

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A VOYAGE FROM VALLETTA TO ATHENS ABOARD THE MS MONET
WITH GUEST SPEAKER DAVID STUTTARD

24TH MAY TO 4TH JUNE 2025

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Monemvasia



The seas between Malta and Greece offer access to a wealth of ancient sites, unspoiled islands and traditional towns. Join us aboard the 50-passenger MS Monet in May and take advantage of comfortable temperatures and the absence of high season crowds as we sail from Valletta's Grand Harbour to Athens. During our journey through the Mediterranean and the Aegean, our small ship will take us on a voyage through a rich collection of archaeological, historical and beautiful sites in Italy and Albania and onto the playground of the Greek Gods, learning of the myths and legends which surround the enchanted islands.



Our eleven nights of discovery will begin with a day in Sicily to visit timelessly beautiful Syracuse and appreciate the island's rich legacy of so many invading civilisations. We then spend time in the heel of Italy to discover some of the region's many gems before arriving in Albania where we visit the marvellous site of Butrint, where settlement can be traced back to the 8th century BC. Continuing on to the Peloponnese we will sail through turquoise waters, call into charming villages and admire some wonderful scenery. We will explore the Ancient World's most fascinating sites including Olympia, the principal shrine of Zeus and Hera and the site of the original Olympic Games, the picturesque port of Nafplio and the Medieval castle town of Monemvasia.

Our custom-made itinerary focuses on many places that the mega cruise ships cannot access and, in addition to our included guided excursions and the magnificent sites we will explore, also on offer is beautiful mountainous scenery, mysterious caves, vast gorges, charming villages and superb beaches, and there will be ample time at leisure for some independent exploration.

Butrint



Guest Speaker – David Stuttard



David took an MA in Classics from St Andrews University. He subsequently taught Classics for eleven years in Edinburgh, St Andrews and York. David is a prolific author of books on classical history and literature and founded the theatre company, Actors of Dionysus, to perform productions of Greek drama throughout the UK and beyond, directing his own translations and adaptations of Greek tragedies. David has curated events at The British Museum (including in association with its exhibitions, *Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum* and *Defining Beauty*) and at The Ashmolean Museum (in association with the *Last Supper in Pompeii* exhibition). David is an energetic champion of Classics and writes for publications such as *Minerva*, *The British Museum Magazine*, *All About History* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has served on the Council of the Roman Society and speaks at a wide range of venues including academic institutions and literary festivals. In October 2018, David was elected a Fellow of Goodenough College, London.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Monet. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Syracuse, Sicily. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we return to the ship and sail in the evening.

Day 3 Crotone, Italy. After a morning at sea we arrive in Calabria and the port of Crotone which is on the site of the ancient Greek City of Kroton. Whilst little remains of the Greek city it was one of the most important settlements of Magna Graecia, where Pythagoras set up a school in 530 BC and whose athletes were very successful at the Olympic Games. This afternoon we will take a scenic drive inland to Santa Severina, one of Italy's prettiest towns overlooking the Neto River valley. Here we will explore the majestic Carafa Castle which was built by the Normans in 1076 and is surrounded by strong, crenellated walls with a moat on three sides. The castle contains intricate underground labyrinths and stables, with the remains of Medieval frescoes. Also see the cathedral, the beautiful Byzantine baptistery and enjoy some time to wander the town's tangled streets. Before returning to the ship we will stop at a local farmhouse for a tasting of typical Calabrian food served with local wine.

Day 4 Otranto. From the port of Otranto we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture. A guided walk will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. We return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore Otranto independently, maybe walk the winding streets or along the seaside promenade. The highlight is the wonderful cathedral with its Medieval mosaic floor created by the monk Pantaleone between 1163 and 1165. You can also see the Chapel of the Dead which shows the bones and skulls of 813 martyrs killed by the invading Turks in 1480. Alternatively, perhaps take a swim from the nearby beaches.

