

FAQs

What are the physical requirements for the Aegean Odyssey?

Aegean Odyssey voyages include extensive visits to ancient archaeological sites, which involve walking on uneven surfaces, up and down multiple stairs and require a certain level of fitness and mobility. A number of ports on the itineraries require disembarkation from the ship using the ship's tender (or local tenders), instead of walking to land via the ship's gangway.

Are these voyages suitable for wheel chair users?

Participants that need to travel with medical apparatus including wheel chairs and other orthopedic devices, as well as portable CPAPs must have advised Road Scholar in writing at the time of enrollment. Please also note that wheelchairs are not allowed on tenders or local boats and participants requiring use of a wheelchair at shore may not be able to participate in some excursions. A doctor's statement of fitness may be required. All participants need to be self-sufficient and have an able-bodied participant travelling with them to take full responsibility for any assistance that is required. Ship and cruise staff are not able to push wheelchairs or provide walking assistance. **Important Notice:** Failure to advise Road Scholar as required may result in denied boarding, and no refunds are provided for such incidents.

When will I receive my cabin number?

You will receive your cabin number six weeks prior to departure via email.

I'm enrolled in back-to-back voyages. When will I learn the specifics of my itinerary?

We've designed our back-to-back experiences with a special bonus field trip in between voyages for more in-depth exploration. Depending on the programs you have combined, this may include one or two nights in a hotel. Full details of this field trip will be included in your final mailing, which you can expect approximately six weeks prior to your departure.

What are the passport and visa considerations?

It is each participant's responsibility to obtain and bring all proper documentation necessary for travel, including a valid passport and required visas. Passports must be valid for a minimum of six months after the last day of your voyage. Passports will be collected prior to boarding the ship for the first time and kept in a secure location on board for the duration of the program.

Are the cost of visas included in the price of the program?

You can see the details of which visas we do and do not include on your program's Travel Information page on our website. If a visa is required, you will also be notified in your first mailing. For those visas you'll need to arrange yourself we recommend that you visit

www.passportvisasexpress.com/roadscholar to begin your visa application process. The application processes, current visa fees, and governmental rules are subject to change. Please make sure you allow enough time to secure all necessary visas.

Can I pay with cash and credit card onboard the ship?

A cashless system is used on board the Aegean Odyssey, with all purchases charged to your cabin account for settlement at the end of your voyage. You will be required to register a credit card at reception shortly after embarkation. All charges are in USD. Your final account can be settled in US\$, UK£, EU€, and AU or NZ\$. Exchange rates used are daily rate of exchange in place at time of settlement. Credit cards accepted for final settlement are Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Debit cards with the Visa or MasterCard logo only are accepted. Note: A pre-authorization hold of funds will be placed on your credit card at time of registration. This "hold of funds" will release once the initial charges have been approved for settlement by the cardholder's bank.

Which currencies should I bring on board?

There is no need to obtain local currency in advance of your departure for every country you'll be visiting. However, we suggest that you exchange some money for the first country on the itinerary, either through your bank prior to departure, or at the international airport where ATMs are generally available. If you plan to use a credit card or ATM card, we suggest you contact your bank or card issuer for overseas affiliations in the countries you will be travelling, and at the same time, verify that your card(s) can be used internationally. It is also recommended that you advise your bank or card issuer of your travel dates and countries of travel. For security reasons, some banks place limits on the number and amounts of withdrawals that can be made at ATM's in certain countries. Your bank or card issuer can provide specifics.

Is there internet access on board?

You can purchase Wi-Fi aboard the ship for an additional cost. The Wi-Fi packages range from \$45-\$300. As a rough guide, you could send around 200 standard emails with no attachments for \$45, but sending pictures will use more capacity. It is important to keep in mind that all internet communication on board the ship is via satellite, which is considerably more expensive and less reliable than land-based communications. We recommend using Wi-Fi at a cafe on days when the ship is docked. The best places to get a Wi-Fi signal on board are the Reception area and the Observation Lounge.

Can you accommodate my special diet?

