

Ancient civilisations, from Italy to Greece

From **01/10/2026**
to **11/10/2026**

Ship: **Le Champlain**

From **Civitavecchia (Rome)**
to **Athens**



As the cradle of ancient Greek, Roman and Phoenician civilisations, a link between peoples and a cultural crossroads, the Mediterranean embodies the fascinating encounter between East and West, where cultures have blended and intermingled for millennia. *Le Champlain* invites you on a **11-day** journey between the Eternal City and the City of the Gods to discover the riches of the Mediterranean, its **ancient remains, legendary tales and magnificent coastline**, in late autumn, far from the crowds, when the exceptional archaeological sites regain some of their millennial calm.

Throughout your journey, you will benefit from an excursion included per person per port of call, to choose from a selection offered by PONANT. During this cruise, visit the **National Museum of Magna Graecia** in Reggio Calabria; explore the **archaeological site of Delphi** from Itea; or discover the ruins of Mycenae and Epidaurus from Nafplio. The diversity of experiences on offer promises you intense and varied moments (to discover the full range of excursions, go to the itinerary tab).

From **Civitavecchia**, you will head for the Amalfi Coast, the jewel of Southern Italy, where you will visit **Salerno**, a superb little town renowned for its *Duomo*.

In the southernmost part of “the Boot”, you sail off the coast of **Calabria** with a stopover in **Reggio Calabria**. You can stroll along the *lungomare* against the imposing backdrop of Mount **Etna**. In **Catania**, discover the many baroque monuments that helped the city earn its status as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

In **Puglia, Gallipoli**, meaning “beautiful town” in Greek, reveals its Hellenic origins and offers up its singular atmosphere, where life is good.

Le Champlain will then cross the Ionian Sea to **Parga**, its first port of call in Greece. Fall under the spell of this charming fishing port, dominated by a fortress built by the Normans in the 14th century.

You will then sail to **the Peloponnese, to discover Katakolon**. From the port, you can get to **Olympia**, a UNESCO World Heritage site whose ruins bear witness to past grandeur.

You arrive in the small port of **Itea** from where it is possible to visit the mythical **site of Delphi** or even the **Hosios Loukas monastery**, both of which are **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

After your mythical and remarkable crossing of the Corinth Canal, you will arrive in **Nafplio**. It is an opportunity to discover the mythical sites of **Epidauros** and **Mycenae**, respectively a ancient theatre and a pre-Hellenic city, both of which are **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. Then you stop off at **Hydra**, a small island of old-worldly charm where motorised traffic is banned.

Athens, the mythical city dominated by the Acropolis and its monuments, which form the most extraordinary architectural and artistic ensemble bequeathed to the world by Ancient Greece, marks the end of this exceptional odyssey.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

CIVITAVECCHIA (ROME)

Embarkation 01/10/2026 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 01/10/2026 at 18:00

Built on an Etruscan site, between the Tyrrhenian sea and the Monti della Tolfa, Civitavecchia respires the **dolce vita**. This very modern and easy going town combines art and history with panache. You can also visit superb historical sites like **Fort Michelangelo** or the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi. Just 80 kilometres from Rome, the town is a beautiful first step to the Italian capital.

SALERNO

Arrival 02/10/2026 midday

Departure 02/10/2026 late afternoon

Generating a veritable explosion of intense emotions, the province of **Salerno** fascinates and enchants travellers. Its fascinating history will lead you to the extraordinary archaeological site of Pompeii, whose sprawling ruins provide a grandiose and moving vision of what a Roman city looked like in Imperial times. The city which was frozen in time under the ashes from the eruption of Mont Vesuvius offers you its peerless historical and cultural wealth, as well as the unique beauty of its location, which has earned it classification as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

REGGIO DI CALABRIA

Arrival 03/10/2026 early morning

Departure 03/10/2026 mid afternoon

At the southern tip of the Italian boot, **Reggio di Calabria** guards the eastern shore of the Strait of Messina. From the *lungomare*, the sea front promenade, there are magnificent views over Sicily, a little over 3 km away, and Etna. Rebuilt after the 1908 earthquake, Reggio is set out in a grid pattern and has Art Nouveau and Belle Époque architecture that add to its charm. And the fragrance of bergamot, the citrus fruit that dominates the region's confectionery and perfumery.

CATANIA, SICILY

Arrival 04/10/2026

Departure 04/10/2026 late afternoon

Sicily's second city **Catania** is dominated by the majestic silhouette of **Mount Etna**. Nourishing and devastating at the same time, this giant crowned with smoke rings brought about the destruction of the city at the end of the 17th

century. Catania was then rebuilt in the late Baroque style, and the many monuments of this epoch have earned its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The baroque churches of the harmonious **Via dei Crociferi** perfectly illustrate the riches of this architectural heritage. During your stop, be sure to visit **Saint Agatha Cathedral** with its apses made of lava stones, and its square decorated with a fountain of the Elephant, the animal which allegedly has the power to calm the fury of Mount Etna ...

