The Ancient Shores of Sicily and Malta Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

Set sail aboard the majestic tall ship *Sea Cloud II* to explore the culture, history, and cuisine of Sicily and Malta. Step into the past in cities and temples left behind by the Romans, Greeks, Carthaginians, and prehistoric peoples. Visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites: Agrigento, Valletta, and Gozo island's megalithic temples—and enjoy views of a fourth: Mount Etna. Plus, discover the unique flavors of the region, including the renowned Marsala wines.

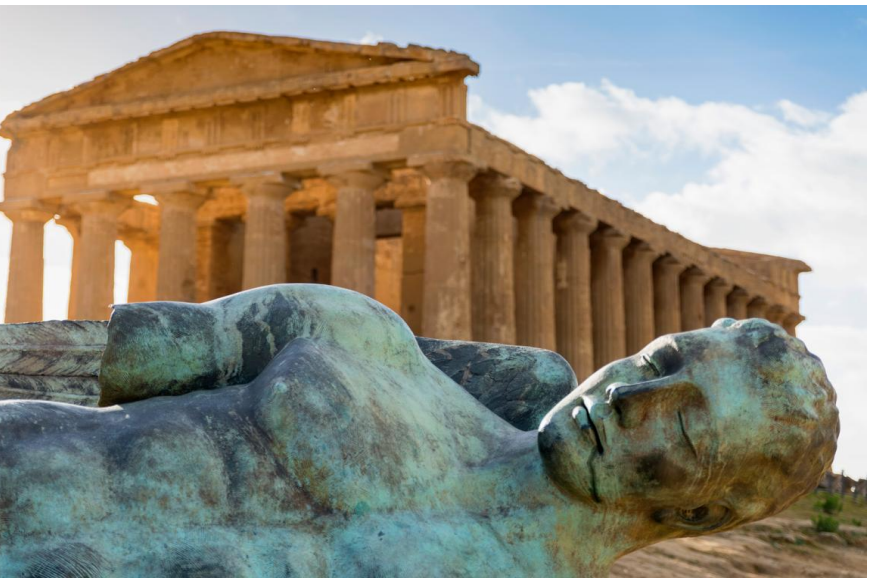
From
$ 14,250 / per person
Does not include flights

DATES Jun	**DURATION** 10 Days
SHIPS *Sea Cloud II*	
STARTS AT Valletta, Malta → **ENDS AT** Valletta, Malta	

Minimum Age Requirement: Any children booked on *Sea Cloud II* voyages must be at least 1 year old at time of embarkation.

Highlights

- Sail the shimmering waters of the Mediterranean, Tyrrhenian, and Ionian Seas aboard *Sea Cloud II*, a vessel that combines nostalgic elegance and modern comfort
- Explore enchanting piazzas and winding alleyways in picturesque towns like Erice and Taormina
- Visit the Greco-Roman ruins in Agrigento's Valley of the Temples—considered one of the finest examples of Greek architecture outside of Greece
- Discover Malta's ancient temples of Ġgantija, consisting of structures built between c.3600 and c.3200 B.C.



Aeolian Islands
Lipari
Messina
Erice
Trapani
Marsala
Taormina
Porto Empedocle
Siracusa
Gozo
Valletta
mapbox
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Day by day

■ DAY 1

Valletta, Malta / Embark Ship

Arrive in Valletta, Malta's capital city and a UNESCO World Heritage site, surrounded by daunting limestone fortifications that date back to the 16th century. Embark *Sea Cloud II* in the late afternoon, settle in and enjoy the first night onboard.

Arrival Time: Arrive before 4:00 p.m. local time.
Arrival City: Valletta, Malta

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

At Sea

Join your expedition leader for a play-by-play description of the crew in the rigging and the action of the setting of square sails, staysails and jibs as *Sea Cloud II* shows her full glory. Bask in the comfort and intrigue of this distinctive square-rigger—enjoy delicious meals, complimentary drinks and talks by the expedition staff as you sail north toward Sicily.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Agrigento, Sicily, Italy / At Sea

