

Greece & Dalmatia

RAC President's Cruise 2016

Departs
24 September



Travel
For the better

Greece & Dalmatia

with Voyages to Antiquity

Hosted by
**RAC President
Esme Bowen**

President's message

It is my great honour and pleasure to host the 2016 RAC Presidents Cruise, along the stunning and ancient Adriatic coastline from Athens to Venice.

My husband Wayne and I had the wonderful opportunity of being in Athens for the 2004 Paralympics and previous to that, last traversed these countries in the 80s, in quite a different style, that of a VW Kombi. The ancient cities of Athens, Split and Dubrovnik drew us under their spell, as the local people went about the challenges and joys of those times that was modern everyday life.

These trips were definitely without the luxury offered by the magnificent experience aboard *Voyages to Antiquity*. It will be exciting to discover the history, art and cultures of these ancient worlds, with the expertise of onboard guest lecturer; Dr David Price Williams - who has almost 40 years of academic and field experience in Archaeology, near Eastern culture, languages and history.

We look forward to sharing this cruise with you, getting away from it all as we soak in the sights, sounds and experiences of these picturesque ancient lands. My privilege will be travelling with you, the RAC members, who are able to join us on this enticing voyage.



Esme J Bowen



Ports of call » Athens, Greece – Gythion, Greece » Katakolon, Greece » Ithaca, Greece » Corfu, Greece » Sarande, Albania » Dubrovnik (overnight), Croatia » Split, Croatia » Zadar, Croatia » Ravenna, Italy » Venice, Italy



14 days » Departing 24 September 2016

Inclusions

- » Economy class flight from Perth to Athens, returning from Venice flying Qatar Airways
- » 2 nights at 5* King George Athens with breakfast daily
- » 9 night 'Greece & Dalmatia' voyage aboard Aegean Odyssey, from Athens to Venice
- » 2 nights at 5* Hilton Molino Stucky Venice with breakfast daily
- » All meals onboard Aegean Odyssey with complimentary choice of wine, beer or soft-drink served with evening meal
- » Full shore excursions programme with sightseeing included
- » Lecture programme featuring expert guest speakers
- » All onboard gratuities for restaurant and cabin staff
- » Porterage of luggage to/from your cabin and hotel
- » Transfers between airports, hotels and ship

Highlights

- » Enjoy luxurious city stays in both Athens and Venice
- » Cruise the breathtakingly beautiful Adriatic and Ionian Islands
- » Visit the Acropolis, Parthenon and 226,000 square foot Acropolis Museum in Athens
- » Tour the walled city of Dubrovnik and Palace of Diocletian in Split
- » Visit multiple UNESCO World Heritage sites in nearly every port of call
- » The chance to tour and embrace Ancient Olympia in Katakolon
- » Tour the archaeological UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint
- » Be treated to an exclusive evening private tour of St Marks Basilica



Voyages to **Antiquity**

Small ship cruising at its best. Voyages to Antiquity is a cruise experience not only for the amateur or professional historian but also for likeminded travellers who are inspired by the history, art, myths and architecture of the ancient world. Delve into the origins of Western Civilisation with breath taking scenery whilst experiencing the food and wine of the Mediterranean.

Aegean Odyssey is the sole ship in the fleet, carrying on average 350 passengers to unique, smaller, less crowded ports. With an onboard guest lecturer you will be inspired and educated by the culture on the regions you visit. A superior onboard ambience is created with open-seating dining inside or al fresco and several bars and lounges to unwind after a day's touring.

The Ambassador Lounge is where lectures will take place, the Charleston Lounge is perfect for a pre-dinner drink with light music and dancing. Perhaps read one of the libraries many books stocked by Blackwells in the panoramic Observation Lounge watching the waves go by.

Your comfort is a priority and all cabins feature flat-screen televisions, a safe, hairdryer and plush bedding. Aegean Odyssey was fully refurbished in 2010.



Evenings onboard: Are very much a casual elegant ambience, listening to a string trio, pianist or enjoying local entertainment. There is no casino or disco onboard.

Dining: The Marco Polo Restaurant (lunch and dinner) has a casual country-club vibe with Mediterranean influenced cuisine. The Terrace Café and Grill (Breakfast, lunch and dinner) offers the choice of inside or al fresco dining. Tapas on the Terrace creates an informal yet friendly Mediterranean bistro atmosphere. Afternoon Tea is provided with a selection of sandwiches, cakes and scones. Late Night Snacks are available in the Charleston Lounge.

Dress code: Resort Casual is the suggested recommendation; there may be occasions where a jacket for men and cocktail attire is appropriate for ladies.

House wines included with dinner:

House wines from Italy, France or Greece are included with your evening meal. Other vintages are available at reasonable prices.

Language on board: English is the spoken language onboard with many of your other travelling companions reining from Australia, New Zealand the UK, USA and Canada.

