



MEDITERRANEAN RELICS: ANCIENT WONDERS AND COASTAL CITIES

Your 25-night journey includes: 20-night cruise to Piraeus, Kalamata, Katakolon, Corfu, Kotor, Dubrovnik, Hvar, Sibenik, Opatija, Pula, Rovinj, Trieste, Zadar, Split, Brindisi, Giardini Naxos, Syracuse, Valletta, Trapani, Lipari, Castellammare di Stabia/Pompeii & Civitavecchia; 2 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Athens; 2 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Rome

Come aboard a journey that showcased the best the Mediterranean has to offer, and combines two of our most popular trips to this region: Pearls of Greece and the Dalmatian Coast and Icons of the Mediterranean: Italy, Sicily & Croatia. This experience begins in Greece and ends in Italy, revealing the unique cultures and rich history of 5 nations along the way!

In all, 51 included features and Cultural Discoveries help you discover the true nature of each destination you visit. Explore some of the world's most iconic sites — like Rome's historic center, the lost city of Pompeii, and the ancient Acropolis in Athens — as well as the most picturesque hideaways along the Mediterranean — like UNESCO-protected Alberobello with its iconic domed-roof homes, or the tiny island nation of Malta and its UNESCO-listed capital.

When you return from a day of exploration, indulge in the numerous amenities of the Ocean Odyssey — your 77 cabin small ship, featuring a landmark 15 cabins designed for solo travelers! Treat yourself to a massage or a soak at the onboard spa, get energized in the gym, or sip a cocktail on the panoramic sun deck. Our small passenger-to-crew ratio ensures optimum service, and if you want to explore more on your own, our complimentary onboard Concierge can help you customize your adventure — from helping you secure tickets for onshore excursions to planning special private dining experiences for your group. Plus, thanks to the small size of our ship, we'll berth in most ports that we visit allowing you to walk right off the ship and spend more time in your destination (be advised that tendering may be required in some locales).

Reserve Today! Call Toll-Free **1 800 322 6677** - WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/OXP23

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

OCEAN ODYSSEY



Sail aboard our brand new small ship through the Adriatic, Ionian, and Mediterranean seas, passing by more than 1,800 islands along the way

UNESCO-LISTED CITIES OF DALMATIA



Visit historical pillars of the Dalmatian Coast, including Split, Sibenik, Zadar, and Dubrovnik, where you'll enjoy a private classical concert

ANCIENT SITES



Discover ancient treasures in Athens and the crucially important archaeological site of Olympia

SEE 19 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES, PLUS 2 INTANGIBLE HERITAGE FEATURES



There are a whopping 19 UNESCO sites plus 2 Intangible Heritage features to

ISTRIAN PENINSULA



Discover the ancient Roman arena of Pula and the picturesque resort town of Rovinj as you cruise through this region

ALBEROBELLO



Discover white-washed, conical roof homes in Alberobello and enjoy a traditional lunch in a local family home

SICILY



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

MALTA



Visit ancient Valletta and enjoy a "5D" Malta experience

POMPEII



Tour the ruins of this ancient city on a walking tour with a private guide before enjoying lunch at a local agriturismo farm

ROME



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

YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- **FREE international airfare**
- **Onboard credits** to use as you wish while cruising — \$600 per couple, plus an additional \$200 per couple for President's Club members!
- **FREE Wi-Fi**
- **Purchase your airfare from Vantage** and your airport transfers, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees are included
- **Accommodations for 24 nights**, with 20 nights aboard the 5-star *Ocean Odyssey*, plus 2 nights in Athens at *Divani Caravel Hotel* (or similar) and 2 nights in Rome at *Hotel Parco dei Principi*
- **66 meals**: 24 breakfasts, 20 lunches, and 22 dinners, with complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks during dinner on board
- **51 included features and Cultural Discoveries**
- **Visit 19 UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, including the storied ruins of Pompeii and Dubrovnik Old City
- **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

- Wines brought onboard are carefully selected and regularly updated to ensure you're enjoying the best harvest years
- Join in on a traditional Greek lunch at Magna Grecia Greek Farm. Sample its house made wine and olive oils while being regaled with local entertainment to boot

