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2025

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 ROME, ITALY	11 AMALFI, ITALY	12 LIPARI, ITALY	13 VALLETTA, MALTA	14 VICTORIA, MALTA	15 TRIPANI, ITALY	16 TUNIS, TUNISIA
17 DAY AT SEA	18 LA CIOTAT, FRANCE	19 ROSES, SPAIN	20 BARCELONA, SPAIN	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

# 10-Day Riviera & Mediterranean Jewels

SEABOURN OVATION

AUG 10 - AUG 20, 2025

DEPARTS : CIVITAVECCHIA (ROME), ITALY

ARRIVES : BARCELONA, SPAIN



# August 11, 2025 - Amalfi, Italy

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 5:00 PM

## Sample Port Activities

### Emerald Grotto

Step aboard a **motor launch** at the pier and head to the astonishingly colorful *Grotta dello Smeraldo*, just a hop, skip and a jump from Amalfi. Take in the beauty of the coastline as you cruise along. Upon arrival at the **grotto**, you'll board a **smaller local boat** and enter the 100-foot-tall natural cavern. Marvel at the way the sunlight enters the cave via an underwater opening, casting a luminescent emerald glow through the water. Return to **Amalfi**, where you'll have free time to explore the main square, check out the grand cathedral and browse in the shops.

### Ravello

Set out from the harbor in Amalfi and enjoy a breathtaking **panoramic drive** to **Ravello** -- one of the most popular and well-known locations on the Amalfi Coast. You will see the *duomo* (cathedral) as you enter the main square. The very linear façade preserves the original Romanesque outline, and stands beside the 13th-century bell tower. If the church is open, you will be able to peek inside at the majestic marble pulpit, richly cased with mosaic friezes and columns. Visit **Villa Rufolo** -- a spectacular complex formed by the main *palazzo* and various other buildings of Arabian-Sicilian style, arranged on a wide terrace facing the gulf. Proceed along a small avenue flanked by cypress trees to arrive at the Moorish courtyard, which opens up onto a luxurious garden of pines, cypress and exotic plants. From here, you can descend to the lower terrace -- also bright with flowers and foliage.

### The Ruins of Pompeii

Board a comfortable air-conditioned motorcoach for the 90-minute scenic drive to the foot of Mount Vesuvius. Today holds the opportunity to see the remarkable ruins of **Pompeii** -- this famous site is lauded as the world's finest example of an ancient Roman town. Upon arrival, disembark the coach and **walk** with your knowledgeable guide through the main archaeological site, as his/her informative narration paints a picture of the city's former glory. See the huge forum, grand temples, homes, shops and other structures that were buried by ash in the great eruption of AD 79. Stop at a **cameo factory** where artisans apply skills handed down for generations, intricately carving seashells, or coral into beautiful jewelry - true works of art and keepsake souvenirs. After a thorough exploration of the ruins, reboard the coach for the relaxing return drive to Amalfi harbor and the ship.

# August 12, 2025 - Lipari, Italy

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 5:00 PM

## Sample Port Activities

### Lipari Island & Pizza Demonstration

Today's motorcoach sightseeing drive on **Lipari** offers great vistas of the Aeolian archipelago from the best **viewpoints** on the island. Your destination is a local **pizzeria**, where the owners enthusiastically demonstrate how to make traditional Sicilian pizza. Try your hand at **making your very own pizza** -- feel free to build it your way. Finally, sit down to enjoy the fruits of your labor, along with some **wine** and **Aeolian cookies**.

### Lipari Island & Museum

The **UNESCO World Heritage Site Aeolian Islands** have been studied by vulcanologists since the 18th century and exemplify two types of eruption that contribute to volcanic island-building and destruction. Discover **Lipari Island** as you travel by motorcoach. You will pause to enjoy magnificent views of some of the other islands of the archipelago, including Vulcano, Salina and Panarea. Take in the immense stretches of clean, sparkling sea and jagged coastlines of various shapes and unusual colors -- the green of the lush vegetation, the black, red and gray of the volcanoes, and the yellow of the rocks and the beaches. The 1.5-hour panoramic drive brings you to St Bartolomeo Church. Visit the nearby **archaeological area** and the **Aeolian Museum**, and view the large collection of valuable materials excavated from the islands since 1946.

