

Magic of the Mediterranean

Highlights:

Marseille • San Remo • Ajaccio, Corsica • Sardinia, Cagliari • Trapani, Sicily • Valletta • Catania, Sicily • Brindisi • At Sea • Venice • Pula • Split • Dubrovnik
14 Days

Fares include: Award-Winning Guest Speaker Program & Gratuities!



Breathtaking landscapes bearing the imprint of centuries of history, cities showcasing the harmonious co-existence of tradition and modernity, a mosaic of cultures, an architectural odyssey, this voyage – with Venice a dazzling centrepiece, effortlessly combines the cosmopolitan, the chic and the classic.

Detailed Itinerary Sep 10, 2014

Sept 9 Marseille, France

Known as the 'Phocaeen City' in memory of the ancient Greeks from Asia Minor, who founded the city 2,600 years ago as a trading port, Marseille is the oldest urbanised city in France. After the French capital it is also the country's second largest city and its most important Mediterranean commercial port. The old harbour – or Vieux Port, is still the heart of Marseille, which was largely rebuilt after heavy bombing during the Second World War. With its close proximity to Africa, Marseille is very much regarded as an ethnic melting pot.

Sept 11 San Remo, Italy

Sept 12 Ajaccio, Corsica

The subject of a lengthy tug of war between France and the Genoese over the centuries, the island of Corsica was eventually sold to the French in 1769, the same year Ajaccio's most famous son was born. This beautiful Mediterranean town will provide plenty of Napoleonic echoes, from his birthplace, the Maison Bonaparte, to the cathedral where he was baptised, or statues of the great man, such as that found in the Place Foch with its pastel-coloured houses.

Sept 13 Sardinia, Cagliari, Italy

An ancient city with a long history that has seen the occupation of several civilisations, Cagliari is today Sardinia's capital with a population of approximately 160,000. It is located at the heart of the beautiful Bay of the Angels and, like Rome, was built on seven hills, which identify the historic

neighbourhoods of the city. The historic Castello neighbourhood, still partially enclosed by the bastioned walls, is an intricate web of Spanish-influenced streets.

Sept 14 Trapani, Sicily, Italy

The name Trapani is derived from an ancient word for hook reflecting the shape of the harbour. Its unique location on a low-lying promontory on the western tip of Sicily jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea made Trapani an important trade hub. The surrounding plain is distinguished for its rich salt deposits, which until recently was ground by windmills seen along the coast. Settled around 1000 BC as a fishing village, Trapani was later colonised by Elymians to serve as the port of the nearby city of Erice.

Sept 15 Valletta, Malta

Valletta, described by Sir Walter Scott as "that splendid town, quite like a dream", is capital of Malta. The island's strategic position made it the goal of almost every Mediterranean power from Phoenicians to the Greeks, Carthaginians to the Romans, Arabs to the Knights of St John and the French to the British. As a result it is the great stone fortifications of Valletta's Grand Harbour, which guard a jumble of creamy stone houses, palaces and domed churches that present a most dramatic view when approaching from the sea.



Sept 16 Catania, Sicily, Italy

Catania sits in the shadow of fickle Mount Etna, who on more than one occasion betrayed its trust! The 17th century was particularly catastrophic – in 1669 a lava river flowed into Catania, then in 1693 an earthquake razed the town to the ground. From the ashes architect Vaccarini created a predominantly black and white baroque city – the two colours combined to magnificent effect. Explore the town, take a closer look at the volcano or visit Taormina, a charming medieval town considered to have the most impressive backdrop in the world.

Sept 17 Brindisi, Italy

Brindisi is situated on a natural harbour that penetrates deep into the Adriatic coast of the Apulian region. Originally founded as an ancient Greek settlement, it was conquered by the Romans in 267 BC. During the Roman Empire it became an extremely important port as chief point of embarkation to Greece and the Far East. Today's town is characterised by different styles that reflect the influence of many civilisations throughout the centuries.

Sept 18 At Sea

Relax onboard as mv Discovery takes you to your next destination.



Sept 19 Venice, Italy

In a lagoon of the Adriatic Sea, Venice is built on 118 islands separated by 160 canals that total 41 kilometres in length. The founders of Venice were Roman subjects who fled from barbarian invaders in the 5th century. In 697, Venice became an independent state; a council was elected from whom a leader – the Doge, was picked. Throughout the Middle Ages, Venetian merchants controlled trade to the Levant and ruling parts of the eastern Mediterranean. When Napoleon invaded in 1797 the last Doge abdicated and the city was placed under Austrian rule until it was incorporated into a unified Italy in 1866. Today Venice is a unique and fascinating city.



Sept 20 Venice, Italy

Sept 21 Pula, Italy

According to legend it was the Colchidians who founded Pula as they pursued Jason and the Argonauts who had stolen their precious golden fleece. The city, built at the end of a beautiful bay on seven hills, boasts a perfectly preserved Roman amphitheatre, which is the largest amphora site in the world.

Sept 22 Split, Croatia

An important World Heritage Site, SPLIT's ancient seaport has a long and turbulent history. Ever since Roman Emperor Diocletian erected a magnificent palace in 295 AD, Slav, Venetian, French and Austrian rulers have all been drawn within its walls. A walk around the palace and its environs starts from the Peristyle, the main open space surrounded by colonnades and arches, with the 15th century cathedral to one side and the People's Square to the other. For an unusual sightseeing trip, try a visit to the Ethnographic Museum.

Sept 23 Dubrovnik, Croatia

Situated on the far south of the Croatian coast, Dubrovnik was founded during the 7th century. Two kilometres of walls built between the 11th and 17th centuries surround the old part of the town constructed in the form of an irregular pentagon with two sides facing the continent and three facing the sea. The city enjoyed its golden age during the 15th and 16th centuries when its merchant navy rivalled Venice for maritime trade. Croatia's most famous coastal town is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Sept 24 Dubrovnik, Croatia