



Symphony in Bloom

A Musical Journey through Greece's Botanical
Gardens with Keith Lockhart of the Boston Pops

Aboard the Deluxe *Le Champlain*
October 17 – 25, 2026





Dear Members and Friends of the Chicago Botanic Garden,

We are delighted to invite you on a truly extraordinary voyage through the Greek Isles, where the wonders of nature, history, and music come together in perfect harmony. This exclusive 7-night journey aboard PONANT's luxury ship, *Le Champlain*, is designed for English-speaking travelers seeking an immersive and enriching travel experience.

Join us as we set sail from Athens on an unforgettable exploration of Greece's most storied destinations. From the Bronze Age ruins of Knossos on Crete to the charming, whitewashed villages of Santorini, the medieval streets of Rhodes, and the sacred island of Delos, each port of call offers a unique perspective on the region's rich history and vibrant culture.

In Athens, explore the Zappeion Gardens, offering a stunning blend of French geometrical and English-style design. Then, journey to Crete to visit the Botanical Park & Gardens, nestled in the foothills of the White Mountains, where you'll stroll through vibrant landscapes, including citrus, avocado, and pomegranate orchards. In Rhodes, enjoy the tranquil beauty of Rodini Park, one of the world's first landscaped parks, along with the historic Kallithea Springs, known for its stunning architecture and seaside charm.

In addition to expert-led excursions included in every port, this voyage features an exceptional musical program curated by Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart. Aboard ship, you will be treated to private performances by world-class musicians, including pianist Jihye Chang, cellist Alistair MacRae, soprano Allison Pohl, violist Scott Rawls, violinist Wendy Rawls, and violinist Benjamin Sung. From folkloric dance performances in Crete to a celebration of traditional Greek instruments in Santorini, music will provide an evocative backdrop to your exploration of these legendary isles.

PONANT's hallmark of luxury and discovery ensures that your journey will be both seamless and deeply engaging. Your experience includes transfers before and after the cruise, enriching talks and discussions with expert guides, and curated shore excursions that immerse you in the sights, sounds, and flavors of the Aegean. With a limited number of guests on board, you will enjoy personalized service and exclusive access to some of Greece's most remarkable sites.

We hope you will join us for this incredible journey through the Aegean, where history, culture, gardens, and music intertwine to create an experience like no other. Space is limited, so we encourage you to reserve your place soon.

We look forward to welcoming you on board!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Stuart'.

Sarah Stuart

Above: Knossos Palace Ruins, Crete, Greece
Front cover: Amorgos, Greece



HIGHLIGHTS

- A voyage specially tailored for English-speaking travelers, featuring expert-led discussions, pre- and post-cruise transfers, and an included excursion in each port of call.
- Aboard-ship musical performances led by Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart, joined by six accomplished musicians: pianist Jihye Chang, cellist Alistair MacRae, soprano Allison Pohl, violist Scott Rawls, violinist Wendy Rawls, and violinist Benjamin Sung.
- Discover Greece's lush gardens, including Athens' Zappeion Gardens, Crete's diverse Botanical Park, and Rhodes' historic Rodini Park.
- Experience a captivating folkloric dance performance in Crete and the rich sounds of traditional music in Santorini.
- Wander the medieval streets of Rhodes Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Discover the remarkable temples and shrines of tiny Delos, another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE: Please call (877) 415-0407,
or email AffinityGuests@ponant.com

ITINERARY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner



Friday, October 16, 2026

DEPART US FOR ATHENS, GREECE

Saturday, October 17

ARRIVE ATHENS, GREECE | OVERNIGHT

Upon arrival at Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos (AIA) on October 17, you will be warmly welcomed and transferred to the NYX Esperia Palace Hotel Athens (or similar), where elegance and comfort set the tone for your stay. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome reception. Dinner will be at your leisure. While in Athens, located on the Saronic Gulf, explore its UNESCO-listed monuments; lively districts such as Plaka with its vibrant streets and enticing aromas; and renowned museums, including the National Archaeological Museum and the Cycladic Art Museum, showcasing the city's rich cultural heritage. (R)

Sunday, October 18

ATHENS | EMBARK

After breakfast, drive from your hotel located in the heart of Athens to the Zappeion Gardens, spanning 83,000 square meters, first planted in 1857. Architect Theodore Hansen and French designer Désiré Matton shaped its evolution from French geometrical to English-style gardens. Evangelis Zappas envisioned it enhancing the Ilissos riverside. Nearly 200 plane trees and eucalyptus were planted, with irrigation added in 1932 by Ulen, which also donated the central fountain. Afterward, head to Plaka to enjoy lunch on your own in the oldest region of Athens, before transferring to the pier for embarkation. (B,D)

