

# ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN TREASURES

1-8 SEPTEMBER 2023





I have done lots of research in determining a trip for 2023. I have compared Regent, Seabourn, Oceania, NCL, and Viking. What I wanted was the smallest ship with the best price. I am just not interested in a 3000-4000 passenger ship for a group. I also wanted as many inclusions as possible so that participants wouldn't receive a gigantic bill under their door on the last night. And of course, I wanted an interesting and different itinerary.

After several months, I have chosen "Ancient Mediterranean Treasures" with Viking Ocean Cruises. The Viking Sky accommodates 930 passengers. The ship is small enough to maneuver areas that mega-liners cannot. We spend ample time in each port enabling us to immerse ourselves in each destination. The cruise includes one shore excursion in each port, free wi-fi, and beer or wine with lunch and dinner. What you will not see are children under 18, casinos, inside staterooms. All staterooms have a veranda and there is a range of pricing. Staterooms start at 270 square feet which is larger than the staterooms we have had on the riverboats.

The cruise will visit Greece and Turkey! You will see Istanbul, Ephesus, Troy, Rhodes, Crete, Athens. This voyage gives us a chance to actually touch Asia briefly and many of you have not done that.

I am attaching several documents for your perusal.

We have an opportunity for a 2 for 1 deposit, so the deposit is \$250 per person. When you view the pricing, discount each price by \$125 per

person. You can also save an additional 3.3% if you pay by electronic check. You can choose the best-priced veranda cabin or you can splurge on a Penthouse Suite! The choice is yours.

I hope you will join us for this exciting trip.

## DAY 1 Istanbul, Turkey

Discover where East meets West as you arrive today in Istanbul. Take time to admire this city that straddles two continents across the Bosphorus Strait, with its Old Quarter skyline of domes and minarets and the twinkling lights of modern Istanbul across the water. Sample delicious cuisine for a taste of this fusion, combining fresh Mediterranean fare with spices from the Far East and Asia. Enjoy a wealth of religious sites, such as the spectacular “Blue Mosque” and the legendary Hagia Sophia. We are docked overnight here, so you will have a full day tomorrow to explore this historic port.

Courtyard of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey

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## DAY 2

### EXPLORE THE BOSPHORUS STRAIT AND THE RÜSTEM PASHA MOSQUE

See Istanbul from the waters that divide Europe and Asia, and visit a beautifully tiled, seldom-seen mosque. Join your local guide for a scenic drive along the ancient Walls of Constantinople. You will stop at the Rüstem Pasha Mosque, built in 1561. This is one of the city's hidden treasures, often ignored in favor of the "Blue Mosque" that towers alongside it. Inside, you will find exquisitely colored *İznik* tiles of blue, red, green and purple covering the entrance, the pulpit (*minbar*) and its columns. This is the most richly tiled mosque in Istanbul; its facade is similarly decorated. Nearby, on the bustling and exhilarating banks of the Bosphorus, you will embark a local sightseeing boat. As you ply this famous waterway, you can admire the mansions, mosques and palaces along its shores and the towering Bosphorus Bridge that links the continents.

## DAY 3 Troy (Çanakkale), Turkey

Located on the Dardanelles, a key waterway linking the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean Sea, Çanakkale was an object of desire dating back to the ancient Greeks. Today, explore Çanakkale or the nearby ruins of Troy, once a powerhouse of Asia Minor. The remarkably preserved structures of this UNESCO

World Heritage Site provide a glimpse of the region's former glory and offer hints of life here in the days of Alexander the Great and the Roman emperor Augustus.

Wooden horse sculpture in Troy (Çanakkale), Turkey



## DAY 4 Ephesus (Kuşadasi), Turkey

One of antiquity's best-preserved cities, Ephesus offers an unparalleled look into the lives of the ancients. Many of its ruins have endured from the time Ephesus was one of the largest metropolises of the ancient world. Excavations reach back to the 10th century BC, when this city hosted one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—the Temple of Artemis. Today, Ephesus is still full of wonders: the towering facade of the Library of Celsus, the massive amphitheater that once sat 25,000 spectators and residences adorned with frescoes.

The Temple of Hadrian at Ephesus, Turkey





## DAY 5 Rhodes, Greece

Discover the Old Town of Rhodes today. This “Island of Knights” prospered from the wealth brought here from the Holy Land by the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem. Follow the Street of the Knights to the most imposing building in Rhodes: the Palace of the Grand Masters, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tour this fascinating building, which was first a castle, then a royal palace. Our berth is near the city’s historic quarter, allowing you to linger at your leisure after your included walking tour. Or, opt to visit the Acropolis of Lindos; from its rocky perch, you will have magnificent views of the whitewashed village and harbor below.

