



## LE JACQUES CARTIER

### Excursions

Cruise Aqaba - Athens

From April 16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2023





## Ain Sukhna (Egypt)

### EGAIS01 – Memphis & Sakkara

**Duration : 11 h 30 – Full Day**

**Price : 150 €**

From the pier, board your coach for the approximately 2.5-hour drive to the Dahshur area south of Sakkara, where stand the pyramids of Dahshur: the Red and the Bent pyramids.

The constructor of these pyramids is thought to have been Snefru (2575-2551 BC), the first ruler of the Fourth Dynasty. He is also thought to have built the pyramid at Maidoun. The Red Pyramid is thought to be older, and the Bent Pyramid was built out of limestone quarried locally.

Following the visit of Dahshur you will head to **Memphis**, the first capital of Ancient Egypt. Founded in 3100 BC by Menes of Tanis, Memphis was once considered the largest city in the world, with a population exceeding 30,000. At its zenith, the city had many temples, palaces and gardens.

Upon arrival, you will see the Ramses colossus, an enormous limestone statue. Over 10 metres (33 feet) long, this giant lying statue depicts Ramses II, the pharaoh of Egypt from 1290 to 1224 BC. The Alabaster Sphinx and the ruins of the Temple of Ptah can also be viewed during your visit.

From Memphis, you will proceed to the restaurant for lunch.

Next, you will be taken to **Sakkara**, the necropolis of ancient Memphis, where you will visit the famous Step Pyramid of Zoser. Built 5,000 years ago by the engineer Imhotep, the pyramid and its surrounding complex were designed to be as grand as they were unique and revolutionary. At the "cemetery city" of Sakkara, visit the inside of one of the mastabas or funerary chambers.

Finally, you will make a quick visit to a **carpet school** before getting back on the road for another 2.5 hours or so, to join your ship.

- This excursion involves approximately 1.2 miles (2 km) of walking on sandy and flat paths with some steps. We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and sun protection. Lunch is included in the tour. **Pre-booking is required to participate in this tour.**



## Ain Sukhna (Egypt)

### EGAIS10 – Pyramids, Museum & Lunch cruise

**Duration : 11 h 30 – Full Day**

**Price : 210 €**

This full-day excursion includes a visit to the most important and significant sites in Egypt: **the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, the Great Pyramids of Giza, and the Sphinx.**

From the pier at Ain Sukhna, board your coach for the two-and-a-half hour drive along the desert roads to Cairo. Along the way, your guide will recount interesting facts about the sites you will be visiting.

Upon arrival, you will visit **the Great Pyramids of Egypt**, located nine miles west of Cairo.

The Great Pyramids are considered Egypt's most famous attractions and the only remaining monuments of the Ancient Wonders. The three main Pyramids at Giza were built as tombs by Cheops, his son Chephren, and Chephren's son, Mykerinus, to preserve each of the pharaohs' mummified bodies for eternity. For centuries, these unique structures have intrigued the world and have survived the rise and fall of great dynasties.

South-east of the Great Pyramids stands **the Sphinx**, carved out of solid rock around 2650 BCE. Steeped in legend and superstition, it is thought that the Sphinx was a monument either to the sun god Ra or to the pharaoh Chephren. It has the head of a man and the body of a lion. The monument faces east, probably to greet the rising sun and to herald the return of life each day.

Your Pyramid visit include a 20-minute Camel ride.

Next, you will visit **the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities**, located in the heart of Cairo and established by the Egyptian government in 1835.

Once you enter the museum, you will wander back through time, starting in the archaic predynastic period and moving through the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms. The museum is home the world's most important collection of Egyptian antiquities, dating from 2700 BCE to the 6th century, with thousands of statues, jewels and artefacts from nearly every period in ancient Egyptian history.

The museum consists of two floors. The museum's ground floor recounts the history of ancient Egypt, while the second floor consist of thousands of smaller items spanning the entirety of Egyptian history.

One of the most important rooms on the second floor of the Egyptian Museum is the hall containing **the treasures of Tutankhamun**, the boy-king who ruled Egypt for nine years, and his god-like golden mask.

Embark on a cruise boat, to enjoy lunch while sailing on the Nile for around an hour before rejoining your coach for a two-and-a-half hour drive to Ain Sukhna.

