

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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MEDITERRANEAN GEMS: FROM DUBROVNIK TO NAPLES

Sail between the enchanting Croatian city of Dubrovnik and Naples aboard the historic tall ship *Sea Cloud*. Wind your way around the southern part of Italy's "boot," calling on vibrant and welcoming places steeped in ancient history. Marvel at ornate cathedrals and remarkable baroque buildings, explore great sites of antiquity—from renowned Pompeii to the less-visited Greek temples of Paestum—and meander through unspoiled cliff-top towns, soaking up breathtaking views. Plus, with a little luck, witness the orange glow of eruptions from the Stromboli volcano. Time at sea offers a glimpse into the bygone golden age of sailing. Stand on deck to watch the orchestrated frenzy of crew members going high aloft in the riggings to handset 30 sails. Feel the ship heel underfoot in the wind, and measure the passing of time luxuriating on deck and watching landscapes on the horizon slowly change.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Dubrovnik, Croatia / Embark

Arrive in Dubrovnik and transfer to the *Sea Cloud*. Time permitting, briefly explore Dubrovnik before setting sail. (D)

DAY 2: At Sea

Marvel as the ship's billowing sails are raised the old-fashioned way, by hand, and the ship heads across the Adriatic Sea. Hear

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presentations from our experts, catch up on reading and experience Sea Cloud's legendary five star service. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Otranto & Lecce, Italy

We stop at the picturesque Adriatic town of Otranto, whose idyllic seaside appearance contrasts with its turbulent past. We'll explore the cathedral, which has a large, intricate, fanciful 12th-century mosaic floor depicting real and mythological animals, a tree of life, historical figures, and biblical scenes. The cathedral is also noted for the chapel with the skulls and bones of more than 800 martyrs of the Turkish invasion of 1480. We'll also walk the medieval walls for great views of the Aragonese Castle, the town, and the sea. We continue to Lecce, the "Florence of the South," to explore its remarkable 17th-century baroque architecture and its narrow pedestrian streets and grand plazas on a walking excursion. Some of the greatest architectural masters of the time competed to see who could create the most beautiful buildings, and the highly fanciful, ornamented style was given its own name: "Lecce Baroque." Our walking tour of Lecce shows us the Basilica di Santa Croce and the adjacent Palazzo del Governo; the extraordinary Piazza del Duomo, with its cathedral and the Palazzo Vescovile; and the second-century Roman amphitheater. After visiting Lecce, we return to our ship and sail into the Ionian Sea. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: At Sea

Weather permitting, we spend the day with sails unfurled in the Ionian, sailing across the southern part of Italy's "boot" toward Sicily. Join the expedition leader for a play-by-play description of the crew in the rigging and the action of setting square sails, staysails, and jibs as Sea Cloud shows her full glory. Relax with a book on deck, and enjoy delicious meals and complimentary

drinks. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Siracusa

Siracusa was the great rival to Athens, and its archaeological park features one of the largest theaters of antiquity. Its 15,000 seats are hewn out of bedrock, and the theater is still in use today. We also visit the nearby limestone quarry, the cave of "Dionysus' Ear", and the Roman amphitheatre before returning to Sea Cloud for lunch. The afternoon features a walk through the medieval island town of Ortygia. The town is magical, with numerous little piazzas and narrow alleys, but the time for you to explore on your own, if you're so inclined. (B,L,D) main feature is the Duomo, or Cathedral, which was built from the ruins of the ancient Temple of Athena. The history of Sicily can be told in the walls of this incredible construction. There will be

DAY 6: Taormina

In the morning, we drive up to the intoxicatingly beautiful town of Taormina, perched 250 meters above. With Mount Etna dominating to the south, this stunning medieval town boasts the now-fashionable walk on the pedestrian Corso Umberto, lined with exquisite buildings, and ends at the Greco-Roman Theater. This unforgettable theatre was built right into the cliffside, overlooking the vast sea below, in the third century B.C. Enjoy a special lunch at a privately owned castle, the Castello degli Schiavi. This phenomenal 18th-century home was the setting for many scenes in the Godfather films, and we'll meet members of the family that owns it and explore the extensive buildings and grounds. Return to Sea Cloud, which has been at anchor under the watchful gaze of Mount Etna. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: At Sea / Lipari / Stromboli

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In the early hours of the morning, we pass through the narrow Strait of Messina, which separates Sicily from the “boot” of Italy. It’s the purported location of Homer’s monsters Scylla and Charybdis, the rock and the hard place through which Odysseus had to sail. The Aeolian Islands are not only famous for the winds of the god Aeolus, but also for some of the most well-known classical volcanoes. We’ll set sails in the morning with the islands of Vulcano and Stromboli in view, anchoring for the afternoon at Lipari. Here we’ll go ashore for a drive around the perimeter of the entire island, with spectacular views of the other Aeolian volcanoes, before returning to the main town. We visit the small but surprising archeological museum that has an extensive collection of Neolithic artifacts made from the local obsidian, which was also the foundation of the island’s prosperity during the Greco-Roman era. This evening, we’ll have dinner on deck as Sea Cloud cruises the 25 miles to Stromboli, and with a little luck we’ll see some of the pyrotechnics of this active volcano. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: At Sea / Amalfi & Ravello