### Wine Tasting & Lunch at Tenuta Castellaro

The Aeolian Islands were well known to the first Phoenician navigators and to the Greek colonizers, with numerous archaeological finds of wine amphora (two-handle storage jars) that have been part of this culture since ancient times. The **organic wines of Tenuta di Castellaro** are born from the healthiest and oldest native vines of these Islands. The **Castellaro Experience** is ideal for wine lovers and for those just finding their enological feet for the first time. Take a short flight of stairs or use the elevator to reach the winemaking cellars and barrel halls. Discover the scents and flavors of the *terroir* with a **tasting** of four varietals perfectly paired with local food specialties. A guided tour of the wine cellar follows an enjoyable **walk in the vineyards**, where you will learn about the birth of this wine project, the construction phases of the barrel halls, and much more.



# August 13-14, 2025 - Valletta, Malta

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 5:00 AM

## Sample Port Activities

### A Taste of Malta

Board your coach and drive to the south of the island to the picturesque **fishing village of Marsaxlokk**. Enjoy some **free time** to purchase a coffee and explore the village. Note at the top of the portico, the Virgin Mary herself is depicted riding on a *luzzu*. If the fishermen are back from the sea, you may have a chance to meet with one of them. Your guide will have some stories to tell about the harbor, whose interesting history includes the hosting of the Malta Summit between US President George H. W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The summit signaled the end of the Cold War. Next, board your coach for a **panoramic drive**. Once a simple fishing village, **St Julian's** proximity to a cluster of top hotels and Malta's buzzing nightlife zone has made it a gastronomic meeting point for foodies and wine lovers. At a quayside restaurant specializing in Maltese food, sample a selection of **island delicacies and some local wines** -- an authentic introduction to what the locals love to eat.

### Capitals: Mdina & Valletta

Acquaint yourself with two great capitals, both rich in architectural gems. A scenic drive takes you inland to **Mdina**, the island's former capital and one of the few great architectural treasures of Malta that did not result from the activities of the Knights of St John. This is the oldest city on the island, dating back to prehistoric times. The word Mdina derives from the Arabic word *medina*, which simply means 'city.' You will also have some **free time** to roam and explore on your own. Continue to **Valletta**, named after Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valletta, who inspired the Knights of St John and led the Maltese to victory during the siege of 1565. Visit the monumental **St John's Co-Cathedral** and enjoy a **walking tour** past landmarks that include the Grand Master's Palace, the ruins of the Royal Opera House and Our Lady of Victories Church. Cap it all off with great harbor views from the upper **Barrakka Gardens**.

### Hal Saflieni Hypogeum & Hagar Qim Temples

Visiting the **Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni** on your own requires purchasing tickets months in advance, but you have a chance to take advantage of pre-reserved tickets. Hypogeum literally means 'underground,' and Hal Saflieni is **the oldest underground temple and necropolis ever discovered**. Enter the Hypogeum's series of underground chambers, halls and passages. The excavated rooms date from the Bronze Age (3600 to 2500 BC). The second level features sophisticated stonework and boasts a number of temple-like rooms, including the Oracle Room and the Snake Pit. The megalithic **Hagar Qim Temples** are Stone-Age structures that date back more than 6,000 years, predating the pyramids of Egypt. Hagar Qim is among the most ancient sacred sites on Earth. Back in **Valletta**, your destination is the **Malta National Museum of Archeology**. The museum exhibits art and artifacts discovered at Malta's many prehistoric sites.

