



ADVENTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY IN 2025



EARLY BOOKING OFFERS - SAVE up to £650pp*
PLUS PAY IN FULL – GET AN ADDITIONAL SAVING OF 10%

**Full details inside*

SET SAIL INTO THE ANCIENT WORLD



SET SAIL IN 2025

We are very excited to present our first edition 2025 dedicated cruise brochure. These cruises, which combine our enriching site visits with the comfort and amenities of a waterborne 'hotel' have proved very popular. A key part of their success is, as always, our wonderful tour staff, totally devoted to you, not only on site, but on board on all cruises, there to answer questions and offer company when needed.

Cruising along some of the world's most famous rivers, you gain a unique perspective when you explore a region from its waterways. Free from the obstacles imposed when travelling by land, you can sail in the wake of legendary heroes, glide along rivers once exploited by Viking raiders and traders and admire the ingenuity of the engineers of the industrial age, making your way along canals which helped link river to ocean and continent to continent. Returning for 2025 we offer programmes along the Seine, Rhône, Nile, and Guadalquivir & Guadiana in Spain.

At sea, we explore fabulous sites on the Mediterranean and Dalmatian coastline and across stretches of the crystal-clear Aegean. In 2025 we see the return of Cruising Ancient Dalmatia (pages 14 & 15) and new for next year, we are delighted to present to you our first cruise onboard Celestyal Journey. This larger vessel provides all the best features of a mid-sized ship – a relaxing spa, a swimming pool, a choice of comfortable lounges and bars – and takes us on a wonderful journey encompassing a fabulous array of sites which demonstrate the rich history of the Greek Mediterranean, see (pages 10-13).

Just like our land-based tours, all our cruises are informative, friendly, and fun and with so much included in the price, they are excellent value for money. All Andante offshore excursions are included along with all meals plus wine at dinner. We also include tips to restaurant, hotel and cruise staff, drivers, site donations, water on the coach and site entries as standard. All that is left for you to do is satisfy that souvenir craving.

Whether this is your first cruise with us, or you have enjoyed several, we are sure you will enjoy these established and new cruise programmes, and if you book by 17th May 2024 you can take advantage of savings with our offers which apply to the first 5 passengers booked on each departure.

Happy Browsing!

Best wishes,



Jackie Willis

CEO

Our Awards and accolades

Winners of a Feefo 2024 Gold Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service, also winning a silver at the British Travel Awards 2023 for the Best Travel Company to Italy/Western Mediterranean Islands. And, our very own John Shepherd won the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023. Here's to continued success throughout the year!



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Images top to bottom: MS Renoir, Aswan, Celestyal Journey & Thessaloniki

OFFERS

EARLY BOOKINGS OFFERS - SAVE up to £350pp*

Enjoy a saving for booking early on all our tours departing in 2025. Discounts apply to the first 5 passengers booked on each departure. See our tour pages for the saving you can make on each departure date.

Offer ends 17th May 2024.

PAY IN FULL - AN ADDITIONAL SAVING OF 10%

If you pay in full at the time you book, you can take advantage of an additional 10% discount. **Offer ends 17th May 2024.**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

We have 4 places on Cruising the Seine (page 16) with no single supplement to pay, but when they are gone, they are gone, so book early to secure this saving. Look out for this sticker on the tour pages.

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE**

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

We reserve the right to withdraw special offers at any time and they are not valid for any bookings on private groups, travel agent bookings or Study Days.

*EARLY BOOKING OFFERS: The discounts advertised are off the full selling price and apply to the first 5 passengers booked on each tour departure date. Valid for new bookings made up until 17th May 2024, on tours departing in 2025. *The discount of £650 per person applies to our Egypt Encompassed tour. These discounts can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.*

PAY IN FULL - AN ADDITIONAL SAVING OF 10%: The 10% discount is applied to the remaining balance after any discount, customer holiday vouchers or credit notes have been applied. Valid for new bookings made up until the 17th May 2024, on tours departing in 2025, and on a limited number of places on each tour departure. This discount can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES: There are a limited number of no single supplement places on our Cruising the Seine departure. These places are also subject to hotel and cruise availability. This discount can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.

How to book

If you are interested in joining one of our cruises and want to know more, please do give our Specialist Travel Executives a call today. They are ready to help with all of your questions.

Call today:

01722 713 824

Or visit our website:
andantetravels.co.uk

To book a tour today visit andantetravels.co.uk or call **01722 713 824** **3**

Benefits of cruising with Andante Travels



The size of the cruise ships we choose means that they can stop at smaller ports. This is especially relevant to our archaeological and historical cruises because the locations of the sites tend to be in remote places that are more challenging to reach, and when you add major ports with huge cruise liners into the equation, you encounter the problem of thousands of other passengers disembarking at the same time. Access is easier on our small to mid size vessels.

One of the highlights of sailing on these smaller vessels is the individualised attention and excellent service you can expect.

Fewer passengers means that the crew have time to get to know their guests and build a rapport. Dedicated to making your holiday a delightful experience throughout, they can really make a difference to life on board from attending to special requests to fixing your favourite cocktail.

Imagine cruising along the Nile, stepping ashore to explore the legendary Valley of the Kings and the staggering Abu Simbel temple complex in Egypt, or discovering iconic sites associated with mythology in Greece. With Andante Travels, you can.



Images top to bottom: Celestyal Journey & MS Renoir ©CroisiEurope



Onboard experience

Every day is different on a small to mid-sized ship cruise and you can be as busy or as relaxed as you choose to be. We have some full days of site visits, making the most of what there is to see, some more relaxed days with half-day excursions and some days spent sailing.

As we've mentioned, there are many benefits to taking a cruise as opposed to a land-based tour. One of these has to be the pleasure of not having to pay every time you want a glass of wine (and not having to remember whose round it is). The vast majority of our cruises are fully-inclusive, with a wonderful variety of food on board, and some itineraries include welcome drinks receptions on the first day. More information about this can be found on each tour's specific page within our brochure.

Life on board will be very comfortable, with fantastic standards of cleanliness upheld and great attention to detail shown at every turn. Small to mid-sized ships also mean smaller passenger numbers, which in turn means there will always be somewhere to relax throughout your cruise - relaxation is at the heart of the experience! Cabins all have ensuite bathroom facilities in addition to TVs and other modern amenities, and our cruises typically have a selection of decks to choose from, meaning there is something on offer to suit every budget.

Our cruises are mostly led by renowned Andante Guide Lecturers, who are part of the group rather than simply a leader - someone with whom to converse and laugh with at meal times, as well as someone who is there to share their academic expertise.

The cruises on offer have a slower pace, allowing you to sit back and really take in your surroundings with everything taken care of, but they are still filled with fascinating visits, memorable experiences and all the elements that create lasting holiday memories.

From river to sea

THE RHÔNE

Flowing from the heights of the Swiss Alps, the scenic and often wild course of the Rhône is shaped by the influences of the mountains, right down to the river mouth, where sediments marking the Rhône's birth in an Alpine glacier are carried into the warmer waters of the Mediterranean.

This beautiful region of France has long been a draw for artists and art lovers and its exceptional vineyards are a mecca for wine enthusiasts the world over. The river's delta which begins near Arles, encloses the Camargue, a habitat rich in wildlife from flamingos to wild ponies and as the Rhone linked the great Roman settlements – Arles, Orange, Nîmes and Lugdunum (modern day Lyon) - here is plenty of wonderful Roman sites to discover.

THE GUADALQUIVIR

Rising in the mountains of Jaén province, the Guadalquivir follows a western course through Andalucía, before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean on the Gulf of Cadiz. Acting as a conduit of trade and culture for millennia, it is from here that ships first set sail to the New World eventually spreading untold wealth to Seville, Cadiz and the rest of the world.

For Arab poets, Andalucía was “the land on the brink of paradise”. It is famous for its beautiful Moorish inspired architecture, but it was also enriched by the gold that came from the Americas evident in the UNESCO listed sites clustered in the cities of Seville and Granada.

THE GUADIANA

Running the length of Portugal's south-eastern border with neighbouring Spain, the Guadiana flows west, meandering through some of the most picturesque landscapes in the Iberian Peninsula before spilling into the Gulf of Cadiz. Its fertile banks are dotted with sleepy villages and river beaches with the backdrop of green hills and cork oak forests, like the charming hillside town of Alcoutim, a hidden gem of inland Algarve.

THE SEINE

The Seine emerges in the hills of the Cote d'Or at a remote spot in Burgundy, about 20 miles north of Dijon. Remains of a Gallo-Roman sanctuary have been found at its source, dedicated to the Celtic goddess Sequana, after whom the river is likely to have been named. Curving through Paris, the river flows lazily northwest in sweeping loops across Normandy to the coast where it empties into the English Channel. This route, navigable by sea vessels, then barges, into the heart of the country has played an important role in the history of France from Viking invasion to the battles of the Middle Ages and World War II.

THE NILE

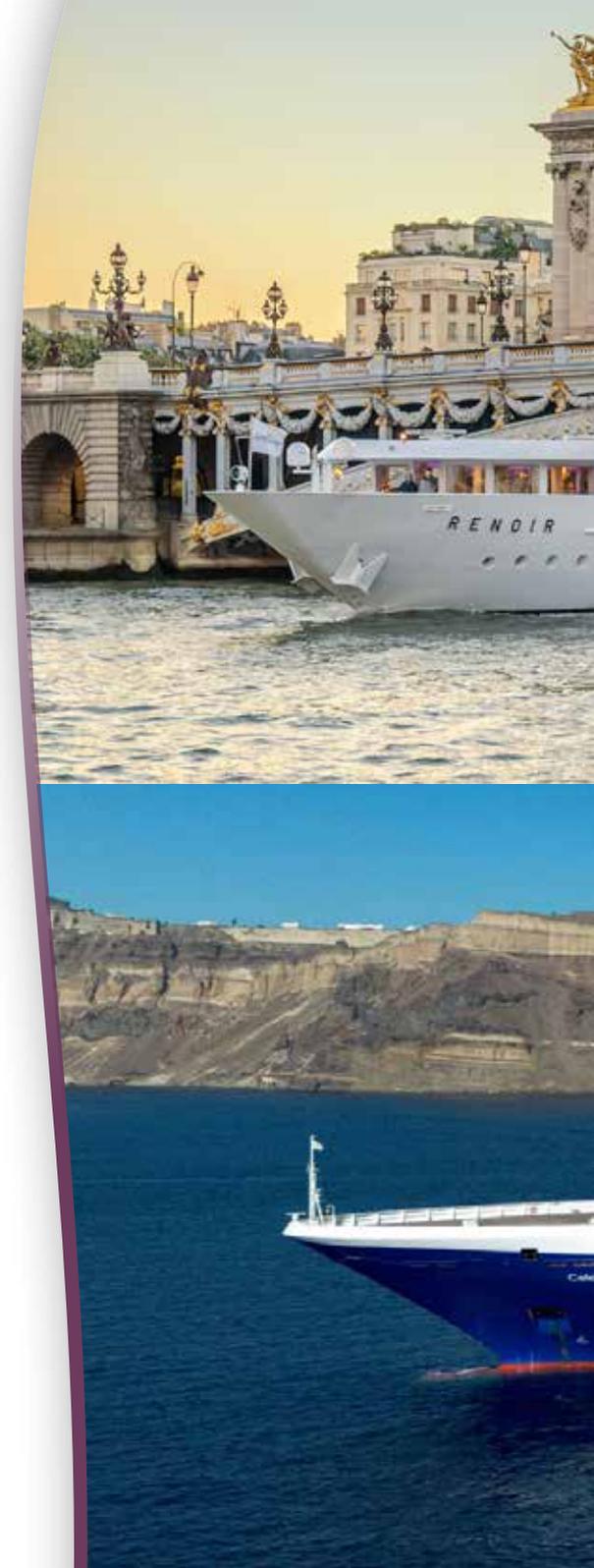
Also known as the Father of African rivers, the Nile rises in the waters that flow into Lake Victoria and empties into the Mediterranean Sea more than 4,000 miles to the north. It reaches its widest point in Egypt, and it is here that the stage was set for the evolution and decay of advanced civilizations in the ancient world. Here the great cities of the pharaohs were built, the gigantic stones used to build them transported by river barge. For thousands of years the river has served as a means of transportation and continues to do so to the present day.