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- Visit Jurlinovi Dvori, a local village estate in hills of Primosten, famous for it's strong Babic wine, that you will try during included lunch there
- 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

- Visit an old stone church in Dubrovnik for a Vantage-exclusive private concert by the Croatian

Philharmonic Orchestra

- Visit the Šibenik Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Enjoy a dinner onboard with "klapa" singers, a UNESCO protected cultural heritage of Croatia
- Enjoy traditional Greek dance in Olympia
- Participate in informative onboard lectures that bring you closer to the local culture
- Discover a UNESCO-listed Intangible Cultural Heritage feature of Croatia when you visit an aloe lace museum in a Benedictine Monastery
- Behold the distinctive architecture of Malta and Syracuse
- Set foot in the world's smallest nation when you visit the Vatican Museum in the Vatican City



UNESCO & HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- UNESCO sites: the Acropolis, ancient Messini, Olympia, Corfu, Kotor and the Bay of Kotor, Dubrovnik Old City, Hvar Starigrad Plain, the Fort of St. Nichols, the defensive walls of Zadar, Diocletian's Palace, Alberobello, Etna, Siracusa, Valetta, the Aeolian Islands, Pompeii, Rome's historic center, and the Vatican
- Enjoy natural beauty of the Bay of Kotor at this UNESCO-listed waterway and medieval town

- In UNESCO-listed Olympia, alongside temples, there are remains of various sporting venues from the festive games that began in 776 B.C.
- 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



CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Join in on a traditional Greek lunch at the Magna Grecia Greek Farm. Sample its house made wine and olive oils while being regaled with local entertainment to boot
- Athens restaurants are world-class, but so is its street food — at a fraction of the cost. Don't miss souvlaki, fava purée and pita, a classic Greek salad, or anything with feta cheese
- Visit Jurlinovi Dvori, a local village estate, for a lunch of local specialties and wine
- 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
- Enjoy locally inspired cuisine aboard the Ocean Odyssey, prepared by an expert chef



NATURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a very scenic itinerary, from driving through Puglia's countryside to sailing along the world-famous Dalmatian coastline with its 1,800 islands — only 66 of which are inhabited
- Visit Krka National Park, where waterfalls tumble into dramatic gorges
- Discover Hvar, an island known for its vast fields of lavender, ancient olive trees, and fruit orchards
- Visit Magna Grecia, a family-owned Greek agrotourism farm
- 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
- Enjoy scenic sailing along the coastlines of Greece, Montenegro, Croatia, and Italy



a gym

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



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.

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ATHENS TO ROME

DAY 1:	Board an overnight flight to Athens, Greece	DAY 16:	Revisit the Roman era at Diocletian's Palace in Split <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 2:	Arrive in Athens <i>Divani Caravel Hotel or similar</i>	DAY 17:	Uncover the charming trulli homes of UNESCO-listed Alberobello <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 3:	Behold the classical wonders of Athens <i>Divani Caravel Hotel or similar</i>	DAY 18:	Your choice of tours: Uncover Taormina's rich history or visit Etna for a wine tasting <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 4:	Explore Athens on your own, then embark the Ocean Odyssey <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 19:	See more of Sicily in Syracuse and Ortigia <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 5:	Arrive in Kalamata and explore ancient Messini <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 20:	Embark on a walking tour of Valletta, then experience Malta in 5D <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 6:	See the birthplace of the Olympics <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 21:	Visit ancient Erice for a tour, wine tasting, and a drive down Sicily's "salt road" <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 7:	Spend the day in vibrant Corfu <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 22:	Discover Lipari, the gem of the UNESCO-listed Aeolian Islands <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 8:	Tour Kotor and the UNESCO surrounding bay <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 23:	Uncover the mysteries of Pompeii and Neapolitan pizza <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>
DAY 9:	Experience Dubrovnik's Old City and a private concert <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 24:	Explore Rome's grandeur on panoramic and walking tours <i>Parco dei Principi Hotel or similar</i>
DAY 10:	Unearth the UNESCO treasures of Hvar <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 25:	Visit Rome's Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica <i>Parco dei Principi Hotel or similar</i>
DAY 11:	Walk Croatia's oldest city, in Šibenik <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>	DAY 26:	Fly home or head to Florence on a post-trip extension
DAY 12:	Discover the idyllic seaside town of Opatija <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 13:	Enjoy the wonders of the Istrian Peninsula <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 14:	Discover Trieste on a guided tour <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		
DAY 15:	Cruise into Zadar, and discover its ancient and UNESCO-listed treasures <i>Ocean Odyssey ></i>		



DAY 1: Board an overnight flight to Athens, Greece

Today you'll board an overnight flight to Athens. Or, depart earlier for your pre-trip extension to Istanbul, Turkey.

