Cruise Details

Name:	Athens to Istanbul Adventure
Reference:	EMERALDE05G140827-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Raiya
Regions:	Mediterranean
Departs On:	14 Aug 27
Departs From:	Piraeus
Arrives On:	21 Aug 27
Arrives At:	Istanbul
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Piraeus (Greece)

Your unforgettable cruise begins in Greece and its ancient capital, Athens. The birthplace of democracy and western civilisation, this enthralling city presents a remarkable blend of rich traditions with modern dynamism. From here, you'll be transferred to your Emerald Cruises luxury yacht to begin your incredible voyage of discovery through Greece and Turkey. Please book your flight to arrive into Athens prior to 04:00 PM. Docked: 21:00

Arrives On: 14 Aug 27

Day 2: Milos (Greece)

Your first port of call is Milos, a Greek island renowned for its unique natural beauty, often referred to as the 'Island of Colours,' due to its diverse soil shades, including yellow, orange, red, and dazzling white. This extraordinary landscape, extending to unique rock formations, appears

even more dramatic, set against the backdrop of sparkling turquoise waters. Milos is also famous as the original home of the iconic marble statue, Venus of Milo, an ancient sculpture believed to represent the Goddess Aphrodite and now displayed in the Louvre Museum, Paris, France. DiscoverMORE
Landscapes of Milos (extra expense, must be pre-booked)
Experience the unique volcanic landscapes and rich history of Milos on a journey to the island's most iconic landmarks. Begin at the spectacular Sarakiniko, where dazzling white volcanic rock formations have been sculpted into a lunar-like landscape unlike anywhere else in the Cyclades. Continue to the archaeological site of Ancient Melos, where you will visit the Roman Amphitheatre and the location where the famous Venus de Milo was discovered in 1820. The excursion concludes in Plaka, the traditional hilltop capital of Milos. Stroll through its charming cobbled streets lined with whitewashed houses and colourful bougainvillea, browse local boutiques, admire panoramic views across the harbour, and enjoy free time to explore. During your visit, you may wish to purchase traditional homemade sweets from one of the village's local pastry shops (own expense) before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours 35 minutes Anchored: 08:00 – 21:00

Arrives On: 15 Aug 27

Day 3: Santorini (Greece)

One of the most world’s photogenic islands, Santorini presents a spectacular destination, iconic for its whitewashed buildings clustered across soaring cliffs that overlook the Aegean Sea. This hugely popular Greek island is also renowned for its volcanic landscapes and black sand beaches. The picturesque main town, Fira, dramatically rests on the edge of a caldera cliff, presenting jaw-dropping vistas, while Oia, one of Santorini’s charming traditional villages, is especially worth a visit for its quaint narrow streets, trademark blue-domed churches and legendary sunsets. Included Excursion
Round-trip cable-car ticket to Thira
Experience one of Santorini’s most iconic journeys with a roundtrip cable car ride between the Old Port of Gialos and Fira, offering spectacular views over the island’s dramatic caldera. After tendering from the ship, proceed to the Old Port of Gialos, where the Santorini Cable Car (Teleferico) provides a quick and scenic ascent up the steep caldera cliffs, connecting the port with Fira, the island’s lively capital. As the gondola rises, enjoy sweeping views of volcanic rock faces, whitewashed villages perched high above the cliffs, and the deep blue Aegean Sea below. Upon arrival in Fira, time is available to explore independently—stroll along the caldera rim, browse local shops, enjoy panoramic viewpoints, or relax at a café overlooking the breathtaking scenery. When ready, use the return cable car ticket to descend comfortably back to the Old Port and tender back to the ship.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: At your leisure DiscoverMORE
Akrotiri, Winery & Oia (extra expense)
Journey through the history, flavours, and iconic landscapes of Santorini as you discover one of the Aegean's most captivating islands. Begin with a visit to the remarkable

