



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils

May 7 to 15, 2024

Classical Mediterranean Cruise

MALTA, SICILY & TUNISIA

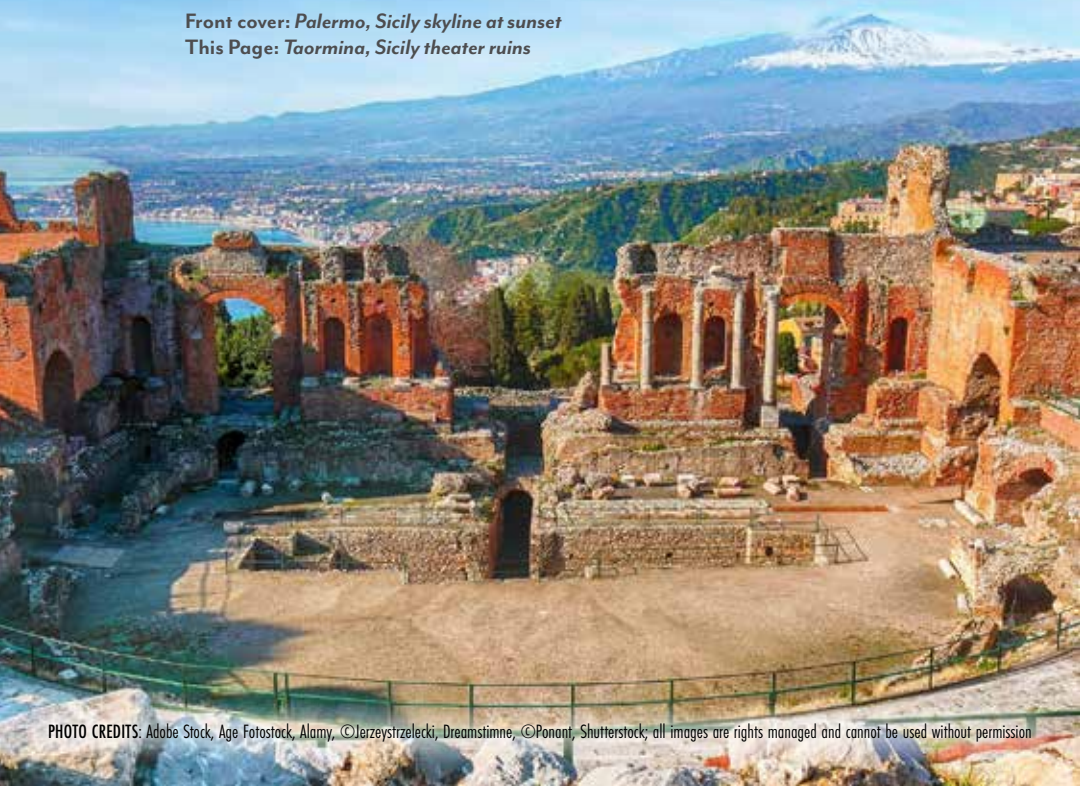


CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

From Agrigento's awe-inspiring Roman relics to the cliffside village of Taormina, this Mediterranean cruise transports you back to a classical time of ancient empires and civilizations. This exclusive nine-day, seven-night itinerary aboard the 5-star LE BOUGAINVILLE explores Malta's, Sicily's, and Tunisia's most treasured sites and ruins. Saunter through the distinguished Taormina and marvel at its Greco-Roman Theater, Corvaia Palace, Odeon, and Corso Umberto. Taste the delectable street food Palermo, Sicily, is known for, including delicious panelle, arancini, crocchette, and pani câ meusa. Admire the illustrious Doric Temple and its still-active amphitheatre. See unique African and Arab cultures come together in Tunis, Tunisia, and its notable Old Town while visiting its colorful *souks* (markets). Bask in the Temples of Juno and Concordia—considered one of the most notable Greek landmarks dating to the fifth century—while visiting Agrigento, Sicily. Explore Sicily's Syracuse and behold its beautiful Baroque cathedral and Fountain of Diana at the Piazza Archimede. The timeless allure and cultural mosaic of these formidable nations makes for a trip of a lifetime.

