

May 25th Cannes – Monaco (Grand prix) – Lerici – Portoferraio – Palombiaggia, Bonifacio – Alghero- Porticcio, Ajaccio – Cannes

June 1st & July 13 Cannes – Portofino – Ile Rousse – Calvi – Plage d'Arone –Le Lavandou, Sanary sur mer – Saint Tropez – Cannes

August 3rd Cannes – Lerici – Portoferraio – Palombiaggia, Bonifacio – Alghero – Porticcio, Ajaccio - Monaco – Cannes

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.



All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions



FRANCE

CANNES

Scenic transfer to Nice airport (ends at Nice airport)

Transport by air conditioned minibus
 Minimum 4 participants, maximum 8 per minibus
 Duration approximately 3h30
 €75

Unaccompanied transfer with an English speaking driver

You will drive straight on to St Paul de Vence, a few kilometres past Cannes. This authentic medieval fortified village was built on a hill top so as to avoid Saracen attacks. In the 1920's it was discovered by artists such as Bonnard, Modigliani, Signac and Soutine, and since that time it has attracted a good number of the rich and famous literati and glitterati.

You will have approximately one hour at leisure to go round the village before driving to the airport. Stroll down Rue Grande, the main street which runs right through the village and explore the XVI° century ramparts which afford spectacular views over mimosa, olive and orange groves.

Your luggage will go with you in the minibus

« Follow your nose » Tour (ends at Nice airport)

Visit Grasse the world's perfume capital
 Transport by air-conditioned minibus
 Unaccompanied visit of a perfume factory
 Minimum 4 participants, maximum 8 per minibus
 Duration approximately 3h30
 € 84

Transfer with an English speaking driver – no guide.

Ever since the 17th century Grasse has been enveloped in a heady cloud of perfume; today the town is the universally acknowledged perfume capital of the world.

After a 45 minute drive you will arrive in Grasse where you can visit the prestigious Gallimard factory and be initiated into the art of traditional perfume making. Follow each step from the assembling of raw materials to the final precious elixir, piercing the mysteries of distillation and enfleurage on the way. You will visit the laboratory and the conditioning room where you will learn about the origin of perfume. You will also discover the "seat of power", the work place of the indispensable "Nose". This olfactory genius is a Maestro who plays his perfume organ with incredible virtuosity, composing fragrances of unsurpassed subtlety and charm. Some "insider" secrets will be revealed before its time to visit the gift shop to do some last minute shopping before flying back home. (not a guided visit)

If you don't feel like visiting the factory you can set off on your own to discover this fascinating town. The Place aux Aires at the heart of Grasse is a good starting point. This charming square with its ochre façades, arcades and four tiered fountain dating from Louis XV's time is always bustling with activity, and boasts many interesting shops, outdoor cafés and restaurants. The Old town is a maze of narrow winding streets, alleys and stairways with buildings from the Middle ages and the Renaissance. Discover the traces of the city's past as you admire a square Saracen tower, the remains of the 16th century ramparts, and the town hall, formerly the bishop's palace. You will see medieval dwellings and superb private mansions (the Hôtel de Cabris, the Hôtel de Ponteves and the Court de Fontmichel) as well as elegant 18th century villas; not forgetting the wonderful Belle Epoque casino, which is now a conference centre.

The drive to Grasse takes 45 minutes
 The drive to the airport takes 45 minutes
 Time at leisure in Grasse; 1h30



LE LAVANDOU, FRANCE

Le Lavandou enjoys a picturesque setting at the foot of the Massif des Maures, France's southernmost mountain range. It also boasts 12 km of fine sandy beaches, sheltered coves, a pristine sea bed and lush Mediterranean vegetation including Pines, Mimosa, Eucalyptus, Succulents and Palm trees. The Old Town with its three parallel streets is well worth a visit. You will see the 19th century church of St Louis, decked out in warm Mediterranean colours, and discover an abundance of flower covered houses, little squares, a lovely waterfront and all the scents and sounds of the Mediterranean. Every Thursday morning there is an open air Provençal market in the centre of town. The atmosphere is joyful, bustling and authentic; take the time to buy some regional produce and then mingle with the locals at one of the seafront cafés. Nothing beats watching the world go by as you sip on a Pastis aperitif or a glass of cool rosé wine.

The Domaine du Rayol

Botanical Discovery Tour

Transfer by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 25 per group

Duration 3 hours

€ 56

Following in the great historical tradition of botanist explorers, we invite you to come and discover the RAYOL DOMAIN and its multitude of landscapes and gardens.

Your coach will be waiting on the pier ready to whisk you off on the 30 minute drive to the Rayol gardens where you will meet with your Naturalist guide.

This excursion can be seen as a botanical safari; your guide will show you around the different natural environments and point out the incredible variety of flowers and plants to be found in the domain.

The Mediterranean is one of the world's largest areas of biodiversity and the 7 hectare domain is composed of typical landscapes and gardens evoking the regions of the world that are influenced by the Mediterranean climate. Four additional "guest landscapes" are also featured showcasing regions with a more arid or on the contrary more tropical climate: Mexico, Subtropical Asia, Subtropical America and New Zealand.

The Domain is so much more than a collection of gardens; it is a place for experiments and minute observation of the natural world. One sole objective lies behind all the work that goes on in the domain: to gain a better understanding of plant species in order to promote growth and create an optimal environment.

The natural world is of course composed of fauna and flora and the two are closely entwined. Aphids, ladybirds, bees and ants all have a function and are busy foraging, hunting and transporting organic matter. We have christened them the "secret gardeners" and have learned to work alongside them, leaving wild flowers and plants to bloom so that they can flourish.

