
































## Mediterranes Mosaik – Expedition durch das westliche Mittelmeer

Reisetermin  
28.09. - 14.10.2026  
Reederei  
Aurora Expeditions  
Schiff  
Douglas Mawson  
Reisecode  
ITP001D



	<b>Aurora Stateroom Twin Share</b>	
	Doppelbelegung	 € 7.348 pro Person
	Gemeinschaftsbelegung	 € 7.348 pro Person
	Einzelbelegung	 € 11.022 pro Person
	<b>Aurora Stateroom Superior</b>	
	Doppelbelegung	 € 7.748 pro Person
	Gemeinschaftsbelegung	 € 7.748 pro Person
	Einzelbelegung	 € 11.622 pro Person
	<b>Balcony Stateroom Category B</b>	
	Doppelbelegung	 € 8.348 pro Person
	Gemeinschaftsbelegung	 € 8.348 pro Person

	Einzelbelegung	 € 12.522 pro Person
	<b>Balcony Stateroom Category A</b>	
	Doppelbelegung	 € 8.998 pro Person
	Gemeinschaftsbelegung	 € 8.998 pro Person
	Einzelbelegung	 € 13.497 pro Person
	<b>Aurora Stateroom Single</b>	
	Einzelbelegung	 € 17.195 pro Person
	<b>Aurora Stateroom Superior Single</b>	
	Einzelbelegung	 € 18.895 pro Person
	<b>Balcony Stateroom Category C</b>	
	Einzelbelegung	 Nicht verfügbar
	Doppelbelegung	 Nicht verfügbar
	<b>Junior Suite</b>	
	Einzelbelegung	 Nicht verfügbar
	Doppelbelegung	 Nicht verfügbar
	<b>Aurora Stateroom Triple Share</b>	
	Dreibettbelegung	 Nicht verfügbar
	<b>Balcony Stateroom Superior</b>	
	Einzelbelegung	 Nicht verfügbar
	Doppelbelegung	 Nicht verfügbar



