



Bonifacio Citadel

Maritime History Cruise in the Mediterranean

30 May – 11 June 2018

Rome • Livorno (for Pisa and Lucca) • Elba • Bonifacio • Ajaccio
• Menorca • Mallorca • Malaga (for Gibraltar) • Cadiz • Seville



Jon Baines
tours



Portoferraio, Isle of Elba

Connecting Europe, Asia and Africa, the Mediterranean Sea has seen empires, economies and political systems clash, absorb and influence one another for millennia. Phoenician traders, Roman galleys, the Renaissance maritime republics of Italy, pirates, corsairs, pilgrims, merchants, explorers and conquistadors, the great navies of empire and the great sea battles of the Napoleonic era - all have left their mark across the Middle Sea. This cruise from Rome to Seville across the centre of the Mediterranean examines the naval and maritime history of the region.

The itinerary includes a number of talks by the ship's speakers on the art, culture, history and archaeology of the destinations visited, as well as private specialist talks on maritime history by our expert maritime speakers, Dr Pieter van der Merwe and Captain Peter Hore, who will attend half the cruise each. There will also be escorted shore visits in Livorno, Pisa, Elba, Corsica, Menorca, Majorca, Cadiz and Gibraltar. This tour will provide deep insight into maritime history in the Mediterranean.

Embark the *Aegean Odyssey* in Rome for an evening departure to Livorno.

Next morning disembark in Livorno and take a boat cruise along the Medici canals that date back to the 17th century. Sail past the Orlando Docks and visit the Italian Naval Academy. Enjoy welcome drinks and an introductory talk on board in the evening.

Next morning make an excursion to Pisa. Take a walking tour of the city's well-maintained Romanesque buildings, Gothic churches and lively Renaissance piazzas as you visit sites including the Roman Ship Museum – opened especially for our group - the Piazza dei Miracoli and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Continue to Lucca with time at leisure to explore this most enchanting of Tuscan cities before returning to the ship.



Pisa



The Roman Ship Museum, Pisa

Sail into the historic port of Portoferraio the next morning, where Napoleon was once exiled. Today it is a favoured destination rather than a site of banishment, with attractions including clear waters, beach coves, vineyards and spectacular mountain views. Visit the sites of Napoleon's exile and explore the lovely island before returning to the ship to hear a talk on Nelson and the Mediterranean up to the Battle of the Nile in the afternoon.

The next day hear a talk on ships in art through history. That afternoon arrive in the dazzling port of Bonifacio in Corsica, which greets visitors with a lapis-blue harbour, dramatic creamy-white cliffs and a sturdy citadel. Enjoy time at leisure in the beautiful town.

Next day continue to Ajaccio in Corsica and see the ancestral home of Napoleon Bonaparte, Maison Bonaparte. Spend the afternoon at sea and hear a talk on Admiral Byng, the British Navy and Menorca in preparation for your arrival the following day.

Arrive in Mahon, where the Royal Navy has an important historical connection with Menorca. Visit the naval fort and Hostal del Almirante, before boarding a catamaran that will pass the former Royal Dockyard en route to the first Royal Naval Hospital on the Isla del Rey, or 'Bloody Island', so named for being the site

of the hospital. The hospital visit is hosted by the Menorca Britannia Association and the Friends of the Naval Hospital. In the afternoon visit Golden Farm and spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

Majorca has a long history of seafaring. Muslim and Jewish merchants traded widely across the Mediterranean and Majorcan cartographers and cosmographers were known for their expertise. On a tour learn about the Majorcan cartographic school that flourished in the Middle Ages, visit the Fundación Bartolomé March, with its collection of rare maps and manuscripts, La Seu Cathedral and visit the Mercantile Exchange. Spend the afternoon at leisure in Palma.

The next day is spent cruising at sea. Hear a talk on the Siege of Gibraltar and enjoy the ship's facilities.

The following morning dock at Malaga and drive to Gibraltar for a full day visit incorporating



Houses in Bonifacio (top); Ajaccio, Corsica (above)



the siege tunnels and the WWII tunnels in the Rock, which had a number of hospitals built into them. Visit the Trafalgar Cemetery, where some of the sailors who died of their wounds following the Battle of Trafalgar are buried, the British Military Hospital and the Naval Dockyards before returning to the ship.

Prior to arriving in Cadiz the next day, hear a talk on the Battle of Trafalgar. Cruise past Cape Trafalgar, where the Royal Navy defeated Napoleon's fleet. Disembark and take a walking tour of this ancient port city, along the Route of the Indes, dating to Cadiz's golden age as a centre of exploration and trade. The oldest continually inhabited settlement in Europe, beautiful Cadiz was founded as Gadir by the Phoenicians in about 1100BC and is today an atmospheric jumble of sea walls and stone streets almost encircled by sea. Spend the evening at leisure.

