

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

HALCYON DAYS ON AEGEAN ISLANDS

A VOYAGE BETWEEN ATHENS & ISTANBUL
ABOARD THE 50-PASSENGER MS MONET

25TH SEPTEMBER TO 5TH OCTOBER
& 14TH TO 24TH OCTOBER 2028

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us for a relaxing and informative voyage to some of the most idyllic islands in the Northern Aegean. A cruise aboard a small ship like the MS Monet is a wonderful way to experience the region, allowing access to many of the delightful, yet often overlooked islands with ease and without having to rely on the local ferries.

Mighty civilisations, including Macedonians, Thracians, Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Turks, have left their mark on the islands of the Aegean and during our ten night itinerary we will truly be able to appreciate the fascinating history, undisturbed natural splendour, scenic towns and villages, and beautiful uncrowded beaches.

Setting sail from Athens, we have devised our itinerary to allow ample time to wander through the whitewashed villages and picturesque harbours of some hidden Greek island gems such as Chios with its fortress-like Medieval villages, distinctive architecture and fragrant mastic trees, the volcanic landscapes of Limnos with its alluring capital of Myrina and the emerald paradise of Thassos, the most northerly of the Greek islands. Amongst the many ancient world highlights of our voyage are our visits to Thessaloniki, home to an array of Byzantine churches, featuring important early Christian mosaics, and Samothrace, where we visit the Sanctuary of the Great Gods temple complex, one of the great sites of the ancient world. In addition, we will visit one of Greece's most extraordinary sights, Meteora, the 'monasteries in mid-air'; the sheer spectacle of these dramatic rock formations will most certainly provide you with a lasting memory. Before our journey concludes in the captivating Turkish city of Istanbul, we will spend time in Canakkale where you can choose to visit the First World War trenches and cemeteries at Gallipoli or spend time exploring the ruins of the ancient city of Troy.

Our custom-made itinerary focuses on many islands that the mega cruise ships cannot access and, in addition to our included guided excursions, there will be ample time at leisure for some independent exploration. Beyond the fascinating sites, there is pristine coastline, beautiful mountainous scenery, pine forests, charming villages and superb beaches and with a maximum of only 50 guests, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides.





The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Monet and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Naxos. The largest island of the Cyclades, Naxos offers a blend of ancient ruins, mountainous landscapes and sandy beaches. Arriving this morning we will sail by the ancient Portara, all that remains of an ancient temple built for Apollo and according to mythology where Theseus abandoned his love Ariadne after killing the Minotaur in Crete. After docking in the town we can stroll through the narrow alleys to the old castle of Hora, built by an Italian adventurer in the 13th century and walk past 14th century mansion houses, the cathedral and maybe visit the archaeological museum providing a journey through Naxian history. The afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace and we sail late for anyone wishing to try some of the island's delicacies ashore this evening.

Day 3 Chios. The birthplace of Homer, Chios remained a significant Aegean island into the Byzantine period. Homer mentions the island by name several times in the Odyssey, calling it 'paipaloessa', or craggy, a richly deserved epithet. The island is rich in ancient ruins and this morning we will visit the 11th century Monastery of Nea Moni, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most important ecclesiastical monuments in Greece. Return to the MS Monet for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore the town of Chios independently. Alternatively, join a tour to the south of the island where we visit the beautifully preserved, 14th century fortress village of Mesta and the elaborately decorated houses of Pigi enjoying time to wander through the maze-like streets.