- This excursion involves approximately one mile (1.5 km) of walking on flat paths with some steps. We recommend you wear comfortable shoes and to protect yourself from the sun. Lunch is included in the tour. Cameras are permitted at the pyramids and inside the museum. Photos are not allowed inside the Tutankhamun Hall. **Pre-booking is required to participate in this tour.**

## Ain Sukhna (Egypt)

### EGAIS09 – Pyramids, Museum & Lunch cruise

**Duration : 11 h 30 – Full Day**

**Price : 190 €**

This full-day excursion includes a visit to the most important and significant sites in Egypt: **the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, the Great Pyramids of Giza, and the Sphinx.**

From the pier at Ain Sukhna, board your coach for the two-and-a-half hour drive along the desert roads to Cairo. Along the way, your guide will recount interesting facts about the sites you will be visiting.

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One of the most important rooms on the second floor of the Egyptian Museum is the hall containing **the treasures of Tutankhamun**, the boy-king who ruled Egypt for nine years, and his god-like golden mask.

Embark on a cruise boat, to enjoy lunch while sailing on the Nile for around an hour before rejoining your coach for a two-and-a-half hour drive to Ain Sukhna.

- This excursion involves approximately one mile (1.5 km) of walking on flat paths with some steps. We recommend you wear comfortable shoes and to protect yourself from the sun. Lunch is included in the tour. Cameras are permitted at the pyramids and inside the museum. Photos are not allowed inside the Tutankhamun Hall. **Pre-booking is required to participate in this tour.**

## Ashdod (Israel)

### **ILSH04 – Jerusalem**

**Duration : 10 h – Full Day**

**Price : 150 €**

From the pier, board your coach and start your panoramic journey past the Israeli parliament building known as the Knesset, the Museum of Israel and the Shrine of the Book.

Next, you will take a one-and-a-quarter hour trip to reach **the Mount of Olives**. Named after its olive tree-planted slopes, this is thought to be the place where the dead will be resurrected on Judgement Day.

You will then head for the Garden of Gethsemane. Located at the foot of the Mount of Olives, next to the Garden of Gethsemane, the church was built between 1919 and 1924 using funds from 12 countries. Structural highlights include a domed roof, thick pillars, and intricate floor mosaics, all of which give the building a Byzantine flair.

**The Garden of Gethsemane**, famous as the place where Jesus prayed with his disciples the night before he was crucified, features a natural grotto where it is believed the disciples slept while Jesus prayed, and where Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested. Remaining largely unchanged, the grotto serves as a small chapel, with a depiction of Jesus praying among the apostles over the main altar, and paintings over the side altars illustrating the Assumption of the Virgin and the Kiss of Judas. Of course, the garden is also known for its ancient olive trees. In fact, the word “Gethsemane” means “oil press” in Greek. While none of the present-day trees were standing during Christ’s lifetime, they are nonetheless ancient.

As part of your visit to the gardens, you will discover the Church of All Nations.

Then, it’s back onboard the coach for a short drive to **the Old Town of Jerusalem**. Since biblical times, Jerusalem has been a place of pilgrimage and worship for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Its Old Town has important religious sites in and around Temple Mount.

Stroll past the bazaar and along the Via Dolorosa, believed to be the route Jesus followed as he carried the cross to Calvary. You will visit the Holy Sepulchre (a Christian pilgrimage site) at Golgotha and view the golden Dome of the Rock (an Islamic sanctuary from the 7th century, decorated with a golden dome), as you stroll through the Christian, Muslim and Jewish quarters to the Western Wall, formerly known as the Wailing Wall. Take a moment to contemplate the wall, considered to be the holiest site in the Jewish world, and exit the city through the Dung Gate, returning by foot to your coach, which will take you to a nearby hotel for lunch.



After lunch, you will travel to **Mount Zion**, where you will get the chance to visit the Abbey of the Dormition, as well as the “room of the Last Supper”. The location is identified in Christian tradition as the place where the Virgin Mary died—or “fell asleep”, as the name suggests. Finally, you will return to the ship after a two-hour-and-fifteen-minute drive.

