



The Mediterranean: Sea of Destiny

Athens to Nice aboard Island Sky

April 27-May 10, 2015

CRITERION  travel



The Mediterranean Sea

has been influenced by a succession of different cultures that have populated its shores since ancient times. During an 11-day cruise from Athens to Nice aboard the *Island Sky*, delve into the political, strategic, and cultural history of the Mediterranean Sea region.

Visit important archaeological sites including the Acropolis in Athens, legendary Troy, Hagar Qim and Tarxien on Malta, and Sicily's Agrigento. Enjoy museums rich in ancient treasures, such as the new Acropolis Museum, whose glass floor allows visitors to view the site over which it is built, and the Punic Ship Museum in Marsala, which houses the earliest known warship, dating back to 235 B.C. Visit military and naval battlefields where crucial clashes changed the course of history, and beautiful Greek temples in isolated glory far from their cultural origins.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a **series of presentations** by study leaders on a variety of topics, from ancient and modern military history, leaders, and strategy to the influence of Archimedes on mathematics and other branches of science.
- Explore the outstanding **megalithic complexes** of Hagar Qim and Tarxien, both World Heritage sites, on Malta.
- Transit the **Corinth Canal**, the idea for which dates back to the 1st century A.D. but whose construction did not get under way until 1881.
- Delve into the story of the Allied invasion of Sicily at the evocative **World War II Museum** in Catania.
- Marvel at the medieval aerie of **Erice** on the northwest coast of Sicily, and at the poignant beauty of the remarkably well preserved 5th-century B.C. Doric temple at **Segesta**.
- Visit Napoleon's birthplace, Ajaccio, on the island of Corsica, home to a superb collection of **Old Masters paintings** and a variety of World War II monuments.

DAILY ITINERARY

MONDAY-TUESDAY, APRIL 27-28

Home • Athens, Greece

Depart home on an overnight flight to Athens. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for a welcome orientation and reception.

HOTEL GRANDE BRETAGNE (R)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Athens (embark)

This morning explore the ancient Acropolis, the iconic citadel of Athens, including the Parthenon; the Acropolis Museum, which is built over an extensive archaeological site that visitors can observe through a glass floor; and the Piraeus Archaeological Museum, whose collections include exquisite ancient bronze statues. Embark the *Island Sky* in the afternoon and begin your 11-night cruise.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Canakkale, Turkey • Gallipoli • Troy

Dock in Canakkale, a seaport located at the narrowest point of the Hellespont (Dardanelles) Strait. **Option 1:** Visit the battlefields and cemeteries of Gallipoli, where a brutal conflict took place between Allied and Ottoman forces during World War I and where Kemal Atatürk forged his reputation as a defender of the Turkish motherland. **Option 2:** Step back in time to the Bronze Age at the site of ancient Troy, where the Achaeans defeated the Trojans in the 12th century B.C. to avenge Paris's kidnapping of Helen, Queen of Sparta, as dramatically recounted in Homer's *Iliad*. Also explore the Canakkale Archaeological Museum, with exhibits of artifacts from Troy and Assos and from the tumulus at Dardanos.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 1

At Sea • Corinth Canal

Cruise back to Greece and transit the dramatic Corinth Canal, whose steep limestone walls soar nearly 300 feet overhead.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)



SATURDAY, MAY 2

Preveza • Actium • Nikopolis

This morning disembark the ship in Preveza to delve into the historic Battle of Actium, the decisive naval engagement between Octavian and the combined forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra in 31 B.C. Climb the promontory overlooking the battle site where the Roman navy's smaller and more nimble ships defeated Antony's 500 heavy galleys and sent Queen Cleopatra and her paramour scurrying for Alexandria and ignominy. Also explore the archaeological treasures from Roman and Early Christian times at the new Nikopolis Museum.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Siracusa, Sicily, Italy • Catania

Once a powerful threat to the hegemony of Athens, Siracusa was founded around 734 B.C. by Greek Corinthians. Because of its strategic location, it was conquered and ruled by Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Normans, and Ottomans, who left a combined legacy of temples, cathedrals, theaters, agoras, and amphitheaters that earned Siracusa UNESCO World Heritage status. **Option 1:** Tour the archaeological park's Roman amphitheater, Greek theater, rope makers' grotto, and Dionysius' Ear. **Option 2:** Ascend the Epipoli uplands to the ruins of the Eurialo castle, a jewel of military engineering designed by Archimedes; make a brief stop at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Siracusa; and visit the World War II Landings Museum and Primosole Bridge in Catania. Both groups will converge on the island of Ortigia, which separates Siracusa's two harbors and is home to a 6th-century B.C. Temple of Apollo and a magnificent Baroque cathedral.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MAY 4

Valletta, Malta

Valletta, the capital of Malta and a UNESCO World Heritage site, was built by the Knights Hospitaller Order of St. John to defend against Ottoman invasions in the 16th century. Tour the Co-Cathedral and Baptistery (where Caravaggio's masterpiece, *The Beheading of St. John the Baptist*, hangs) and the Palace of the Grand Masters, which currently houses the office of the president of Malta and the House of Representatives. Then visit the megalithic temple complexes of Hagar Qim and Tarxien, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, and the old capital of Malta, Mdina. Often called the "Silent City," Mdina displays a unique mix of Norman and Baroque architecture.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 5