THE AEGEAN SEA

The Aegean Sea is an arm of the Mediterranean between Greece and Turkey and the birthplace of two fascinating ancient civilisations: the Minoans of Crete and the Mycenaeans of the Peloponnese. It features prominently in many of the most famous Greek Myths (Icarus and Daedalus, Theseus, Jason and the Argonauts) and cruising here is to follow literally in the wake of many legendary heroes.

ADRIATIC SEA

Celebrated for its warm temperatures and calm waters, the Adriatic Sea is the Mediterranean's northernmost arm separating Italy and the Balkan Peninsula. In antiquity, Adriatic shores were settled by Greek colonists and, as Rome expanded, it became a Roman 'lake' within a wider Mediterranean lake. There is much to discover here as we sail along the Dalmatian coast from the lovely port towns of Split, Dubrovnik and Šibenik to the little villages, sheltered coves and olive groves of numerous islands hemmed in by rocky fences which dot their hillsides.





New cruise for 2025

ANTIQUITY OF THE AEGEAN

This wonderfully encompassing cruise arcs across the Aegean just as it spans through the rich history of the Greek Mediterranean. The Aegean has been the setting for so much in mythology and history from the Bronze Age, through the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations, to Classical Greece and Ancient Rome and onward to the Byzantine age. We start in Athens, the cradle of so much of western civilisation, then sail to Verghina, the capital of Ancient Macedonia, on to Ionia, one of the most important cities in the ancient world, then the prosperous Ephesus which links ancient Greece to Christianity on its route westward. After a day on the island of Delos at the centre of the Cyclades, we visit Crete the birthplace of the Minoan civilisation and then Santorini before returning to Athens.



Our superb expert guides

We see things differently! All of our guides have an incredible breadth of knowledge, a passion for their specialism and an admirable ability to convey information in an entertaining and engaging way. These are not just guest speakers who lecture on board, but experts who will accompany you offshore and shine a spotlight into the hidden corners and farthest reaches of the places you visit. With our guides you will always enjoy an intimate and privileged introduction to the destination you have chosen.



JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE LOVELY FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED ABOUT OUR GUIDES IN 2023:

"The tour delivered on all levels for me. Time onboard was relaxing and time spent visiting the ancient sites was long enough to gain better insight into their construction and histories. We were looked after really well and enjoyed every minute."

Egypt - Cruising the Nile - Cairo to Aswan - Guest, April 2023

"I enjoyed it enormously. Miranda was a superb tour manager, and looked after us so very well. I couldn't have asked for anything more from her. I enjoyed the cultural visits to the sites."

Greek Cruise - Guest, November 2023

"Fascinating archaeology and museums, good company. Plenty to do but some relaxing too - cruise was a new experience and a good one!"

Exploring the Archaeology of the Rhone - Guest, September 2023

"Relaxing, informative, very good company. Felt secure and cared for throughout."

Moorish Wonders of the Guadalquivir & Guadiana - Guest, April 2023



DR DORU BOGDAN

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Dr Doru Bogdan is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations. He also directed numerous archaeological excavations and research projects in Transylvania and the Lower Danube/Black Sea area of Dobrudja.

Join Doru on the Moorish Wonders of the Guadalquivir & Guadiana p20



DR ELIZABETH BLOXAM

Dr Elizabeth Bloxam has held university lecturing posts in Egyptology in the UK, Australia and China, and is an internationally recognised scholar in the research of ancient society and technology in Egypt. She has led multi-disciplinary excavations in some of the most important quarry and mining sites connected with monuments such as the Pyramids at Giza.

Join Elizabeth on Egypt - Cruising the Nile - Cairo to Aswan p22



LUCIA GAHLIN

A specialist in the archaeology of Ancient Egypt and has been leading archaeological tours to Egypt for over 25 years. Her most recent academic position was Honorary Research Fellow at University College London's Institute of Archaeology, where she works closely with the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

Join Eireann on Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries p22 & Egypt Encompassed p24



JOHN SHEPHERD

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John is a specialist in the study of ancient glass and has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria. Much of John's career has been focused upon Roman provincial archaeology, working at the Museum of London for over 20 years. He leads tours exclusively for Andante Travels.

Join John on Cruising Ancient Dalmatia p14, Cruising the Seine p16 and Exploring the Archaeology of the Rhône p18



MIRANDA SPITHA

Miranda studied archaeology in Italy and is from Crete, so is very knowledgeable about history and contemporary life in Greece. She is an official registered Greek Guide and has accompanied many of our Greek tours in the past as Local Guide as well as Tour Manager. Miranda speaks excellent English, German and Italian.

Join Miranda on Antiquity of the Aegean Cruise p10



Antiquity of the Aegean Cruise

Discover Minoan and Hellenic Gems

10 DAYS FROM £4,695pp

This wonderfully encompassing cruise arcs across the Aegean just as it spans through the rich history of the Greek Mediterranean. The Aegean has been the setting for so much in mythology and history from the Bronze Age, through the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations, to Classical Greece and Ancient Rome and onward to the Byzantine age. We begin in Athens, the cradle of so much of western civilisation, and sail to the capital of Ancient Macedonia, Vergina, to visit Europe's richest tomb, that of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great. Continuing to Ionia, we visit one of the most important cities in the ancient world, the prosperous Ephesus which links ancient Greece to Christianity on its route westward. The island of Delos, at the centre of the Cyclades, was not only the site of a major sanctuary dedicated to Apollo, who was born with his twin sister, Artemis, on that island, but was also a major trade centre on account of its location as a stepping point between east and west. The island is surrounded by the Cyclades, which not only give us the striking Cycladic art but also the nearly iconic topography of Greek islands. To the south we visit Crete, the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean, which is not only a stunning island in terms of its natural beauty, but it is also the birthplace of the Minoan civilisation that became prosperous through Mediterranean trade from early times and into the Bronze Age. Not far from Crete, we venture to the volcanic island of Santorini, to explore its remarkable Minoan remains and to consider the impact its eruption had on early Greek history. Lastly, we visit Milos, which might be more famous for its statue of Venus but is more important for its Bronze age remains.

Tour Highlights

- Explore the Athenian Acropolis, the sanctuary in the heart of Athens, with the iconic Erechtheum and Parthenon
- Gaze at the Royal Tombs in Vergina including that of Philip II, complete with stunning frescos and gold grave goods
- Wander through the stunning city of Ephesus, famed for its rich architecture, including the Library of Celsus in Ephesus
- Visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, the centre of Europe's oldest civilisation
- Examine the staggering remains on Delos, including Sanctuary of Apollo, birthplace of the god and his twin sister, Artemis
- Learn about Phylakopi and the important Bronze Age history of Milos, source of obsidian and sulphur in ancient times



Images top to bottom: Ephesus, Celestyal Journey Exterior Cosmos Cabin and ship exterior

Celestyal Journey

The Celestyal Journey is medium sized ship, comparable to a good 3* hotel. Comprising of 14 decks with 630 cabins and suites located across 5 of them, the remaining decks offer a wealth of facilities and amenities. The restaurants included in our cruise package are The Taverna which is buffet style and the Thalassa Restaurant which is a la carte. There are plenty of bars and lounges on board to relax in and reflect on the day, including the Blue Bar and Lounge, the Martini Piano Bar and Lounges and the Ocean Bar and Lounge. The main area for entertainment is in the Ampitheatre Show Lounge. Other facilities onboard include a casino, small shops, a gym, a health & beauty spa, Jacuzzi, sauna and relaxation room. Wi-fi is payable onboard.

There are 2 swimming pools onboard; the Galazio Pool & Terrace with sunloungers, a small bar and seating on Deck 10, and the Halara Cove Pool on Deck 11 which has sunloungers, a bar, seating areas and the Fig & Honey juice bar and gelato stand close by. There is a further sunbathing area on Deck 12.

Our Exterior Cosmos cabins (XD) located on Deck 5 or Deck 9 are 19m² in size with a window. Amenities include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safety deposit box, individually controlled air-conditioning, a hairdryer and an ensuite bathroom with a shower over a bathtub. The 2 lower single beds can be pushed together on request to make a double, and there is also a small sofa.

Key Facilities & Amenities Onboard

Deck 6 = Walking around deck

Deck 7 = Ampitheatre Show Lounge, Thalassa Restaurant, Photo Shop & Gallery, Reception and Atrium

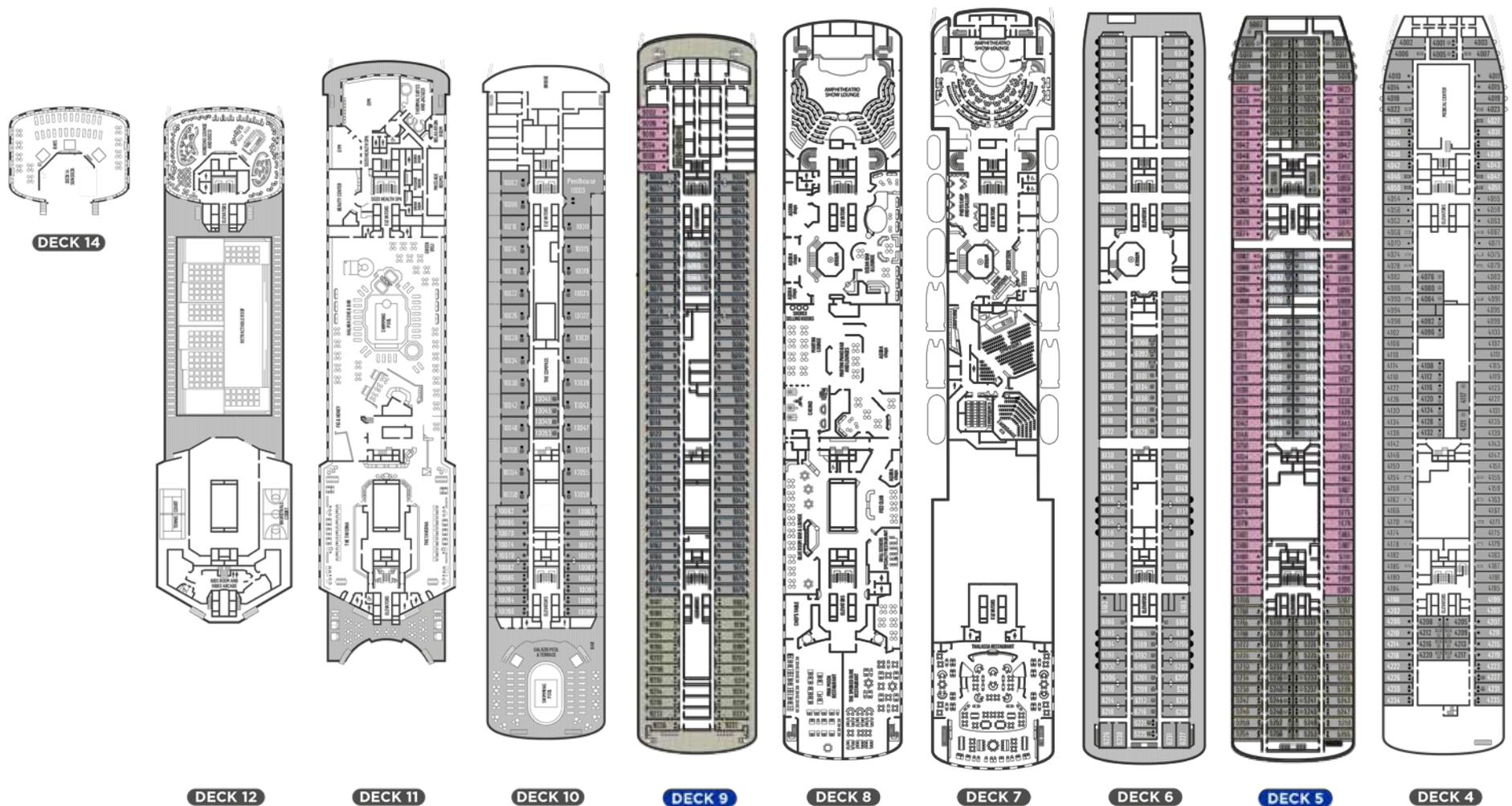
Deck 8 = Restaurants, Bars, Lounges, the Casino, Agora Shops

Deck 10 = Galazio Pool & Terrace, Bar, Sunbathing Area

Deck 11 = The Taverna Restaurant, Halara Cove Swimming Pool, Sunbathing Area, Fig & Honey, Health & Wellness Facilities

Deck 12 = Horizons Lounge & Disco, Sunbathing Area, Sports Activities

Deck 14 = Sundeck sunbathing Area





state of the art museum but it has an archaeological area, which includes baths, houses and workshops.