archaeological site of Akrotiri, often referred to as the "Greek Pompeii." Buried beneath volcanic ash following the island's great eruption, this exceptionally preserved Bronze Age settlement reveals sophisticated multi-storey buildings, advanced drainage systems, and fascinating insights into one of the ancient Mediterranean's most advanced civilisations. Continue to a traditional Santorini winery, where you will learn about the island's unique volcanic viticulture and enjoy a tasting of locally produced wines while overlooking the spectacular caldera. Complete your excursion in the picturesque village of Oia, famous for its whitewashed houses, blue-domed churches, and breathtaking views across the volcanic caldera and Thirassia Island. Afterwards, continue to Fira, where you may either return with the group or remain to explore the island's capital independently before taking the cable car back to the Old Port at your convenience.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 5 hours 30 minutes Anchored: 7:30 – 22:00

Arrives On: 16 Aug 27

Day 4: Delos (Greece)

A small, rocky island in the heart of the stunning Cyclades archipelago, Delos is one of the most important mythological and archaeological sites in Greece, believed to be the birthplace of the Greek God, Apollo and his twin sister, Artemis. In the afternoon, you'll sail on to another beautiful Greek island, Mykonos. The allure of this world-famous island lies in its blend of traditional Greek culture and cosmopolitan flair. Whitewashed houses adorned with vibrant blue doors edging the narrow, cobblestone streets of atmospheric Mykonos Town, further add to the charm; so too, the island's historic windmills and pretty beaches. DiscoverMORE
Guided Tour of Delos (extra expense)
Discover the extraordinary archaeological treasures of Delos, one of the most important sacred sites of the ancient Greek world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For more than a thousand years, Delos was one of the Mediterranean's most revered religious sanctuaries. According to Greek mythology, it was the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, attracting pilgrims from across the ancient world and becoming a prosperous centre of religion, commerce, and culture. Join a guided walking tour through this remarkable open-air archaeological site, where exceptionally preserved ruins reveal the island's rich history from the 3rd millennium BC through the Hellenistic and early Christian periods. Explore ancient temples, sanctuaries, marketplaces, theatres, and elegant residences while gaining insight into the civilizations that shaped this sacred island and the wider Aegean.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2 hours DiscoverMORE
Explore Mykonos Town Highlights on Foot (extra expense)
Discover the timeless charm of Mykonos on a leisurely walking tour through the island's enchanting capital, where traditional Cycladic architecture, rich history, and stunning coastal scenery come together. Explore the maze of whitewashed streets in Mykonos Town (Chora) as your guide shares fascinating insights into the island's culture and history. Along the way, admire the iconic Panagia Paraportiani, one of Greece's most photographed

churches, and the charming Church of St. Nicholas, overlooking the old harbour. Continue through the picturesque waterfront district of Little Venice, where elegant historic houses line the sea, before reaching the famous Mykonos Windmills, offering panoramic views across the town and the sparkling Aegean. Pause to enjoy a traditional Greek cheese pie at a local bakery and a refreshing drink before free time to browse the boutiques, relax at a café, or continue exploring Mykonos Town at your own pace.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes Anchored: 07:30 – 11:00 | 12:30 –22:00

Arrives On: 17 Aug 27

Day 4: Mykonos (Greece)

Arrives On: 17 Aug 27

Day 5: Kusadasi (Turkey)

Set on Turkey’s western Aegean coastline, Kusadasi offers a fascinating blend of history, beautiful beaches, and traditional Turkish markets. This beach resort town’s history dates back to ancient times and has witnessed many rulers, including those from the Byzantine, Venetian, and Genoese eras. Kusadasi is located near several historical ruins, including the ancient city of Ephesus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which today offers a glimpse into the grandeur of one of the ancient world's most important cities. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Ephesus with folkloric show and tasting
Step back in time at the extraordinary ancient city of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved classical cities in the Mediterranean and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travel along the scenic Aegean coastline before entering Ephesus through the historic Magnesia Gate. Follow your guide through magnificent ruins, including the grand Forum, the iconic Library of Celsus, and the impressive Great Theatre, while learning about the city's importance as one of the greatest centres of the ancient world. Continue to the remarkable Terrace Houses, where beautifully preserved mosaics, frescoes, and luxurious private residences provide a fascinating insight into the lives of Ephesus' wealthy citizens. Before returning, enjoy a visit to a local cooperative featuring a traditional Turkish folklore performance, accompanied by a selection of regional delicacies, local drinks, and wine in a relaxing garden setting.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 5 hours 30 minutes Docked: 09:00 – 22:00

