

ANYTHING BUT PLAIN SAILING



Voyages to Antiquity might be a self-proclaimed small-ship cruise line, but its quality offerings are on a gigantic scale.

Up until now, Voyages to Antiquity has enjoyed popularity with groups from across the globe, in particular, the USA and Australia, and the company is extending its welcome to the groups market in the UK.

The company's mantra – 'small-ship cruising at its best' – is appropriate. Its single ship, Aegean Odyssey, is suited to destination-rich itineraries. Some of the cruises explore topics such as the Crusades or Byzantine history, whilst also visiting numerous locations to combine outstanding ancient, cultural and natural sites.

The itineraries create the opportunity to visit some of the less crowded and more off-the-beaten-track ports and locations around the world, and with only 350 passengers on average, Aegean Odyssey is able to access smaller harbours and transit on rivers that larger vessels cannot.

Voyages to Antiquity has created a cruise experience that is designed for travellers who want to be educated about the history, culture and natural wonders of the ancient world. In fact, the cruise line recently picked up the award for Best Specialist Cruise Line at the 2016 British Travel Awards.



Aegean Odyssey: what's onboard?

Aegean Odyssey is not a mega liner stockpiled with glitzy bars and restaurants. It hasn't got a towering climbing wall, or gushing water slides, or an overwhelming entertainment programme. It's not a show off ship.

Groups will find an intimate experience onboard the Aegean Odyssey, which comes complete with a well-stocked library, places overlooking the ocean to take high tea, and a lecture programme led by celebrated guest speakers, whose informative talks are sure to enlighten listeners.

Destination-rich itineraries

Voyages to Antiquity specialises in cruises to the eastern and western Mediterranean, northern France, Iceland, Ireland and the British Isles. Cruise holidays range in length, and holidays titled Grand Voyages combine two or more Voyages to Antiquity cruises that explore more than one era of history.

Voyages to Antiquity has recently announced a premiere itinerary for its summer 2017 programme, called A Voyage through the Middle Sea. This is a 17-day spring voyage from Athens to Funchal in Madeira, departing in April to chart a course through what has been known in centuries past as the Middle Sea. ●



Michelle Daniels, head of commercial at Voyages to Antiquity, on what the cruise line has to offer groups looking for alternative holidays that encompass history and culture.



The Aegean Odyssey is a small but perfectly formed ship. Tell us about what's on offer for groups booking a cruise with Voyages to Antiquity.

We have attracted a lot of academic groups from the States but we're starting to expand our offering to the UK market. We have groups from Mr Bridge, which organises trips for those interested in playing Bridge on-board, and they'll generally be up to 80 people. We also have quite an extensive Oxford and Cambridge Alumni travel programme but we're looking to attract more groups on board.

What's the appeal for groups?

It's the informality and our flexibility to adapt to the needs of each group. We can tailor shore excursions around the group and their interests and preferences. We offer an exclusive lectures programme with each cruise including experts who prepare seminars relevant to the destinations. It's the uniqueness and style of the ship that attracts groups to book with us.

What about rates?

We offer an immediate 10% discount for group bookings. Other benefits available include a free cabin for group leaders (depending on group size), a free private drinks party on board (subject to minimum numbers) and a tailor-made group booking service.

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