Malta, Sicily and Greece Under Sail Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

Set sail aboard the majestic tall ship *Sea Cloud II* for an unforgettable journey across the shimmering azure waters of the Ionian Sea to the storied shores and enchanting villages of Malta, Sicily and Greece—lands steeped in myth, history and timeless beauty. Step back in time as you explore ancient cities and sacred temples once ruled by Romans, Greeks, Carthaginians and prehistoric civilizations. Along the way, visit four remarkable UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the classical ruins of Olympia and the megalithic temples of Gozo. This is more than a voyage of discovery—it's a return to the cradle of Western civilization. As you wander through charming towns where modern life flourishes amid Greco-Roman splendor, you'll savor traditional cuisine, hear echoes of ancient music and feel the enduring spirit of cultures that have shaped the world. Plus, enjoy ample sailing time aboard one of the world's most graceful tall ships under sail.

From

$ 15,000 / per person

Does not include flights

DATES Jun and Sep	**DURATION** 11 Days
SHIPS *Sea Cloud II*	
STARTS AT Valletta, Malta →	**ENDS AT** Athens, Greece

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

Highlights

- Bask in the romance of the tall ship *Sea Cloud II* as you sail the turquoise waters of the Ionian Sea
- Discover four UNESCO World Heritage sites: Valletta's fortified city, Olympia's classical ruins, Siracusa's historic heart and Gozo's awe-inspiring megalithic temples
- Explore the architectural treasures of Taormina's cliffside amphitheater and Monemvasia's stone-walled fortress town
- Trace the legacies of the Mediterranean's greatest civilizations, from the Romans and Greeks to the Carthaginians and beyond through expert-led visits to some of the region's most historical sites

ITALY
MONTENEGRO
KOSOVO
BULGARIA
NORTH MACEDONIA
ALBANIA
GREECE
Athens
Taormina
Katákolo
Siracusa
Pylos
Monemvasia
Valletta
mapbox
© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

Day by day

■ DAY 1

Valletta, Malta / Embark Ship

Arrive in Valletta, Malta's captivating capital and a UNESCO World Heritage site, where golden limestone fortifications—standing since the 16th century—guard a city rich in history and charm. In the late afternoon, step aboard the magnificent *Sea Cloud II* and settle into your new home at sea. As the sun begins to dip toward the horizon, raise a glass of champagne on deck and toast the unforgettable adventure that lies ahead.

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

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

Valletta

Be on deck this morning with cameras ready to enjoy one of the most attractive harbors in the Mediterranean bathed in early morning light. On tour, drive to the city's highest point, the Upper Barrakka 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 guided 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. As evening falls, return to the ship for a festive welcome cocktail party and dinner hosted by the captain and officers as you sail to Gozo.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Gozo / At Sea

In the morning, step ashore on Malta's sister island, Gozo, a tranquil haven steeped in ancient mystery. Visit the awe-inspiring Ġgantija Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's oldest freestanding structures—predating both the Pyramids of Giza and Stonehenge by over a millennium. Explore these megalithic marvels, as well as the beautifully restored Ta' Kola Windmill, a relic of the Knights of Malta's enduring legacy. Back aboard the ship en route to Sicily, watch the crew climb high into the rigging to unfurl the sails by hand—a breathtaking display of traditional seamanship that brings the grandeur of square-rig sailing to life.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Siracusa, Sicily, Italy / At Sea

Awaken this morning to the storied shores of Siracusa, a UNESCO site that was once a powerful rival to Athens and a beacon of ancient culture and commerce. Step ashore to explore its remarkable archaeological park, home to one of antiquity's largest theaters—a 15,000-seat masterpiece carved from solid bedrock and still used for performances today. Wander through the atmospheric limestone quarries, including the legendary "Ear of Dionysius," and visit the impressive Roman amphitheater, a testament to the city's layered history. In the afternoon, enjoy the serenity of the open sea. Reflect on the morning's discoveries, attend engaging talks with your expedition staff and sample a curated selection of Sicilian wines. Or simply relax on deck and revel in the thrill of sailing.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Taormina

Begin the day with a journey up to the enchanting hillside town of Taormina, gracefully perched at the foot of Mount Etna. With sweeping views of the Ionian Sea and a skyline dominated by the volcano's majestic silhouette, Taormina is a jewel of Sicily. Stroll along the elegant Corso Umberto, a pedestrian promenade lined with historic architecture, boutique shops, and charming cafés. Visit the town's crown jewel—the Greco-Roman Theater—an ancient amphitheater carved into the cliffside in the 3rd century B.C., offering breathtaking views of the sea and Mount Etna beyond. From Taormina, continue to the Castello degli Schiavi, an 18th-century private villa steeped in history and cinematic lore. Enjoy an exclusive lunch hosted by members of the family who still reside there and explore the villa's atmospheric grounds, famously featured in several iconic scenes from *The Godfather* films. Return to *Sea Cloud II* for a relaxing evening at sea, beginning with happy hour on deck and followed by a delightful dinner as you set sail.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAYS 6-7

