

SAILING AROUND SICILY - CRUISE FROM VALLETTA

Join the SEA CLOUD on its farewell voyage around Sicily for an unforgettable blend of history, culture, and Dolce Vita. Begin in Valletta, Malta, and sail to Agrigento to explore Sicily's ancient temple valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy the historic charm of Trapani and the vibrant cityscape of Palermo, known for its stunning palazzi and golden mosaics. Discover the Aeolian Islands' natural beauty in Lipari, and immerse yourself in Taormina's rich cultural tapestry. Experience the baroque splendor of Syracuse and Noto before returning to Valletta, where this remarkable journey concludes.

Some departures may have slightly modified itineraries. Please confirm the itinerary with an Expedition Specialist.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Valletta, Malta

Departure 11:00 pm

This strategically important location has always attracted foreign conquerors. More than 7,000 years ago, a civilisation existed here, leaving behind enormous temple complexes. Just like proud Valletta, these are now UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Jean Parisot de la Valette, Grand Master of the Order of St John, founded a modern fortified city on a rock in 1566, between the two splendid natural ports of Marsamxett and Grand harbor. Long rows of facades

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made from golden-yellow blocks of chalk stretch along the straight streets. Splendid Renaissance and Baroque buildings are evidence of riches and power, such as the Palace of the Grand Master and the impressive St John's Co-Cathedral.

Day 2 Day under full sails

Climbing the rigging, untying ropes, setting sails - today is all about sailing. Time to lean back and relax in the deck chair and watch the passionate crew hoisting the sails by hand.

Day 3 Agrigento (Porto Empedocle), Sicily

Arrival 8:00 am, Departure 1:30 pm

The city of Porto Empedocle on Sicily's sun-soaked southwestern coast is only six kilometers from Agrigento -- making it the perfect base for visiting the legendary archaeological sites. With its 1,300 hectares, Agrigento's Valley of the Temples has an impressive ten Doric temples, three sanctuaries, a necropolis, statues, mosaics, and fortifications. The ruins of the ancient city are excellently preserved and have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. If you need a little break after visiting the Hera, Concordia, and Demeter temples, you will find peace in the fragrant Garden of Kolymbethra among lemon trees and rosemary.

Day 4 Trapani, Sicily

Arrival 1:30 pm

The old town and port of Trapani lies on a picturesque crescent-shaped headland at the foot of Monte Erice. You will discover many little treasures browsing through the beautiful town center. For the last 1,000 years, fine black and red coral jewellery has been made here. The mountain town of Erice is a real architectural gem. Not far from Tapani, this idyllic little town is tucked away in a picturesque hilltop setting overlooking the countryside and the sea. Protected defiantly by a wall, the town retains its splendid medieval atmosphere.

Day 5 Trapani, Sicily



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Departure 1:30 pm

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Day 6 Palermo/Sicily

Arrival 8:00 am, Departure 11:00 pm

The character of Palermo, Sicily's vibrant capital, was mainly forged by the Arabs, Swabian dynasty and Normans. Noble palaces line the magnificent streets, cheerful-looking Art Nouveau houses stand next to Baroque buildings and a little further on you are faced with pure Gothic facades. The medieval quarter towers above the huge Palazzo Reale with its "Capella Palatina", a masterpiece in the Arab-Byzantine-Norman style. The small mountain town of Monreale gives you a breathtaking view over the town and the bay, as well as the 12th century cathedral whose interior combines Romanesque, Byzantine and Arab art with rich gold mosaics.

Day 7 Lipari, Aeolian Islands

Arrival 1:30 pm, Departure 7:00 pm

Lipari is a tranquil little spot and the largest of the Aeolian Islands, with a cultural heritage stretching back over 6,000 years. Right from first glance you can see its volcanic heritage, with some of the rock formations resembling sculptures, and the entire group of islands is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Aeolian Museum is set on the castle hill and holds an impressive collection of prehistoric and ancient artefacts from this volcanic group of islands. You will find the southern Italian way of life in this little port infectious.

Day 8 Taormina (Naxos), Sicily



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Please note:

Arrival 7:00 am, Departure 11:00 pm

Taormina is perched on a rock with a majestic view over the sea. In the 19th century, this small town had already developed into a dream destination for well-heeled travellers and artists. The town's fascination lies in its elegance, the many ancient buildings, the stunningly beautiful coastline, the mild climate, and the view over the silhouette of Etna. Europe's largest volcano is over 9,843 feet high, has four summit craters and around 400 subsidiary craters, and is covered with snow almost all year round. In ancient times it was considered the seat of the gods, but nowadays large sections of it are a nature reserve.

Day 9 Syracuse, Sicily

Arrival 8:00 am, Departure 2:00 pm

The municipal area of Syracuse boasts relics from cultural history going back more than three millennia. In ancient times, the city was the most powerful in the known world and was famed for its splendour. The island of Ortigia, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was where Syracuse began its rise as an ancient city. The huge cathedral is at the heart of the old town, magnificent palaces line the Piazza and wide promenades invite you to take a stroll. The archaeological park brings Greek and Roman history back to life. Yet Syracuse exudes southern Italian charm, with washing drying outside the windows.

Day 10 Valletta, Malta

Arrival 8:00 am

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Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: SEA CLOUD

YOUR SHIP:	Sea Cloud
VESSEL TYPE:	Tall Ship (Sailing)
LENGTH:	109 metres
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	58
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	1931 / 2011

Travelling aboard Sea Cloud is a journey back in time to the golden age of sail, where opulence and adventure coexist in splendid harmony. This majestic four-masted barque, hand-sailed and rich in history, was originally built in 1931 by American heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post and her husband, E.F. Hutton. With 30 sails spanning 32,000 square feet and interiors adorned with antique furnishings, marble fireplaces, and gilded fixtures, Sea Cloud is as much a floating palace as she is a ship. Her 58 guests are attended to by a crew of 60, ensuring a level of service as refined as the ship herself.

Despite her grandeur, life aboard Sea Cloud is refreshingly relaxed. Guests enjoy gourmet meals in a single, unassigned seating, complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner. The covered lido bar and the elegant Lounge offer comfortable gathering spaces, while the open Bridge invites guests to witness the art of traditional sailing. The "Blue Lagoon," a semicircle of cushioned seating at the stern, is perfect for soaking in sea breezes and sunsets. Whether sailing the Mediterranean or exploring the Caribbean, Sea Cloud offers an unmatched blend of heritage, elegance, and maritime charm.

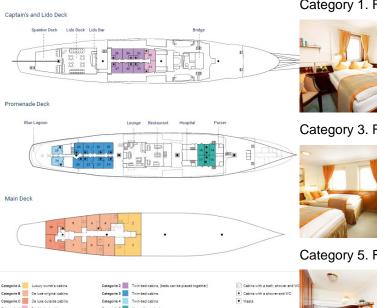




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