DAY 2: Arrive in Athens

Welcome to Athens, the fabled cradle of civilization. If you purchased your airfare from Vantage, a representative will meet you at the airport and assist with your hotel transfer. Settle into your room, with views of Greece's energetic capital. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Briefing and Welcome Dinner at the hotel and get to know your fellow passengers.

Included meals: Dinner
Divani Caravel Hotel or similar

DAY 3: Behold the classical wonders of Athens

This morning, enjoy a panoramic tour of Athens,

the sophisticated capital of Greece. Mythology and ancient history come alive here, as you'll see at the iconic Acropolis. It was here that Poseidon and Athena were said to have fought to determine who would be patron of the city. This was the architectural pinnacle of Athens, crowned by its breathtaking Parthenon. You'll also visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Parliament House on Constitution Square, the Pan Athenian Stadium, and the Presidential Palace. Along the famed Panepistimiou Avenue, pass the Catholic Cathedral, Academy of Athens, the University of Athens, and the National Library.

You'll have lunch on your own, perhaps dining in the charming Plaka district, nestled at the foot of Acropolis Hill. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure in Athens, with so much to discover — from extensive shopping options to open-air markets

to museums and beyond. Dinner is on your own tonight, and you're in luck: Athens restaurants are world-class, but so is its street food — at a fraction of the cost. Don't miss souvlaki, fava purée, pita, a classic Greek salad, or anything with feta cheese. Your conveniently-located hotel is just a stone's throw from abundance of local restaurants and food stands.

Included Feature:

- Athens panoramic walking tour, including the Acropolis
Included meals: Breakfast
Divani Caravel Hotel or similar

DAY 4: Explore Athens on your own, then embark the Ocean Odyssey

You have the day at leisure to set out into the Cradle of Civilization to uncover some of its less-explored paths. If you're looking to shop for a deal, head over to the Monastiraki flea market, the atmospheric agora of secondhand treasures. Or perhaps you'll brush up on your ancient history at the Acropolis Museum or the Athens Archaeological Museum. Alternatively, you can relax in your hotel and enjoy its sumptuous amenities, from the rooftop swimming pool to the spa.

Lunch is on your own today, so grab one more indulgent Athenian snack at one of the local restaurants or food stands near your hotel before continuing to Piraeus to embark the Ocean Odyssey. Thanks to the intimate size of this vessel, throughout your journey you'll enjoy walking right off the ship and spending more time exploring the heart of your destination. Get settled in your cabin and take time to explore the ship's amenities, including the onboard boutique, spa and gym. Stop by the Destination Manager desk to make a spa appointment. Later, join the

first of your daily port talks to learn about tomorrow's exciting destination. Tonight, your ship sets sail for Kalamata.
Included meals: Breakfast & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 5: Arrive in Kalamata and explore ancient Messini

Today you'll explore the well-preserved city of Messini. With its many significant sanctuaries, public buildings, and imposing fortifications, it has the advantage of never having been destroyed or covered by later settlements. Located on an unspoiled inland site, Messini was fortified to withstand Spartan incursions, with its wall descending from the sides of Ithomi mountain and reaching to the Lacinic and Arcadian gates. Within the walls, you'll find significant monuments dating back to the 4th century. Admire the site of the Asclepeio, once the meeting place of the Messinian assembly, surrounded by a dual stoa, theatre, and bouleuterion. You'll have time to view notable temples and monuments before returning to the ship.

Included Feature:

- Ancient Messini visit
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 6: See the birthplace of the Olympics

This morning, we'll sail into Katakolon and enjoy scenic drives through the villages of Peloponnese. Then, you'll have a full day where the ancient Olympic Games originated — Olympia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Surrounded by a natural setting of beauty and serenity, the archeological site dates back to the 10th century B.C., where it first became a

sanctuary for the gods and a place to worship Zeus. Alongside temples, there are remains of various sporting venues from the festive games that began in 776 BC.

