



UNDISCOVERED GREEK ISLANDS

Uncommon Encounters in the Aegean Sea

Aboard the 34-Guest Yacht *Callisto*

September 23 – October 3, 2022



Chora, Skyros



SCHEDULE OUTLINE

September 23	Depart the US
September 24	Arrive in Athens. Transfer to the <i>Hotel King George</i> .
September 25	Tour Athens, including the ancient Agora and the Acropolis.
September 26	Continue exploring Athens and enjoy time at leisure. In the late afternoon board <i>Callisto</i> in Pireaus and sail.
September 27	Sifnos. Explore the island, including Apollonia and Artemonas.
September 28	Amorgos. Visit the 11th-century Monastery of Chozoviotissa and other sites and villages.
September 29	Ikaria. Explore the island, including its hot springs and bucolic villages.
September 30	Chios. Tour the 11th-century monastery of Nea Moni and the mastic villages.
October 1	Samothraki. Explore the Sanctuary of the Great Gods.
October 2	Skyros. Tour the island's superb main town.
October 3	Disembark in Pireaus and transfer to Athens's airport for the return flight home.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

God-like Achilles hid on Skyros to avoid joining the Trojan War, and King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, met and fell in love with his wife Olympia, at the Sanctuary of the Great Gods in Samothraki. Chios is the reputed birthplace of Homer, Ikaria produced the Pramnian wine that was known throughout antiquity, Sifnos was famed for its wealth on account of its gold and silver mines, and Amorgos was an important center of Cycladic culture. Yet to most travelers these islands are unknown. Scattered across Homer's "wine-dark" sea, they are undiscovered to the throngs of tourists and remain the jewels of the Aegean Sea. They are enchanting places, unspoiled by mass tourism, with pristine shorelines, magnificent landscapes, important monuments, and villages that have not changed for centuries.

In designing this itinerary, we have selected islands not only because they are uncrowded and have preserved their character, but also because they represent a wonderful cross-section of history, culture, and architectural styles. In **Sifnos** we will explore villages built in the classic Cycladic style of architecture, characterized by cube-shaped, whitewashed houses. In **Amorgos** we will visit one of the Aegean's most iconic sites, the 1,000-year-old monastery of Panaghia Chozoviotissa, which hangs some 800 feet above the sea on a vertical cliff-face. According to the legend, off the shore of **Ikaria**, Icarus, the son of the craft master Daedalus, drowned, thus giving his name to the island. Today, Ikaria is one of the four Blue Places in the world, known for the longevity and vitality of its people. The rich volcanic soil has made **Chios** a lush garden island. Set on a tranquil meadow is Nea Moni, a stately monastery begun in 1041, known for its superb mosaics and frescoes. From rugged **Samothraki**, in the northeast Aegean, Poseidon observed the Trojan War. The landscape, marked with peaks, gorges and woods, possesses a primeval grandeur. No wonder the island was home to the very ancient cult of the Great Gods. Their sanctuary, which we will visit, attracted pilgrims from much of the Mediterranean. The main town of **Skyros** is built on a dramatic position, on a steep hill, the summit of which is fortified. The narrow alleyways of the town are lined with houses and churches of characteristic architecture.

Late summer in Greece is an ideal time to cruise in the Aegean Sea. The light is golden and the days pleasantly warm. Enhancing the experience is that the cruise will be aboard the *Callisto*, which accommodates only 48 guests in an atmosphere like that of a private yacht.

THE 34-GUEST YACHT *CALLISTO*



Cabin



Lounge

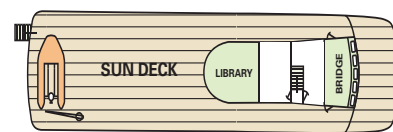


Library

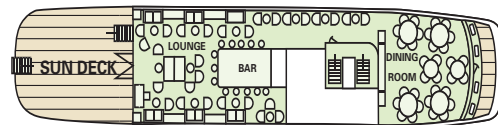


Sun Deck

DECK PLAN



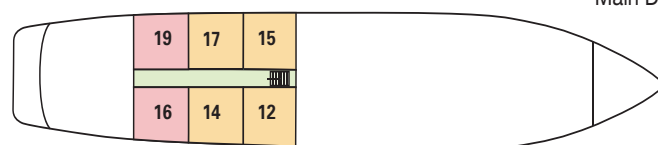
Sun Deck



Upper Deck



Main Deck



Lower Deck

MAIN SPECIFICATIONS

Length: 170 feet | Beam: 27.8 feet | Draft: 10.8 feet | Gross tonnage: 499
Main engines Mannheim 2x840 H.P. | Cruising speed: 10,5 knots

In an era of mega cruise ships that carry thousands of passengers, *Callisto* is a delightful alternative. More like a private yacht than a cruise ship, *Callisto* accommodates a maximum of just 34 guests in 17 cabins that face outside. Unlike the formalities found on larger cruise ships, a relaxed and informal atmosphere prevails aboard. A well-trained English-speaking crew of 18 manages the ship and provides friendly and efficient service. The dining room, surrounded by large windows, accommodates all guests at

one unassigned seating, while the adjoining lounge, which is also lined with windows, is a good place to meet and socialize with fellow travelers, and attend lectures. When the weather permits, several meals will be served al fresco. A library faces the spacious Sun Deck.

The 17 cabins range in size from 130 sq.ft to 145 sq. ft. There are four different categories of cabins arranged on two decks, all of which feature either windows (Categories A

& B), or portholes (Categories C & D); twin, double or queen-size beds; individually controlled air-conditioning; flat-screen TV; mini fridge; wardrobe; safety deposit box; and telephone (internal use). Each cabin has a private bathroom with shower, marble sink countertop, hair dryer, and fine toiletries.

Callisto is equipped with stabilizers that provide smoother sailing.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Two nights at the elegant *Hotel King George*, Athens.
- Welcome dinner in Athens at a local restaurant.
- Full breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- Cruise aboard the *Callisto*, as described in the itinerary.
- Complete program of tours and excursions and other activities ashore, with professional English-speaking guides.
- Program of lectures by accompanying professor or expert.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage abroad.
- All meals aboard ship, including wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

- Open bar aboard ship throughout the voyage.
- Port, embarkation, and all other local taxes.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters.
- Experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; gratuities to shipboard personnel; any items not mentioned in the Program Inclusions.

FOR INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL TOLL-FREE
866-633-3611