

Island Hopping in the Mediterranean

From **24/8/2021**
to **31/8/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

From **Nice**
to **Valletta**



Discover a **PONANT** itinerary in the heart of the **Mediterranean**: join us aboard *Le Bougainville* for an unforgettable **8-day cruise** between France, Italy and Malta. Succumb to **the charms of the Mediterranean and its breathtaking islands**.

Setting sail from **Nice**, your ship will make way to the **island of Elba** for a first stop in **Portoferraio**, a small corner of paradise on the island of Elba, where Napoleon spent many days in exile.

You will then sail towards the **Isle of Beauty** to **Porto-Vecchio**. Overlooked by its 16th-century Genovese citadel, this charming port in southern Corsica will enchant you with its rich history and the idyllic beaches that surround it.

Le Bougainville will then arrive in **Cagliari**, capital of **Sardinia** and one of the largest natural harbours in the Mediterranean; its historic centre is full of charm, with shaded stairs, small squares inundated with light and remains conjuring up its medieval grandeur.

Your exploration of the Mediterranean islands will continue as you discover magnificent **Sicily**. You will first make a stop in **Palermo**, its capital, you will be able to visit emblematic landmarks such as the **12th century cathedral** and **Teatro Massimo**, one of the largest theatres in Europe.

After calling at beautiful **Catania** whose Late Baroque style monuments spread to the foot of **Mount Etna**, you will take the sea once again to discover **Syracuse**, one of the most prestigious Sicilian cities, whose monuments are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage.

Your cruise will come to an end in **Valletta**, capital of the island of Malta and former stronghold of the Knights of the Order of Malta.



The information in this document is valid as of 27/2/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

NICE

Embarkation 24/8/2021 from 15h30 to 16h30

Departure 24/8/2021 at 17h30

Capital of the Cote d'Azur, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills and mountains that protects it from the wind. You will probably want to explore the Promenade des Anglais, where you can sit on one of the famous blue chairs laid out opposite the baie des Anges. The Château hill is also a very pleasant place to walk. This is the entrance to the **old city**, with its bustling markets and regional products along the main street, the Cours Saleya.

PORTOFERRAIO, ELBA

Arrival 25/8/2021 early morning

Departure 25/8/2021 late afternoon

In the elbow of a creek on the northern coastline of **Elba Island**, a small corner of paradise awaits in the form of **Portoferraio**. As you approach its coastlines, you will make out the powerful and majestic contours of its **Medici fortresses**. **Napoleon Bonaparte** spent many of his 300 days in exile here. The **Palazzina dei Mulini**, his first imperial residence, whose gardens offer outstanding views of the sea, is a must-see. Historical treasures are followed by another kind of treasure, namely white sand beaches, and equally tempting local specialities including gurguglione and rice with cuttlefish ink.

PORTO-VECCHIO, CORSICA

Arrival 26/8/2021 early morning

Departure 26/8/2021 early afternoon

Sitting in the curve of a very popular gulfin the south-west of Corsica, Porto Vecchio is a small city where the air is salty and infused with woody notes. The upper town stands within the walls of a 16th century **Genoese citadel**, a symbol of the resistance to the barbarian invasions and to malaria.

From marshland to salt pans, the city, which has been rebuilt many times, became the "city of salt". Under the Mediterranean sun, the idyllic beaches nearby reveal their finery: **Palombaggia**, a glistening bay lined with immaculate white sand, or lagoon-coloured **Santa Giulia**, surrounded by pine trees. The magnificent **Ospedale mountain** offers breathtaking views of the bay and a refreshing pause.

CAGLIARI, SARDINIA

Arrival 27/8/2021 early morning

Departure 27/8/2021 early afternoon

The capital of Sardinia, Cagliari, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Its Sardinian name means "castle", in reference to the

citadel, its historic centre, which dominates the city. The old ramparts are now pleasant panoramic terraces bordering picturesque streets. The city hosted the Nuragic, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine civilisations before the rein of the Spanish Hapsburgs and the House of Savoy. The monuments of Cagliari bear the traces of these successive dominations, such as the Bastion of Saint-Rémy or the Sainte-Marie Cathedral. On the sea front, Art Nouveau-style public monuments give way to the Poetto beach, a magnificent stretch of sand that is 8 kilometres long.

PALERMO, SICILY

Arrival 28/8/2021 early morning

Departure 28/8/2021 late afternoon

Palermo is the guardian of the Sicilian soul. Many have been attracted to this city, the largest capital of the Italian islands. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... Palermo is a rich culmination of so many cultural influences as seen in the Moorish designs on the **cathedral**, and the Byzantine mosaics of the **Palatine chapel**, which is itself housed within the precincts of the **Norman palace**. You will fall under the spell of the palaces, **baroque splendours** that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in colour, and headily picturesque.

CATANIA, SICILY

Arrival 29/8/2021 early morning

Departure 29/8/2021 evening

Sicily's second city **Catania** is dominated by the majestic silhouette of **Mount Etna**. Nourishing and devastating at the same time, this giant crowned with smoke rings brought about the destruction of the city at the end of the 17th century. Catania was then rebuilt in the late Baroque style, and the many monuments of this epoch have earned its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The baroque churches of the harmonious **Via dei Crociferi** perfectly illustrate the riches of this architectural heritage. During your stop, be sure to visit **Saint Agatha Cathedral** with its apses made of lava stones, and its square decorated with a fountain of the Elephant, the animal which allegedly has the power to calm the fury of Mount Etna ...

SYRACUSE, SICILY

Arrival 30/8/2021 early morning

Departure 30/8/2021 late afternoon

Its undulating rocky coastline, the endless sandy beaches, the menacing form of **Mount Etna** which surveys its island like a patriarch, the flowery gardens on the hillside... **Sicily** lays out its varied landscapes like a shopkeeper displays his wares. Described by Cicero as "the most beautiful city in the world", **Syracuse** was one of the most prestigious cities in Sicily and at her height was even a rival for Athens. **A central city of Ancient Greece**, it was home to a succession of civilisations, each of which has left their mark. The blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine and Spanish cultures makes Syracuse a town that is extraordinarily rich in fragrances, colours and flavours.

VALLETTA

Arrival 31/8/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 31/8/2021 at 07h00

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.