



# TIMELESS

## TOURS & TRAVEL

FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

### CRUISING INFORMATION – TURKEY & GREECE

#### a. Cruising

In larger ships as in the South Pacific and throughout the world. Such cruise ships operate throughout the Mediterranean and Aegean. Common programs are 4 and 7 day Athens-Athens which visit several Greek islands and some Turkish destinations such as Istanbul and Kusadasi. Longer trips to the area operate from Italian, French and Spanish ports. It's important to note that there are virtually no large ship one way cruises originating in Athens or elsewhere in Greece which disembark in Istanbul. There are one way cruises of this type from Istanbul to Athens and there are longer distance cruises on international liners from other countries which disembark in Istanbul. There are also cruise ships operating on the Black Sea.

#### b. Gulets and similar

Gulets are modern motor-sailers based on traditional Turkish designs which operate half, one or two week cruises along the Turkish coast and to the Greek islands. Gulets have between 4 and 9 cabins and are only available with their crew. Gulets can be chartered on a private basis where the whole boat is paid for or they can be joined by individuals on what are called cabin charters. On cabin charters the passengers just pay for their cabin on a boat with others who are also paying for their own cabin. Cabin charters are available on fixed routes and days of the week (mostly weekends) for 4, 7 or 14 days. Cabin charters include fuel, crew, all meals, linen and port taxes. There are some similar boats and programs operating in Greek waters and on the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia.

#### c. Yachts

International style yachts from all major manufacturers are available for charter either without (bareboat) or with hired crew. Naturally bareboat hire requires evidence of sailing qualifications at least from the skipper. Charters are available from Turkish coastal towns (eg Bodrum, Marmaris, Gocek, Kusadasi, Antalya) and from Athens and a number of Greek islands including Samos and Rhodes. Charters are normally for one week (or multiples) Saturday to Saturday. Yacht charters include dinghy and outboard, linen, towels, cooking gas, final cleaning and tax. Other extras including fuel are paid in addition.

There are also many privately owned yachts of all shapes and sizes available for charter with their crew (usually the owners). These crewed yachts may also include breakfast and lunch prepared by the crew.

#### d. Ferries

Ferries (including jetcats, hydrofoils and traditional ferries) operate on a regular basis in summer (April to November) throughout the Greek islands and between Turkish coastal towns and the nearest Greek islands (Marmaris-Rhodes; Bodrum-Kos; Samos-Kusadasi; Cesme-Chios; Ayvalik-Lesbos). These Turkey-Greece services normally operate twice a day in the morning and late afternoon. There are also boats between Kas and Kastellorizo though they are extra-legal as Kastellorizo is not an official Greek entry port. Turkey has few islands (thanks to post World War I treaties) but there are ferries to Gokceada and Bozcaada from the mainland popular with Turks.

In Istanbul there are commuter ferries along and across the Bosphorus and to the Princes' Islands in the Sea of Marmara. Jet cats or similar operate from Istanbul for passengers and vehicles across the Sea of Marmara to towns such as Yalova and Bandirma. Turkish coastal services have recently been re-introduced after languishing for many years also using jet cats which carry vehicles, have overnight cabin options, restaurant café and bar services. So far they operate Istanbul-Bodrum and Cesme but there is some talk of Canakkale and Izmir being added in the future.

In Greece, the popular 'island hopping' passes sold by most Greek wholesalers are based on regular ferry services. Longer distance ferries (eg Athens-Rhodes) offer cabins for overnight services. Ferries also operate from Istanbul to Black Sea ports of former Eastern bloc countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Georgia.

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