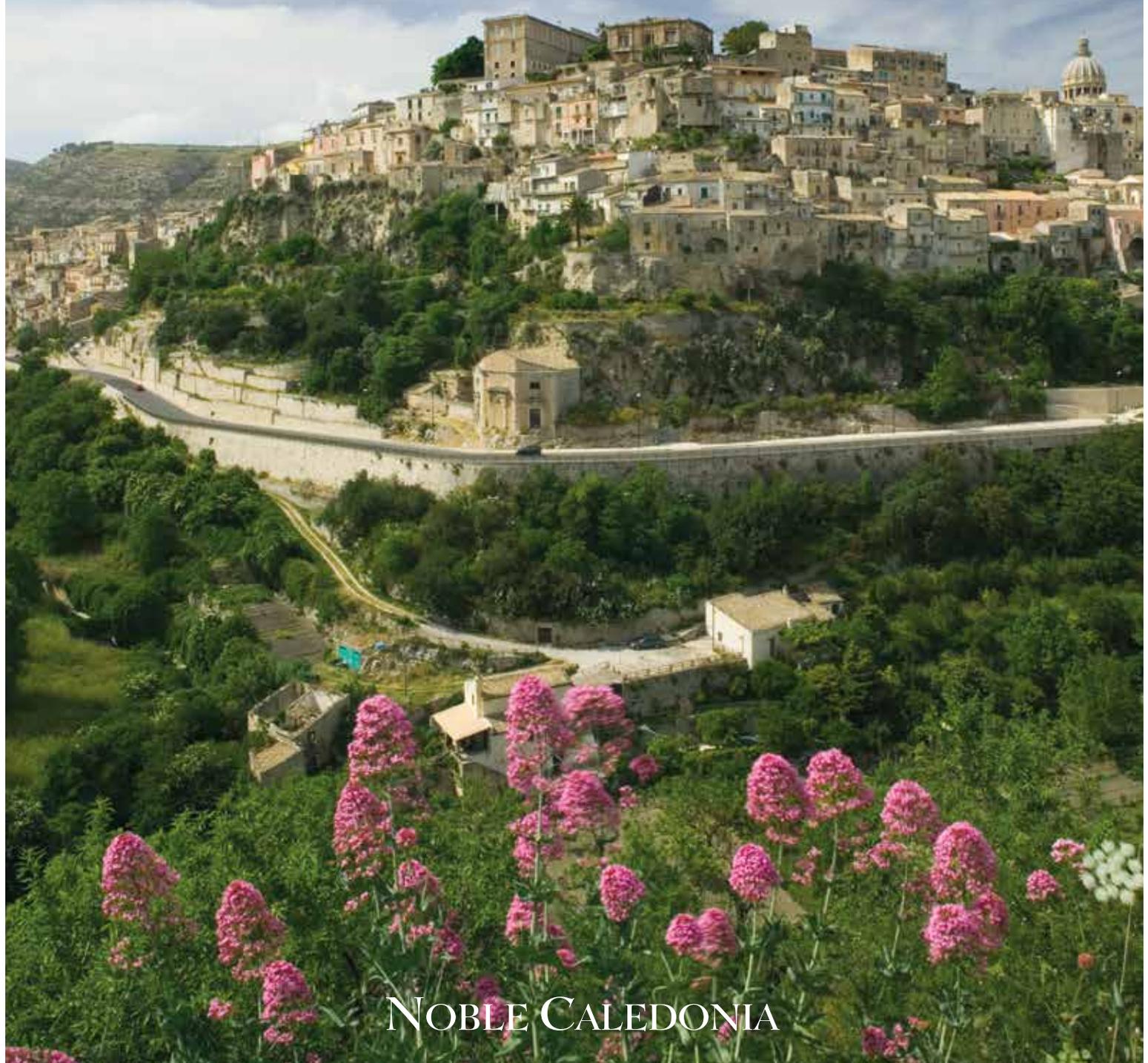


SICILY UNDER SAIL

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF SICILY
ABOARD THE MAGNIFICENT SEA CLOUD II
17TH TO 28TH OCTOBER 2017

LAUNCH
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



The island of Sicily has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, the island has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark.

From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, Sicily has a wealth of treasures to explore and we have timed our voyage for October when the crowds of summer will have departed and the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours. The island is a celebration of the greatest achievements of Mediterranean cultures and with such a wealth of ancient sites, it is certainly not somewhere which should be visited in a hurry so with six days of our itinerary spent sailing around the island we have the luxury of time and are able to visit the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina, the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, the Valle dei Templi and the beautiful Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Local guides and our onboard guest speaker will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of Sicily which is one of those places once visited you will never forget and will wish to return to time and time again.