Respect and Harmony are the guiding principles behind the Domaine du Rayol and in that context, a visit to the gardens is a Life Lesson for all of us.



Catamaran Sailing Experience & Snorkelling

Duration 3 hours

Minimum 20 participants, Maximum 25

€107

Your professional skipper will be waiting to welcome you at the port and take you on a unique Mediterranean catamaran cruise at Le Lavandou.

Being on board a catamaran is a unique sensation, the two hulls make for stable, smooth sailing, which is comfortable yet fast.

Enjoy the high life on your Maxi Catamaran, sipping an aperitif as you watch the beautiful scenery unfold. Discover Cavalaire, Croix Valmer or Cap Benat and make the most of your relaxing, self-indulgent Catamaran experience.

Weather permitting, there will be a swimming stop

You can bring your Star Clippers' snorkelling equipment with you so you can see what's going on under water as well.

SAINT TROPEZ

Up until 1958 Saint Tropez was just a sleepy, picturesque fishing village; then the legendary couple Brigitte Bardot and Roger Vadim arrived, bringing with them a touch of glamour and changing the place beyond all recognition.

However the history of St Tropez goes way back, well before the era of movie stars, luxury yachts and glamour girls in bikinis. It was once a place of Christian pilgrimage, honouring the martyrdom of a young Roman soldier named Tropes. Tropes openly professed his Christian beliefs and was beheaded by the authorities and cast adrift in a small boat which eventually washed ashore at the place now known as St Tropez.

In the 1800's St Tropez became a centre for art and culture with the arrival of the French writer Guy de Maupassant and the Impressionist painter Paul Signac who brought with them a host of talented contemporaries, including Matisse.

Today St Tropez is famous the world over for being one of the most glamorous locations on the French Riviera. While it is mostly known for its beaches and port filled with millionaire's yachts, it also boasts tree lined squares, pastel coloured houses, chic boutiques and quaint cafés serving a delicious local pastry the "Tarte Tropezienne".

Fruit of the vine tour

Walking tour

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 14

Duration approximately 2h30

€ 69

St Tropez and the French Riviera immediately conjure up images of glamorous starlets, yachts and fashionable hot spots, but there is much more to it than that, as our wine expert guide will show you.

St Tropez was, and still is if you know where to look, an authentic Provençal village with a rich cultural heritage. Eva our knowledgeable wine expert is a member of many prestigious Wine Brotherhoods: "Les Compagnons du Beaujolais", "les Chevaliers Rabelaisiens" and "les Chevaliers de la Méduse", so she is ideally suited to leading you on a voyage of discovery under the auspices of Bacchus, as well as showing you the architectural treasures of St Tropez.

The wine tasting will take place in a local wine bar where you will learn about the history, grape varieties and production of local wines and the determining influence of the Mediterranean Sea. You will also have the pleasure of putting theoretical knowledge into practice with a comprehensive tasting of red, white and rosé wines accompanied by cheese and snacks.

SANARY SUR MER

Sanary Sur Mer is a small fishing village located on the coast of southern France between Marseille and Toulon. Among its attractions is a 13th century watchtower which now houses the Frédéric Dumas diving museum. Frédéric Dumas (1913-1991) worked closely with Jacques Cousteau, and starred in many of his underwater documentary films. Places of interest nearby include the Castellet racing circuit, Porquerolles, Port Cros, the medieval village of Le Castellet, the Gorges du Verdon and the wine circuit of Bandol.



FRANCE / CORSICA

AJACCIO

Birth of an Empire Walking tour

(not offered on Mondays)

On foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 25

Duration 2h30

€ 33

Your guide will be waiting for you at the port and you will set off together to discover the “Imperial City” on a picturesque walking tour through the Old Town.

Following in the footsteps of greatness you will see the town hall, Palm tree square dominated by a statue of Napoleon robed like a Roman consul and surrounded by four lions, and de Gaulle square, with its equestrian statue of Napoleon on horseback accompanied by four of his brothers.

Next you will pass by the cathedral, completed in 1593 and dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was here that Napoleon was christened in 1771; none of those present could possibly have imagined that a mere 33 years later the squalling baby at the baptismal font would be crowned emperor. That ceremony took place in 1804 at the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and was witnessed by no less a personage than the pope himself. A pillar near the entrance to Ajaccio cathedral bears a plaque with a capital N surrounded by laurel leaves. This is in memory of the exiled Napoleon’s dying wish to be brought back to lie with his ancestors in Ajaccio’s cathedral, if his body was not to be buried in Paris.

The tour continues to the “Maison Bonaparte” which is situated in the town centre. Napoleon was born here in 1769 and lived in the house until the age of nine. The house had been the Bonaparte family home since 1682 and apart from a few tumultuous years in the late 18th century when the family had to flee Corsica for mainland France, remained so until well into the 20th century. In the late 1960s it was given to the French government by Prince Victor Napoleon and became a national museum. The museum houses many exhibits associated with the Bonaparte family, including a death mask of the emperor.

After the visit you can either return to the ship or explore the city on your own. The pedestrian area is lined with boutiques, cafés and restaurants and you may like to take a stroll down Rue Fesch before returning to the ship.



Pride of Corsica: the Calanques of Piana & Cargese

(not offered on may 25th cruise)

By air conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration 5hrs

€60

No visit to Corsica would be complete without a visit to the Calanques. The stunning coastal scenery of this area is so spectacular that it has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site..

From Ajaccio you will head north for a 60-minute drive to the ancient Greek village of Cargese, gently climbing up the San Sebastiano Pass which offers splendid views over the Sagone Gulf and up to the mountain peaks and summit of Monte Cinto.