# August 14, 2025 - Mgarr (Victoria), Gozo, Malta

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 5:00 PM

## Sample Port Activities

### Cruise & Swim the Blue Lagoon

Board a **motorboat** on the pier in Gozo for a short crossing to **Comino's Blue Lagoon**, located between the islands of Malta and Gozo. Parts of the movies *Troy* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* were filmed here. Your skipper will drop anchor off the tiny island of Comino, which is virtually uninhabited. It has one hotel, one small chapel, one dominating Battery Tower -- which played the part of Chateau d'If in the 2002 film *The Count of Monte Cristo* -- and three full-time residents. A limited number of snorkeling masks are available so you can **swim** and **snorkel** in the beautiful, crystal-clear turquoise waters. Back on the boat, you will cruise around the island of Comino to **St Mary's Bay**. The beach here is where Brad Pitt (as Achilles) meets his mother in the 2004 film *Troy*. There will be time for a second **swim** at this or one of the island's many beautiful bays.

### A Taste of Gozo

Gozo's food is grown on the island and still prepared in mostly traditional ways. Family recipes have been passed down for generations, using fresh, natural products such as sun-dried tomatoes, olive oil, fresh cheeses, and fragrant herbs. Board your coach for a drive to **Fontana Cottage**. Here, you'll discover that Malta's culinary tradition is an eclectic affair with its own unique flavors. Family is everything at the Gozitan kitchen table and lunch or dinner is the daily meeting point of every household. You'll be greeted by **locals in traditional attire**. Follow them into their world to discover the ingredients kept secret by island generations. Enjoy a taste of Gozo as you **sample different wines** produced here, along with delicious, crusty Maltese bread. Then, reboard your coach for a short visit to 19th-century **Kenuna Tower**, perched dramatically on the edge of a cliff. This site boasts an amazing view of your ship anchored in front of the islands of Comino with its Blue Lagoon and the northern tip of Malta as a backdrop.photo opportunity. An

### Panoramic Gozo by 4x4 Vehicle

The small island of **Gozo** is an utterly fascinating destination with a huge historical footprint. It has open spaces, magical seascapes, and some of the oldest freestanding man-made structures in the world. One of the best ways to discover all of this is by open-top **4x4 vehicle**. Dramatic photo opportunities abound as you journey through the hilltop villages of Qala and Gozo's easternmost village, **Nadur**. The latter is home to many emigrants from the USA and is good-naturedly nicknamed 'the 51st state.' Next is lively **Xaghra**, whose name means 'wilderness.' Oddly, it is actually Gozo's largest town and boasts a very pleasant atmosphere. It is also the proud custodian of Ggantija -- one of the world's oldest and most extraordinary temple buildings. Cross the Ramla Valley and head up to the viewing platform at **Calypso's Cave** to take in the panoramic view over Gozo's most beautiful beach. Ramla Bay means **Red Sand**.

# August 15, 2025 - Trapani, Italy

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 6:00 PM

## Sample Port Activities

### Medieval Erice

Visit a delightful **medieval village** that has been dedicated to love since the days of antiquity. A **panoramic drive** brings you to **Erice**, where a panoramic hilltop position offers views of Trapani, the sea and the Egadi Islands. Norman influence is apparent here in the stone buildings, towers and fortifications among the lovely English-style gardens scattered throughout the town. During a **walking tour** of Erice, you'll stop at the famous La Pasticceria di Maria Grammatico. This enchanted little corner of Sicily offers an amazing taste the famous Sicilian Cannolo pastry -- a melt-in-your-mouth treat that would be easy to live on. Take advantage of some **free time** to browse in the tempting little **shops** and boutiques that line the charming streets.

### The Ruins of Selinunte

It's about an hour's drive from Trapani to **Selinunte**. Arriving at Selinus, you will discover the **remains of a city founded by the Carthaginians** in the mid-7th century. Visit the remnants of three impressive temples that once graced the site. The first is Temple E, dating back to the 5th century BC and rebuilt in 1958. To the right stands Temple F, lying completely in ruins. Archaeologists believed that Temple G was dedicated to Apollo, and was among the largest of its type in the ancient world. Each of its columns weighs several tons. The surrounding rubble gives some indication of its immense size. You will also explore the **Acropolis** with your guide. It was partially rebuilt in 1925, and was dominated the columns of Temple C (6th century BC). An internal electric train will be used to transfer from temples to Acropoli.

