Travel with The Met

Western Mediterranean Civilizations: Sicily, Tunisia, Sardinia & Menorca Aboard Sea Cloud II
with Page Knox, Lecturer and Educator

October 13–22, 2024
Western Mediterranean Civilizations: Sicily, Tunisia, Sardinia & Menorca Aboard Sea Cloud II

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Join me in October 2024 for a unique intercontinental voyage through the Western Mediterranean aboard the elegant Sea Cloud II. We’ll embark from Valletta, Malta, and explore hidden gems once claimed by legendary civilizations, including the Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans. We’ll chart a course to the intriguing Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia, the historic North African nation of Tunisia, and Spain’s Balearic island of Menorca. Throughout our adventure, we’ll enjoy privately guided looks at the UNESCO-listed treasures left behind by these lands’ ancient occupiers.

As an art historian, I’m thrilled to immerse you in the rich cultural heritage that has inspired centuries of art, starting with Magna Graecia, Sicily’s once-thriving ancient Greek colony. We’ll learn about recent archaeological finds, including terracotta vases and an ornate altar, that have transformed our understanding of Magna Graecia with expert-led looks at the exquisite, 2,500-year-old Doric temples in the UNESCO-listed Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples) and the exceptionally well-preserved, fifth-century-B.C. Temple of Segesta.

In the Tunisian capital of Tunis, expert guides will take us behind the scenes in the mighty ancient Phoenician city of Carthage, later one of Rome’s greatest conquests. On a curator-led private tour of Tunis’s Bardo Museum, we’ll experience North Africa’s incredible Roman heritage with a look at one of the world’s largest collections of Roman polychrome mosaics. Next, a blend of Phoenician, Greek, and Roman treasures will dazzle us in Sardinia, where the ancient city of Nora will reveal a Roman theater, intricate mosaics, and bath complexes.

Before disembarkation in Tarragona, Spain, we’ll venture to Mahón, the capital of Menorca, once claimed by Romans, Spanish Islamic peoples, and the Byzantines. We’ll take an inside look at the Museu de Menorca, housed in a 17th-century Franciscan convent yet beautifully modern, where Roman mosaics, Islamic ceramics, paintings, and other treasures tell the island’s multifaceted story. We’ll also go behind the scenes at the Torre d’en Galmés, one of the largest prehistoric settlements in the Balearics, where experts will showcase structures like stone talayots (watchtowers), labyrinthine caves, and chambers unlike anything else in the world.

I hope you join me for this enchanting Mediterranean voyage, as we uncover fascinating artistic wonders amid layers of history.

Sincerely,

Page Knox
Lecturer and Educator
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Trip Highlights

— Sail aboard the elegantly appointed Sea Cloud II on a Western Mediterranean cruise between Europe and Africa, following in the wake of Phoenician, Roman, Greek, Islamic, and other ancient cultures to lands not usually seen by travelers

— Uncover the ancient Greek grandeur of Sicily in Agrigento’s UNESCO-listed, 2,500-year-old Valle dei Templi and the fifth-century-B.C. Temple of Segesta, guided by experts who will share details on their latest archaeological discoveries

— In Tunis, Tunisia, join experts amid the ancient ruins of Carthage, the Phoenician powerhouse claimed by the Romans, and take a private look at the world’s greatest collection of Roman polychrome mosaics at the recently reopened Bardo Museum

— On Sardinia, explore the Neolithic roots and Roman heritage of the capital, Cagliari, with scholars, or discover the ancient Roman city of Nora, guided by local historians who will bring its past to life

— On Spain’s unspoiled Balearic island of Menorca, join a curator at the Museu de Menorca to admire little-seen treasures from the island’s prehistoric Talayotic, ancient Roman, medieval Islamic, and Byzantine occupiers

Traveling with You

Page Knox is Lecturer and Educator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she offers her expertise on special exhibitions and the permanent collection, and also teaches membership classes. She is an adjunct professor of art history at Columbia University, where she received her Ph.D. in 2012. In her Art Humanities course, she gives lectures on a vast range of makers, movements, and traditions, including images of Christ in art and the history of art in Spain.
Photos clockwise from top right: Duomo di Cagliari, Cagliari, Sardinia; Sea Cloud II; The Dancing Satyr, Mazara del Vallo, Sicily, Italy; Menorca, Spain; Tunis, Tunisia; Map of the region. Front cover: Trapani harbor, Sicily, Italy. Back cover: Zitouna Mosque, Tunis, Tunisia (top); and Valley of the Temples, Agrigento, Sicily, Italy (bottom).
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Departure
Sunday, October 13
Depart for Valletta, Malta, on an overnight flight.

Valletta, Malta / Embark Sea Cloud II
Monday, October 14
Arrive this morning in Valletta and gather for lunch. Afterwards, board the elegant Sea Cloud II and set sail for Sicily. L, D

Porto Empedocle (Sicily), Italy / Agrigento
Tuesday, October 15
Sea Cloud II arrives this morning at Porto Empedocle, where you will transfer to beautiful Agrigento, formerly the ancient Greek city of Akragas. Discover the Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples), a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring colossal ancient Greek temples. The site's nearly intact Tempio della Concordia is perhaps the world's most well-preserved Greek temple, featuring a bronze statue of the fallen Icarus by the Polish sculptor Igor Mitoraj. Archaeologists recently unearthed 60 terracotta vases and other votive objects at the site. Tonight, gather for the captain's welcome reception and dinner. B, L, R, D

Trapani / Segesta or Mazara del Vallo / Afternoon at Sea
Wednesday, October 16
From the port of Trapani, transfer to the magnificent Tempio di Segesta and its adjacent theater, which were built in the fifth century B.C. and remain in remarkable condition. While exploring the site with your expert guide, learn how local authorities recently unearthed an extraordinarily well-preserved altar from the Hellenistic period more than 2,000 years ago.