Licata, Sicily, Italy • Agrigento • Piazza Armerina

Disembark in the harbor of Licata for one of two excursions. **Option 1:** Visit the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where relics of classical Greece are among the best preserved in the world. Agrigento was founded in the 6th century B.C. and became a flourishing cultural center that gave the world Empedocles, the pre-Socratic philosopher and naturalist. Also visit the town of Piazza Armerina, celebrated for its exquisite Roman mosaics in the Villa Romana del Casale. **Option 2:** Visit the beaches and battlefields where Lt. General Patton and Vice Admiral Hewitt led the American forces of Operation Husky during World War II. At the monument to the 82nd Airborne Rangers, lay a wreath in honor of the fallen, then return to the ship, stopping for a wine tasting in a viticultural region dating back to the 3rd century B.C.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Marsala • Erice • Segesta

Option 1: Ride a cable car to the medieval village of Erice, perched atop 2,500-foot-high Mt. Erice with a sweeping panorama of western Sicily and the Tyrrhenian Sea and a fascinating maze of cobbled streets. Continue to the Baglio Fontanasalsa farm for lunch and an olive oil tasting, then return to Marsala via the Salt Road, dotted with centuries-old windmills, to visit the Punic Ship Museum, installed in a traditional wine factory typical of the Marsala wine region of Sicily. The museum was created for the conservation and display of the Marsala Punic Warship, an ancient wooden oared vessel with 17 sweeps on each side that is believed to have participated in the First Punic War between Carthage and Rome. Enjoy a wine tasting at the museum, then take a walking tour to see where Garibaldi and his volunteer army of a thousand "Redshirts" conquered the larger and better equipped Bourbon forces. Just a year later, in 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was created. **Option 2:** Visit the remarkably well-preserved 5th-century B.C. Doric Greek temple at Segesta, which commands a stunning panoramic view of the surrounding landscape and the beautiful Golfo di Castellammare. Drive to nearby Erice to explore this charming medieval village's collection of sixty churches, three Norman city gates, the Balio Gardens, and the Peopli and Venus Castles. Before returning to the ship, visit the Punic Ship Museum in Marsala to see the Punic Warship and sample the local wines.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)



THURSDAY, MAY 7

At Sea

During a day of cruising, enjoy the ship's amenities and the continuation of the lecture program.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Anzio • Nettuno • Ostia Antica

Today honor the more than 7,800 American soldiers who are buried at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno with the laying of a wreath. Many of these troops participated in the unsuccessful and oft-criticized Operation Shingle, an Allied amphibious landing in the Italian Campaign against German forces in January 1944. Continue to the archaeological site of Ostia Antica, the location of the harbor of ancient Rome, renowned for its excellently preserved buildings, magnificent frescoes, and impressive mosaics.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Ajaccio, Corsica, France

Ajaccio is the largest settlement on the island of Corsica, and the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. At the Musée Fesch, which was established by Napoleon's uncle, Cardinal Joseph Fesch, view an important Napoleonic collection and one of France's finest collections of Old Masters. The north wing of the palace contains the 50,000-volume Fesch Library; the south wing houses the Imperial Chapel, where the cardinal and member of his family were laid to rest. Visit the Maison Bonaparte, now a small museum, and take a walking tour of World War II monuments that commemorate the action that took place in Ajaccio. Tonight enjoy the captain's farewell reception and dinner aboard ship.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 10

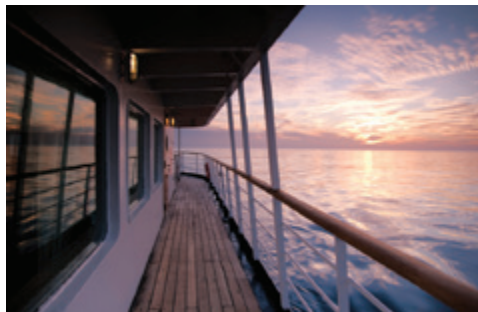
Nice • Home

Disembark the ship and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com



RATES (per person)

Double Single

Category A (225 sq. ft., portholes)	\$9,990	\$16,990
Category B (230 sq. ft., portholes)	\$10,790	\$18,350
Category C (235 sq. ft., window)	\$11,990	\$20,390
Category D (225 sq. ft., window)	\$12,990	-
Category E (240 sq. ft., forward and side windows)	\$13,490	-
Category F (269 sq. ft., private balcony)	\$14,490	-
Category G (325 sq. ft., window and private balcony)	\$15,790	-

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from major U.S. gateways to Athens, with return from Nice, is approximately \$1,400 per person as of June 2014 and is subject to change without notice. In order to give you as much flexibility as possible with the variety of air travel options available, you are free to make your own air arrangements for this program.

