



ICONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: ITALY, SICILY & CROATIA

Your 15-night journey includes: 10-night small ship cruise with Trieste, Zadar, Split, Brindisi, Giardini Naxos, Syracuse, Valletta, Trapani, Lipari, Castellammare di Stabia/Pompeii & Civitavecchia; 2 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Venice; 2 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Rome

The Mediterranean. It's arguably the most illustrious region in the world, which is why legions of devoted holidaymakers line its shores every summer. On this NEW small ship ocean cruise into the Mediterranean with Vantage Deluxe World Travel, we've curated the best destinations and cultural insights in Italy, Croatia, and the tiny island nation of Malta. From Venice to Rome, you'll discover Adriatic delights such as the Dalmatian Islands and the arid, romantic region of Puglia. Furthermore, this journey also circumnavigates Sicily, showcasing three of its most fascinating cities. And while it's part of Italy, you'll soon discover why Sicily is a world away from the mainland.

Spend some time in Venice and Rome, soaking in the iconic architecture, the cinematic ambiance, and the food! Designed with just 77 cabins onboard – including a landmark 15 solo cabins – the 5-star Ocean Odyssey seamlessly blends opulent luxury with intimate cultural discoveries. Our ship's small size also lets you navigate to exclusive ports larger ships can't reach, with some tendering where you will be required to have the physical agility to maneuver getting on and off of tenders/Zodiac boats. After a day of portside exploration, relax onboard with a pampering spa treatment, or a delicious meal cooked over a hot-rock grill. Have our Concierge make a reservation for you at the spa. You'll be picture-ready in no time for these glamorous ports of call. Add on extensions to Florence and Stresa & the Italian Lakes for the ultimate, Italian experience. Discover the Mediterranean and live la dolce vita with Vantage!

Reserve Today! Call Toll-Free **1 800 322 6677** - WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/OTR23

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

MEDITERRANEAN SMALL SHIP SAILING



Cruise the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas aboard the nimble, 5-star *Ocean Odyssey*

DALMATIAN ISLANDS



Scenery awaits at every turn aboard your journey, including scenic sailing through these picturesque Adriatic islands

VENICE



Spend two nights in this UNESCO-listed floating city, and see iconic hallmarks like St. Mark's Basilica and Doge's Palace

ALBEROBELLO



Visit Alberobello, a UNESCO site renowned for its *trulli* — ancient, cone-shaped homes — and eat lunch in a local *masseria*

SICILY



Circumnavigate Sicily and visit three of the island's most historic and interesting towns: Syracuse, Taormina, and Trapani

MALTA



Discover this tiny island nation and its UNESCO-listed capital, Valletta

POMPEII



Tour the ruins of this ancient city on a walking tour with a private guide

SPLIT & DIOCLETIAN'S PALACE



Explore the UNESCO-listed Diocletian's Palace, built by the Roman emperor Diocletian as his retirement home because of the area's spectacular

ROME



Fall in love with the Eternal City's grandeur, and tour the Vatican Museums while here

VOLCANOES



Enjoy the chance to see some of the Mediterranean's volcanoes, including Etna, Vesuvius, and Lipari

YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- **Purchase your airfare from Vantage** and your airport transfers, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees are included
- **Accommodations for 14 nights**, with 10 nights aboard the 5-star *Ocean Odyssey*, plus 2 nights in Rome at the *Hotel Parco dei Principi* (or similar) and 2 nights in Venice at the *Hilton Molino Stucky Venice* (or similar)
- **36 meals:** 14 breakfasts, 10 lunches, and 12 dinners, with complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks during dinner on board
- **27 included features and Cultural Discoveries**
- **Visit 11 UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Rome, the Vatican, Pompeii, Aeolian Islands, Valletta, Syracuse, Etna (choice of tours), Alberobello, Diocletian's Palace, Historic Defensive Walls of Zadar, Venice
- **The services of a Vantage Cruise Director and Program Manager**, plus shipboard commentary, regional experts, and private motorcoach for excursions
- **Complimentary Destination Manager** on board ship to assist with all your personal requests
- **Gratuities for local guides and drivers**
- **All transportation on tour**
- **All transfers and baggage handling** when overseas, beginning with your first hotel
- **Vantage's 5% Travel Reward**, received upon your return, to use toward your next Vantage journey