The ship can meet most dietary requests, such as low-fat, diabetic, vegetarian, vegan and salt- or fat-free. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate kosher or halal diets. While all dietary requests are provided to our local suppliers and hotels in advance. We cannot guarantee special requests on included meals at hotels or local restaurants off the ship. We expect participants to exercise caution when dining.

If you require a vegan or vegetarian diet, on your pre-departure information form, please specify in full detail the exact foods you cannot eat.

What kind of electric adapters are needed?

The ship's cabins and suites feature outlets with 220 voltage outlets designed for two-pin European adapters and current conversion devices. Hair dryers are provided, and electric rollers, curling irons, electric shavers and other small appliances can be used in your cabin. A limited number of adapters are available at the Purser's Office; a returnable deposit is required. However, we do recommend you bring your own adapter in case none are available. There are limited outlets available, especially in the smaller double cabins. We recommend bringing adapters that have multiple outlets, so you can charge more than one device.

If you are continuing your Road Scholar adventure on an Extension program — or you are enjoying a complimentary hotel stay between two Aegean Odyssey programs — you will need to bring your own electronic adapter. Please see your preparatory materials for more details

What is the dress code on board?

The mood on board is casual and relaxed. In the evening, we recommend smart casual attire. Your voyage features a Welcome and Farewell dinner, where smart casual attire is strongly encouraged. Comfortable, sturdy shoes with non-slip soles are extremely important for walking around the archaeological sites.

What amenities are standard in each cabin?

All cabins onboard Aegean Odyssey come equipped with a hair dryer, flat-screen television, telephone and personal safe for your convenience. For safety reasons, travel irons are not allowed. Depending on your cabin assignment, additional amenities may be available. Please refer to your cabin details for further information.

What if I need refrigerated access for my medication?

Cabins in categories A-F include a refrigerator as a lodging amenity. If you purchase a cabin in another category but have medication that needs to be refrigerated, there is 24/7 access to a staff-maintained refrigerator.

Is bottled water included?

Tap water on board the Aegean Odyssey is potable. Bottled water is included on all field trips ashore. Balcony Class passengers (categories A to D) receive complimentary bottled water and soft drinks in their cabin. Participants in other categories will receive a bottle of water in their cabin on embarkation. Additional bottles can be purchased from cabin stewards. Re-usable water bottles are also encouraged. Soft drinks may be purchased at the bars on board and may be selected with dinner in place of included wine at no cost.

How many passengers are on board the Aegean Odyssey?

There are 216 passenger cabins for a maximum of approximately 350 passengers.

How many passengers are on field trips?

The total number of participants will be divided into color groups for field trips ashore, with a maximum of 35 people per group. Embarkation, disembarkation, and other scheduling will be done by color group to provide a small-group experience. We will make every effort to ensure that traveling companions are in the same color group, with the exception of traveling companions who have chosen different activity levels. Approximately two weeks prior to departure we will send you an email confirming your color group. Each group will have their own group leader and own transportation for field trips.

Are shuttle services provided in each port?

Yes, shuttle services are provided at almost all ports of call. If the port is centrally located, a shuttle may not be required for independent exploration.

Can I bring my own alcohol to drink on board?

All alcohol consumed on the ship must be purchased on the ship. While you may bring alcohol on board to be consumed at home, you are not allowed to consume alcohol on the ship that you have purchased off the ship.

Does the ship offer laundry facilities?

Laundry and pressing services are available on board. A price list and laundry bags will be provided in your cabin or are available on request from your cabin steward. Dry cleaning is not available. *Please note:* If you are taking two Aegean Odyssey programs back-to-back, you will receive one free laundry bag per cabin upon embarkation of your second voyage.

Are the cabins climate controlled?

There is an individual thermostat for each cabin. The cabins are fully air-conditioned and ceiling vents can be opened and closed. The temperature is set throughout the ship, and you can control the air flow within your cabin. With the exception of the balcony cabins, all the windows and portholes are fixed and do not open.

When was the ship refurbished?

The Aegean Odyssey was substantially rebuilt and refurbished in 2010 and most recently updated in early 2020.

Can I bring my service dog on the ship?

Unfortunately, the Aegean Odyssey does not accommodate service dogs.

What is the ratio of crew to passengers?

The ratio is approximately one crew member to every two passengers.