

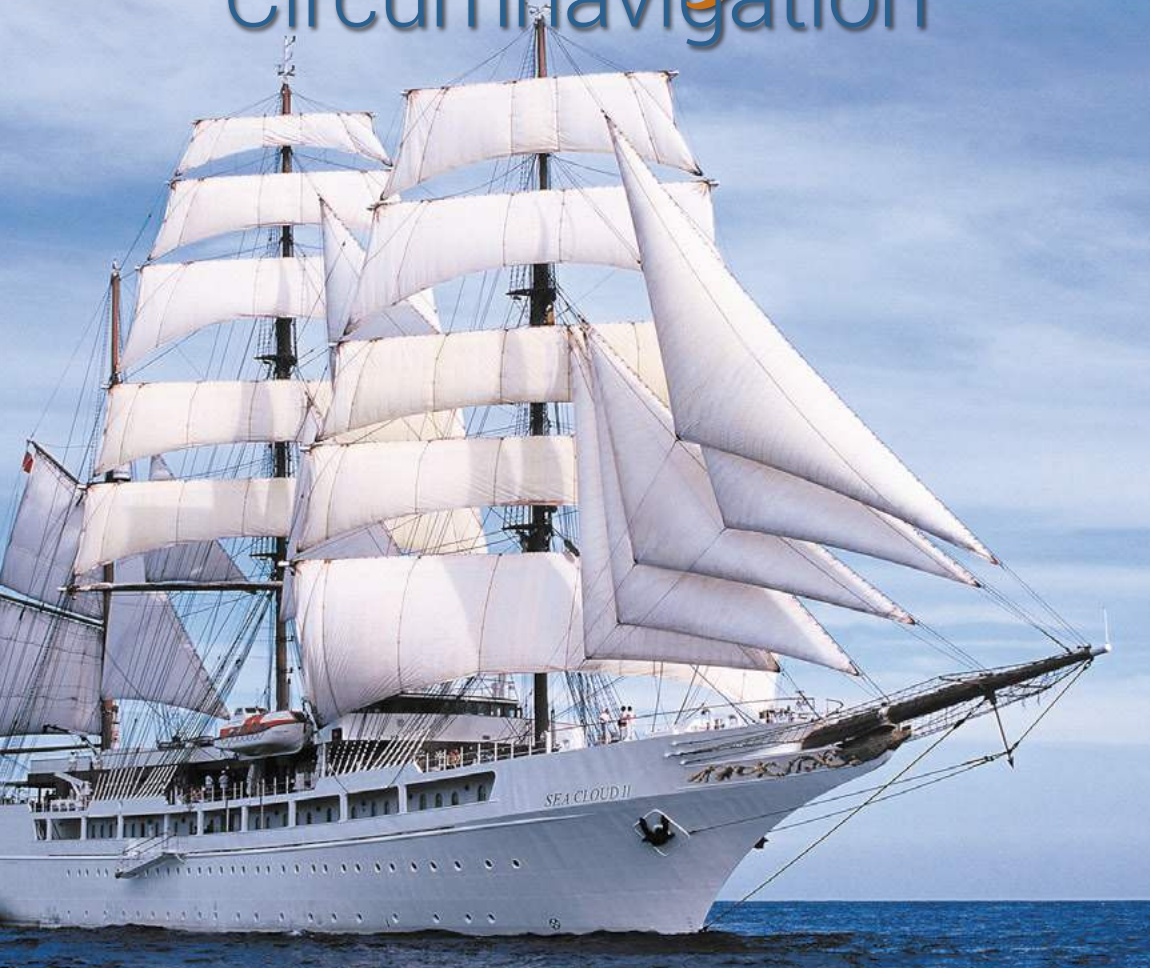


National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

# Sicily

## Circumnavigation



*Sailing Around Sicily and Malta*

Aboard the 47-stateroom Sea Cloud II

**MAY 24–JUNE 2, 2027 FEATURING JOHN MEFFERT**



Cliffs and rocks of Lipari, Italy



Syracuse, Sicily



Narrow streets in Sicily

# Dear National Trust Tours Traveler,

Delight in an eight-night private charter circumnavigation of Sicily aboard the iconic *Sea Cloud II*. Beginning and ending in Malta, the journey includes one night in Valletta, the capital of the island nation and one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world. Visit Sicily's treasures with stops in Trapani, Palermo, Giardini Naxos (for Taormina and Mount Etna), and Syracuse. Marvel at archaeological and architectural wonders, including the ancient city of Segesta, the riches of Palermo's Norman Palace, and the Greek amphitheater of Taormina.