Dock in Porto Empedocle this morning for the next call: Agrigento's Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is a collection of some of antiquity's most magnificent Greco-Roman temples. Founded by the Greeks in the 6th century B.C., the site served as a prominent city in Magna Graecia before eventually changing hands between the Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans. Explore the valley's grand row of Doric temples devoted to the likes of Zeus and Heracles. Return to *Sea Cloud II* and cast off for a relaxing afternoon under sail.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Erice / Marsala

After *Sea Cloud II* docks in Trapani this morning, depart on an excursion to the nearby medieval town of Erice. Perched 750 meters (about 2,461 feet) above Sicily's western coast, the panoramic views from the walled town are spectacular. Explore Erice with local guides and take time to wander on your own. Perhaps stop in at the renowned Pasticceria Maria Grammatico, or one of the many other local favorites, before continuing to the town of Marsala. Famous for its fortified wines, this port city also houses an excellent museum devoted to its Punic (Carthaginian) history, as well as an excavated Punic warship and a recently opened excavated Roman merchant vessel. Finish with a visit and tasting at a winery before returning to *Sea Cloud II* in Trapani.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

At Sea

Grab your favorite deck chair, indulge in a delightful book and listen to the ship part the surf as you sail along Sicily's northern coast. Weather permitting, stand on deck and watch the orchestrated frenzy of crew members go aloft in the web of *Sea Cloud II's* riggings to handset her sails. Or attend a presentation by your historian or cultural expert about the region's rich history.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Taormina

Disembark *Sea Cloud II* in Messina and drive up to the beautiful town of Taormina, which spills across the slopes at the foot of Mount Etna, dominating to the south. This medieval town boasts the pedestrian-friendly Corso Umberto, lined with exquisite buildings, and one of the world's most interesting cultural sites: the Greco-Roman Theater. This remarkable theater was built right into the cliffside, overlooking the vast sea below, in the third century B.C.

From Taormina, continue to the Castello degli Schiavi, an 18th-century privately owned villa, for a special private lunch. Meet members of the family that still owns the villa and explore the extensive buildings and grounds that served as the setting for many scenes in *The Godfather* films. Return to *Sea Cloud II*, anchored off the town of Giardini Naxos, and enjoy happy hour and dinner as we sail to our next destination.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Siracusa / At Sea

Wake this morning to Siracusa, a city that once rivaled Athens in cultural and economic wealth. Explore the archaeological park which showcases one of the world's largest theaters of antiquity, a 15,000-seat arena hewn from bedrock, which is still in use today. Visit the nearby limestone quarry, the cave of "Dionysus' Ear" and the Roman amphitheater before returning to *Sea Cloud II* for lunch. This afternoon, enjoy a break from the action-packed voyage by taking time to reflect and relax as you sail to Gozo. Join your expedition staff for talks, sample a collection of Sicilian wines or simply enjoy the thrill of an extended sail on this remarkable square-rigged tall ship.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Gozo, Malta

This morning, visit Malta's "second island," Gozo, focusing on the ancient megalithic temples of Ġgantija, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Older than both the Pyramids of Giza and Stonehenge, the giant structures of Ġgantija were built by civilizations that thrived here more than 5,000 years ago. Visit the restored medieval windmill of Ta Kola—one of the many structures built by the Order of the Knights of Malta, who ruled the Maltese islands for centuries—before returning to *Sea Cloud II*. This evening, as you sail toward Valletta, celebrate your voyage with the captain's farewell cocktail party and dinner at sunset.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Valletta

Be on deck this morning with cameras ready as you enter one of the most attractive harbors in the Mediterranean by tall ship. Disembark and drive to the city's highest point, the Upper Barracca Gardens, and take in the sweeping view. Tour St. John's Co-Cathedral with its elaborate inlaid marble tombstones and monumental artwork. After lunch onboard, opt for free time in Valletta, or continue your exploration with a visit the old capital of Mdina: walk along the ancient city walls and marvel at the feat of engineering undertaken to build the Rotunda of Mosta, one of the largest unsupported domes in the world. Enjoy a final dinner aboard *Sea Cloud II* this evening.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 10

Valletta / Disembark Ship

Disembark in the port of Valletta this morning and transfer to the airport for your flights home.

