

# Mediterranean Cruise

Rome · Naples · Malta · Mykonos · Ephesus · Athens · Santorini · Crete · Venice

## Day 1: Arrive in Rome

Benvenuto! Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Rome is Italy’s capital city with nearly 3,000 years of globally influential art, architecture and culture on display. Today, you will see Piazza Di Spagna, Via Condotti and pass the side streets as you head down to Via Del Corso to see San Carlo Al Corso.

A magnet for visitors since the 18th century, the Spanish Steps (Scalinata della Trinità dei Monti) provide a perfect people-watching perch and you’ll almost certainly find yourself taking stock here at some point.

Piazza di Spagna was named after the Spanish Embassy to the Holy See, although the staircase, designed by the Italian Francesco de Sanctis and built in 1725 with a legacy from the French, leads to the French Chiesa della Trinità dei Monti. This landmark church, which was commissioned by King Louis XII of France and consecrated in 1585, commands memorable views and boasts some wonderful frescoes by Daniele da Volterra, including a masterful Deposizione (Deposition). At the foot of the steps, the Barcaccia (the ‘sinking boat’ fountain) is believed to be by Pietro Bernini, father of the more famous Gian Lorenzo. In 2015 the fountain was damaged by Dutch football fans, and the Dutch subsequently offered to repair it. To the southeast of the piazza, adjacent Piazza Mignanelli is dominated by the Colonna dell’Immacolata, built in 1857 to celebrate Pope Pius IX’s declaration of the Immaculate Conception.

The surrounding neighbourhood is abuzz with trendy shops, restaurants and cafes. Spend the perfect afternoon sampling traditional delicacies, capping it off with a refreshing gelato! And as you make your way to Mass at the San Carlo Al Corso, you can casually rummage through the fashion stops conveniently located to your left and right.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/rome/sights/squares-plazas/piazza-di-spagna-spanish-steps#ixzz4DxX02QOf>

### Recommendation:

Lunch at Il Gabriello and Gelato at La Strega Nocciola  
Dinner at Pizzeria San Marco

Hotel: Residenza Ludovisi  
*Located in Via Veneto, this property is within a 10-minute walk of Sistina Theater, Spanish Steps, and Villa Borghese. Trevi Fountain and Borghese Gallery are also within 15 minutes.*

## Day 2: Rome

Start your day with a Bike City tour in Rome. With this tour, you will discover the historic center of Rome in only 3 hours lead by an English speaking guide. The bike tour allows you to pay homage to famous monuments such as Circus Maximus, Imperial Forum, Roman Ghetto, Campo dei Fiori, Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Venice square, Theater of Marcellus and the Colosseum. At the end of the tour, you will be treated to delicious Italian gelato at Gelateria Del Teatro by Via Dei Coronari.

In the afternoon, explore the famous Villa Borghese Gardens. Villa Borghese is a naturalistic English landscaped garden containing a number of buildings, museums and attractions. A fun way to venture the place is by using the Quadra Cycle.

<http://www.italycruiserbiketours.com/rome-bike-tour-4.html>

### Recommendation:

Lunch at Peppone  
Dinner at Osteria Barberini

Hotel: Residenza Ludovisi







**Day 3: Rome / San Giovanni Rotondo or San Gimignano**

This morning, drive to Padre Pio’s Shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo or explore the Tuscan Countryside with a sidetrip to some Outlet Shopping.

San Giovanni Rotondo is a city in the province of Foggia, Southern Italy. It is the home of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina from 1916 until his death on 1968. Padre Pio is a Capuchin friar, priest and mystic known for his devotion to God, care for the sick and supernatural gifts.

Tuscany, with its spectacular hill towns and scenery, is one of Italy's top vacation destinations. Tuscany's travel attractions include historic cities and art, great wine and food, medieval hill towns, beaches, and beautiful countryside.

There’s a list of towns to visit but a favorite is San Gimignano. As you approach this place, the 14 towers of this walled town rise up like a medieval Manhattan. Originally an Etruscan village, the settlement was named after the bishop of Modena, San Gimignano, who is said to have saved the city from Attila the Hun. It became a comune (local government) in 1199, prospering in part because of its location on the Via Francigena. Building a tower taller than their neighbours' (there were originally 72) became a popular way for prominent families to flaunt their power and wealth. In 1348 plague wiped out much of the population and weakened the local economy, leading to the town's submission to Florence in 1353. Today, not even the plague would deter the swarms of summer day-trippers, who are lured by a palpable sense of history, intact medieval streetscapes and enchanting rural setting.

