deluxe cruises

Cruise Details

Name:	Ancient Empires: Istanbul to Athens
Reference:	SCENIC901G160528-2
Operator:	Scenic Ocean Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Ikon
Regions:	Mediterranean
Departs On:	16 May 28
Departs From:	Istanbul
Arrives On:	27 May 28
Arrives At:	Piraeus
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Istanbul (Turkey)

Welcome to Istanbul, a city where East meets West in a vibrant blend of history, culture and stunning architecture.

This afternoon, step on board Scenic's new, next-generation Discovery Yacht, Scenic Ikon. Your journey into wonder begins with a warm greeting from the Captain and crew. Meet your butler and settle into your spacious suite with a glass of champagne. Then join your fellow guests on deck to toast the start of an unforgettable Mediterranean cruise. Please book your flight to arrive into Istanbul prior to 02:00 PM.

Arrives On: 16 May 28

Day 2: Istanbul (Turkey)

Istanbul is a mesmerising city that straddles two continents. 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 along picturesque waterways, sip fragrant mint tea, and embrace the dynamic blend of ancient traditions and modern energy that defines this legendary destination.

Arrives On: 17 May 28

Day 3: Dardanelles (Turkey)

Begin your day with a graceful sail through the legendary Dardanelles Strait, a narrow passage where history and natural beauty converge between Europe and Asia. This narrow passage links the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara and is best known as the site of the Gallipoli campaign in WWI. Take in the marvellous views from the deck as you cruise past rugged shorelines, ancient ruins and rolling hills. After lunch, you'll arrive in Kepez, ready to explore this charming seaside town.

Set on the eastern coast of the Dardanelles, this popular destination comes steeped in history, with ancient sites such as the Old Town and Hadrian's Gate, and famed for its culture and culinary traditions. Kepez also offers numerous outdoor pursuits, including hiking and cycling in the surrounding parks and verdant forests, or simply relaxing on the enticing beaches.

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 3: Port information not found

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 5: 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 well 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. Afterwards, 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: 20 May 28

Day 6: 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 ruins of the Temple of Artemis, one of the original Seven Wonders of the World, echoes of antiquity's splendour.

Arrives On: 21 May 28

Day 7: Naxos (Greece)

This morning, arrive in Naxos, the largest island in the Cyclades, known for its breathtaking 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: 22 May 28

Day 8: 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 alleyways.

Arrives On: 23 May 28

Day 9: 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: 24 May 28

Day 10: 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: 25 May 28

Day 11: 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: 26 May 28

Day 12: Piraeus (Greece)

Your Signature Yacht Cruise concludes this morning in Piraeus, where you'll disembark and be transferred to Athens airport. Considered the birthplace of Western civilisation, Athens is a vibrant tapestry of history and modernity. Standing sentinel above the city is 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.

After one final indulgent breakfast on board your ultra-luxury next-generation Discovery Yacht, bid farewell to the crew and fellow guests, with memories of a truly extraordinary Mediterranean voyage. Please book your flight to depart out of Athens after 01:00 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. 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: 27 May 28

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