Tipping (Gratuities): Is not a common custom here in Australia so Voyages to Antiquity have already included tips to your cabin steward and restaurant staff in your cruise fare. A 12.5% gratuity is automatically charged on drinks.

Technology: Mobile phones and laptops may be used discretely in public areas; the internet room will always be open for your personal use.

! MV Aegean Odyssey amenities

- » 2 restaurants plus outdoor terrace dining » 3 lounges » 4 bars » Lecture theatre » Library » Shop » Internet centre » Outdoor pool » Athena Health Spa and Gym » Beauty salon » Medical centre » Telephone, Fax and e-mail via satellite » Satellite TV, hair dryer and personal safe in every cabin

Athens to Venice, day by day itinerary

» **Sat 24 Sept 2016 - Perth, Australia** Meet your fellow RAC President's Cruise travellers at Perth International Airport, you will be checked in through to Athens with a short connection in Doha. Get your adventure off to a great start with a spot of duty-free shopping. **Overnight: Flight from Perth to Athens via Doha**

» **Sun 25 Sept 2016 - Athens, Greece** "Yassas!" Welcome to Athens! You will be transferred on arrival from Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos to your hotel for a luxurious two night stay. **Overnight: King George Athens, a Luxury Collection Hotel**

» **Mon 26 Sept 2016 - Athens, Greece** We have included two shore tours for you to choose from today; Athens & Acropolis or Byzantine Athens. **Overnight: King George Athens, a Luxury Collection Hotel**

» **Tues 27 Sept 2016 - Athens, Greece** Enjoy a free morning in Athens, perhaps visiting the Plaka or partake in an optional tour. You will be transferred from the King George Athens to Piraeus Port where you will embark the elegant Aegean Odyssey for 9 nights. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled departure: 6.00pm

» **Wed 28 Sept 2016 - Gythion, Greece** A choice of two sightseeing tours: Sparta & Mystra or a remarkable visit to Dyros Cave. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled arrival and departure: 7.00am / 6.00pm

» **Thur 29 Sept 2016 - Katakolon, Greece** Enjoy a morning tour of Ancient Olympia. Relax up on deck enjoying the view cruising the Ionian Islands in the afternoon. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey** Scheduled arrival and departure: 7.00am / 1.00pm

» **Thur 29 Sept 2016 - Ithaca, Greece** Arrive into Ithaca in the evening spending the overnight in this charming port. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled arrival and departure 6.00pm / midnight

» **Fri 30 Sept 2016 - Corfu, Greece** An early morning arrival into Corfu with the choice of two sightseeing tours to UNESCO World Heritage Sites before a lunch time sail away. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled arrival and departure: 7.00am / 12.30pm

» **Fri 30 Sept 2016 - Sarande, Albania** Arrive into Sarande ready to visit UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint; a remarkable archaeological site from Hellenistic, Roman, medieval and Venetian times. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled arrival and departure: 1.30pm / 7.00pm

» **Sat 1 Oct 2016 - Dubrovnik, Croatia (overnight)** Cruising Kotor Bay will be a picturesque highlight of this voyage. Attend the onboard lecture, relax in the Mediterranean sun poolside or trade stories with your fellow travelling companions ahead of an early evening arrival to Dubrovnik. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled arrival: 5.00pm

» **Sun 2 Oct 2016 - Dubrovnik, Croatia** Dubrovnik is deemed "the pearl of the Adriatic", spend the morning touring the city walls, Baroque church of St Blaise, Cathedral and Rectors Palace. Perhaps an optional afternoon tour of Cavtat and the Croatian Riviera will take your fancy. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled departure: 7.00pm

» **Mon 3 Oct 2016 - Split, Croatia** Welcome to Split. Once the planned retirement residence of Emperor Diocletian, tour the Diocletian Palace including Temple of Jupiter. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey** Scheduled arrival and departure: 7.00am / 11.00pm

» **Tues 4 Oct 2016 - Zadar, Croatia** In 1409, King Ladislaus of Hungary sold his Dalmatian islands and cities, Zadar among them, to Venice for 100,000 ducats. Today you will tour the old town and the Roman Forum, now the site of Zadar's most beautiful churches. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled arrival and departure: 7.00am / 1.00pm

» **Wed 5 Oct 2016 - Ravenna, Italy** Today in Ravenna you will visit the church of San Vitale, famous for its mosaics and the Mausoleum of Gall Placidia. Following this visit there will be free-time to explore a bit before the walking tour continues through Ravenna's old streets and serene piazzas to the Orthodox Baptistry. **Overnight: Aegean Odyssey.** Scheduled arrival and departure: 7.00am / 11.00pm

» **Thur 6 Oct 2016 - Venice, Italy** Buongiorno! Welcome to Venice. This morning you will disembark Aegean Odyssey and be transferred to your luxurious Venice hotel for two nights. Enjoy a half day walking tour of Venice ahead of an evening visit to St Marks Basilica - reserved exclusively for Voyages to Antiquity guests. Scheduled arrival: 8.00am. **Overnight: Hilton Molino Stucky Venice**