Front cover: Palermo, Sicily skyline at sunset

This Page: Taormina, Sicily theater ruins





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Dear Council Traveler,

Sicily and Malta have possessed an almost mythical appeal ever since Homer and Virgil first extolled their virtues. From the classical perfection of Agrigento's Roman relics to the ancient cliffside village of Taormina, this specially designed itinerary explores Europe's most storied villages, resplendent shores, and remnants of bygone civilizations.

Cruise among historical islands aboard the exclusively chartered, state-of-the-art, 5-star LE BOUGAINVILLE. Featuring only 92 suites and staterooms, this elegant small ship is able to call on ports inaccessible to larger vessels.

This outstanding southern Mediterranean itinerary cruises from Malta to Sicily along two of Europe's coastlines, through the fabled Strait of Messina and the Tyrrhenian and Mediterranean Seas. En route, experience the rich history of Malta, the island nation where Saint Paul the Apostle was shipwrecked and where the Order of the Knights of St. John, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, Sir Walter Scott, and Queen Elizabeth II once called home. Discover Sicily's storied town of Taormina in the shadow of Mount Etna; Agrigento's unforgettable Valley of the Temples; the exquisite mix of African and Arab cultures in Tunisia; the archeological wonder of Carthage; the age-old beauty of Palermo; and the majesty of Syracuse, today an open-air museum of monumental antiquities.

This cruise itinerary provides a captivating and unforgettable experience for every generation of traveler. Reserve now while space and early booking savings are still available. Other educational groups share this departure, so make your reservation today. Call (800) 942-5004 x 209 (email: travel@wacphila.org).

Warm Regards,

Andrew Haught, Director of Travel

Tour Host



Trina Medarev is the Executive Director & CEO of the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville. Under her direction, the Jacksonville Council has grown from a small organization sponsoring a modest speaker program, to reaching thousands of individuals every year through several acclaimed speaker series, educational programming, special events, and an expanding network of young professionals. With a passion for learning about the world and its people, Trina is looking forward to hosting this Southern Mediterranean cruise of Malta, Tunisia, Sicily, & Calabria.

Can't travel at this time? Ask about the Council's other cruises with Gohagan & Company to Greece.

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To secure your spot, call Travel Department at World Affairs Council of Philadelphia at 800-942-5004 or www.wacphila.org/travel



