological sites in Greece, Delphi is built on the side of a mountain and the panoramic views are truly inspiring. Delphi was revered for hosting the most important oracle in the classical world and visitors from across the Greek world travelled here to consult with the oracle. We will walk around the ruins complex including the Sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, the Castalian Spring and the Gymnasium and visit the adjoining museum. Return to the ship for lunch and evening sailing towards Katakolon. Overnight at sea.



# ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM CRUISE ITINERARY 2024

## FRIDAY DEPARTURES | 7-NIGHTS/8-DAYS

### FROM CORINTH TO ATHENS, GREECE

#### DAY 3 - KATAKOLON (OLYMPIA OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

Early morning arrival in port of Katakolon, in Pyrgos, which in ancient times was the natural harbour for Ancient Olympia and in the Middle Ages was the site of the so called "Pontikokastro", or "Beauvoir" or "Bel Vedere" Castle. Katakolon is also known for being the birthplace of Yiannis Latsis, the Greek shipping multi-billionaire tycoon, who's paternal home operates today as Museum of Ancient Greek Technology as well as its historical lighthouse. Today, our optional excursion takes us by bus to Olympia, one of the most famous and important sites in the ancient world. Olympia is revered as the birthplace of the Olympic Games and the greatest Pan-Hellenic sanctuary for the worship of Zeus. The most thrilling site at Olympia is the very stadium, which looks much like it did more than 2,000 years ago. Explore the Temple of Hera, the magnificent temple of Zeus, the Philippeion, built to honour the family of Alexander the Great, and the Leonidion, lodging place for the athletes. We later visit the Olympia Museum, one of the most beautiful museums in the world, hosting many astonishing exhibits. Traditional lunch in the town of Olympia and optional visit to the museum of the History of the Olympic Games of Antiquity (provided it is open in the afternoon). Time at leisure and late night depart for Pylos. Overnight at sea.

#### DAY 4 - PYLOS (NESTOR'S PALACE OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

Morning arrival in Pylos, a picture-perfect seaside town of the SW Peloponnese. Sitting on the backside of stately Navarino Bay, Pylos was site of several famous naval battles, one of which, occurred in 1827, led to the independence of Greece, in 1829. After stopping to admire the scenery, we will head up the road to the Palace of king Nestor for our optional excursion. Highlights of the surprisingly intact remains include the well-preserved royal apartments and a bathtub speculated belonged to the old king himself. Following our visit, we will make a short trip to the town of Hora where the archaeological museum (optional visit) holds thousands of 3,000 years old artifacts recovered from the site. Dinner and sail to Gythion. Overnight at sea.

#### DAY 5 - GYTHION (DIROU CAVES OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

Morning arrival in Gythion, the ancient naval base of Spartans. Optional excursion to Mani peninsula and Cape Tenaro, plus the spectacular Dirou Caves with their stalactites and stalagmites. Leaving Gythion we will cross the scenic Mani Peninsula to reach Diros and visit the spectacular cave, the entrance of which remained sealed for about 4.500 years until being discovered around the 60s. After visiting the cave, we will drive to nearby Areopolis for a short stroll through the town. Mani, which is at the tip of the Peloponnese, is a distinctive area and desolate region of underground lakes and rivers, windswept landscapes and towers, which keeps the spirit of the warriors once lived and fought here alive. Dinner and late night sailing to Monemvasia. Overnight at sea.



# ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM CRUISE ITINERARY 2024

## FRIDAY DEPARTURES | 7-NIGHTS/8-DAYS

### FROM CORINTH TO ATHENS, GREECE



#### DAY 6 - MONEMVASIA – NAFPLION

Morning arrival to Monemvasia, nicknamed "Gibraltar of the East" as it is identical to the rock of Gibraltar, reduced in size. Today, our Cruise Coordinator will help you discover this remarkable medieval fortified town and birthplace of one of the most important greek poets, Giannis Ritsos, who enjoyed international reputation and radiation, with time at leisure to explore the uniquely preserved Byzantine and Venetian architecture and experience the beauty of the natural setting. Lunch and afternoon sailing to Nafplion, the first Capital of modern Greece and main port of eastern Peloponnese. We reach Nafplion on time for dinner. Overnight in port.

#### DAY 7 - NAFPLION (ANCIENT EPIDAUROS & MYCENAE OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS)

We leave our ship early in the morning to drive to Ancient Epidaurus for our optional excursion. Epidaurus was known throughout the Greek world as a healing sanctuary and it is reputed for its theater, which is once again in use today and is still marvelled for its exceptional acoustics from the stage to any of its 15,000 seats. Lunch onboard and in the afternoon we drive through the colorful city and beautiful countryside of Argolis towards another major centre of Greek civilization, Mycenae, for an optional excursion. Visit the remains of the glorious ancient city including the Lion's Gate, the Cyclopean walls, the Palace, the Agamemnon Tomb and the museum, following by a short guided walk in the historical center of Nafplion. Captain's Farewell Dinner and sailing towards Marina Zea, Athens. Overnight at sea.

