



PASSAGE AROUND THE PELOPONNESE & IONIAN ISLANDS

A springtime voyage aboard the MY Elysium

20th to 30th April 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA



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.



Delphi



Monemvasia



Olympia



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.

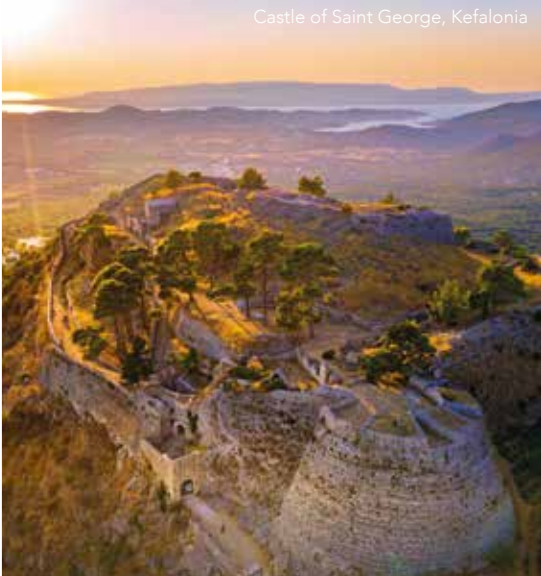
Day 6 Pylos. Today we will call into the home of Nestor, the wise king of Pylos who fought for the Greeks at Troy and advised Odysseus's son, Telemachus, on how best to deal with the evil suitors chasing his mother, Penelope. From our central berth in Navarino Bay, we will drive through the enchanting 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,

Epidaurus



Castle of Saint George, Kefalonia



Fokianos Beach



Medieval fortress, Methoni



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 Kourkouvelata, 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 Lavrion 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.

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 14m² to 19m². 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

Your Dining

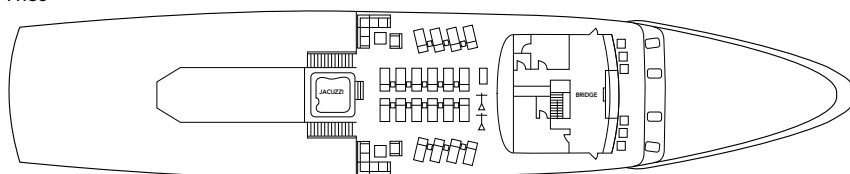
Meals served on board are prepared daily with the freshest of ingredients and feature wholesome and tasty Mediterranean cuisine. During your voyage, a variety of dining experiences can be enjoyed including sumptuous buffets, three course meals and barbeques of fish or meat. An all day menu is also available 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

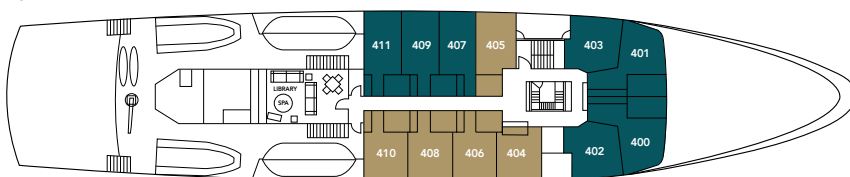
The atmosphere on board is casual and intimate with the dress code reflecting this. Part of the joy of a cruise aboard Elysium is its capability to dock in small ports or drop anchor in any suitable spot unlike the large ships which can only dock in the larger ports with all the supporting infrastructure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

DECK PLAN – MY ELYSIUM

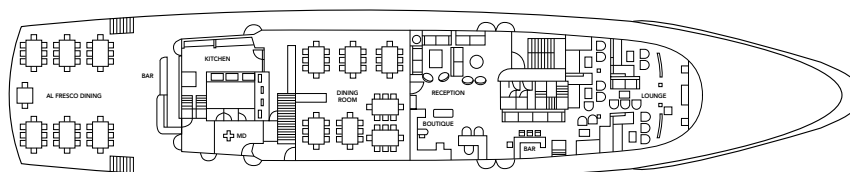
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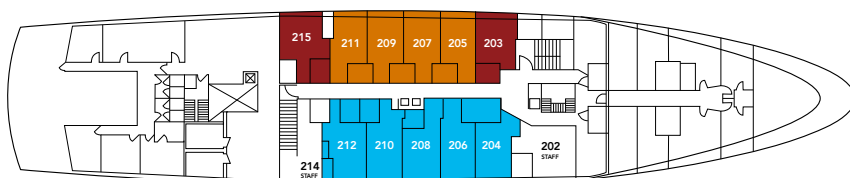
ASTRA



THALASSA



AMMOS



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



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Hydra.