- This tour involves approximately 2.2 miles (3.5 km) of walking on uneven and cobblestone paths with some steps. We recommend you wear comfortable walking shoes and to protect yourself from the sun. Appropriate clothing is recommended to enter religious sites: shoulders and knees must be covered and shorts are forbidden. Lunch with drinks is included on the tour. **Pre-booking is required to participate in this tour.**



## Ashdod (Israel)

### ILSH05 – Tel-Aviv & Jaffa

**Duration : 5 h 30**

**Price : 80 €**

From the pier, board your coach for a tour of two of Israel's main sites: Tel Aviv, which means "the hill of spring" and Jaffa, one of the oldest cities in the world.

After an hour's drive, you will reach **Tel Aviv**. Tel Aviv was originally a desert of white dunes on the Mediterranean coast and a suburb of Jaffa, one of the country's oldest ports. Today Tel Aviv is a beach-side metropolis of modern tower blocks and skyscrapers. Enjoy a panoramic tour through the town, passing the Art Museum and the Habima National Theatre, and the memorial to Yitzhak Rabin, erected on the site of his assassination, before driving down Rothschild Boulevard - the centerpiece of the New Town - to admire the Bauhaus (a 20th century art movement) buildings that ushered Tel Aviv into the UNESCO heritage hall of fame. Next, you'll head to Nahalat Binyamin, the open-air artists' market, for a walk ending at Neve Tzedek.

You will then visit Tel Aviv's gorgeous seafront on your way to **the ancient city of Jaffa**. You'll walk through its narrow streets, full of galleries. Make sure you have your camera ready to take a photo at the observation point, overlooking the "white city" of Tel Aviv.

You will then return to the pier.

This tour involves approximately 2 km (1.24 miles) of walking on uneven and cobblestone paths with some steps. We recommend you wear comfortable walking shoes and that you protect yourself from the sun. **Pre-booking is required to participate in this tour.**

## Ashdod (Israel)

### ILSH01 – Masada & Dead Sea

**Duration : 11 h – Full Day**

**Price : 190 €**

From the pier, board your coach for an approximately 2.5-hour ride through the Judean Hills before descending the mountainside toward the Dead Sea - the lowest point on Earth at over 300 metres (985 feet) below sea level. There will be a refreshment stop en route.

Before arriving at the Dead Sea, enjoy a visit to the **Masada Fortress**, the most spectacular ancient archaeological site in Israel. Perched on the tip of a titanic rock face, this Jewish shrine was the last stronghold of the zealots in the days of King Herod. A cable car will take you to the top, where you will explore the ancient ruins which include King Herod's three-tiered palace, the synagogue, the baths, the defensive walls and the water cisterns.

After completing your Masada exploration, you will return to your coach for a 25-minute ride to the resort hotel where you will enjoy lunch.

After lunch, you will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the sensation of floating effortlessly on the buoyant **waters of the Dead Sea**. With more salt and minerals than any other body of water in the world, the Dead Sea is considered to be a natural health and beauty spa.

Finally, you will have a 2.5-hour ride back to your ship.

- This tour involves approximately one mile (1.5 km) of walking on uneven and cobblestone paths with some steps. We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes, a swimsuit under your clothes, sun protection, and bringing a towel from the ship. There are changing rooms in the hotel. Lunch is included in the tour. **Pre-booking is required to participate in this tour.**



## Limassol (Cyprus)

### **CYLS04 – Catamaran cruise**

**Duration : 4 h 30**

**Price : 100 €**

You will be transferred by coach to the catamaran dock in Limassol Old Port to embark on a relaxing **catamaran cruise**.

The experienced crew will provide you with a safety briefing before taking to the seas outside Limassol Harbour. Enjoy a soft drink as you **cruise along the west coast of Limassol and admire the coastline**.

Ride the swells of the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea in comfort, while listening to the soft music playing. During your first swim stop at Cape Gata, you may enjoy swimming, or simply bask in the sun.

You will then cruise back along the Limassol coast towards the unspoilt beaches of Ladies Mile Beach, where another swim stop will be made.

Board the bus and drive to Limassol New Port.

- This tour involves little walking. We recommend that you wear comfortable clothes, wet shoes, bring your swimsuit and a beach towel, and protect yourself from the sun with sunscreen and a hat. Depending on the weather conditions, this tour may be cancelled without prior notice. Two non-alcoholic drinks are included in the tour, as well as Fresh seasonal fruit. This tour is conducted in English only. This excursion is limited to 70 participants.

