Cruise Details

Name:	Ancient Wonders - Athens to Aqaba via the Suez Canal
Reference:	EMERALDE16G301027-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Raiya
Regions:	Mediterranean
Departs On:	30 Oct 27
Departs From:	Piraeus
Arrives On:	11 Nov 27
Arrives At:	'Aqaba
Cruise Nights:	12
Total Vacation Days:	13

Itinerary

Day 1: Piraeus (Greece)

Welcome to Greece and the historic capital, Athens. The birthplace of democracy and Western civilisation, Athens is renowned for its iconic ancient landmarks and rich culture. as well as its modern dynamism. From here, you'll be transferred to your Emerald Cruises luxury yacht to embark on your enthralling voyage through the Mediterranean and Red seas. Please book your flight to arrive into Athens prior to 01:00 PM. Docked: 18:00

Arrives On: 30 Oct 27

Day 2: Syros (Greece)

Your first port of call is Syros, a charming island located amid the Cyclades group of islands in the sparkling Aegean Sea. Known for its rich history and vibrant culture, Syros is famed for its unique architectural style, which reflects its storied historical development. The contrast between

the neoclassical mansions in Ermoúpolis and the Cycladic-style whitewashed houses in other parts of the island creates a distinctive aesthetic. DiscoverMORE
Walking tour of Ermoupolis (extra expense, must be pre-booked)
Step back in time and explore the elegant capital of Syros, Ermoupoli, a city of neoclassical grandeur and island charm. Built like an amphitheater around its bustling harbor, Ermoupoli is crowned by the twin hills of Ano Syros and Vrontado, creating one of the most picturesque skylines in the Cyclades. Your guided walking tour begins with a visit to St. Nicholas Church, the island's most prominent landmark, followed by the Monument to the Unknown Soldier. Stroll through the aristocratic Vaporia district, known as 'Little Venice,' where stately mansions overlook the Aegean. Pass by the elegant Apollo Theatre, Greece's first opera house and a proud symbol of the city's cultural heritage. Continue to Miaoulis Square, the city's vibrant heart, framed by the grand Town Hall and its marble terrace built for the Syros Philharmonic. See the first high school of modern Greece, then wander through the colorful shopping streets before visiting the Church of the Dormition, home to a rare icon by El Greco. Conclude your tour with a sweet taste of Syros' heritage — the island's famous loukoumi, a beloved local delicacy now recognized by UNESCO as part of Greece's Intangible Cultural Heritage.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes Docked: 08:00–17:00

Arrives On: 31 Oct 27

Day 3: Bodrum (Turkey)

Known for its turquoise waters, lively marinas, and historical depth, Bodrum stands along Turkey's southwestern coast. Explore the impressive Bodrum Castle, built by the Knights of St John in the 15th century, now home to the Museum of Underwater Archaeology displaying treasures recovered from ancient shipwrecks. Wander the waterfront promenade lined with cafés and boutiques or delve into local markets buzzing with colour and energy. DiscoverMORE
Turkish Cooking Class (extra expense)
Immerse yourself in the authentic flavours of the Aegean on a memorable culinary experience in the traditional village of Çömlekçi, where local recipes and warm hospitality bring Turkish cuisine to life. Travel through the scenic countryside surrounding Bodrum to the charming rural village of Çömlekçi. Here, discover the secrets of regional Aegean cooking, renowned for its use of fresh herbs, olive oil, and seasonal ingredients. Watch local cooks prepare a selection of traditional dishes, or join in for a hands-on cooking experience while learning about the area's culinary traditions. Recipes are provided for you to recreate the dishes at home. Following the demonstration, gather around communal tables to enjoy the freshly prepared meal accompanied by local wines, sharing stories and conversation in a relaxed village setting.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 5 hours DiscoverMORE
Knights' Castle and Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (extra expense)
Explore the remarkable history of Bodrum, where the legacy of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World meets one of Türkiye's finest medieval castles. Begin with a visit to the ruins of the Mausoleum of

Halicarnassus, the monumental tomb built by Artemisia II in honour of King Mausolos. Once one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the mausoleum gave its name to all monumental tombs and remains one of Bodrum's most significant archaeological sites.,Continue on foot to the impressive Castle of Bodrum, built by the Knights of St. John using stones from the ancient mausoleum. Explore its historic courtyards and the renowned Museum of Underwater Archaeology, where fascinating artefacts recovered from ancient shipwrecks span the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages, including the remains of a 13th-century BC Syrian merchant vessel and the exquisite treasures of the Carian Princess. Conclude your excursion with free time in the heart of Bodrum, where you can browse local shops, enjoy a café overlooking the harbour, or simply soak up the atmosphere of this vibrant seaside town.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 4 hours Docked: 12:00–21:00