### Balcony Stateroom Category A - Solo

Einzelbelegung



Nicht verfügbar



### Captain's Suite

Einzelbelegung

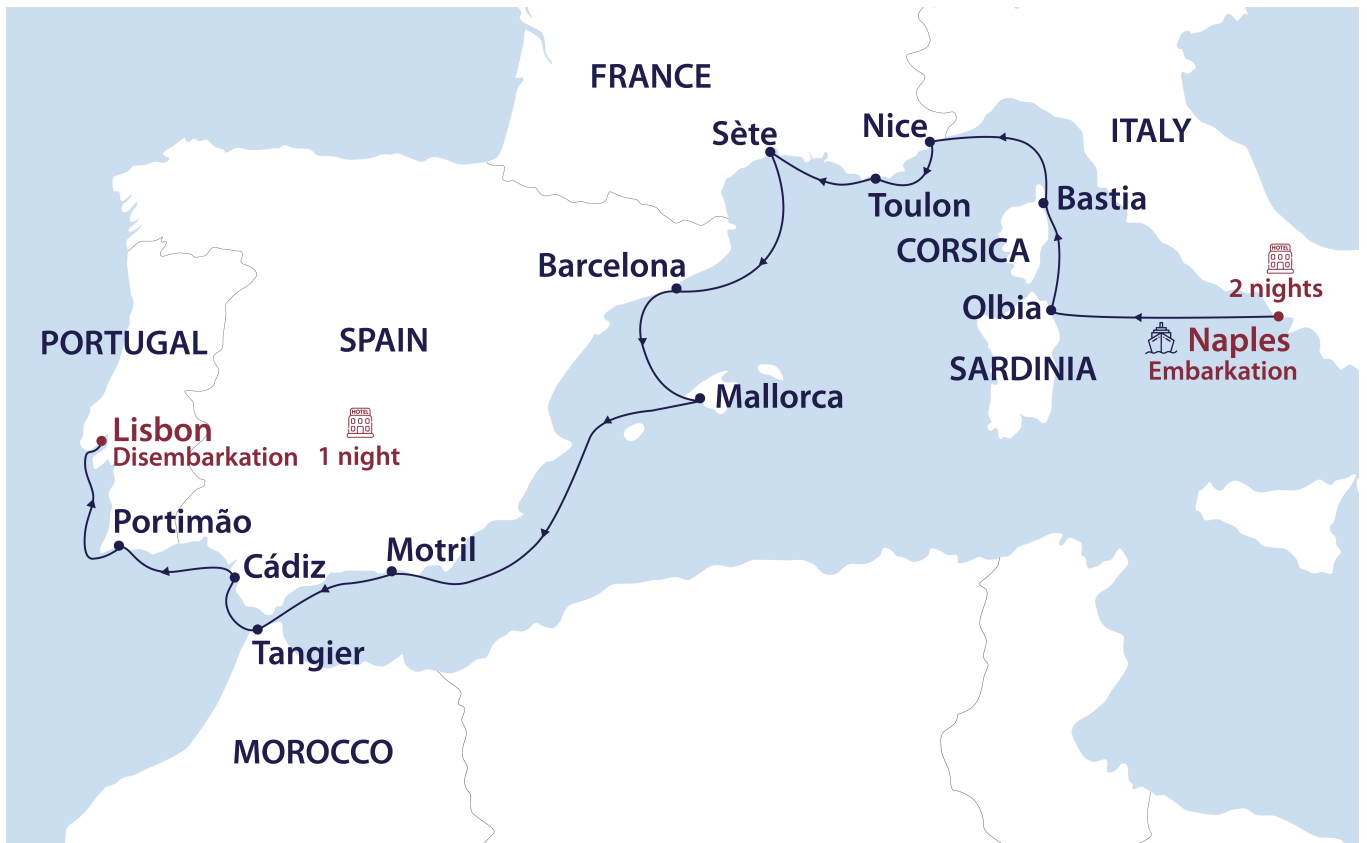


Nicht verfügbar

Doppelbelegung



Nicht verfügbar



Day 1 Naples,  
Italy

Welcome to Naples. On arrival at Naples airport make your way to the Arrivals Hall to meet our representative, followed by a transfer to our group hotel. At the hotel, visit our hospitality desk in the lobby to meet our team who will provide you with useful information regarding pre-embarkation procedures and about your time in Naples. You will also receive cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and your cabin number on the ship. This evening offers time to relax in preparation for our day exploring Naples tomorrow. Accommodation: Naples Hotel.

