



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

SICILY CIRCUMNAVIGATION

Sailing Around Sicily and Malta aboard the 47-cabin *Sea Cloud II*

**June 15–24, 2024
(10 days)**

Criterion Travel has chartered the iconic *Sea Cloud II* for this exciting circumnavigation of Sicily, beginning and ending in Malta. Specially designed to allow ample time for sailing and a robust lecture program, this itinerary also offers excursions that cater to a variety of interests as well as mobility levels so that your travelers can choose to see and do what speaks to them and at a pace of their choosing. The program begins with one night in Valletta, the capital city of the island nation of Malta and one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world, before embarking the *Sea Cloud II* for a seven-night private charter that will take travelers on a circumnavigation of Sicily. The itinerary includes the first day on board at sea, under sail, before reaching the island's treasures with stops in Trapani, Palermo, Giardini Naxos (for Taormina and Mt Etna), and Syracuse. This itinerary also spends a day in the Aeolian Islands, one of seven UNESCO sites visited, as well as a specially timed sailing through the Strait of Messina at sunset. Return to Malta and disembark at Valletta. An optional pre trip extension is offered in Malta and Gozo.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Customize your experience with a **menu of excursion options** geared to different interests and mobility levels in nearly every port: Valletta, Trapani, Palermo, Lipari, and Giardini Naxos.
- Discover **UNESCO World Heritage sites** – Monreale's Cathedral, the Aeolian Archipelago of which we visit Lipari, Mount Etna, as well as the historic centers of Valletta, Palermo, and Syracuse.
- Sample a variety of **Palermo's famed street food** during a specially-curated lunch in Old Town Palermo.
- Experience the lovely countryside and historic wonders of **Lipari**, one of the seven Aeolian Islands.
- Delight in a **private reception with a nobleman**, who will welcome us to his Baroque palazzo, dating back to the Middle Ages, for a tour and light refreshments, including wines made by his family, winemakers since 1734.



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ITINERARY MAP





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ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
June 15 Sat	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to Valetta, Malta. Meals aloft
June 16 Sun	Arrive Malta	Phoenicia Hotel	Arrive Valletta and transfer to hotel; welcome Orientation & Reception at the hotel R
June 17 Mon	Valletta, Malta	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	Morning lecture, followed by choice of full day excursions: 1) Archaeology of Malta : Tarxien Temples, Hypogeum, National Archaeological Museum; 2) Military History of Malta : walking tour of old town Valletta w/visit to underground tunnels and National War Museum at Ft St. Elmo; 3) Architecture Tour of Valletta with St John's Cathedral, Renzo Piano's new works, & lunch in historic palazzo. Board <i>Sea Cloud II</i> in the late afternoon and set sail for Sicily BLD
June 18 Tue	At Sea	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	Full day under sail in the southern Med; education program continues, tours of the ship are offered, and tenders are used to photograph the ship (weather permitting); Captain's welcome evening BLD
Jun 19 Wed	Trapani	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	AM Greek Doric temple of Segesta , sitting high atop Mount Barbaro, followed by choice of tours: 1) the hilltop fortress of Erice ; or 2) wine tasting in Marsala. Afternoon at sea, with sailing opportunity (weather permitting) and continuation of lecture program BLD
Jun 20 Thu	Palermo	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	AM visit to Palermo's Norman castle , Capella Palatina and Monreale's stunning UNESCO listed Cathedral followed by street food tour/lunch in Old Town Palermo; PM choice of excursions : 1) Batellis Art Museum; 2) Archaeological Museum BLD



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Jun 21 Fri	Lipari, Aeolian Islands	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	AM choice of tours in Lipari: 1) In-depth walking tour of Lipari center w/visit to Aeolian Archaeological Museum; 2) driving tour of island ending in Lipari center for free time. Return to the ship for lunch, afternoon swim off the ship, and time for sailing and lectures. At sunset, cruise by Stromboli to see some of the pyrotechnics of this active volcano. BLD
Jun 22 Sat	Giardini Naxos	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	AM choice of tours: 1) Early departure for the slopes of Mt. Etna to see Silvestri Crater and ride the cable car to the summit; 2) Visit 3 rd c. B.C. Greco-Roman amphitheater of Taormina w/free time in town. BLD
Jun 23 Sun	Syracuse	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	AM Syracuse Archaeological Park, followed by guided walk of Ortygia Island w/highlights including lively morning market, Cathedral Square. In a lovely private palazzo , view collection of etchings featuring ancient Syracuse and Sicily followed by wine tasting in the palace cellars hosted by a nobleman. Afternoon cruising to Malta. Captain's farewell reception and dinner cruising to Valletta. BLD
Jun 24 Mon	Valletta, Malta		Disembark for flights home. B



