



# ISLAND HOPPING IN THE AEGEAN

ABOARD THE 49-PASSENGER YACHT  
ELYSIUM  
2023 & 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA

# MY ELYSIUM



Restaurant



Category A+ cabin



Sun deck

We are delighted to have chartered the 49-passenger yacht, the Elysium from our Greek associates at Elixir Cruises for voyages in the Aegean. At 64 metres in length and with just 25 cabins, the Elysium is truly a boutique ship enabling an intimate and relaxing experience on board and the perfect escape from the formalities of the larger vessels. The friendly crew all speak English and their excellent service and hospitality will do much to add to your enjoyment of your time on board. With a focus on wellbeing and the beauty of the Aegean, there is a range of activities to enjoy both on and off the ship whether you wish to visit idyllic coves and beaches, swim in the turquoise waters, enjoy a session of yoga or Pilates on board, take a hike to a nearby volcano, wander through the picturesque villages, or simply relax on deck enjoying the stunning scenery.

## Your Cabin

The yacht like ambience on board extends to the cabins which are attractively designed with neutral décor and stylish furnishings. There are five different grades of cabin arranged over two decks ranging in size from 14m<sup>2</sup> to 19m<sup>2</sup>. Cabins on the Ammos deck feature two or three portholes whilst cabins on the Astra Deck feature picture windows. Each cabin features twin beds which can be configured as double and facilities include air-conditioning, television, mini-bar, bathrobe and slippers, hairdryer and safety deposit box. Each cabin also has an en-suite bathroom with shower and organic toiletries including soap, shower gel, body lotion, shampoo and conditioner.

## Your Space

If you prefer a peaceful and informal life at sea with elegant surroundings then you need look no further than the Elysium. The Phos Deck offers plenty of outside public space and is equipped with comfortable loungers, a Jacuzzi and a large slumber sofa making it an inviting spot day or night. You can also choose to spend your time on the Thalassa Deck where you can relax in the shade, order from the all-day menu or socialise with newfound friends at the bar. In the Reception area you will find a welcome desk, books, board games and coffee station. Whether you choose to spend your time inside the vessel in the spacious lounge or bar area, or outside on the Phos Deck, you will find plenty of choice of areas from which to relax and watch the passing landscapes or socialise with fellow guests.



Lounge



Category B+ cabin



Bar

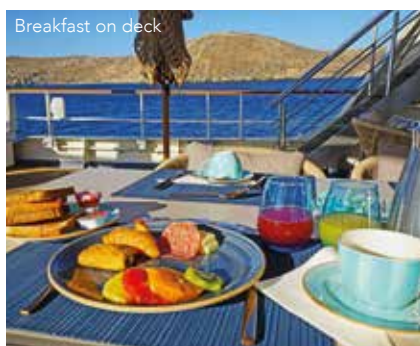
### Your Dining

Meals served on board are prepared daily with the freshest of ingredients and feature wholesome and tasty Mediterranean cuisine. During your voyage, a variety of dining experiences can be enjoyed including sumptuous buffets, three course meals and barbecues of fish or meat. An all day menu is also available so that you can enjoy snacks with drinks, fresh juices and smoothies. House wine, beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner.

### Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is casual and intimate with the dress code reflecting this. Part of the joy of a cruise aboard Elysium is its capability to dock in small ports or drop anchor in any suitable spot unlike the large ships which can only dock in the larger ports with

all the supporting infrastructure necessary to service the vessels. We believe that arriving at a port for the first time should be an invigorating experience and can certainly be so when arrival is aboard the Elysium. The experienced Captain and his crew are trained in the highest safety standards and the onboard team work superbly together whilst their legendary Greek hospitality will enrich your overall enjoyment of small ship cruising. When not relaxing on the Sun Deck watching the world slowly pass by there is always something to do on board be it the daily yoga and Pilates sessions, swimming or snorkelling from the ship (weather permitting) or enjoying a massage from the spa therapist. The Elysium has the added benefit of its own Zodiac landing craft enabling us to design itineraries to include places where we are able to just drop anchor and shuttle ashore.