OUR VIEW

"These days there are many cruise ships in the Mediterranean but surely none as beautiful as Sea Cloud II which we have chartered for this voyage. Our journey will take in some of the most beautiful spots in Sicily and we hope to travel to many of these under sail. Unlike the schedules of the large cruise ships in the region, we will not speed through our itinerary but take things at a leisurely pace allowing time to relax onboard as we sail, enjoy the lecture programme as well as visiting some of the most important and stunning sights that Sicily has to offer including our visits to three of Sicily's most beautiful Palazzos."



Backstreets of Taormina

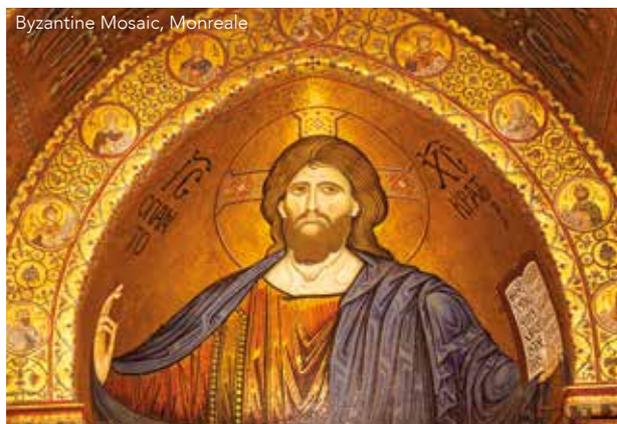


VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS



In addition to our guided exploration of some of Sicily's ancient sites we have arranged some exclusive highlights during our voyage including:

- Dinner at the Xara Palace, Relais & Chateaux, a fabulous late 17th century property in Mdina.
- Visit to the Opera dei Pupi, (puppet theatre) for a show, one of Sicily's strongest cultural traditions.
- Private concert at the beautiful Palazzo Beneventano, a magnificent private 18th century palace.
- Guided tour by La Principessa de Raffadali of her 14th century home, Palazzo Raffadali followed by homemade Sicilian ice-cream.
- Exclusive private concert and cocktail reception at the stunning Palazzo Gangi in Palermo.
- Visit to an olive oil farm for a tasting of traditional Sicilian foods including cheeses, olives and breads accompanied by local musicians.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival, transfer to the Phoenicia Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay.

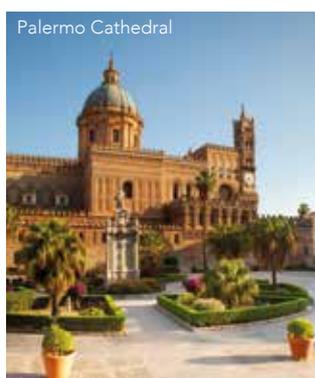
Day 2 Valletta. This morning we will explore Valletta, the 16th century 'Fortress City' built by the knights of St John. We will enjoy stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens; explore Merchants street containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. The barrel vault of the cathedral is painted with scenes from the life of St. John and the floor is inlaid with the glittering tombs of 400 Knights. Chapels around the sides belong to the different "tongues" of the Order, and in the oratory is Caravaggio's intensely moving picture, "The Beheading of St. John". We will return to the hotel in the late morning and this afternoon you can choose to enjoy the hotel facilities or return to Valletta to explore independently. This evening we will drive to Mdina which was originally given the name of "Citta Nobile" and now known as the "Silent City", it lies at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Within its powerful encircling walls, the city towers on a steep hill in the centre of the island. Here, for centuries, the Maltese noble families resided and still do so today. We will enjoy dinner at the Xara Palace, Relais

& Chateaux, a fabulous late 17th century property uniquely located within the historic city.

Day 3 Valletta. Spend a morning at leisure before meeting in the early afternoon and transferring to St John's Cathedral where we will experience a very special exclusive concert by a local soprano, a choir and an orchestra before making our way to Sea Cloud II for embarkation. Set sail before dinner.

Day 4 Pozzallo, Sicily. Our first call in Sicily is the southern coast port of Pozzallo from where we will explore the Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Our morning tour will visit the beautiful antique town of Noto which was built in 1703. Here we will see numerous 18th century palaces of incredible architectural value including the Duomo, the Museo Civico and the Convento dei Francescani. We return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon you can either choose to relax onboard in Pozzallo or join a tour to charming Ragusa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will visit the Duomo and Baroque palaces in Ibla before continuing to the upper town, San Giovanni Cathedral and Church of Santa Maria delle Scale.