During the walking tour, your guide will tell you something about the history of this 17th century hilltop village. In 1676 a group of 600 Greeks, fleeing the Turkish invasion of their homeland, sought refuge in Corsica. The location they chose was Cargese, which has been known ever since as 'the Greek village'. Cargese is an attractive town of whitewashed houses set high on a rocky promontory overlooking a deep blue bay. In the centre of town you will see two fine churches squaring up to each other. One of them is a Latin (Roman catholic) church and the other follows the Greek Byzantine tradition, both date from the 19th century. The Roman catholic church boasts 'trompe l'oeil' paintings and a view from the terrace while the Greek church's most precious treasure consists of four icons depicting the Virgin and Child; Saint John the Baptist; Christ being placed in a tomb; and three other saints, which the first settlers brought with them in 1676.

The tour continues with a visit to one of Corsica's natural wonders, the "Calanches de Piana" a UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE site. Marvel at the rose-coloured granite cliffs that plunge sharply into the dark blue sea, giving a wonderfully vivid contrast of colour. The steeples, spires and unusual shapes, range in colour from pink to deep red, and have been sculpted by Mother Nature over the centuries. The Calanches are unique to this part of the island and you will see for yourself why the site deserved a place on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

There will be time to admire the spectacular views and take plenty of photos, as well as enjoying a refreshing soft drink before taking the scenic drive back to Ajaccio.

This tour involves a moderate amount of walking, at times on uneven ground and inclines, with a few steps to negotiate to get on/off the coach and many steps at the sites visited.

This tour is not suitable for guests who suffer from motion sickness

Proper attire is required to enter religious buildings; shorts and bare shoulders are not permitted. On Sunday mornings, church holidays and during weddings, tour groups are not allowed inside churches during services; guests may have a chance to visit the church independently.

ZODIAC ACTION TOUR

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 12

Duration 2 hours

€139

Enjoy a fast moving action packed adventure tour combining stunning scenery and all the fun of a Zodiac Speed boat.

The venue is the Gulf of Ajaccio, considered to be one of the most beautiful bays in Corsica.

Safety first! Before embarking on your zodiac adventure time will be allotted for a dockside security briefing and training session.

You will then set off to explore the Gulf of Ajaccio with your knowledgeable guide.

Participants will get to jump off the boat and swim in the warm waters of the Mediterranean so you can discover the flora and fauna of the Gulf area below the surface of the water too.

The tour also includes a beach stop.

There are no changing facilities on this tour and passengers are reminded that the zodiac speed boat ride can be bumpy and they must be prepared to get wet.

Expectant mothers and people suffering from a bad back are advised to give this tour a miss.



BONIFACIO**Sartène the oldest Corsican village**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration 4h30

€ 60

Discover Sartène, the archetypal Corsican village.

The tour begins with a scenic drive along the rugged west coast highlighting the two distinctive aspects of the island's geography, the coastline with its crystal clear waters and the mountains with their huge granite boulders and dense vegetation.

Before leaving the coast road and penetrating into the hinterland, you will pass the famous "Lion de Roccapina", the silhouette of a lion carved in red granite rock high up on the mountain overlooking the beach of Roccapina-Murtoli.

The village of Sartène stands atop a rocky promontory and some of the houses are literally built into the rock face. In the Middle ages it was the scene of vendettas, pirate attacks and fierce battles with the Genoese occupiers and became known as "the most truly Corsican town in Corsica". Visit the Church of St Maria, which houses the hood, chain and cross carried by local penitents during the Good Friday Procession and enjoy some free time before returning to the ship.

Corsican roads are winding, so this tour is not recommended for people suffering from vertigo or car sickness

The tour includes a long panoramic drive with several photo stops

Coastal Boat Trip

Guided tour

Transport : on foot to the marina and then by boat

Duration 1h30 including the walk to and from the ship

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

€44

A Specially chartered boat will pick you up at the pier. After climbing aboard, you will set off on your coastal exploration trip, leaving the harbour through a narrow channel between the towering cliffs of Bonifacio. The boat will pass by the « Madonetta » lighthouse, built in 1854, before entering the Sdragnato or « Little Dragon » marine cave. There is a long fissure in the roof of the cave through which you can see the sky, and the outline of this natural skylight is strangely reminiscent of the shape of Corsica. Sunlight filters through the crack and illuminates the underwater rocks creating a magical play of light with a wonderful display of colours ; an awe inspiring moment of natural beauty. The tour continues on to « Fazio Creek » and then, following the cliff in a south easterly direction you will pass by the rock known as the « Rudder of Corsica », as well as the King of Aragon's staircase. According to legend the steps were carved by the Aragonese in a single night in 1420 to facilitate a surprise attack on the inhabitants during the siege of Bonifacio. However they actually predate this event and had a much more mundane function, enabling locals to carry water up to the citadel.

The last highlight of the tour is the « Grain of Sand » rock, a large isolated rock, shaped by erosion, which stands in about 10m of sea. This picturesque site will have you reaching for your camera, as it provides the perfect background for a photo souvenir.

If the sea is too rough the itinerary may be modified for your comfort

The boat is chartered exclusively for Star Clippers' passengers

There is a 15 minute walk to the marina



CALLING ALL NATURE LOVERS!

Hike to Pertusato

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 15

Duration: 3 hours

€ 59

A nature walk is the ideal way to enjoy the environment, get a closer look at the local flora and maybe spot some of the bird and butterfly species which live in this part of the island and breed on the nearby Lavezzi Islands.

Participants will assemble at the Port of Bonifacio and walk along the marina before climbing Montée Rostello to the small chapel dedicated to Saint Roch which dominates the port. St Roch is, among other things, the patron saint of plague victims; the chapel was built in 1528 at the exact spot where the last plague victim died during a pestilence which ravaged the town and wiped out three quarters of the population.

