

# TREASURES OF THE PELOPONNESE & IONIAN ISLANDS

A voyage between Athens & Corfu aboard the MS Monet 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025 & 27<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026\*

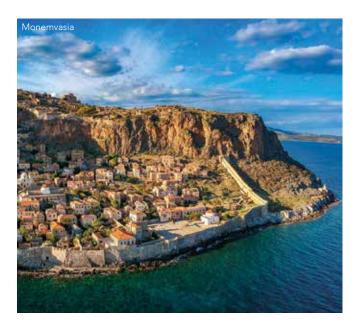
NOBLE CALEDONIA

E arly autumn and spring are a wonderful time of year to discover Greece's Peloponnese region and Ionian islands by small ship with quiet sites and pleasant temperatures. Join the 50-passenger MS Monet for a journey of discovery through the lands of gods and heroes. 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.



The Peloponnese is home to an extraordinary collection of great archaeological sites with tangible traces of the many civilisations which have at one point over the course of history called this region home including classical temples, Mycenaean palaces, Byzantine cities and Ottoman and Venetian fortresses. The peninsula is of course also the setting for numerous myths and legends which will be brought to life by our local guides who will travel with us aboard the MS Monet, adding an extra dimension to all we see and experience.

Our time in the Peloponnese will introduce you to the picturesque ports of Nafplio and Pylos, the famous citadel of Mycenae, the ancient site and renowned theatre at Epidaurus, the Medieval castle town of Monemvasia, and the sporting history of Olympia. Beyond these fascinating sites, there is beautiful mountainous scenery, vast gorges and charming villages and we will also enjoy the opportunity to sample local delights including the olive oil and wines of the region. Whether you are interested in ancient history, Greek myths or simply the joy of cruising aboard a small ship and experiencing new places and islands in this beautiful region, our voyage has something for everyone.



### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Athens, Greece.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Monet. Sail this evening.

Day 2 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 overnight in Nafplio allowing time for an after-dinner stroll.

**Day 3 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, 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 rites. Most of the ruins

of Epidaurus 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 MS Monet for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon in Nafplio to wander the twisting labyrinthine streets and admire the Venetian and Turkish architecture of this charming town.

Day 4 Gythio & Monemvasia. 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. During our guided walking tour we will visit the town castle, followed by a short transfer to Liotrivi mansion. The estate here 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 have the opportunity to sample the local specialities during an olive oil tasting followed by a buffet lunch of local products and wines. After lunch we will return to the ship for a free afternoon in Gythio.

Day 5 Pylos. This morning 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 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. Enjoy lunch on board and a free afternoon to explore Pylos independently. For those interested in learning more about King Nestor we will arrange an afternoon tour to his palace situated a short distance from Pylos and considered one of the best preserved of the Mycenean Palaces in Greece.

Day 6 Katakolon & Olympia. The port of Katakolon will be our base today 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 you may choose to return to the MS Monet for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in Katakolon or stay in Olympia to explore further independently.

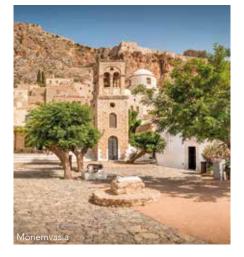
Day 7 Argostoli, Kefalonia. Sail this morning into Kefalonia, the largest of the Ionian Islands. From our berth in Argostoli we have a choice of excursions. A half day tour will drive to the famous lighthouse of Agioi Theodori, the remarkable Venetian castle of Saint George and the 16th century Monastery 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. The afternoon is free to explore the town of Argostoli. Alternatively a full day tour will drive to the north of the island passing the famous Myrtos beach as we drive to the village of Assos. With just 100 residents it is one of the most charming spots of the island. Built on a small peninsula the town dominated by the ruins of a 16th century Venetian castle. After time to wander the streets viewing the traditional architecture, pretty harbour and pebbled beaches we continue to the small port of Fiskardo which curves serenely beside coral-blue waters, gazing out towards Ithaki. Thanks to its colourful crop of Venetian villas, spared from earthquake damage because they rest on a sturdy bed of flat rock, Fiskardo is home to upscale restaurants built around the small harbour where yachts jostle for space to dock. After lunch in the port and some free time to explore we return to the MS Monet.

**Day 8 Preveza.** 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 Aktiun 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. Returning to the ship in Preveza for lunch the afternoon is free to explore this pretty, yacht lined harbour town.

Day 9 Corfu. Arrive this morning on the island of Corfu, one of the most richly endowed of all the Greek Isles. Praised by Homer in 'The Odyssey' and selected by Shakespeare as the setting for 'The Tempest', the island retains evidence of cultural heritage from each of its past rulers -Byzantium, Venice, France, Russia and Great Britain. Our guided tour will include the famous Byzantine Monastery of the Virgin at Paleokastritsa which is still inhabited by a community of monks. The small museum houses some priceless Byzantine icons. Spend some time in the serene monastery gardens that afford a splendid view over the turquoise waters of the bay. Continue to Mon Repos Palace, the summer residence of the British Governors of Corfu which now houses a museum including many Ionian treasures and is surrounded by a large park. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon will be free to explore Corfu Town with its idyllic pastel coloured Venetian mansions and fine museums.

**Day 10 Corfu to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

\*Please note that the 2026 departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Corfu to Athens. Full itinerary can be viewed online.



#### PRICES PER PERSON Based on double occupancy

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

	2025		2026	
Cat Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
D Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£4495	£4295	£4795	£4595
C Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£4795	£4595	£5095	£4895
B Superior Double with windows on Lumiere Deck	£5095	£4895	£5395	£5195
A Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	£5795	£5595
D Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£5695	£5495	£5995	£5795

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



Category A Cabin - 309

MS Monet



## MS MONET

We are delighted to have chartered the MS Monet, a 220 foot motor yacht accommodating a maximum of just 50 guests, for a series of cruises in the Mediterranean. Originally built in 1970, MS Monet 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.

#### 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

FEBRUARY 2024

Recommen Provide

OCEAN CHUISES

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.

#### Life On Board

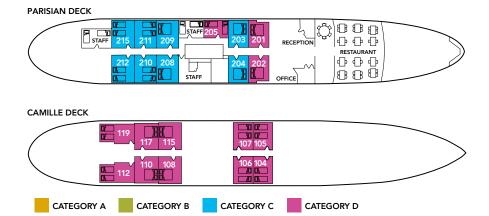
During the day, life on board focuses around the indoor lounge area, and the indoor and outdoor dining spaces, as well as the open and inviting deck areas including the Jacuzzi. These are natural gathering places and perfect for enjoying your meals al fresco, relaxing in a comfortable chair with a good book or socialising with your fellow passengers and enjoying the views.



Lounge

#### DECK PLAN





## NOBLE CALEDONIA

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