

Along the Mediterranean Sea with the Mucem

From **10/10/2024**
to **21/10/2024**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Athens**
to **Lisbon**



In partnership with the Mucem and with featured guest Vincent Giovannoni.

Sail the waters of the Mediterranean and **dive into centuries of history** with the perspective of **Vincent Giovannoni, art anthropologist and chief curator of the Mucem**. During a 12-day cruise aboard *L'Austral*, you will be amazed by the Mediterranean and its civilisations, a crossroads of exchange and a territory of divisions, the cradle of a unique way of life weaved together from fascinating cultures.

You will board in **Athens**, the mythical city dominated by the Acropolis and its monuments that form the **most extraordinary architectural and artistic collection** bequeathed by Ancient Greece to the rest of the world.

You will cross the emblematic Corinth Canal to arrive in Itea. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, our on-board expert will recount the history of the legendary archaeological site of **Delphi**.

It will now be time to set sail towards Sicily and flamboyant **Palermo**. Historic sites such as the **12th-century cathedral** or the **Teatro Massimo opera house**, one of the largest in Europe, blend with a uniquely bustling atmosphere.

Your exploration of the Mediterranean islands will continue as you discover **Cagliari**, capital of **Sardinia** and one of the largest natural harbours in the Mediterranean; its historic centre is full of charm, with shaded stairs, small squares inundated with light and remains conjuring up its medieval grandeur.

Your cruise will then stop in the **Balearic Islands** on the well-preserved island of **Menorca**. **Mahon**, the island's capital, will charm you with its age-old history and its exceptional port, which, at 6 kilometres (3.7 miles) long, is the biggest in the Mediterranean! A little further on, **Ibiza**, the "White Island" will enchant you with its wild coves and villages of white *fincas*, a natural beauty that has earned the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Roman ruins and sumptuous scenery of **Cartagena** will welcome you before your departure for **Malaga**, the lively capital of the *Costa del Sol*. Next will be **Cadiz**, one of the country's oldest towns, built on a rock,

combining its Mediterranean influences with its opening onto the tumultuous Atlantic Ocean.

Your cruise will come to an end in **Lisbon**, sitting on the Tagus River, distilling its one-of-a-kind charm imbued with rich history.



The information in this document is valid as of 23/8/2024

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 10/10/2024 From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Departure 10/10/2024 at 6:00 pm

The Greek capital city is located on the edge of the Saronic gulf, in the east of the country. It bears a plural name in reference to the first villages that surround the **Acropolis**. You will be enchanted by the rocky plateau presided by its monuments listed as UNESCO World Heritage. In the city below, you can visit some of the liveliest districts in Athens: **Plaka**, with its maze of colourful streets, and where, in the evenings the drifting aroma of moussaka and garlic prawns will tickle your taste buds. The **National Archaeological museum** and the Cycladic Art Museum are also some of the city's key attractions and allow visitors to discover Athens' cultural past.

CROSSING THE CORINTH CANAL

Arrival 11/10/2024
Departure 11/10/2024

The Corinth Canal cuts through the Isthmus of Corinth, turning the Peloponnese into an island as it separates the region from the Greek mainland. Inaugurated in 1893, the canal is a little over six kilometres long and enables merchant vessels and passenger to avoid a long 400-km detour around the peninsula. The two sides of the canal reach a height of approximately fifty metres. From the exterior decks, don't miss this unique opportunity to watch the ship as it navigates along the narrow strip of water encased between tall, ochre cliffs. What an experience!

ITEA

Arrival 11/10/2024 midday
Departure 11/10/2024 late afternoon

Tucked away in the Gulf of Corinth, this **little port** is situated in continental Greece, north-west of Athens. Take an easy stroll along the old cobblestone quays, while gazing at the summits encircling the **Bay of Itea**. We wouldn't be surprised if you are tempted by a visit to the **Delphi Sanctuary**. The sanctuary is located on a plateau on the slope of Mount Parnassus, just ten kilometres from Itea. A listed UNESCO World Heritage site, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience whose ancient ruins are surrounded by steep mountains.

AT SEA

Arrival 12/10/2024
Departure 12/10/2024

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the

swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

PALERMO, SICILY

Arrival 13/10/2024 early morning

Departure 13/10/2024 early afternoon

Palermo is the guardian of the Sicilian soul. Many have been attracted to this city, the largest capital of the Italian islands. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... Palermo is a rich culmination of so many cultural influences as seen in the Moorish designs on the **cathedral**, and the Byzantine mosaics of the **Palatine chapel**, which is itself housed within the precincts of the **Norman palace**. You will fall under the spell of the palaces, **baroque splendours** that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in colour, and headily picturesque.