Heading eastwards the trail continues along deeply scored limestone cliffs which culminate in the wide headland of Capo Pertusato. On the way you will pass the Semaphore, a naval observation tower which regulates the heavy shipping in the area. The views here are breath-taking; you will see Sardinia (9 km away), the Lavezzi and Cavallo islands as well as Bonifacio citadel, perched on a cliff top.

The hike continues for another 1 km before reaching the square towered lighthouse situated on the southernmost tip of the island of Corsica. You will then head back to the port along the same route.

The flora on this protected natural site includes *astericus maritimus*, thyme, juniper and endemic orchids, depending on the season.

Participants should wear comfortable shoes and clothing and bring a hat, sun protection and water

The hike takes three hours and the ascent (300 m) is fairly easy

Please keep away from the cliff edge

Depending on weather conditions your qualified Mountain Guide may decide to change the itinerary or take a different route.



CALVI

Sant' Antonino & Pigna authentic Corsican villages

By air conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 44

Duration: 3 hours

€60

This excursion is the perfect way to enjoy one of Corsica's main attractions: its ruggedly beautiful scenery; winding roads will take you from one picturesque village to another.

The ancient circular village of Sant'Antonino, perched on a craggy rock overlooking the sea, is one of the oldest inhabited villages in Corsica and one of the highest. It is visible from miles around and offers superb 360° panoramic views. In the 9th century it was ruled by the Counts of Savelli who built the now-ruined castle in order to defend their clan. The narrow cobbled lanes, vaulted alleyways and neat stone houses have survived the passage of time and have changed very little over the past three hundred years. Sant' Antonino features in the list of "the most beautiful villages of France" and is highly prized by visitors for its spectacular views.

After a short visit of Sant' Antonino you will be driven to the hill top village of Pigna.

This delightful village in the heart of the Balagne region is built on a rocky promontory 224 m above sea level, situated at the foot of a mountain some 562m high. It is a veritable feast for the eyes with flower decked streets and an attractive village square. Pigna is dedicated to the pursuit of arts and crafts and a community of artists has settled there. It is the ideal place to buy some authentic Corsican souvenirs, made on site and sometimes before your very eyes.

You will spend some time in the village and then the coach will take you back to Calvi via the charming old villages of Corbara and Aregno.

Due to restricted access the coach will park below Sant'Antonino. The walk to the village is uphill over uneven and rough ground. Good shoes are a must.

Corsican roads are winding, so this is not the ideal tour for guests suffering from vertigo or car sickness

During the summer months heavy traffic can be expected, which may cause delays

This tour involves a lot of driving. You will spend approximately 45 minutes in each village

E BIKE EXPERIENCE

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 12

Duration 3 hours

€125

The bike tour starts directly from the port and proceeds along mostly tarmac roads for about 4km before going off the beaten track. The ride covers various different types of terrain including uphill stretches, downhill slopes and flat land. During the excursion there will be a photo opportunity and also a swim stop (weather and sea conditions permitting). Don't miss out on a relaxing dip in the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean or, if you prefer, just sit back and enjoy the sea breezes.

The pace of the tour depends on participants; it is not meant to be a competition but an enjoyable outing for everybody



REVELLATA – a Hike to the ends of the earth

Nature walk

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 12

Duration 3H30

€40

The tour starts directly from the port and your destination is the lighthouse situated on the Punta de la Revellata. This 3 hour hike through breath-taking scenery is not to be missed. During the walk you will enjoy glorious views and see various cacti and endemic Mediterranean species of flora, some brightly coloured and strangely shaped. The Revellata peninsula is like being on the edge of the world. Access is via a coastal path and there are many beautiful creeks and secluded beaches along the way, perfect for cooling off with a dip in the pristine waters of the Mediterranean. The lighthouse itself is constantly visible, guiding your footsteps, and when you reach it you will be rewarded by marvellous views of the Mediterranean and the surrounding mountains. The return trip to Calvi is via a cliff top path over the peninsula

The walk is 15km long

Possible swimming stop on the way

ILE ROUSSE

Ile Rousse (L'isula Rossa in the Corsican language) is a little town in Upper Corsica in the Balagne region to the north west of the island, some 25 km from Calvi. It is popular with visitors but still retains its local character. Place Paoli at the centre of town is a shady square bordered by tall plane trees and outdoor cafés. It is a lively spot and a great favourite with locals who gather there to play pétanque (French bowls).

The old town with its traditional grid street system is also very worth a visit.

The Pietra peninsula, linked to the town by a jetty, affords fine views of the neighbouring islands, the port area, Ile Rousse and the Balagne hills. Climb up to the lighthouse to enjoy a really splendid panorama.

PALOMBIAGGIA

To the south of Porto Vecchio lies the Palombaggia peninsula which offers the visitor no less than six incredible beaches. Umbrella pines provide shade and frame long stretches of white sandy beaches and glistening blue water, punctuated with jagged rock formations of pink granite shaped by the elements. The beaches have a grandstand view of the Archipelago of Cerbicale, uninhabited rocky islets which are now a nature reserve providing sanctuary to Crested Cormorants and other protected species who come to nest there. The combination of sand dunes, pine trees and red rocks is quite amazing, and it is no wonder that Palombaggia is considered by many to one of the finest beaches in Europe

PLAGE D'ARONE

Irresistible Arone Beach, situated not far from the Gulf of Porto, Capo Rosso and the Scandola nature reserve, provides an ideal setting for some serious rest and relaxation. It ranks among the top ten most beautiful beaches in Corsica, with its long strip of fine white sand surrounded by pink rocks and scrubland, set against a backdrop of mountains. A monument near the beach commemorates a date during WWII, February 6th 1943. On that day the submarine Casabianca arrived in the Bay of Arone to deliver a large consignment of arms to local Resistance fighters, an act which subsequently facilitated the birth of the Corsican underground movement.