SPECIAL INTEREST



SMALL SHIP CRUISING HIGHLIGHTS

Our 5-star fleet offers an authentic sailing experience to make your journey unforgettable. While onboard, indulge in a relaxing massage at the spa, or try hot-rock cooking at the onboard restaurant. Then, disembark for an eye-opening visit to a local winery or a walking tour of some of the world's most iconic cities and undiscovered gems. All the while, enjoy these world-class ship amenities:

- 77 cabins, including a landmark 15 solo cabins, most of which have full walk-out balconies, for the most flexible style of travel — plus, suites designed for comfortable triple-occupancy as well as adjoining room options
- A culinary program offering gourmet dining incorporating regional fare, with wine and beer included at dinner
- Spa, massage, and hair services available at the onboard spa
- Sauna
- Two hot tubs
- Fitness center
- Curated lectures, programs, musical performances, and cultural events
- Low passenger-to-crew ratio, plus onboard Destination Manager
- Knowledgeable staff by region
- Onboard medical doctor (travelers are responsible for medical fees associated with doctor visit and medications)
- Gift Shop
- Library with over 200 titles
- Separate, intimate dining space for groups or special events (available upon request)
- Complimentary unlimited WiFi (WiFi on certain segments of trips may not be available)
- Entertainment programming with 100 movie titles
- Environmentally friendly standards with reduced emissions into air and sea and lower energy consumption
- Dynamic positioning technology
- State-of-the-art safety technology, Polar Code 6 compliant, and fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements in expedition cruising
- Rolls-Royce stabilizer system; "Safe Return to Port" technology

WINE HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a wine tasting at a private Sicilian winery in Erice
- In Taormina, choose the Mount Etna tour for a winery visit and tasting



- Enjoy opportunities to dine on your own and discover regional wines



ART & CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the blend of cultures, religions, and cuisines that have melded together to form contemporary Italy and Croatia with Vantage's curated cultural features,

including:

- Discover Erice's "salt road"
- Circumnavigate Sicily and learn about the unique culture and cuisine of this fascinating island
- Discover the unique trulli homes in the town of Alberobello, located in Italy's Puglia region
- Enjoy nights of local onboard entertainment
- Participate in workshops and cooking demos that immerse you in the cultures of Italy and Croatia
- Visit the Vatican Museums in Rome
- Participate in onboard lectures, designed to bring you closer to the history, culture, and cuisine of your destinations



CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS

The culinary gems of Italy and Croatia have been well-documented, and foodies have reason to rejoice:

- Enjoy lunch at a local masseria (country estate) in Puglia
- Granita or wine tasting (depending on choice of tour) in Taormina
- Wine tasting at a private Sicilian winery
- Home-hosted lunch with pizza-making demonstration at a local farm outside Pompeii
- Purchase Mediterranean Sea salt in the town of Erice, and see how it's made

- Enjoy opportunities to dine on your own throughout your journey



UNESCO & HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

This journey includes visits to 11 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and so much more:

- Visit 11 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Rome, the Vatican, Pompeii, Aeolian Islands, Valletta, Syracuse, Etna (choice of tours), Alberobello, Diocletian's Palace, Historic Defensive Walls of Zadar, Venice
- Spend two nights in UNESCO-listed Venice and see its iconic landmarks, including St. Mark's Basilica
- Step inside the trulli homes in UNESCO-listed Alberobello
- Circumnavigate Sicily and visit three of its most interesting coastal towns
- Uncover Maltese history in its historic capital, Valletta, and in a 5D movie experience
- Tour the ruins of ancient Pompeii
- Explore the UNESCO-listed Diocletian's Palace while taking in Split's spectacular seaside beauty
- Visit the Vatican Museums in Rome's Vatican City
- Attend lectures throughout your cruise by notable experts in each region



NATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The soul-stirring beauty of the natural world greets you at every turn on this stunning Mediterranean voyage:

- Take in views of Croatia's Dalmatian Islands as you cruise through the Adriatic Sea
- Enjoy lunch in a masseria (country estate) in Puglia
- Discover different wine varietals and the unique soul and climate that helps them flourish
- Find out how Mediterranean sea salt is made along the salt road in Erice
- Explore the Aeolian Islands
- Visit several volcanic sites, including Etna and Pompeii



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

The magnificent Mediterranean is a wonder for the senses, from its sprawling sea- and landscapes to those ancient Roman landmarks. Here are a few tips to help you capture beautiful and memorable pictures:

- Take your time to capture an image. Think like a photographer and slow down to compose your shot. Remember: tourists take pictures, while photographers make images
- From the Colosseum in Rome to the vast landscapes on the coastline, you'll encounter large landmarks on this trip, which

might create pressure to fit everything into one shot. Instead, try focusing on a distinctive feature rather than trying to incorporate everything into frame

- Incorporate your surroundings. Don't try to edge out other tourists from your photos, but use them to enhance the scene. Try tilting the camera at your target, including tourists and the real scene in the background or forefront, and the image instantly is more intriguing than a generic snapshot
- Pursue quirky composition — shooting off-center makes for a more artsy, unique shot



SOLO TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

On this small ship ocean cruise, independent travelers will enjoy solo-friendly features, such as:

- Onboard Destination Manager to personalize your expedition
- Water-sport opportunities, depending on the location
- A lively social media night and musical performances most nights
- Solo-friendly social activities, including a Solo Connection mixer
- Onboard entertainment, lectures, and cooking demonstrations

- Health and wellness options, including onboard spa, jacuzzis, and a gym



CONCIERGE SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Prior to your expedition cruise, our complimentary Concierge service will be available to help you customize your journey. Here are just a few services your Concierge can provide:

- Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, family reunion or other important event you want to celebrate on board? Let your Concierge know and he or she can make all the special arrangements, whether it's a private reception in your suite, a

gathering in the lounge, and more

- Restaurant reservations. Just notify your Concierge of your interests, and he or she will be happy to make recommendations, and will call ahead to reserve your table
- Special excursions. Would you like a limo to take you for a special night in the city? Perhaps you'd like to look up long-lost relatives. Your Concierge is here to help!
- Extend your stay! Your Concierge can help modify your hotel reservations and flights if you decide to stay on
- Tickets to local concerts, exhibits, theater, sporting events, and more

Take advantage of this free, start-to-finish service by making your requests prior to your journey or during your journey. We are one of the only companies to offer this level of service! Call 1-888-982-6824 or email Concierge@vantagetravel.com to speak to a Concierge today, or simply log into My Portfolio up to two weeks prior to departure. During your journey, your onboard Destination Manager can assist with any special requests such as spa reservations, hotel reservations, and more.

VENICE TO ROME

DAY 1:	Fly to Venice, Italy	DAY 16:	Fly home or head to Florence on a post-trip extension
DAY 2:	Arrive in Venice and attend a Welcome Briefing and Dinner <i>Hilton Molino Stucky Venice or similar</i>		
DAY 3:	Tour Venice's highlights <i>Hilton Molino Stucky Venice or similar</i>		
DAY 4:	Enjoy leisure time in Venice, then transfer to Trieste and embark the Ocean Odyssey <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 5:	Cruise into Zadar, and discover its ancient and UNESCO-listed treasures <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 6:	Revisit the Roman era at Diocletian's Palace in Split <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 7:	Uncover the charming trulli homes of UNESCO-listed Alberobello <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 8:	Your choice of tours: Uncover Taormina's rich history or visit Etna for a wine tasting <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 9:	See more of Sicily in Syracuse and Ortigia <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 10:	Embark on a walking tour of Valletta, then experience Malta in 5D <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 11:	Visit ancient Erice for a tour, wine tasting, and a drive down Sicily's "salt road" <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 12:	Discover Lipari, the gem of the Aeolian Islands <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 13:	Uncover the mysteries of Pompeii and Neapolitan pizza <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 14:	Explore Rome's grandeur on panoramic and walking tours <i>Parco dei Principi Hotel or similar</i>		



DAY 1: Fly to Venice, Italy

Today your journey to Italy begins with an overnight flight to Venice. Or, depart earlier for your pre-trip extension to Stresa.