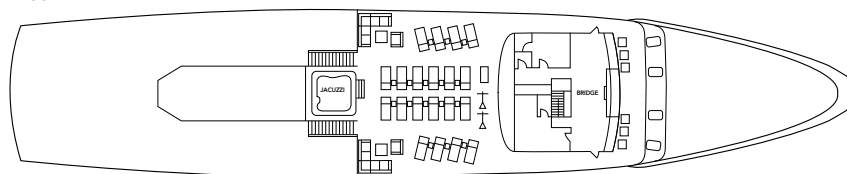
Breakfast on deck



Alfresco dining

### DECK PLAN – MY ELYSIUM

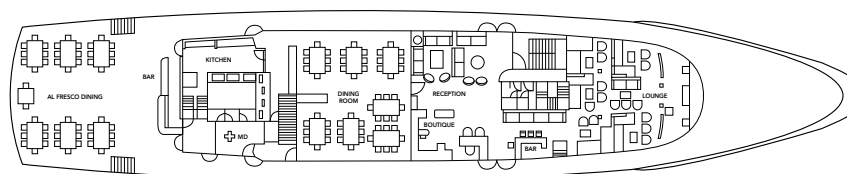
#### PHOS



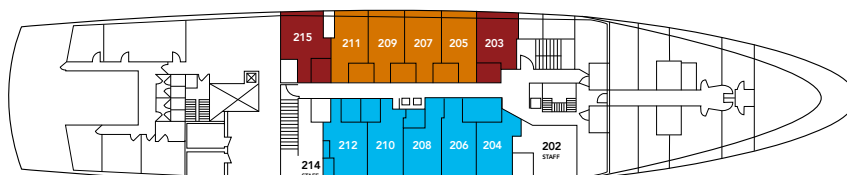
#### ASTRA



#### THALASSA



#### AMMOS



■ CATEGORY A PLUS ■ CATEGORY A ■ CATEGORY B PLUS ■ CATEGORY B ■ CATEGORY C

# LATE SUMMER IN THE AEGEAN

Island Hopping aboard the MY Elysium

30<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 & 21<sup>st</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Join us aboard the 49-passenger yacht, the Elysium for a relaxing and informative voyage to some of the most idyllic islands in the Aegean. Setting sail from Athens, we will cruise through the turquoise waters of the Aegean on a journey which includes a selection of some of our favourite Greek islands which can be difficult to access without relying on the local ferry network. It is during our time on such islands that you will truly be able to appreciate the unique atmosphere and island life. When combined with the dramatic scenery and the clear waters of the Aegean, it is evident why this region has inspired writers, poets and artists since the time of Homer.

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 or to swim in the intensely blue Aegean. We have scheduled some daytime sailing so as to enjoy our time ashore in the cooler hours of the day as we wander through the whitewashed villages and picturesque harbours of some hidden Greek island gems such as Sifnos, Fourni, Nisyros and Folegandros. There will also be some late departures from port and overnight moorings, allowing for the opportunity to enjoy the evening atmosphere of some delightful harbour towns. With a maximum of only 49 guests, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides who will enhance our knowledge of the region.



## THE ELYSIUM DIFFERENCE

We have designed our itineraries aboard the MY Elysium in order to achieve the maximum benefit from the advantages of her size and style. There will be yoga and Pilates sessions offered on board and we have incorporated a number of stops into the sailing schedule to facilitate swimming from the vessel. We also expect to be at anchor when visiting some of the smaller islands and in such instances will use the vessel's Zodiac landing craft to shuttle ashore.





## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Athens, Greece.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MY Elysium in Lavrion and embark. Sail in the late afternoon to Cape Sounion where, as the sun sets, we will anchor close to the Temple of Poseidon, one of the major monuments of the Golden Age of Athens.

**Day 2 Fokianos Beach & Monemvasia.** Arrive this morning at the Peloponnese for a swim stop at the stunningly beautiful, sheltered bay of Fokianos, with its white pebble beach and crystal-clear waters. During lunch on board we continue to sail along the coast to our anchorage off Monemvasia, meaning "the only entrance". Here, 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.

**Day 3 Milos.** Trade drove the early development of civilisation in the Aegean and Milos was a valuable source of quality obsidian used in ancient tools, knives and weapons. Created from volcanic activity, this super-hard glass was excavated and one of the Mediterranean's most ancient mines is found on this island. On a morning island tour we will visit the picturesque, whitewashed village of Plaka including the archaeological museum where we find a copy of the "Venus de Milo" statue which was discovered on the island. Also see the unique natural pools and caves of Papafragas and the Neolithic settlement at Phylakopi. This afternoon the volcanic activity that shaped the island is evident as we anchor off Sarakiniko Beach where the lunar landscapes and white cliffs contrast with the turquoise waters of the Aegean.

**Day 4 Sifnos & Folegandros.** Continuing our journey through the smaller islands of the Cyclades we arrive on Sifnos where we are greeted by traditional white houses, picturesque churches and narrow lanes and alleys.

An island tour 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. We will sail in the early afternoon to the little known island of Folegandros where we anchor overnight at the port of Karavostasi and hopefully find a suitable spot for an evening swim.