Departure Time: Anytime
Departure City: Valletta, Malta

Meals included: breakfast

Expedition

Valletta, Malta → Valletta, Malta

2027 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

02 Jun	11 Jun			

Sea Cloud II

GUESTS	CABINS
88	44

Sail in style aboard a unique vessel that's a perfect combination of nostalgic elegance and modern comfort

Sea Cloud II is an alluring sailing vessel perfectly suited to travel the scenic shores of Italy and Croatia, exploring little-seen archipelagos and anchoring in small coves. A romantic tall ship with every modern comfort, *Sea Cloud II* combines the spaciousness and welcome amenities of a contemporary vessel with the grace and elegance of a square rigger. Inspired by the legendary 1930s yacht *Sea Cloud, Sea Cloud II* embodies the Golden Age of Sail; yet, it is modernly built, reflecting today's standards of luxury. From marble bathrooms and elegant furnishings to televisions and climate controls, comfortable cabins have expected amenities.

Expansive outdoor decks and viewing areas provide ideal vantage points for appreciating the scenery of the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, and for savoring the romance of being under sail. Al fresco dining—accompanied by a pianist—is offered on the Lido Deck where shorts and deck shoes are the norm. While the ship's indoor spaces, like a sizeable dining room and lounge, are suitable for formality, there's a lighthearted delight in enjoying them in casual dress. Guests can also take advantage of the spa that offers a sauna, fitness area and massage therapy.

Expect the hallmarks of a National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions voyage, including expert field staff like historians and certified photo instructors (CPIs); top-quality dining that includes locally sourced ingredients and regional specialties; evening Recaps that review the day and set the stage for the next; experienced service; and an open Bridge policy that invites guests to observe the workings of a ship under sail.

Cabin Categories

Category 1S

CABIN DECK **#207-210**

These 204 sq. ft. outside-facing cabins, located on the Cabin Deck, have a split queen (which can be separated into two single beds) and two portholes. Cabin features include a couch, television, small table, dressing table with mirror, a closet, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The beautiful marble bathroom is equipped with a shower.

Category 1

CABIN DECK **#207-210**

These 204 sq. ft. outside-facing cabins, located on the Cabin Deck, have a split queen (which can be separated into two single beds) and two portholes. Cabin features include a couch, television, small table, dressing table with mirror, a closet, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The beautiful marble bathroom is equipped with a shower. Note: Solo occupancy cabins are available in Category 1.

Category 2

CABIN DECK **#211-212, 214-217, 224-231**

These 215 sq. ft. outside-facing cabins, located on the Cabin Deck, have two single beds pushed together to convert into a split queen (beds can be separated) and two portholes. Cabin features include a couch, television, small table, dressing table with mirror, a closet, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The beautiful marble bathroom is equipped with a shower. Note: Some Category 2 cabins have connecting doors.

Category 3

CABIN DECK **#218-223**

These 226 sq. ft. outside-facing cabins, located on the Cabin Deck, have a split queen bed (bed cannot be separated) and three portholes. Cabin features include two chairs, a small table, television, dressing table with mirror, writing desk, two closets, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The beautiful marble bathroom is equipped with a shower.

Category 4

PROMENADE DECK **#301, 302**

These 215 sq. ft. outside-facing cabins, located on the Promenade Deck, have a split queen bed (bed cannot be separated) and three large panorama windows. Cabin features include two chairs, a small table, television, writing desk/dressing table with mirror, closets, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The beautiful marble bathroom is equipped with a shower.

Category 5

PROMENADE DECK **#303, 304**

These outside-facing suites, located on the Promenade Deck, have two single beds pushed together to convert into a split queen (beds can be separated) and three large panorama windows. #303 is 237 sq. ft. and #304 is 231 sq. ft. Suite features include an electric fireplace, separate sitting area with two large chairs and large table, walk-in closet, television, dressing table with mirror, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The beautiful marble and gold-fitted bathroom is equipped with shower bathtub and marble washbasin.

Category 6

PROMENADE DECK **#305-312, 314-319**

These 231 sq. ft. outside-facing suites, located on the Promenade Deck, have two single beds pushed together to convert into a split queen (beds can be separated) and three large panorama windows. Suite features include an electric fireplace, separate sitting area with two large chairs and large table, walk-in closet, television, dressing table with mirror, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The beautiful marble and gold-fitted bathroom is equipped with shower bathtub and marble washbasin.