Day 4 Skopelos. This morning we cruise across the Aegean to the Sporades Islands arriving into the picturesque island of Skopelos at lunchtime. An afternoon walking tour will explore the labyrinthine streets lined with whitewashed houses with picture-perfect courtyards and colourful balconies. Those feeling active can walk to the Church of Panagitsa of Pigos and the 13th century Venetian castle offering panoramic views over the town below and islands across the waters. We also learn about the rich history of the island at the Folklore Museum, housed in a renovated 18th century stately building which displays a fine collection of ceramics, paintings, frescoes and photos. We sail late tonight for anyone who wishes to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 5 Volos for Meteora. Arrive today in Volos, the starting point of the expedition of Jason and the Argonauts from Greek Mythology, located in the Pagasetic Gulf at the foot of Mount Pelion. Leaving the port we will head through the fertile plains of Thessaly towards Meteora ("monasteries in midair"), one of the most extraordinary sights in Greece and in all of Europe. Rising from Thessaly's valley are gigantic rocks on top of which are monasteries built by hermits some 600 years ago and which are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the monastery of Varlaam, originally founded in the 14th century and covered in fine frescoes and the monastery

of Roussanou. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before we return to Volos where you may want to take a walk along the pedestrianised seaside promenade, the Argonauts Way.

Day 6 Thessaloniki. Since its foundation by King Cassander of Macedonia in 315 BC and named after his wife and stepsister of Alexander the Great, Thessaloniki has always been a metropolis. The long history of the city is evident in the varied architectural forms from the Hellenistic era up to the end of the 20th century as well as an astonishing Byzantine artistic heritage. This morning explore the city seeing the White Tower, the symbol of the city, the Galerious Arch, the Rotunda, St Dimitrios Church, the Citadel and the City Walls, from where you will have a marvellous view of the city and the Thermaic Gulf with Mount Olympus in the background. Alternatively drive to the Vergina Royal Tombs Museum which displays the superb, decorated facades of the temple-like tombs of King Philip II and a young prince (thought to be Alexander IV), the treasures found within them and a reconstruction of the Great Mound that originally marked the site of the Royal Tombs. The tombs were discovered in 1977-78 by the archaeologist Manolis Andronikos and until that time they were covered by a protective tumulus 13 metres high and 110 metres across. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

Day 7 Samothrace. After a morning at sea we arrive on the small island of Samothrace. This rarely visited island contains one of the ancient world's great sites, the Sanctuary of the Great Gods, the site of important religious ceremonies. We will visit the main archaeological site including the Greek theatre, ruined temples and the ruins of a rotunda built for Arsinoe, one of the largest circular buildings from ancient Greece. Also see the replica of the statue of Nike, the original of which was discovered here in 1863 and now resides in the Louvre Museum.

Day 8 Thassos. The most northerly of the Greek Islands, Thassos is also known as the Emerald Isle due to the dense woodland and pine forests which slope down to the sea. This morning an island drive will include the well preserved 18th century Monastery of Archangel Michael. Located on a cliff with lovely views over the Aegean and Thassos coastline, it has retained a collection of religious articles, the most important being a part of the Holy Nail from the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore the port town of Limenas at your own pace. Maybe visit the archaeological museum, the remains of the ancient agora or walk to one of the nearby beaches. We sail late for anyone wishing to take a stroll this evening.

Day 9 Limnos. Awake in Myrina, the small capital of Limnos, an island steeped in mythology being the domain of the Greek god Hephaestus, the god of fire and metalworking, who fell on Limnos when his father, Zeus, threw him from Mount Olympus. A morning tour will cross the island to the archaeological site of Hephaistia, one of the island's principal cities in Antiquity and an important religious centre. We can see the ruins of the ancient baths, theatre and palace



Samothrace



Myrina, Limnos

as well as the sanctuary devoted to the Great Goddess of Limnos. Spend the afternoon at leisure in pretty Myrina, known for its romantic castle built over the rocky promontory. Maybe explore the castle or the picturesque Romeikos Gialos, which is lined with charming Neoclassical houses one of which contains the Archaeological Museum.