DAY 2: Arrive in Venice and attend a Welcome Briefing and Dinner

You'll arrive in Venice today! If you purchased your airfare from Vantage, you'll be met at the airport by one of our representatives who will assist you with your transfer by Venice's famous water taxis to the hotel. Get settled in, and later, attend a Welcome Briefing and Dinner.

Included meals: Dinner
Hilton Molino Stucky Venice or similar

DAY 3: Tour Venice's highlights

Get ready to discover this mesmerizing floating city — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — during today's sightseeing walking tour, which takes you to St. Mark's Basilica and Doge's Palace. Along the way, you'll take in views of Venice's canals, lined with gorgeous centuries-old palaces, churches, hotels, and other buildings in an

eclectic array of architectural styles.

Enjoy the rest of the day to explore and dine on your own, perhaps seeking out a cicchetti bar (or two or three!) and sipping an Aperol spritz in one of Venice's many scenic squares. Your Program Manager can point you in the right direction if you need suggestions.

Included Feature:

- Venice sightseeing with St. Mark's Basilica and Doge's Palace
Included meals: Breakfast
Hilton Molino Stucky Venice or similar

DAY 4: Enjoy leisure time in Venice, then transfer to Trieste and embark the Ocean Odyssey

This morning you can take on Venice at your own pace — perhaps you'll shop for some last-minute items or go for a sightseeing stroll with your camera. After lunch on your own, we'll transfer by private boat to Venice's train station and embark a high-speed train that will take us north to Trieste. (A luggage truck will transfer your luggage for the utmost in convenience and ease.) Trieste is located across the bay from Venice but is closer to Slovenia. Hear a bit more about the largest port in the Adriatic on a guided tour; then, embark the Ocean Odyssey at the pier. Thanks to the small size of your ship, in many ports we'll be able to dock right onshore, giving you access easy access to your destination. However, please note that other ports may require anchoring offshore and tendering inland, which will require a certain level of agility. After a Welcome Briefing on board, followed by cocktail hour, we'll begin sailing. Enjoy your first dinner onboard the ship this evening.

Included Features:

- Transfer to Trieste by high-speed train ride
- Trieste walking tour
Included meals: Breakfast & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 5: Cruise into Zadar, and discover its ancient and UNESCO-listed treasures

Over breakfast this morning, enjoy scenic sailing with views of the Kornati Islands National Park as we cruise to Zadar — another coastal gem that was named Europe's top destination in 2016 and was inducted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2017. You'll also hear an interesting lecture while sailing.

This Roman-era city boasts a blend of ancient, renaissance, Romanesque, and medieval architecture. On a walking tour, you'll see the UNESCO-listed Historic Defense Walls and explore Zadar's ancient city center.

After dinner, some local entertainers come aboard to enthrall you.

Included Feature:

- Guided walking tour of Zadar

Cultural Discoveries:

- Onboard lecture
- Onboard evening entertainment
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 6: Revisit the Roman era at Diocletian's Palace in Split

Welcome to Split, one of the oldest cities in this historic region. Explore ancient Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which the emperor chose as his retirement home because of the area's spectacular beauty. Your special tour also takes you into the mysterious passages in the lower levels of the palace's

massive structure — Game of Thrones fans will recognize it as one of the show's filming locations!

This afternoon, enjoy one of the most scenic stretches of ocean on this journey as the Ocean Odyssey departs Split. You'll have marvelous views of several Croatian islands, so have your camera ready.

Included Feature:

- Tour of Split and Diocletian's Palace and its basement halls

Cultural Discovery:

- Onboard lecture
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 7: Uncover the charming trulli homes of UNESCO-listed Alberobello

The ship now has crossed the Adriatic from Croatia to Italy, specifically the region of Puglia, which comprises the heel of Italy's famous boot. From the port city of Brindisi, you'll head north to the commune of Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its trulli — cone-shaped limestone homes that date back as early as the 14th-century. You'll learn all about the history of these homes and how they survived after conflict between local peasants and feudal landlords. The walking tour will lead you to the old city, which holds more than 1,000 trulli, most still functioning as private homes. The tour ends at the Church of Saint Anthony, with its uniquely adorned façade and cone-shaped roof reaching 64 feet tall.