Arrives On: 01 Nov 27

Day 4: Rhodes (Greece)

On the lovely Greek island of Rhodes, the Medieval City, or Old Town, is a must-see attraction, recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Encircled within four-kilometre (two-mile) length of walls, the city's medieval buildings, the Street of the Knights and the Palace of the Grand Master, give you a sense of being transported back to the Middle Ages. Known as the 'Island of Knights,' delightful Rhodes is also famed for its delicious local dishes; be sure to sample melekouni (a traditional sweet) and pitaroudia (chickpea fritters). Today choose between our Included Excursion or EmeraldACTIVE option. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Lindos
Discover the timeless beauty of Lindos, where ancient history, breathtaking coastal scenery, and traditional island charm combine in one of Rhodes' most iconic destinations. Travel along the island's picturesque east coast, passing fragrant citrus groves, vineyards, and ancient olive trees before arriving at the beautiful village of Lindos. From here, make the ascent on foot to the magnificent Acropolis of Lindos, dramatically perched above the village and overlooking the sparkling Aegean Sea. Explore the impressive archaeological site, including the Doric Temple of Athena Lindia, the remains of a Byzantine church, and the fortifications built by the Knights of St. John, while enjoying spectacular panoramic views across the coastline. Afterwards, descend through the charming whitewashed village to the picturesque St. Paul's Bay, traditionally associated with the Apostle Paul's arrival in AD 51.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 4 hours 20 minutes EmeraldACTIVE
Walking Tour of Medieval Rhodes and Grand Master's Palace
Step into the medieval heart of Rhodes, where imposing fortifications, grand palaces, and centuries of history await within one of Europe's best-preserved walled cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a guided walk from the quayside into the historic Old Town, where narrow cobbled streets and medieval architecture reveal the legacy of the Knights of St. John. Visit the magnificent Palace of the Grand Master, originally built in the 14th century as the residence of the Knights before later serving as an Ottoman fortress and an Italian royal residence. Today, it stands as one of Rhodes' most important historical landmarks. Continue

along the famous Street of the Knights, lined with beautifully preserved inns representing the different nationalities of the Order, before concluding your guided tour with free time to browse the lively Socrates Street bazaar, where local shops offer souvenirs, handicrafts, and traditional products. Following the guided tour, participants may either return to the ship with the group or remain in Rhodes Old Town to explore independently before making their own way back to the ship.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours Docked: 08:00–17:30

Arrives On: 02 Nov 27

Day 5: Antalya (Turkey)

Today, you'll discover the Turkish resort city of Antalya. Nestled between the soaring Taurus Mountains and azure Mediterranean beaches, Antalya makes the perfect paradise for nature lovers. History buffs will also be fascinated by the city's rich history, revealed in its well-preserved Old Town, Kaleiçi. Here, the Roman-era harbour walls, Hellenistic gates and Ottoman-era houses pay homage to the city's storied past. DiscoverMORE
Walking tour of Antalya and visit to the Mosque (extra expense)
Discover the rich history and Mediterranean charm of Antalya as you explore its atmospheric Old Town, historic landmarks, and picturesque coastline. Travel from the harbour to Kaleiçi, Antalya's beautifully preserved Old Town, where narrow cobblestone streets, ancient city walls, and elegant Ottoman houses create a timeless setting. Begin with a visit to the Inan Kiraç Kaleiçi Museum, housed in two restored historic buildings, where ethnographic displays and art exhibitions provide a fascinating introduction to the region's cultural heritage. Continue to the historic Sehzade Korkut Mosque, an outstanding example of Seljuk and Ottoman architecture, before relaxing at Mermerli Restaurant with a refreshing glass of freshly squeezed orange juice while enjoying magnificent views over the Mediterranean Sea, before drive back.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours 30 minutes DiscoverMORE
Perge & Aspendos (extra expense)
Journey through the heart of ancient Pamphylia as you discover two of Türkiye's most impressive archaeological treasures: Perge and Aspendos. Travel from the harbour to the remarkable ancient city of Perge, one of the best-preserved archaeological sites in the region. Explore its magnificent ruins, including the impressive Roman Theatre, the grand Hellenistic Gate, expansive colonnaded streets, and the remains of temples, baths, and public buildings while learning about the city's importance in the ancient world. Continue to Aspendos, home to one of the finest surviving Roman theatres anywhere in the world. Built during the 2nd century AD, its extraordinary acoustics and remarkably preserved structure remain a testament to Roman engineering. During your visit, also discover the surrounding archaeological remains, including the basilica, agora, and sections of the ancient aqueduct, offering further insight into life in this flourishing Roman city.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 5 hours Docked: 12:00–17:30

