

Small Ship Adventure Co.

Specialising in Small Ship Cruising Worldwide



Sicily

with Montenegro, Croatia, Albania & Greece

Aboard the Clipper Odyssey

August 29 – September 11, 2012

Itinerary

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Depart on your independent overnight flight.

Thursday, August 30

Palermo, Sicily, Italy

Arrive in Palermo this afternoon where you will be met and transferred to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Friday, August 31

Palermo / Trapani / Embark the Clipper Odyssey

After breakfast we tour Palermo, famous for its jumbled, picturesque streets. We then drive to Monreale, situated in the hills above Palermo, and tour the fabled Cathedral, built in 1174. After enjoying a typical Sicilian lunch, we drive through scenic countryside to magical Segesta, a center of the ancient Elymian civilization and home to a magnificent Doric temple. Alternatively, travel to Erice, a charming medieval village perched high on a mountain-top with stunning views of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Founded as Eryx by the Carthaginians, the town boasts a fertility temple and a mythical association with Hercules and Aeneas, along with its Norman castle and dramatic winding streets. Both tours end in the thriving fishing town of Trapani where we embark the Clipper Odyssey in the late afternoon.

Saturday, September 1**Mazara del Vallo / Selinunte / Marsala**

After breakfast we disembark in Mazara and drive to the sprawling 7th-century B.C. site of Selinunte. Local guides lead us through these Greek ruins to the Sanctuary of Demetra Malophoros and the Acropolis. We return to the ship for lunch as we sail for Marsala. Situated on the westernmost tip of Sicily, Marsala was founded by the Carthaginians in 396 B.C. and was occupied by the Saracens who named it Marsa el Allah—Port of God. We visit the Regional Museum that houses the famous Carthaginian shipwreck found in the multi-hued Stagnone Lagoon. Continue to Cantine Florio, one of Sicily's ancient vineyards, where we enjoy local specialties accompanied by Marsala wines.

Sunday, September 2**Licata / Agrigento**

Today disembark in the charming fishing village of Licata, where we board coaches for our scenic drive to the Butero Winery and Villa for a lunch of delicious Sicilian fare accompanied by wines of the region.

In the afternoon we tour the stunning World Heritage Site of Agrigento. Here we walk through the Valley of the Temples, where the exquisite architecture dates back to the 4th and 5th centuries B.C. and showcases the Temples of Juno, Concordia, and Hercules, as well as the Temple of Zeus—the largest Doric temple from Greek antiquity. We also visit the Museum of Santa Nicola, which displays an impressive collection of Greek vases, coins, and other artifacts. Return to the Clipper Odyssey in time for dinner.

Monday, September 3**Syracuse / Ortygia**

Founded by the Corinthians in the 8th century B.C., Syracuse was one of the most powerful Greek cities. We begin at the Saint John Catacombs with their maze of underground passageways then drive to the Archaeological Park, a World Heritage Site. Highlights include the Roman Amphitheater of Augustus; the Ear of Dionysius, a grotto with an extraordinary echo; and the massive 15,000-seat Greek Theater which is still in use today.

We return to the ship, at port in Ortygia, for lunch, before striking out on a walking tour of the old town. Highlights include the ruins of the 6th-century B.C. Apollo Temple—the oldest in Sicily—and the Piazza Duomo, built around the ancient Temple of Minerva (Athena).

Tuesday, September 4**At Sea**

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as our lecturers recap the highlights of our Sicilian adventures and prepare us for our time in the Adriatic.

Wednesday, September 5

Kotor, Montenegro / Dubrovnik, Croatia

Our first stop in the Adriatic is Kotor where we witness the same beautiful scenery that captivated kings for centuries. At this World Heritage Site we tour luxurious palaces, towers, and Romanesque and Gothic churches. Enjoy free time to explore before re-boarding the Clipper Odyssey for lunch. The magnificent Dalmatian Coast unfolds in scenic splendor as we cruise toward Croatia this afternoon. Dubrovnik has been a strategic seaport since the 13th century and its Old Town—a medieval masterpiece surrounded by fortified walls—is a World Heritage Site. Arrive in Dubrovnik this evening and enjoy independent time to dine, stroll the labyrinthine streets, and participate in the lively evening scene.

Thursday, September 6

Dubrovnik

Today we explore Dubrovnik further with a choice of two morning excursions. Our first option includes the main square; the lovely 14th-century Dominican Monastery; the Franciscan Monastery and its Romanesque cloister; and the Cathedral, completed in 1713. The second option includes visits to the two monasteries and Cathedral, the Maritime Museum, and a walk along the city's southern walls with beautiful views of the fortress and old Dubrovnik's terra cotta rooftops.

After lunch options include a drive through the surrounding countryside, highlighted by spectacular vistas of the city and the harbor, or time to explore this charming city on your own.

Friday, September 7

Durres, Albania / Tirana

Today we begin our exploration of Albania, a land of splendid terrain and historical monuments. An inland drive brings us to Tirana, Albania's capital city, to visit the museum and the city's bustling quarters—a mix of Ottoman buildings, Christian cathedrals, and marketplaces. After lunch we visit Kruja Fortress, a fortified citadel with nine observation towers built during the 5th and 6th centuries.

Saturday, September 8

Saranda / Butrint

This morning we visit the World Heritage Site of Butrint—a veritable chronological repository of its various inhabitants: Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and Venetians. Among its archaeological highlights are the baptistry with its colorful floor mosaics, superb amphitheater, and medieval fortress. From the ruins we take in the splendid views of the surrounding mile-high mountains.

Sunday, September 9**Itea, Greece / Delphi**

This morning embark on a tour of Delphi, a World Heritage Site known in ancient times as the navel of the world. Pass by Castalia Spring, visit the archeological site with the Temple of Apollo, famous for its oracle, and tour the Museum of Delphi with its spectacular finds. After Delphi visit the picturesque mountain village of Arachova, built on the south slopes of Parnassus, well known for its attractive hand-woven carpets, rugs, and quilts, as well as for its excellent wine and cheese. Visit the Byzantine Monastery of Osios Louca before lunch at a local restaurant. Return to the ship with an afternoon at leisure to explore the charming town of Itea on your own

Monday, September 10**Corinth Canal / Athens**

This morning we transit the Corinth Canal, a narrow passage connecting the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea. Arrive in Athens after lunch and depart on a tour of the city's highlights including the Acropolis, our final World Heritage Site. Enjoy a festive farewell dinner as the Clipper Odyssey overnights pier side.

Tuesday, September 11**Athens / Disembark**

Disembark the Clipper Odyssey after breakfast and transfer to the airport for independent homeward flights.