In the narrow streets of Alberobello, you can admire workshops with artisans at work. You'll also have a chance to step inside a typical trullo house to see the architectural style and structure,

and learn how people used to live in these iconic buildings. After, lunch in a typical masseria — or country estate — belonging to a local family. This will be a highlight of your day — pack the camera! A masseria is where local Italian families produce much of what they drink and eat — milk, cheeses, meats, vegetables, olive oil, and more — and you'll learn all about it during enlightening conversation and cultural exchange. Joyous and full, you'll return to the ship with a scenic drive through Puglia's countryside, lined with endless olive groves.

Included Feature:

- Tour of UNESCO-listed Alberobello and its cone-shaped homes

Cultural Discovery:

- Lunch at a local *masseria* (country estate)
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 8: Your choice of tours: Uncover Taormina's rich history or visit Etna for a wine tasting

This morning, you'll anchor in Giardini Naxos where you'll have your choice of tours. Head to Taormina, the historic city set on a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea. This chic resort town offers splendid views of Mount Etna in the distance and a charming medieval ambience. You'll also visit its fantastic Greek Theater, originally built in the 3rd century by Romans, and marvel at its coastal vistas before heading to the Public Gardens, boasting some 200 species. Here, you'll have time to sample a refreshing granita.

Your second option of tours is a visit to UNESCO-listed Mount Etna, where you'll savor a tasting at a local winery. Sicily is famous for its

Nero d'Avola grape, which grows bountifully in the island's volcanic soil.

This evening, local entertainers come aboard.

Included Feature:

- Your choice of tours: Tour of Taormina and its ancient Greek Theater OR Mount Etna with local winery visit and tasting

Cultural Discoveries:

- Morning lecture onboard
- Granita or wine tasting (depending on choice of tour)
- Evening onboard entertainment

Scenic Sailing:

- Enjoy scenic views of the Calabrian coastline and the Strait of Messina

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 9: See more of Sicily in Syracuse and Ortigia

More Sicilian discoveries begin today in UNESCO-listed Syracuse, where ancient Greek ruins and antique Italian charm fuse into one splendid island called Ortigia. On a walking tour, head to the Old Town with its narrow cobblestoned lanes and welcoming piazzas. You'll visit an archaeological area to view the remains of the Temple of Apollo and the gorgeous Fountain of Arethusa, a natural spring with roots in Greek mythology. You'll also get a look into Jewish life here — Judaism was present here long before the arrival of Christianity in Sicily. You'll also see the oldest mikveh (ancient ritual bath) to survive in Europe, and one of the first few in what's now known as Italy.

Return to the ship for lunch, then enjoy the afternoon at leisure to continue your explorations

in Syracuse. Later, you'll have another lecture before dinner onboard.

Included Feature:

- Half-day guided tour of Syracuse

Cultural Discovery:

- Afternoon lecture onboard
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 10: Embark on a walking tour of Valletta, then experience Malta in 5D

Arrive in Malta this morning. After breakfast, you'll go sightseeing in Valletta, the island's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Europe's smallest capital, Valletta is an open-air museum of 16th-century buildings built by the Knights Hospitaller. Your private guide will regale you with Valletta's history while leading you down the city's charming narrow streets to visit the Valletta City Gate, Triton Fountain, the new Parliament building, and St. John's Co-Cathedral, which was dedicated to Saint John the Baptist and is considered one of the finest examples of high Baroque architecture.

At the conclusion of your walking tour, take in a 5D show exploring the history and culture of Malta in an interactive and exciting way. Lunch is back on the ship; afterward, enjoy an afternoon at leisure to continue your Malta explorations.

