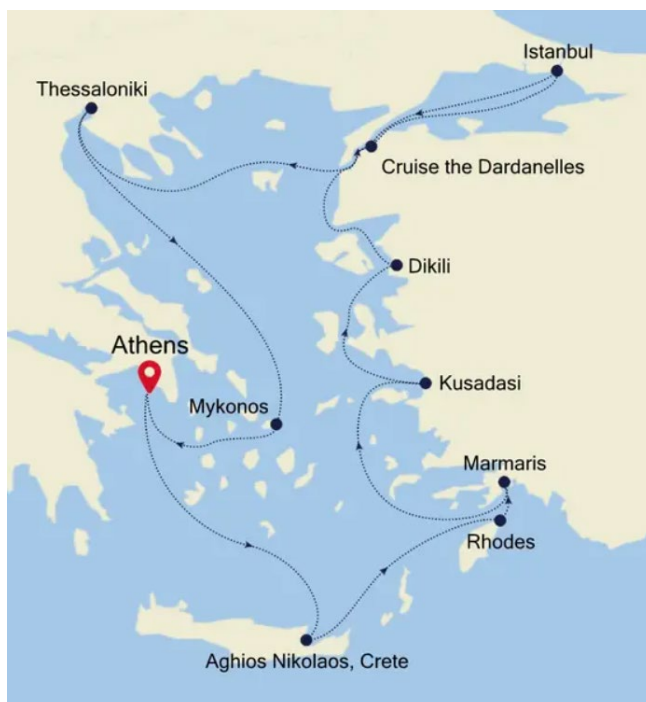


GREECE & TURKEY

ATHENS ROUND TRIP



Bookended by the beauty of Athens, this voyage weaves in history, majesty and myth. Crete's pastel-coloured houses open the voyage, followed by the pretty harbour of Rhodes and the exuberance of Marmaris. Ephesus' immense ancient city is just a stone's throw from next stop Kusadasi. Follow on with an overnight in Istanbul and a Dardanelles cruise. Then it's back to Greece for your final two stops: Thessaloniki and Mykonos.



DATE: 2023 – APR 10

DURATION: 12 DAYS/11 NIGHTS

**ROUND TRIP: ATHENS, GREECE
(Piraeus)**

SHIP: Silver Spirit

FROM: \$6,950*

**All Inclusive - Contact us for current rates
*Special Port-to-Port fare**

ITINERARY

Plan to arrive in Athens at least one day early to avoid problems related to international air travel.



DAY 1 – ATHENS, GREECE – EMBARKATION IN PIRAEUS

A city of legend, civilization and enduring culture, Athens is a majestic and magical urban sprawl. Extraordinary elegance and grace combine with grit and graft in Greece's capital, where highways encase ruins from antiquity, and gleaming museums and galleries stand beside concrete sprayed with edgy street art. These contrasts enhance and elevate the wonders of this 2,500-year-old city, however, which can count notable contributions to philosophy, drama and democracy, among its global legacy.

DAY 2 – CRETE - AGIOS NIKOLAOS

Welcome to Crete, Greece's largest island, and explore the sun-soaked charms of this fascinating land of legends, landscapes and luxuries. Packed with beautiful beaches and rich maritime history, enjoy the treasures of Crete's many well-stocked museums, rich archaeological sites, and charming Venetian fishing towns. Soak up some Mediterranean sunshine by heading straight to one of the luxurious white sand beaches - where you can recline to a soundtrack of fizzing waves and dine with sparkling sea views stretching out before you. Explore olive groves producing golden oil, and savor the deep, fruity flavors.



DAY 3 – RHODES, GREECE

With an endless sun-soaked season, earthy history and vibrant culture, the island of Rhodes has it all. At the crossroads between continents, and sandwiched between Crete and Turkey's coastline, Rhodes has swayed between many mighty civilizations throughout its tumultuous history. Part of the Dodecanese Islands, which are sprinkled across the blissfully blue Aegean Sea, dive into this island of dazzling beaches, historic medieval towns, and whitewash villages. Crusted with turrets and walls, alluding to its strategic significance over the years. Incredible history has been left behind, and the cobbled streets of the UNESCO World Heritage site listed Old Town are some of Europe's best.