Day Three | Athens

This morning we head out on foot to the **Agora**, once the city's market centre and also the site of its mint and where legal trials were held, including that of Socrates. Here we see the remarkably well-preserved Doric Temple of Hephaistos, which overlooks the Agora. We also see remnants of Athenian democracy, such as the kleroterion which was used to select names at random in order to allocate the various magistracies which were responsible for running the city. Moving on to the Stoa of Attalus, which also serves as the **Agora Museum**, we remember the many philosophers which used it and other stoai to meet their followers and discuss their views of the world. We continue to the extensive and important **Kerameikos cemetery**, named after Keramos, the son of Dionysus and Ariadne. A usually peaceful site infrequently visited by tourists, this was a major crossroads in antiquity, and you can see remains of the massive **Dipylon Gate**, where most roads converged, and the **Sacred Gate**, where participants in the Panathenaic Festival gathered before heading through the Ancient Agora and ascending to the Parthenon. It is also the spot where Pericles gave what was probably his most famous speech honouring those who had fallen in the first year of the Peloponnesian War. After lunch we make our way to the ancient port of Piraeus, where we embark upon our ship Celestyal Journey. After settling into our cabins, we have our first dinner on board and set sail toward Thessaloniki.

Day Four | Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is today Greece's second largest city and boasts of being more cosmopolitan than Athens. Founded in the end of the 4th century BC by Cassander, the son in law of Philip II, it rose in importance in the Roman period, becoming the capital of the province of Macedonia. In the morning we join an excursion to visit the Royal Tombs at Aegae, modern Vergina. Here, in the company of our Andante Guide Lecturer we explore the extraordinary royal tombs, including the tomb of Philip II, the father of Alexander, which includes his shield and breast plate, as well as the god casket which bears his remains and gold diadems

Exclusive Andante Excursion: After lunch on board our ship, we explore the important remains of Thessaloniki, which have been proclaimed a UNESCO world heritage

site. An important city in Roman times, Thessaloniki rose to become the second most important city in the Byzantine period. Today, we visit the Roman forum as well as the agora before seeing the palace complex of Galerius, which include his triumphal arch and incredible rotunda, which was converted into a church in the late antique period and has an impressive series of mosaics. After dining on board, we set sail for Ephesus.

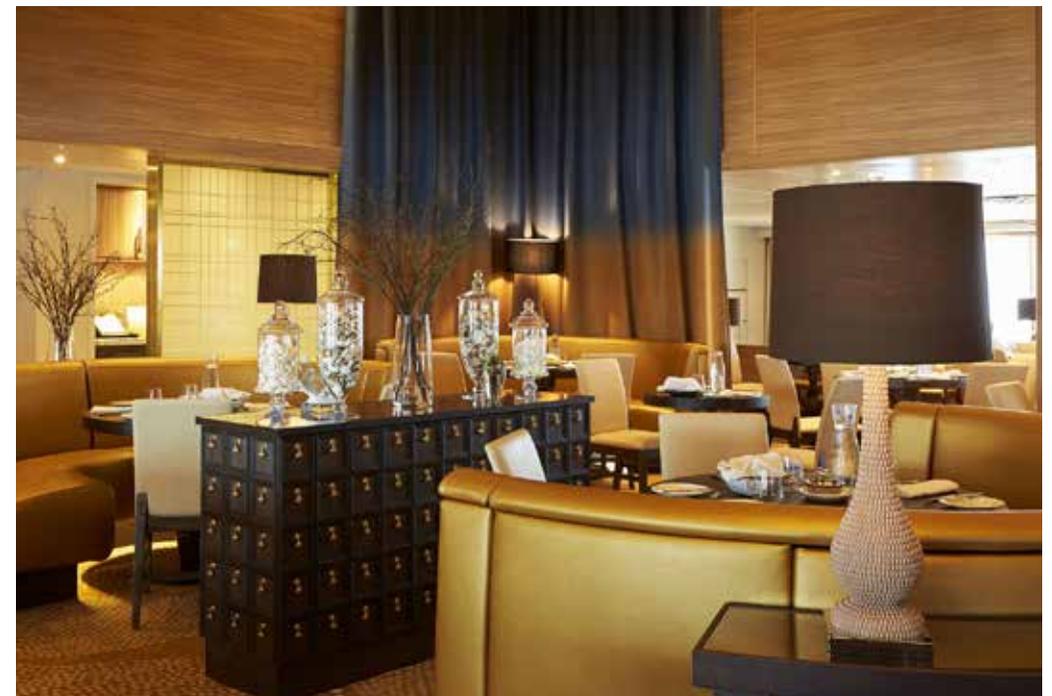
Day Five | Kusadasi (Ephesus)

We arrive in Kusadasi and after lunch onboard we join other passengers on the Celestyal excursion to **Ephesus**. Probably originally a Hittite city, it was colonised by Attic and Ionian Greeks, becoming one of the richest cities in Asia Minor for centuries. Ephesus was famed for its gigantic temple and sanctuary of Diana/Artemis, which was built in around 550 BC and was reckoned one of the wonders of the ancient world. We visit the rich remains dating to the Roman period, which include the delightful Magnesium and Temple of Hadrian, as well as the agora and bath complex, complete with an intact latrine. We also explore remarkably well preserved terraced, two storey houses which were the height of comfort in the ancient world, having

a hypocaust system which kept them warm in the winter. The highlight of the site is the Library of Celsus whose stunning façade is the symbol of the city. Built by the son of the Roman senator, Tiberius Julius Celsus Polemaeanus, it doubled up as a monumental library and mausoleum. Ephesus was also an important Christian city and the ancient theatre, which could seat up to 24,000, was where St. Paul preached to the citizens. It is also the city that the apostle John the Beloved went to live with the Virgin Mary after the ascension of Jesus. In the evening, we board the ship to sail on toward Crete.

Day Six | Heraklion

We awake in the beautiful Cretan city of Heraklion whose well-preserved 17th century; Venetian city fortifications can be seen from afar. We start the day with a trip to the neighbouring **Knossos**, where in the company of our Andante Guide Lecturer we explore the wondrous Minoan remains excavated and reconstructed by Arthur Evans in the beginning of the 20th century. One of the most famous sites in the world, Evans identified Knossos as the home of the legendary King Minos on the basis of the labyrinthine



Images top to bottom: Galazio pool & Thalassa restaurant onboard

layout of the palace, which has since been identified as a city more than a palace. The complex is complete with beautifully coloured frescos, including those in the so called Throne Room and one depicting the famous bull-leaping scene. The Palace complex covers some three acres and has extensive functional aspects: large areas for storage of wine, oil and grain make use of large pithoi. There is also sophisticated water management which makes use of aqueducts and cisterns. As well as the use of airshafts and porticos to make best use of the sea breezes in cooling the buildings in hot summers. We return to the boat for lunch and then venture back into the city for the afternoon.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This afternoon, we take in the **Archaeological Museum**. Housed here are stunning remains and artefacts from the Minoan age. Many of the frescos from the archaeological sites are here as well as intricately worked jewellery. A highlight is the bull's head rhyton carved from black steatite and used to make ritual libations to the gods. The artefact shows the level of skill possessed by the Minoans in stone carving. Back on board we set sail onward to Santorini.

Day Seven | Santorini

The ship is moored in the spectacular island of Santorini, famed for its natural beauty, as well as the eruption of volcano in the 17th century BC which shaped the island, making it horse shoe shaped, as well as Bronze Age, perhaps causing the decline of Minoan culture. The whole day is spent exploring the remains

of the remarkable history and remains of the ancient island. Late evening we sail toward Mykonos.

Exclusive Andante Excursions: Our day begins at the **Prehistoric Museum in Fira**, home to dazzling wall paintings from the Minoan buildings at Akrotiri, including the fresco of the Blue Monkeys. There are also a large number of artefacts found in various excavations from across the island. Cycladic art is prominent in the collections. This dates from the Middle period of 1800 to 2000 BC, and among the items on display is the noted statue of the golden goat, discovered in Akrotiri in 1999.

After lunch we visit **Akrotiri** which was buried and preserved in the volcanic debris and its archaeological excavation opens a window into the Minoan world. Artefacts from across the Mediterranean show extensive trade links while richly coloured and carefully executed frescoes point to the wealth and culture of the inhabitants. Among these paintings are the Fresco of the Monkeys. The houses themselves are sophisticated in design and execution, being on several stories and making use of drainage and water management systems.

Day Eight | Mykonos (Delos)

We arrive in Mykonos in the early morning and see the iconic windmills support its nickname of the Island of the Winds. Today famed for its spectacular surroundings, in ancient times, Mykonos was a supply

centre for nearby Delos. We spend the whole day exploring Delos, an important island, the birthplace of Leto's twins, the deities Apollo and Artemis. Late evening our ship sets sail for Milos.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: As well as housing the important **sanctuary of Apollo** and Artemis, the island was the base for the Delian League, set up as a defensive alliance of Greek city states against the threat from the Persian empire. It was also a major centre in the Mediterranean slave trade even into Roman times. We spend the morning exploring the sanctuary including its propylon, as well as the **Terrace of the Lions** that overlook the Sacred Lake. In the afternoon, we continue our exploration with a visit to the theatre, as well as **Doric temples** as well as the remains of several houses, including the better-preserved ones of Dionysus and of Cleopatra.

Day Nine | Milos

We arrive at the beautiful island of Milos, dramatically shaped by volcanic activity and explore its beautiful scenery. The blue of the water and the white of the stone are almost a caricature of the Cycladic islands. It was famous throughout history as a source of mined materials, in particular obsidian and sulphur. The island was visited by St. Paul, inadvertently on his voyage to Athens when he was shipwrecked. Christianity took root and remains of this early encounter are visible in the catacombs of Milos, which were the reason for the island's being declared a Holy Island in 2014. We sail back to Athens in the evening.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This morning, we venture to the Bronze Age site of **Phylakopi** which is particularly important because its remains span the entirety of the Bronze Age, from the 3rd millennium to the end of the Bronze Age in the 12th century. We continue to Klima where explore the Hellenistic and Roman remains, including a Roman amphitheatre that was carved into the rock, as well as an agora. Not far away, we also visit the archaeological remains of the Greek theatre. The morning ends with a visit to the Paleochristian Catacombs. After lunch back onboard, we head out in the afternoon to visit the Archaeological Museum which hosts a vast array of remains dating from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age periods, including Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean remains. The highlight of the museum is the so called Lady of Phylakopi, a 14th century BC terracotta statue.