Acropolis of Lindos on the island of Rhodes





## DAY 6 Crete (Heraklion), Greece

Home to the ancient Minoans and a former Venetian stronghold, Crete harbors a millennia-old history. Greek mythology tells us that Zeus was born here, and Theseus destroyed the Minotaur at Knossos. Later, Saint Titus of Crete preached in Heraklion's streets. Bask in Aegean breezes while exploring the café-lined Lions Square and the arched gallery of the celebrated Venetian Loggia.

Waves hit a seaside fortress in Heraklion



## DAY 7 Athens (Piraeus), Greece

Today, you will have the entire day to journey into ancient Athens via a panoramic drive, passing the promenade at Mikrolimano Marina as you enter the city's heart. There, you will see the Hellenic Parliament, Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Temple of Zeus and the iconic Acropolis. Explore the bustling Plaka District at the base of the Acropolis. Or, as an option, explore the interior of this UNESCO Site; climb 80 steps to the entrance for an unforgettable view of the Parthenon at its peak.

Plaka neighborhood in Athens, Greece





## DAY 8 Athens (Piraeus), Greece

Awake in Athens, where you will disembark your ship. From here, you can easily take a few extra days to further explore this historic city with our post-cruise extension.

Caryatids in Greek architecture

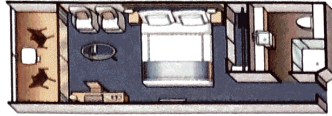


# STATEROOM LAYOUTS

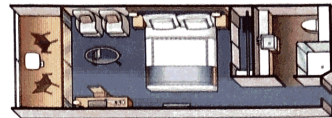


DELUXE VERANDA STATEROOM

(V) VERANDA: 270 SQ. FT.



(DV) DELUXE VERANDA: 270 SQ. FT.



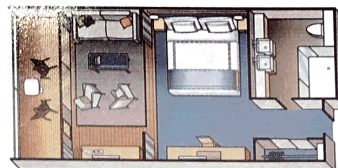
## HIGHEST-RATED CATEGORY

(PV) PENTHOUSE VERANDA:  
338 SQ. FT.



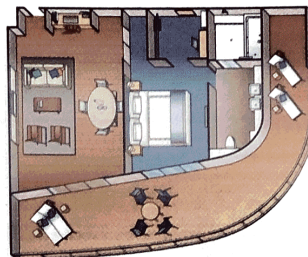
PENTHOUSE JR. SUITE

(PS) PENTHOUSE JUNIOR SUITE:  
405 SQ. FT.



EXPLORER SUITE

(ES) EXPLORER SUITE:  
757-1,163 SQ. FT.  
*A true two-room suite*



Stateroom configuration varies depending upon location on each deck. Diagram not relative in scale to other staterooms.

PRICING:

<u>PENTHOUSE VERANDA (PV2) 338 SQ. FT.</u>	<p>Actual Price<del>\$5,849</del> Discounted Price\$5,099 - \$125</p>
<u>PENTHOUSE VERANDA (PV3) 338 SQ. FT.</u>	<p>Actual Price<del>\$5,749</del> Discounted Price\$4,999 - \$125</p>
<u>DELUXE VERANDA (DV1) 270 SQ. FT.</u>	<p>Actual Price<del>\$4,999</del> Discounted Price\$4,499 - \$125</p>
<u>DELUXE VERANDA (DV2) 270 SQ. FT.</u>	<p>Actual Price<del>\$4,899</del> Discounted Price\$4,399 - \$125</p>
<u>DELUXE VERANDA (DV3) 270 SQ. FT.</u>	<p>Actual Price<del>\$4,799</del> Discounted Price\$4,299 - \$125</p>
<u>DELUXE VERANDA (DV4) 270 SQ. FT.</u>	<p>Actual Price<del>\$4,699</del> Discounted Price\$4,199 - \$125</p>
<u>DELUXE VERANDA</u>	<p>Actual Price<del>\$4,599</del></p>

<u>(DV5)</u> <u>270 SQ. FT.</u>	Discounted Price \$4,099 - \$125
<u>DELUXE</u> <u>VERANDA</u> <u>(DV6)</u> <u>270 SQ. FT.</u>	Actual Price \$4,499 Discounted Price \$3,999 - \$125
<u>VERANDA (V1)</u> <u>270 SQ. FT.</u>	\$3,899 - \$125
<u>VERANDA (V2)</u> <u>270 SQ. FT.</u>	\$3,799 - \$125