Day 2 Naples

Shrouded by the shadow of a brooding Mount Vesuvius, Naples' 'underworld' reputation has mellowed in recent years, making it the perfect starting point for our explorations. Survivors of successive imperial invasions, outbreaks of plague and infamous natural disasters, Neapolitans are well known for their dramatic, larger-than-life personalities. A dedication to family and their ancestral roots makes them natural storytellers, with a passion to share their stoic city and its intrinsic tales with all they encounter. Developed by Rome's elite as a series of holiday resorts and prosperous towns, the southern coastline of the Bay of Naples offers a wealth of insights into the ancient world, while the modern city of Naples is an eclectic mix of winding lanes, underground channels and glass-fronted high-rise buildings, making it a town with more than its share of tall tales. Today's 'Your Choice' options highlight two cherished Neapolitan pastimes: delving into the city's storied history and indulging in its renowned cuisine, while history enthusiasts can explore the archaeological site of Pompeii to gain insights into Roman life and understand how its opulence contributed to the city's demise. The afternoon is free for further exploration before we gather this evening to celebrate our journey at a Welcome Event – Neapolitan style. This afternoon we will operate a shuttle from the ship to the Via Toledo, a lively, pedestrianised high street lined with international chains, Neapolitan artisan shops, chocolatiers, boutiques and more. We sail early evening, as the sun sets over the mythical island of Capri and the celebrity playground of the Amalfi Coast. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Napoli on a plate. Embark on a journey through time as you delve into the rich tapestry of Italy's culinary heritage. Join us on a gastronomic expedition through Naples where the timeless traditions of the beloved pizza originated. Experience the artistry of centuries-old culinary practices as you savour two distinct varieties of pizza, immersing yourself in the gastronomic culture of Naples. Soak up the authentic charm of a local pizzeria, and indulge in one of Naples' iconic pastries, a sweet finale to a morning steeped in the flavours of history and tradition. Option 2 - Morning experience: Naples; Yesterday - Today. A city of complex themes, and one of the bedrocks of Italian culture, Naples' immense history plays out amongst the winding alleys of its old town, and what lies beneath. We begin with a stroll through these lively streets that still follow the decumani, or ancient Roman roads, originally laid out 2,000 years ago. Underneath the Gothic church of San Lorenzo Maggiore where the city of Neapolis' forum once lay, we encounter its main street – Decumanus Maximus. Here we see traces of the former city, as we descend underground and explore this archaeological complex, which has both Greek and Roman roots. We learn the role of the Greek Agora and the subsequent Roman Forum, in civic and commercial life during antiquity, before skipping to the 20th century. Naples was Italy's most bombed city during World War II, and these tunnels are thought to have saved the lives of more than 200,000 people who used the tunnels as bomb shelters. Back above ground we explore the city's political and social history, from its Greek origins as Neapolis (the new city) to modern times. Option 3 – Full day experience: Pompeii and the Wines of Mount Vesuvius. Spend today with an expert guide at Pompeii, one of the world's best-known archaeological sites. Once a prosperous commercial centre, Pompeii's surrounding plains were among the most fertile in the Roman Empire. Reaping the rewards of trading grains, fruits, nuts, fish and, of course, wine, wealthy merchants flaunted their status by buying foreign products like expensive meat and salted fish from Spain, and provocative spices from Asia. Known to the Neapolitans simply as 'him', Mount Vesuvius towers over the surrounding fertile plains at 13,779 feet (4,200 metres). He has been rather quiet of late, but it was a different story in 79 BCE, when ash and rocks hurled ten miles high, and lava vomited forth engulfing the cities of Pompeii and its seaside sister of Herculaneum. Albeit a tragedy, the excavation of these extensive sites reveals treasure for archaeologists. Physical evidence of the city's final dramatic moments, preserved forever amongst the volcanic ash, speak louder than words. The bones of a wealthy trader clutching the keys to his chest of profits, wine goblets and freshly baked bread sitting on tables ready to be consumed and the body of a wealthy woman sleeping in a gladiator's quarters are some of the scenes that have been unearthed. Each tells a tale of intrigue, returned to life by the ruins and remains, of these Roman cities. After exploring Pompeii, we journey to the sun-drenched lower slopes of Mount Vesuvius, where centuries-old vineyards thrive in mineral-rich volcanic soil. Here, we'll uncover the secrets behind the region's iconic wines, followed by a curated tasting paired with local specialties for a light lunch, before returning to Naples mid-afternoon. Accommodation: The Royal Continental Naples (or similar). Meals: Breakfast, Welcome Event canapés.

Day 2 Naples

Shrouded by the shadow of a brooding Mount Vesuvius, Naples' 'underworld' reputation has mellowed in recent years, making it the perfect starting point for our explorations. Survivors of successive imperial invasions, outbreaks of plague and infamous natural disasters, Neapolitans are well known for their dramatic, larger-than-life personalities. A dedication to family and their ancestral roots makes them natural storytellers, with a passion to share their stoic city and its intrinsic tales with all they encounter. Developed by Rome's elite as a series of holiday resorts and prosperous towns, the southern coastline of the Bay of Naples offers a wealth of insights into the ancient world, while the modern city of Naples is an eclectic mix of winding lanes, underground channels and glass-fronted high-rise buildings, making it a town with more than its share of tall tales. Today's 'Your Choice' options highlight two cherished Neapolitan pastimes: delving into the city's storied history and indulging in its renowned cuisine, while history enthusiasts can explore the archaeological site of Pompeii to gain insights into Roman life and understand how its opulence contributed to the city's demise. The afternoon is free for further exploration before we gather this evening to celebrate our journey at a Welcome Event – Neapolitan style.

