

May 18th Civitavecchia – Bonifacio – Alghero – Ajaccio – Calvi – Monaco (GP trials) – Saint Tropez - Cannes

June 8th & August 10th Cannes - Santa Margherita – Ile Rousse – Bastia – Portoferraio – Porto Vecchio – Porto Cervo – Civitavecchia

July 6 Civitavecchia - Bonifacio – Alghero – Porticcio, Ajaccio – Calvi – Portofino – 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^o 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



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.



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

By air conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration 5hrs

€60

(Not offered on may 18th cruise)

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.



BASTIA

Corsican legends

On foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 30

Duration: 2h30

€42

Bastia was founded by the Genoese in 1380, when they were looking for a naturally sheltered Port to replace the ancient Roman city of Mariana and Biguglia (which had been destroyed by the Corsicans in 1372). The Genoese needed a city and port which could assure the contact between their "Homeland" and their "colony". Even if this small port was swept by terrible libeccio winds, it was protected by a rock, easily defensible, and upon which a dungeon (or bastiglia) was built- and hence the name of the town BASTIA.

The numerous religious buildings dotted all over the island bear witness to the profound religious fervour of its inhabitants and their attachment to the Catholic faith. Despite this, the collective consciousness remains steeped in many pagan traditions, relics of ancient beliefs.

The mystical spirit of Corsica finds its true expression during the great Christian festivals, however the barrier between the natural and supernatural world is extremely permeable and Corsica is teeming with visionaries, faith healers, and mediums.

This walking tour will take you to some purportedly haunted sites, and give you an overview of the superstitions and local legends which still hold sway.

Your walking tour will end at the citadel where you will enjoy some typical refreshments

Cap Corse scenic tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration 4 hours

€50

Cap Corse is a 40 kilometre long and 10 kilometre wide promontory to the North of Bastia pointing like a finger towards the open sea. Here unspoilt Nature reigns supreme and you will enjoy rugged coastline and awe inspiring scenery composed of mountains, blue sea and scrubland with perfect little villages nestling in the valley's or perched atop rocky crags.

Often called an island within an island, Cap Corse has a rich history and a character all its own. The inhabitants are drawn to the open sea and the world beyond and yet remain deeply attached to their native soil. The architecture and landscape reflects this duality. Genoese towers dotted along the coast were built to protect the villages against barbarian invasion while the so-called American houses bear witness to the historical tradition of emigration. Many local men answered the call of the sea and sailed away to America to make their fortunes. However, they never forgot their homeland and returned to their beloved island to build impressive houses as a lasting monument to their success.

The cliff road from Bastia takes you to Miomo a vibrant little village with a pebble beach overlooked by a Genoese watch tower which offers fantastic views over the Bay of Bastia and the Tuscan Archipelago; this is the gateway to the spectacular scenery and fishing ports of Cap Corse.

Following the coast in an easterly direction you will see Lavasina beach one of the most beautiful in Corsica. This pebble beach tucked into a cove is protected by the nearby shrine of Our Lady of Lavasina. The cliff road continues on its winding way to the fishing port of Erbalunga which clings like a limpet to a jagged rocky promontory. Erbalunga was once the most important port on Cap Corse as you can see by the many fine buildings dotted around the peninsula. This picturesque village with its colourful fishing boats moored in the harbour, cheerful waterfront cafés and bustling restaurants is guarded by a Genoese watch tower on the headland.

On the west coast you will discover Pino Marina and the medieval village of Nonza perched like an eagle's nest on a cliff top 100 m above sea level. The tower of Nonza offers breathtaking views of the Gulf of Saint Florent. It was built on the orders of the famous patriot Pascal Paoli as a strategic watch tower and is also known as the Paoline tower.

After this visit you will cross Cap Corse once again to return to Bastia.

The tour will stop at Nonza.

This excursion is not recommended for people who suffer from motion sickness



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



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.

Sant' Antonino & Pigna authentic Corsican villages

By air conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 44

Duration: 3 hours

€60

ONLY ON JUNE 8TH & AUGUST 10 TH CRUISES

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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 Ile Rousse.

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



PORTICCIO

Situated on the south bank of the Gulf of Ajaccio, directly opposite the Imperial City, Porticcio is a seaside resort much appreciated for its sandy beaches, turquoise waters and panoramic views of Napoleon's home town. After a bit of rest and relaxation on the beach, you will get to discover Porticcio's cultural heritage: Genoese towers standing sentinel to ward off attacks from Barbary pirates. Capitello tower (built 1552) lies at the river mouth entrance of La Gravona. It is one of the first fortified towers to be built in the 16th century. In 1793 the tower served as a refuge for Napoleon Bonaparte when he was forced by the Paolistas to flee from Corsica with his family.

PORTOVECCHIO

Bonifacio

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4hours

€58

Isolated on the southern most point of Corsica, majestic Bonifacio's natural surroundings are nothing less than remarkable. Sheer, white limestone cliffs rise out of the sea, forming a perfect natural harbor as well as a picturesque setting for this unique town. The first historical mention of Bonifacio is actually in Homer's Odyssey: "An excellent harbor, closed in on all sides by an unbroken ring of precipitous cliffs, with two bold headlands facing each other at the mouth so as to leave only a narrow channel in between." Homer's was an accurate description of Bonifacio. In Roman times, Bonifacio was only a small village. It began to develop around 828 AD when Count Bonifacio of Tuscany built a castle on the peninsula. Its superior location made many European powers desire possession of the port, and like some of its Corsican counterparts, it was also subject to numerous raids and attacks. The predominant forces were the Genoese who held domain from the 12th to the 19th century until Corsica was returned to France. For the last 100 years Bonifacio was a sleepy town of fishermen, until the arrival of tourism. Today, you will find Bonifacio to be an exciting destination possessing a variety of old and new-world charm and breathtaking beauty.

