



Following the Footsteps of St. Paul

Along the Turkish Coast

aboard MS *Serenissima*

March 15–25, 2020

CRITERION
travel

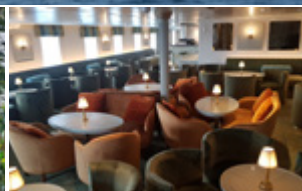
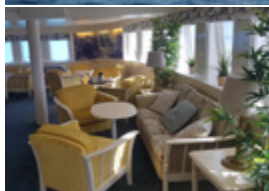


Program Highlights

- ❖ Visit the UNESCO Neolithic settlement of **Choirokoitia**, inhabited from the 9th millennium B.C., and one of the most important prehistoric sites in the eastern Mediterranean.
- ❖ Take in the beauty of **Aspendos**, whose theater, built in the 2nd century, is one of the best-preserved in the Mediterranean.
- ❖ Spend the day at the Greek island of **Patmos**, sacred to Christians as the site where St. John received his revelation, and climb to the Monastery of St. John.
- ❖ Wander the ancient streets of **Ephesus**, where the Greco-Roman world comes alive at Europe's most complete classical metropolis, and where Paul preached on his second missionary journey.
- ❖ Walk among the incredible ruins of **Troy** and the large unexcavated site of Alexandria Troas, where Paul stayed before sailing with Barnabas to Neapolis.
- ❖ Enjoy the flexibility of optional excursions and walks for all levels whenever possible, so travelers can pursue individual interests and sights at their own pace.

MS *Serenissima*

Refurbished in 2018, the 95-passenger MS *Serenissima* can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to larger cruise ships. The public areas on board create a relaxed and spacious atmosphere. The Andrea Lounge provides a comfortable venue for lectures and has an elegant bar, and the Harald Jarl Lounge offers a library and computers. Outside spaces include a massive observation deck for 360-degree views of the passing scenery, and the all-teak Sun Deck is used for meal service in pleasant weather. Guest accommodations are designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins feature ocean views, en-suite bathrooms, and are equipped with many amenities. The Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in a single seating, with great views through large picture windows. When possible, local produce is sourced for authentic dining experiences. Complimentary house wines, beer, soft drinks, mineral water, coffee, and tea are included with meals. Complimentary Wi-Fi (intermittent) is available throughout the vessel.





It is sometimes said that if there were no St. Paul there would have been no Christianity. Through his three missionary journeys, from around A.D. 44 to 60, the Christian message was spread to the classical world and some of the earliest Christian churches were founded. Embarking in Cyprus, this cruise follows Paul's footsteps along the coast of Turkey to Istanbul, visiting stunning ancient sites along the way reflecting not only Paul's legacy but also elements of Greek, Roman, and Byzantine civilizations. Among the highlights are the Roman theater at Aspendos, built in the 2nd century and considered the best-preserved in the Mediterranean; the Greek island of Patmos, where St. John wrote the Book of Revelation; and the ruins of Ephesus, where Paul spent three years during the time Ephesus was second only to Rome in size and importance.

Our program begins with one hotel night in Cyprus before boarding MS *Serenissima* for an eight-night cruise along the coast of Turkey. In every port of call, enjoy excursion options that cater to various interests. Disembark in Istanbul, the gem of the Ottoman and Byzantine world, and either return to the U.S. or participate in a two-night extension to discover this incredible city. Travelers will also have the option of a three-night pre-trip extension in Cyprus, including time in Limassol and Paphos.



TOUR COST:

\$7,990–\$12,490 per person
double occupancy

\$8,990 per person
single occupancy

INCLUDED:

- 8-night cruise • one hotel night in Larnaca • meals as shown in itinerary • house wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners • entrance fees and port charges • shore excursions • gratuities for all services • group airport transfers on arrival and departure days • pre-departure information • tour manager throughout

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare to destination • private transfers • travel insurance • deviations from the scheduled tour • other items of a personal nature

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For details call Criterion Travel
at **650.328.2089** or email
res@critteriontravel.com