The itinerary also features a full day in the Aeolian Islands, one of six UNESCO World Heritage sites visited, along with a specially timed sunset sailing through the Strait of Messina. Sample the rich flavors of Marsala with a guided tasting of this famed Sicilian wine, where guests experience the romance of classic sailing paired with the highest standards of modern comfort.

Like Marjorie Merriweather Post's legendary *Sea Cloud*, *Sea Cloud II* embodies the elegance and romance of a bygone era while offering the highest standards of modern comfort. This magnificent windjammer is operated by a highly skilled crew who hand-set more than 30,000 square feet of canvas, a rare and captivating sight at sea. Life aboard seamlessly blends classic sailing traditions with refined service, spacious accommodations, and thoughtful amenities, creating an experience that is both timeless and luxurious.

An optional two-night pre-trip extension is available, offering an unforgettable introduction to Malta and Gozo.

With kind regards,



Meg Annacone-Poretz  
Director, National Trust Tours

*The NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org) or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.*



View from Erice Mountain

# Highlights



Capella Palantina in Palazzo Reale

## Study Leader



### John Meffert with National Trust Tours

John Meffert, consultant on Heritage Conservation Services, has a long tradition with the National Trust. He has served as the Director for our Southern Office and was the director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, the oldest nonprofit organization in the United States, responsible for preserving the historic resources of Charleston, S.C. John has delighted many study tour groups with his lectures and insights on preservation, and receives rave reviews as study leader.

- ◆ Customize your journey with a menu of excursion options tailored to a range of interests and mobility levels in nearly every port, including Valletta, Trapani, Palermo, Lipari, and Giardini Naxos.
- ◆ Visit six UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Monreale Cathedral, the Aeolian Archipelago (with a visit to Lipari), Mount Etna, and the historic centers of Valletta, Palermo, and Syracuse.
- ◆ Spend one night and day in Valletta, Malta's historic capital, before sailing from its magnificent harbor framed by honey-colored ramparts glowing in the sun.
- ◆ Marvel at archaeological and architectural wonders including the ancient city of Segesta, the riches of Palermo's Norman Palace, and the Greek amphitheater of Taormina.
- ◆ Sample the rich flavors of Marsala with a guided tasting of this famed Sicilian wine.
- ◆ Experience the scenic countryside and historic treasures of Lipari, one of the seven Aeolian Islands.
- ◆ Delight in a private reception with a nobleman who welcomes guests to his Baroque palazzo, dating back to the Middle Ages.



# Itinerary

Monday–Tuesday, May 24–25

## DEPART HOME/ VALLETTA, MALTA

Overnight flight to Valletta, a city known for its Baroque architecture, historic fortifications, and charming cafés that reflect its rich heritage. Upon arrival, transfer to *Sea Cloud II* and meet fellow travelers at a welcome orientation and reception.

*Sea Cloud II (R,D)*

Wednesday, May 26

## VALLETTA

Start the day with two full-day excursions to choose from. Explore Malta's prehistoric and archaeological treasures with visits to the National Archaeological Museum, Tarxien Temples, and the Hypogeum, an underground site renowned for its prehistoric significance. Alternatively, tour Valletta's architecture, including the ornate interiors

of St John's Cathedral and modern works by Renzo Piano. Depart in the evening, sailing from the historic harbor toward Sicily. *Sea Cloud II (B,L,D)*

Thursday, May 27

## AT SEA

Enjoy a full day under sail. As part of the educational program, attend a lecture, take a guided tour of the ship, or, weather permitting, use the tenders to photograph *Sea Cloud II*. In the evening, the Captain's welcome reception and dinner provide the perfect opportunity to mingle with your fellow travelers.