### Marsala History & Wine

Admire the wonderful west coast of Sicily on a **panoramic drive** past the famous salt pans. These salinas have been a major feature in the urban landscape of Trapani and the entire coastal area as far as Marsala. In **Marsala**, whose Arabic name derives from Marsa Allah (the Port of God), some traces of the old Arab town can still be seen in the modern urban layout. The **Archaeological Museum** contains prehistoric artifacts from the local area and mosaic floors from the Roman site. The most interesting exhibit is the wreck of a Punic ship dating from the 3rd century BC. This is the only example in the world of a *liburna* -- a fast warship about 35 yards long, which would have had a crew of 68 oarsmen. Adjacent to the Archaeological Museum stands the famous **Cantine Florio**. Florio is known for its pioneering leadership and as a producer of high-quality aperitifs, Marsala dessert wines, and fortified sweet wines. Visit the winery and **taste the wines** as you sample some typical local food.

# August 16, 2025 - La Goulette (Tunis), Tunisia

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 6:00 PM

## Sample Port Activities

### Sidi Bou Said & Carthage

Tour along the coast to the picturesque village of **Sidi Bou Said** -- an artist's paradise with blue-and-white sugar-cube houses scattered across the hillside above the sea. There will be ample time to stroll, admire the typical architecture, shop for local handicrafts, or relax over a refreshing mint tea (at your own expense). Just down the hill lie the impressive ruins of **Carthage**, founded in 800 BC by the Phoenicians. From here, Hannibal began his legendary journey that ended with an elephant ride across the Pyrenees and the Alps into Italy. The Romans eventually prevailed in the Punic Wars and destroyed and rebuilt Carthage in 146 BC. It became the Roman Empire's second city. Visit the impressive **Roman Baths of Antonius Pius**, the Sanctuary of Tophet and Byrsa Hill, where Carthage was founded by Queen Dido. You will view many other sights on a **panoramic drive through Carthage**, including the remains of the Punic Ports and the theatre.

### Bardo Museum & Souk Shopping

Today, you'll take a short drive into **Tunis**, the Tunisian capital, with impressive colonial-style boulevards. The bustling **medina** (Old Town) is the ancient heart of the city. Here, you'll encounter the market's sounds, sights and scents, where the presence of local crafts, spices, and textiles creates a culturally immersive experience. Take the time to haggle a little for a souvenir and enjoy the atmosphere of this treasure trove. You'll stop at the **Bardo Museum**, housed in the 19th-century Palace of the Beys. The Bardo Museum is famous for its outstanding collection of mosaics, significant finds from the Phoenician/ Roman settlement at Carthage, and early Christian and Muslim relics. Take a guided tour of the most important displays, including the Virgil room, housing a spectacular Roman mosaic from Sousse.

### Panoramic Tunis

Welcome to the scenic journey from La Goulette to **Tunis** -- a **panoramic drive** that will take your breath away. Tracing the Mediterranean coastline, you'll catch glimpses of azure waters mixed with a gentle breeze as you head into the heart of Tunisia's capital, where many sites of historical significance await. En route to Bourguiba Avenue, you'll see St Vincent's Cathedral, the Tunis Theatre, and the January 14th Square. You'll also pass through the modern part of Tunis, heading to the entrance of the medina (Old Town). Watch for the kasbah (fort) and Belvedere Park. The road leads through Gammarth, passing by La Marsa on the way to Sidi Bou Said -- a whitewashed village perched on the hillside above the blue Mediterranean. Contemplate the significant history of this area during a short stop at the **American World War II Cemetery**. You will then pass the ancient city of Carthage, the Tophet, and the Punic Ports. In the Magon district, you'll glimpse the Antonine Baths and Byrsa Hill.