**Day 5 Folegandros & Magganari Bay.** During our exploration of Folegandros, visit the clifftop capital of Chora, a wonderfully picturesque village with alleys lined with bougainvillea and hibiscus and a dramatic seascape over an edge which drops some 700 feet directly into the Aegean. Explore the pedestrianised cobblestoned streets and see the Venetian Castle. Meanwhile, those feeling active can climb up to the Panagia Church which sits on the hill above the village and offers wonderful views to the coast. Over lunch we sail to the island and enjoy a refreshing swim stop at Magganari Bay, one of the most beautiful sandy beaches in Greece.

**Day 6 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. We will moor overnight for anyone wishing to try some of the island's delicacies ashore this evening.

**Day 7 Delos & Mykonos.** Though the smallest of the Cyclades, Delos was once the political and religious centre for the whole of the Aegean.



Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, it boasted an oracle second only to that of Delphi. Explore the magnificent archaeological site including the marble sanctuary of Apollo. Later we sail to the cosmopolitan island of Mykonos, where we drop anchor at one of its beautiful southern beaches for a swim. We will moor overnight in the town where you can enjoy a sunset drink at Little Venice, photograph the iconic windmills or simply explore the swirling pathways of the white-washed town with the many elegant boutiques and cafes.

**Day 8 Fourni.** Departing Mykonos over breakfast we will have a relaxing morning at sea before arriving at one of the best kept secret islands in the Aegean, Fourni. Once a haven for pirates who enjoyed the island's remote setting and little changed for centuries, the island has a wonderfully peaceful atmosphere. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to walk up from the harbour to the charming main square, enjoy a drink whilst observing island life or take a swim from the nearby beach.

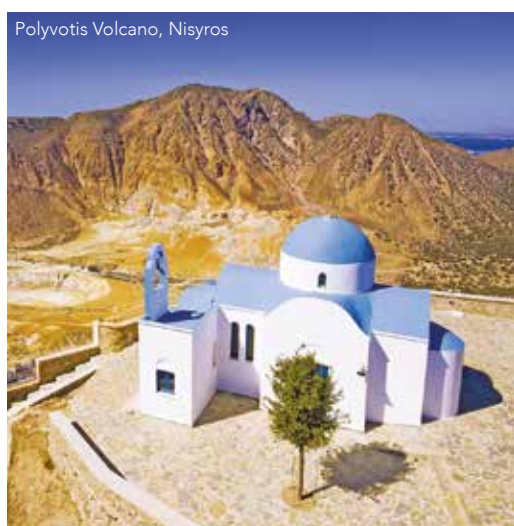
**Day 9 Patmos.** Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western and it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into the beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. From here continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery

of St John the Theologian. Upon entering into the courtyard, admire the intricate pebbled laid floor, decorated arches and frescoes adorning the entrance to the chapel of Christodoulos. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or maybe enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

**Day 10 Nisyros & Symi.** Arrive this morning at the small island of Nisyros. From the port of Mandraki we drive to the Polyvoti Volcano named after the Titan imprisoned under the rock of Nisyros during the battle with the gods. Here we will learn more of the legends and have the chance to walk into the caldera. Alternatively, maybe wander through the village, climb to the Monastery of Panagia Spiliani or visit the archaeological museum. Sail over lunch as we look for a suitable swim stop before we moor overnight on the island of Symi.

**Day 11 Symi.** A small, mountainous and much indented pretty island, the harbour of Gialos on Symi is particularly attractive and we will have time today to stroll through the colourful cobbled streets. The Simians were famous boat builders and are mentioned in the Iliad as sending boats to assist the siege of Troy but are better known today for their sponge diving. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Rhodes arriving in the late afternoon.

**Day 12 Rhodes to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.



## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	2023	2024
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£5495	£6495
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£5695	£6795
B+	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with three portholes	£5995	£6995
A	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£6295	£7295
A+	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£6795	£7795
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£7195	£7495
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£7395	£7795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MY Elysium on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Yoga/Pilates sessions on board • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports & itinerary are subject to change. We will be at anchor off some islands and the onboard Zodiac landing craft will be used regularly to transport passengers ashore.



# SAILING THE GREEK ISLES

Island Hopping between Rhodes & Athens aboard the MY Elysium

11<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 & 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Cruising aboard our private yacht, the Elysium is a wonderful way to experience the lesser known islands of the Aegean and encounter their timeless quality, especially in October when the absence of high summer crowds will contribute towards making this voyage between Rhodes and Athens a truly memorable journey.

Our itinerary is a well balanced mix of guided excursions and time at leisure to explore the charming villages independently. With a maximum of just 49 guests, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides. In addition to some day time cruising which allows us to enjoy some magnificent views, there will be some swimming stops in the intensely blue Aegean and some overnight moorings which afford the opportunity to take a stroll after dinner in some marvellous places that are particularly atmospheric in the evening.