Day Ten | Athens - London

We arrive back at Piraeus in Athens. After disembarking our ship we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

Activity Level ●●●○○

Guided by Miranda Spitha



Miranda studied archaeology in Italy and is from Crete, so is very knowledgeable about history and contemporary life in Greece. She is an official registered Greek Guide and has accompanied many of our Greek tours.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary*
- Excursion to Ephesus with Celestyal, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 2 nights in an Athens hotel & 7 nights cruise aboard Celestyal Journey

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- Celestyal Journey: drinks served with meals are teas, coffee, soft drinks, beers and house wines

**Please note that on some excursions we share the transport with other cruise passengers to and from a site or venue.*

Dates & prices per person

29th May - 7th June & 9th - 18th October

	Twin/DbI Share	SS
Exterior Cosmos Cabin with window on Decks 5 or 9	£4,695	£570

EARLY BOOKING OFFER - SAVE £300pp on the above price. See page 3 for full details.

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aaac



Image: Acropolis, Athens



Cruising Ancient Dalmatia

Journey to the jewels of the Dalmatian Coast

8 DAYS FROM £4,320pp

We journey along the limpid Dalmatian coast and explore its historical and cultural jewels. Visit islands and coastal cities that have been shaped since antiquity, including the atmospheric Hvar with its medieval walls and well-preserved urban landscape that owes so much to its Venetian period, and Korcula, founded by Corcyra in the 6th century BC. The charm of the Dalmatia is its multi-layered history and exploring it aboard the MS Belle de L'Adriatique allows us to appreciate this magnificent coast the way it should be.

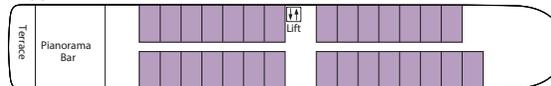
Tour Highlights

- Explore Diocletian's extraordinary palace in Split, including its basements and well preserved Peristyle
- Visit the improbably beautiful Dubrovnik with its evocative streets and the scenic 17th century stradun, which dissects the city
- Enjoy Korcula, a wonderfully preserved renaissance city forged in the period of Venetian domination
- Examine Kotor, one of the best-preserved medieval cities in the Adriatic with its Cathedral of St. Tryphon and its ancient walls

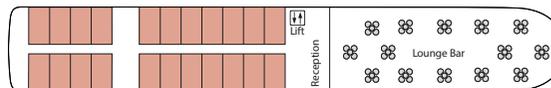
Sun Deck



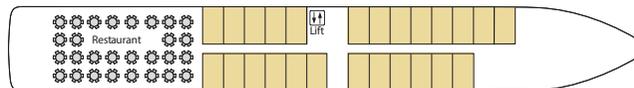
Upper Deck



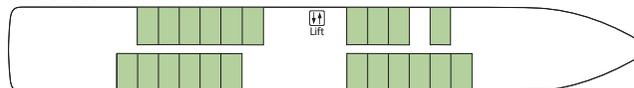
Embarkation Deck



Main Deck



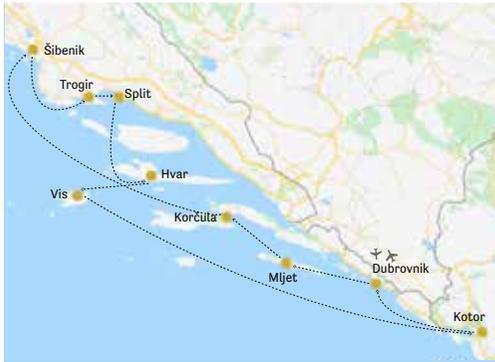
Lower Deck



MV La Belle de L'Adriatique

This premium rated ship has five decks and is comparable to a 4* hotel. The restaurant is on the Main Deck, the Lounge Bar with dancefloor on the Embarkation Deck, and a smaller piano bar with terrace on the Upper Deck. The Sun Deck has a bar, two jacuzzis and sunloungers. Cabins are 13.5m² in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet, hairdryer, a selection of bath products and towels.

Image: Šibenik & MV La Belle de L'Adriatique exterior



Day One | London - Dubrovnik

We fly to Dubrovnik and transfer to the port to embark our ship, the MV La Belle de L'Adriatique. We spend the remainder of our day in the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', ahead of our welcome dinner on board.

Day Two | Dubrovnik

Founded by Greeks in the 6th century and conquered briefly in more modern times by Venice, Dubrovnik was the capital of the mighty Republic of Ragusa. Our ship is moored here all day, allowing us to explore the beauties of the city, one of the most important sites on the Dalmatian coast.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We spend the whole day exploring the city, starting with a visit to the **cathedral** dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady, before continuing to the stunning **Rector's Palace**, a Gothic structure that served as seat of the Rector who oversaw the Ragusan Republic. In the afternoon we continue our exploration of Dubrovnik, starting with the **Walls**, built from the 12th to the 17th centuries to protect the city, and some of the most complex in Europe. We proceed to **Loggia Square**, one of the most picturesque parts of the city.

Day Three | Mljet & Korčula

We continue our cruise to Mljet, the most florid of the Dalmatian Islands. We spend time in the picturesque, verdant Mljet National Park this morning before sailing on to Korčula, where we spend the afternoon.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Mljet, the greenest of the Dalmatian Islands awaits, where we visit the tranquil, beautiful **Mljet National Park**, home to five types of forest, myriad bird species and two deep lakes. Mljet also has a rich cultural heritage, with bright folk

costumes and charming traditional handicrafts. We visit the **Roman Villa at Polace**, a spectacular late antique palace with impressive towers and an apsidal hall built perhaps in the 6th century. We proceed to the island of Korčula, reputedly the birthplace of legendary explorer Marco Polo, where we visit the **Cathedral of St. Mark**, a 15th century masterpiece influenced by Venice and complete with works by Tintoretto, as well as the **Korčula Town Museum**, housed in the 15th century Venetian style Gabrielis Palace.

Day Four | Šibenik†

After sailing overnight, we arrive mid-morning at Šibenik, founded by the Croats in the 9th century AD. After lunch on board, we travel with other passengers to the city where our Guide Lecturer will lead us on an exclusive Andante tour separate from the main group. Occupied by the Venetians between the 15th and 18th centuries, the town has a splendid array of medieval buildings including the **Cathedral of St. James**, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our afternoon ends at the Krka Falls.

Day Five | Trogir & Split

After breakfast we visit the medieval city of Trogir and we arrive in Split after lunch for a walking tour.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Our adventures take us to Trogir, a picturesque medieval and Renaissance town, founded by Greek sailors in the 3rd century BC. This town, whose Venetian historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is situated on a small island, linked to the mainland by bridge. Explore the town's museum, visit a tiny art gallery and marvel at the impressive **St. Lawrence Cathedral**. We acquaint ourselves with **Split**, beginning by tracing the walls and monuments of the immense **Palace of Diocletian**, interwoven with later medieval houses. Emperor Diocletian, one of the few emperors to go into real retirement, cultivated his market garden in an attempt to avoid being sucked back into the power



Image: Mljet National Park

politics of the Roman world. We visit the **Cathedral of St. Domnius**, built to house Diocletian's mausoleum and now, ironically, a church dedicated to one of the many victims of Diocletian's persecutions. We continue to the **Temple of Jupiter**, now the cathedral baptistry, and the **Peristyle**, the city's elegant central square once central to the imperial palace.

Day Six | Hvar & Vis

We arrive in sunny Hvar this morning and later sail on to Vis, once called Lissa and administratively linked to Hvar, or Lesina, under the period of Venetian domination.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We explore the centre of Hvar, another walled gem enclosing eight centuries of stunning architecture. Highlights of our tour include a visit to the **Cathedral of St. Stephen**, built in the 17th century and a mixture of renaissance and gothic architecture so typical of the Dalmatian coast; the Venetian influence extends to the paintings, including works by Santacroce. We continue to the Arsenal, which houses a 17th century public theatre on the first floor and where Roman ruins have only recently been discovered. **Vis**, founded by Dionysius the Elder has an ethereal quality about it, as though it has avowedly refused to modernise. We visit well-preserved **Roman baths**, whose mosaics have only recently been restored, and continue to the 16th century **Franciscan monastery**, built on the foundations of an imposing Roman theatre which we can see from the outside.

Day Seven | Kotor

Kotor in the last port of call of our Dalmatian adventure before we head back to the capital Dubrovnik.

Exclusive Andante excursion: On our last excursion, we visit the Montenegrin town of Kotor, which has been given UNESCO status for its impressive Venetian walls. Here, basking in the charm of its Venetian architecture, we visit the **Cathedral of St. Tryphon**, consecrated

in the 12th century and which preserves Byzantine frescoes, as well as an exquisite medieval ciborium.

Day Eight | Dubrovnik - London

We disembark after breakfast and catch our return flight back to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

Activity Level ●●●○○



Guided by John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 7 nights aboard the MV La Belle de L'Adriatique

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- MV La Belle de L'Adriatique: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

Dates & prices per person

28th August - 4th September

Twin/Dbl Share SS

Lower Deck Outside Cabin with porthole windows	£4,320	£995
Main Deck Outside Cabin with porthole windows	£4,500	£995
Embarkation Deck Outside Cabin with a panoramic window	£4,700	£995
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a panoramic window	£4,900	£995

EARLY BOOKING OFFER - SAVE £300pp on the above price. See page 3 for full details.

†On this day we share the transport with other cruise passengers to and from a site or venue.

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/adcc

NEW FOR 2024



Cruising the Seine

Paris, Honfleur & the Seine Valley

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

7 DAYS FROM £3,995pp

The silvery Seine has been the subject of many famous painters who sought to replicate its constantly changing and flickering light and what better way to get acquainted with its sinuous beauty than with a cruise from Paris to Rouen. This stretch of the Seine meanders through gentle green countryside and chalk valleys passing a delightful mix of market towns, working farms, ancient orchards, pretty villages and sites rich in cultural heritage. Our programme includes visits to hidden gems in France's alluring capital, an excursion to the magnificent Palace of Versailles; an induction to the historical heart of Honfleur and Roman discoveries in Rouen and Lillebonne.

Tour Highlights

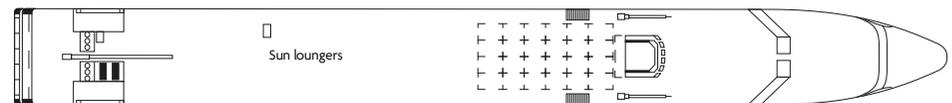
- Discover the magnificence of Versailles, embellished over centuries by generations of renowned architects, sculptors and landscape designers
- Explore the Roman theatre at Lillebonne and the part ancient Juliabona played in the Gallic Wars
- Admire the architectural masterpiece of Sainte Chapelle one of the greatest examples of Gothic art
- Enjoy the ultimate hidden attraction – the subterranean Catacombes de Paris



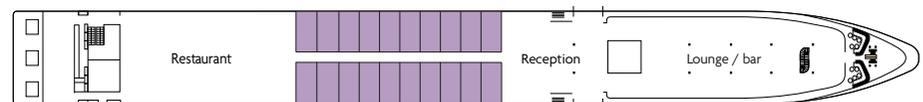
MS Renoir

The MS Renoir is a premium rated ship, comparable to a 4* hotel. Its design adopts the "French chic" spirit, inspired by the friendship between Coco Chanel and Auguste Renoir. The Upper Deck has two main areas; the lounge and bar towards the bow of the ship, and the restaurant towards the stern. Cabins are 16.5 m² in size include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.