After a 45 minute drive, your guide will take you for a walking tour around the citadel and the old Genoese town. You will see the marine cemetery located on top of the cliffs offering a spectacular view over the strait of Bonifacio - Sardinia is only 12km away. The walking tour continues in the Old Town, you will wander around the maze of narrow, winding streets, passing by fascinating historical sites such as the 16th Century Bastion de L'Etendard and 12th Century Eglise Sainte-Marie Majeure.

After some time at leisure, you will walk down to the marina to board your coach.

The climb to the old town is quite steep!

Wear flat walking shoes, streets are cobbled.

Bavella – Scenic Tour

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 25 participants, no maximum

Duration : 3 hours

€60

A comfortable air-conditioned motor coach will be waiting at the port to whisk you off on this scenic tour of Bavella. You will set off in the direction of Solenzara along a semi coastal road before leaving the coast and its beautiful beaches behind you and climbing up Bavella mountain. Here a whole new universe unfolds; you will find yourself surrounded by majestic pine forests with tree tops soaring to 1800m and will see rivers, huge granite boulders and wild flowers. The views are amazing, and you will stop at the Bavella pass (altitude: 1120m) to admire the glorious panorama and breathe in the pure fresh air, scented with pine resin. You will wend your way back down again via the emblematic village of Zonza, through unspoiled countryside consisting of scrubland and forest to reach Ospedale where you can feast your eyes on the remarkable view over the Gulf of porto Vecchio. You will pass by the artificial lake of Ospedale in its enchanting forest setting before arriving back at the port.

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



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.



PORTO CERVO, SARDINIA

A Taste of the Costa Smeralda

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4 hours

€66

The Emerald Coast is probably one of the most exclusive and beautiful areas in the Sardinian islands.

It consists of more than 80 kilometres of coastline, and a lush hinterland of rolling granite hills covered with Mediterranean scrubland and wild olive trees.

Discovered and developed by the Aga Khan in 1961, the Emerald Coast is a sanctuary where the natural environment is perfectly preserved, and the Happy Few can enjoy undisturbed privacy, impeccable service, quiet sandy beaches and year round sunshine.

Discover the beauties of the Gallura region, with its fascinating history and traditions. Upon leaving the harbour, you will be taken by coach to the archaeological site of Arzachena and the Nuraghe "La Prisgiona". A Nuraghe is an ancient megalithic edifice built in the Nuragic Age between 1900 and 730 BC. These distinctive buildings have become a symbol of Sardinia and its unique Nuragic civilisation. The Arzachena site is the largest in north east Sardinia and includes a village consisting of some 90-100 buildings spread over 5 hectares.

After the visit you will board the coach once again and head off to the Surrau Vineyards. (or similar) producing wines which reflect the spirit of the land and the inimitable Sardinian character. Nature has been generous, and the fertile valley and intense sunshine produce excellent wines which you will be able to sample along with some local specialities.

Local shops normally open from 9H00 – 13H00 and from 16H30/17H00 to 20H30 (opening hours at the shop owner's discretion)

The wine tasting includes 3 different types of wine

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

The drive to the winery takes 30 minutes and you will spend one hour on site



PORTO FERRAIO, 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

Bike & Kayak tour

Minimum 13 participants, maximum 28

Duration: 2h30

€99

Nature Lovers, don’t miss this unique opportunity to discover the beauties of Elba on our Bike & Kayak tour!

The tour starts with a scenic bicycle ride on a paved road from Portoferraio to Enfola on the North coast of the island; the views are breathtaking and the vegetation is particularly luxuriant.

Upon arrival, you will have some free time to relax at a picturesque café, or on the beach.

After a short briefing, you will board your kayak and follow the coastline. The waters are crystal clear and you will be able to get a close look at the impressive underwater scenery teeming with marine life. Enchanting bays and secret beaches make this tour an absolutely unforgettable experience.

the tour does not require any particular physical training, but suits active people

you will cover 6 km by bike (approximately 45 minutes, up to 60 metres above sea level)

you will cover 2.5 km by kayak (approximately 90 minutes)



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.

SANTA MARGHERITA

Santa Margherita Ligure started out as a simple fishing village before developing into a much sought after seaside resort in the 19th and 20th centuries when poets, authors and artists made it their preferred holiday destination.

Ideally situated at the entrance to the Portofino Natural Park and bordered by the crystal clear waters of the Gulf of Tigullio, Santa Margherita is reminiscent of the French Riviera as it was fifty years ago with its gaily coloured façades, promenade lined with palm trees and pebble and sand beaches.



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 tour offered during the GRAND PRIX cruise.

A Monaco Fairytale

By air-conditioned minibus and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 30

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.



Walking tour & local specialities

On foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 25

Duration 3h30

€38

Accompanied by your guide, you will leave the pier and cross Port Hercule Harbour on board an E-boat. The walking tour starts with the Monte Carlo quarter, including the famous casino, opera and pedestrian area. After a short walk you will reach "Place d'Armes" the site of an open air fruit, vegetable and flower market and a covered market selling many local specialities. "Go Native" and, just like the Monaco residents, feast your eyes and palates on this wonderful array of fresh produce.

Afterwards your guide will take you back to the vessel, or you may choose to stay and explore the city by yourself.

The sampling of local specialities includes: Barbagiuane (a local appetiser which is enjoyed all year round, and especially on November 19th, Monaco's national day), red onion tart, focaccia (flat bread seasoned with olive oil and herbs) fruit pie and a glass of Provençal rosé wine.

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

€175

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