Arrives On: 03 Nov 27

Day 6: Limassol (Cyprus)

Welcome to Cyprus and vibrant Limassol, blending Greek, Turkish, and British influences with lively waterfront promenades. Explore the medieval Limassol Castle (with its Crusader-era Museum), stroll the marina lined with tavernas, or relax on nearby golden beaches. The city's rich cultural tapestry shines through its markets, festivals, and centuries-old wine traditions. DiscoverMORE
Guided Tour of Limassol (extra expense)
Discover the rich history of Cyprus on a journey through ancient kingdoms, medieval fortresses, and the charming streets of Limassol. Begin with a photo stop at Kolossi Castle, a well-preserved 13th-century fortress built by the Knights of St. John, before continuing to the impressive archaeological site of Kourion. Perched on a dramatic clifftop overlooking the Mediterranean, this ancient city is renowned for its beautifully restored Greco-Roman Theatre, still used for performances today, and the House of Eustolios, famous for its remarkably preserved 5th-century mosaics and Roman bath complex. Return to Limassol to visit the Medieval Castle, best known as the place where Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre in 1191, crowning her Queen of England. The castle now houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum. Afterwards, enjoy free time to stroll through Limassol’s atmospheric old town before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours DiscoverMORE
Walking with the Greco-Romans at Kourion and Apollo Hylatis Sanctuary (extra expense)
Perched above the Mediterranean just outside Limassol, this excursion showcases Kourion, one of Cyprus’ most impressive archaeological sites, with panoramic sea views, a dramatic coastline, and a rich ancient past. The route also includes a photo stop at Kolossi Castle, a fine example of 13th-century Crusader military architecture, before continuing to the ruins of Kourion and the nearby Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates. At Kourion, explore the spectacular Greco-Roman theatre, famously restored and still used for performances, and visit the House of Eustolios, known for its 5th-century mosaic floors and bath complex. A short drive brings you to the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates, an important cult site associated with the protector god of Kourion.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours 30 minutes Docked: 12:30–17:30

Arrives On: 04 Nov 27

Day 7: Haifa (Israel)

Your next stop is Israel’s third-largest city, Haifa, a bustling port city that offers stunning seaside views and a vibrant urban life. A notable landmark is Mount Carmel, a coastal mountain range that creates an impressive city backdrop. Perched atop Mount Carmel, you'll find the Shrine of the Bab, a majestic golden-domed structure surrounded by the Baha'i Gardens, known as the Hanging Gardens of Haifa. Docked: 08:30–21:00

Arrives On: 05 Nov 27

Day 9: Suez (Egypt)

Today, you'll navigate through the historic Suez Canal before reaching Egypt and next port of call, Ain Sokhna. Constructed by Ferdinand de Lesseps and completed in 1869, this feat of engineering connects the Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea, carving through 162-kilometres (100-miles). Docked: 21:00 – overnight

Arrives On: 07 Nov 27

Day 9: Ain Sukhna (Egypt)

Arrives On: 07 Nov 27

Day 10: Ain Sukhna (Egypt)

Positioned on the western shores of the Red Sea's Gulf of Suez, Ain Sokhna presents an elegant seaside town. Located two hours from the historic Egyptian capital, Cairo, Ain Sokhna is a base for visiting the Great Pyramids of Giza, one of the stupendous 'Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.' EmeraldPLUS
The Great Pyramids of Giza with lunch at the Hyatt Regency
Travel across Egypt's desert landscape to Cairo, where you'll discover the country's most iconic ancient monuments. Your first stop is the Giza Plateau, home to the legendary Great Pyramids of Giza, the only surviving Wonder of the Ancient World. Enjoy panoramic views from the Western Plateau before spending time exploring the site. Subject to opening availability, you will have the opportunity to enter either the Pyramid of Khafre (Chephren) or the Pyramid of Menkaure (Mykerinos). Continue to the magnificent Great Sphinx, the enduring guardian of the Giza necropolis. Following your visit, enjoy lunch at the Hyatt Regency Cairo West (or similar). Later, stop at a Papyrus Institute, where you will learn about the ancient art of papyrus making and have time to browse for authentic local souvenirs before beginning the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 10 hours Docked: overnight – 19:30