In the afternoon, you'll be delighted to join a traditional Greek lunch at the Magna Grecia, a family-owned Greek agriturismo farm. After a guided tour, sample its homemade wine and olive oils while being regaled with local entertainment to boot.

Included Feature:

- Tour of Olympia

Cultural Discovery:

- Visit to Magna Grecia *agriturismo* farm for lunch, wine and olive oil tasting, and local entertainment

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 7: Spend the day in vibrant Corfu

Enjoy a splendid day on the scenic island of Corfu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site adorned with Venetian inspiration and a lively local lifestyle. In the afternoon during free time, you'll have the opportunity to explore Corfu's east side, full of traditional bars, restaurants, and shops framed by winding alleyways.

During your time in Corfu, you'll indulge in a tour of one of its most famed attractions — the elegant Achilleion Palace. Dating back to 1890, this property was the brainchild of Empress Elizabeth of Austria (also known as Sisi), who was fond of the island and visited often. Each floor is adorned with lavish decor, including bronze and stone statues of fabled Greek gods in the palace and the surrounding gardens.

After your tour, enjoy lunch back on board and a relaxing afternoon at leisure.

Included Feature:

- Scenic sailing in Corfu
- Tour of Achilleion Palace

Cultural Discovery:

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

DAY 8: Tour Kotor and the UNESCO surrounding bay

This afternoon you'll experience the Bay of Kotor, about which the poet Lord Byron wrote, "The Bay of Kotor, a submerged river canyon surrounded by dramatic rising mountain cliffs, is the jewel of the coast of Montenegro." Tucked away at the head of the bay is the town of Kotor featuring intriguing medieval fortifications. Enjoy scenic sailing in the morning before you disembark. Here, you'll learn the town's history — which is believed to stretch back as far as the first century — while you walk the charming tangle of Old World streets. The city's walls stretch up more than 800 feet from sea level to the fortress of Saint Giovanni. The views are sure to take your breath away, from medieval churches to staggering mountains.

Enjoy an onboard discussion about the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dubrovnik. Eye-opening highlights will include the unique history and foundations of the "Dubrovnik Republic."

Included Feature:

- Tour of Kotor
- Sail through UNESCO-listed Bay of Kotor

Cultural Discovery:

- **Onboard Lecture: Dubrovnik Republic**
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 9: Experience Dubrovnik's Old City and a private concert

Today, your local guide will lead you through Dubrovnik's Old City — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — introducing you to its most heralded landmarks, as well as its hidden gems. Following the tour, you'll relax in a centuries-old church for a Vantage-exclusive private classical concert by the Sorkoevi Quartet, who are members of the Croatian National Philharmonic Orchestra.

Return to your ship for lunch, then enjoy a leisurely afternoon and evening. You'll be supplied with a one-day Dubrovnik card, which provides free entrance to numerous sites around the city, including access to the walkway atop the walls surrounding the Old City. Your Program Manager and Destination Manager will be happy to recommend activities to do and places to see.

Included Feature:

- Half-day tour of Dubrovnik's Old City

Cultural Discovery:

- Vantage-exclusive private classical concert
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 10: Unearth the UNESCO treasures of Hvar

An idyllic Mediterranean port, Hvar is a popular celebrity destination known for its vast fields of lavender, ancient olive trees, and fruit orchards. Set off on a guided walking tour this morning and learn the port town's history, hear about local legends, and visit the lace museum inside the Benedictine Monastery. Aloe lace is made in

Croatia only by the nuns of this monastery, and it is designated by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage feature.

Later, discover even more on an island tour, including a visit to Stari Grad Plain, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return for lunch on board and take the afternoon to explore Hvar at your leisure. You may also choose to go swimming, snorkeling, or fishing (weather permitting). Active travelers shouldn't miss the walk to Hvar Fortress, (entry fee included).

Enjoy an onboard lecture before dinner. Your ship will set sail later this evening.