Arrives On: 18 Aug 27

Day 6: Pátmos (Greece)

Today, you’ll arrive in Patmos, a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea revered for its religious significance. The imposing Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, towers over the island's capital, Chora, which is charming in itself, with quaint

whitewashed buildings lining the narrow, cobblestone streets. Nearby, you'll find the Cave of the Apocalypse, where, according to local legend, Saint John wrote the Book of Revelation. Patmos is also renowned for its delicious regional cuisine, a mix of traditional Greek dishes and freshly caught seafood. Today choose between our DiscoverMORE or EmeraldACTIVE option. DiscoverMORE
Chora, Monastery of St John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse (extra expense)
Discover the spiritual and cultural heritage of Patmos, one of Greece's most sacred islands and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin with a visit to the revered Cave of the Apocalypse, where, according to tradition, St. John the Theologian received the visions that inspired the Book of Revelation. Continue to the hilltop town of Chora, where a guided walk through its narrow cobbled streets reveals elegant mansions, panoramic views, and timeless island charm. Visit the impressive Monastery of St. John the Theologian, founded in the 11th century, and explore its museum housing priceless manuscripts, religious icons, and ecclesiastical treasures. Complete your experience at the beautifully preserved Simandiris Mansion, offering a fascinating glimpse into traditional Patmian life, before enjoying free time to browse Chora's boutique-lined streets.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 3 hours 30 minutes EmeraldACTIVE
Downhill Hike to The Monastery of St. John and Cave
Journey through the spiritual heart of Patmos, one of Greece's most sacred islands and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, exploring its most revered religious landmarks and centuries of monastic tradition. Travel to the hilltop village of Chora, where whitewashed houses surround the imposing Monastery of St. John the Theologian, founded in 1088. Explore the monastery's peaceful courtyards and remarkable museum, home to rare manuscripts, ancient icons, religious treasures, and priceless ecclesiastical artefacts. Continue on foot through the atmospheric streets of Chora to the revered Cave of the Apocalypse, where, according to tradition, St. John received the visions recorded in the Book of Revelation. Along the way, admire the island's timeless architecture and experience the tranquil atmosphere that has drawn pilgrims for centuries.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 3 hours EmeraldPLUS
Local folklore performance on board
Step into the vibrant world of Greek culture with a lively presentation of traditional dances from across the country. A talented dance troupe takes you on a colourful journey through rhythm, history, and island spirit. Enjoy iconic favourites such as Zorbas and Sirtaki, along with regional dances including the playful Dodecanese Sousta, the energetic Ikariotikos, the elegant Roditiko, and the popular mainland dances Kalamatianos and Syrtos. In the second part, you are invited to join the celebration as the dancers encourage everyone to learn a few simple steps. Whether experienced or new to Greek dance, this interactive finale transforms the performance into a joyful and memorable celebration of music and community.
Event duration: 1 hour Docked: 08:00 – 16:00

Arrives On: 19 Aug 27

Day 7: Port information not found

Continuing along Turkey’s stunning coastline, you’ll arrive in Kepez, a popular seaside town steeped in history, with ancient sites such as the Old Town and Hadrian's Gate, and and famed for its authentic Turkish culture and culinary traditions. In addition, Kepez offers numerous outdoor pursuits, including hiking and cycling in the surrounding parks and verdant forests, or simply relaxing on the enticing beaches.

