Cruise Details

Name:	Ultimate Pyramids & Ancient Empires: Rome to Istanbul Loyalty Departure
Reference:	SCENIC452M210428-1
Operator:	Scenic Ocean Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Ikon
Regions:	Mediterranean
Departs On:	21 Apr 28
Departs From:	Civitavecchia
Arrives On:	16 May 28
Arrives At:	Istanbul
Cruise Nights:	25
Total Vacation Days:	26

Itinerary

Day 1: Civitavecchia (Italy)

Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City, where ancient monuments and elaborate churches sit alongside busy cafes and designer boutiques. Its port, Civitavecchia, dates back to the second century and remains one of the busiest ports in the Mediterranean. Your next-generation Discovery Yacht will be waiting for you here. Upon arrival you'll be warmly welcomed by the Captain and crew. Meet your butler and settle into your spacious suite, then toast the beginning of your Signature Yacht Cruise as you sail away from this ancient harbour. Please book your flight to arrive into Rome prior to 02:00 PM.

Arrives On: 21 Apr 28

Day 2: Bonifacio, Corsica (France)

Stand out on your private balcony as you sail into Bonifacio this morning. The town appears perched on soaring limestone cliffs, offering breathtaking views over the Mediterranean

and a most memorable arrival. Step ashore to explore the atmospheric old town, with its winding lanes, historic buildings and relaxed Corsican charm. Whether you're enjoying the panoramic vistas from the ancient citadel or strolling the picturesque marina, Bonifacio promises a delightful blend of history, culture and coastal beauty.

Arrives On: 22 Apr 28

Day 3: Porto Cervo (Italy)

This morning you'll arrive in Porto Cervo, at the heart of the spectacular Costa Smeralda on the Italian island of Sardinia. Built as a millionaire's playground by Prince Aga Khan in the 1960s, Porto Cervo oozes sophistication with high-end boutiques, stylish restaurants, glamorous nightclubs, world-class golf courses and tennis clubs, and many sumptuous hotels. Your ultra-luxury yacht will look right at home amongst the stylish superyachts in the harbour and you can keep your eyes peeled for celebrities or royalty as you explore.

Arrives On: 23 Apr 28

Day 4: Sorrento (Italy)

A small resort town with a huge reputation, Sorrento is known as the land of lemons and orange groves. It's the birthplace of limoncello liqueur and a gateway to the spectacular Amalfi Coast. One of Italy's most romantic cities, it was first discovered by famed writers like Byron, Keats and Dickens in the 18th and 19th centuries. Perched on cliffs that plunge into the deep blue of the Mediterranean, it's a place of peaceful alleyways, pastel-coloured buildings, grand villas and luxury hotels.

Arrives On: 24 Apr 28

Day 5: Siracuse, Sicily (Italy)

Spend the day in the city of Syracuse on the Ionian coast of the island of Sicily, a tapestry of lush citrus orchards, golden stone buildings and sparkling blue seas. Explore the remnants of ancient civilisations in the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, where the Greek Theatre and Roman Amphitheatre stand as testaments to the city's rich past. Stroll through the charming streets of Ortigia, the historic heart of Syracuse, with its baroque architecture and bustling markets. Indulge in authentic Sicilian cuisine at waterfront trattorias, savouring local delicacies like arancini and cannoli.

Arrives On: 25 Apr 28

Day 6: Valletta (Malta)

A jewel of the Mediterranean, Valletta is Europe’s smallest capital. In 2018 it was honoured as the European Capital of Culture by the European Union, a celebration of the richness of its culture and the diversity of the modern city. Built by the Knights of the Order of St John in the 16th century, Valletta’s UNESCO World Heritage-listed walls encircle a beautifully preserved centre where Baroque architecture, chic galleries, and vibrant gastronomy come together in perfect harmony.

Today, explore the timeless charm of Valletta, from iconic landmarks to hidden treasures nestled in its historic streets. As your yacht departs this evening, admire the golden glow of the city’s ancient fortifications, an unforgettable farewell to a truly enchanting destination.