*Sea Cloud II (B,L,D)*

Friday, May 28

## TRAPANI

Begin the day exploring the Greek Doric temple of Segesta, perched on Mount Barbaro with panoramic views over Sicily's countryside. Later,

choose between two afternoon excursions, one being a visit to the medieval hilltop town of Erice, known for its cobbled streets and Norman castle, or sample the fortified wines of Marsala with a guided tasting. *Sea Cloud II (B,L,D)*

Saturday, May 29

## PALERMO

Spend the morning visiting Palermo's Norman castle, Capella Palatina with its stunning mosaics, and Monreale Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy lunch in Palermo's Old Town, followed by two afternoon options: the Abatellis Art Museum, which houses Sicilian and Renaissance masterpieces, or the Archaeological Museum, featuring an impressive collection of ancient artifacts. *Sea Cloud II (B,L,D)*



Ruins of Ancient Theatre in Taormina

Temple at Segesta



Sunday, May 30  
**LIPARI, AEOLIAN ISLANDS**

Discover Lipari with a walking tour that includes the Archaeological Museum, or take a scenic drive with free time to wander the town's charming streets and coastline. In the afternoon, enjoy swimming, sailing, and educational programming, followed by a sunset cruise past Stromboli to see its volcanic activity.  
*Sea Cloud II (B,L,D)*

Monday, May 31  
**GIARDINI NAXOS**

Embark on one of two morning excursions to Mount Etna, visiting Silvestri Crater and riding the cable car to the summit, or head to Taormina to tour the 3rd-century B.C.

Greco-Roman amphitheater and enjoy free time in town. The afternoon is dedicated to relaxation on deck while taking in Sicily's coastline.  
*Sea Cloud II (B,L,D)*

Tuesday, June 1  
**SYRACUSE**

Tour Syracuse Archaeological Park, then stroll through Ortygia Island, experiencing the morning market and Cathedral Square. In a private Baroque palazzo, enjoy a wine tasting hosted by a nobleman. The afternoon is spent cruising to Malta, concluding with the Captain's farewell reception and dinner.  
*Sea Cloud II (B,L,R,D)*

Wednesday, June 2  
**VALLETTA, MALTA/ HOME**

Disembark for flights home. (B)



Valletta, Malta

**MALTA PRE-TRIP EXTENSION**

May 22–25, 2027

This two-night pre-trip extension offers an unforgettable introduction to Malta beyond its capital. Discover the island's stunning landscapes and local charm, including a day trip to the idyllic island of Gozo to see the world's oldest megalithic temples. Explore the south coast, starting with the awe-inspiring Haġar Qim complex, then visit the colorful fishing village of Marsaxlokk. Dine within the ancient walls of M'dina, and spend two nights at the centrally located Excelsior Hotel. Cross to Gozo to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ġgantija and the charming city of Victoria, then return to Valletta to join the main *Sea Cloud II* tour with the rest of the group.



Syracuse, Ortygia, Sicily



# Sea Cloud II

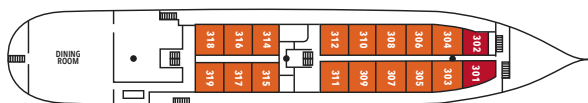
The iconic *Sea Cloud II* is perhaps the most luxurious three-masted sailing yacht on the seas today. Like Marjorie Merriweather Post's legendary *Sea Cloud*, she combines the seafaring elegance of a bygone era with the highest modern standards of luxury. In the grand tradition of the world's finest sailing vessels, guests can experience this marvelous ship under sail as the skilled crew hand sets over 30,000 square feet of canvas.

The *Sea Cloud II* offers an intimate setting with just 47 beautifully appointed staterooms, gracious common areas, world-class service, and five-star dining. Four spacious outdoor decks and al fresco dining on the Lido Deck provide ample space for relaxation. Indoors, enjoy inviting spaces such as the sizable lounge and dining room, as well as a library, gym, and spa featuring a sauna and massage therapy.

