



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



# **Southern Mediterranean Civilizations**

## **Sicily & Malta Aboard *Sea Cloud II***

October 1 – 9, 2026

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## Sicily & Malta Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

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Step aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud II* for a seven-night voyage through Sicily and Malta, both crossroads of ancient civilizations. Set sail from Catania, Sicily, to Syracuse, the greatest Greek colonial city of its time, with its striking Baroque *palazzos* and awe-inspiring ancient theaters. In Malta, discover the island's prehistoric marvels, including the Tarxien and Hagar Qim Temples, among the world's oldest freestanding structures, and immerse yourself in the intricate art and history of Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site packed with monuments.

As you continue, marvel at the Ġgantija Temples on Gozo, standing over 20 feet tall and built 1,000 years before the Egyptian pyramids. Explore the fortified Citadel of Victoria, a stronghold since the Bronze Age, offering sweeping views of the island. Your final days take you back to Sicily, where the grandeur of Agrigento's Valley of the Temples and the dazzling mosaics of Piazza Armerina's Villa Romana del Casale reveal the splendor of ancient Greece and Rome, respectively.



Map of the region

### CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- Sail on a weeklong Mediterranean adventure aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud II*, cruising to Malta and Sicily to explore several UNESCO-listed ancient treasures
- Explore the exquisitely preserved Baroque town of Noto, Sicily, admiring its sun-drenched streets captured on *The White Lotus* and enjoying a private visit to a splendid Baroque manor
- Enjoy a guided tour of Syracuse, Sicily, including a visit to the Duomo di Siracusa and an exclusive tour of a Sicilian baron's private residence, Palazzo Beneventano del Bosco
- In Valletta, Malta, marvel at the sheer density of UNESCO-listed historical treasures, with 320 monuments packed into 135 acres
- Witness megalithic temples from 3600-2500 B.C., including some of Earth's oldest freestanding structures, on guided tours of the ancient Maltese temples
- Take a guided inside look at two Caravaggio masterpieces, including the Italian master's only signed work, at Valletta's St. John's Co-Cathedral
- Uncover Sicily's ancient Greek grandeur with experts at the UNESCO-listed, 2,500-year-old Valley of the Temples and the splendid fifth-century-B.C. Temple of Segesta





*Noto Cathedral, Noto, Sicily*

**Extend your adventure by exploring Taormina, Sicily, on an optional prelude. Dates, details, and pricing will be shared at a later date.**

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1: DEPARTURE**

Depart for Catania, Italy, on an overnight flight.

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2: CATANIA, SICILY, ITALY / EMBARK SEA CLOUD II**

Arrive in **Catania, Sicily**, and after lunch, join an afternoon transfer to the awaiting *Sea Cloud II*. Lift a champagne flute for a “bon voyage” toast on deck as we sail out of Catania’s harbor.

L,D

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: SYRACUSE**

Explore **Syracuse**, one of the most important cities in antiquity, touted by Cicero as “the greatest Greek city.” On beautiful Ortygia Island, Syracuse’s historical center, see the **Duomo di Siracusa** (the Cathedral of Syracuse), a UNESCO World Heritage Site built on the ruins of the Tempio di Athena. Then, by special invitation, join a Sicilian baron at his glamorous Baroque home, **Palazzo Beneventano del Bosco**, for a tour and light refreshments. This afternoon, discover the well-preserved Greek and Roman theaters of the Parco Archeologico della Neapolis.

Return to the ship and attend the captain’s welcome reception and dinner as the ship heads to Pozzallo. B,L,R,D

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4: POZZALLO / NOTO**

This morning, arrive in **Pozzallo** and drive to **Noto**, a sun-baked Sicilian town draped across a plateau surrounded by olive and almond groves. Meet your expert guide to explore this exquisitely preserved Baroque haven whose golden limestone buildings were so beautifully featured in the HBO series *The White Lotus*.

You will see this treasure map of architectural wonders along **Corso Vittorio Emanuele**. On this elegantly manicured walkway, every façade is embellished with sculptures of gods, mythical beasts, saints, and angels. Pass under **Porta Reale**’s triumphal arch and gaze at **Noto Cathedral**’s imposing silhouette against the azure sky. Before returning to the ship, take a private visit to a meticulously restored 18th-century *palazzo* with its collection of furniture and paintings.