PORTICCIO

Situated on the south bank of the Gulf of Ajaccio, directly opposite the Imperial City, Porticcio is a seaside resort much prized for its sandy beaches, turquoise blue sea and panoramic views of Napoleon's city. After some rest and relaxation on the beach, you will get the opportunity to find out a bit about Porticcio's cultural heritage and the Genoese fortified towers scattered over the coastline. The Capello tower stands guard proudly over the northern entrance to Porticcio at the mouth of the Gravona river. It is one of the first such towers to be built in the 16th century. In 1793 the tower sheltered Napoleon's family when (still a simple citizen) he was forced by Pasquale Paoli and his followers to flee Corsica and start a new life in Toulon.



ITALY

ALGHERO, SARDINIA

Alghero Capo Caccia Scenic drive & Tasting of local produce

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3 hours

€ 62

The tender will leave you right in the historical centre of Alghero, where your guide will be waiting to greet you and accompany you on the scenic drive to Capo Caccia.

During the trip you will learn about the “Nuraghe”, megalithic edifices which are to be found all over the island. There are over 1000 of these constructions and they are as synonymous with Sardinia as the Great Pyramids are with Egypt.

Palmavera was built during the second millennium BC and consists mainly of two towers. Around the Nuraghe there was a small village which is still being excavated and examined by archaeologists. The coach will not stop at the nuraghe, but the guide will provide some general information about the site.

Capo Caccia is the most extreme point of the limestone promontory facing Alghero and its bay in the east, and Spain in the west. In the beginning of the 20th century the area was famous for pigeon hunting hence the name Capo Caccia (caccia means hunting in Italian). Nowadays however it is a nature reserve, home to various protected species. There will be a photo opportunity at a panoramic viewpoint before driving to a country estate, Leda’ d’Ittiri, where you will enjoy a wine tasting accompanied by local cheese, bread, bruschetta and olive oil. The estate consists of 19 hectares of olive orchards and vineyards, cultivated with love and attention. The care lavished on the land by the owners is clearly reflected in the quality of the wine and olive oil they produce. The estate is situated at the foot of Monte Doglia whose peak can be seen from the promontory of Capo Caccia. After the wine tasting you can either go back to the ship or enjoy some free time exploring Alghero.

Nuraghe Palmavera

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30

€ 50

Sardinia, with its 1800 km coastline, is known the world over as a fantastic holiday destination for water sports enthusiasts and sun seekers alike, offering vistas of unspoilt natural beauty as well as an advantageous geographical position. However Sardinia also boasts a rich and varied history in which the town of Alghero featured prominently. The Aragonesi landed on the coast of Alghero in 1353 and wrested the fortified town from the hands of the Dorian family from Genoa. The Catalan influence is still very strong in the town and can be found in its streets, shops, life style, cuisine and traditions. Even the local dialect is a variant of the Catalan language.

Your guide will be waiting to greet you at the pier and accompany you on the coach for the trip from the Gulf of Alghero to the Gulf of Porto Conte to visit the “Nuraghe Palmavera”. Traces of human habitation in Sardinia date back to 4000 BC, and the Nuraghe of Palmavera were constructed by the Nuraghic people, a patriarchal warrior society that appeared in the area from 1500 BC. The Nuraghe consist of circular stone towers and dwellings surrounded by exterior fortifications and an ancient village, which is still being excavated.

After the visit you will proceed to Capo Caccia for a wonderful photo opportunity and then it’s back to Alghero for a short panoramic bus and walking tour.

The drive to the Nuraghe takes 30 minutes, and you will spend 45 minutes on site.



LERICI

Wonderful Pisa

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

€ 66

The beautiful buildings to be found in Pisa bear witness to the fact that it was once a wealthy and powerful maritime trading republic, on a par with its historical rival Genoa. Nowadays it attracts tourists from all over the world, keen to see for themselves the famous leaning tower and the other fine buildings in the Piazza dei Miracoli which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

The oldest building in the square is the impressive Duomo or cathedral dedicated to St Mary of the Assumption, followed by the baptistery then the bell tower, the famous leaning tower of Pisa, and the Campo Santo cemetery. Although the buildings were not constructed at the same time they share the same architectural style, materials and decoration as well as a tendency towards circular designs, which gives the square a pleasing sense of visual unity.

The construction of the cathedral started in 1063 to commemorate the Pisan victory against the Saracens in Sicily the same year. The granite Corinthian columns set between the nave and the aisle originally came from the Mosque of Palermo captured during the battle. The interior also includes superb 13th century mosaics by Cimabue.

The leaning tower was built as a bell tower for the cathedral; construction started in 1174 and took 199 years to complete. For five years after the initial period of construction the tower was straight, and it was only after the addition of the third floor that the tower began to lean.

The reason for this is that the alluvium sub soil is not resistant enough to withstand the weight of the tower. Once it was realised that there was a problem with the tower, construction was halted for 100 years in the hope that the soil would settle. A new architect, Giovanni di Simone, resumed work on the tower adding four additional floors, but despite his best efforts he was unable to remedy the problem.

The leaning tower is cylindrical in form and comprises six open galleries which appear to spiral upwards due to the inclination. The lower part of the tower is decorated with lozenges in the true Pisan style. There are 294 steps leading to the top terrace where all efforts will be rewarded by some spectacular views. (not included in the tour)

After the guided visit you will have some leisure time to explore, before boarding the coach for the drive back to Lerici.