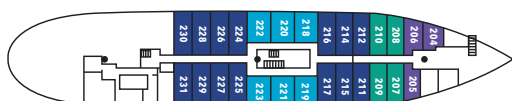
PROGRAM RATES:	Double	Single
<b>1 CABIN DECK</b> 150 sq ft upper & lower single beds, two portholes, shower	\$8,990	\$13,990
<b>2 CABIN DECK</b> 204 sq ft twins or queen bed, two portholes, shower	\$11,990	\$18,590
<b>3 CABIN DECK</b> 215 sq ft twins or queen bed, two portholes, shower	\$13,490	\$20,790
<b>4 CABIN DECK</b> 226 sq ft queen bed, three portholes, shower	\$13,990	_____
<b>5 PROMENADE DECK</b> 215 sq ft queen bed, panorama windows, shower	\$14,990	_____
<b>6 PROMENADE DECK</b> 247 sq ft twins or queen bed, panorama windows, tub/shower	\$15,990	_____
<b>7 LIDO DECK</b> 290 sq ft king bed, panorama windows, bathtub & shower)	\$18,990	_____



**LIDO DECK** Category 7



**PROMENADE DECK** Categories 5-6



**CABIN DECK** Categories 1-4

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

Eight nights aboard *Sea Cloud II* • Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including eight breakfasts, seven lunches, eight dinners, and two receptions. Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

### AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some sites. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, often on uneven surfaces; elevators may not be available and stairs may not have handrails. The ship does not have an elevator, so you will need to navigate stairs, possibly while on choppy seas. You will need to climb into and out of tenders for two shore excursions (staff and crew will be on hand to assist). Participants should be fit and in active good health. Limited medical facilities are available on board the *Sea Cloud II*.

### GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 78 participants, including travelers from National Trust Tours, Cornell's Adult University, Harvard Alumni Travels and the Archaeological Institute of America.

### PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline 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, internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions, including Statement of Responsibility, will be made available to you at the time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.



## RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card, please call (888) 484-8785 or email [info@nationaltrusttours.com](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com). Final payment deadline is January 25, 2027. For those who register on or after January 25, 2027, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, bank transfer, or credit card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

## PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% non-refundable. After the final payment deadline on January 25, 2027, all payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

## HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

## ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

## ELIGIBILITY

National Trust for Historic Preservation tours are open to members only. Membership dues for 2026/2027 are \$30 for family and \$20 for individual membership. The minimum age limit for the program is 14. Children must pay the full price, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no maximum age limit. PLEASE NOTE: Participants must be in excellent health and able to participate in tour activities. Any physical condition that may require special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to health conditions or disabilities, contact the National Trust at (888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. In such case, the refund will be limited to the recoverable cost of unused tour services.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40  
PHOTO CREDITS: DREAMSTIME & SHUTTERSTOCK Cliffs and Rocks of Lipari, Italy @Eugenia Struk; Syracuse Statute and Fountain @Gretien Jonxis; Narrow Streets in Sicily @Gretien Jonxis; View from Erice Mountain @Dmitrijs Mihejevs; Capella Palantina in Palazzo Reale @Voevale; Italian Lemons in Sicily @Romrodinka; Ruins of Ancient Theatre in Taormina @Igorzh; Temple at Segesta in Sicily @Vladimir Zhuravlev; Valetta; Malta @Martin Brayley; Syracuse; Ortigia; Sicily; Italy @Alessandro Neri; Lipari Old Town Church @Alexander Nikiforov.

# Sicily CIRCUMNAVIGATION

Sailing Around Sicily and Malta  
MARCH 24 – APRIL 1, 2027 – Aboard the 47-Stateroom Sea Cloud II

## RESERVATIONS

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL 1

E-MAIL 2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) for \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on the **SICILY CIRCUMNAVIGATION** cruise.

Please charge my deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) to my (*circle one*): VISA/MC/AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SEC CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

## ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference:  One bed  Two beds

## SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer to have single accommodations (*limited availability*)

I plan to share accommodations with:

I'd like to know about roommates. *I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of **January 25, 2027** I will pay the single rate.*

*I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.*

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE





National Trust for Historic Preservation

## National Trust Tours

105 Loudoun Street, SW, Unit 1, Leesburg, Virginia 20175

[www.nationaltrusttours.com](http://www.nationaltrusttours.com)

(888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300

[info@nationaltrusttours.com](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com)

Find us on  National Trust Tours

# Sicily

## Circumnavigation



Lipari Old Town Church

Aboard Sea Cloud II • MAY 24–JUNE 2, 2027