Set sail for Seville the next day, cruising up the Guadalquivir River and listening to a talk on "Rivers of Gold", detailing the conflict between the British Navy and the Spanish galleons. Arrive in the lovely Moorish city later in the day and enjoy a farewell dinner in the evening.

Disembark the *Aegean Odyssey* the following morning and either extend in Seville or transfer to the airport.



The old dockyard, Mahon, Menorca (top);
La Seu Cathedral, Majorca; The Rock of Gibraltar (above)

Itinerary 30 May – 11 June 2018

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

Rome – Livorno (for Pisa and Lucca) – Elba – Bonifacio – Ajaccio – Menorca
– Mallorca – Malaga (for Gibraltar) – Cadiz – Seville

30 May (Wed) Rome **D**
Pm Transfer to Civitavecchia in Rome to embark the *Aegean Odyssey* for an evening departure

31 May (Thur) Livorno for Pisa & Lucca **B L D**
Am Dock in Livorno and take a boat cruise along the Medici canals, ending at the Circolo Nautico Orlando with superb views over the Medici Port. Visit the Naval Academy*
Pm At leisure
Eve Introductory talk by Pieter van der Merwe (PM) & Sue Weir with drinks reception

1 Jun (Fri) Livorno for Pisa & Lucca **B L D**
Am Excursion to nearby Pisa and visit the Roman Ship Museum. Take a tour to the Piazza dei Miracoli, including the Cathedral and the Leaning Tower of Pisa
Pm Continue to Lucca and explore this most enchanting of Tuscan cities. Return to the ship later that day

2 Jun (Sat) Elba **B L D**
Am Sail into the historic port of Portoferraio, described by Nelson as the “safest port in the world.” Visit the sites of Napoleon’s exile including the Villa dei Mulini and the Summer House in San Martino and learn of his time in Elba
Pm Talk: “*Nelson and the French War in the Mediterranean, 1793 – 1798*” PM

3 Jun (Sun) Bonifacio, Corsica **B L D**
Pm Arrive in beautiful Bonifacio and hear a talk on “*Ships in Art - 15th to 19th Century*” PM
Eve At leisure to explore Bonifacio

4 Jun (Mon) Ajaccio, Corsica **B L D**
Am See Maison Bonaparte, the ancestral home of Napoleon Bonaparte
Pm Talk: “*Admiral Byng, the British Navy and Menorca*” PM

5 Jun (Tues) Mahon, Menorca **B L D**
Am The Royal Navy has an important historical connection with Menorca. Visit the naval fort of Fort Marlborough, Hostal del Almirante (the former home of Admiral Collingwood) and take a boat to the Royal Naval Hospital on ‘Bloody Island’, passing the former Royal Navy Dockyard en route
Pm Visit Golden Farm and at leisure

6 Jun (Wed) Palma, Mallorca **B L D**
Am Majorca has a long history of seafaring. Muslim and Jewish merchants traded widely across the Mediterranean and Majorcan cartographers and cosmographers were known for their expertise. On a tour learn of the Majorcan cartographic school with a visit to the Fundación Bartolomé March and visit the Mercantile Exchange and the Cathedral
Pm At leisure in Palma

7 Jun (Thur) At Sea **B L D**
Am Talk: “*The Siege of Gibraltar*” Peter Hore (PH)
Pm At leisure

8 Jun (Fri) Malaga for Gibraltar **B L D**
Am Drive to Gibraltar and visit the Trafalgar Cemetery, the Naval Dockyards, the WW2 tunnels and gun emplacement and the old naval hospital. Evening departure

9 Jun (Sat) Cadiz **B L D**
Am Talk: “*The Battle of Trafalgar*” PH.
Pm Cruise past Cape Trafalgar
A walking tour of Cadiz including the Admiral’s House, Tavira Tower and Old Customs House. Overnight in Cadiz

10 Jun (Sun) Seville **B L D**
Am Cruise along the Guadalquivir River
Pm Talk: “*Rivers of Gold*” PH
Eve Arrive Seville

11 Jun (Mon) Seville **B**
Am Disembark *Aegean Odyssey* and transfer to the airport or extend in Seville

* This is a military establishment and access may be restricted on the day



WWII tunnels, Gibraltar



The Aegean Odyssey at sea

Tour leader

Sue Weir is a former Westminster Hospital nurse and a registered Blue Badge Guide. She developed a special interest in medical history and runs her own company, Medical History Tours, which takes groups and individuals to places of medical historical interest both at home and abroad. She has written *Weir's Guide to Medical Museums in Britain*, has a Diploma in the History of Medicine from the Society of Apothecaries, is past President of the History of Medicine section at the Royal Society of Medicine and is also past President of the British Society for the History of Medicine. Sue has led many cruises and specialist tours and is a highly experienced and popular tour leader.