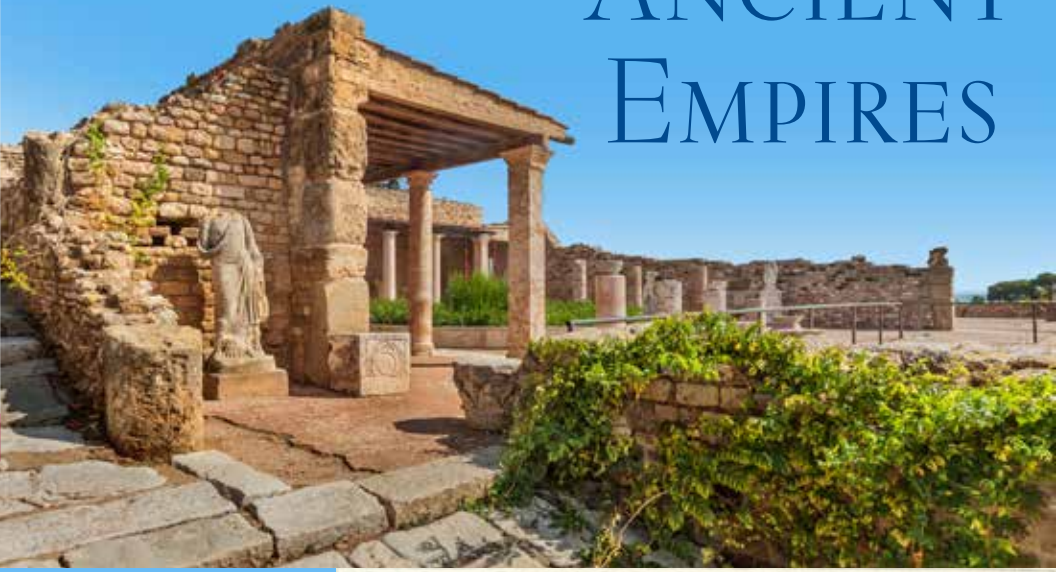
TASTE OF SICILY

Immerse yourself in Sicily's rich street food culture with savory snacks that can easily be enjoyed on their own. Starting in Palermo, panelle is one of the most established street market dishes, made from chickpea flour, water, salt, and sometimes parsley or other herbs. The mixture is fried into thin, crispy fritters that are often served on a roll or as a snack on their own. Deep-fried rice balls called arancini are filled with a variety of ingredients like meat, cheese, vegetables, and sometimes seafood. The rice is typically mixed with saffron and coated in breadcrumbs before being fried to perfection. For a fluffier alternative, crocchette are made of mashed potatoes, eggs, and cheese that are rolled into balls, breaded, and fried until crispy. These comfort food delights also can be filled with a variety of ingredients like ham, mushrooms, or spinach for added flavor. You would be remiss to pass up a taste of pani câ meusa, a signature Sicilian sandwich filled with chopped veal spleen—boiled in broth and seasoned with salt, lemon, and parsley—served on a sesame seed bun and optionally topped with ricotta or caciocavallo cheese. If you can't get enough of these delectable eats on the streets of Palermo, you also can stave off hunger with these Sicilian staples while exploring Ortygia's markets.

Market in Ortygia



ANCIENT EMPIRES



A Riace Bronze Statue



Altar of Hieron II

Centuries-old ruins beckon you to step into mythical pasts as sparkling turquoise waters ensconce pastel-hued towns and villages on this extraordinary itinerary. Each destination in Italy, Sicily, Malta, Tunisia, and Carthage reveals an intriguing history and distinct character—luring explorers, artists, architects, and powerful rulers for generations. The world's greatest empires are etched into every incomparable landscape and architectural triumph. It is a rare opportunity to see the diverse cultural legacies of the Italians, Greeks, Goths, Moors, Normans, Castilians, Turks, Jesuits, Spanish, and French come to life among timelessly spectacular scenery.

INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



9-DAY/7-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1

Depart home city for an overnight flight.

Valletta, Malta/ Embark

Day 2

Arrive in Valletta, Malta, and embark the intimate 5-star ship *LE BOUGAINVILLE*. Enjoy dinner on board later. (D)

Giardini Naxos for Taormina

Day 3

Arrive in Giardini Naxos after breakfast on the ship. Stroll through Taormina, an ancient village on the top of a cliff above the Ionian Sea. Visit the Greco-Roman Theater, the Corvaia Palace, see Odeon, and visit the Corso Umberto. After enjoying lunch on board the ship, spend afternoon free time in the city once ruled by ancient Greeks before the Romans overtook it in 215 B.C. and later destroyed by the Arabs in 902 A.D. Later, join your fellow passengers for the Captain's Welcome Reception and dinner on board afterwards. (B,L,R,D)

Palermo

Day 4

Visit Palermo's traditional Sicilian Old Quarter, Baroque square, and 12th-century Duomo.

At the Capo market, see and taste revered Palermo street food and admire colorful stalls displaying an abundance of produce, seafood, and meats. After lunch on the ship, you have the option of either taking part in a one-of-a-kind culinary experience with a local guide

of Trapani and continue to Segesta. See the ancient and well-preserved Doric Temple, with 36 gold limestone columns as well as an amphitheater still in use today. Visit the medieval town of Erice, set atop a hill surrounded by a lush park and accessible via cable car.



Cathedral of Monreale

ending with a tasting at the Operà House Cafè, or driving up the hillside to visit the remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site Cathedral of Monreale—one of the greatest examples of Norman architecture and known for its magnificent Byzantine mosaics. (B,L,D)

Trapani, Sicily

Day 5

Following breakfast on the ship, drive through the Sea Saltpans

Enjoy panoramic views of Erice's charming old stone streets and medieval churches, and marvel at the Norman Venus Castle. (B,L,D)

Tunis, Tunisia for Carthage

Day 6

Arrive in Tunis, Tunisia, home to an exotic blend of African and Arab cultures and once considered one of the wealthiest cities in the



Souk market in Tunis



Cathedral of Syracuse, Ortygia Island

Islamic world. The capital has a history dating back to 200 B.C. Transfer to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Carthage to visit the Baths of Antonino, the ancient Roman theater, and the Punic ports where Carthaginian fleets once took shelter. See Tunis's historic center, the Arabic Medina or Old Town—also a UNESCO-inscribed site with a labyrinth of narrow alleyways, small shops, mosques, and palaces. Enjoy afternoon free time in the *souks* (markets) after an included lunch at a local restaurant near Medina. (B,L,D)