A morning at sea presents another opportunity to witness Sea Cloud’s sails aloft. In the afternoon, we visit Amalfi. This storied town, part of the World Heritage Site that comprises the entire Amalfi Coast, has a glorious aspect, with pastel-hued houses clinging to the steep-sided mountains that comprise this indented stretch of coastline. Its pleasures are many: strolling the waterfront, with its marina and shops; visiting the ornate cathedral, with bronze doors dating from 1066; and just wandering the winding streets and alleyways to make your own discoveries. After taking time to explore Amalfi, we’ll drive up hairpin curves to Ravello, which overlooks the coastline from high above, offering great views. Ravello has long been a haunt

of artists and intellectuals, including André Gide, Gore Vidal, Richard Wagner, Greta Garbo, John Maynard Keynes, and D.H. Lawrence (who wrote *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* there). We’ll explore the Villa Rufolo, originally built in the 13th century and restored by a Scotsman, Francis Neville Reid, in the middle of the 19th century. It has gardens, stately buildings, a tower to climb if you wish, and vistas of Amalfi and other towns below. After visiting Ravello we return to Amalfi. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: Paestum/At Sea

Anchoring off the town of Agropoli, we drive to Paestum, a World Heritage Site with some of the finest and best-preserved Greek temples anywhere. Founded about 600 B.C. by Greeks from Sybaris and called Poseidonia, it became a thriving city. Today, the three magnificent Doric temples—known as the Temple of Neptune, the “Basilica” of Hera, and the Temple of Ceres—can be explored up close. The Temple of Neptune (a misnomer, as it was likely dedicated to Hera) is especially intact and allows you to imagine what it must have been like 2,500 years ago. It’s large and extremely graceful, with elegant rows of columns. The nearby museum has a superb collection of statues, paintings and reliefs from the site, many of them richly evocative in how they depict life in ancient times. After exploring Paestum, we return to Sea Cloud and spend the afternoon sailing the Tyrrhenian Sea. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Salerno / Pompeii / At Sea

Spend the day exploring the historic city center of Salerno. Marvel at the 11th century Duomo of Salerno—a magnificent cathedral dedicated to Saint Matthew—and the gorgeous landscaped garden of Villa Comunale di Salerno. Or you can opt to visit the UNESCO Site of Pompeii, a once thriving city buried in pumice and ash when Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79 that

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wouldn't be rediscovered for 1,500 years. Pliny the Younger wrote, "Darkness fell, not the dark of a moonless or cloudy night, but as if the lamp had been put out in a dark room." Walking the 2,000-year-old streets, we'll explore remarkably preserved villas, the forum, the splendid amphitheater (which seated 12,000), and temples. Returning to Sea Cloud, we raise the sails a final time this afternoon as we sail the Bay of Naples. We'll have a farewell dinner to toast our voyage. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: Naples / Disembark / Home

We arrive in Naples this morning and disembark. Transfer to the airport for flights home, or join our two-day optional extension exploring historic Naples. (B)

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: SEA CLOUD

YOUR SHIP: Sea Cloud

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Sea Cloud is a ship with a soul, imbued by the original owners, Marjorie Merriweather Post and her husband E.F. Hutton in the 1930's. The ship has played host to royalty, known service in wartime, and sailed the world over. She is a vessel of incomparable grace that harks back to the golden age of ship travel. Once you've been on Sea Cloud under full sail, you'll begin your own love affair. Welcome aboard a legend Sea Cloud accommodates 58 guests in 28 outside cabins including two original owner's suites that still feature original marble baths and fireplaces. At 360 feet she is an expansive ship with extensive public spaces on the top deck, where we luxuriate in deck chairs and watch the crew of 18 go aloft in the web of riggings to hand-set her 30 sails. Her dining room is hung with marine oil paintings of the period and accommodates all guests at once for a single seating. We'll gather in the lounge each evening for Recap. Life aboard is a uniquely pleasing mix of elegance and informality--a return to the golden age of sailing in shorts and deck shoes. You'll find all shipboard services impeccable. Discover the romance of tall ship sailing Experience something many people don't know exists in the 21st century--the romance of life under square sails. Discover the

thrill of standing on deck as Sea Cloud gently glides through the water, her crew aloft in the riggings, running out and reefing sails. Settle in to your favorite areas on the top deck and bask in the incomparable experience of traveling aboard the finest tall ship to ever sail the seas. Lose yourself in an adventure that, in this day and age, is almost



unimaginable.

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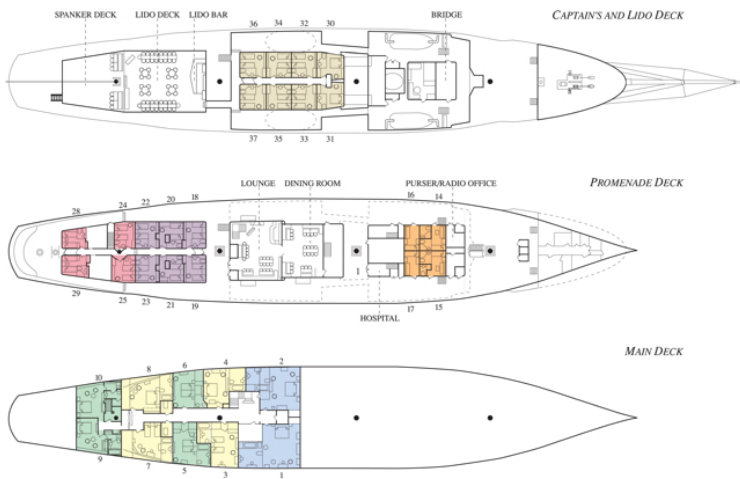
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