Arrives On: 26 Apr 28

Day 8: Khania (Greece)

Chania, the capital of Crete until the 1970s, boasts a rich history dating back more than 5,000 thousand years, with influences from civilisations such as Minoan, Venetian and Ottoman. Its charming maze-like Old Town is known for its picturesque harbour, narrow cobblestone streets, and well-preserved Venetian and Turkish architecture. Spend the day exploring historic landmarks like the 16th-century lighthouse, the dusky pink Mosque of Kioutsouk Hasan and the Byzantine walls.

Arrives On: 28 Apr 28

Day 10: Alexandria (Egypt)

The shores of a new continent beckon this morning as you sail into North Africa. The ancient city of Alexandria is a bustling, captivating Mediterranean gem just hours from Cairo. Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC, it became a beacon of knowledge with its Great Library and Lighthouse, and continues to enchant with its storied heritage.

For an extraordinary experience, journey inland to Cairo to marvel at the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx - timeless symbols of Egypt’s grandeur.

Arrives On: 30 Apr 28

Day 11: Alexandria (Egypt)

Delve deeper into Alexandria’s vibrant history and culture with a second day to explore this ancient city. Though many of its wonders have been subsumed by the sea over the centuries, you can still feel the power of its magnificent past. Choose from a selection of Scenic Freechoice options to uncover more of its wonders.

Arrives On: 01 May 28

Day 13: Rhodes (Greece)

Famed for its medieval architecture and rich history, the Greek island of Rhodes sits in the sparkling Aegean Sea close to the coast of Turkey. Its well-preserved medieval Old Town is a designated World Heritage site, resplendent with cobblestone streets, ancient walls and the impressive Kastello - Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights. Rhodes also boasts a fascinating hybrid of Greek, Ottoman and Italian influences, that you can experience through its diverse architecture, cuisine and culture.

Arrives On: 03 May 28

Day 14: Mykonos (Greece)

This morning, arrive at the island of Mykonos, Greece, a cosmopolitan Cycladic gem known for its iconic windmills and distinctive architecture. Founded as a port in the 11th century BC, it boasts pristine beaches, whitewashed buildings and vibrant bougainvillea climbing along winding streets. Discover picturesque churches, savour authentic Greek cuisine in lively waterfront cafés, and immerse yourself in the island’s rich history and spirited charm.

Arrives On: 04 May 28

Day 15: Piraeus (Greece)

This morning, your next-generation Discovery Yacht will arrive in Piraeus, the vibrant port city that opens the door to the rich history and culture of Athens. Prepare to explore iconic landmarks such as the famous Acropolis, a fortified hill dominated by the Parthenon, atmospheric ruins of a white marble temple built during the height of the ancient Greek Empire. Enjoy authentic Greek cuisine and experience the lively atmosphere of this bustling ancient city.

End your day with a touch of onboard elegance, as our talented performers deliver a memorable night of music and entertainment.

Arrives On: 05 May 28

Day 16: Hydra (Greece)

Renowned for its stunning natural beauty and historic charm, this picturesque island dazzles with its rugged terrain, clear turquoise waters, and lush greenery. The main centre, also named Hydra, is a charming and bustling port town of narrow cobblestone streets and traditional whitewashed buildings adorned with bougainvillea-covered balconies. There are no cars or motor vehicles allowed on the island, making it a peaceful and low-key getaway from the usual hustle and bustle of city life.

Arrives On: 06 May 28

Day 17: Milos (Greece)

Welcome to Milos, a Greek island known for its unique terrain and often referred to as the ‘Island of Colours’ thanks to its diverse soil shades. This extraordinary landscape, extending to unique rock formations of yellow, orange, red and dazzling white, 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 in Paris, France.

Arrives On: 07 May 28

Day 18: Heraklion (Iraklion), Crete (Greece)

Crete’s dynamic capital is best known for its Minoan legacy. This fascinating Bronze Age civilisation has left behind a wealth of archaeological wonders, including the famed Palace of Knossos, a sprawling Minoan masterpiece. Explore the lively old town’s bustling markets, admire the historic Venetian harbour, and savour authentic Cretan cuisine and fresh seafood in charming waterfront tavernas.

Arrives On: 08 May 28

Day 19: Santorini (Greece)

One of the most photogenic islands in the world and known for its world-famous sunsets, Santorini is simply breathtaking. Whitewashed buildings perch atop soaring cliffs, overlooking the caldera of a partially submerged ancient volcano that shaped the island with a thunderous explosion more than 3,600 years ago. The island is celebrated for the beauty of its Cycladic architecture, with cubic buildings, blue-domed churches and narrow laneways.