Arrives On: 08 Nov 27

Day 11: Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt)

On the tip of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula lies the glamorous resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh. Here, the desert meets the sea, creating an environment rich in biodiversity and a melting pot of cultures. Spend your day diving into the colourful world beneath the Red Sea's shimmering surface, or take a step back in time, strolling through the vibrant souks and Bedouin heritage centers steeped in traditions. DiscoverMORE
Snorkelling Trip at Ras Mohamed National Park (extra expense)
Discover the natural beauty of Ras Mohamed

National Park, one of the Sinai Peninsula's most spectacular protected marine reserves. Located at the southern tip of Sharm El Sheikh, this pristine sanctuary is celebrated for its vibrant coral reefs, crystal-clear waters, and extraordinary marine life. After a scenic drive and brief photo stop, explore the park's unique mangrove forest before enjoying a guided snorkelling experience accompanied by professional instructors. Snorkelling equipment is provided, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in this underwater paradise. Guests may also choose to visit the famous Shark Observatory for breathtaking panoramic views across the Gulf of Aqaba.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 4 hours 30 minutes Docked: 13:00–18:00

Arrives On: 09 Nov 27

Day 12: 'Aqaba (Jordan)

A picturesque city located on the southern tip of Jordan overlooking the Red Sea, Aqaba is a history buff's delight for its rich history that dates back thousands of years. Archaeological sites such as the Aqaba Fort and Ayla ruins showcase its ancient past. Aqaba also serves as a gateway to the ancient city of Petra and Wadi Rum, known as the 'Valley of the Moon' and a UNESCO-protected desert wilderness. DiscoverMORE
Guided Tour of Petra with lunch included (extra expense)
Discover the breathtaking ancient city of Petra, Jordan's most iconic archaeological treasure and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Following a scenic two-hour drive through the desert, arrive at Petra and begin your exploration on foot. Enter the ancient city through the dramatic Siq, a narrow sandstone gorge that leads to the magnificent Treasury (Al Khazneh), one of the world's most recognisable monuments. Continue through this remarkable Nabataean city to admire the Roman Theatre, the impressive Royal Tombs, and other spectacular rock-cut monuments while learning about the history of this once-thriving trading centre. After your guided visit, enjoy a buffet lunch at a nearby restaurant before free time for shopping or further exploration. Rejoin your coach for the return journey to Aqaba.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 10 hours DiscoverMORE
Wadi Rum Desert Adventure with Lunch (extra expense)
Discover the breathtaking beauty of Wadi Rum, one of Jordan's most spectacular desert landscapes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site shaped by wind and time over millions of years. Journey through vast valleys of towering sandstone mountains and dramatic rock formations glowing in shades of red, gold, and orange. Upon arrival at the Visitor Centre, board a 4x4 jeep for an unforgettable exploration of this legendary desert, once home to ancient nomads and famously featured in films such as Lawrence of Arabia. Along the way, stop for incredible photo opportunities and experience the remarkable silence of the desert. Enjoy traditional Bedouin hospitality with tea and oriental sweets before savoring an authentic lunch at a desert camp surrounded by unforgettable scenery.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 6 hours Docked: 07:30 – overnight

Arrives On: 10 Nov 27

Day 13: 'Aqaba (Jordan)

Your luxurious cruise and memorable cruise draws to a conclusion on the southern tip of Aqaba, Jordan, a picturesque city with a rich history dating back thousands of years. Aqaba is a history buff’s dream for its esteemed archaeological sites such as the Aqaba Fort and is also the gateway to the ancient city of Petra and incredible Wadi Rum, the ‘Valley of the Moon’ and a UNESCO-protected desert wilderness.

From the yacht, you’ll be transferred to the airport for your return flight home, or to continue your holiday. Please book your flight to depart out of Aqaba after 11:00 AM. 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: 11 Nov 27

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

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