The Mall in Leccio is a luxury outlet centre located in the heart of Italy, close to the main Tuscan cities. A visit to The Mall, the top brand outlet centre, will be an unforgettable experience.

*Recommendation:*

- Dining options in San Gimignano, Peruca and Cum Quibus
- Don’t forget to enjoy the gelatos in Gelateria Dondoli
- Dining Options in San Giovanni Rotondo: Al Soppalco and Chiazza Ranna
- Dessert in Coppa Cicuta



**Day 4: Vatican City / Civitavecchia (Start of Cruise)**

Today, you will have a morning tour at the Vatican City, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. It is the home of the pope and a trove of iconic art and architecture. The Vatican Museum houses the ancient Roman sculptures such as the Laocoön and Renaissance frescoes in the Raphael Rooms and the Sistine Chapel, famous for Michelangelo’s ceiling.

Head to Civitavecchia Port to board the ship to start your Mediterranean Cruise. Civitavecchia is a popular port for cruise lines.

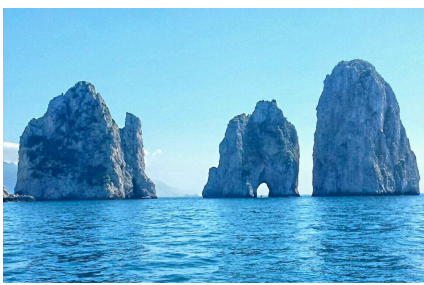
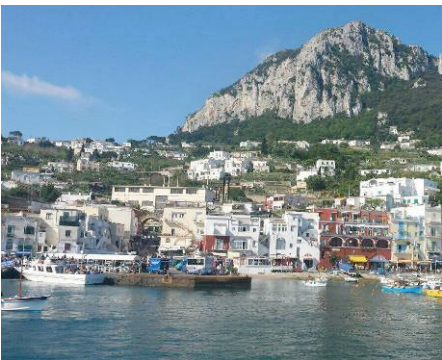
<https://biglietteriamusei.vatican.va>

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (D)

Impressive with all the best-loved Solstice Class features—and some new ones. It's iconic Lawn Club provide more opportunities to relax, eat, drink and socialize in the fresh air. The most flavorful hamburgers await as outdoor grilling delight passengers after long days on tour. A cabana-styled haven known as The Alcoves surrounds the spacious pool side. Inside, there is a shopping mall apart from the number of lounges available. Go on a culinary adventure in Qsine where you order food and wine from an iPad menu. While sweeping veranda views and additional amenities enhance 85% of its staterooms.







Day 5: Naples, Capri & The Amalfi Coast

Take an exclusive tour of Capri. This includes a cruise around the island to see the villas, rock formations, the blue grotto and some free time around Ana Capri. Then head to Sorrento to learn more about the town. Take the scenic drive back to Naples as you breathe in the picturesque Amalfi Coast.

Naples, a big city in southern Italy, sits on the Bay of Naples near Mt. Vesuvius. It has centuries of important art and architecture. Its landmarks include Naples Cathedral, whose Chapel of San Gennaro is filled with frescoes and statues, and the lavish Royal Palace. Naples is also renowned for its distinctive style of thin-crust pizza.

Capri, an island in Italy’s Gulf of Naples, is famed for its rugged landscape, upscale beach resorts and high-end shops selling handmade leather sandals and signature limoncello liqueur. One of its best-known natural sites is the Blue Grotto, a dark cavern where the sea glows electric blue, the result of sunlight passing through an underwater cave. After some time around Capri’s busy harbour, take the funicular to Ana Capri, its more subdued sister town. The views from Villa San Michele di Axel Munthe are surreal. While waiting for your way down, enjoy the pleasant vibe as you look through chic stores or sit by one of many cafes by the square.