B,L,D

#### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5: VALLETTA, MALTA / TARXIEN / QRENDI or MDINA / RABAT**

Arrive in **Valletta, Malta**, for an inside look at the only national capital that UNESCO has designated a World Heritage Site in its entirety. Discover why: Valletta packs 320 monuments in just 135 acres, making it one of the world’s richest concentrations of historic treasures. Founded in 1566 by the Knights of St. John, Valletta’s grid layout and fortified walls blend seamlessly with the rugged landscape.

An incredible highlight will be a guided look at **St. John’s Co-Cathedral**, a Baroque gem built between 1573 and 1578. Inside, see Mattia Preti’s intricate carvings and marble floors. Move up close to two remarkable **Caravaggio** masterpieces in the Oratory: ***The Beheading of St. John the Baptist***, notably the Italian artist’s only signed work, and ***Saint Jerome Writing***.

Continue to **Tarxien**, where you will have an inside look at megalithic temples from 3600-2500 B.C. that stand as some of Earth’s oldest freestanding structures. Marvel at the complex’s spirals, animal reliefs, and altars.

In the afternoon, choose between optional guided visits:

**Option 1:** Head to **Qrendi** and the UNESCO-recognized prehistoric **Hagar Qim Temples**, which date back to 3,200 B.C. This hilltop temple complex overlooks the sea and the islet of Fifla. Continue to the nearby **Mnajdra Temples**, one of the oldest religious sites in the world, built between 3600 and 2500 B.C. These ancient megaliths feature precise solar alignments that mark the equinoxes.



*Hagar Qim Temples, Qrendi, Malta*





Ġgantija Temples, Gozo, Malta

**Option 2:** Explore the villages of **Mdina**, Malta's ancient capital known for its medieval fortifications and Baroque architecture, and **Rabat**, home to early Christian catacombs and the legendary **St. Paul's Grotto**, where St Paul the Apostle is believed to have founded the first Christian Community on the island.

In Rabat, explore the **Wignacourt Collegiate Museum**, a Baroque residence built in the 17th century for the Chaplains of the Knights of St. John. Peruse its impressive art collection, including works by Mattia Preti and Francesco Zahra, and rare religious artifacts like a portable altar used on galleys. All guests will return to *Sea Cloud II* in Valletta. B,L,D

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6: GOZO, MALTA / AFTERNOON AT SEA

Venture to the Maltese island of **Gozo** and explore the UNESCO-recognized **Ġgantija Temples**, some of the oldest free-standing structures in the world, dating back to 3600 B.C. These two massive Neolithic temples, more than 20 feet tall and made from limestone blocks weighing up to 57 tons, were likely used for religious rituals.

Continue to the **Citadel of Victoria**, a fortified city inhabited since the Bronze Age and was later fortified by the Knights of St. John in the 16th century to defend against Ottoman attacks. Its towering bastions offer panoramic views of Gozo. Inside, discover the Baroque **Cathedral of the Assumption** and remnants of the island's medieval history. Return to the ship for lunch as we set sail for Sicily. B,L,D

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7: PORTO EMPEDOCLE, SICILY, ITALY / AGRIGENTO OR PIAZZA ARMERINA

Return to Sicily for an immersive experience of the lavish world of Magna Graecia, a once-thriving ancient Greek colony here. *Sea Cloud II* arrives in **Porto Empedocle**, where you will transfer to beautiful **Agrigento**, formerly the ancient Greek city of Akragas.

Prepare yourself for a treat with a guided tour of the **Valle dei Templi** (Valley of the Temples), a UNESCO World Heritage Site where you will explore some of the world's best-preserved Greek temples outside of Greece itself. Wander amid the eight massive Doric temples, each dedicated to a different deity.

Alternatively, enjoy a guided tour of **Piazza Armerina** and its imperial **Villa Romana del Casale**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site whose stunning Roman mosaics, which span nearly 3,500 square feet and date to 310–340 A.D., are among the most exceptionally well-preserved of their kind. B,L,D

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8: TRAPANI / SEGESTA or MAZARA DEL VALLO / AFTERNOON AT SEA

Continue your exploration of Magna Graecia, arriving in the Sicilian port of **Trapani**. Transfer for an excursion to **Segesta** and its unfinished yet majestic and extraordinarily well-preserved **Doric temple**, constructed by the Elymian people around 420 B.C. You will also see the adjacent **ancient Greek theater**, built in the late fourth or early third century B.C., once seating more than 3,000 spectators.