Our time in Greece will focus on unspoiled islands, timeless villages and splendid archaeological sites and we will learn about the intriguing civilisations that so coveted these ancient lands. When not sailing through some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in the Mediterranean we will explore some truly wonderful sites such as Delos and Patmos where we will visit the grotto of St John.

After many years of experience of operating cruises in the Aegean, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with a mix of guided excursions and time at leisure to explore the charming villages independently. Whether you are interested in ancient history, Greek myths or simply the joy of cruising aboard a yacht and experiencing new places and islands in this beautiful region, our voyage through the Aegean will surely appeal.



## THE ELYSIUM DIFFERENCE

We have designed our itineraries aboard the MY Elysium in order to achieve the maximum benefit from the advantages of her size and style. There will be yoga and Pilates sessions offered on board and we have incorporated a number of stops into the sailing schedule to facilitate swimming from the vessel. We also expect to be at anchor when visiting some of the smaller islands and in such instances will use the vessel's Zodiac landing craft to shuttle ashore.



Magganari Bay





## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Rhodes, Greece.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MY Elysium and embark. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Rhodes & Symi.** From our berth we take a walk through the old town visiting the Grand Masters Palace, built to reflect the Papal Palace of Avignon and planned to serve as a fortress in times of war, a peacetime residence for the Grand Master of the Hospitallers, the Knights of St John and a meeting place for senior knights. Later we walk past the impressive houses on the "Avenue of the Knights". Sail over lunch to nearby Symi, a small, mountainous and much indented pretty island. The harbour of Gialos is particularly attractive and we have a couple of hours to stroll through the colourful cobbled streets. The Simians were famous boat builders and are mentioned in the Iliad as sending boats to assist the siege of Troy but are better known today for their sponge diving. We sail late this evening for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

**Day 3 Tilos.** Spend the day in timeless Tilos, this lovely island has still to find its way onto the pages of tour operator's brochures and so retains its traditional atmosphere. See Livadia, a lively little town and elegant Megalo Chorio, its tiny capital rich in Crusader castles, stone houses and narrow alleys which can be explored by foot. There is a beach nearby for those that prefer to have a swim. Sail in the early evening to nearby Nisyros where we moor overnight.

**Day 4 Nisyros.** From our berth in the port of Mandraki we drive to the Polyvotis Volcano named after the Titan imprisoned under the rock of Nisyros during the battle with the gods. Here we will learn more of the legends and have the chance to walk into the caldera. Later, choose to relax on board or maybe wander through the village, climb to the Monastery of Panagia Spiliari or visit the archaeological museum. We will sail in the late afternoon and enjoy some time at sea as we cross to the Cyclades Islands.

**Day 5 Ios & Magganari Bay.** Arrive over breakfast in Ios and the port of Yialos. A short drive brings us to Chora one of the most picturesque villages in the Cyclades where we can wander through the beautiful alleyways which are alive with colourful flowers, winding staircases, cafes, lovely boutiques and visit the striking cathedral church built in the Cycladic style with white walls and a blue dome. This afternoon we sail around the coast for a refreshing swim stop at Magganari Bay, one of the most beautiful sandy beaches in Greece.

**Day 6 Milos.** Trade drove the early development of civilisation in the Aegean and Milos was a valuable source of quality obsidian used in ancient tools, knives and weapons. Created from volcanic activity, this super-hard glass was excavated and one of the Mediterranean's most ancient mines is found on this island. On a morning island tour we will visit the picturesque, whitewashed village of Plaka including the archaeological museum where we find a copy of the "Venus de Milo" statue which was discovered on the island. Also see the unique natural pools and caves of Papafragas and the Neolithic settlement at Phylakopi. This afternoon the volcanic activity that shaped the island is evident as we anchor off Sarakiniko Beach where the lunar landscapes and white cliffs contrast with the turquoise waters of the Aegean.

**Day 7 Sifnos.** Continuing our journey through the smaller islands of the Cyclades we arrive on Sifnos where we are greeted by traditional white houses, picturesque churches and narrow lanes and alleys. An island tour 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 8 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

Ancient ruins, Delos



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. We moor overnight for anyone wishing to try some of the island's delicacies ashore this evening.

**Day 9 Delos & Mykonos.** Though the smallest of the Cyclades, Delos was once the political and religious centre for the whole of the Aegean. Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, it boasted an oracle second only to that of Delphi. Explore the magnificent archaeological site including the marble sanctuary of Apollo. Later we sail to the cosmopolitan island of Mykonos, where we drop anchor at one of its beautiful southern beaches for a swim. We will moor overnight in the town where you can enjoy a sunset drink at Little Venice, photograph the iconic windmills or simply explore the swirling

pathways of the white-washed chora with the many elegant boutiques and cafes.