Day 5 Sarande, Albania. This morning we will discover the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a guided tour explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre.

From the Roman era are the public baths, gymnasium, and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu.

Day 6 Preveza, Greece. Sail to the port of Preveza from where we head for the little-known ancient city of Nikopolis, one of the largest and most important sites in the whole of Greece. Built by the Roman Emperor Octavianus Augustus following his victory at Aktium in 31 BC over Antony and Cleopatra, inside its extensive walls are the Odeum, the Theatre, the Nymphaeum and the monument to Augustus. Later, the city flourished in the early Christian period as the seat of the archbishop of old Epiros, but earthquakes and invading Goths and Vandals led to its demise. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore this pretty, yacht lined harbour town.

Day 7 Katakolon. The port of Katakolon will be our base for our excursion to Olympia. Pastoral and lush, Olympia's plentiful ruins are shaded by Aleppo pines and olive trees. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland and the Archaeological Museum which houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. After our visit return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 8 Gythio. We arrive in picturesque Gythio this morning and board our coach heading east towards magical Monemvasia. A massive rock rises dramatically out of the sea and on top there is a fortress. However, the real attraction is the Medieval town with its narrow, cobbled streets and winding stairways which lead to a warren of stone houses with walled gardens and courtyards, and the main square dominated by an old cannon and the cathedral. On a walking tour we will visit the castle, followed by a short transfer to Liotrivis mansion. The estate was cultivated by the family of Eleftherios Ritsos (the father of Greek poet Yiannis Ritsos), and it was used as a summer house by the poet's family. We will sample the local specialities at an olive oil tasting followed by a buffet lunch of local products and wines. Return to the MS Monet for a leisurely afternoon in Gythio.

Day 9 Nafplio. Looking out across the translucent water of the bay towards the Arcadian Mountains, Nafplio's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivalled in Greece. After a relaxing morning at sea and lunch on board, we will head to the famous citadel of Mycenae which is located high above the confluence of two boulder-strewn ravines and accessed by way of the Lion



Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. An archaeological briefing within the Treasury of Atreus (also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon) will add to our understanding and appreciation of the sights. We moor in Nafplio tonight for anyone for anyone who wishes to take an after-dinner stroll.

Day 10 Nafplio. After breakfast we depart on a tour to one of the most renowned of Greece's ancient sites. Situated on the slopes of a beautiful and wooded valley, Epidauros was known throughout the Hellenic world for its unique medical facilities and healing treatments. Dedicated to Asclepius, the god of healing, the city was filled with curative spas and baths and only priests had access to certain secret rites. Most of the ruins of Epidauros have been reduced to their foundations, with the exception of the astonishing theatre. Still used for special performances, the theatre is in an admirable state of preservation. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is at leisure in Nafplio to wander the twisting labyrinthine streets and admire the Venetian and Turkish architecture of this charming town.

Day 11 Sifnos. This corner of the Cyclades is far from the well-trodden tracks of the big ships and you will be greeted by traditional white houses, picturesque churches and narrow lanes and alleys. A morning tour of Sifnos will include Apollonia, the island's tiny capital, the Virysianni Monastery, and the villages of Kastro and Artemos, both delightful places to wander and admire the traditional architecture.

Day 12 Athens to London. Disembark this morning in Piraeus and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£5295	£5095
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£5595	£5395
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£5995	£5795
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£6495	£6295
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£6795	£6595

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS MONET



Ships of all different sizes and styles can make the selection of a cruise a somewhat hit and miss affair, and whilst some companies attempt to please everybody, we prefer to continue with our focus on small ships and to that end are delighted to have once again chartered the 50-passenger MS Monet for a series of fascinating cruises in the Adriatic and Aegean. Originally built in 1970, the MS Monet is a 220 foot motor yacht and was converted and launched as a passenger ship in 1998, fully renovated in 2016 and upgraded again in 2018. If you find large resort style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers attractive then of course this isn't the vessel for you. However, if you prefer an informal and warm atmosphere more akin to a private yacht combined with an itinerary dedicated to both discovery and relaxation then you need look no further.