The guide will be waiting to meet you in Pisa

The excursion fee includes admission to the cathedral and baptistery

If there are religious celebrations going on in either the cathedral or the baptistery, explanations will be given outside the building

The drive to Pisa takes 1h15

There will be time at leisure after the guided tour

The Piazza is 15 minutes walking distance from the car park



The stairway to heaven .. Cinqueterre

By Minibus & on foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 20

Duration 5 hours

€75

For this expedition we will use a minibus, which is the largest transport vehicle authorised on the small roads leading to the Cinque Terre villages. The bus will leave Lerici and set off along the panoramic "Litoranea" road which was built in 1960 to connect La Spezia with the Cinque Terre coast. The scenery is breath-taking with amazing views over the gulf of La Spezia known as the "Gulf of Poets" because Lord Byron, Shelley and D.H Lawrence among others spent time there and were inspired by the beauty of the environment.

As you drive along the coast road a kaleidoscope of enchanting landscapes unfolds: mountain conifer woods, countryside with chestnut and oak trees between the Gulf of La Spezia and the Cinque Terre coast and Mediterranean scrubland as you approach the open sea. At the highest point of the road the entire Cinque Coast is unveiled from the Promontory of Montenero to the Promontory of Mesco; 18 km of coast and five little villages. Before the railway was built in 1874 the only way to go from one village to another was by boat or hiking.

The first village on the tour is Riomaggiore one of the two steepest villages with Manarola. Riomaggiore is the southernmost and second biggest village and dates back from the 8th century. It appears as a small group of characteristic stone houses with colourful façades and slate roofs built on either of the main street. The Turcotti family castle at the top of the village served as a refuge for the inhabitants during the Turkish Saracen's pirate raids.

The trip continues to the tiny village of Volastra 300 metres above sea level; the route is narrow and winding and you will understand why only small vehicles are allowed. The village is a bucolic paradise with dry stone walls, vineyards, olive and lemon trees and aromatic herbs. After a short stroll through the vineyards you will go to a cantina to sample some local wine.

You will then get back on the minibus and drive towards Manarola, the oldest and most romantic of the Cinque Terre villages, located on a rocky outcrop. The brightly coloured local houses look as if they are tumbling down the hillside to fall headlong into the sea. There are magnificent views over the Mediterranean and the steep terraced vineyards which produce the famous local wine, an amber coloured nectar known as sciaccheta.

The part of the village by the railway track and harbour can seem rather congested, but as you walk up the hill bustling crowds of tourists melt away and all that is left is authentic charm, fantastically photogenic scenery and spectacular views. The walk back will take you down stairways and through a maze of fascinating little streets. Delightful surprises abound: the old watermill wheel which gave the village its name, small local wine producers, and tempting craft shops. After a guided walking tour to get your bearings there will be free time in Manarola before walking back to the minibus (a steep 15 minute walk from the centre of the village to the car park – 1.5 km).

This excursion is not suitable for people with reduced mobility. There are steep up and downhill climbs and the cobblestone roads are narrow.

The trip from Lerici to Volastra takes one hour, and from there it takes 45 minutes to reach Manarola. The return trip from Manarola to Lerici takes one hour.

You will get to taste two wines



Every stone tells a story : Luni & Sarzana

This tour is not offered on Mondays

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 20

Duration 4h30

€64

There are different theories about how Luni got its name; some say that it is because the town was dedicated to the moon goddess Luna, others claim that it refers to the shape of its territory and crescent moon harbour while still others say that it derives from an old word for marsh, and indeed the territory around Luni was marshland reclaimed by the Romans.

In 177 BC Luni became a Roman colony. It was prized by the Romans because its strategic geographical location allowed them to control both the Ligurian and Etruscan lands. Luni was also an important agricultural colony producing wine and cheese, and the nearby white marble quarries supplied the raw material for the statues and columns that graced Imperial Rome.

In the 5th century Luni was chosen as the seat of a Diocese, which not only had religious power but was the political and administrative organ of the city until 1204, when the bishop's headquarters moved to Sarzana

The following centuries brought only pain and suffering to Luni; the territory was captured successively by Goths, Byzantines, Lombards and the Moorish Taifa of Denia, and was also pillaged and sacked by pirates. As if that weren't enough to complete the town's decline, an onslaught of malaria epidemics in the Middle ages struck the final blow. In 1058 the whole population moved to Sarzana, while other refugees founded Ortonovo.

The archaeological site of Luni opened in 1964. The main attraction is its elliptical amphitheatre able to accommodate up to seven thousand spectators gathered to watch gladiators fight to the death. Other impressive remains are the Great Temple one of the most ancient buildings, and the Forum.

From Luni to "Lunae"! After the visit the tour proceeds to "Lunae" an 18th century farmhouse belonging to the winegrowing Bosoni family. Paolo Bosoni, the founder and driving force behind the "Cantine Lunae", carries on a proud family tradition of mindful wine growing. Quality rather than quantity is his motto and every stage of the wine making process from the vineyards to the cellar is carefully monitored. You will get a chance to taste some of the wine and judge its quality for yourselves.

The last stop is the medieval town of Sarzana, which was an important stopover on the Via Francigena, the major pilgrimage route from the North to Rome. It is best known for its medieval fortifications which were enlarged and partially rebuilt by the Florentines around 1500; its pentagonal walls are an interesting example of Renaissance military architecture. Highlights of the visit include the Cittadella, the fortified Old Town, the "Fortezza Firmafede" erected by Lorenzo il Magnifico, and the old gates and tower.

At the end of the tour there will be some free time, so you can explore Sarzana on your own before returning to Lerici.