#### DAY 8 – ATHENS

Disembarkation at 8:30 - 9:00 am after breakfast.



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# SAILING DATES

	LOW Season Departures	HIGH Season Departures
From Athens to Corinth	Mar. 22	Apr. 05
From Corinth to Athens		Mar. 29 Apr. 12

YOUR BOAT



# M/S GALILEO

## Motor Sailer

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Length:** 48 m (157 ft)

**Launched:** 1992 | Rebuilt: 2007 | Renovated: 2020

**Cabins:** 24

**Capacity:** 49 passengers

**Crew:** 16-18

The M/S Galileo, built with the most stringent safety regulations, was launched in 1992 and was fully rebuilt in 2007. The latest renovation works of the M/S Galileo took place in summer 2020 and included significant upgrading of the indoor & outdoor public areas.

The elegant Galileo has operated cruises in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. The Galileo is always sailing under motors. Sails are occasionally used when weather and route allow.

Service on board is provided by your Captain, the Cruise Coordinator and your experienced Marine and Hotel crew members.



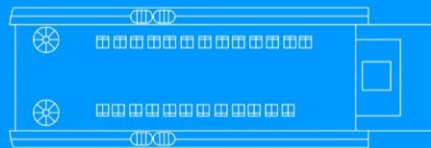
YOUR BOAT



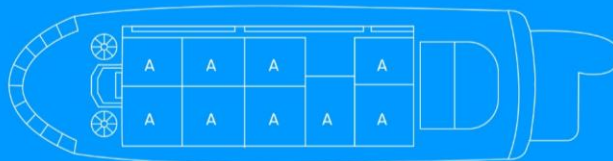
# M/S GALILEO

## Motor Sailer

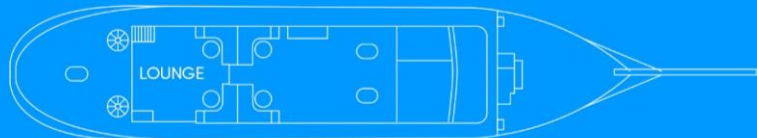
360°  
SUN DECK



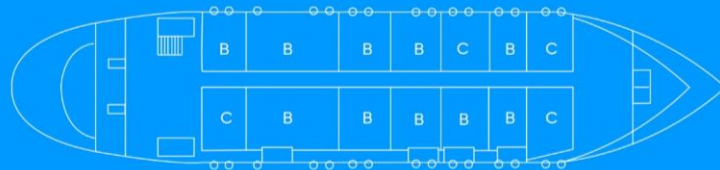
INFINITY  
UPPER DECK



RIVIERA  
MAIN DECK



OCEANS  
LOWER DECK



The 48 meter M/S Galileo is a classic steel hull motor sailer, with spacious and well-appointed interiors renovated in 2020.

YOUR BOAT



# M/S GALILEO

## Motor Sailer

### CABIN SPECIFICATIONS

The Galileo's 24 outside guest cabins are located on Upper and Lower Decks, all with large portholes. Elegantly decorated, they have either twin or double sized beds and bathrooms with showers en suite. Category B cabins have flexible bedding arrangement. All cabins are comfortably arranged and beautifully furnished with wooden furniture and light fabrics. Cabins have individually controlled A/C, offer storage space, and are fitted with flat-screen TVs, mini fridge, telephone (for internal use), hairdryers, central music, public address system and safe boxes.

### LIFE ON BOARD

During the day, life on board centers around the indoor lounge area and dining room, as well as the outdoor areas at the Main, Upper and Sun decks. The Captain will drop anchor at secluded bays and beautiful uninhabited islands where, weather permitting, guests enjoy swimming, snorkeling, kayaking.

### **Main deck lounge & dining room**

Renovated in 2020, the main deck lounge area with an American bar leads into a warm and elegant dining room finished with wood and carpet flooring, and beautiful soft fabrics. The spacious dining room seats all passengers in a single, unassigned seating and allows for spectacular views around you, while dining in an elegant environment. Food is served at the table or displayed on the state of the art hot & cold buffet which also includes an "a la minute cooking" section.





YOUR BOAT



# M/S GALILEO

## Motor Sailer

### Upper deck lounge area & dining room

Guests on Galileo very much enjoy the shaded outdoor area with an outdoor bar where they can relax enjoying the most breathtaking sea views.

### Sun deck

The vessel features a Sun Deck with a sitting area to relax and enjoy unobstructed views and with ample Sun loungers' space to sunbathe under the Mediterranean sun. In the evening you can watch the sunset, enjoy a drink overlooking the stars. Guests on the Galileo enjoy the shaded outdoor Bar area at the Upper Deck as well as the Sun Deck.