[tours@vaticantoursinc.com](mailto:tours@vaticantoursinc.com)

Recommendation:

Lunch in Ana Capri - Isidoro

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)



Day 6: Malta

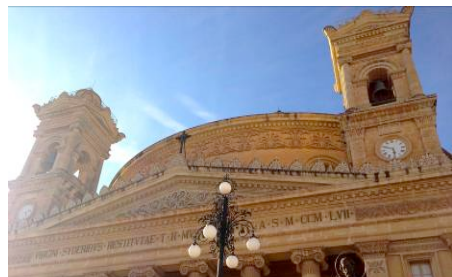
Explore Malta. Today, you will see cities such as Valetta, Marsakloxx, Mdina, Rabat and Mosta.

Valetta is the capital of Malta. It is now a World Heritage site boasting Baroque, Neo Classical, and modern architecture. It is described by some as being an open air museum as well as a monument in itself set on the arid rock of Mount Sciberras. When visiting Valetta one can see quaint cafes nestled in street corners alongside boutique shops and bustling street vendors haggling their wares to passing tourists.

The port-to-the-south as the name translates is a quiet fishing village overlooked by statue of St Andrew, the patron saint of fisherman. Marsakloxx has always been very important in nautical history, especially since it is the second largest natural harbour in Malta. The main attraction in this quaint little village is the fishing and all that is associated with it; colourful traditional Maltese fishing boats, The Luzzus with the mythical eye painted on their prow for good luck, fish hawkers, and the Sunday fish market.

MDina has been nicknamed as silent city for the peacefulness and serenity that lie within its grand walls. This quiet city is famous for the narrow winding streets, elegant homes, doors and door knockers alike. It houses the main Cathedral of the island dedicated to St. Paul and St. Peter.

Next is Rabat and Mosta. Rabat town is a commercial center and act as a market to its large agricultural hinterland. It is also well established on the tourist map due to its archaeological and historical sites. One of the most prominent features of Rabat is the famous catacombs of St. Paul and St. Agatha.





These catacombs were used in Roman times to bury the dead as, according to Roman culture, it was unclean to bury the dead in the city. The parish church in Mosta is considered the largest dome in Europe. It is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The dome can be seen twinkling and sparkling like a bright jewel during the month of August when the parishioners fervently celebrate their traditional fiesta. The dome is also famous for what has become to be known by the catholic parishioners as a miracle.

<http://cinokluarts.com/maltaprivatetours.com/#/Home/>

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)

**Day 7: Cruising**

Enjoy!

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)

**Day 8: Mykonos, Greece**

When cruising to Mykonos, Greece expect to discover an exciting area that has something to offer everyone. Whether you are looking to relax along the beach or dive into the exciting and historic city center, you will fall in love with this great island.

Hora is one of the best examples of Cycladic architecture and a spellbinding attraction for visitors. Stroll around its narrow marble streets and admire whitewashed houses with colourful doors and window frames, bougainvillea trees in purple bloom and hidden churches. Pay a visit to the church of Panayia Paraportiani, the Town hall and the castle situated above the harbour. Don't forget to visit the Archaeological, Folklore and Maritime Museums to take in a little history. Wander around the pedestrian shopping streets of the Hóra, always colourful and busy. The most glamorous of all is Matoyánni Street, lined with brand name stores, charming cafés and stylish restaurants.

Soak up the atmosphere along the lively waterfront and admire a fleet of fishing boats casting colourful reflections in the azure waters. This is where you will find the Kazárma building, which served as accommodation for the soldiers of Manto Mavrogenous, a heroine of the Greek Revolution. The first floor served as her personal residence. While you're out strolling, don't be surprised if you come across the official mascot of Mykonos, which is nothing other than a... pelican!

One of the most scenic corners of the island is Alefkántra or "Little Venice", an 18th century district, dominated by grand captains' mansions with colourful balconies and stylish windows. With balconies perched over the sea, pictures of the famous Italian city spring to mind. Relax at a waterfront café and admire the view of the quaint windmills standing imposingly on the hillside above, set against a luminous blue backdrop.

The second traditional settlement of Mykonos is Áno Merá, situated around the historic monastery of Panayia Tourliani (a 16th century church with a brilliant carved wooden iconostasis). To the north, in Fteliá, lies an important Neolithic settlement, and a 14th-13th century BC Mycenaean tomb.