» **Fri 7 Oct 2016 - Venice, Italy** Today experience Venice at your own pace, whether it is a gondola ride through the canals or an authentic Italian lunch at a local restaurant. **Overnight: Hilton Molino Stucky Venice**

» **Sat 8 Oct 2016 - Venice, Italy** The 2016 President's Cruise draws to an end; you will be transferred to Venice airport for your flight home to Perth or onto your next destination if you are extending in Europe. Bon Voyage! **Overnight: Flight from Venice to Perth via Doha**



Shore excursions



Voyages to Antiquity will include your sightseeing tours in the unique ports of call visited on this itinerary. It is at your discretion what tours you partake, however we have compiled the selection of tours RAC President Esme Bowen will participate in. If you would like to discover the same sights as Esme please advise the details to your RAC Travel Consultant prior to 1 May 2016. Your consultant can also provide you with full excursion information.

26 Sept 2016 » Athens, Greece

Presidents choice: "Athens & the Acropolis" (Half day, heavy walking) **Included optional:** "Byzantine Athens"

27 Sept 2016 » Athens, Greece

Paid optional: "National Archaeological Museum" - \$48pp

28 Sept 2016 » Gythion, Greece

Presidents choice: "The Dyros Cave" (Half day, medium to heavy walking)

Included optional: "The Last Byzantine Fortress"

29 Sept 2016 » Katakolon, Greece

Presidents choice: "Ancient Olympia" (Half day, heavy walking)

30 Sept 2016 » Corfu, Greece

Presidents choice: "Venetian Corfu" (Half day, medium to heavy walking)

Included optional: "Byzantine Corfu"

30 Sept 2016 » Sarande, Albania

Presidents choice: "Archaeological Site of Butrint" (Half day, heavy walking)

2 Oct 2016 » Dubrovnik, Croatia

Presidents choice: "Dubrovnik" (Half day, medium to heavy walking)

Paid optional: "Cavtat and Countryside" - \$68pp

3 Oct 2016 » Split, Croatia

Presidents choice: "Palace of Diocletian" (Half day, medium to heavy walking)

Paid optional: "Salona & Trogir" - \$58pp

4 Oct 2016 » Zadar, Croatia

Presidents choice: "Historic Zadar on Foot" (Half day, medium to heavy walking)

5 Oct 2016 » Ravenna, Croatia

Presidents choice: "Ravenna's Mosaics" (Half day, medium to heavy walking)

6 Oct 2016 » Venice, Italy

Presidents choice: "Walking Tour of Venice" and "St Marks Basilica" Half day and evening visit, medium to heavy walking)

7 Oct 2016 » Venice, Italy

Presidents choice: "Venice's Aristocratic Villas" - \$95pp

Paid optional: "Frari Church and Scuola di San Rocco" - \$68pp

Pricing

» Twin Share Pricing

Category	Package price from	Availability
B - Junior Suite	\$10,790*pp	Limited cabins
C - Deluxe Balcony	\$9,925*pp	5+ cabins
F - Deluxe Outside	\$8,500*pp	10+ cabins
H - Premium Outside	\$7,865*pp	10+ cabins
J - Standard Outside	\$7,225*pp	5+ cabins
K - Premium Inside	\$6,925*pp	10+ cabins
L - Premium Inside	\$6,665*pp	10+ cabins
M - Standard Inside	\$6,399*pp	Limited cabins

» Single Pricing

Category	Package price from	Availability
CC - Deluxe Balcony	\$11,765*	Limited cabins
II - Premium Outside	\$8,915*	Limited cabins
JJ - Standard Outside	\$8,540*	Limited cabins
MM - Standard Inside	\$7,525*	Limited cabins

Business class upgrades start from \$4,800 per person

*All package pricing includes port charges, government taxes, airline taxes and gratuities. Availability correct as of 15 July 2015.

Call 1300 655 898, go to
rac.com.au/cruise or visit
 your local RAC Travel Centre

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Prices advertised are correct as of 15 July 2015, per person twin and single share, inclusive of port charges, government taxes, gratuities and airline taxes. A 15% deposit is due within 7 days of confirmation along with booking forms and passport copies. The cruise deposit is a non-refundable deposit. Any changes after booking confirmation may result in amendment fees. Many components of the fly/cruise holiday are purchased in foreign currency - any significant currency fluctuation may result in re-costing. Final payment is due on our prior to 1 June 2016. Airfares and confirmed flight times are outside of date range and will be confirmed by your RAC Travel Consultant once available to be ticketed. Once flights have been ticketed any changes, amendments, cancellation may result in fees or nil refund. Scheduled arrival and departure times are subject to change. Cruisecco, Voyages to Antiquity and Qatar Airways terms and conditions apply. Credit card fees of up to 2.5% may apply.

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