

ETERNAL GREECE, ITALY & CROATIA WITH **MSC SINFONIA CRUISE**

ATHENS - CORINTH - EPIDAUROS - NAFPLIO - OLYMPIA - PATRAS - AMFILOCHIA - ARTA - IGOUMENITSA - BRINDISI - TRANI - NAPLES - ROME - VATICAN CITY - FLORENCE - VENICE - SPLIT & DUBROVNIK - SANTORINI & MYKONOS - ANCONA



20 DAYS FROM

\$5,999

per person twin-share



Experience the Mediterranean heartland of the classical world of Greece, in Athens, and of the Roman Empire, and marvel at the medieval glories of noble Florence and Venice.

Board the MSC Sinfonia and cruise across the Adriatic Sea to Split, Croatia, before heading south to the Greek Islands of Santorini and Mykonos, enjoying the onboard facilities and a wide range of onshore activities in each destination. The cruise then heads back to the north via stunning Dubrovnik, and Italy's Ancona.

Image: Venice

Nexus Holidays

  Nexus Holidays Australia



HIGHLIGHTS - ON LAND

- Tour Athens, including a visit to the incomparable **Acropolis**
- Marvel at the ancient engineering that gave us the **Amphitheatre of Epidauros**
- See **Naples**, one of the oldest continuously inhabited urban areas in the world
- Visit **Nafplio**, and explore the mighty Venetian-built **Palamidi Castle**
- Explore **Olympia**, the cradle of the Olympic games in ancient times
- Take a ferry across the Ionian Sea, and **follow the Adriatic coastline of Southern Italy towards Rome**
- When in Rome, visit **St. Peter's Basilica**, the **Colosseum**, and **Vatican City**
- Enjoy stunning mountain landscapes as you cross the **Apennine Mountains en route to Venice**
- **Ride in a Vaporetto around the canals of Venice**, and visit the marvellous **Saint Mark's Basilica**
- Enjoy **two days free at leisure in Venice**; explore the architecture, art, and cuisine of this unique city

Day 1: Depart for Athens

Take an international flight from Australia to Paris. *Note: Some flights may depart one day later, and may involve up to two transits.*

Day 2: Arrive Athens (B)

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. In the evening, transfer to the **Plaka** area. This neighbourhood is full of small Greek taverns where you can enjoy a meal and drinks, and enjoy the rich culinary culture of this country.

Day 3: Athens City Tour (B)

In the morning, enjoy a **panoramic tour of Athens**, including the **Presidential Palace**, the **Panathenaic Stadium** where the first modern Olympic Games were held, the national library, the bustling squares of the city centre, and the new neighbourhoods that emerged after the 2004 Olympic Games. The tour will end at the **Acropolis** (entry not included), followed by free time at leisure to walk around and discover more of unforgettable Athens.

Day 4: Athens Corinth Epidauros Nafplio Olympia (B, L or D)

Depart for the Peloponnese region, stopping at the **Corinth Canal**. Excavation of the 6.4 KM canal began in 1882, but the canal had first been proposed as long ago as the 3rd century BC. Then, it's on to Epidauros, enjoying the view of gorgeous landscapes. We will visit the magnificent **Ancient Amphitheatre** which is surrounded by a unique landscape. We will later journey to Nafplio, a town by the Aegean Sea. We will visit its historic centre, its lovely marina and medieval **Palamidi Castle**. Nestled on the crest of a 216-metre high hill, the large fortress was built rapidly by the Venetians during 1711-1714, only to be captured by the Ottoman Turks in 1715. After a lunch break and free time to stroll around, we resume our journey to Olympia. *Note: To allow for any changes in today's schedule due to local conditions, either lunch or dinner will be provided.*

Day 5: Olympia Patras Amfilochia Arta Igoumenitsa (B)