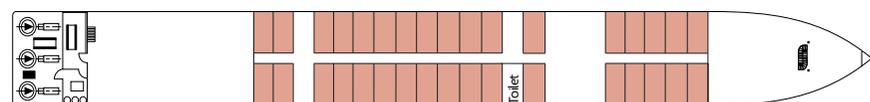
Sun Deck



Upper Deck



Main Deck



Images top to bottom: MS Renoir in Paris ©CroisiEurope



Day One | London – Paris - Poissy

We depart from London aboard the Eurostar, and speed across the channel to the Gare du Nord. From here we transfer to our boat moored on the Seine. This evening we will enjoy a cocktail before dinner on board; the ship will set sail through Paris tonight en route to Poissy.

Day Two | Poissy - Versailles - Honfleur

Arriving in the morning at Poissy, we disembark and join other Croisi passengers as we make our way to **Versailles**. Originally a hunting lodge and rural retreat, Versailles was transformed into the magnificent Baroque Palace we see today by Louis XIV when he made it his seat of power, moving his court and government there in 1682. One of the most celebrated architectural achievements in the world, its creation stimulated a mini renaissance of interior design during the 17th and 18th centuries and was accredited with UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979. After a morning of artistic opulence, we return to our boat and settle in to relax on board as we sail onward to Honfleur.

Day Three | Honfleur - Rouen

Our first visit today is **Honfleur**, the prettiest of the Normandy ports, with its tall, slate fronted houses shouldering each other on the yacht filled harbour. For centuries Honfleur was a prosperous trade and fishing port, a strategic asset in the Hundred Years War and in the 17th century, the port from which French navigators set out to explore the New World and ultimately establish Quebec. Much of its historic heritage is intact and we will take a guided walking tour through the town to explore its medieval and industrial past.

Exclusive Andante excursion: In the afternoon we take a trip out to **Lillebonne**. Occupied by the Romans during the Gallic Wars, the town was called Juliobona

in Caesar's honour and evidence suggests it was a large and prosperous town. The large number of potsherds and amphorae excavated here suggests the city conducted vigorous trading with imported wines, oil, and olives coming from the Mediterranean regions. The city boasted a large theatre designed to seat at least 3000 people and we shall explore its remains as well as the small **archaeological museum**.

Day Four | Rouen - Paris

Having sailed overnight we arrive in the city of **Rouen**, capital of the northern French region of Normandy

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we explore Rouen, once an important river port and centre for textiles. The city is steeped in history and today we see a vibrant and compelling mix of modern architecture, crooked medieval half-timbered houses, Gothic churches, celebrated restaurants, antique shops, food markets and patisserie selling multicoloured macarons. Our main focus of the morning is the **Musée des Antiquités**. Installed around the cloister of the former monastery of the Visitation Sainte-Marie, the museum's collections include exceptional pieces, from antiquity to the Renaissance including the Roman mosaic of the hunt from Lillebonne. This afternoon we set sail once again and settle in to enjoy the scenes unfolding and relax on our return journey to Paris.



Image: Gros-Horloge, Rouen

Day Five | Sainte Chapelle & Musée de Louvre

This morning our cruise ends, and we disembark for further adventures in Paris. First, we visit the Ile de la Cite. This area of Paris is home to more than its fair share of famous sights, but our goal is the infamous Palais de Justice and hidden within it, **Sainte Chapelle**. This architectural masterpiece was built to accommodate holy relics acquired by Louis IX in 1239 and it ranks as one of the greatest examples of Gothic art in France alongside the cathedrals of Notre Dame Cathedral and Chartres. We continue to the **Conciergerie**, formerly part of the palace complex but repurposed during the Revolution as tribunal and prison. We end the day at the **Musée de Louvre** where we will view the Etruscan, Greek and Roman galleries, one of one of the richest collections in the world.

Day Six | Arènes de Lutèce & Catacombes de Paris

This morning we explore the city's Romano Gallic origins with a visit to the **Arènes de Lutèce**, site of the Roman amphitheatre. Built in the 2nd century AD it was designed to seat up to 15,000 people. In the afternoon we visit the **Musée de Cluny** where we visit the Roman baths that lurk beneath the museum. We end the day with a visit to the **Catacombes de Paris**. After several years of modernization and accessibility work, the museum reopened in May 2022 with a brand new museography.

Day Seven | Paris - London

We leave Paris behind, and speed northwards across the channel by Eurostar back to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times/and or any port restrictions.

Activity Level ●●●○○



Guided by John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to Versailles and a guided walking tour of Honfleur with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return travel by Eurostar from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 4 nights aboard the MS Renoir & 2 nights at a hotel in Paris

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Renoir: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

Dates & prices per person

4th - 10th April	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a high window	£3,995	£845 £0
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with French Balcony, sliding panoramic windows	£4,250	£845

EARLY BOOKING OFFER - SAVE £250pp on the above price. See page 3 for full details.

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/apac



Exploring the Archaeology of the Rhône

Greeks, Romans and Celts

9 DAYS FROM £5,510pp

The Rhône was the major conduit of culture in France in Antiquity, transmitting Hellenic culture from Marseille, founded by Greeks in 600 BC, to the cities along the historic river. This cruise examines the role the river played in the ancient world as a channel of trade and culture, and showcases France's most important archaeological and historical sites.

Tour Highlights

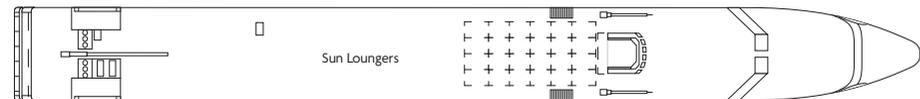
- Explore the exceptional amphitheatre and archaeological museum at Arles
- Visit the Palais des Papes in Avignon, home to the Popes in the 14th century
- View the iconic Pont du Gard, one of the world's most famous aqueducts
- Examine the important site of Glanum with its famous Triumphal Arch and mausoleum
- Enjoy exclusive Andante excursions during the cruise

MS Van Gogh

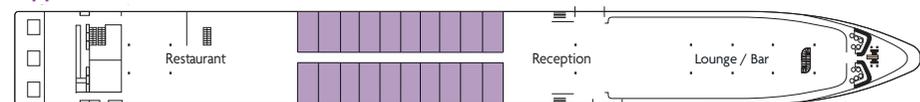
Having been renovated in 2018, the MS Van Gogh has been redesigned to offer bright and beautiful spaces. The two main common areas are located on the upper deck, with the lounge/bar at the front and the restaurant at the back. The ship has 20 cabins on the upper deck which offer French balconies and 34 cabins on the main deck with windows. You can also rest and admire the landscapes on the sun deck. Cabins are 16.5 m² in size include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



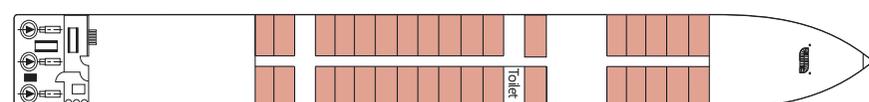
Sun Deck



Upper Deck



Main Deck





Day Four | Lyon - Tain L'Hermitage

We wake up in Lyon and spend the morning there before our afternoon sailing to Tain l'Hermitage, famous for its wines as well as for Valrhona, one of the world's most important chocolatiers.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we embark on a walking tour of Lyon. Here we explore the Jardin Archaeologique, which preserves remains of the ancient Church of Sainte Croix, built on top of ancient remains, as well as the Church Saint Etienne, dating to the 4th century AD.

Day Five | Tain L'Hermitage - Le Pouzin - Avignon

We awake at the stunning little town of **Tain L'Hermitage**, famed for its wines, whose vineyards can be seen on the hills facing the river. After a little time at leisure here, we return to the ship and then sail south to the medieval city of Avignon. During this day of sailing, we can relax on board, and our Guide Lecturer will arrange a lecture for us as to what we can expect over the remaining days of the cruise.

Day Six | Avignon - Arles

This morning we wake up in Avignon, the historic city which became home to the Popes in the 14th century and which continued to be held by them until the French revolution, ensuring that it was adorned by a series of artists working to make the city fit for the papacy. In the afternoon, we sail to Arles, ancient Arelate, which became a very important city in Gallia Narbonensis. In the evening we sail to Martigues.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We spend the morning exploring the **Palais des Papes**, the largest Gothic palace in Europe and decorated by important artists

such as Simone Martini and Matteo Giovanetti. From there we drive to Arles to see the incredible **amphitheatre** and we also explore the important collection of artefacts at the **Museum of Ancient Arles**.

Day Seven | Arles - Martigues

We wake in Arles and disembark. We spend the morning exploring the stunning natural habitat of the **Camargue**, the largest wetland in Western Europe and famed for its wide variety of wetland birds and white horses. We rejoin the MS Camargue in Port St. Louis and enjoy a gala dinner this evening as the ship sails on to Martigues.

Exclusive Andante excursion: After lunch on board, we head out to explore the ancient remains of Marseille, the city which has remained important since its Greek foundation in the 7th century BC. Here we explore the **Marseille History Museum** as well as the remains of the Greek walls and Roman docks in the **Jardin des Vestiges**.

Day Eight | Martigues - Glanum

This morning we disembark and set off for the stunning **Pont du Gard**, perhaps one of the most striking and well-preserved Roman ruins in France. Built in the 1st century AD, it carried water from Uzès to ancient Nemausus, a masterwork of Roman engineering, which remained largely intact because of its use as a customs bridge. In the afternoon, we visit the well-preserved site of **Glanum**, which was never as wealthy as Arelate or Nemausus but which, nonetheless, was able to produce showy remains as the Mausoleum of the Julii and the Triumphal Arch built during the reign of Augustus.



Day One | London - Lyon

After landing at Lyon Airport, we transfer to our hotel and time permitting, visit the wonderful Gallo-Roman Museum of **Lyon-Fourviere**, as well as the adjacent Roman theatre built in the 1st century BC.

Day Two | Vienne

This morning we travel to Vienne, the erstwhile capital of the Allobroges made into a colonia by Julius Caesar. We explore its Roman remains, including the well-preserved **Temple of Augustus and Livia**, built in the 1st century AD, and the nearby **Jardin Archaeologique de Cybele**, which bears precious remnants of the ancient city and the **Roman Museum**. Later, we venture to the site of **Saint Romain en Gal** with its excellent museum. Here you will find artefacts and mosaics from one of the largest Gallo - Roman settlements in the Rhone Valley. We return to Lyon to join our ship and sail to Macon in the evening.

Day Three | Mâcon - Trévoux

This morning, we wake in Mâcon, a city famous for its beautiful positioning on the Saône and which produces some of the world's finest wines. From here, we set off for our archaeological explorations. We return to the ship in Trévoux and enjoy another evening of dining and cruising.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we visit the **Roche de Solutré**, a prehistoric site that was the centre of Solutrean palaeolithic culture. Here, we will also visit the **Prehistoric Museum** world before continuing to the world-famous abbey at Cluny, a Benedictine monastery that was destroyed during the French Revolution, but whose remains testify to its power and wealth.

Day Nine | St. Remy-de-Provence - Marseille - London

Time permitting, we have a walk around the charming town of St. Remy-de-Provence before travelling to Marseille to take our return flight back to London.

Please note that this cruise is onboard the MS Camargue on the 11th July departure date.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

Activity Level ●●●○○



Guided by John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to the Camargue wetland with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 1 night at the Fourviere Hotel or similar, 6 nights aboard the MS Camargue or MS Van Gogh & 1 night at a hotel in St. Remy

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Camargue (July) & MS Van Gogh (September): welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

Dates & prices per person

11th - 19th July & 11th - 19th September

	Twin/Dbt Share	SS
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a high window	£5,510	£825
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with French balcony and sliding windows	£5,630	£825

EARLY BOOKING OFFER - SAVE £350pp on the above price. See page 3 for full details.