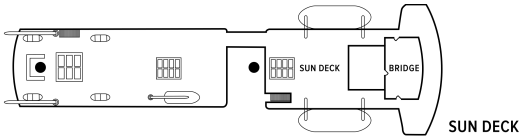
Category 7

LIDO DECK **#401, 402**

These 290 sq. ft. outside-facing suites, located on the Lido Deck, have one four-poster split king bed (beds cannot be separated) and four large panorama windows. Cabin features include an electric fireplace, separate sitting area with a couch, two large chairs and large table, walk-in closet with four large wardrobes, television, dressing table with mirror, two nightstands, minibar, safe, temperature controls, and telephone. The large, beautiful marble and gold-fitted bathroom is equipped with separate shower and bathtub, and marble washbasin.

Deck Plans

Sun Deck

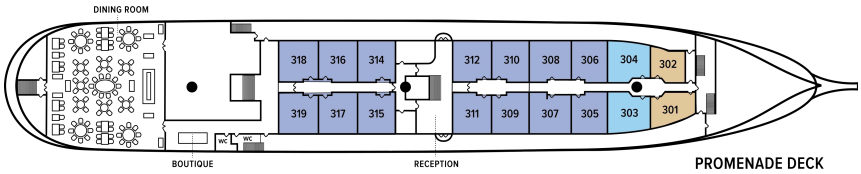


Cabin Deck

- Category 1S
- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3

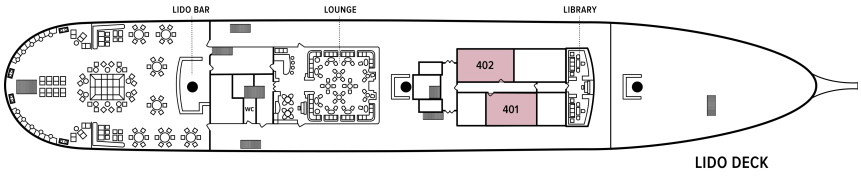
Promenade Deck

- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6



Lido Deck

- Category 7



Ship Amenities

Well-Appointed Cabins

All cabins are outside-facing and have portholes or windows, a marble bathroom, minibar, ample storage space, and period furnishings. Some include special features like a separate sitting area, walk-in dressing area, canopy bed, or electric fireplace.

The Thrill of Being Under Sail

A three-masted barque with 23 sails, *Sea Cloud II* is sailed by hand as often as conditions permit, starting with a full description of the sailing process the first morning on board and then as much as possible during the voyage. This tradition carried out by a skilled crew is an art form that contributes to the romance of being at sea.

Welcome Wellness Amenities

Unwind in the spa with a sauna or massage. A fitness room includes a treadmill, stationary bicycle, rowing machine, elliptical trainer, and weights.

A Choice of Indoor Public Spaces

An elegant lounge is a perfect venue for a nightly cocktail while the light-filled library is a lovely spot to sit down with a book about the region. Guests are welcome on the Bridge (conditions permitting) to learn how *Sea Cloud II* is navigated and sailed.

Inviting Outdoor Spaces

Outdoor spaces like the Lido and Promenade Decks invite relaxation in the open air. Feel the balmy breezes as idyllic scenery passes. Stretch out in a recliner and enjoy the ease of travel under sail; or enjoy a refreshment under the shade of a canopy.

Quality Dining

Dinners are served in single seating in the spacious restaurant, where breakfasts are also served buffet style, with eggs to order. Lunches, afternoon tea, and some special meals are more “at leisure” on the Lido Deck. All food and drink on board focus on Continental cuisine and local specialties.

Noteworthy Features

The ship’s interiors have the nostalgic feel of a luxurious 1930s yacht but boast contemporary features such as a helpful reception desk, wide passageways, and a central staircase. During your voyage, we will cover your bar tab aboard the ship (excluding certain super-premium brands).

Special Offers

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

INCLUDED IN PRICE

All accommodations aboard ship per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, liquors and spirits aboard the ship (except certain premium brands which are available for purchase); basic Wi-Fi (5GB per person); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; crew gratuities; guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; onboard physician consultations; 24-hour access to shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); private transfers; laundry, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

Additional costs associated with medical services outside onboard physician consultation.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non- refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/

CANCELLATION POLICY

Review our cancellation policy: https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/