Monday, October 19

HERAKLION, CRETE

Explore the Botanical Park & Gardens of Crete,

nestled in the foothills of the White Mountains. Wander through 20 hectares of vibrant landscapes showcasing Mediterranean, tropical, and subtropical plants. Admire citrus, avocado, and pomegranate orchards, and encounter local wildlife such as butterflies, birds, and turtles around a tranquil lake. This stunning park, once devastated by wildfire, now thrives as a symbol of sustainability, biodiversity, and Crete's rich botanical heritage. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, October 20

SANTORINI

Santorini, a striking volcanic gem in the Cyclades, boasts dramatic basalt cliffs and stunning Aegean views. In Fira, bougainvillea-lined terraces overlook the coast, while Oia's blue-and-white houses cascade down the caldera. In the south, explore Akrotiri's ancient ruins, preserved beneath volcanic ash from a catastrophic eruption. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, October 21

RHODES

Explore Rhodes Town, passing Mandraki Port, the Acropolis, and Apollo Temple. At Kallithea Springs, admire its stunning architecture, once a luxury spa, and enjoy its seaside charm. Then, visit Rodini Park, one of the world's first landscaped parks, known for its Roman aqueduct, lush vegetation, and roaming peacocks. Explore the Tomb of the Ptolemies, a Hellenistic monument carved into rock, offering a glimpse into Rhodes' ancient past. (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 22

AMORGOS

Amorgos, the easternmost Cycladic island, dazzles with its crystal-clear waters, rocky inlets, and charming villages. Known for its role in The Big Blue, it offers a chance to explore Chora, with its cobbled streets, whitewashed houses, Byzantine churches, windmills, and flower-filled courtyards, embodying the timeless beauty of Greece. (B,L,D)

Friday, October 23

DELOS | MYKONOS

Delos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Mykonos, captivates with its ancient ruins, including the Stoa of Antigonos and Terrace of the Lions. Explore marble animal statues and stunning archaeological sites set against the Aegean's horizon. The theater steps on

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the hillside offer a perfect vantage point for breathtaking views. Nicknamed “Little Venice,” Mykonos charms with its waterfront Alefkandra district, colorful loggias, and iconic windmills. Pelicans roam the old port, while bougainvillea adorns whitewashed streets. Wander the pedestrian alleys, glimpse the coastline, and escape to the island’s quieter northern beaches for a perfect blend of history, beauty, and seaside allure. (B,L,D)

Saturday, October 24

HYDRA

This unique Saronic island, east of the Peloponnese, is a car-free haven. Its harbor town rises along a mountainous bay, lined with colorful caiques and grand stone mansions. Stroll the waterfront to the Historical Archives Museum, or visit the elegant Villa Koundouriotis, showcasing collections from Athens’ National History Museum. (B,L,D)

Sunday, October 25

DISEMBARK ATHENS | DEPART FOR HOME

Disembark after breakfast, before transferring to the airport for flights homeward. (B)

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe *Le Champlain*
- One pre-night at the NYX Esperia Palace Hotel Athens (or similar) with welcome reception (dinner on own) on October 17, 2026
- Half day of touring and transfer to pier for embarkation on October 18, 2026 (lunch on own)
- One included shore excursion in each port of call led by expert English-speaking guides, one per port of call
- Three included exclusive shore excursions for Chicago Botanic Garden guests in Athens, Crete, and Rhodes, led by expert English-speaking guides
- One exclusive cocktail reception on board for Chicago Botanic Garden guests
- A program of onboard musical performances from a group of world-class musicians led by Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart
- Captain’s gala dinners
- All meals aboard ship including early riser’s coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner
- Open bar aboard ship, including select wines with lunch and dinner
- 24-hour complimentary room service
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Unlimited WiFi (as available via satellite)
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage on official arrival and departure days
- Port taxes and charges
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers on tours

EXCLUSIONS Airfare; airport taxes; passport and visa fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes (if applicable); trip cancellation and baggage insurance; medical and repatriation insurance; meals and beverages other than those specified above; personal expenses (such as telephone, laundry service, hair salon services, a la carte spa treatments, etc.); gratuities to drivers of transfers from/to airport; transfers outside of official arrival/ departure dates.

