

HIKING CRUISE IN GREECE 2024

- Aboard the 24-cabin M/S Galileo
- Apr 05 & Oct 25, 2024
- Hosted by Eugenia Alexiou (Archaeologist)
and George Vavoudakis & Iro Valavani (Hikers)



AT A GLANCE

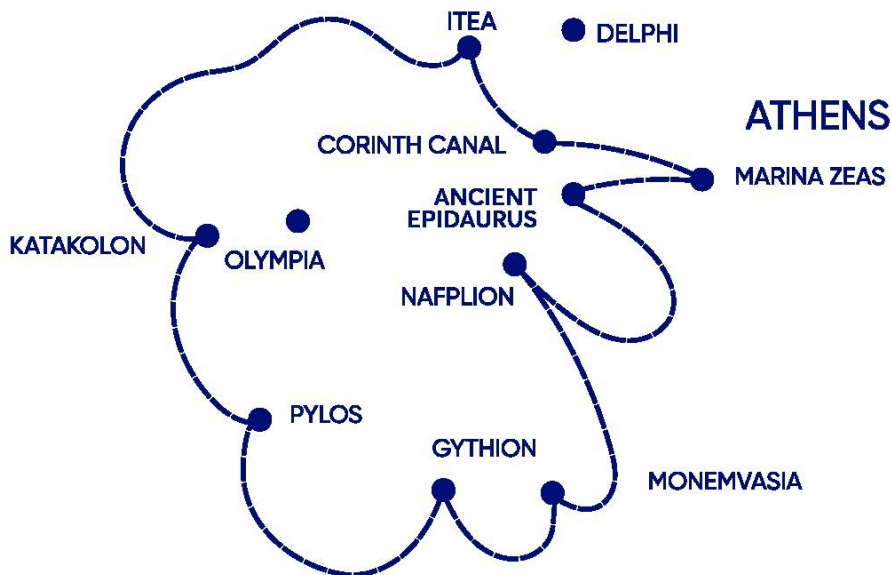


Our Hiking Collection Cruise offers you the best of two worlds. Hiking of course, but also insider insight into the history and stories from Ancient Greece. To guide the hikes we have outdoor specialists, George and Iro on board, and to explore the history of the Peloponnese we have our resident archaeologist, Evgenia.

George Vavoudakis and Iro Valavani will be your hiking guides, while Evgenia Alexiou, with a degree in archeology and art history from the School of Philosophy in Athens, experience excavating historical sites, and a license for guided tours in Greece, Evgenia is the perfect - incredibly knowledgeable - complement to our cruise.



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DAY 1 - MARINA ZEAS (ATHENS) - ANCIENT EPIDAUROS

Embarkation at 2-3pm. This afternoon and evening is all about getting to know your fellow passengers and crew over a welcome dinner and drinks. Be sure to say hello to your hiking and archaeology experts for the week: George, Iro, and Evgenia. Their expertise will make this week one to remember. Evening arrival to Ancient Epidaurus and dinner on board.

DAY 2 - ANCIENT EPIDAUROS - NAFPLION

In the morning we'll visit Ancient Epidaurus, a healing centre and theatre - the latter marvelled for its exceptional acoustics from any of its 15,000 seats (optional excursion). After lunch on board we will start sailing to Nafplion. Nafplion is the first capital of modern Greece, and the main port of the Eastern Peloponnese. As such, it's well-connected and a great location to begin our optional tours from. Overnight at port.

DAY 3 - NAFPLION - MYCENAE

After a short morning walking tour of Nafplion, we'll drive through the stunning Argolis countryside to another major centre of Greek civilization: Mycenae. This ancient city is home to the Lion's Gate, Cyclopean Walls, the Agamemnon Tomb, and more. We'll also take a gentle hike across the surrounding mountain paths which offer wow moments a-plenty. This is where our team will set up a barbecue lunch like no other. Cameras at the ready, you'll need them for this special moment. Afternoon sailing to Monemvasia - a mediaeval Byzantine town.

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DAY 3 – MONEMVASIA

We'll take a guided walk inside - delving into its winding paths and traditional churches, as well as around its castle. Nicknamed the Gibraltar of the East, explore the preserved Byzantine and Venetian architecture of the town that was the birthplace of one of the most important Greek poets, Giannis Ritsos.

DAY 4 - GYTHION

Gythion was the ancient naval base of the Spartans and our hiking trail today explores an area said to be home to modern descendants of them - the Mani Peninsula. We'll hike one of the most beautiful areas of it, Cape Tainaron, beginning in Kokkinogia and ending at the Tenaro lighthouse. The latter is the southernmost point of continental Europe. Our route will take about an hour and, despite several rocky sections, is a relatively easy trek with many fascinating pathways. We'll highlight the areas of historical significance as we walk but expect to see a stunning Roman mosaic floor, a 19th century stone-built lighthouse, and a cave with the necromancy of Poseidon. Overnight at sea to Pylos.

DAY 5 - PYLOS

Morning arrival into Pylos port - the site of many famous naval battles, the last of which led to Greek independence. Hiking options today include a round trip of Polilimnio, or through the Gorge of Stenosia. Whichever we take (final route to be decided on the day), a few things are certain: lush paths, cascading waterfalls, and lots of swim breaks at natural lakes. Overnight sailing to Katakolon.