There is a 45 minute drive from Lerici to Luna and a 45 minute drive between Sarzana and Lerici



PORTOFERRAIO, ELBA**Island tour and Mount Capanne**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 80

Duration 4h30

€ 60

The scenic drive starting from Portoferraio will take you to the island highlands on the west side. The drive cuts through the centre of the island before continuing along the coast to the up market resort town of Marciana Marina. The coach will then drive into the hills to reach the cable car station in Marciana Alta. During the drive your guide will tell you a bit about the island culture and natural environment as you sit back and enjoy the beautiful views of the surrounding hill top villages and coastline.

The cable car station has rest room facilities. Upon arrival, your guide will give you a safety briefing and explain how to get in and out of the cable basket safely. The baskets, which leave every 20 seconds for the 20 minute climb up to the top of Mount Capanne (1.019m), accommodate two passengers each. The views during the cable car ride are quite spectacular, so make sure you have your camera handy. From the top of the mountain you can enjoy breathtaking views of all the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago and relax on the panoramic terrace.

After some leisure time (approximately 30 minutes) your guide will lead you back to the coach and the tour continues to Marciana Mariana. Here you will have some time to stroll along the water front and browse around the picturesque village shops. Look out for Elba's specialities : wonderful perfume, truly the scent of the Mediterranean captured in a bottle, and delicious local wines.

There will be a short wine tasting in a typical Cantina to allow you to sample some of the islands' wine before you return to the ship. As you take a last lingering look at Mount Capanne on the drive back, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have actually scaled its dizzy heights.

You will take a cable car to the top of Mount Capanne

There will be good shopping opportunities in Marciana Marina

We recommend good walking shoes and a sun hat on this excursion

The tour is not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties, heart problems or vertigo.



“Napoleon’s tour”

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration 4 hours

€ 66

The tour begins with a panoramic drive through the hinterland to Napoleon’s summer residence. The Villa San Martino is located in a pleasant valley planted with vineyards, a setting of lush vegetation, far from the bustle and heat of Portoferraio.

The Emperor converted a small country house into a fine private villa. The Neo-Classical building at the entrance of the property is the Demidoff Gallery, built in 1851 by Count Anatolio Demidoff. Demidoff was a fervent admirer of the Emperor, and his wife, Princess Mathilda, was Napoleon’s niece. The building was used to house Demidoff’s collection of Napoleonic Memorabilia.

The villa San Martino is situated on a terrace above the Demidoff gallery and consists of eight rooms. Three rooms were occupied by Napoleon himself, three others were for his officers and the remaining two: the “2 colombes” council chamber and the Egyptian room were used for meetings and receptions.

On the way back there will be a stop at Porto Azzurro where you will have some time to stroll along the streets of this charming town, dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress. The town also boasts a picturesque fishing harbour and numerous shops selling crystals and minerals.

There will also be a stop at “La Chiusa” an old country wine estate, nestling in a vineyard overlooking the ocean. The estate dates from the 1700’s, and includes a country house, wine cellar and miniature chapel. The owner’s house with the exterior double staircase was built later during the 1800s. “La Chiusa” hosted Napoleon Bonaparte on two separate occasions: once on May 3rd 1814 on his arrival in Elba, while waiting to be officially welcomed to Portoferraio, and another time during a hunting party on Mount Fabbello.

Here you will get the opportunity to sample some local specialities and a selection of three different wines.

On Mondays the Villa San Martino is closed, so you will visit the Villa dei Mulini in Portoferraio.

On Tuesdays the villa dei Mulini is closed, so you will visit the Villa San Martino

This tour is not operated on Sundays afternoon

Whenever the museums host an exhibition an extra fee will be added to the tour cost



PORTO FINO

Trekking from San Fruttuoso

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

This excursion is suitable for experienced hikers

€45

You will take the tender boat to Portofino pier where your guide will be waiting, before hopping on to the public ferry service to San Fruttuoso. During the trip your guide will tell you a bit about the area and the natural environment while you enjoy stunning views of the promontory.

San Fruttuoso, also known as San Fruttuoso di Camogli is a little jewel situated on a pristine bay between Portofino and Camogli. While scarcely more than a blip on the mountainous coastline, San Fruttuoso boasts a Benedictine monastery situated right on the beach and accessible only by foot or by sea. This fine 10th century abbey is dedicated to Saint Fruttuoso, a Catalan bishop martyred by the Roman emperor Valerian and burned at the stake. According to tradition Saint Fruttuoso appeared in a dream to five monks and told them where to bury his mortal remains and to this day his ashes are kept inside the church as a precious relic. The other attraction of San Fruttuoso, apart from the spectacular views and limpid blue sea, is the statue of "Christ of the Abyss". A wonderful bronze statue of Jesus Christ, arms outstretched in blessing. The statue was submerged in the Mediterranean Sea at a depth of 56ft (17 m) near the spot where Dario Gonzatti, the first Italian to use SCUBA gear, died in a diving accident in 1947. It has become a place of pilgrimage for divers from all over the world.

Before starting on the trek, you will have time to admire the abbey (from the outside) and will learn about the history of the village and its monastery.

The trek route goes through the National park, a nature conservation area. A dirt track climbs up the promontory through a shady forest of Holm oaks. At a height of approximately 250m the trail levels off offering fantastic views of the plunging cliffs and deep blue Mediterranean Sea. The vegetation is a mixture of evergreen Mediterranean shrubs and bushes and aromatic herbs. Flanking the southern slope of the promontory, the level trail ends just above Portofino. Don't forget your cameras because the trek offers some spectacular photo opportunities. The descent to Portofino is paved and overlooks the east side of the promontory and the beautiful Gulf of Tigullio.

The ferry boat ride takes 30 minutes

The hike from San Fruttuoso to Portofino takes 2h30 but depends on the group's pace

The hike includes a number of steep ascents and descents

The start of the trail is very steep : from sea level to 250m in 40 minutes

Hiking shoes recommended as the ground is uneven.