At Sea

As *Sea Cloud II* glides gracefully across the Ionian Sea, enjoy two leisurely days at sea—an ideal opportunity to unwind and embrace the rhythm of life aboard a classic tall ship. Claim your favorite deck chair, lose yourself in a captivating book and listen to the soothing sound of waves as the ship cuts through the surf en route to Greece. Marvel at the spectacle of the crew climbing high into the intricate rigging to hand-set the sails—a breathtaking display of seamanship and tradition. Enrich your voyage with engaging presentations by your onboard historian and experts, who bring the region's fascinating past to life. Delight in exquisite meals and complimentary drinks, and connect with fellow travelers during lively social gatherings and shipboard events. Whether you're basking in the sun or diving into history, these days at sea promise relaxation, discovery and camaraderie.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Olympia / At Sea

After docking in Katákolo, journey inland to the legendary site of Olympia—the birthplace of the Olympic Games, held every four years for over a millennium beginning in 776 B.C. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers a powerful glimpse into the ancient world's reverence for athleticism, competition and the divine. Wander among the evocative ruins of the Temple of Zeus, once home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and admire the remnants of the Temple of Hera and the iconic statue of Nike. Stand in the original Olympic Stadium, where athletes once competed in honor of the gods, and explore the outstanding Archaeological Museum, which houses a remarkable collection of classical sculptures and artifacts that bring Olympia's storied past to life. After lunch, visit Olympia Land Estate, a family-owned winery, for a tasting of exceptional vintages that reflect the history and tradition of the region.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Pylos / At Sea

Nestled on the southwestern coast of the Peloponnese—named for the mythical King Pelops, founder of the Olympic Games—Pylos is a town steeped in history and myth. Once a vital center of Mycenaean civilization, it was home to King Nestor, the wise elder statesman of Homer's *Iliad*. Today, explore the dramatic Methoni Castle, perched on

a rocky cape jutting into the Ionian Sea. Built by the Venetians in the 12th century and expanded in the 17th, this fortress boasts a stone bridge, a deep moat, and towering walls that lead to a picturesque octagonal watchtower—perfect for photos and panoramic views.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Monemvasia / At Sea

As *Sea Cloud II* rounds the southern tip of the Peloponnese and enters the Aegean Sea, you'll arrive at one of Greece's most captivating destinations—Monemvasia. This dramatic fortress town clings to the side of a towering 1,000-foot rock that rises from the sea like a stone ship, hidden from view until you're nearly upon it. Step ashore to explore the enchanting lower town, or kastro, a labyrinth of narrow cobbled lanes, Byzantine churches, and centuries-old stone houses. For those who opt to venture upward, a steep path leads to the upper town and the Church of Agia Sofia, perched high above the sea with sweeping views. With its timeless architecture and serene pace of life, Monemvasia feels like a living museum—where even the "newest" buildings are hundreds of years old. Spend your final afternoon at sea in quiet reflection, capture the ship's graceful details through your lens, or simply savor the sea breeze as you recall the wonders of your journey. This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a festive farewell reception and dinner, celebrating the unforgettable voyage across the Ionian and Aegean seas aboard *Sea Cloud II*.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 11

Piraeus / Disembark Ship

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

Departure Time: After 12:00 p.m.
Departure City: Athens, Greece

Meals included: breakfast

Eastbound

Valletta, Malta → Athens, Greece

2027 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

20 Jun				

2028 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

12 Sep				

Alternative Routes

Visit Expeditions.com for more information.

2028 Departure Dates

02 Sep, 22 Sep

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.

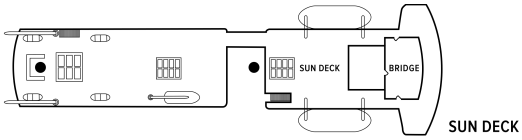
Category 7

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

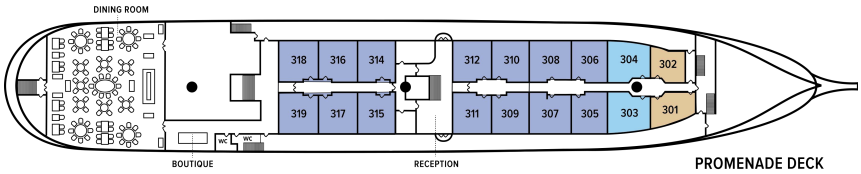


Cabin Deck

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

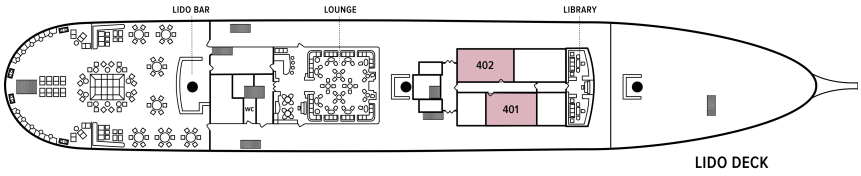
Promenade Deck

- 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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/