**Day 10 Syros.** Sail from Mykonos this morning and arrive during lunch at Syros which was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century and the capital Ermoupolis was Greece's principal port. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon with a stroll in the town of Ermoupoli, the capital of the Cyclades. The prosperity of the island in the 19th and early 20th century created through commerce and shipping is reflected in the architecture with a beautiful square, town hall and theatre. Overlooking Ermoupoli stands the hill-top Ano Syros, the original Medieval district with narrow lanes and white washed houses.

**Day 11 Athens to London.** Disembark after breakfast in the port of Lavrion and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.



## PRICES PER PERSON

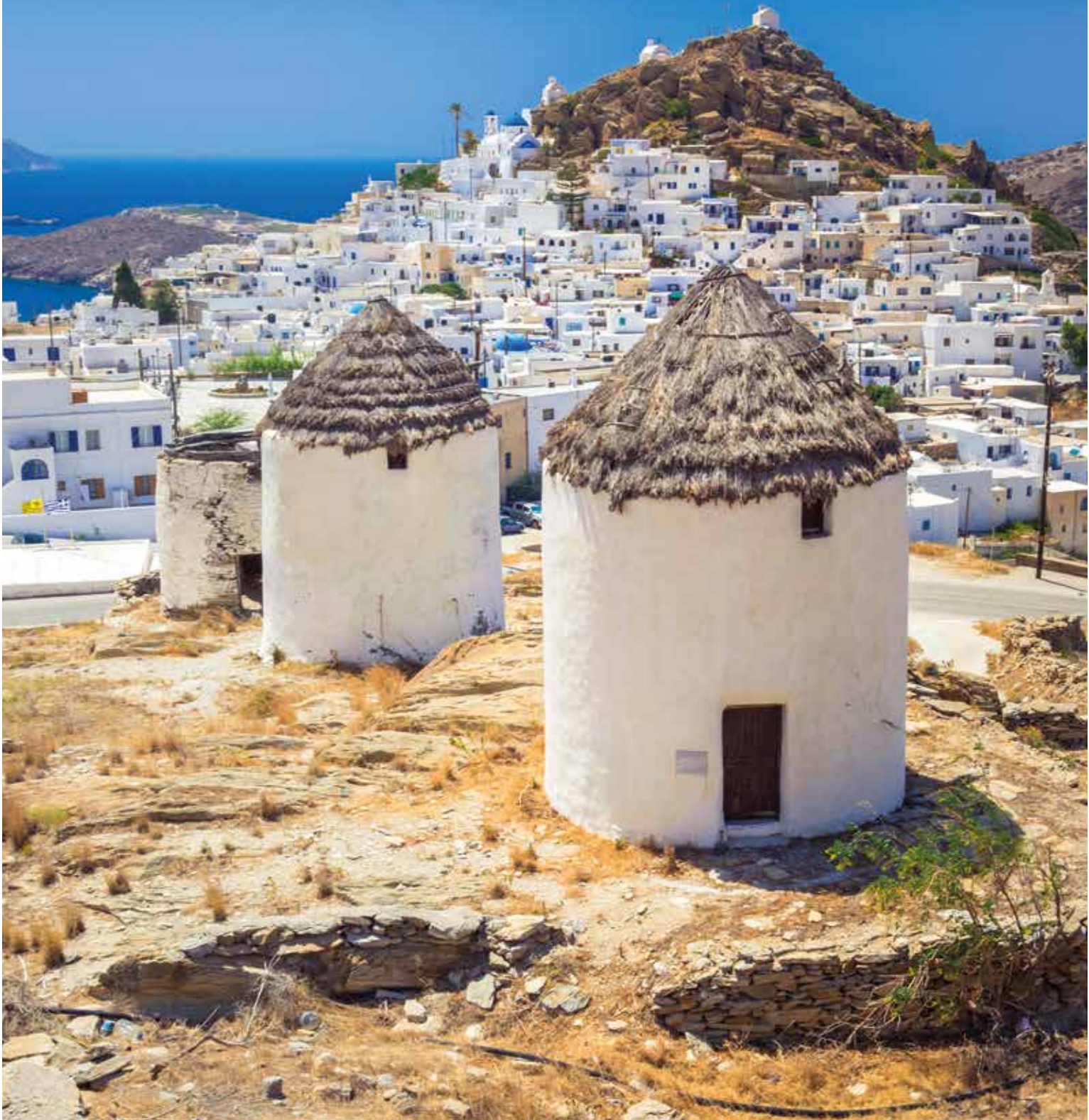
Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	2023	2024
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£4995	£5995
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£5195	£6295
B+	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with three portholes	£5495	£6595
A	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£5795	£6895
A+	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£6295	£7295
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£6495	£6995
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£6795	£7295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MY Elysium on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Yoga/Pilates sessions on board • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports & itinerary are subject to change. We will be at anchor off some islands and the onboard Zodiac landing craft will be used regularly to transport passengers ashore.