## Limassol (Cyprus)

### **CYLMS01 – Cyprus heritage & Wine tasting**

**Duration : 4 h 30**

**Price : 70 €**

You will depart the pier by coach for a visit to **Kolossi Medieval Castle**, which serves as a fine example of military architecture. It was originally built in the 13th century and modernization and repair work carried out in the 15th century gave it its present form.

Then, you will continue towards **Kourion**, one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Cyprus. Admire the magnificent, fully restored Greco-Roman Theatre, with its half-moon of seats facing out to sea.

Say goodbye to the archaeological sites and head to **Zambartas Winery**, located in the village of Agios Amvrosios. The team will welcome you to the winery, where you will experience a real taste of Cyprus. You will be introduced to their wines and served 3 different wines by their knowledgeable host.

You will then return to the port of Limassol.

- This tour involves approximately 1.4 miles (2 km) of walking on a sometimes uneven surface. There are approximately 85 steps to climb. We recommend you wear comfortable walking shoes. This tour is limited to 90 participants.





## Limassol (Cyprus)

### CYLMS02 – Quad Safari

**Duration : 4 h 30**

**Price : 130 €**

If you like sightseeing with a healthy dose of adventure, this **quad safari tour** is for you!

From the pier, you will board a vehicle for a 15-minute drive to the quad base.

After listening to safety instructions, depart for a **three-hour tour** that will take you to Ladies' Mile Beach and along a beautiful nature drive beside the Salt Lake to the Holy Monastery of Saint Nicolas of the Cats.

Visit **Akrotiri Bay** following a motocross track. You'll see majestic monasteries, the beautiful sand hills, turtle nesting beaches and finally, Acrotiri's shipwreck, which is a beautiful spot to stop and take photos for your holiday album.

You will then head to the famous **Kourion Beach** where you will enjoy some free time for swimming (weather permitting).

You will then return to the quad base and be taken back to the pier.

- This tour is mainly done on quad over uneven, cobbled, and bumpy surfaces. We recommend that you wear comfortable clothes, take your swimsuit and a beach towel, and protect yourself from the sun. Depending on the weather conditions of the days leading up to the tour, roads may be muddy (Protect your personal belongings). A helmet will be provided. Each quad accommodates 1 person. The minimum age to drive is 18 and requires a valid Driver's License. This tour is conducted in English only. This excursion is limited to 20 participants. A waiver form will need to be filled out.





## Limassol (Cyprus)

### **CYLMS03 – Relax under the sun**

**Duration : 6 h 30 – Full Day**

**Price : 250 €**

Here's a full day tour for you to enjoy the sunshine of Cyprus!

The tour begins with a 30-minute transfer to Columbia Beach Resort to enjoy the leisure facilities.

The Columbia Beach Resort hotel is a 5\* resort with an award-winning spa, which offers breathtaking views of the stunning coastline.

Enjoy unlimited access to all of the outdoor swimming pools, sunbeds, umbrellas, the indoor heated pool, sauna and gym center.

Enjoy a buffet lunch in the Cape Aspro Restaurant consisting of a wide variety of mouth-watering salads, a rich selection of hot specialties, and an extravaganza of sweets and fruits.

Enjoy a local drinks package during lunch consisting of 1 glass of red, rose, or white house wine or 1 local beer or 1 soft drink or 1 juice, water and 1 coffee or 1 tea.

You will then be transferred back to the port of Limassol.

- This is a hotel pass for a duration of 5h30. While the Columbia Beach Resort hotel (or similar) usually restricts access to its own guests, the amenities detailed in the description will be at your disposal. You must bring a beach towel from the ship. Swimming is not supervised, and guests bathe at own risk. There is a water sport center with banana boat and donuts rental, stand-up paddle, on a supplement basis. All extras should be paid directly at the hotel prior to your departure. One soft drink at your choice is included during lunch. This tour is limited to 50 participants.





## Rhodes (Greece)

### GRRHO06 – Panoramic view of Rhodes

**Duration : 3 h 00**

**Price : 75 €**

From the pier, board your coach for a scenic tour of the east coast of Rhodes Island. You will be taken around the walls surrounding the city before heading up **Mount Smith**, named after the English admiral Sidney Smith, who observed the movements of the Napoleonic fleet from here. From this point, you can enjoy panoramic views over Rhodes and the castles. If the weather is good, you may even catch a glimpse of the Turkish coast and the neighbouring islands.