Day 10 Canakkale, Turkey. Arrive in Turkey at the port of Canakkale, our base for a choice of excursions. Maybe visit the ancient city of Troy, where ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was at one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. We can also visit the onsite Troy Museum. Alternatively, there will be an excursion to the Gallipoli Peninsula to see the World War I memorials which commemorate the Gallipoli campaign. It was here in 1915 that allied troops, mainly from Australia and New Zealand, landed intending to quickly defeat the Ottomans and facilitate ships to pass through to Dardanelles to capture Istanbul. However, the landings were contained by the Ottoman troops and trench warfare soon took hold leading to thousands of deaths. We will visit the memorials at Anzac Cove and Chunuk Bair. Return to the ship and spend the afternoon at sea as we cruise through the Dardanelles Strait.

Day 11 Istanbul to London. Be on deck this morning as we cruise into Istanbul. We will disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisian Deck	£5595	£5295
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisian/Lumiere Deck	£5995	£5695
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£6495	£6195
A	Deluxe Double with windows on Lumiere Deck	£6995	£6695
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisian Deck for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Istanbul Post-cruise Extension
5th to 7th October & 24th to 26th October 2028



Hagia Sophia

If you would like to spend some time in Istanbul, we are offering a two night hotel extension inclusive of guided tours.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Istanbul, Turkey. Disembark after breakfast and spend the morning at the impressive Topkapi Palace. After lunch we will check in to our hotel and have the remainder of the day at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Istanbul. Our exploration of Istanbul begins this morning with a visit to the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life during the Ottoman Empire, the Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles, and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica and now an imperial mosque. After lunch in a local restaurant a short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, one of the most magnificent, covered cisterns in Istanbul. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 Istanbul to London. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

THE BANK HOTEL, ISTANBUL

Nestled in the historic neighbourhood of Karakoy, The Bank Hotel is ideally situated for discovering the treasures of Sultanahmet and beyond. Originally built in 1876 in the grand Neo-Renaissance style, this former bank has been exquisitely restored, blending its rich heritage with timeless elegance. A Member of Design Hotels, The Bank Hotel offers 62 rooms, a rooftop restaurant with magnificent views of Old Istanbul, a gym and spa, and provides guests with a truly unforgettable stay.



The Bank Hotel

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

Twin: £895 Single: £1145

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at The Bank Hotel Istanbul, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.
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.

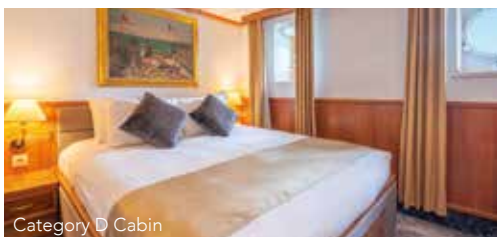


Category C Cabin – fixed twin cabin



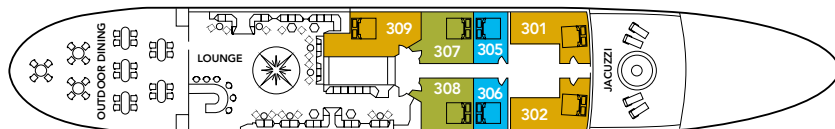
Life On Board

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.

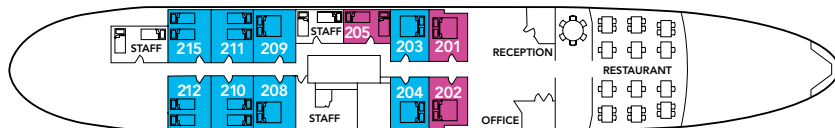


DECK PLAN

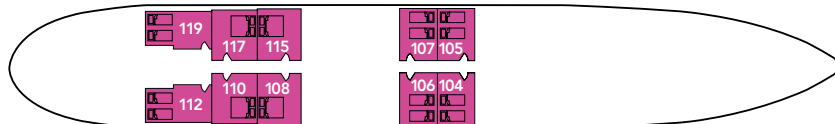
LUMIERE DECK



PARISIEN DECK



CAMILLE DECK



■ CATEGORY A
 ■ CATEGORY B
 ■ CATEGORY C
 ■ CATEGORY D



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk
www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Monastery of Archangel Michael, Thassos.