Day 5 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. We will visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park to



discover the well-preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Dionysus' Ear' - a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. Return to Sea Cloud II for lunch and this afternoon enjoy an orientation walk in the old quarter of the town on the island of Ortigia where we will see the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque cathedral which was erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. Before returning to the vessel we will visit the Opera dei Pupi, the puppet theatre is one of Sicily's strongest cultural traditions, appealing to adults and children alike. We will enjoy a tour of the museum and be treated to one of the shows. After dinner this evening we will transfer to the beautiful Palazzo Beneventano, a stunning private 18th century palace, located in the central square near the cathedral where we will enjoy a private concert.

Day 6 Giardini Naxos for Taormina. We anchor this morning in Giardini Naxos, the oldest Greek settlement in Sicily which dates from 735 BC and our base for our visit to Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna. Popular since the 19th century as a holiday resort it nevertheless has some truly impressive sites including the Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Lipari, Aeolian Islands. This morning we arrive at the picturesque island of Lipari situated in the Aeolian Islands off the north coast of Sicily. Here we will find an amazing collection of ruins from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. Lipari town is a thriving little place prettily located between two harbours. Our morning tour includes a visit to the upper town set within fortress walls, a drive around the volcano followed by a visit to the Archaeological Museum with its impressive relics from nearby excavations. Set sail during lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea as we head for Palermo.

Day 8 Palermo, Sicily. After breakfast we tour Palermo, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral and the



Palatine Chapel in the Norman castle before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon we will be welcomed as a guest of the wonderfully engaging La Principessa de Raffadali at her 14th century home, Palazzo Raffadali, for a personal guided tour of her palazzo followed by homemade Sicilian ice-cream. Alternatively, join an excursion to visit the remarkable Byzantine mosaics in the cathedral at Monreale. This evening, after an early dinner, return to the centre of Palermo for an exclusive private concert and cocktail reception at the simply stunning Palazzo Gangi, a truly fitting end to our time in Palermo.

Day 9 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for the morning. From the port we travel to nearby Segesta to view one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive, the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC which sits atop a hill from which you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively join us on a visit to an olive oil farm, which dates from 1700, and is built around a beautiful Sicilian family house. We will learn about the history and techniques of the farm's extra virgin oil production before enjoying a tasting. Also enjoy traditional Sicilian foods including cheeses, olives and breads whilst accompanied by local musicians.

Day 10 Porto Empedocle, Agrigento. Although handsome

in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by, is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples, the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains and a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concord, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch onboard, this afternoon is at leisure for you to relax onboard or explore Agrigento independently making use of the shuttles which will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum which is well worth a visit.

Day 11 Gozo, Malta. After a morning at sea arrive at the Maltese island of Gozo, thought to be the Calypso Isles of Homer's Odyssey and a lovely place to spend the afternoon. We will visit the Ggantija Temples in Xaghra, dating back to 3600 BC, the temples, which are now recognised as a World Heritage Site, and are one of the most significant archaeological finds in Malta. Continue to Our Lady of the Victories Church, one of the most richly embellished places of worship on the island which was elevated to the rank of a minor Basilica in 1967.

Day 12 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark this morning and return to London by scheduled flight.



PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

LAUNCH OFFER - SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Launch Offer Price
E	Deluxe double	Cabin	£6995	£6495
D	Deluxe double	Cabin	£7495	£6995
C	Deluxe double	Promenade	£7895	£7395
B	Junior Suite	Promenade	£8095	£7595
A	Luxury Owner's Suite	Lido	£9095	£8595
F	Stateroom for sole use	Cabin	£7295	£6795
E	Deluxe double for sole use	Cabin	£9995	£9495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Malta on bed and breakfast basis, dinner on Day 2, nine nights aboard Sea Cloud II on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Tour leader, guest speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

NB. Ports subject to change and weather conditions.

Ship to Shore: Please note that Sea Cloud II will be at anchor in Giardini Naxos, Lipari and Gozo and therefore Zodiacs or tender will be used to transport passengers ashore.



SEA CLOUD II

For this voyage under sail we have chartered the magnificent Sea Cloud II. Launched in 2001, she is a stunning vessel, built along traditional lines, but offering deluxe accommodation. She combines the timeless elegance of sailing ships of the past with the highest safety standards and the luxurious comfort of modern cruise ships. The 32,150 square feet of sails is set by hand which is a truly magical sight; she really is the most exquisite of vessels.

