



◆ SICILY BY SAIL ◆

Round-trip Valletta Aboard Sea Cloud II



◆ October 11 to 19, 2017 ◆



Dear MTA Traveler,

Some of the world's most extraordinary Greek temples grace the rugged landscape of Italy's entrancing island of Sicily. Please join me next fall to discover these pearls of antiquity as we circumnavigate the largest island in the Mediterranean aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud II* on a classic cruise *National Geographic Traveler* called one of 50 "Tours of a Lifetime."

Embark our three-masted sailing yacht in Malta and first step ashore in Sicily to admire the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. One after the other, marvels follow, from Palermo's mesmerizing Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Norman Kings, to the Greek amphitheater in lovely Taormina, and of course the well-preserved vestiges of one of the world's most important cities of antiquity, Syracuse.

Throughout our week together, Sicily will reveal her rich and unique culture as we walk in storied cities that were once centers of the Greco-Roman, Carthaginian, and Byzantine worlds, and are received in the dazzling private *palazzi* of local nobility.

I hope you will join me on this voyage to discover the fascinating history and stunning beauty of Sicily.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

Jim Friedlander
Managing Director

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Spend seven nights aboard *Sea Cloud II*, as we sail to ancient towns that were once centers of the Greco-Roman, Carthaginian, and Byzantine worlds
- ◆ Explore the capital city of Palermo, once the intellectual capital of southern Europe
- ◆ Visit Agrigento, whose Valley of the Temples contains some of the finest Greek ruins in the world
- ◆ See the cathedral built on the ruins of the Temple of Athena in Syracuse
- ◆ Stroll in Taormina, a romantic hilltop town laden with shops and art galleries, and tour the ancient Greek theater still used for plays and concerts



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An optional three-night prelude in Valletta, Malta is offered from October 9 to 12.

U.S. DEPARTURE
Wednesday, October 11

Depart on an overnight flight to Malta

VALLETTA, MALTA ◆ EMBARKATION
Thursday, October 12

Arrive mid-morning and transfer to the Hotel Phoenicia for lunch. Then-Princess Elizabeth stayed in this Art Deco landmark in 1949, when Malta was still a British Crown Colony. Embark *Sea Cloud II* this afternoon. L, D

PORTO EMPEDOCLE ◆ AGRIGENTO, SICILY
Friday, October 13

Pindar called Agrigento “the most beautiful city built by mortal men” and the nearby ruins of the Valley of the Temples demonstrate why. The Temple of Concord, perhaps the best-preserved Greek temple in the world, inspired UNESCO’s logo. Tonight the captain hosts a welcome reception and dinner. B, L, R, D



Valley of the Temples, Agrigento

TRAPANI ◆ SEGESTA
Saturday, October 14

Explore Segesta’s splendid Doric temple, strangely unfinished, whose columns are said to produce organ-like tones on windy days. Later you may visit either Erice—a hilltop medieval town whose Norman castle sits atop the ruins of a temple of Venus—or Mazara del Vallo. The latter’s highlight is its 2,400-year-old, seven-foot bronze statue *The Dancing Satyr*, rescued from the sea by fishermen in 1998. B, L, D

PALERMO
Sunday, October 15

Sicily’s capital was the envy of Europe under the Normans, whose enlightened rule produced the golden mosaics we will see in the 12th-century Palatine Chapel. At the Regional Gallery, view the chilling, plague-inspired fresco, *The Triumph of Death*; and admire the brilliant mosaics in the nearby Norman cathedral in Monreale. Continue to a special reception at the Palazzo Gangi, where the ballroom scene in *The Leopard* was filmed. B, L, R, D



Sea Cloud II



Palatine Chapel, Palermo

AT SEA

Monday, October 16

Experience the thrill of sailing aboard our fine ship, enjoying lectures and delighting in the grace and romance of a bygone era of travel.

B, L, D

TAORMINA

Tuesday, October 17

A morning walk through Taormina, with views of the dramatic, snow-capped cone of Mount Etna, takes us past shops and art galleries on our way to the ancient Greek theater, still used for plays and concerts.