Included Feature:

- Morning Valletta sightseeing tour

Cultural Discovery:

- Go inside the history of this Mediterranean nation with a Malta 5D showing
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 11: Visit ancient Erice for a tour, wine tasting, and a drive down Sicily's "salt road"

You'll be cruising the southwestern coast of Sicily this morning, so head to the observation lounge or your own balcony for more incredible views of this region. After breakfast, hear another lecture highlighting the culture and history of your cruise destinations. You'll arrive in Trapani around mid-morning and eat lunch before setting off on an afternoon tour.

Today's explorations lead you inland to Erice, the supposed birthplace of the goddess Venus. While walking the town's cobblestone streets, soak in the aromas emanating from the numerous pastry shops for which Erice is famous. Here, you'll visit the ruins of the town's hilltop Norman Castle, a 12th-century construct dedicated to Venus, and the 14th-century duomo with its 90-foot belltower. You'll also visit a private winery for another tasting of local Sicilian offerings.

On your way back to the Ocean Odyssey, you'll have better views of the area's famous "salt road" — where salt is extracted from the ocean by the scorching sun and delicate Mediterranean sea salt, with its briny scent permeating the air, is left behind. The scenery here is particularly breathtaking, and you'll have a chance to photograph numerous salt pans, marshes, inlets, and Dutch-style windmills.

Included Feature:

- Guided tour of Erice with drive down the "salt road"

Cultural Discoveries:

- Onboard lecture
 - Wine tasting at a private Sicilian winery
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 12: Discover Lipari, the gem of the Aeolian Islands

It is only because of the small-ship size that you can pause for a day to explore the Aeolian Islands, Italy's archipelago northwest of Sicily. Beauty greets you at every turn on these soaring, majestic volcanic islands. At the Rock of the Castle that is set high on a promontory, peer deep into the island's past at an archaeological site and visit the Cathedral of Bartholomew, the island's patron saint. Then, get a panoramic view of the island, visiting the villages of Quattrocchi and Quattropani. As you explore, enjoy splendid views of other Aeolian Islands, including Stromboli with its ever-active towering volcano. You'll also stop to take in the vistas of Lipari Beach and observe the ubiquitous pumice stone deposited here by volcanic eruptions from millennia past. After lunch on board, you'll have some leisure time in Lipari.

This afternoon's onboard lecture provides more fascinating context to this legendary part of the Mediterranean.

Included Feature:

- Walking and panoramic tour of Lipari

Cultural Discovery:

- Onboard lecture
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 13: Uncover the mysteries of Pompeii and Neapolitan pizza

Arrive this morning along the Bay of Naples, gateway to the legendary Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where seaside villages and dizzying cliffs create a dreamy

landscape. No visit here is complete without a tour of Pompeii, the ancient city buried by the ash of Vesuvius in 79 AD. A walking tour with a private guide helps you step back 2,000 years into a world of cobbled lanes worn by horse-drawn carts, fascinating villas still adorned by colorful murals, Roman baths, the old forum, and more.

This afternoon, take part in something truly extraordinary — don't forget your camera! You'll enjoy an afternoon lunch visit to a local farm, where you'll meet your hosts for a tour and a class in creating the perfect pizza, the famed cuisine of nearby Naples.

Back on board, a delectable Farewell Dinner celebrates the cruise portion of your journey and brings you even more flavors of this region.

Included Feature:

- Half-day tour of Pompeii

Cultural Discovery:

- Home-hosted lunch with pizza-making demonstration at a local farm

Scenic Sailing:

- The Gulf of Naples is a sight to behold. Get extraordinary sea views of Naples, fearsome Mount Vesuvius, and nearby Sorrento — a town that's literally on another level perched atop sheer cliffs

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 14: Explore Rome's grandeur on panoramic and walking tours

Your ship arrives to the coast of Lazio, the region home to the incomparable and romantic Rome. You'll disembark the Ocean Odyssey in

Civitavecchia for a guided panoramic tour (by motorcoach and on foot) of Rome's historic center — a UNESCO World Heritage Site with highlights that include the iconic Colosseum, ancient Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, Circus Maximus, and more. We'll have lunch at a local restaurant for some classic Rome specialties before checking in to our hotel.