CAGLIARI, SARDINIA

Arrival 14/10/2024 early morning

Departure 14/10/2024 early afternoon

The capital of Sardinia, **Cagliari**, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Its Sardinian name means "castle", in reference to the citadel, its historic centre, which dominates the city. The old ramparts are now pleasant panoramic terraces bordering picturesque streets. The city hosted the Nuragic, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine civilisations before the rein of the Spanish Hapsburgs and the House of Savoy. The monuments of Cagliari bear the traces of these successive dominations, such as the Bastion of Saint-Rémy or the **Sainte-Marie Cathedral**. On the sea front, Art Nouveau-style public monuments give way to the Poetto beach, a magnificent stretch of sand that is 8 kilometres long.

MAHON, BALEARIC ISLANDS

Arrival 15/10/2024 midday

Departure 15/10/2024 late afternoon

You will be welcomed by the colourful houses of **Mahon**, its narrow streets and pretty squares that appear as you stroll around this richly contrasting city. Mahon reveals its different neighbourhoods, alternating between monuments, villas and white buildings. Discover the **Santa Maria church**, a building of neo-gothic inspiration, rebuilt in the 18th Century. It is worth a visit to see its monumental organ with more than 3,000 pipes and four keyboards. Around the Carmen church you will find a **local market**, full of stands selling *avarcas*, typical Menorcan sandals originally made by peasants. Let yourself fall under the spell of this Mediterranean treasure.

IBIZA, BALEARIC ISLANDS

Arrival 16/10/2024 early morning

Departure 16/10/2024 late afternoon

The emblematic island of the **Balearics**, “the white island” was a haven for European artistic bohemians from the 1930s and a paradise for hippies in search of authenticity in the 1960s. It has been a giant nightclub for gilded youth since the 1990s. Behind this *fiesta* economy, Ibiza has managed to preserve the charms of its **wild coves and its villages of white fincas** with flat roofs that inspired Le Corbusier. The island is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** thanks to its exemplary marine and coastal ecosystems but also thanks to the architectural vestiges of this former stronghold of the Mediterranean economy, from the Phoenicians up to the Renaissance.

CARTAGENA

Arrival 17/10/2024 early morning

Departure 17/10/2024 early afternoon

Surrounded by hills, the natural site of the **Bay of Cartagena** presided over the fate of this **former fortress** which has been home to the greatest European civilisations. Today, these Phoenician, Roman, Carthaginian, Moorish and Christian influences form a rich architectural heritage. Its **Roman theatre** is one of the most significant and best conserved in Spain. You will also be able to cross the landscapes of vines and citrus groves stretching endlessly towards **Murcia**, to visit this dynamic regional capital.

MÁLAGA

Arrival 18/10/2024 early morning

Departure 18/10/2024 late evening

A historical and festive town, Malaga is located in Andalusia, on the Costa del Sol. Between the marina and the beaches, the seaside promenade of La Farola offers an ideal setting for strolling and relaxing. Set slightly further back, the Malagueta bullring is one of the emblematic sites of the city. From the hill overlooking the old town, one can see **Gibralfaro castle** and **the Alcazaba**, two fortified ensembles rising out from the cypresses and maritime pines. To visit **Pablo Picasso's birthplace**, you will go first to the courtly plaza de la Merced. A few streets back from here, you can explore the museum dedicated to the artist, in the Buenavista palace.

CADIZ

Arrival 19/10/2024 early afternoon

Departure 19/10/2024 evening

Andalusia's Cadiz is located on the **Costa de la Luz**, in the south-west of Spain. From the beaches of Cortadura, to the flamenco bars of Santa Maria, through the colourful streets of la Viña, you will be amazed by this city, which is both steeped in history and extremely festive. In the medieval **El Pópulo** district, you will stroll along covered passages in the narrow gaps between houses. You will also be able to mosey around the lush Mina square. The star of the show is the magnificent cathedral and its dome crowned with yellow porcelain, presiding above the Ocean.

AT SEA

Arrival 20/10/2024

Departure 20/10/2024

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment

of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

LISBON

Arrival 21/10/2024 early morning

Disembarkation 21/10/2024 at 8:00 am

Portugal's capital city located on the banks of the Tagus, only a few kilometres from the Atlantic coast, is a city of exceptionally rich cultural diversity. At the mouth of the river harbour, impose two UNESCO World Heritage monuments, **Jeronimos monastery** and **Belem tower**. The Alfama hillside is also worth visiting: known for its **fado** bars and its **Moorish streets**, this district is the oldest one of the city and one of the most typical. Not far from there, Chiado's elegant streets are home to big fashion labels and are an invitation to a bit of of luxury shopping.