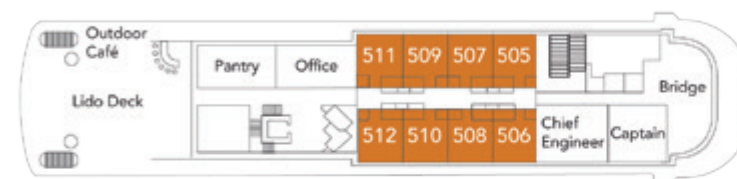
ISLAND SKY

Originally built in 1992 and refurbished and redecorated in 2010, the *Island Sky* accommodates all guests in 57 outside suites, each with sea views, a sitting area, flat-screen TV, safe, mini-refrigerator, and an en suite, marble-appointed bathroom with robe, slippers, and hairdryer. Several suites have private balconies. Spacious and finely decorated public areas include a large lounge and elegant bar and a library. The dining room accommodates everyone at one seating, and house wine, beer, and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner. Wi-fi access is available throughout the vessel (at additional cost and dependent upon satellite reception). The ship's amenities also include a hair dresser, onboard clinic and doctor, elevator serving all passenger decks, and rear sun deck with a bar. The *Island Sky* is served by 75 experienced officers and crew.

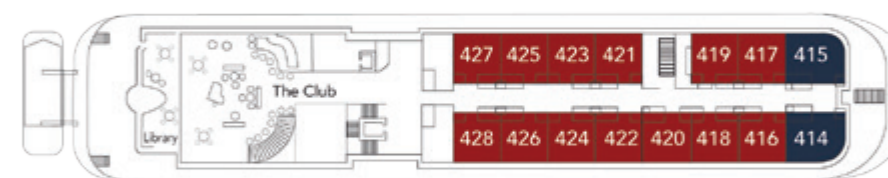
Explorer Deck



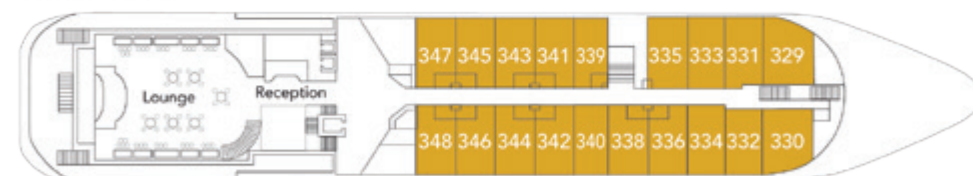
Erikson Deck



Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Rates Include

Comprehensive educational program by study leaders, on-site experts, and local guides • All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions, including entrance fees, as specified in the itinerary • Scheduled group transfers on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities • Port fees and embarkation charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners aboard ship • Bottled water on excursions • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout

Program Rates Do Not Include

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Accident/baggage/cancellation insurance • Passport or visa fees • Individual transfers, optional excursions, or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Immunizations and medical expenses • Meals not specified in the itinerary; food and beverages not part of included meals • Gratuities for non-group services • Laundry or dry cleaning • Internet, telephone, email, or fax charges • Room service • Other items of a purely personal nature or not specified as included

What to Expect

This is a moderately active trip for travelers who are flexible, comfortable traveling with a group, and can handle the vagaries of travel with good humor. Navigating uneven terrain, walking on cobblestone pavement in small towns, and standing for up to two hours in museums or other sites are the most strenuous activities. Some locations may have stairs without handrails. In addition, travelers must be able to board the ship via a metal gangplank with rope handrails and get into/out of bobbing tenders for one shore excursion. Daytime temperatures during the trip will generally average in the mid-60s F, with infrequent rain.

Group Size

This program is limited to 93 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, Cornell, Yale, Harvard, and Princeton.

Insurance

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended, and we hope that you will obtain it for this expedition. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Please be sure to carry the details of your travel insurance coverage

with you on the program. Travelers are free to purchase the travel insurance of their choice. It is recommended that travelers clearly understand the difference between “primary” and “secondary” travel insurance.

Reservations and Deposits

To reserve space, please complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to the address at the top of the form. You may also fax the form to (650) 560-6400 and your reservation will be held for five working days pending receipt of your check or credit card information. If you have questions, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is December 29, 2014, 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations and Refunds

Upon payment of a \$1,000 deposit per person, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Final payment is due December 29, 2014 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by Criterion Travel, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

Itinerary Changes

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

Reservation Contact

(888) 328-2089 or res@criteriontravel.com

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place on **The Mediterranean: Sea of Destiny** please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel. Mail to: 145 Forest Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94301. For more information or to reserve by phone, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089, or email res@criteriontravel.com

NAME #1 (as on passport)

BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as on passport)

BIRTHDATE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

FAX

E-MAIL(s)

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), to reserve _____ place(s) on

The Mediterranean: Sea of Destiny

☐ OR ☐ Charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA

MC

AMEX

Diners Club

Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE

SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

DATE

CATEGORY PREFERENCE

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with: _____

OR ☐ I'd like to know about roommates. I am a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 29, 2014, I will pay the single rate.

☐ I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein.

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com