B, L, D



Greek amphitheater, Taormina

SYRACUSE

Wednesday, October 18

Splendid Syracuse, the largest city in the ancient world, was a formidable rival to Athens. Discover its well-preserved theaters (where Aeschylus' plays were performed), and the cathedral built on the ruins of the Temple of Athena. By special invitation, Barone Beneventano will welcome us to his baroque *palazzo* for a tour and refreshments. This evening enjoy the captain's farewell dinner.

B, L, R, D



Valletta harbor

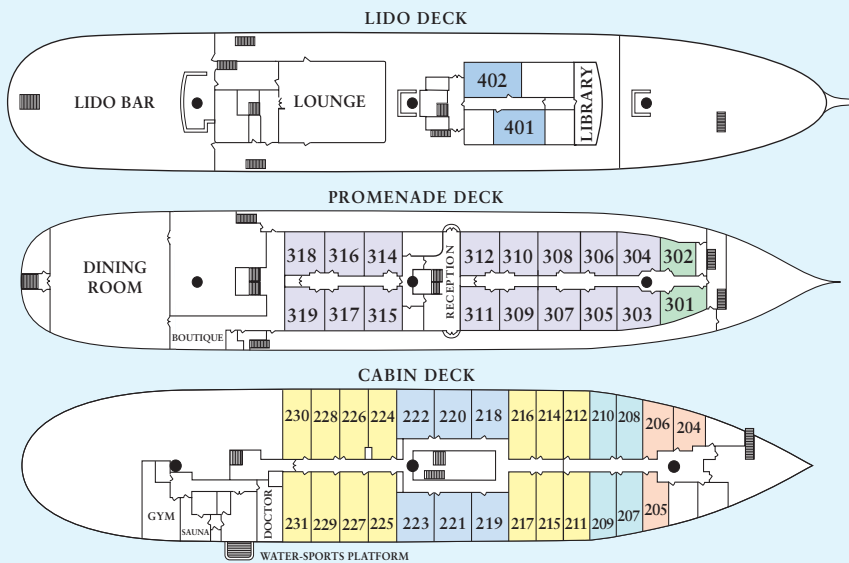
VALLETTA ♦ U.S. RETURN

Thursday, October 19

Disembark in Valletta and transfer to the airport for the flights home.

B

SEA CLOUD II



Deluxe Cabin (top) and Owner's Suite (above)

CRUISE RATES

Cabin	Deck	Double	Single
Cabins 204 to 206 State Rooms. Upper/lower twin berths, shower.	Cabin	\$6,995	\$9,095
Cabins 207 to 210 Superior Cabins. Twin beds, shower.	Cabin	\$7,995	\$10,395
Cabins 211 to 217 & 224 to 231 Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.	Cabin	\$9,995	\$13,995
Cabins 218 to 223 Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.	Cabin	\$10,995	\$16,495
Cabins 301 & 302 Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.	Promenade	\$10,995	\$16,495
Cabins 303 to 319 Junior Suites. Twin beds, bathtub with shower.	Promenade	\$12,995	\$22,750
Cabins 401 & 402 Owner's Suites. Queen-size bed, bathtub, and separate shower.	Lido	\$14,995	\$29,990

RATES INCLUDE

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Sea Cloud II*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; wine with lunches and dinners. Complimentary open bar throughout the cruise
- Sightseeing via private motorcoach as per itinerary
- Entrance fees for all included visits
- Series of educational lectures
- Airport / pier / airport group transfers for those on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities and all port charges
- Pre-departure material and reading list

Not Included in Rates International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; optional prelude in Valletta; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE

Sicily by Sail: Round-trip Valletta Aboard Sea Cloud II ♦ October 11 to 19, 2017

RESERVATION FORM

To secure your reservation, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 855-533-0033; or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (Home) (Business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sea Cloud II Cabin Preference (1) (2)

I wish to share a cabin with

MTA MUSEUM AFFILIATION

OPTIONAL PRELUDE

I/We would like to join the optional prelude in Valletta, Malta
Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*)
 Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.museumtravelalliance.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (Required)

Date

Signature (Required)

Date

For additional information, please contact Museum Travel Alliance

Telephone: 212-302-3251 or 855-533-0033 ♦ Fax: 212-344-7493 ♦ E-mail: Trips@MuseumTravelAlliance.com ♦ MuseumTravelAlliance.com