DAY 4 - MARMARIS, TURKEY

Marmaris boasts beachside buzz and reams of ancient history. The city itself is a lively affair, with a scenic old town that hums with holidaymakers. Get your bearings with a seafront wander to the Yacht Marina, soaking in the water views. Head into the city, to explore a tight-knit knot of streets where drinks are shared and music blares.

DAY 5 – KUSADASI, TURKEY

Explore the towering columns, and storied remains of Ephesus - one of the most spectacular cities left by the Ancient Greeks. Kusadasi welcomes you to the Turkish coastline and is your base for exploring these majestic remains, which sit just 10 miles inland from the port. The Ephesus UNESCO World Heritage Site is a true archaeological gold mine, and an amazingly well-preserved site - once home to 150,000 people. Visit the precious Library of Celsus - a gorgeous, double-layered façade of columns and artistry.



DAY 6 – DIKILI (IZIMIR), TURKEY

Arrival in Dikili is like arriving in an Aegean postcard. Not only does it boast blue flag beaches, limpid turquoise seas and healing waters (the town's thermal springs are world famous), but a good deal of historical texture as well. This will come as great news for history fans. The ancient and as yet unexplored sites of Aterneus and Pitane are located nearby, and the region boasts deep roots to civilizations including the Persian and Roman empires.

DAYS 7-8 – ISTANBUL, TURKEY

A chaotic, colossal collision of east and west – start your day in Europe and end it in Asia, all without breaking a sweat. Sprawling across two continents, the city has been toed, froed and yanked between countless civilizations over its history, leaving a multi-layered, majestic tapestry of culture to untangle. An army of narrow minarets puncture the skyline, while the soaring towers of palaces and labyrinths of bazaars - where bargains are the reward for brave hagglers - fill up this dynamic city of 15 million people. With a rich portfolio of Byzantine and Ottoman architecture, Istanbul enjoys one of the world's



most dynamic skylines and has an intense, infectious energy. The vast Aya Sofya is the starting point for exploring this huge city's deep wealth of cultural treasures. Built in the 6th century as a Greek Orthodox church, it was later transformed into an Ottoman imperial mosque – and latterly a museum. Cast your eyes up to take in the full scale of the colossal dome, one of the world's largest, which floats on a magnificent bed of light.

DAY 9 – DAY AT SEA - THE DARDANELLES

DAY 10 - THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Thessaloniki has seen the rise and fall of many civilizations: Macedonian, Hellenic, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and that of the Jews and the modern Greeks. Each of its successive conquerors has plundered, razed, and buried much of what went before.

DAY 11 - MYKONOS, GREECE

Indulge in idyllic island life, as you take your fill of superb foods and wines, and soak in endless views of sweeping turquoise seascapes and pretty whitewash buildings. Mykonos has managed to retain the enduring, exclusive allure that first drew celebrities like Brigitte Bardot to its star-studded shores. White facades, red roofs and cobalt blue shutters add to this lively town's appeal. Explore narrow streets housing studios – where artisans piece together mosaics - and plenty of restaurants and bars offer sanctuary.