DAY 6 - KATAKOLON FOR OLYMPIA

Keen hikers (oh, that's all of you!), listen up. Today's optional excursion is to Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games and a special place for anyone interested in sports, health, and fitness. Here you'll visit the site of the Temple of Zeus - one of the seven wonders of the ancient world - but also get the chance to run in the very spot the first Olympic athletes did, over 2000 years ago. Today's hike is in the oak forest of Foloï. It's an easy walk that we'll take slowly, allowing us to take in the stunning flora and fauna of the area. In the afternoon we will depart to Itea. Overnight in Itea.



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.

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DAY 7 - ITEA FOR DELPHI

Our hike today is rich in history and - along with our optional excursion to Delphi, revered for hosting the most important oracle in the classical world - will help you understand the historical significance of the area. Indeed, our hike traverses the same path ancient pilgrims did in their quest for the oracle. The views as we walk are as rewarding as the beach cookout we'll divulge in at the end. After the hike return to the ship and cross the Corinth Canal. Later in the evening we sail to Marina Zeas.

DAY 8 - MARINA ZEAS (ATHENS)

We arrive back to Athens to enjoy one last breakfast together before swapping contact details with new friends, disembarking at 8:30 – 9:00, and setting off on onward journeys.



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SAILING DATES

From Athens to Athens	Apr 05 & Oct 25, 2024
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YOUR BOAT



M/S GALILEO

Motor Sailer

GENERAL INFORMATION

Length: 48 m

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.



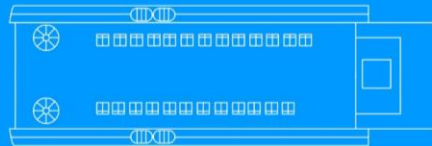
YOUR BOAT



M/S GALILEO

Motor Sailer

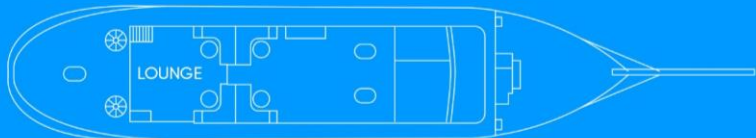
360°
SUN DECK



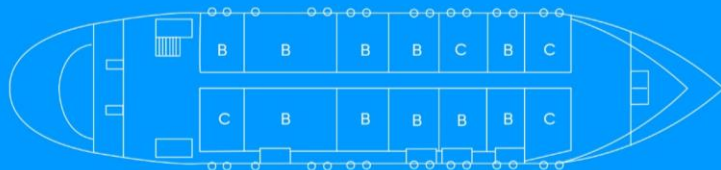
INFINITY
UPPER DECK



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

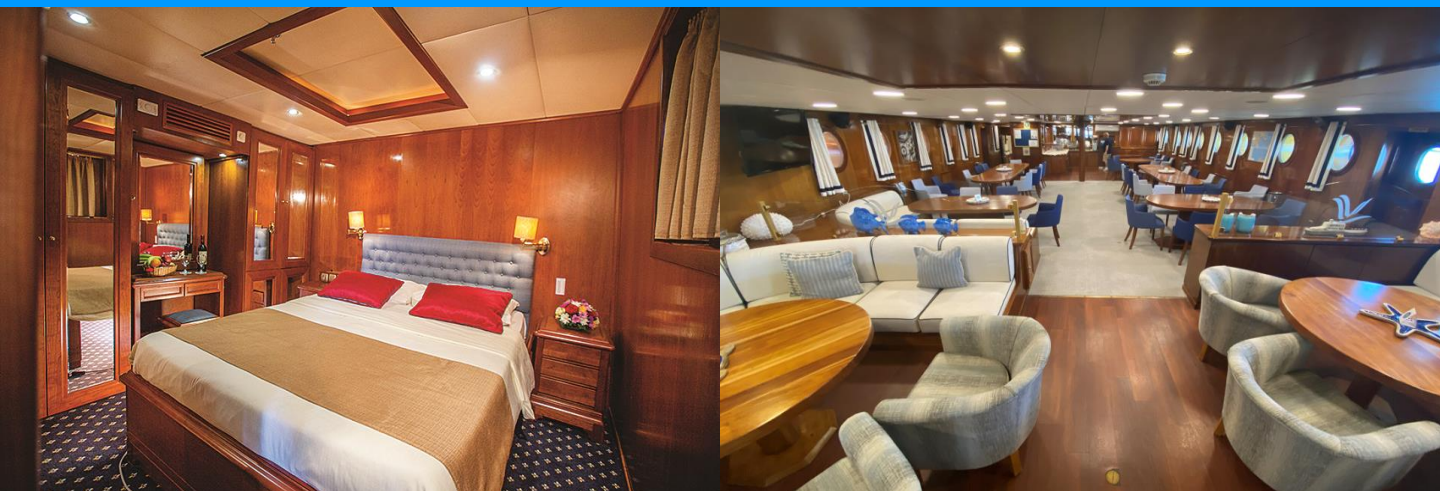
The Galileo's 24 outside guest cabins are located on Upper and Lower Decks, all with large portholes. Elegantly decorated, they have either twin or double sized beds and bathrooms with showers en suite. Category B cabins have flexible bedding arrangement. All cabins are comfortably arranged and beautifully 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 "à 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.