Category A Cabin

Your Cabin

All the cabins on board the MS Monet are designed for comfort and have a warm and inviting feel with light fabrics and wood trimmings. Cabins range in size from 9 to 22 square metres and Categories A, B & C are equipped with windows, while those in Category D have portholes. Cabins 104-107, 112, 119, 205 and 210-215 feature twin beds and all other cabins have fixed double beds. Facilities include en-suite bathroom with shower, television, minifridge, safety deposit box, air-conditioning and hairdryer.

Your Space

The public areas include a main lounge and bar with comfortable sofas on the Lumiere Deck, a restaurant located on the Parisian Deck and the Lumiere Open Deck al fresco dining area where meals can be enjoyed when weather permits. The Lumiere Sun Deck provides a delightful sun exposed space with sun loungers and a Jacuzzi, ideal for relaxation and wonderful views.

Your Dining

Located on the Parisian Deck, the glass enclosed indoor dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting with unassigned seating and allows for wonderful panoramic views of the stunning scenery as we sail. The Lumiere Open Deck provides a covered area where guests can enjoy meals al fresco on some days, weather permitting. Food is served at the table or displayed on the hot and cold buffet stands. The menu is international, with a focus on local specialties. A choice of house wine, beer and soft drinks are served with lunch and dinner.

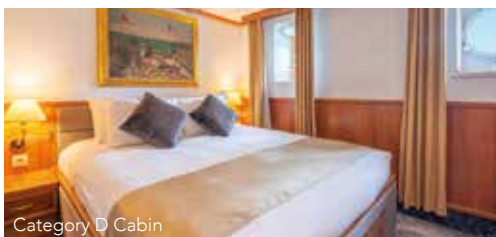


Category C Cabin – fixed twin cabin



Life On Board

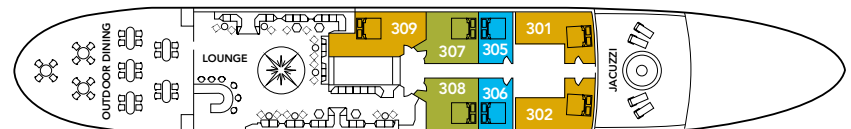
In many ways the virtues of small ship cruising are best expressed by detailing what you will not find on board the MS Monet. For instance, there will be no organised entertainment and no black tie events. What there will be is a warm and convivial atmosphere in which you can learn more about the culture and ancient civilisations of the region in the company of like-minded people with a high level of service. During the day, life on board focuses around the indoor lounge area, and the indoor and outdoor dining spaces, as well as the open and inviting deck areas including the Jacuzzi. These are natural gathering places and perfect for relaxing in a comfortable chair with a good book or socialising with your fellow passengers and enjoying the views.



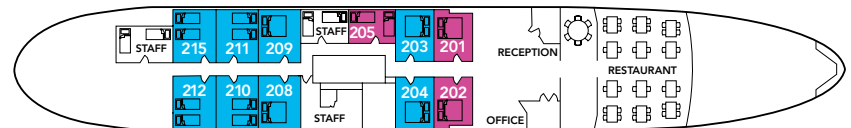
Category D Cabin

DECK PLAN

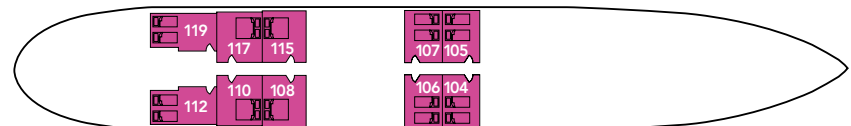
LUMIERE DECK



PARISIAN DECK



CAMILLE DECK



CATEGORY A CATEGORY B CATEGORY C CATEGORY D



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Olympia.