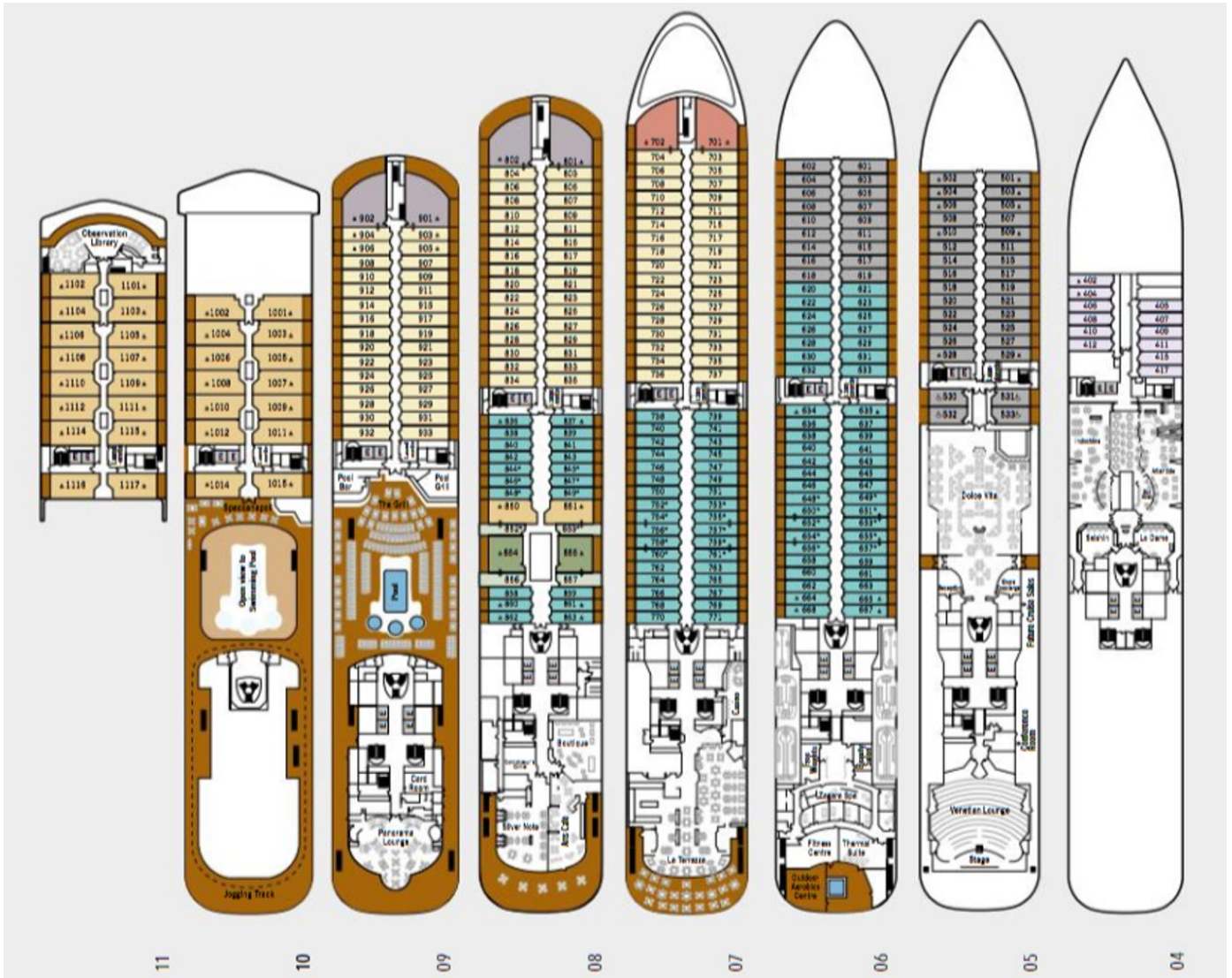
DAY 12 – ATHENS – DISEMBARK

Add pre- or post-cruise tours to learn more of this magic land.



SHIP SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Crew | 411 |
| Officers | International |
| Guests | 608 |
| Tonnage | 39,519 |
| Length | 691 Feet/210.7 Mt |
| Width | 87 Feet/26.5 Mt |
| Speed | 19.5 Knots |
| Refurbished | 2018 |



Rates are per person, based on Double Occupancy and includes all beverages, gratuities to crew, all excursions, port charges, enrichment lectures by a highly qualified Expeditions Team, spacious suites, unlimited free Wifi, and more. **Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.**



Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com