LE CHAMPLAIN



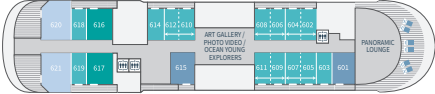
The five-star *Le Champlain* is one in a series of six luxury vessels commissioned by PONANT, making her maiden voyage in 2018. The state-of-the-art ship is equipped with the latest environmental preservation technology and combines PONANT's understated elegance with a spirit of adventure. In keeping with our company philosophy, *Le Champlain* is a small-capacity ship—430 feet in length with just 92 staterooms and a crew of 110—and features Blue Eye, the world's first multi-sensory underwater lounge.

DECK PLAN

DECK 7



DECK 6



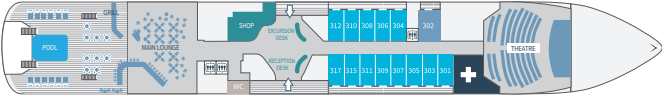
DECK 5



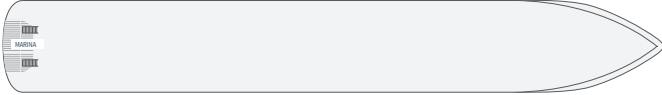
DECK 4



DECK 3



DECK 2



-  **Deluxe Stateroom**
Deck 3
-  **Prestige Stateroom**
Deck 4 - Deck 5 - Deck 6
-  **Deluxe Suite**
Deck 3 - Deck 4 - Deck 5 - Deck 6
-  **Prestige Suite**
Deck 5 - Deck 6
-  **Privilege Suite**
Deck 5 - Deck 6
-  **Grand Deluxe Suite**
Deck 6
-  **Owner's Suite**
Deck 5

FARES PER PERSON, DOUBLE AND SINGLE OCCUPANCY

All accommodations aboard *Le Champlain* are outside staterooms and suites, and feature a private balcony. All cabins include either two beds or a king-size bed, mini bar, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, WiFi access, TV with movies on demand, Bose Bluetooth Speaker, and private bathroom with fine amenities.

	DOUBLE	SINGLE
 DELUXE STATEROOMS - DECK 3	\$9,000	\$12,810
 PRESTIGE STATEROOMS - DECK 4	\$9,280	\$13,230
 PRESTIGE STATEROOMS - DECK 5	\$9,550	\$13,630
 PRESTIGE STATEROOMS - DECK 6	\$9,890	\$14,140
 DELUXE SUITES - DECKS 3, 4, 5, 6	\$13,780	\$19,980
 PRESTIGE SUITES - DECK 5	\$14,910	\$21,670
 PRESTIGE SUITES - DECK 6	\$15,190	\$22,090
 PRIVILEGE SUITE - DECKS 5, 6	\$15,760	\$22,950
 GRAND DELUXE SUITE - DECK 6	\$18,290	\$26,740
 OWNER'S SUITE - DECK 5	\$33,950	\$66,360

Single occupancy staterooms, subject to availability. Contact PONANT for more information: (877) 415-0407 or AffinityGuests@ponant.com.



PRESTIGE STATEROOM

TERMS & CONDITIONS • ATHENS – ATHENS | OCTOBER 17 – 25, 2026 (EC181026)

Compagnie du PONANT, PONANT Group USA, LLC, and PONANT USA, LLC are hereinafter collectively referred to as «PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP» or “PONANT” is the tour Operator/ Organizer of this cruise and has invited members of Chicago Botanic Garden (Sponsor) to participate. Please carefully read this information as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms & Conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and PONANT GROUP and the tour’s sponsoring organization.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: To secure a booking, the guest is required to pay a 25% deposit of the tour fare. Final payment is due by July 19, 2026, or 90 days prior to departure. Checks and credit cards are accepted.

CANCELLATION, MODIFICATION PENALTIES & REFUNDS: All cancellations or modifications must be in writing. Any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure or waiving for any reason whatsoever the benefit of services included in the program cannot claim any refund. PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP shall not be required to refund any monies to any guests who must leave the cruise prematurely for any reason, nor shall PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP be held responsible for any costs, fees, damages or causes of action which result from the transportation expenses incurred by guest’s early departure. For any deposited or fully paid booking, cancellation penalties will be assessed as noted below. These cancellation penalties are applicable on all services booked with PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP.

- From confirmation of booking date up to July 18, 2026 (91 days prior to departure): 10% of deposit to be kept by PONANT.
- From July 19, 2026 (90 days prior to departure): 100% of full tour fare to be kept by PONANT

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Passengers shall be responsible for subscribing to cancellation/luggage/assistance repatriation/ medical insurance(s).