Porto Empedocle for Agrigento, Sicily **Day 7**

This afternoon, visit Agrigento's UNESCO World Heritage-designated Valley

of the Temples to see eight Doric shrines dating from the fifth century B.C., including the Temple of Juno. Explore the Temple of Concordia, which is still in a perfect state of conservation and is considered one of the most important landmarks of the Greek world. (B,L,D)

Syracuse **Day 8**

Visit the Altar of Hieron II, a monument dedicated to Zeus, and Dionysius' Ear in Syracuse. Also within the historically significant Syracuse Archaeological Park is the Roman Amphitheater and the Greek Theater. Transfer to the island of Ortygia—Syracuse's maritime heart also known for its street food and markets—where the Temple of Apollo stands in

the remains of Piazza Pancali. Stroll through the old city for a walking tour including a Baroque cathedral incorporating the ruins of a fifth-century B.C. temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. At the Piazza Archimede, view the Baroque-style Fountain of Diana. After lunch on the ship, enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Ortygia, Syracuse's historical center where the Greek goddess Leto was rumored to have given birth to the goddess Artemis. Tonight, attend the Captain's Farewell Reception and dinner with your fellow passengers. (B,L,R,D).

Valletta, Malta/ Return to Home City **Day 9**

Enjoy breakfast on the ship and travel to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



Quattro Canti, Palermo, Sicily



LE BOUGAINVILLE Join us aboard this exclusively chartered, 5-star small ship, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. Each of the 92 staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features an ocean view and most have a private balcony. All accommodations feature individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and internet access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard ship are included.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: May 7 to 15 (Embarkation: May 8 at 4:00 pm)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Rate through April 7, 2024	Rates after April 7, 2024
8	Deluxe stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3, midship. (limited availability)	\$4,945	\$5,495
7	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 4, midship.	\$5,845	\$6,495
6	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5, midship and aft.	\$6,745	\$7,495
5	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 6, midship and aft.	\$7,465	\$8,295
4	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 3, midship. (limited availability)	\$8,365	\$9,295
3	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 4, midship. (limited availability)	\$9,085	\$10,095
2	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5, midship.	\$9,985	\$11,095
1	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 6, midship.	\$10,885	\$12,095
Prestige Suite II	Two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, midship. (limited availability)	\$11,785	\$13,095
Prestige Suite I	Two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, midship. (limited availability)	\$12,505	\$13,895
Privilege Suite	Large Suite with expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , sitting area with sofa. Decks 5 and 6, aft. (limited availability)	\$13,225	\$14,695
Grand Deluxe Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace , full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Deck 6, aft. (limited availability)	\$13,945	\$15,495
Owner's Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Deck 5, aft. (limited availability)	\$14,845	\$16,495

BONUS SAVINGS! Pay in full at the time of booking to receive additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Single supplements apply to categories 6, 7 & 8 at 160% of the per person double price and are subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$450 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Travel Department at World Affairs Council of Philadelphia at 800-942-5004 or www.wacphila.org/travel

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PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Malta

May 5 to 8, 2024 (Tour Begins: May 6)

Enhance your Mediterranean cruise experience with a two-night immersion on the island of Malta, considered one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world. Walk the medieval streets of the beautifully preserved, UNESCO-inscribed town of Valletta, built by the Knights of the Order of St. John in the late 16th century. Visit the Lower Barrakka Gardens for a breathtaking panorama of the Grand Harbor and tour the UNESCO World Heritage Site of St. John's Co-Cathedral, including a viewing of Caravaggio's masterpiece "The Beheading of St. John the Baptist." Explore the stunning 16th century Casa Rocca Piccola, home of the Marquis De Piro family. This private visit will be led by one of the family members. At UNESCO-inscribed Hagar Qim, visit the Palace of the Inquisitor and the Tarxien Temples. Accommodations are in the 5-star GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR MALTA.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$765

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,040

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Grand Master's Palace, Valletta



SPECIAL SAVINGS! Extended Booking Savings up to **\$3,300** per couple, plus receive Bonus Savings if you pay in full at the time of booking! Call for details.



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