# August 18, 2025 - La Ciotat, France

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 5:00 PM

## Sample Port Activities

### Marseille & Notre Dame de la Garde Cathedral

Begin your tour with a **panoramic drive** to Marseille, with sightseeing along the way. You will travel via the J.F. Kennedy Corniche Road, which follows the natural contours of the coastline and offers lovely views of offshore islands dominated by the surrounding massif. You'll drive up the **La Garde Hill** to the magnificent **Notre Dame de la Garde Cathedral**, built in the mid-19th century in Roman-Byzantine style. Those who would like to climb about 160 steps will appreciate a 360-degree panoramic view of Marseille from the top. At the **Old Port**, discover the origins of Marseille, which date back to the heyday of the Greek Empire. Always seeking new territory, the very famous and competent Phocaeen navigators from the Eastern Aegean were attracted to this superb site and founded the town of Massalia in 600 BC.

### The Charming Village of Cassis

Make the most of a panoramic drive to the wonderful fishing village of **Cassis**. On the way, watch for the scenic views and cliffs of the massif. Cassis is a small town nestled at the base of a medieval castle and is widely regarded as one of the most romantic places on Earth. This popular summer resort is a hub for summer boat trips along the cliffs of Calanques National Park. Hop on the small **shuttle train** to reach the downtown core. See the charming fishing port and wander through the narrow streets filled with the aromas of Provençal herbs and the salty scent of the sea. Enjoy some **free time** to stroll, shop in the boutiques or relax at one of many waterfront cafés.

### Le Castellet & Wine Tasting

Head to **Le Castellet** -- a typical Provençal hilltop village. Perched on a wooded hill above the vineyards and formerly owned by the Lords of Les Baux, this remarkable stronghold has well-preserved ramparts, a carefully restored 12th-century church, and a castle dating back to the 11th century. Entering by way of two fortified gates, le portail and le portalet, you will begin a **walking tour** through the narrow streets and up to the castle that now functions as the Town Hall. **Free time** allows you to explore the arts and craft workshops, scouting for paintings, pottery and hollow ware. You are invited to stop at a famous vineyard -- **Domaine Fregate** (or similar) -- to **taste some local wines**. This very beautiful Provençal winery features an adjacent chapel surrounded by 80 acres of vineyards. Some fine wines are produced here, and the 2,500 olive trees produce a rare olive oil.

# August 19, 2025 - Rosas (Roses), Spain

Arrives: 8:00 AM

Departs: 5:00 PM

## Sample Port Activities

### Girona City

A scenic one-hour drive brings you to the beautiful town of **Girona**, known as the Immortal City. Girona is rich in historic treasures and is one of the most interesting monumental cities in Spain. Visit the **Bonastruch Ca Porta Museum** on the site of the old synagogue, as well as the **medieval walls of the city** and the remains of the **Gironella Tower**, destroyed by Napoleon during his retreat in 1814. First, you'll stop at the **El Call area**. At the very heart of the Jewish Quarter are the **Arab Baths** with their beautiful arches. In spite of the name, the construction of the baths is in Western Romanesque style. The baths' style imitates old Muslim bathhouses with an apodyterium for changing, a frigidarium for cold baths, a tepidarium offering warm water, and a caldarium for hot baths. If the schedule allows, you will enjoy some **free time** to stroll in the center of the city. There are many charming cafés and restaurants along the Rambla of Girona.

### Private Minivan (Half Day)

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. Recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together.

### Exploring Ancient Splendor

Visit **Empuries** -- a Roman city dating from 550 BC. This modern-day name originates from *emporio*-- meaning marketplace or commercial center. This name correctly describes the purpose of the site, for the city was favorably situated at the delta of the River Fluvia and at the crossing of several trade routes. You will see examples of Greek and Roman town construction and their characteristic features. A visit to the **ruins** shows the market, the agora, and the holy area where the temples stood, including the main one dedicated to Jupiter. After your time in Empuries enjoy a nice walk to the nearby Sant Marti d'Empuries, a very small preserved medieval town. It received its first inhabitants in the 9th century BC. Three centuries later it established commercial relations with the Phoenicians, Punics and Phocaeans, Massaliotes, which marked the beginning of the negotiations which made Empúries one of the most important ports on the Mediterranean.