Using the Hóra as your base, set out on a trip to discover the beauties of the island, in particularly its sun-kissed beaches. Along the southern coast you will find a great selection of the most cosmopolitan ones. Here, wild parties keep the crowds rocking day and night. Paradise and Super Paradise may already be familiar to you. Órnos and Psaróu are favorite spots for families. Try a visit too to Platis Yalós, with a well-organized beach where you can soak up the sun lazing on a sun lounge. However, if you are looking for a serene beach to unwind with a book, pick a less organized one on the northern coast of the island, like Ayia Ánna, Houlákia, Kápari, Agrári and Ayios Stéfanos.

*Recommendation:*

Lunch at Kostas in Hora

Mid Afternoon snack and cocktails by Salparo Mykonos

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)



**Day 9: Kusadasi (Ephesus), Turkey**

Kusadasi has become a popular vacation spot for people living in or near Turkey, but it's also a place to which people from all over the world travel. A large number of Kusadasi's tourism stems from the fact that Kusadasi is the big town closest to the ancient ruins of Ephesus. Ephesus was second only to Rome during the 1st and 2nd centuries. It is believed that the Virgin Mary made this place her home later in her life and it is also believed that St. John wrote his gospel here. Ephesus was also the site of The Temple of Artemis. which was one of the





You will be met by your private guide at port. Drive to House of Virgin Mary - one of the pilgrimage centers of Christians where Virgin Mary passed her recently time and died. Pope Paul VI visited the shrine in 1967, and 'unofficially' confirmed its authenticity. Pope John Paul II also visited the shrine in 1979. Pope Benedict XVI visited this shrine in 2006.

After House of Virgin Mary, we will visit Ephesus that is one of the best well-kept Greco-Roman ancient cities in the world, famous with Odeon where the music concerts were given; Domitian Temple which is one of the first temple dedicated for a human; Celcius Library which was the third biggest library in the ancient time; Amphitheatre where is one of the biggest amphitheatre in the world with 24.000 people capacity and St. Paul preached; Roman Baths ; Fountains; Temples; Agora; Love House; Public Toilets; the affluent Terrace Houses famed with mosaics and frescos.

After Ephesus, we visit the Temple of Artemis - one of the seven wonders of Ancient time and the Basilica of Saint John - where Apostle John spent his final years and he was buried.

You will also visit a carpet factory and have time to explore Kusadasi Gran Bazaar.

[info@privatephesustours.com](mailto:info@privatephesustours.com) or [info@privatetourskusadasi.com](mailto:info@privatetourskusadasi.com)

*Recommendation:*

Lunch at Selcuk Koftecisi. A local favorite in Selcuk.

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)

**Day 10: Athens, Greece**

Athens, the capital city of Greece is a city of great cultural interest as well as a bustling, modern city. The harmonious and perfectly balanced combination between the old and the new make Athens unique.

Start the tour by visiting the so called “sacred rock”, the Acropolis. Here you will see the Parthenon that was dedicated to goddess Athena (Parthenos), Propylea, the monumental entrance to the sacred area, the temple of Athena Nike which was dedicated to Athena-Nike (Victory) the Erechtheion with its famous female figures-statues the Caryatides or Maidens dedicated to both goddess Athena and god Poseidon. The Odeum of Herodus Atticus and the ruins of the first theatre in the whole world the Theatre of Dionysus and finally the Areopagus (Mars Hill).

Then you will proceed to the Temple of Olympian Zeus and then to Panathenaic or Kallimarmaro Stadium which hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. We will drive by the Prime Minister’s Residence (Maximou Mansion), the former Royal Palace, known today as the Presidential Mansion and make a short stop by the House of Parliament with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Here we will witness the the changing of the guards – their uniforms are sight to see. We continue our tour by driving up to the highest point of Athens, the Lycabettus Hill (the best 360 degree panoramic view of Athens). From Lycabettus Hill we’ll proceed to the oldest and most picturesque neighbourhood of Athens, Plaka with its stone-paved narrow streets, traditional Greek tavernas -best gyros- antique and souvenir stores and the Tower of the Winds.

After lunch in Plaka we’ll drive through the city centre to the area of the Flea Market (street bazaar, antique stores) where we’ll visit the Ancient Agora (the political, financial and commercial centre of ancient Athens). There we’ll see the temple of Hephaistos, known also as Theseum (best preserved ancient temple in Greece) and the Stoa of Attalos (an ancient shopping centre) which was restored in the fifties by the American Archaeological School.