As the sun begins its descent, your luxury yacht will set sail through the historic Dardanelles Strait, a narrow passage linking the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara. Take in the mesmerising views of rugged coastlines, ancient ruins, and rolling hills bathed in golden evening light. DiscoverMORE
The Legendary City of Troy (extra expense)
Journey into the world of myth and archaeology with a visit to Ancient Troy, one of history's most legendary cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travel to the archaeological site where the excavations of Heinrich Schliemann revealed that the city immortalised in Homer's Iliad was more than legend. Explore the remarkable ruins as your guide explains the fascinating history of Troy, a city rebuilt nine times over more than 3,000 years. Admire the ancient defensive walls, learn about the famous Trojan War, and see the modern replica of the iconic Wooden Horse, symbolising the legendary Greek strategy that led to the city's fall. Continue to the award-winning Troy Museum, located beside the archaeological site. Through its impressive collection of artefacts, interactive displays, and multimedia exhibits, discover over 5,000 years of history and the civilizations that flourished in this region, highlighting Troy's role as a meeting point between Eastern and Western cultures.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours 30 minutes DiscoverMORE
Guided Tour of ANZAC Cove and Gallipoli Peninsula (extra expense)
Follow the story of one of the First World War's most significant campaigns with a moving visit to the Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park, where the courage and sacrifice of thousands are remembered. Your journey begins at Anzac Cove, where Australian and New Zealand forces came ashore on 25 April 1915. Continue to Lone Pine Cemetery, overlooking the historic battlefield, where your guide will recount the events that unfolded across these hills and the enduring legacy of the ANZAC campaign. The tour continues to Beach Cemetery, the resting place of many of the campaign's fallen, and the 57th Regiment Memorial and Cemetery, dedicated to the Ottoman soldiers who defended the peninsula. Finally, visit Chunuk Bair, one of the campaign's most strategically important positions, where the New Zealand Memorial stands alongside a statue of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, whose leadership during the battle marked a defining moment in Turkish history. Throughout the excursion, your guide will provide insight into the events, personal stories, and lasting significance of the Gallipoli Campaign for both Türkiye and the ANZAC nations.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration 5 hours Docked: 10:00 – 17:00

Arrives On: 20 Aug 27

Day 7: Dardanelles (Turkey)

Arrives On: 20 Aug 27

Day 8: Istanbul (Turkey)

Today, your grand adventure concludes in Istanbul, a timeless Turkish city at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, where diverse cultures, rich history and modernity seamlessly intertwine. From the yacht, you'll be transferred to the airport for your return flight home, or to continue your holiday. DiscoverMORE
Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and Grand Bazaar (extra expense, must be booked on board)
Explore the timeless treasures of Istanbul on a guided journey through the heart of the historic Sultanahmet district before continuing to Istanbul Airport. Begin at the site of the ancient Hippodrome, once the social and sporting centre of the Byzantine Empire. Admire historic monuments including the Egyptian Obelisk, the Serpentine Column from Delphi, and the German Fountain, while learning about the city's fascinating past. Continue to the magnificent Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque), celebrated for its elegant domes, six slender minarets, and beautiful interior adorned with thousands of blue Iznik tiles. Nearby, visit the iconic Hagia Sophia, the masterpiece of Byzantine architecture that has served as a cathedral, mosque, museum, and now mosque once again, standing as one of the world's greatest architectural achievements.Conclude your tour at the legendary Grand Bazaar, one of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world. Wander its bustling lanes filled with carpets, ceramics, jewellery, spices, textiles, and traditional handicrafts before departing either for Istanbul Airport or returning to the ship, depending on your travel arrangements.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 6 hours

Notes: This excursion is available for participants continuing on to the next cruise, as well as debarking participants with flights departing after 5:00 pm. Luggage will be stored securely on the coach during the excursion. Arrival at the airport may be earlier than airline check-in times. Please book your flight to depart out of Istanbul after 02:00 PM. Docked: 08:00 The itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such Emerald Cruises cannot guarantee the cruise will operated unaltered from the itinerary states above.

Arrives On: 21 Aug 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
© 2026 Deluxe Cruises. This cruise itinerary was printed from https://deluxecruises.co.uk