Included Features:

- Tour of Hvar town
- Hvar island tour with Stari Grad Plain

Cultural Discovery:

- Visit a lace museum in a Benedictine monastery in Hvar
- Onboard lecture
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 11: Walk Croatia's oldest city, in Šibenik

This morning you'll enjoy breakfast onboard as we sail past St. Nicholas fortress. Built in the 16th century, this UNESCO protected structure guards the entrance to the ancient city of Šibenik. Upon arrival, you'll head to Krka National Park, home to magnificent waterfalls and gorges, including the famed Skradinski Buk Falls. Afterwards you'll head to Jurinovi Dvori for a delicious traditional lunch, followed by an afternoon walking tour of Šibenik and a visit to St. Jacob's Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage landmark built in the 15th century.

Tonight, enjoy a performance by local musicians on board your ship.

Included Features:

- Krka National Park hike and boat ride
- Šibenik guided walking tour

Cultural Connections:

- Jurlinovi Dvori traditional lunch
 - Evening onboard entertainment
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 12: Discover the idyllic seaside town of Opatija

This morning, enjoy an informative onboard lecture while taking in the passing landscape as you sail into your next destination of Opatija. Upon arrival this afternoon, you'll set out on a walking tour of this coastal town, which once catered to European royalty with stately villas, seaside promenade, and lovely gardens. Then, enjoy some free time to discover Opatija on your own. Enjoy a walk along the Opatija Promenade for lovely views and perhaps stop for a bite to eat or a drink. How far you go is up to you — a roundtrip walk can cover up to 7.5 miles and, in total, connects seven towns and villages of the Opatija Riviera. Alternatively, you may want to try your luck in one of the town's casinos.

Included Features:

- Half-day tour of Opatija

Cultural Connection:

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

DAY 13: Enjoy the wonders of the Istrian Peninsula

Discover part of one of the most beautiful regions

of Croatia on half-day tours of Pula and Rovinj. Istria is one of the most developed regions of Croatia and is sometimes referred to as “Croatian Tuscany,” with some of the most picturesque towns in the country.

Explore Pula Arena, Europe's most complete Roman amphitheater, when we stop in the ancient town of Pula. You'll be able to go below the arena floor to see the actual passageways and rooms where gladiators and their foes, along with wild animals, awaited their turn in combat. We'll also see the town and its streets brimming with history juxtaposed with modern shops and restaurants.

We'll have lunch back on the ship before more scenic sailing takes us to the picturesque coastal town of Rovinj, which was part of Venice's mercantile empire. Today, it's a jet-set town for regional and international tourists alike because of its stunning skyline and mesmerizing ocean views. Enjoy a guided tour to see its charms for yourself.

For the best views of the town and the harbor, make the mile-and-a-quarter trek uphill to the Church of St. Euphemia — it's well worth the effort!

This evening, enjoy your Captain's Farewell Dinner on board with klapa singers, a UNESCO protected cultural heritage of Croatia.

Included Features:

- Pula tour with visit to the Pula Arena
- Walking tour in Rovinj

Cultural Discovery:

- *Klapa* singers performance
- Scenic sailing between Pula and Rovinj along

Brijuni Islands National Park
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 14: Discover Trieste on a guided tour

We'll arrive in Monfalcone this morning and transfer to Trieste by private motorcoach. As the main port during the Austrian rule over Istria, Austrian architecture can be spotted all around Trieste. Depart for a morning sightseeing walk, passing by distinct architecture and the famed, ornate Opera House which symbolizes the city's rich music tradition. Enjoy lunch on your own, with lunch money provided.

The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Cocktail and Dinner onboard with the travelers joining you for the next portion of your trip.

Included Feature:

- Trieste walking tour
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Odyssey >

DAY 15: 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 16: 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 17: 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 18: Your choice of tours: Uncover Taormina's rich history or visit Etna for a wine tasting

This morning, enjoy scenic sailing along the Calabrian coastline and the Strait of Messina. Then, you'll arrive 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
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DAY 19: 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
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DAY 20: 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
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DAY 21: 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
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DAY 22: Discover Lipari, the gem of the UNESCO-listed 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
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DAY 23: Uncover the mysteries of Pompeii and Neapolitan pizza

Arrive this morning along the Bay of Naples. 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
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DAY 24: 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 quiet experience, including rooms with scenic views of Borghese Park and a fantastic spa center to enjoy during your 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 25: 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 26: 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