The tour will be completed with a visit to the National Archaeological Museum, the biggest museum in Greece with one of the most extensive and important archaeological collections in the world. It houses, among other important exhibits, the frescoes of the island of Santorini and the prehistoric golden collection of Mycenae with the famous mask of Agamemnon or with a visit to the New Acropolis Museum, "Home" of the Parthenon Marbles and important and impressive archaeological findings from the sacred rock of the Acropolis.

<http://privategrecetours.com/>

*Recommendation:*

Lunch in Kuzina, Agora or Plaka

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)







Day 11: Santorini

Have you ever seen those stunning pictures of the Greek Isles with rustic homes painted a brilliant white topped by bright blue domes? Those pictures were probably taken in Oia, a town on Santorini. This island offers those and other simply gorgeous landscapes to ogle at, including some of the most incredible sunsets. Santorini was formed by a volcanic eruption that shaped Santorini around a caldera surrounded by steep cliffs. This volcanic history has also added to the island’s rugged black sand beaches and multi-layered cliffs. Some even believe the lost city of Atlantis is near this island.

Your guide will meet you at Fira. Your first photo op will be by the famous blue dome church in Firostefani Village. You will then drive to the picturesque village of Oia. After some free time there, you will have the option to see the Perivolos Black Sandy Beach and do some Wine Tasting at the Santo Winery.

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

Recommendation:

Lunch at Yogi Gyro a local favourite for authentic Gyros in Fira

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)



Day 12: Chania (Crete)

Wander through the fascinating layers of Chaniá's history with a visit to the Old Town. The Venetian Harbor and narrow, picturesque roadways retain the distinctive atmosphere of the city's Venetian and Turkish periods. The large 16th century Venetian church, Aghios Frankiskos is an impressive site and home of the Archaeological Museum of Chaniá.

Explore the site of the ancient city of Aptera, once an important Minoan city believed to be built around 700 BCE. The remains of the city walls can still be seen surrounding the 12th century monastery and impressive 19th century Turkish fort also built on the site. A marvel in and of itself, the Firkas Fort, constructed in 1629 and current home to the Maritime Museum of Crete, boasts a panoramic view of the Venetian Harbor and the spectacular Venetian lighthouse. Be sure to bring your cameras. Relax on Chrisi Akti beach, one of the most beautiful in Crete.

<http://www.royalcaribbean.com/findacruise/ports/group/home.do?portCode=CHQ>

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)



Day 13: Cruising

Enjoy!

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)



Day 14: Venice, Italy

Venice, capital of northern Italy’s Veneto region, is built on more than 100 small islands in a marshy lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. Its stone palaces seemingly rise out of the water. There are no cars or roadways, just canals and boats. The Grand Canal snakes through the city, which is filled with innumerable narrow, mazelike alleys and small squares. Part of the adventure is to discover trattorias serving great Italian dishes as you enjoy the whole experience with locals.

Vessel: Celebrity Silhouette (B/L/D)







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**Day 15: Disembark in Venice**

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Your cruise ends today. Arrivederci!

Travel by private vehicle for this full-day excursion which begins with a walking tour of Padua. Here you will stroll with your driver-escort through the glorious historic center to St. Anthony's Basilica, where you'll marvel to the tiny Scrovegni Chapel and its famed Giotto frescoes, dating from the beginning of the 16th century. Afterwards you'll have time for more explorations and if you wish, lunch on your own at a trattoria.

In the afternoon, you can do some last minute outlet shopping at the Noventa di Piave. Discover the pleasure of walking before the windows of 100 stores in a splendid architectural setting cured in every detail, with mosaics and frescoes inspired by the palaces of Venice and Treviso. Grab great luxury bargains at 30-70% discounts offered all year round.

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

*Recommendation:*

Lunch at Il Ristorante Zairo , Padua

Hotel: Best Western Titian Inn Hotel (B)

Set in a modest low-rise building, this casual hotel is 2.3 km from Venice Marco Polo Airport and 16 km from Piazza San Marco. Low-key rooms feature satellite TV, free Wi-Fi and minifridges. Upgraded quarters add elegant decor and/or sofabeds. A suite has a living room and a separate bedroom.



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**Day 16: Fly back to Manila**

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