We will visit **Olympia archaeological site**. You will have a chance to visit its museum and archaeological site (guided tour, ticket to the park not included) which the cradle of the Olympic games in ancient times. We will get back on route to Patras, Greece's third largest city. We will visit its active, lively centre. Afterwards, we will travel to Northern Greece, Amfilochia. Short stop in the quiet coastal town of Arta, a city in the Epirus region that has an intact **Roman bridge**. Arrival in Igoumenitsa. Supper time and boarding to cross the Ionian Sea. Spend the night on board (double cabins with private bathroom). We recommend bringing an overnight bag. Breakfast on the boat next morning is not included. *Note: The ferry used, which is the only one available, leaves at 1AM, but boarding is not usually possible until after midnight. There are sometimes delays due to late arrival. Occasionally, due to weather conditions, vessel inspection, schedule changes, strikes, fully booked ferryboats or other reasons, we are forced to adapt the schedules of the following day's itinerary according to the berthing time of the ship, or fly from Athens to Rome, in which case the visits to Amfilochia and Arta are cancelled and a Sunday visit to Naples and Pompeii will be substituted.*

Day 6: Brindisi Trani Naples Rome

Arrive in Brindisi early in the morning, and follow the Adriatic coastline of Southern Italy to Trani. This is a picturesque little town by the sea, with a fishing port, charming old cathedral, and lively streets. After lunch, we resume our trip to Naples, arriving in the afternoon for a **short sightseeing tour** of the historic centre before resuming our journey to Rome.

HIGHLIGHTS - AT SEA

- Cruise through the **Aegean, Ionian, and Adriatic Seas**, aboard the beautiful **MSC Sinfonia**
- Visit six ports in **Croatia, Greece, and Italy**
- Select from a **wide range of shore excursions and activities**

Images: 1. Acropolis, 2. Amphitheatre of Epidauros, 3. Venice Gondola, 4-7. MSC Sinfonia, 8. Split, 9. Panathenaic Stadium, 10. Nafplio

Day 7: Rome (B)

In the morning, we have a **scenic tour of Rome** – a great introduction to 'The Eternal city'. We enter the tiny state of the Vatican. **Vatican City** is the world centre of Catholicism. You will be able to visit **St. Peter's Basilica**. And we have also included admission to the **Roman Colosseum**, where gladiators battled wild animals and each other, for the entertainment of the people of Rome. This impressive construction dates back 2,000 years and will transport us in time so that we can learn about ancient society in the Roman Empire. In the evening we provide transport to the **Via Cavour** area, where you will find restaurants serving Italian, Indian, Chinese and other international food.

Day 8: Rome Florence (B)

Leave Rome, heading north to Florence on a route graced with beautiful landscapes. Upon arrival, head straight to **Piazzale Michelangelo**, an impressive site in the city. In the evening we provide a tour with a local expert, and walk through the historic centre, taking in places such as the **Ponte Vecchio**, the **Duomo**, and **Piazza della Signoria**. This city is truly an outdoor museum. Enjoy free time at leisure to explore and select a restaurant for dinner.

Day 9: Florence Venice (B)

Today we enjoy stunning mountain landscapes while crossing the **Apennine Mountains**. Arriving in Venice, board a Vaporetto to travel around the canals of the historic city centre. We will visit the marvellous **Saint Mark's Basilica** (entry fee included). Afterwards, visit the **Murano Glass Factory**, to see the technique with which this ancient commodity is made. Enjoy the rest of the day with free time at leisure, and eat dinner in the Mestre district at a restaurant of your choice.

Day 10: Venice (B)

Enjoy today free at leisure, exploring Venice.



2019 DEPARTURES

07 May	25 Jun**	13 Aug	08 Oct
21 May	09 Jul*	03 Sep	22 Oct
11 Jun*	23 Jul*	24 Sep*	

*Peak Season Surcharge: \$700
 **School Holiday Surcharge: \$1000
 Single supplement: \$2500

DEPARTURE OPTIONS

- SYD/MEL: Airfare included
- Other cities: fr \$300

INCLUSIONS

- + Full service carrier airfares & taxes
- + 9 nights hotel accomm.
- + 1 night aboard Igoumenitsa to Brindisi ferry
- + 7 nights cruising aboard MSC Sinfonia
- + Onboard meals
- + 9 breakfasts and 1 lunch/dinner
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to City tour of Athens, Olympia, Rome, Florence & Venice, and Coliseum, Saint Mark's Basilica, Murano Glass Factory in Venice (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English-speaking tour guide(s)

EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- Tipping
- Optional programs
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Emirates, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines or Cathay Pacific fr \$500

EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Break fee: fr \$250
- Hotel w/breakfast : contact us for a quotation

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

Athens	Novotel Athenes
Olympia	Olympic Village Hotel Resort Spa
Rome	Cristoforo Colombo
Florence	Conference Florencia
Venice	Albatros Hotel

UPGRADE YOUR STATEROOM

- Twin share: Ocean View fr \$900, Balcony fr \$1200
- Single supplement: Ocean View fr \$1150, Balcony fr \$1760

Prices are for the lead-in stateroom type, higher stateroom types with a category incur fare differences.



Day 11: Venice (B)

Enjoy today free at leisure, exploring Venice.

Day 12: Venice Board MSC Sinfonia (B, L, D)

After breakfast, transfer to the cruise terminal and board the MSC Sinfonia.

Day 13: At Sea Split (On Board Meals: B, L, D)

Cruise to **Split, Croatia**. Select from a variety of shore excursions via the cruise company website. Book directly with the cruise company at your own expense.

Day 14: At Sea (On Board Meals: B, L, D)

Spend the day relaxing at sea, en route to the Greek Islands.

Day 15: At Sea Santorini Mykonos (On Board Meals: B, L, D)

Cruise to the **Port of Call, Santorini**. Select from a range of shore excursions via the cruise company website. Book directly with the cruise company at your own expense. Depart late afternoon and cruise to **Mykonos**.

Day 16: Mykonos At Sea (On Board Meals: B, L, D)

Start the day in **Mykonos**. Select from a variety of shore excursions via the cruise company website. Book directly with the cruise company. Then, cruise from Greek waters towards Croatia's beautiful coast.

Day 17: At Sea Dubrovnik

(On Board Meals: B, L, D)

A variety of shore excursions are available in **Dubrovnik** via the cruise company website. Book directly with the cruise company at your own expense. On departure, cruise from Croatia to Italy.

Day 18: At Sea Ancona

(On Board Meals: B, L, D)

Arrive in the next Port of Call, **Ancona**. Select from a range of shore excursions via the cruise company website. Book directly with the cruise company at your own expense.

Day 19: At Sea Depart Venice (B)

On arrival in Venice, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Day 20: Arrive Home



All prices are per person twin-share in AUD unless otherwise stated and subject to revision without notice. Itineraries, airlines, hotels & ships are subject to availability and change. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar quality and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure smooth operations. Passengers must remain with the group at all times. Fees may apply for deviations from the set itinerary. Total length of trip includes time spent in flight and is subject to flight schedule. Final itineraries and flight info may not be available until 2 weeks before departure. Hotels will vary depending on group sizes and hence hotel information can only be ascertained within 5-7 days prior to departure. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver18OCT2018



Images:
11. Florence,
12. Vatican,
13. Naples

Split: Split is one of the oldest cities along the Adriatic Coast, generally considered to be around 1700 years-old, although some claim it dates back even further and is the descendant city of an ancient Greek colony.

A range of exciting optional programs are available for purchase through the website: www.msccruises.com.au. Please be sure to check the latest information including availability and the cost of optional programs prior to your arrival in Europe.



Mykonos: When sailing on an MSC cruise to the Mediterranean Sea, Mykonos is the quintessential image of the Cyclades. In summer most people head out to the beaches during the day, so early morning or late afternoon are the best times to wander the maze of narrow streets.

Ancona: A modern trade centre and the charm of the ancient city. Ancona hits you with a tangle of commercial buildings only two steps away from the Mediterranean Sea.



Santorini: You can't say you have been to Greece on holiday without seeing the natural wonder of Santorini. As our MSC cruise ship manoeuvres into the great caldera of Santorini (Thira), the land seems to rise up and clamp around it.

Dubrovnik: A walled, sea-battered city lying at the foot of a grizzled mountain, Dubrovnik is Croatia's most popular cruise destination, and it's not difficult to see why.

Venice



 YOUR TRAVEL AGENT