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/arnc



Moorish Wonders of the Guadalquivir & Guadiana

Exploring Andalusia and the Algarve on a cruise

8 DAYS FROM £3,990pp

Called the Baetis in the Roman period, the Guadalquivir is the most important river in Spain, not just because it is the country's only navigable river but because it flows through Andalusia, the heartbeat of Iberian history. The Guadiana, in turn, meets the Guadalquivir at the Gulf of Cadiz, thereby linking the historically rich Andalusia with the Algarve.

Tour Highlights

- Admire the Alhambra dubbed by Arabic poets 'the pearl set in emeralds' and unique example of Moorish architecture transformed into a Renaissance palace in the 16th century
- Explore Italica, the oldest Roman city outside of Italy, and home to stunningly preserved remains unencumbered by later periods
- Examine the historic remains of Cádiz, including its extraordinary Phoenician and Roman remains
- Visit unique Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, a colourful blend of Islamic and Renaissance architecture

MS La Belle de Cadix

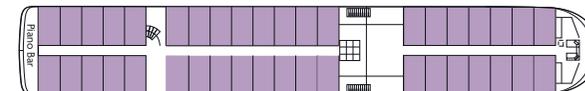
The light and bright MS La Belle de Cadix, comparable to a 4* hotel, has four decks. The restaurant is on the Main Deck, the lounge and bar on the Middle Deck, the 'Pianorama' Bar is on the Upper Deck and there is a Sun Deck with chairs and deckchairs. Cabins are 13.5m² in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, en-suite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



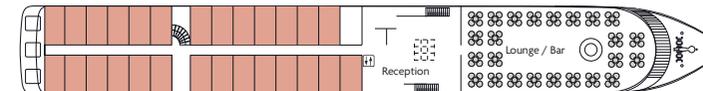
Sun Deck



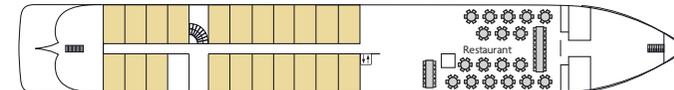
Upper Deck



Middle Deck



Main Deck





Day Three | Seville - Isla Minima

Today our ship is moored in the vibrant city of Seville before it departs in the afternoon for the Isla Minima set in the Marshlands of the Guadalquivir. Here we have a tour of an Andalusian hacienda before we sail to Cádiz.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we visit two of Seville's UNESCO listed sites, starting with the **Real Alcázar**, built in the 14th century, an important example of mudéjar architecture, which is blending of Moorish and Europe styles. We continue a short distance to the **Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See**, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world built in order to signal the city's increased importance after the reconquista.

Day Four | Cádiz

This morning we are in Cádiz, the important port which lays claim to being one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. Located on a spit of land surrounded by sea, Cádiz retains an old quarter which bears the remains of its ancient past.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we explore the important city of Cadiz founded by Phoenicians in the 9th century BC. We start with the **archaeological museum**, which contains an important collection of artefacts from the city's vast history, before proceeding to the **Roman theatre**, built in the 1st century BC and once one of the largest theatres in the empire. We end the morning with a visit to the **cathedral** built in the city's heyday when the city was enriched by the Transatlantic trade. After lunch, we visit the archaeological site which contains the remains of the Phoenician settlement of **Gadir**.

Day Five | Alcoutim - Huelva

Today we join the Guadiana which meets the Guadalquivir in Cadiz, and sail to Alcoutim, located in the Algarve, near the border, mid-morning. After a brief stay here, we sail the rest of the afternoon towards Huelva where we arrive in the evening.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we visit the 13th century **Moorish castle at Alcoutim**, whose imposing position on the right bank of the tributary river of San Marcos made it an important site from the Neolithic period onwards. The current castle belongs to the period of the reconquista when the Portuguese crown undertook defensive measures to stamp their authority over lands they gained.

Day Six | Huelva - El Puerto de Santa Maria - Seville

We awake in the Huelva, where we spend the morning before sailing in the afternoon towards El Puerto de Santa Maria in the province of Cadiz. In the evening we re-join the Guadalquivir and sail back to Seville.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Called on'u ba by the Phoenicians who settled here and later renamed Onoba by Greeks, Huelva was an important Phoenician trading post, exchanging precious metals and fish with cities throughout the Mediterranean. This morning we explore this city's important past at the important **Huelva Archaeological Museum**.

After our exclusive Andante excursion in the morning, we enjoy an evening wine tasting in the area of El Puerto de Santa Maria with other cruise passengers.

Day Seven | Granada

Having sailed through the night, we return to Seville and end our tour with one of the most impressive cities in Spain, Granada. In the morning we visit the incomparable **Alhambra**, first built as a fortress in the 9th century and turned into a palace fortress in the 14th century by the Emir of Granada. The Alhambra remains the most important witness to the great flourishing of the Muslim period of Andalusia, testament to the vibrant and cosmopolitan culture which made this part of the world unique.

Exclusive Andante excursion: After lunch, we explore the **Archaeological Museum of Granada**, which sheds light on the city itself as well as on Andalusian history.

Day Eight | Seville - London

After disembarking the ship, we end our tour by visiting

one of the most important Roman sites in Spain, **Italica**. The ancient city, founded in the 3rd century BC, is one of the best preserved in Spain and includes an amphitheatre, a number of elite houses, as well as a Traianeum, a shrine to the important emperor who was born there. In the afternoon, we take our return flight back to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

Activity Level ●●●○○



Guided by Dr Doru Bogdan

Doru is a researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, and has supervised an array of excavations.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- A wine-tasting experience and an excursion to the Alhambra with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 7 nights aboard the MS La Belle de Cadix

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 7 dinners
- MS La Belle de Cadix: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks.

Dates & prices per person

18th - 25th Sep	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a porthole window	£3,990	£690
Middle Deck Outside Cabin with a window	£4,230	£690
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window	£4,430	£690

EARLY BOOKING OFFER - SAVE £250pp on the above price. See page 3 for full details.

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aggc

Day One | London - Seville

We start our tour by flying to Seville and, time permitting, visit the **Metropol Parasol** in the city. Afterwards we join our ship, the MS La Belle de Cadix, in Seville.

Day Two | Seville

We wake up in Seville, the capital of Andalusia, which was once the ancient city of Hispalis and later became enormously wealthy for its crucial role in the Trans-Atlantic trade.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we venture to Cordoba where we begin our exploration with the **Medina Azahara**, the 10th century palace-city built in order to administer the capital. We continue to the city's **Jewish Quarter** where we see vestiges of the multi-cultural medieval city when the city gave rise to lush luminaries as Maimonides and Averroes. We end our visit of Cordoba with the world famous **Mezquita**, or Cathedral Mosque, erected in the 8th century.



Image: Cordoba



Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries

Cairo, Luxor, a Nile cruise to Aswan, Abu Simbel and more

12 DAYS FROM £7,990pp

The archaeology of ancient Egypt is one of the most instantly recognisable of all the great civilisations. This is a narrative of power, vision and ambition. The monuments of Egypt are much more than dry and dusty stones – through the expertise of our Guide Lecturers, we get to ‘meet’ the real ancient Egyptians.

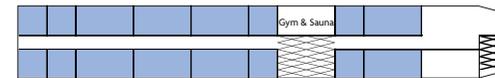
Tour Highlights

- Experience the delights of cruising the famous River Nile
- Discover the impressive temple site of Abu Simbel
- See the grand gallery as well as the royal burial chamber of the Great Pyramid of Khufu
- Explore the enigmatic Valleys of the Kings and Queens, and pay a visit to the exceptionally well-preserved tomb of Nefertari

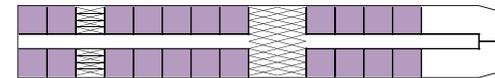
MS Tulip

MS Tulip offers spacious and luxuriously furnished accommodation. The public areas provide the ultimate in comfort, elegance and design, which enable its guests to experience a fascinating way to travel and relax. It has a restaurant, which serves daily breakfast, lunch and dinner. Enjoy afternoon tea in the lounge bar, or watch the sunset by the outdoor swimming pool with a cocktail. All cabins have been elegantly decorated and include panoramic Nile views, air conditioning, a mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities, and a Smart TV with satellite. Each room also has its own bathroom with a bathtub and hairdryer.

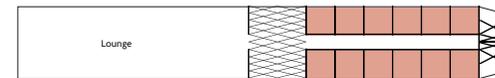
Deck D



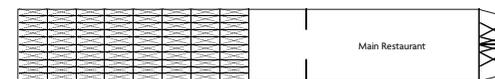
Deck C



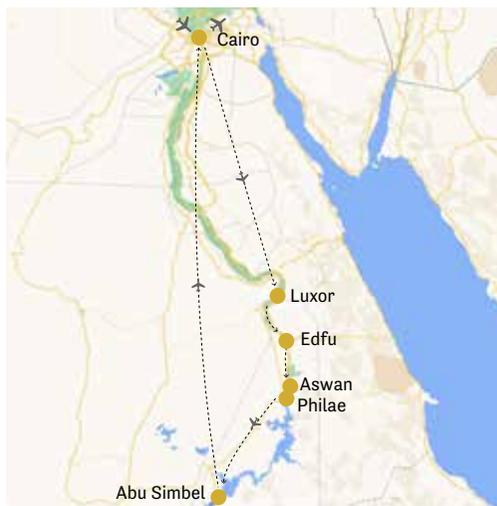
Deck B



Deck A



Images top to bottom: Luxor Temple & MS Tulip



where we discover the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid, two well preserved early constructions built during the reign of King Sneferu. Afternoon site visits include **Memphis**, founded over 5000 years ago and **The National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation** whose exceptional collection includes the royal mummies. This evening we fly from Cairo to Luxor.

Day Five | Luxor

Our first visit of the day is to the **Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahri, a stunning collection of shrines that have been heavily restored to reflect their former glory. In the afternoon, we visit the famous **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III standing at a towering 18-metres high, erected to guard the entrance of the pharaoh's memorial temple. Afterwards, we visit the Qurna tombs of **Ramose, Userhet and Khaemhet** and **Deir El Medina**, the village of the workers who constructed the tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

Day Six | Luxor

The **Valley of the Kings** awaits us today. This was the final resting place of royals and nobility for almost 500 years, with excavations dating the site back as far as the 16th century BC. Its most notable occupant is, of course, King Tutankhamun, so famously discovered by Howard Carter in 1922, and since returned to his original burial place where he now lies undisturbed. After lunch, we visit the **Valley of the Queens**, which includes the exceptionally preserved Tomb of Nefertari, who was the wife of Pharaoh Ramesses II.

Day Seven | Luxor

This morning we lose ourselves in the captivating complex of **Karnak**. Here we encounter the cult temple of Amun-Ra, chief of the deities of the New Kingdom. This is a spectacular multi-period location with a wealth of religious and historical inscriptions at every turn. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Rameses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. After checking into our cruise boat and having lunch on board we make our way to the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament

to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias'. Afterwards we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

Day Eight | Luxor - Edfu

Before we set sail this afternoon we visit the fantastic **Luxor Museum** – a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and home to celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tuthmosis III, and **Luxor Temple** with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns.

Day Nine | Edfu - Kom Ombo

We make our way to the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, it's decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses an Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile water. This afternoon, we explore the **Temple of Sobek** and **Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's Crocodile Museum.

Day Ten | Philae - Aswan

Today we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border and visit the impressive **Temple of Isis** in Philae. The flooding of Lake Nasser caused the whole complex to be moved from its original location. After a stop at **Aswan (High) Dam**, we visit the ancient Quarries at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments and site of the spectacular '**Unfinished Obelisk**'.

Day Eleven | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

It's an early morning start as we disembark the MS Tulip and transfer to Aswan Airport and fly to **Abu Simbel**. Here, we make the most of our last day exploring what is considered to be Egypt's most impressive temple site, home to temples of **Ramesses II and Nefertari**. After lunch, we fly to Cairo, where a farewell dinner awaits this evening.