Alternatively, transfer to the village of **Mazara del Vallo** to see its spectacular seven-foot bronze statue, retrieved from the sea by local fishermen. With his flying hair and goat ears, the figure was quickly dubbed *The Dancing Satyr*.

Return to the ship for lunch, followed by an afternoon at sea. Tonight, gather aboard *Sea Cloud II* for the captain's farewell reception and dinner. B,L,R,D

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9: PALERMO / DISEMBARK / RETURN

Disembark *Sea Cloud II* this morning in Palermo and transfer to the airport for your flights home. B

**Extend your adventure by exploring Palermo, Sicily, on an optional postlude. Dates, details, and pricing will be shared at a later date.**



Temple of Segesta, Sicily

**DISCLAIMER:** This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).

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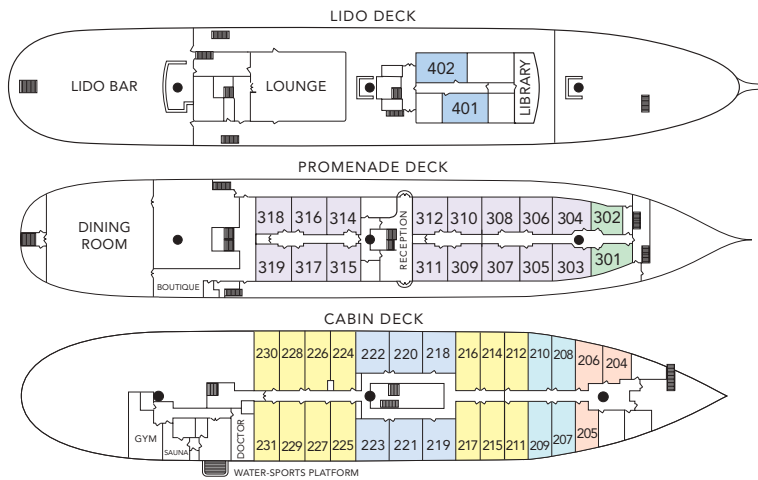
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Cover photo: Valletta, Malta



## CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
Cabins 204 to 206 Upper/lower twin berths, shower	Cabin	\$7,999	\$9,999
Superior Cabins 207 to 210 Twin beds, shower	Cabin	\$10,499	\$15,399
Deluxe Cabins 211 to 217 & 224 to 231 Twin beds, shower	Cabin	\$12,499	\$18,799
Deluxe Cabins 218 to 223 Twin beds, shower	Cabin	\$14,499	Inquire
Deluxe Cabins 301 & 302 Twin beds, shower	Promenade	\$15,999	Inquire
Junior Suites 303 to 319 Twin beds, bathtub with shower	Promenade	\$18,999	Inquire
Owner's Suites 401 & 402 Queen-size bed, bathtub, and separate shower	Lido	\$20,999	Inquire



## SEA CLOUD II

*Sea Cloud II* is a three-masted sailing yacht steeped in the elegance of yesteryear and complemented with the most modern amenities. Sister ship of the legendary *Sea Cloud*, *Sea Cloud II* has 47 outside cabins and travels under 23 billowing sails trimmed by hand. From the mahogany-paneled library and gracious lounge to the gym and watersports platform, no detail has been overlooked. Praised by the world's most discerning travelers, *Sea Cloud II* receives consistently high rankings from *Condé Nast Traveler*. Passengers enjoy open seating at all meals and complimentary use of all water sports equipment. A doctor is on call 24 hours a day. Please note that there is no elevator on *Sea Cloud II*.



Sea Cloud II



Sea Cloud II Junior Suite (top) and Lido Deck (above)

## RATES INCLUDE

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Sea Cloud II*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wine and beer with onboard lunches and dinners; complimentary open bar aboard *Sea Cloud II* throughout the cruise (including all standard spirits)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; optional Taormina prelude; optional Palermo postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.