The tour is subject to weather conditions



Kayak tour of Portofino

Duration 2h30

Difficulty medium

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 25

€ 67

Our kayak tour is surely the best, most ecologically sound way of exploring the beauties of the Portofino promontory and the protected marine nature reserve. During the tour you will be accompanied by a kayak instructor and eco tour guide. The excursion starts with a 20 minute stroll along a path on the promontory which leads to sandy Niasca beach. Here you will start your kayak exploration of Portofino (1h30). Glide along one of the world's most beautiful coastlines and admire the craggy cliffs and limpid blue waters as you paddle your way to Portofino lighthouse. The scenery is breathtaking and there will be an opportunity to go swimming.

After a tender boat ride to the shore, you will walk to the end of Portofino village and follow a path along the promontory which leads down below the Hotel Splendido. The walk takes 20 minutes

You will be provided with all necessary equipment including water and a snack

Please bring sea shoes, sun glasses, sunscreen, hat and towel

Wear your bathing suit

Kayaking does not require any technical knowledge just some pleasant physical exercise

There is a 20 minute (approximately) walk each way and 1h30 kayaking



PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO

MONACO

The Principality of Monaco, tucked between the French and Italian borders, covers just 1.1 square miles. This independent sovereign state is headed by Prince Albert II who is descended from the Grimaldi dynasty which has ruled Monaco since 1297. The principality is synonymous with the High Life: glamorous celebrities, Formula One racing and Casinos. Monte Carlo is the most famous area, but in reality Monaco is divided into four sections: Monaco Ville, the old section of town which includes the Prince's palace, the Condamine, which is the port area and Fontvieille, a man-made water front district.

Monaco has some of the finest examples of Belle Epoque building, an architectural style which began during the rule of the Emperor Napoleon III.

Beautiful natural surroundings, sunny climate, a yacht filled harbour, casino, designer boutiques, prestigious events and gala parties, Monaco can truly be said to have it all.

A heady atmosphere of glamour and excitement permeates the Principality, captivating all who visit this storybook land of princes and princesses.

No tours are offered during the Monaco Grand Prix.

A Monaco Fairytale

By air-conditioned minibus and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration 5 hours

€68

This special tour will start with a short drive to the old town of Monaco, perched on the Rock. You will walk through the gorgeous St Martin's gardens to reach the cathedral where the "Wedding of the Century" between Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly was held on April 19th 1956.

Among the 600 guests at the ceremony were numerous heads of state and diplomats but also high profile celebrities such as Cary Grant, the Aga Khan, David Niven, Gloria Swanson, Aristotle Onassis and Ava Gardner to name but a few. The bride's wedding gown was made under top secret conditions by MGM's fashion designer Helen Rose who also made the costumes for Miss Kelly's films "High Society" and the "Swan". The dress, made of silk and 125 year old Brussels rose point lace, was a present to the bride from the MGM studios. At the time of her marriage Grace Kelly was tied to her contract with MGM for another seven years; in order to be free of her contractual obligations, she had to agree for the wedding to be filmed by the studio. The wedding dress is owned today by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In the cathedral you will also see the tombstone of Princess Grace and that of Prince Rainier III.

On the day before the wedding a civil ceremony was held in the Throne Room of the Palais Princier. During the visit of the residence of HSH Prince Albert II, Grace and Rainier's son, you will see some portraits of Princess Grace.

You will then get back on the coach for a short drive to the district of Fontvieille to visit the Princess Grace Rose Garden (best in May/June) where you will see a life size bronze statue of the Princess by Dutch sculptor Kees Verkade, a Monaco resident, as well as hundreds of varieties of rose including the famous "Princesse de Monaco" rose.

The Prince's Palace apartments are open from April through October

This tour involves a lot of walking

Appropriate dress is required for the visit to the cathedral and the Prince's palace.



Strictly for high flyers !

Panoramic Helicopter tour of Monaco & the French Riviera

Transfer by van to Monaco Heliport

Panoramic flight lasts 20 minutes

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 6 per helicopter

€179

The Helicopter rises vertically into the air above the Heliport and begins a spectacular 20 minute flight revealing the beauties of the Monaco coast flying towards the Italian border. You will get spectacular views of The Rock (Monaco Old Town) , the Prince's palace, the cathedral where Prince Rainier and Princess Grace were married and where their son Prince Albert wed Princess Charlene many years later, and the famous Oceanographic Museum founded by Prince Albert's great great grandfather. You will then hover over Monaco Port with its amazing cruise ships, site of the legendary Monte Carlo Grand prix Formula one race. Next you will see the beautiful Belle Epoque casino where so many fortunes have been lost and won, the Larvotto beaches, the famous tennis courts which host the Monte Carlo Rolex Masters tournament and some of the Principality's most sumptuous hotels. Monaco boasts a unique architectural tradition and showcases both majestic Belle Epoque buildings and cutting edge modern designs.

The flight continues to Cap Martin and Roquebrune village. As the helicopter reaches Menton and the Italian border it will change altitude and start heading back , flying over Saint Agnes, The highest village on the Mediterranean coast, Gorbio and La Turbie with its famous "Trophée des Alpes" or Trophy of Augustus which was erected by the Emperor Augustus to celebrate his conquest of Gaulle and his victory over the Ligurians more than 2000 years ago. You will also get a bird's eye view of the medieval village of Eze perched on a cliff top, Villefranche and Cap Ferrat before returning to Monaco.

You need to bring ID with you (passport) on this trip

The helicopter is a H130 model

There is a ten minute transfer to the Heliport

The itinerary may be altered to suit meteorological conditions