Day Twelve | Cairo - London

Today we catch our return flight back to London.



Activity Level ●●●○○



Guided by Dr Elizabeth Bloxam

Join Elizabeth on our 14th January departure.



Guided by Lucia Gahlin

A specialist in the archaeology of ancient Egypt, Lucia has been leading tours to this country for over 20 years.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Sofitel El-Gezirah, Pavillon Winter Luxor Hotel, 4 nights aboard MS Tulip in a Superior Cabin & Le Meridien Cairo Airport or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room due to late arrival)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ship are payable locally)

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
14th - 25th Jan	£7,990	£1,275
9th - 20th Dec	£7,990	£1,275

EARLY BOOKING OFFER - SAVE £450pp on the above price. See page 3 for full details.

**subject to the new museum being open*

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aegh

Day One | London - Cairo

We depart from London and arrive in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital – a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

Day Two | Cairo

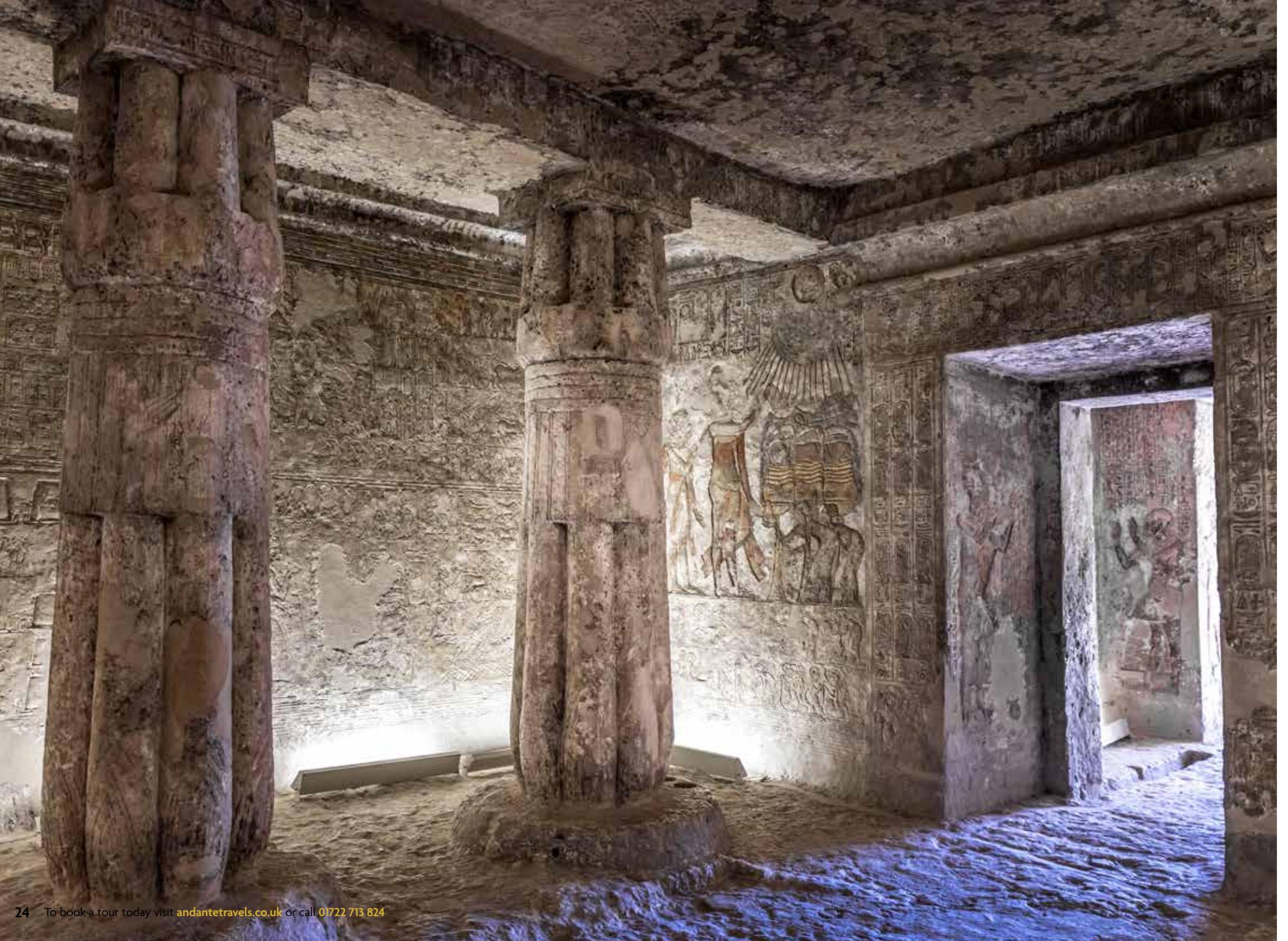
We devote our day to **Saqqara**, the vast necropolis to the ancient Egyptian capital of **Memphis**. We discover the extraordinary **Step Pyramid of Djoser**, the smooth-sided **Pyramid of Unas** and the **Mastaba of Mereruka**. Later we explore the fabulous Serepeum, catacombs for the sacred Apis bulls and the the recently reopened **Imhotep Museum**.

Day Three | Cairo

This morning, we pay a visit to the pyramid complex on the **Giza Plateau**, including the **Great Pyramid** – a true wonder of ancient world, where atmospheric passageways lead to the breathtaking grand gallery and royal burial chamber. We also explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra** and the enigmatic **Great Sphinx**. In the afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the new **Grand Egyptian Museum***, where the world's most extensive exhibition in pharaonic artefacts can be seen. Among the treasures on display are the solid gold mask of Tutankhamun and the Narmer Palette. The new museum is also now home to **King Khufu's Solar Boat**.

Day Four | Cairo – Luxor

We start with a visit to the pyramid complex at **Dahshur**



Egypt Encompassed

From Pharaohs to Caesars

19 DAYS FROM £14,170pp

Howard Carter's description of his first sight into Tutankhamen's tomb is also a fitting description of Andante's exploration of the archaeology of this amazing country. Egypt is indeed a land of 'wonderful things', a country where adjectives are insufficient to describe the monuments and experiences which are not to be found anywhere else in the world. While certain images of Egypt have become familiar, there is no substitute for witnessing at first hand the glittering treasures of Tutankhamen's tomb, the quiet intrigue of the hypostyle hall at Karnack, the beautiful setting of the Temple of Isis at Philae or standing over-awed at the feet of the colossal statues of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel. This epic tour encompasses all of these iconic sites and so much more. Starting with the Old Kingdom and the 'Age of the Pyramids' and ending with the Ptolemaic Dynasty and the Romans, we take a journey of a lifetime as we explore Upper and Lower Egypt travelling through the millennia.

Tour Highlights

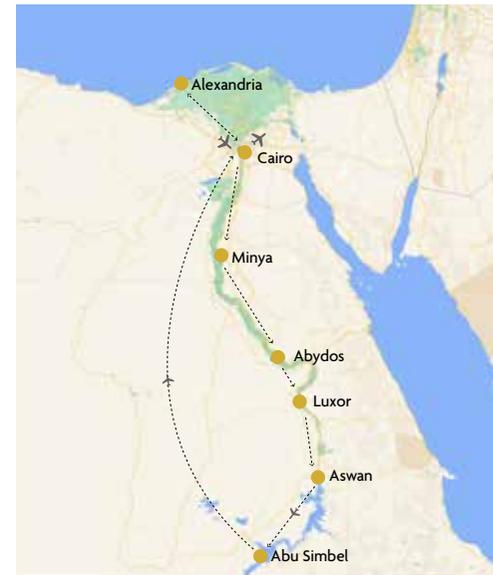
- Journey to the Middle Nile and discover the city of the heretic pharaoh Akhenaten at Tell el-Amarna
- Admire the exquisite artistry of the special tombs of Nefetari, Seti I, Sennefer and Rekhmir
- Enjoy privileged access at Tapaposiris, conjectured to be the site of Cleopatra's burial
- Spend a whole day at Saqqara where we discover sites seldom viewed by the casual visitor

MS Tamr Henna

This recently refurbished Nile cruiser is comparable to a good 4* hotel and has four decks. There are two restaurants, a main restaurant on Deck A and an outdoor restaurant on Deck D. Entertainment takes place in the lounge bar located in the middle of B deck next to the reception. There is a swimming pool, pool bar, loungers and seating area on the Sun Deck at the bow of the ship. Other facilities include a small gym and beauty salon. The deluxe cabins located on decks B, C and D, are 20m² in size and include a TV, telephone, safe, independent air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, mini bar (payable locally), hairdryer, ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet with bath products and towels.



Image: Tomb at Tell-el-Amarna & MS Tamr Henna exterior, Sun deck and deluxe cabin



Day One | London - Cairo

We depart from London and arrive in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

Day Two | Saqqara

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the sprawling necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of Memphis and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. We will discover the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser's distinctive **Step Pyramid** complex and the smooth-sided **Pyramid of Unas** as well as the Imhotep Museum (due to reopen late 2023 after extensive renovation). After lunch we return to focus on the lesser-visited parts of this huge site and visit two important tombs, the **mastaba of Mereruka**, a large and complex tomb of the Vizier to King Teti, and the superb **mastaba tomb of Ti** as well as the **Serapeum**, burial place of the sacred Apis bulls in the northern part of the Saqqara complex.

Day Three | Giza

This morning we visit the best preserved of the Seven Wonders of the World, the **Great Pyramid of Khufu** (Cheops) which towers some 481 feet (147 meters) above the plateau, its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks

each weighing an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. But there is a great deal more to the site. We will also discover the **Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure** as well as the enigmatic **Sphinx** carved from a knoll of rock left in one of the stone quarries used to provide stone for the pyramids and tombs at Giza. Its face probably represents Khafra, but arguments have been made for Djedefra and recently for the Sphinx being much older than the pyramids themselves. In the afternoon, we visit the **Great Egyptian Museum*** where the world's most extensive exhibitions in pharaonic artefacts can be seen. Among the many treasures on display are the solid gold mask of Tutankhamun, and the Narmer Palette, thought to depict the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt. The new museum is also home to King Khufu's Solar Boat.

Day Four | Cairo - Beni Hassan - Minya

We set off early for Beni Hassan this morning, winding our way out of the traffic heavy roads of Cairo and onto the fast highway to Minya. The journey will take us around 4 hours as we travel through the desert tracking the Nile. Our goal is the site of **Beni Hassan**, just south of Minya. These rock cut tombs high in the desert cliff overlooking the Nile take a little effort to reach but the view from the top is breath-taking and the tombs are fabulous. These Middle Kingdom tombs are painted, rather than decorated in carved reliefs and covered in scenes of daily life in extraordinary detail. These include scenes of agriculture, crafts, fishing, fowling and hunting. We overnight in Minya, now a small city mostly overlooked by tourists but once a powerful regional capital within Egypt.

Day Five | Tell el-Amarna

Today we visit **Tell el-Amarna**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt. It is also one of those which is usually ignored or given scant attention by tour operators because there are no monumental structures here. Amarna is, however, the most significant surviving city site from ancient Egypt; the majority having been built over by later settlements. It was also a new Capital city, constructed by Amenhotep IV beginning in the 5th year of his reign. The original name of the city was Akhenaten, the 'Horizon of the Aten', a title corresponding to the actions of the so-called 'heretic Pharaoh' Akhenaten as he later became to be known. The city itself was abandoned after the Pharaoh's death, only 20 years or so after its creation.



Here, we visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, Nefertiti's Palace, and the Temple of Aten.