You will reach Lindos by a route passing through the hinterland. From one promontory, you can see the whole of the famous Acropolis. Built between the 7th and 6th centuries BC, the **Acropolis of Lindos** is a sprawling complex of structures from various historical periods, perched dramatically above the town. A place of worship from the Mycenaean Age, it was expanded during the Hellenistic period, before the Knights of the Order of Hospitallers established a fortress here which they retained until the Ottoman era.

Taking the scenic route, you will arrive at **Faliraki**, a traditional fishing village where you will enjoy some local snacks with a glass of Greece's trademark Ouzo.

On the way back to your ship, you will pass through typical villages.

- This is a scenic tour involving some walking. We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and sun protection.





## Rhodes (Greece)

### **GRRH003 – Walking tour of Rhodes**

**Duration : 3 h 00**

**Price : 45 €**

After disembarking, discover the City of Knights on a guided walking tour.

Follow your guide through the cobbled streets to the impressive **Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes**, built in the 14th century and containing Greek and Roman mosaics originating from the island of Kos.

After visiting the palace, you will walk along the famous **Avenue of the Knights**, lined with the old Knights' inns, each dedicated to one of the Order's various nationalities. It is unusually straight for a medieval street, and its sombre buildings present a majestic and forbidding face to the world with their 15th-century Gothic walls and arcades worn smooth over the centuries. Retracing an ancient route, the straight line of this street cuts through the maze of winding alleyways surrounding it.

A refreshment stop will be offered after your guided tour.

You will then return directly to your ship with your guide or wander around the streets and shops at your leisure.

- This tour is only on foot and involves walking on cobblestone streets, so we advise you to wear comfortable shoes and sun protection.





## Nafplion (Greece)

### **GRNAF01 – Ancient Corinth & Corinth canal**

**Duration : 4 h 30**

**Price : 70 €**

From the pier, board your coach for a 1.5-hour ride to the ancient town of **Corinth** where Saint Paul lived and preached for two years.

In ancient times, Corinth was among the richest cities, as evidenced by its remains including the huge Agora (market square) and the 6th century BC Temple of Apollo. The systematic excavations of the area, initiated by the American School of Classical Studies in 1896, continue today. They have brought to light the agora, temples, fountains, shops, porticoes, baths and various other monuments. The investigations also extended to the Acrocorinth's fortress, the prehistoric settlements, the theatre, the Odeon, the Asklepion, the cemeteries, the Potters' Quarter, and other buildings outside the main archaeological site.

Then, you will discover the famous **Corinth Canal**. The canal is 6.3 km (4 miles) long, 21 metres (70 feet) wide, and has sloping sides up to 52 metres (170 feet) high. It has a water depth of 8 metres (26 feet). Its construction commenced in 1881, although the idea of connecting the Ionian and Aegean seas to provide a shortcut appears to date as far back as Roman times. You will have the opportunity to take panoramic photos from the top.

Following your short stop to admire the canal, you will board your coach for a 45-minute ride back to Nafplion.

- This tour involves approximately 1.5 hours of extensive walking over uneven surfaces with some steps which could be slippery. We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and sun protection.





## Nafplion (Greece)

### GRNAF02 – Epidaurus & Mycenae

**Duration : 4 h 30**

**Price : 85 €**

From the pier, board your coach for a 45-minute ride to Epidaurus.

Lying 30 km (18.6 miles) east of Nafplion, Epidaurus is known for its ancient theatre. Considered one of the most important sanctuaries in the ancient world, Epidaurus was dedicated to the god of medicine, Asclepius. The **world-famous Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus**, built in the 4th century BC, is a marvel of harmony and acoustics and the best-preserved ancient theatre in Greece. Built in limestone, it can accommodate 12,000 spectators.

Next, re-board your coach for a ride to the **archaeological site of Mycenae**. The first in-depth excavations were carried out in 1876 by the German archaeologist Schliemann, who was obsessed with finding the grave of King Agamemnon. His diligent work exposed the famous Lion Gate, the entrance to the city which contains the shaft burial graves of some ancient nobles. A short distance away is the Beehive Tomb, so called due to its unusual shape.

Finally, you will board your coach for a 30-minute ride to Nafplion.

- This tour involves approximately 2 hours of walking over uneven surfaces with some steps which could be slippery. We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and sun protection.