Your Cabin/Suite

Built to accommodate 96 passengers in five star luxury, Sea Cloud II offers a range of beautifully appointed suites and cabins which are furnished with great style. Spread over three decks are 29 deluxe outside cabins with showers, 16 junior suites with bathtubs, and two owner suites with bathtubs and showers. All accommodations have outside views and the bathrooms, in light marble, are unusually spacious and aesthetically pleasing. The two owner suites feature a king size canopy bed and all other cabins feature queen size beds (with separate mattresses, excluding category F staterooms which feature upper and lower single beds). Cabin sizes range from 16m² to 27m² (category F measure 12m²). The finest, carefully chosen fabrics, combined with leather, rattan and other materials, brass and gold, precious woods and marble together create an impressive ensemble. All cabins have a television with DVD player, minibar, dressing table, wardrobe and a safe. A welcome bottle of champagne and a fruit basket which is replenished daily are provided to enjoy whilst in your cabin.

Your Space

No expense has been spared to create a sympathetic ambience in both the accommodations and public areas and this is reflected throughout the vessel. Public areas include an elegant lounge, library, fitness centre, boutique, lido bar and hospital. The single sitting dining room is airy and modern and the quality of the cuisine and service will be to the highest of standards, as one would expect on a Sea Cloud II cruise. The Lounge is located mid-ship on the Lido Deck offering comfortable seating areas. The vessel's magnificent Steinway can be found here and will be played for your enjoyment by an accomplished pianist. In addition enjoy interesting lectures and presentations, or perhaps a drink from the bar. There is also a library onboard where you can relax, write postcards, play a board game, find a film to watch in your cabin, send emails from the laptop or just enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. Relax on the Lido deck and experience the natural grandeur of travelling under sail whilst watching the sailors manoeuvre the sails high above, rekindling memories of a bygone age.

Your Dining

The cuisine aboard the Sea Cloud II is of an exceptionally high standard, and has been accepted by the international Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. Enjoy international dishes complemented by local specialities selected fresh from the market by the onboard chef. Dinner is served à la carte and is a four course affair with a vegetarian option always available. All cruises aboard the Sea Cloud II are full board with carefully selected wines and beers served to complement your lunch and dinner. All soft drinks, coffee and tea whilst onboard are also included.

Life Onboard

Whilst there are many large sailing ships offering passages around the world there are few if any that can compare in terms of luxury to Sea Cloud II. Despite the luxurious setting, casual clothing is appropriate and the atmosphere onboard is friendly and generally informal. Service is personal, and the crew of 65 quickly acquaint themselves with passengers and



Category C cabin



Lounge



Category A cabin



Lido deck



Category B cabin



On Deck



Restaurant

the officers on the bridge are also available to answer questions; manoeuvres permitting. After all, Sea Cloud II is not only a cruise ship, but a private yacht as well.

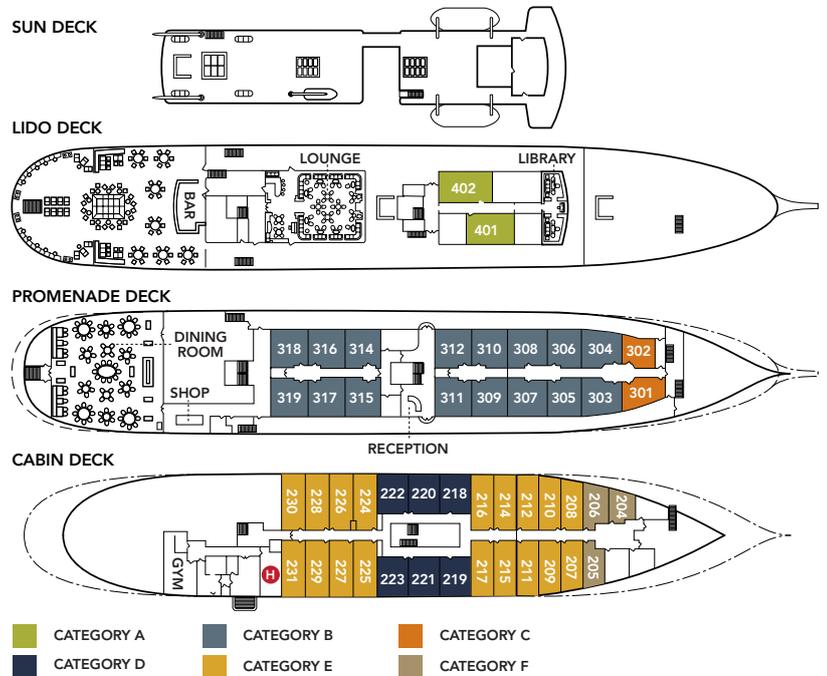
For your Comfort, Safety & Security

Sea Cloud II combines the timeless elegance of sailing ships of the past with the highest safety standards and the luxurious comfort of modern cruise ships. The hospital is located on the Cabin Deck and is staffed by a ship's doctor. In consideration of all passengers, smoking is not permitted onboard with the exception of designated areas on open decks.



Dining on Deck

DECK PLAN



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | noble-caledonia.co.uk

