deluxe cruises

Cruise Details

Name:	Istanbul to Athens Adventure
Reference:	EMERALDE05G210827-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Raiya
Regions:	Mediterranean
Departs On:	21 Aug 27
Departs From:	Istanbul
Arrives On:	28 Aug 27
Arrives At:	Piraeus
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Istanbul (Turkey)

Your memorable cruise begins in Turkey and the city of Istanbul, a timeless place where East meets West in a stunning fusion of continents and cultures. From the domes of Hagia Sophia to the bustling Grand Bazaar, this city brims with history and vitality. Explore its storied skyline before boarding your Emerald luxury yacht to begin your spectacular voyage through Turkey and Greece. Please book your flight to arrive into Istanbul prior to 05:00 PM. Docked: 22:00

Arrives On: 21 Aug 27

Day 2: Dardanelles (Turkey)

Begin your day with a graceful sail through the legendary Dardanelles Strait, a narrow passage linking the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara, where history and natural beauty converge between Europe and Asia. Admire stunning views of rugged shorelines and tranquil villages along

this storied waterway. After lunch, arrive in Kepez, the port for Çanakkale, the historic gateway to the fabled city of Troy. Explore the moving World War I memorials at Gallipoli or visit Troy’s archaeological ruins. Alternatively, enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of Kepez’s seaside cafés and nearby natural landscapes. DiscoverMORE
The Legendary City of Troy (extra expense, must be pre-booked)
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, must be pre-booked)
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: 13:00 – 19:00

Arrives On: 22 Aug 27

Day 2: Port information not found

Arrives On: 22 Aug 27

Day 3: Kusadasi (Turkey)

Set along Turkey’s western Aegean coast, Kusadasi is a lively Turkish coastal town rich in history and culture. Its strategic location has made it a crossroads of civilisations for thousands of years. From here, you may explore the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved classical cities in the Mediterranean. Wander along marble streets lined with grand columns, temples, and the magnificent Library of Celsus. Back in Kusadasi, vibrant bazaars and seaside promenades offer a colourful taste of Turkish hospitality. 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: 13:00 – 22:00

Arrives On: 23 Aug 27

Day 4: Pátmos (Greece)

Arrive in serene Patmos, revered for its religious significance. The World Heritage-listed Monastery of Saint John the Theologian crowns the island’s capital, Chora, a labyrinth of narrow cobblestone lanes and whitewashed houses. Nearby lies the Cave of the Apocalypse, where Saint John is believed to have received the visions described in the Book of Revelation. Beyond its religious heritage, Patmos charms with its peaceful atmosphere, traditional villages, and pristine coves. Enjoy authentic Greek cuisine featuring freshly caught seafood, local cheeses and sun-ripened produce. 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 – 21:00

Arrives On: 24 Aug 27

Day 5: Delos (Greece)

This morning, step ashore on Delos, one of Greece’s most significant mythological and archaeological treasures. According to legend, this sacred island was the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. Wander among remarkably preserved ruins, grand mosaics and ancient temples that paint a vivid picture of classical civilisation. Later, sail to glamorous Mykonos, where Cycladic charm meets cosmopolitan flair. Lose yourself in the maze of narrow lanes lined with whitewashed houses and chapels. Discover chic boutiques, waterfront tavernas and the island’s iconic windmills overlooking the Aegean. As evening falls, Mykonos reveals its vibrant energy, offering the ideal blend of tradition and modern sophistication. 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: 25 Aug 27

Day 5: Mykonos (Greece)

Arrives On: 25 Aug 27

Day 6: Santorini (Greece)

One of the world’s most photogenic islands, Santorini enchants with its whitewashed buildings cascading down dramatic cliffs overlooking the Aegean. Arriving by sea at Santorini offers a breathtaking first impression. Visit the main town of Fira for breathtaking caldera views or charming Oia, where blue-domed churches and cascading bougainvillea create postcard-worthy scenes in narrow lanes. Relax on distinctive volcanic-sand beaches or sample crisp local wines cultivated in mineral-rich soil. As you sail away, the sun sinks into the Aegean and Santorini’s legendary sunset paints the sky in hues of gold and crimson – a moment to cherish forever. 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 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 Anchored: 07:30 – 22:00

Arrives On: 26 Aug 27

Day 7: Milos (Greece)

Welcome to Milos, the enchanting ‘Island of Colours’. Sculpted by volcanic forces, the island’s dramatic coastline is dotted with striking cliffs in shades of red, yellow, white and orange, rising above turquoise waters. Explore the surreal Sarakiniko landscape and the fishing villages of Klima or Pollonia. Milos is also famed as the discovery site of the Venus de Milo in 1820. While the original masterpiece resides in the Louvre, a replica and fascinating artifacts can be admired in the island’s archaeological museum, offering insight into its rich past. DiscoverMORE
Landscapes of Milos (extra expense)
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 – 18:00

Arrives On: 27 Aug 27

Day 8: Piraeus (Greece)

Your luxurious yacht cruise concludes in the ancient Greek capital, Athens, birthplace of democracy and cradle of Western civilisation. This enthralling city seamlessly blends historic landmarks, from the Acropolis to the Parthenon, with contemporary vitality. After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport or extend your stay in this legendary city. DiscoverMORE
Athens City tour with Acropolis (extra expense, must be booked on board)
Experience the timeless wonders of Athens, where ancient history and authentic Greek flavours come together in an unforgettable journey through the city's most iconic landmarks. Begin with a guided visit to the magnificent Acropolis, ascending the

sacred hill to admire the Parthenon, Erechtheion, Temple of Athena Nike, and Propylaea, while enjoying panoramic views over Athens and nearby landmarks including the Odeon of Herodes Atticus. Continue into the charming neighbourhood of Plaka, where narrow streets, neoclassical houses, and family-run shops create the perfect setting to experience traditional Athenian life. Stroll through the lively market streets while sampling a variety of authentic Greek specialities, including local cheeses, olives, savoury pies, pastries, olive oil, wine, and regional spirits, as your guide shares the story behind Greece's celebrated culinary traditions.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 5 hours

Notes: This excursion is available for guests continuing on the next cruise and for disembarking guests with flights departing after 5:00 pm. After the visit to Plaka, disembarking guests will transfer directly to the airport, while in-transit guests will return to the ship by separate vehicle. Docked 6:00 Please book your flight to depart out of Athens after 01:00 PM. 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: 28 Aug 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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