# PASSAGE AROUND THE PELOPONNESE & IONIAN ISLANDS

A springtime voyage aboard the MY Elysium

20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Join us aboard the 49-passenger MY Elysium and let us take you around the Peloponnese and across the Ionian Sea to the lands of gods and heroes. Spring is a lovely time to discover the region; quiet sites and pleasant temperatures with sea conditions warm enough to enjoy swims in the turquoise waters make it a wonderful time of year for exploration by small ship. The combination of history and natural beauty of the area makes for the perfect balance and we will enjoy some day time sailing as well as some late departures from port allowing for some pre or post dinner strolls.

Embark in Athens and enjoy ten nights of discovery as we explore the Peloponnese, home to an extraordinary collection of great archaeological sites with tangible traces of the many civilisations including classical temples, Mycenaean palaces, Byzantine cities and Ottoman and Venetian fortresses. Our time in the Peloponnese will introduce you to the picturesque ports of Nafplio and Pylos, the Medieval castle town of Monemvasia, and the sporting history of Olympia. Beyond these fascinating sites, there is also beautiful mountainous scenery, mysterious caves, vast gorges, charming villages and superb beaches.

Away from the Peloponnese we ensure we stay off the beaten track with visits to some beautiful and charming islands where we can experience Greek island life including picturesque Hydra, Kythira and scenic Kefalonia and also make the essential visit to fascinating Delphi. Finally, ensure you are on deck when we transit the Corinth Canal, which whilst only built in the 19th century was conceived as long ago as the 7th century BC, a wonderful end to our cruise and only possible on a small ship.



## THE ELYSIUM DIFFERENCE

We have designed our itineraries aboard the MY Elysium in order to achieve the maximum benefit from the advantages of her size and style. There will be yoga and Pilates sessions offered on board and we have incorporated a number of stops into the sailing schedule to facilitate swimming from the vessel. We also expect to be at anchor when visiting some of the smaller islands and in such instances will use the vessel's Zodiac landing craft to shuttle ashore.



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Athens, Greece.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MY Elysium in Lavrion and embark. Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Hydra.** Over breakfast we arrive at the picturesque island of Hydra in the Saronic Gulf. Spend the morning at leisure to explore this elegant, traffic free island at your own pace. The picturesque harbour is a mix of 18th century mansions, old churches and cobblestoned streets. The island's naval history can also be seen in the cannons pointing to the Aegean from the bastions which were built to protect the island from Turkish attacks in the 18th and 19th centuries. Meanwhile the historical archive museum documents Hydra's role in Greek history. Return to the ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail to Nafplio. This evening you may wish to take time to wander the twisting labyrinthine streets and view the Venetian and Turkish architecture of Nafplio as we moor overnight.

**Day 3 Nafplio, Mycenae & Epidaurus.** This morning we drive 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. After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit Epidaurus, one of the most renowned of Greece's ancient sites. Situated on the slopes of a beautiful and wooded valley, Epidaurus 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 sites. Most of the ruins of Epidaurus have been reduced to their foundations, with the exception of the astonishing theatre which is in an admirable state of preservation. Built into the ground, rather than above it, it is known for its fantastic acoustics, which we will observe during our visit. We will set sail late this evening allowing for an after dinner stroll.

**Day 4 Fokianos Beach & Monemvasia.** Arrive this morning for a swim stop at the stunningly beautiful, sheltered bay of Fokianos, with its white pebble beach and crystal-clear waters. During lunch on board we continue to sail along the coast to our anchorage off Monemvasia, meaning 'the only entrance'. Here, 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.

**Day 5 Kythira.** Situated between the Peloponnese and Crete, the island of Kythira was, according to mythology, the birthplace of the goddess Aphrodite. Spend the morning on this picturesque mountainous island where we will hopefully see expanses of wildflowers while driving through the countryside. A morning drive will take us to the Medieval village of Mylopotamos where we will visit the little church, the abandoned castle and enjoy some local delicacies in the town square. In Kato Livadi we will visit the Byzantine Museum which houses a collection of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine art whilst in Livadi we will see the Great English stone bridge built during English rule. Our last call is the capital of Chora where we explore the Venetian castle and old mansions.

**Day 6 Pylos.** Today we will call into the home of Nestor, the wise king of Pylos who fought for the Greeks at Troy and advised Odysseus's son, Telemachus, on how best to deal with the evil suitors chasing his mother, Penelope. From our central berth in Navarino Bay, we will drive through the enchanting countryside to Methoni, one of the most impressive Medieval fortresses in Greece. The Venetians built Methoni on the Ionian Sea and Koroni on the Gulf of Messenia in the 13th century to safeguard their newly acquired Greek Empire. Also visit the castle of Neokastro which today houses the Centre for Underwater Archaeological Studies.