GALLIPOLI

Arrival 05/10/2026 midday

Departure 05/10/2026 early evening

Gallipoli, which comes from the Greek *kalle polis*, meaning beautiful town, is very aptly named. Located on the heel of the boot, the town known as “the pearl of Puglia” has many attractions. The whiteness of its façades recalls its Greek origins while its architecture echoes its multiple influences. Its old town, perched on a limestone island, concentrates the cultural heritage of this city with a thousand faces, alternately a Roman colony, then Byzantine, the property of the Popes, Norman, under the rule of Taranto... By itself, it tells the story of the different civilisations of the Mediterranean Sea.

PARGA

Arrival 06/10/2026 early morning

Departure 06/10/2026 evening

An ancient port in the Epirus region, picturesque Parga is located on the western coast of the **Greek mainland**. **Ancient classical ruins** and the **Venetian citadel** bear witness to the town's colourful history and the diverse influences that shaped it. Take the time to discover this ancient fishing village built like an amphitheatre, by strolling along the picturesque maze of pedestrian streets lined with small, typical Greek houses decorated with flowers and many lively taverns.

KATAKOLON

Arrival 07/10/2026 late morning

Departure 07/10/2026 early evening

This picturesque village stretches along the Ionian sea in the west of the Peloponnese. Its main harbour offers a vast panorama of the coastline's wooded hillsides. Dazzling white, the **church of Saint-Nicolas** houses a selection of sumptuous icons. You can also pay a visit the **archaeological site of Olympus** on the slopes of Mount Kronos.

ITEA

Arrival 08/10/2026 early morning

Departure 08/10/2026 midday

Tucked away in the Gulf of Corinth, this **little port** is situated in continental Greece, north-west of Athens. Take an easy stroll along the old cobblestone quays, while gazing at the summits encircling the **Bay of Itea**. We wouldn't be

surprised if you are tempted by a visit to the **Delphi Sanctuary**. The sanctuary is located on a plateau on the slope of Mount Parnassus, just ten kilometres from Itea. A listed UNESCO World Heritage site, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience whose ancient ruins are surrounded by steep mountains.

CROSSING THE CORINTH CANAL

Arrival 08/10/2026 late afternoon

Departure 08/10/2026 late afternoon

The Corinth Canal cuts through the Isthmus of Corinth, turning the Peloponnese into an island as it separates the region from the Greek mainland. Inaugurated in 1893, the canal is a little over six kilometres long and enables merchant vessels and passenger to avoid a long 400-km detour around the peninsula. The two sides of the canal reach a height of approximately fifty metres. From the exterior decks, don't miss this unique opportunity to watch the ship as it navigates along the narrow strip of water encased between tall, ochre cliffs. What an experience!

NAFLION

Arrival 09/10/2026 early morning

Departure 09/10/2026 late evening

The engaging town of Nafplion is staggered up green hillsides of the Argolic Gulf, to the east of the Peloponnese. Do not be surprised by its extremely varied cultural heritage. Some of the must-see visits are the ancient agora on the plateau of Akronafplia, Italianate arcades in **Syntagma square** as well as the baroque fortress of **Palamidi** on a hillside of the same name. At the top of the hill, views of the gulf and the surrounding mountains are simply awesome. If you want to chill out by the water's edge, walk along the **Arvanitia promenade** to a beautiful creek in the shade of cedars and cypresses.

HYDRA

Arrival 10/10/2026 early morning

Departure 10/10/2026 late afternoon

This unusual gem belonging to the Saronic islands is located to the east of the Peloponnese. There are no cars here. Named after the island, the harbour town is layered up the slopes of a mountainous bay. You may be surprised to see beautiful **stone mansions**. These are traditional here, as are the multi-coloured *caïques* along the quays. Further along the shore, you will discover the Historical Archives Museum. Collections from Athens National History Museum are exhibited in the elegant **villa Koundouriotis**.

ATHENS

Arrival 11/10/2026

Disembarkation 11/10/2026 at 08:00

The Greek capital city is located on the edge of the Saronic gulf, in the east of the country. It bears a plural name in reference to the first villages that surround the **Acropolis**. You will be enchanted by the rocky plateau presided by its

monuments listed as UNESCO World Heritage. In the city below, you can visit some of the liveliest districts in Athens: **Plaka**, with its maze of colourful streets, and where, in the evenings the drifting aroma of moussaka and garlic prawns will tickle your taste buds. The **National Archaeological museum** and the Cycladic Art Museum are also some of the city's key attractions and allow visitors to discover Athens' cultural past.