Day Six | Minya - Tuna el-Gebel - Abydos

Our day starts at the rich and varied archaeological site of **Tuna el-Gebel** which functioned as the necropolis for the ancient town of Khemnu/Hermopolis at the edge of the western desert. It marks the boundary of Akhenaten's city some 11kms from the centre of Tell el-Amarna and is home to one of Akhenaten and Nefertiti's 'boundary stelae' carved into the limestone cliff. We also visit vast catacombs for ibis and baboons, associated with the god Thoth, and impressive tombs, including that of a High Priest of Thoth c300 BC – Petosiris, whose reliefs combine Greek and Egyptian artistic styles. In the afternoon, we continue our drive south to Abydos.

Day Seven | Abydos – Dendera - Luxor

This morning we visit **Abydos**, one of the most sacred sites in Egypt, identified as the burial place of Osiris. The main focus of our visit is the important cult **temple of Seti I** with its fabulous wall decorations, some of the finest of the New Kingdom. The temple is also the home of the only King List still to remain in situ. After a picnic lunch we continue to **Dendera** once the capital

of the Sixth Upper Egyptian nome. Like Saqqara it was the site of burials of sacred animals, particularly cows associated with the cult of the local goddess Hathor. The roof of the temple includes a number of chapels, symbolic mortuary chapels for Osiris. One of these contained the famous Dendera Zodiac, which is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris, but it is replicated here in situ by a circular plaster cast depicting the hours of the day and night as well as the journey of the sun, moon, and stars across the sky.

Day Eight | West Bank

This morning we cross the river by motorboat and then travel by coach, to visit the famous **Colossi of Memnon** on the West Bank at Thebes. These two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III stand at a towering 18-metres high and were erected to guard the entrance to the pharaoh's vast and opulent memorial temple. Alas, only traces of that once-great temple remain. Next, we visit the **Valley of the Kings**. Here on the west bank is the necropolis area reserved for royal burials from around 2100 BCE, but it was the Pharaohs of the later New Kingdom period, who chose these once remote desert valley sites for their grand rock-cut tombs. Of over 60 tombs discovered in the Valley of the Kings, only a small number are open to

the public and we enter a selection of these, including the elaborately decorated **tomb of Seti I**, which details the opening of the mouth ceremony. In the afternoon we visit **Deir el-Medina**. This is a special place because here, perhaps more than anywhere else in Egypt, we come closest to the daily lives of a group of individuals living in a community. This was no ordinary community however, but the settlement of the craftsmen responsible for constructing the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and as such employees of the state.

Day Nine | West Bank

This morning we return to the west bank and the **Valley of the Queens** where we visit its most famous tomb, that belonging to the Chief Royal Wife of Ramesses II, Queen Nefertari. The tomb has vividly painted reliefs with inscriptions describing the queen's beauty, sweetness and charm and the decoration is exquisite. We continue to the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias.' Later we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

Day Ten | West Bank & Luxor

We start today at the Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut at **Deir el-Bahri**, a stunning shrine cradled by the dramatic natural sculptures of neighbouring cliffs. The site is often regarded as one of the most spectacular and beautiful in Egypt although the temple to which visitors now come, is not the first on the site, nor is it entirely original in its architecture! It is famous for its scenes showing a trading expedition to the land of Punt where the Egyptians traded with the local people for exotic products, including incense trees. Next we visit **Howard Carter's House** – the property used by the archaeologist during his search for the tomb of Tutankhamun and eventual discovery and to round off the day we will visit to the excellent **Luxor Museum**, where we see a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tutankhamun III, an extraordinary figure carved out of greywacke and an alabaster figure of Amenhotep III protected by the great crocodile god Sobek.

Day Eleven | Karnak & Luxor

We spend the morning at **Karnak**, exploring the largest temple complex in Egypt, and some have argued, the largest religious complex in the world. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Ramesses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. In the afternoon, we visit **Luxor Temple**, linked to the Karnak complex by an avenue of sphinxes, processions would travel along this 1.5k mile route on a regular basis. There were barque shrines where the boats, which carried the image of the god, could be placed and where ceremonies could be conducted. At the end of the day, we embark on our Nile cruise and the first of our 4 nights on board.

Day Twelve | West Bank - Edfu

Before we set sail today, we make one last visit to the west bank and the **Tombs of the Nobles**. Here we see two of the most splendid non-royal tombs dating to the New Kingdom period, the vibrantly painted burial chamber of **Sennefer** and the intricately decorated funerary chapel of **Rekhmire**. After lunch on board, we start our journey to Aswan, slipping anchor and sailing up the Nile towards Edfu.

Day Thirteen | Edfu - Kom Ombo - Aswan

Today we discover the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. One of the country's most magnificently preserved shrines, the construction of which is thought to have spanned an incredible 180 years, from the 3rd to the 2nd century BC. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, its pylon - or gateway - is the highest among all of Egypt's surviving temples and is decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses a Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile waters. This afternoon we explore the **Temple of Sobek and Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's **Crocodile Museum**. The partially restored remains of Kom Ombo's Ptolemaic temple stand dramatically above the Nile and its situation overlooking the river, is particularly picturesque. It is peculiar in its double dedication, reflected in its perfectly symmetrical layout; the eastern

half dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, his wife Hathor, and their son Khonsu and the western to the falcon god Horus, his wife Tasenetnofret, and their son Panebtawy.

Day Fourteen | Aswan

Arriving in Aswan, we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border to visit the atmospheric ruins of the Ptolemaic **Temple of Isis** in Philae, a labyrinthine complex of chapels and shrines – which were originally dedicated to the goddess

Isis. To nineteenth century travellers Philae was 'the pearl of the Nile' set on its own island, with just enough vegetation to make this the archetypal romantic ruin. It was pictured by David Roberts, Frances Frith and a generation of other artists and photographers. These individuals would recognise most of the site we see today but might be surprised

to learn that it is no longer on its original island. After a stop at the High Dam, we continue to the **Quarries** at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the spectacular '**Unfinished Obelisk**', some 42 metres long and weighing approximately 1,197 tons. After lunch on board our ship, we will visit **Elephantine Island**, the location of the ancient town and temple in Aswan.

Day Fifteen | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

Today we fly from Aswan to the world-renowned Nubian site at **Abu Simbel**, 140 miles south-west of Aswan at the edge of the desert. Miraculously rescued from Lake Nasser's rising waters after the creation of the High Dam and rebuilt on the western bank, the two massive rock temples of Ramesses II and his favourite queen, Nefertari, were originally carved into the mountainside in 1244 BCE to honour the deified royal

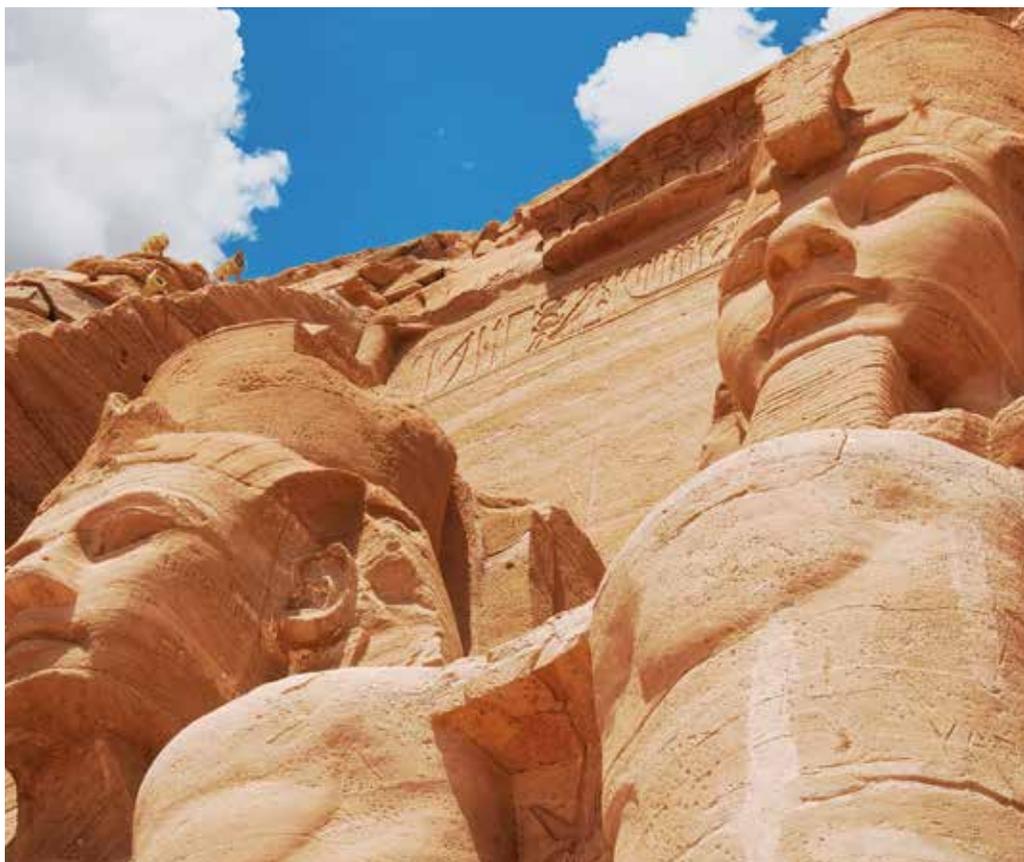


Image: Abu Simbel

pair. In an effort to prevent the temples' destruction, UNESCO embarked on its first-ever collaborative international rescue effort. This later became the catalyst for a World Heritage list that would help protect and promote over a thousand significant cultural and natural sites around the globe. After our site visit, we fly to Cairo.

Day Sixteen | Cairo - Alexandria

Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilization throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. The museum's exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. After lunch we leave Cairo on the desert road and travel to Alexandria.

Day Seventeen | Alexandria

We spend the day in Alexandria exploring the major monuments of the ancient city. We visit the **Catacombs of Kom el-Shoqafa** an underground labyrinth of decorated tombs from the Roman period, we also visit **Pompeys Pillar**, the site of the **Serapeum**, the temple dedicated to the god Serapis and his consort Isis and one of the most important temples of the Hellenistic world. We explore part of the civic centre of Roman Alexandria at **Kom al Dikka**, with its major monuments including an Odeon type building and a fine house, the **Villa of the Birds**. In the afternoon we visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, the modern Library, here we will see superb mosaics recovered from the royal palace of the Ptolemies and, hopefully, the Greco Romano Museum due to reopen after 20 years 'under wraps'.

Day Eighteen | Alexandria - Cairo

This morning we explore the **National Museum** of Alexandria, located in a beautifully restored Italianate palace and contains galleries containing artefacts from the Pharaonic, Greco Roman, Coptic and Islamic periods. The Greco-Roman galleries on the ground floor contain some of the material previously on display in the Greco-Roman Museum as well as finds from the programme of underwater excavations being

conducted off the coast at Alexandria. Afterwards we travel on to Abu Sir, ancient Tapaposiris where the Ptolemaic temple and a funerary monument modelled on the Pharos were built on a ridge between lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean. Recently there has been much speculation that it may contain Cleopatra's tomb which as yet, remains undiscovered.

Day Nineteen | Cairo - London

At the end of our epic journey, we return to Cairo airport for our onward flight home.

Activity Level ●●●○○



Guided by Lucia Gahlin

A specialist in the archaeology of ancient Egypt, Lucia has been leading tours to this country for over 20 years.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Cairo, Minya, Abydos, Luxor, Alexandria & 4 nights aboard a Nile cruiser in a Deluxe Cabin

Culinary inclusions

- 18 breakfasts, 18 lunches & 17 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room due to late arrival)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ships are payable locally)

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
10th - 28th Feb	£14,170	£3,320
27th Sep - 15th Oct	£14,170	£3,320

EARLY BOOKING OFFER - SAVE £650pp on the above price. See page 3 for full details.

**subject to the new museum being open*

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