Alternatively, drive to the village of Mazara del Vallo to see its spectacular seven-foot bronze statue, retrieved from the sea by local fishermen. With its flying hair and goat ears, the figure was quickly dubbed The Dancing Satyr. B, L, D

Tunis, Tunisia
Thursday, October 17
Upon arrival in Tunis, join an expert guide for a tour of the ancient ruins and Roman villas of Carthage, founded by Phoenicians in the ninth century B.C. and later claimed by Rome. Then join a privately guided visit to the recently reopened Bardo Museum, renowned for its extensive collection of Roman polychrome mosaics, which depict scenes of ancient daily life. A highlight is the Virgil Mosaic, which shows the Latin poet flanked by Melpomene and Clio, the muses of tragedy and history.

Following this, enjoy a walking tour through the historic Medina of Tunis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to 698 A.D. Key landmarks include the eighth-century A.D. Zitouna Mosque, Tunisia’s largest mosque and the oldest in the city. B, L, D

Cagliari or Nora (Sardinia, Italy)
Friday, October 18
On Sardinia’s southern coast in Cagliari, the island’s capital, take an expert-guided walking tour through the maze-like streets of the Old Town, also known as Castello. Highlights include the Piazza del Palazzo, home to the 13th-century Duomo di Cagliari. Alternatively, transfer to Nora, beautifully situated on a promontory overlooking the sea. Conquered by the Romans in 283 B.C., Nora holds marvelous ruins including a theater, an aqueduct, a nymphaeum, baths with amazing mosaic floors, and a sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius, the god of healing. B, L, D

Day at Sea
Saturday, October 19
Discover the thrill of scenic sailing aboard the legendary Sea Cloud II. Under a full set of billowing white sails, sit down for fascinating talks from our lecturers. B, L, D

Mahón (Menorca), Spain / Torre d’en Galmés
Sunday, October 20
Recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the island of Menorca was home to the Talayotic culture of the Iron Age, known for its talayots (watchtowers), followed by Roman, Muslim, Aragonese, and 18th-century British rule. As Sea Cloud II approaches the picturesque harbor of Mahón, enjoy lunch on the Lido Deck as we pass the monumental 19th-century stone fortress Fortaleza de la Mola. Upon arrival, take a private tour of the Museu de Menorca, housed in a 17th-century Franciscan convent where you will admire exhibits representing Menorca’s cultural heritage, from prehistoric relics and Roman mosaics to Islamic and medieval objects.

Visit the Mercat del Clustre, a vibrant food market offering delicacies like sharp, buttery Mahón cheese and ensaimada (a sweet rolled pastry). Head inland for a behind-the-scenes visit to the large prehistoric settlement of Torre d’en Galmés, featuring well-preserved ruins of talayots and a labyrinthine network of caves and chambers. With the ship departing later in the evening, enjoy free time along Mahón Harbor. B, L, D

Day at Sea
Monday, October 21
Today, enjoy the continuation of talks from the lecturers. Attend a farewell reception and dinner this evening. B, L, D

Tarragona / Disembark / Barcelona / Return
Tuesday, October 22
Disembark this morning in Tarragona, Spain, and transfer to the Barcelona airport for flights home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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Program Rates

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<tr>
<th>Cabin Categories</th>
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<th>Single Rates</th>
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<td>401 &amp; 402</td>
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Rates Include

- Eight nights cabin accommodations aboard Sea Cloud II as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals, thoughtfully selected wine and beer with all included lunches and dinners; complimentary open bar aboard Sea Cloud II throughout the cruise (including all standard spirits)
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rates

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Sea Cloud II

Sea Cloud II is a three-masted sailing yacht steeped in the elegance of yesteryear and complemented with the most modern amenities. Sister ship of the legendary Sea Cloud, Sea Cloud II has 47 outside cabins and travels under 23 billowing sails trimmed by hand. From the mahogany-paneled library and gracious lounge to the gym and watersports platform, no detail has been overlooked. Praised by the world’s most discerning travelers, Sea Cloud II receives consistent high rankings from Condé Nast Traveler. Passengers enjoy open seating at all meals and complimentary use of all water sports equipment. A doctor is on call 24 hours a day. Please note that there is no elevator on Sea Cloud II.

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: met@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete this form and return it with your deposit. Mail to Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passports. Please print.

________________________________________________________________________

Address

________________________________________________________________________

City        State        Zip

________________________________________________________________________

Telephone (home)        (business)

________________________________________________________________________

Fax         Email

Date

I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Accommodations

Sea Cloud II cabin preference (1) ________________________ (2) ________________________

I wish to share a room/cabin with ________________________

Form of payment

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Debit/credit card

Name on debit/credit card

3- or 4-digit security code        Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)        Date

Signature (required)        Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org.
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