Located on the fringe of Borghese Gardens, the hotel offers you a prime location to explore Rome during an afternoon at leisure. Dinner is on your own at any of the city's celebrated dining establishments. Traditional Roman dishes include fried artichokes, spicy pasta all'amatriciana, and celebrated carbonara. When in Rome, splurge!

Included Feature:

- Guided panoramic and walking tour through Rome

Included meals: Breakfast & lunch
Parco dei Principi Hotel or similar

DAY 15: Visit Rome's Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica

After breakfast, get ready for a true Italian highlight — A tour of the Vatican Museums in the UNESCO-listed Vatican City. Enjoy fast-track entrance to these world-renowned museums, featuring an exceptional collection of classical sculptures, Renaissance art, and the Michelangelo-painted Sistine Chapel. After the museums, enter St. Peter's Basilica — an Italian Renaissance-style church among Christianity's holiest sites. Lunch is on your own.

You'll return to the hotel for another afternoon at leisure, which lets you make the most of your time in Rome. From shopping to sightseeing, there's so much to do here.

This evening, you'll convene in the hotel for a Farewell Dinner, recapping the highlights of your Mediterranean voyage.

Included Feature:

- Morning in the Vatican City, with fast-track entrance to the Vatican Museums and St.

Peter's Basilica

Included meals: Breakfast & dinner

Parco dei Principi Hotel or similar

DAY 16: Fly home or head to Florence on a post-trip extension

You'll fly home from Rome today. Or, if you purchased our post-trip Florence extension, you'll embark the high-speed train from Rome to this jaw-dropping Tuscan city.

Included meals: Breakfast

Please Note: Ocean cruising is not the same experience as river cruising; as such, you may experience fluctuating tides and weather patterns that may involve some rocking of your vessel. Itineraries will include all activities as planned except in extreme cases that can't be controlled by your shipboard crew. Day-by-day itineraries are preliminary and therefore subject to change. If changes occur while on tour, you will be notified by your Cruise Director or regional expert.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Ocean Odyssey

The intimate *Ocean Explorer* and *Ocean Odyssey* are the cruise industry's newest and most premier small ships built for global expedition travel, and ready to go to some of the world's most far-reaching destinations. Accommodating just 134 guests, the ship is outfitted with the latest satellite, sustainability, and navigation capabilities, including SOLAS "Safe Return to Port" requirements and ULSTEIN X-BOW® technology, a significant enhancement for smooth sailing in polar seas. On all Vantage expedition cruises, education is an essential component of the journey. Enjoy talks from notable scholars, onboard historians who travel alongside you, and handpicked regional experts. On polar expeditions with Vantage, you'll attend lectures, lessons, and activities offered by a 17-member Expedition Team of experts in fields ranging from biology to oceanography. In your downtime, you'll find relaxation and luxury aboard the *Ocean Explorer* and *Ocean Odyssey*. Visit the gym or onboard spa for a facial, massage, even a haircut. Soak in the hot tub after a rewarding day of sightseeing. Enjoy gourmet fare for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus outstanding culinary experiences built into your journey. And because there's no more than 134 fellow travelers on expedition cruises, you'll enjoy small group outings by day and share meals, stories, and fun with new friends by night. These fabulous expedition vessels offer:

- 77 cabins, including a landmark 15 solo cabins
- 30 triple-ready cabins available
- Vantage offers FREE roommate-matching services if you'd like to be paired while you travel
- Spacious, all outside-facing cabins
- 134-guest capacity
- Zodiac trips to get as close as possible to nature
- The latest satellite and navigation capabilities, including ULSTEIN X-BOW® technology
- Intimate crew-to-passenger ration, plus onboard Destination Manager

- Environmentally friendly standards with reduced emissions into air and sea and lower energy consumption

Amenities:

- A culinary program offering gourmet dining and regional fare, with wine and beer included at dinner
- Hot-rock cooking restaurant
- Multistory lounge and lobby
- Three bars and various lounges
- Top deck observation deck for gatherings, lectures, performances, and more
- Spa, massage, and hair services available at the onboard spa
- Sauna
- Two hot tubs
- Fitness center
- Curated lectures, programs, musical performances, and cultural events
- Low passenger-to-crew ratio, plus onboard Destination Manager (not available on expeditions)
- Onboard medical doctor (travelers are responsible for medical fees associated with doctor visit and medications)
- Gift Shop
- Library with over 200 titles
- Separate, intimate dining space for groups or special events (available upon request)
- Complimentary unlimited WiFi (WiFi on certain segments of trips may not be available)
- 20+ live TV channels featuring popular U.S. news channels, the Food Network, the Travel Channel, and National Geographic
- Entertainment and video on demand for 250 classic movies



Hilton Molino Stucky Venice

★★★★★

Awarded a Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice for top hotel, the Deluxe Hilton Molino Stucky Venice sets the standard for luxury in Venice travel. From the superb location on Giudecca Island, you'll enjoy breathtaking views of Venice and the canals. Better yet, you'll be just a short ride from the city proper via the hotel's complimentary water shuttle. Hotel amenities include several restaurants, the Skyline Bar, fitness facilities, room service, concierge services, laundry and valet service, and more. The tastefully decorated guest rooms are outfitted with all the modern amenities.



Marriott Grand Hotel Flora ★★★★★

Immerse in your personal "Dolce Vita" at the Rome Marriott Grand Hotel Flora, right on top of the noble Via Veneto and next door to the Villa Borghese gardens and the 2000 year old historic Roman walls. Onsite amenities include a restaurant, bar, rooftop terrace, fitness center, and dry cleaning. In-room amenities include an LCD television, air-conditioning, minibar, marble bathroom, lighted makeup mirror, bathrobe, slippers, and hair dryer.



Parco Dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa ★★★★★

Emerge from the botanical splendor of Borghese Park and into the Moderate Deluxe Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa, a luxurious oasis in Rome's Parioli district. Elegantly furnished with turn of the century Italian décor, the hotel features a 1960s-era façade, and views of neighboring Borghese Park. Travelers will love a guaranteed park view and this location provides a quiet, tranquil space to relax. Rooms offer air-conditioning, a balcony/terrace, maid service, minibar, telephone, safe, and satellite TV. The elegant Parco dei Principi also boasts a health club, spa with massage services,...



Grand Hotel Majestic Pallanza ★★★★★

This alluring, elegant hotel is newly refurbished and welcomes guests with sumptuous accommodations and top-of-the-line service. Onsite amenities include a lakefront garden, private beach, restaurant, bar, fitness center, and heated indoor pool. In-room amenities include an LCD television, minibar, air-conditioning, marble bath, bathrobe, slippers, and hair dryer.



Sina Villa Medici ★★★★★

The intimate, 100-room Sina Villa Medici dates back to 1760 and its elegant charm fits into the quiet area of Florence's old center, within walking distance of all attractions. This Deluxe hotel was last renovated in 2017, and while it's connected to an ancient Benedictine monastery, all rooms on its five floors include air-conditioning, a refrigerator, cable TV, and Internet access. On-site you'll find a health club, spa, and private garden with an outdoor swimming pool — the only outdoor pool in all of Florence!



Palazzo Castri 1874 ★★★★★

This new boutique hotel, located in the very heart of Florence, welcomes guests with elegantly designed interiors and a sophisticated ambiance. Onsite amenities include a private garden, luxury spa, fitness center, and café, plus afternoon tea service. In-room amenities include flat-screen television, luxury bedding, soundproof windows, and luxury bath products.



La Palma Hotel ★★★★★

Located on the waterfront of lovely Lake Maggiore, the First Class La Palma Hotel commands views of the lake's picturesque Borromean Islands. During your stay, you'll be able to enjoy the spectacular scenery from your room with a guaranteed (direct or partial) lake view, as well as from the rooftop sky bar, sun terrace, and swimming pool. Other amenities include a restaurant, currency exchange, and concierge services. Guest rooms feature air-conditioning, balcony or terrace, cable / satellite TV, phone, Internet access, minibar, in-room safe, and a fantastic view of Lake Maggiore.