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Category 1, Cabin Deck, per person, sharing	\$5,990
Category 2, Cabin Deck, per person, sharing.....	\$7,990
Category 3, Cabin Deck, per person, sharing.....	\$9,490
Category 4, Cabin Deck, per person, sharing	\$10,990
Category 5, Promenade Deck, per person, sharing	\$11,990
Category 6, Promenade Deck, per person, sharing	\$12,990
Category 7, Lido Deck, per person, sharing.....	\$15,990
Category 1, Cabin Deck, single.....	\$10,490
Category 2, Cabin Deck, single	\$12,490
Category 3, Cabin Deck, single	\$15,490

Program Length:

10 days round-trip from the U.S.

Fees Include: One deluxe hotel night and seven nights aboard *Sea Cloud II* • All meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings and lectures • Airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, drivers and shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions on board • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Criterion Tour Manager

Fees Do Not Include: U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature



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OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

BEYOND VALETTA: MALTA'S SOUTHERN COAST & GOZO ISLAND

June 13 - 16, 2024

This two-night pre-trip extension offers the chance to experience the sites, stunning landscape and local charm of this island nation beyond its capital city, including a day trip to the idyllic island of Gozo to see the oldest megalithic temples on Earth.

Thursday-Friday, June 13-14

ARRIVE MALTA

Depart United States on overnight flights to Europe. Arrive Valletta and transfer to the Grand Excelsior Hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel. PHOENICIA HOTEL (D)

Saturday, June 15

MALTA'S SOUTH COAST

Head out today for an exploration of Malta's south coast beginning with the megalithic complex of Hagar Qim, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, that overlooks the wide expanse of the blue Mediterranean and islet of Filfla. Continue to picturesque Marsaxlokk, a fishing village since Roman times, with its artistic building facades and colorful boats bobbing in the harbor. Wander the local market, set right on the water, and enjoy lunch independently. Just before sunset, head to M'dina, one of Europe's finest examples of an ancient walled city and extraordinary in its mix of medieval and baroque architecture, best seen as the light fades. The lamp-lit streets of Malta's oldest town radiate medieval intrigue. Celebrate being in Malta together during a festive dinner, followed by a moonlit amble when M'dina is at its most atmospheric. PHOENICIA HOTEL (B, D)

Sunday, June 16

GOZO, MALTA

Disembark the *Sea Cloud II* following breakfast and launch your post-tour exploration ferry to Gozo, one of the three main islands that make the Mediterranean nation of Malta. Gozo Island is full of stunning panoramas and historic sites, including one of Malta's best-preserved prehistoric temples, the UNESCO World Heritage Site site of Ġgantija. Following a guided visit to the temples, continue to the charming capital city of Victoria and a visit to the Citadel, the center of the Gozo since Neolithic times. Enjoy a seaside lunch before taking in the island's extraordinary landscape of intricately carved salt pans and towering cliffs. Late this afternoon ferry back to Malta and begin the main tour with a welcome reception and dinner. PHOENICIA HOTEL (B, L)

Extension Program Fee:

Per person, sharing accommodations	\$2,290
Single Supplement	\$2,590



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Extension Capacity:

Minimum capacity: 10 passengers; Maximum capacity: 30 (all sponsors)

Fees Include: 2 nights hotel accommodations (harbor view rooms) • 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner • all tours as described in the itinerary • Group transfer from the hotel to the Valletta Airport • Porterage and gratuities to wait staff at group meals, porters, guides and drivers for all group activities • Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

Fees Do Not Include: Personal items and optional activities • Meals and beverages other than those specified in the itinerary • Items not specifically mentioned as included