

GOHAGAN & COMPANY

ISLAND LIFE® ANCIENT GREECE AN AEGEAN ODYSSEY

Cruising aboard the Exclusively Chartered Five-Star Small Ship LE BOUGAINVILLE

October 22 to 30, 2020

From approximately \$4990 plus air

U.S.

Day 1

Depart the U.S.

Athens, Greece

Day 2

Arrive in the birthplace of democracy. Home to many of history's greatest philosophers and poets from Socrates to Herodotus, Athens is unmatched in its contributions to early Western civilization. Today, the ancient city's enduring grandeur is encapsulated in the spectacular Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the gracefully proportioned Parthenon, a perfect example of Doric architecture dedicated to the goddess Athena in 438 B.C.

Embark the LE BOUGAINVILLE and enjoy dinner on board this evening. (D)

Volos for Meteora

Day 3

From the attractive port city of Volos, birthplace of legendary Jason, leader of the Argonauts, travel across the fertile Plain of Thessaly to the seldom-visited natural wonder of Meteora—Greek for “suspended in the air”—an extraordinary enigma of virtually uncharted Orthodox monasteries. This breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage site was constructed in the 14th and 15th centuries a staggering 1300 feet above the valley floor, atop soaring natural sandstone pillars, where the early Christian traditions of these monasteries have continued uninterrupted for hundreds of years. Visit one of the four active monasteries, originally accessed by way of long ladders and baskets suspended on ropes, but today accessible by travel on a modern road overlooking verdant Peneas Valley with impossibly majestic sights. Enjoy the Captain's Welcome Reception. (B,L,R,D)

Delos/Mykonos

Day 4

Enjoy a walking tour of the mythical birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. Today, Delos is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is considered to be one of the most sacred islands in the Greek world, as central to Grecian spiritual life as Olympia and Delphi. Walk along the Sacred Way to the Sanctuary of Apollo, a spectacularly rich archaeological site with remains of three separate temples from the fifth and sixth centuries B.C. Delos' awe-inspiring ruins also showcase an entire district of Hellenistic and Roman-era houses and the 5500-seat theater (300 B.C.), the site of choral competitions during the Delian *panegyris*, or an ancient quadrennial festival honoring Apollo. See the legendary Terrace of the Lions, dedicated to Apollo, where hand-carved marble statues guarded the island for nearly 2600 years.

After lunch onboard, enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore charming Mykonos. According to ancient legend, the craggy hills and clefts of Mykonos were formed from the petrified bodies of giants defeated by Hercules. Mykonos' iconic windmills, bright white, cube-shaped houses and azure bays epitomize the striking beauty of the Greek Isles. Enjoy free time to stroll the quaint streets lined with whitewashed buildings and boutiques or to sip ouzo harborside in Mykonos's Little Venice. (B,L,D)

Pátmos

Day 5

The small island of Pátmos and its Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. John, a UNESCO World Heritage site, loom large in the history of Christianity. Tour the monastery, built in 1088 and still inhabited by monks who continue to preserve it as a pilgrimage site and place of religious study. See the Cave of the Apocalypse,

where St. John the Apostle of Ephesus very possibly wrote the Book of Revelation in A.D. 95.

This afternoon, meet and engage with local residents who will discuss contemporary daily life on these ancient islands during the specially-arranged ISLAND LIFE® FORUM. (B,L,D)

Rhodes/Lindos

Day 6

The island of Rhodes has been one of the most prosperous and strategic strongholds in the eastern Mediterranean since the Neolithic period. Dock at the fortified wall of Rhodes Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and step into this extraordinarily well-preserved medieval city, built over a great Hellenistic metropolis, and a major Christian outpost during the Crusades. Visit the splendid 14th-century Palace of the Grand Masters, built by the Knights of St. John and one of the only examples of Gothic architecture in all of Greece.

Join the optional excursion this afternoon to the ancient village of Lindos. See the magnificent frescoes adorning the Byzantine-style Church of Panagia and the breathtaking views from its cliff-top acropolis; or, enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Rhodes to further explore its rich history, charming streets and medieval center. Later, enjoy a performance of traditional Greek music and dance on board the ship. (B,L,D)

Santorini

Day 7

Be on deck as the ship cruises into the captivating harbor at Santorini, a natural caldera, beneath which is believed by some to be the legendary lost city of Atlantis. This morning, tour the phenomenal Bronze Age ruins of Akrotiri. Held intact by layers of pumice and ash for over 3500 years, Akrotiri's streets reveal the architectural sophistication and advanced culture of its Minoan inhabitants. Visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which houses extraordinary finds excavated from Akrotiri. A cable car descends to sea level from the elevated town of Fira, where stunning white-walled buildings stand in stark contrast against the dark volcanic cliffs. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure in Santorini. (B,L,D)

Nafplion

Day 8

Visit the picturesque fishing port of Nafplion, widely considered the most beautiful city in Greece, tour two UNESCO World Heritage highlights—the ancient citadel of Mycenae, the classical stage of Homer's *The Iliad*, an epic text foundational to Western thought, and Epidaurus, an equally quintessential Hellenic site.

Mycenae is bountiful in allusions to the age of Agamemnon, from its secret passages to Cyclopean walls, named because they were so tall they were thought to have been built by giants.

In Epidaurus, visit the ancient Sanctuary of Asklepios, where the ruins bear testimony to Greco-Roman healing gods and medicinal knowledge, and the Theater is renowned for its nearly perfect acoustics.

Depart from Nafplion and attend the Captain's Farewell Reception. (B/L/R/D)

Athens/U.S.

Day 9

Disembark in Athens and continue onto the Olympian Origins and the Corinth Canal Post-Cruise Option or transfer to the airport for your flight home that will arrive later today. (B)