

PORTS

PORT SAID, EGYPT

Passageway into Cairo, a timeless city of monuments



Sitting on Egypt's Mediterranean coastline, Port Said, the ancient capital of Egypt, is where you'll join a guided excursion to Cairo and beyond. From here, there's everything at your fingertips – the mighty Suez Canal, Egypt's capital and the only remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the Great Giza Pyramid.

In Cairo, you'll come head on with frenzied commotion, but delve deeper and this global city will excite and seduce you with its history, both old and new. Step into Islamic Cairo, where there are over 400 historic monuments in the neighborhood alone, including the impressive Citadel – home to the extensive Egyptian National Military Museum and Mosque of Muhammad Ali, built from glittering Alabaster marble.

There's no shortage of sights and museums, and any route will take you past Tahrir (Liberty) Square, a focal point of activity, into the Egyptian Museum and out to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, which are just a stone's-throw away. Afterwards, rejoin your Cairo cruise in Port Said.

Language: Arabic

Currency: Egyptian Pound (EGP)

PORTS

ASHDOD, ISRAEL

Gateway to Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Bethlehem



Located on the sun-soaked Mediterranean coastline, Ashdod is the starting point for a pilgrimage all of your own. A melting pot of religious monuments and cultural offerings can all be found within a short trip, and there's something for every taste.

Travel north to Tel Aviv and be swept away by a city that never sleeps. Buzzing nightlife, cosmopolitan hangouts and a blossoming culinary scene make this an ideal destination for those chasing culture. Meanwhile, on the outskirts, life takes a more sedate pace in the ancient port city of Jaffa; crammed full of narrow passageways, ancient buildings and courtyards, each with a story to tell.

Alternatively, travel back in time in one of the oldest cities in the world – Jerusalem – where you'll brush against churches, mosques and synagogues and other sacred sites. The walled city is overflowing with pilgrims, and with landmarks such as the Mount of Olives, Wailing Wall, Temple Mount, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, you'll be testament to Jerusalem's diversity first hand. You can also cross the border into Bethlehem, biblical birthplace of Jesus, to explore the fascinating Old City and search out its famed street art.

Language: Hebrew, Arabic

Currency: Israeli Sheqel (ILS)

PORTS

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS

Expect more than sun, sea and sand in Limassol



Your first glimpse of Limassol from the cruise ship is its shiny, modern marina, filled with row upon row of yachts and fishing boats. You'll be greeted by busy bars and restaurants that make optimum sunset-watching settings, but walk further along the never-ending seafront promenade, Molos, and Limassol's past will soon reveal itself.

The jewel in the crown of Old Town Limassol is the medieval castle from where everything begins and ends. The castle houses the Medieval Museum, and legend has it that it was the site of the royal wedding between Richard the Lionheart and Berengaria of Navarre. The cobbled streets also lead you to the old fishing harbor and market where locals congregate.

Travel out of the city limits, and you're spoilt for choice. The forested Troodos Mountains are just on its doorstep as well as hidden natural gems such as the Chantara Waterfalls. Polemidia National Park features nature trails and picturesque picnic points to take it all in. And then the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates perfectly combines ancient monuments and a seafront setting worthy of any postcard from your Cyprus cruise.

Language: Greek

Currency: Euro (EUR)

PORTS

RHODES, GREECE

Beaches, castles and butterflies – Rhodes is an island like no other.



Approaching Rhodes island by sea is an experience all of its own. The clifftop Acropolis at Lindos rises slowly from the still blue waters, evoking the ancient Colossus which once adorned the harbor, and modern hillside villages lay in the shadow of the imposing medieval fortification.

Stepping off the cruise ship, an island of contrasts awaits; a tranquil paradise, rich with nature and layered with history. Wandering the Old Town, you'll feel the presence of the Crusaders who once walked the same cobbled streets. The ruins left behind by Byzantines, Romans and ancient Greeks will whisk you even further back in time.

Alternatively, find peace and seclusion on the miles and miles of sandy beaches, or feel your cares drift away in the mineral-rich waters at one of the island's many natural spas. Then head into the forested inland, where rivers and waterfalls flow, butterflies surround you in the Valley of the Butterflies, and native deer still roam free on the wild hills and mountains.

Language: Greek

Currency: Euro (EUR)

PORTS

KUSADASI, TURKEY

Kusadasi is a city full of immaculate beaches, lively nights and shopping heaven – a fun seaside city.



Arriving in the port of Kusadasi, Turkey you'll instantly feel at home. A huge covered bazaar stretches out in front of you and the buzz from trendy seaside bars and restaurants floats through the air. Follow your instincts and lose track of time ambling from café to café and exploring its myriad of shops and historic sites.

Find time for yourself on one of the many white sandy beaches in and around Kusadasi such as Diamond Beach, Paradise Beach or Love Beach, where you can try your hand at windsurfing or even jet skiing. And there's no shortage of good times in Kusadasi: weather that's always on your side, a chilled, laid-back atmosphere and ancient sites on its doorstep.

In the city, itself, stroll around the Fortress of Kusadasi on Pigeon Island and discover city walls that protect historic gems such as the Fortress Mosque. But head out into the sun-soaked hills above the Aegean coast, and you'll come across some of the most important archaeological sites in Europe.

Language: Turkish

Currency: Turkish lira (TRY)

PORTS

PIRAEUS, GREECE

Gateway to the Greek Islands – Athens' ancient port



The largest port in the Mediterranean and primary departure point for Greek Island cruises from Athens, Piraeus is a hubbub of activity that will bring your senses to life. With a sun-soaked promenade, al-fresco cafes and bars and countless shops, it's a place where you can easily relax with a glass of wine and watch the world go by.

A port since antiquity, its seemingly infinite rows of quays are filled with luxury yachts and the comings and goings of people visiting the city of Athens or heading out to the blissful Greek islands. Further along the bay, you'll find the charming port of Pausalimani where the laid-back atmosphere provides an escape with boutiques and secluded eateries.

Piraeus is your gateway into one of the world's oldest cities. Venture into Athens alone or join a guided excursion from the cruise ship to discover the city's ancient monuments, iconic landmarks and an open-air museum that's like nothing you've ever seen before.

Language: Greek

Currency: Euro (EUR)