ITINERARY: PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP reserves the right to withdraw and/or cancel a sailing to make changes in the itinerary whenever, in its sole judgment, or in the judgment of the vessel owner or operator, conditions warrant it.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS/LIMIT OF LIABILITY: The passenger agrees that PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden acts as agents and/ or trustees for any person, ground and maritime agents and subcontractors, who provide any service forming, or in connection with, any part of the cruise. Transportation services to the port of departure, transfers to the ship, including, as applicable, hotel room and restaurant bookings or guided tours, are performed by independent suppliers who are not employees of PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP nor Chicago Botanic Garden. In this respect, PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden acts only as an agent and shall not be held liable for said services or for the acts or omissions of subcontractors or other contractors. PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden shall not be held liable for bodily injury to, or death of passengers, or for loss of, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has infringed statutory obligations or that it or one of its employees or agents has committed gross negligence. However, in the event the liability of PONANT

EXPLORATIONS GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden is incurred, such liability is limited (details available upon request). PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden shall in any case not be liable for failure of an improper performance when the same is due to or caused by the fault of the passenger; the unforeseeable or unavoidable fault of a third party unconnected with the provision of any services to be provided under the contract; unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden; an event of “Force Majeure” such as a war, threat of war, riots, civil commotion, acts of God, terrorist activities, natural and nuclear disaster, fire, technical problems with transport, closure of ports, strikes and any industrial action, or any other event beyond the control of PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP or Chicago Botanic Garden.

RATES: The prices given at the time of booking are based on economic conditions known on March 10, 2025, and are subject to change. These conditions are, amongst others, the cost of transport and fuel, relevant dues, and taxes for the proposed operation (port taxes, embarkation and disembarkation taxes, entrance costs to tourist sites), currency exchange rates relevant to the pricing of these programs. PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP reserves the right within the legal limits of applicable laws to vary the prices if necessary. All variation of the cost of transport, fuel, taxes, dues, and visa costs will be passed on within the voyage cost. Any change in fare cannot be imposed less than 60 days prior or August 18, 2026, to departure.

PERSONS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY: Report any physical conditions and dietary or treatment requirements to PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP in writing at the time of booking. PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP will try to accommodate special needs where possible, but any extra costs associated with special accommodation are the responsibility of the passenger. For limited mobility, wheelchair users, or conditions requiring assistance, inform PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP in writing as soon as possible, but at least 30 days or September 17, 2026, before the service starts.

JURISDICTION: These terms & conditions are subject to and interpreted according to international regulations and concern the transportation of passengers and their luggage from the time of boarding the ship to the moment of disembarking, as well as at ports of departure, destination, or stopover. PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP shall incur no liability outside this period. Without prejudice to required legal regulations, any actions related either to the interpretation, or execution of this agreement shall be brought before the competent courts of Marseille-France. PONANT is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors and reserves the right to make corrections as required.

SHIPS’ REGISTRY: France FL Seller of Travel Ref No ST37706 CA Seller of Travel Ref No 2120712-40

COMPLETE TERMS: For complete Terms & Conditions applicable to these cruises, please see Particular Terms & Conditions PONANT | <https://us.ponant.com/terms-conditions>. By registering for this program, the passenger agrees to the Terms & Conditions herein.

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REGISTRATION

EC181026

Please secure space for \$ ____ (25% of tour fare) as a deposit to hold ____ place(s) on Chicago Botanic Garden’s **Symphony in Boston: A Musical Journey through Greece’s Botanical Gardens with Keith Lockhart of the Boston Pops, October 17 - 25, 2026.** Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure, or by July 19, 2026.

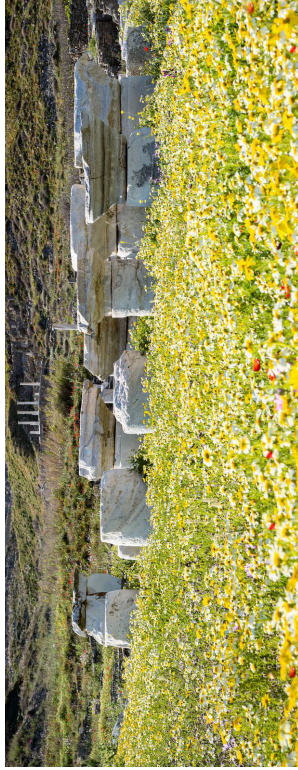
To book your space and provide a deposit with a credit card, please provide payment details via phone by contacting PONANT at (877) 415-0407 and mention that you are with the Chicago Botanic Garden.

PONANT EXPLORATIONS GROUP and the Sponsor are not joint venturers and are not otherwise connected with each other. All organizational and operational matters associated with this cruise tour, including the handling of all payments and/or refunds, are controlled by the PONANT GROUP and any communication and/or disputes relating to any such matters shall not be brought against the Sponsor.



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