



**LIMITED COLLECTION SERIES BY VARIETY
HIKING CRUISE IN GREECE**

**Hosted by Eugenia Alexiou (Archaeologist)
And George Vavoudakis & Iro Valavani (Hikers)**

8-DAY CRUISE, MARCH 31, 2023 & OCTOBER 27, 2023

ABOARD THE 24-CABIN GALILEO



Updated: September 29, 2022

AT A GLANCE



Our Hiking Collection Cruise offers you the best of two worlds. Hiking of course, but also insider insight into the history and stories from Ancient Greece. To guide the hikes we have outdoor specialists, George and Iro on board, and to explore the history of the Peloponnese we have our resident archaeologist, Evgenia.



CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS



Easy Hiking routes



Guided tours



Full board cruise



Visits to ancient sites

A GUIDED TOUR

George Vavoudakis and Iro Valavani will be your hiking guides, while Evgenia Alexiou, with a degree in archeology and art history from the School of Philosophy in Athens, experience excavating historical sites, and a license for guided tours in Greece, Evgenia is the perfect - incredibly knowledgeable - complement to our cruise.





DAY BY DAY ITINERARY ATHENS TO ATHENS, GREECE

DAY 1: MARINA ZEAS (ATHENS) - ANCIENT EPIDAUROS

Embarkation at 2-3pm. This afternoon and evening is all about getting to know your fellow passengers and crew over a welcome dinner and drinks. Be sure to say hello to your hiking and archaeology experts for the week: George, Iro, and Evgenia. Their expertise will make this week one to remember. Evening arrival to Ancient Epidaurus and dinner on board.

DAY 2: ANCIENT EPIDAUROS - NAFPLION

In the morning we'll visit Ancient Epidaurus, a healing centre and theatre - the latter marvelled for its exceptional acoustics from any of its 15,000 seats (optional excursion). After lunch on board we will start sailing to Nafplion. Nafplion is the first capital of modern Greece, and the main port of the Eastern Peloponnese. As such, it's well-connected and a great location to begin our optional tours from. Overnight at port.

DAY 3: NAFPLION - MYCENAE

After a short morning walking tour of Nafplion, we'll drive through the stunning Argolis countryside to another major centre of Greek civilization: Mycenae. This ancient city is home to the Lion's Gate, Cyclopean Walls, the Agamemnon Tomb, and more. We'll also take a gentle hike across the surrounding mountain paths which offer wow moments a-plenty. This is where our team will set up a barbecue lunch like no other. Cameras at the ready, you'll need them for this special moment. Afternoon sailing to Monemvasia - a mediaeval Byzantine town. We'll take a guided walk inside - delving into its winding paths and traditional churches, as well as around its castle.

DAY 3: NAFPLION - MYCENAE (cont.)

Nicknamed the Gibraltar of the East, explore the preserved Byzantine and Venetian architecture of the town that was the birthplace of one of the most important Greek poets, Giannis Ritsos.

DAY 4: GYTHION

Gythion was the ancient naval base of the Spartans and our hiking trail today explores an area said to be home to modern descendants of them - the Mani Peninsula. We'll hike one of the most beautiful areas of it, Cape Tainaron, beginning in Kokkinogia and ending at the Tenaro lighthouse. The latter is the southernmost point of continental Europe. Our route will take about an hour and, despite several rocky sections, is a relatively easy trek with many fascinating pathways. We'll highlight the areas of historical significance as we walk but expect to see a stunning Roman mosaic floor, a 19th century stone-built lighthouse, and a cave with the necromancy of Poseidon. Overnight at sea to Pylos.

DAY 5: PYLOS

Morning arrival into Pylos port - the site of many famous naval battles, the last of which led to Greek independence. Hiking options today include a round trip of Polilimnio, or through the Gorge of Stenosia. Whichever we take (final route to be decided on the day), a few things are certain: lush paths, cascading waterfalls, and lots of swim breaks at natural lakes. Overnight sailing to Katakolon.

DAY 6: KATAKOLON FOR OLYMPIA

Keen hikers (oh, that's all of you!), listen up. Today's optional excursion is to Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games and a special place for anyone interested in sports, health, and fitness. Here you'll visit the site of the Temple of Zeus - one of the seven wonders of the ancient world - but also get the chance to run in the very spot the first Olympic athletes did, over 2000 years ago. Today's hike is in the oak forest of Foloji. It's an easy walk that we'll take slowly, allowing us to take in the stunning flora and fauna of the area. In the afternoon we will depart to Itea. Overnight in Itea.

DAY 7: ITEA FOR DELPHI

Our hike today is rich in history and - along with our optional excursion to Delphi, revered for hosting the most important oracle in the classical world - will help you understand the historical significance of the area.

DAY 7: ITEA FOR DELPHI (cont.)

Indeed our hike traverses the same path ancient pilgrims did in their quest for the oracle. The views as we walk are as rewarding as the beach cookout we'll divulge in at the end. After the hike return to the ship and cross the Corinth Canal. Later in the evening we sail to Marina Zeas.

DAY 8: MARINA ZEAS (ATHENS)

We arrive back to Athens to enjoy one last breakfast together before swapping contact details with new friends, disembarking, and setting off on onward journeys.

www.varietycruises.com





YOUR SMALL CRUIESHIP – GALILEO

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Length: 47 m

Launched: 1992

Rebuilt: 2007|Renovated: 2020

Cabins: 24

Capacity: 49 passengers

Crew: 16-18

The M/S Galileo, built with the most stringent safety regulations, was launched in 1992 and was fully rebuilt in 2007. The latest renovation works of the M/S Galileo took place in summer 2020 and included significant upgrading of the indoor & outdoor public areas.

The elegant Galileo has operated cruises in the Mediterranean Sea. The Galileo is always sailing under motors. Sails are occasionally used when weather and route allow.



YOUR SMALL CRUIESHIP – GALILEO

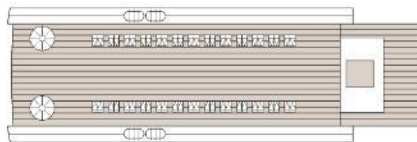


GALILEO
OUR SOPHISTICATED DREAMER



360°

SUN DECK



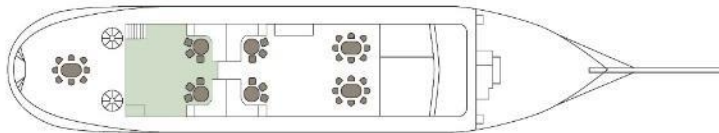
INFINITY

UPPER DECK



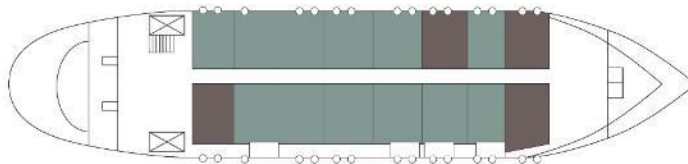
RIVIERA

MAIN DECK



OCEANS

LOWER DECK



CATEGORY A



CATEGORY B



CATEGORY C



DINING & BAR



LOUNGE