**Day 7 Katakolon for Olympia.** 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 we drive the short distance to a nearby farm where we will taste some of the local wine and olive oils accompanied with local snacks. Return to the ship for some free time in Katakolon before we sail this evening.

**Day 8 Argostoli, Kefalonia.** Sail this morning into Kefalonia, the largest of the Ionian Islands. From our berth in Argostoli we drive to the famous lighthouse of Agioi Theodori, the remarkable Venetian castle of Saint George and the 16th century Monastery of Agios Gerasimos. St Gerasimos is the patron saint of Kefalonia, and his relic is kept in the monastery, in a silver urn. Near to the monastery we find the Robala vineyards. Wines have been grown here since the 12th century and we will learn

about the processes and enjoy a tasting before we return to the ship via Kourkoumelata, one of the prettiest villages of the island. The afternoon is free to explore the town of Argostoli before we sail later this evening.

**Day 9 Ithaca.** Ithaca, one of the most legendary of all Greek islands is unspoiled by tourism, yet has a fascinating history. Relics date back to 4000 BC and by Mycenaean times it was the capital of a kingdom that included surrounding islands and part of the Peloponnese coast. It was under Odysseus that this kingdom reached its zenith, sending 12 ships to the Trojan War. During a scenic drive of the island we will visit the village of Stavros and the Monastery of Panagia Katharon which is located on Mount Neritos and offers wonderful views of the island below. In the afternoon we set sail to Gidaki, a stunning beach with emerald, green waters, one of the most beautiful in the Ionian Sea from which to enjoy a swim.

**Day 10 Delphi & Corinth Canal.** From our berth in Itea we visit the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The hillside ruins here are exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, the site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. Be on deck this afternoon as we transit the Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like ours which can now make this journey.

**Day 11 Athens to London.** Disembark after breakfast in the port of Lavrio and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Price
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£5995
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£6295
B+	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with three portholes	£6595
A	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£6895
A+	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£7295
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£6995
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£7295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MY Elysium on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Yoga/ Pilates sessions on board • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports & itinerary are subject to change. We will be at anchor off some islands and the onboard Zodiac landing craft will be used regularly to transport passengers ashore.

# SPRING IN THE AEGEAN

Island Hopping in the Dodecanese & Cyclades aboard the MY Elysium

30<sup>th</sup> April to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024

A cruise aboard the 49-passenger MY Elysium is a wonderful way to experience the lesser-known islands of the Aegean and encounter their timeless quality. Part of the joy of a cruise aboard a small vessel is its capability to dock in small ports or drop anchor in any suitable spot, unlike the large ships which can only dock in the larger ports with all the supporting infrastructure necessary to service the vessels.

Setting sail from Athens, the cradle of western civilisation, we will cruise through the turquoise waters of the Aegean on a voyage through the playground of the Greek Gods. During this 11-night voyage we will visit some truly idyllic islands which are very difficult to access without relying on the local ferry network. Our custom-made itinerary focuses on many islands that the mega cruise ships cannot access and, in addition to our included guided excursions and some day time sailing, there will be ample time at leisure for some independent exploration or to swim in the intensely blue Aegean from the vessel or local beaches.

Some of the many hidden island gems we have included in our bespoke itinerary are Fourni, Lipsi, Leros, Kimolos and Sifnos. During our time on these idyllic islands, we can wander through the charming, whitewashed villages, explore the picturesque harbours and visit some ancient sites including the grotto of St John on the island of Patmos and the magnificent archaeological site on the island of Delos, birthplace of Apollo.



## THE ELYSIUM DIFFERENCE

We have designed our itineraries aboard the MY Elysium in order to achieve the maximum benefit from the advantages of her size and style. There will be yoga and Pilates sessions offered on board and we have incorporated a number of stops into the sailing schedule to facilitate swimming from the vessel. We also expect to be at anchor when visiting some of the smaller islands and in such instances will use the vessel's Zodiac landing craft to shuttle ashore.



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Athens, Greece.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MY Elysium in Lavrion and embark. Set 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, a massive marble doorway and all that remains of an ancient temple built for Apollo. According to mythology this is where Theseus abandoned his love Ariadne after killing the Minotaur on the island of Crete. After docking in the town we can stroll through the narrow alleys to the castle of Hora and walk past the 14th century mansion houses, the cathedral and maybe visit the

archaeological museum which provides a journey through Naxian history. This afternoon we hope to find a bay for our first swimming stop of the cruise.