Speakers

Dr Pieter van der Merwe MBE, DL is an English writer on aspects of British maritime history, mainly from 1500 to 1914, but which have also included maritime archaeology and medieval shipbuilding. He also writes on the history of Greenwich, marine painting, stage scene-painting and maritime life in art, portraiture, literature and drama. He joined the staff of the National Maritime Museum in 1974 and has been its General Editor for over 20 years (now

part-time). His specialist affiliations include being a vice-president of the Society for Nautical Research and on the editorial board of its journal, *The Mariner's Mirror*.

Peter Hore served worldwide during a full career in the Royal Navy, spent nine years in the film and TV industry, and is now a fulltime writer, editor and journalist. A freelance obituarist at the *London Daily Telegraph* since 2002, he has written nearly 1,000 obituaries on the men and women of the Royal Navy and on the Royal Marines including the SBS, the FANY, the French Resistance, yachtsmen, shipping magnates and many others.

Peter is a busy public speaker and writes reviews and articles for several newspapers and journals, and is the editor of *The Trafalgar Chronicle*. He is an elected fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Society for Nautical Research, a chartered member of the Institute of Linguists, and a corresponding member of the Royal Swedish Society for Nautical Sciences.

“Sue was incredibly organised, helpful and caring in looking after a large group. She is amazing.”

Kirk and Sharon Rue, *History of Medicine Cruise, 2013*



Aegean Odyssey terrace

The Aegean Odyssey

The small *Aegean Odyssey* (350 passengers) can visit less crowded harbours and sail closer to the coast. This boutique style ship is ideal for those who like a more intimate sailing experience. Escorted shore excursions are included. On all shore excursions the expert guides will use QuietVox individual headsets, allowing you to hear the guide clearly at even busy sites at normal speaking volume.

The cost includes:

- Comprehensive briefing notes
- Private specialist lecture programme
- Twelve nights' accommodation with private facilities on the *Aegean Odyssey*
- All meals on the cruise ship (not on excursions)
- Light lunches on full-day excursions
- House wine or beer or soft drinks with dinners
- All on-board entertainment
- Private escorted shore visits as per the itinerary
- Admission fees where applicable
- Services of local English-speaking guides
- Cabin portage and all tips

The cost excludes:

- International flights and transfers
- All personal extras such as laundry, inoculation fees
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance and visas (if required)

Cabin costs

All cabins have bath or shower, flat-screen TV, safe, hairdryer and are fully air-conditioned. Single cabins are generally smaller than twin or double cabins.

MM Inside Single Cabins 110 - 130sq ft on Belvedere and Columbus decks. Double bed and private shower. USD \$4,191 per person

M Inside Cabins 130 sq ft on Belvedere and Columbus decks. Twin beds and private shower. USD \$4,031 per person

L Premium Inside Cabins 130 sq ft on Columbus deck. Double bed and private shower. USD \$4,191 per person

J Standard Outside Cabin 130 sq ft on Belvedere and Columbus decks. Twin beds and private shower with portholes. USD \$4,756 per person

JJ Outside Single Cabin 130 sq ft on Columbus deck, featuring two portholes. A single European-size bed with private shower. USD \$5,206 per person

H and I Premium Outside Cabins 130 sq ft on Belvedere and Columbus decks. Twin beds (or some double beds in I grade) and private shower with 2 picture windows. Category I cabins' views are partially obstructed by lifeboats. I grade USD \$5,307 per person
H grade USD \$5,351 per person

II Outside Single Cabin 130 sq ft on Bridge deck, featuring two windows. A single European-size bed with private shower (some rooms have a partially obstructed view). USD \$5,307 per person

G Premium Outside 130 - 150 sq ft on Bridge and Lido decks. Twin beds or some double beds in I grade and private shower with two picture windows. (Some rooms have a partially obstructed view). USD \$5,612 per person

F Deluxe Stateroom 170 - 200ft sq ft on Lido, Bridge and Belvedere decks. Bath / shower or walk in shower. Twin or double beds. USD \$6,076 per person

C/ D Deluxe Balcony 275ft sq ft on Lido, Bridge and Belvedere decks. Bath / shower or walk in shower. Sitting area and private balcony. Twin or double beds. D grade USD \$6,728 per person
C grade USD \$7,033 per person

Junior Suite and Owner's Suite available on request

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Canals of Livorno (top); Mercantile Exchange, Palma;
The port of Cadiz; Seville (above)



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