Arrives On: 09 May 28

Day 20: Naxos (Greece)

This morning, arrive in Naxos, the largest island in the Cyclades known for its beautiful beaches, deep-rooted history and enchanting villages. The picturesque old town is bigger and busier than other island capitals, a tangle of steep laneways with distinctive Venetian architecture and a vibrant atmosphere. The island’s most famous site is the ancient Temple of Apollo, a vast marble gate dating back to 560 BC. Naxos perfectly blends cultural heritage with natural beauty. Whether you’re exploring historic sites, tasting local delicacies, or relaxing by the turquoise waters, Naxos offers a quintessential Greek island experience.

Arrives On: 10 May 28

Day 21: Kusadasi (Turkey)

Wander lively bazaars and savour Turkish cuisine in the popular seaside resort town of Kusadasi. The port also serves as the gateway to the World Heritage-listed ancient city of Ephesus, renowned for its breathtaking Greco-Roman ruins dating back as far as the 10th century BC. Marvel at Ephesus' grand Library of Celsus and the majestic remains of the Temple of Artemis, one of the original Seven Wonders of the World, echoes of antiquity's splendour.

Arrives On: 11 May 28

Day 22: Dikili (Turkey)

Today, your yacht will arrive in Dikili, an authentic Turkish coastal town that is the modern port for the ancient city of Pergamon. Once an important cultural, scientific and political centre, the site is known for its impressive ruins, including the famous Acropolis, ancient theatre, and the remarkable Altar of Zeus, one of the most significant archaeological sites of the Hellenistic period. Afterward, enjoy the relaxed vibe of Dikili's waterfront, where you can stroll along the marina or savour local Turkish cuisine at a seaside café.

Arrives On: 12 May 28

Day 24: Port information not found

Set on the eastern coast of the quiet Dardanelles Strait, this popular destination comes steeped in history and is famed for its authentic Turkish culture and culinary traditions. Kepez also offers numerous outdoor activities, including hiking and cycling in the surrounding parks and verdant forests, as well as enticing beaches.

As the sun begins its descent, your ultra-luxury yacht will set sail through the legendary Dardanelles, a narrow passage linking the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara. It marks the border between Asia and Europe and is best known as the site of the Gallipoli campaign in WWI. Enjoy the beautiful views of rugged coastlines, ancient ruins and rolling hills bathed in golden evening light.

Arrives On: 14 May 28

Day 24: Dardanelles (Turkey)

Arrives On: 14 May 28

Day 25: Istanbul (Turkey)

Welcome to Istanbul, a mesmerising city that straddles two continents and bridges East and West. Founded by the Greeks as Byzantium in the 7th century BC, it became Constantinople under the Romans in 330 AD before falling to the Turks of the Ottoman Empire in the 1400s. Thanks to this rich and complex history, it boasts a breathtaking blend of architecture including iconic landmarks like the Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace. Wander the narrow lanes of the famed

Grand Bazaar, savour Turkish delicacies, sip fragrant mint tea, and embrace the dynamic blend of ancient traditions and modern energy that defines this legendary destination.

Arrives On: 15 May 28

Day 26: Istanbul (Turkey)

Your Signature Yacht Cruise concludes this morning in Istanbul, where you'll disembark and be transferred to the airport. After one final indulgent breakfast on board your next-generation Discovery Yacht, bid farewell to the crew and fellow guests, taking with you stories for life from an extraordinary journey through the Mediterranean and beyond. Please book your flight to depart out of Istanbul after 12:00 PM. #Spa treatments and services at additional cost. Daily activities may be subject to change; please consult your Daily Wonder for updates. +All drinks on board, including those stocked in your mini bar, are included, except for a very small number of rare, fine and vintage wines, Champagnes and spirits. Specialty restaurants require a reservation, enquire on board.
^Experiences on board our helicopters and submersible are at additional cost, subject to regulatory approval, availability, weight restrictions, medical approval and weather conditions. Helicopter not operational in France. Submersible not operational in Europe. The itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such Scenic cannot guarantee the voyage will operate unaltered from the itinerary stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.

Arrives On: 16 May 28

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