**Day 3 Delos & Mykonos.** Though the smallest of the Cyclades, Delos was once the political and religious centre for the whole of the Aegean. Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, it boasted an oracle second only to that of Delphi. Explore the magnificent archaeological site including the marble sanctuary of Apollo. Later we sail to the cosmopolitan island of Mykonos. Here, we can photograph the iconic windmills, explore the swirling pathways of the white-washed Chora with the many elegant boutiques and cafes or enjoy a sunset drink at Little Venice.

**Day 4 Fourni.** After a morning at sea we arrive at one of the best kept secret islands in the Aegean, Fourni. Once a haven for pirates who enjoyed the island's remote setting and little changed for centuries, it has a wonderfully peaceful atmosphere. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to walk up from the harbour to the charming main square and perhaps relax with a drink whilst observing island life.

**Day 5 Patmos.** Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western and it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into a beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. From here continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Upon entering into the courtyard, admire the intricate pebbled laid floor, decorated arches and frescoes adorning the entrance to the chapel of Christodoulos. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or maybe enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

**Day 6 Lipsi & Leros.** Today we can use our small ship to visit two of the less visited islands of the Dodecanese. Spend the morning on Lipsi. At just eight kilometres long, this tiny island is popular with yachts and has avoided the development of many surrounding islands. It is a wonderful place to spend a few hours walking amongst the whitewashed houses or to take the opportunity to visit a local beach for a swim. Over lunch



we sail to Leros, the island of Artemis, the God of hunting. We will drive to the capital, Platanos to see the Pandeli Castle which overlooks Agia Marina and offers wonderful views from the ramparts to the harbour below and islands beyond. The Battle of Leros was a central event in World War II and we will visit the War Museum and Commonwealth Cemetery before returning to the ship.

**Day 7 Nisyros.** Another island of the Dodecanese group, Nisyros is a volcanic island and from our berth in the port of Mandraki we drive to the Polyvotis Volcano named after the Titan imprisoned under the rock of Nisyros during the battle with the gods. Here we will learn more of the legends and have the chance to walk into the caldera. Later, choose to relax on board or maybe wander through the village, climb to the Monastery of Panagia Spiliani or visit the archaeological museum. We will sail this afternoon and enjoy some time at sea as we return to the Cyclades Islands.

**Day 8 Ios & Magganari Bay.** Arrive over breakfast in Ios and the port of Yialos. A short drive brings us to Chora one of the most picturesque villages in the Cyclades where we can wander through the beautiful alleyways which are alive with colourful flowers, winding staircases, cafes, lovely boutiques and visit the striking cathedral church built in the Cycladic style with white walls and a blue dome. This afternoon we sail around the coast for a refreshing swim stop at Magganari Bay, one of the most beautiful sandy beaches in Greece.

**Day 9 Milos & Kimolos.** Trade drove the early development of civilisation in the Aegean and Milos was a valuable source of quality obsidian used in ancient tools, knives and weapons. Created from volcanic activity, this super-hard glass was excavated and one of the Mediterranean's most ancient mines is found on this island. On a morning island tour we will visit the picturesque, whitewashed village of Plaka including the archaeological museum where we find a copy of the 'Venus de Milo' statue which was discovered on the island and the Roman theatre of Mylos. This afternoon we set sail to Kimolos Island, a true hidden gem. Spend time exploring the picturesque village of traditional whitewashed houses as we moor overnight.

**Day 10 Sifnos.** Continuing our journey through the smaller islands of the Cyclades we arrive on Sifnos where we are greeted by traditional white

houses, picturesque churches and narrow lanes and alleys. An island tour 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. The afternoon is free to explore the port town of Kamarea at your own pace before we sail for the short distance to Serifos where we anchor overnight.

**Day 11 Serifos & Kolona Bay.** Awake in Serifos, a lesser-known island of distinct Cycladic flair, dotted with windmills, white-washed chapels, pristine beaches and sugar cubed houses that perch on the rocky hillsides surrounding the port. An island drive will include the 15th century Taxiarchon Monastery and the hill top village of Panagia with wonderful views over the island. Sailing over lunch we will anchor at Kolona Bay Beach, famous for its crystal-clear waters and golden sand for a final swimming opportunity.

**Day 12 Athens to London.** Disembark after breakfast in the port of Lavrio and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Price
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£6495
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes	£6795
B+	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with three portholes	£6995
A	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£7295
A+	Twin/Double Cabin on Astra Deck with picture window	£7795
C	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£7495
B	Twin/Double Cabin on Ammos Deck with portholes for sole use	£7795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MY Elysium on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Yoga/ Pilates sessions on board • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports & itinerary are subject to change. We will be at anchor off some islands and the onboard Zodiac landing craft will be used regularly to transport passengers ashore.



**NOBLE CALEDONIA**  
 2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE  
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | [info@noble-caledonia.co.uk](mailto:info@noble-caledonia.co.uk)  
[www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://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: Church of Agia Irini, Yalos port, los Island.