Day 3 Embark  
Naples (Port:  
Naples)

We transfer to the port mid-afternoon to board the Douglas Mawson and sail west to the Italian island of Sardinia. This evening, we enjoy a Welcome Dinner where we meet our Aurora Expeditions team and crew. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1: Afternoon experience: Panoramas and Pizza. This morning is at leisure before we join our coach for a panoramic drive with a scenic lunch stop en route to the ship. We travel through Naples toward the waterfront district of Mergellina, following the curve of the coastline as the city gradually opens out to view. The drive continues up Posillipo Hill, passing quiet residential areas before pausing at a viewpoint above the Gulf of Naples, where the city, shoreline, and open sea stretch out below. From here, the route leads beyond Naples into the Campi Flegrei, a broad volcanic landscape shaped by ancient eruptions and ongoing geothermal activity. Settled since Greek and Roman times, the area is characterised by craters, volcanic plains, and scattered archaeological remains, offering a marked contrast to urban Naples. In the early afternoon, we stop for a pizza-style lunch at a local pizzeria before continuing to the Port of Naples to board Douglas Mawson and sail west to the Italian island of Sardinia. This evening, we enjoy a Welcome Dinner and meet our Aurora Expeditions team and crew. Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner onboard.

Day 3 Embark  
Naples (Port:  
Naples)

We transfer to the port mid-afternoon to board the Douglas Mawson and sail west to the Italian island of Sardinia. This evening, we enjoy a Welcome Dinner where we meet our Aurora Expeditions team and crew.

Day 4 Olbia,  
Sardinia, Italy  
(Port: Olbia)

Crossing 'the Med' on traditional trade routes, we reach the coastal city of Olbia on Sardinia's east coast, in time to spend the afternoon on your preferred 'Your Choice' experience. The Mediterranean's second largest island, Sardinia is unique and enigmatic. Its coastline, beaches, granite cliffs and mountainous inland showcase sprawling resorts and medieval villages – all a testimony to the island's eventful history as the centre of the Mediterranean's east to west trading route. A succession of conquerors gifted to the islanders' animals, seeds and plants to be raised and populated. Understandably the most popular plants were vines, which now support a burgeoning wine business with Sardinian wines popular in Europe. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Afternoon experience: The Aga Khan's Folly; Porto Cervo. The undisputed capital of what is referred to as the Costa Smeralda is Porto Cervo. This town of barely a few hundred inhabitants, today trades with a different type of clientele – the rich and famous. We mingle with the owners of million-euro yachts and the international jet set who were encouraged to visit Porto Cervo by none other than Prince Karim Aga Khan IV. The Imām of the Nizari Ismā'īli Shias purchased the land here in the 1960s and invited French architect Couëlle to add a little 'joie de vivre' to the place, a spark that remains to this day. Today, Porto Cervo remains a playground for the rich and famous. Spend your afternoon strolling along the marina, where you can admire luxurious superyachts, or simply bask in the sun at a seafront bar while soaking up the exclusive atmosphere. Whether you're exploring the waterfront or savouring the town's upscale charm, Porto Cervo offers a taste of refined luxury and exclusivity found in few other Mediterranean ports. Option 2 – Afternoon experience: A Taste for Sardinia's Wines. Enjoy a hosted vineyard tour that blends tradition with sustainability. Explore an Olbian vineyard under the Sardinian sun and learn about their integrated farming methods that eschew herbicides in favor of low-impact treatments. During your visit, you will enjoy a guided tour of the winery and an introduction to the Vermentino grape, a cornerstone of Sardinian winemaking famed for its crisp, aromatic wines. Enjoy a tasting of these renowned wines alongside warm appetizers, selected charcuterie and cheese, and a variety of dried fruits, nuts, fresh seasonal fruits, and fruit jelly. Savour the Vermentino's bright acidity, citrus notes, and subtle minerality, which are perfectly complemented by the traditional Sardinian bread. This tour offers an immersive dive into Sardinian wine culture, enriched by the island's distinctive climate and soil.

Day 4 Olbia  
(Port: Olbia)

The Mediterranean's second largest island, Sardinia is unique and enigmatic. Its coastline, beaches, granite cliffs and mountainous inland showcase sprawling resorts and medieval villages – all a testimony to the island's eventful history as the centre of the Mediterranean's east to west trading route. A succession of conquerors gifted to the islanders' animals, seeds and plants to be raised and populated. Understandably the most popular plants were vines, which now support a burgeoning wine business with Sardinian wines popular in Europe.

Day 5 Bastia,  
Corsica, France  
(Port: Bastia)

Our journey today takes us to a slice of France in the Mediterranean. Though it has been part of France since 1769, Corsica maintains a distinct identity, blending Italian and French influences due to its historical ties with both nations. Known for its rugged landscapes, winding roads and craggy coves, Corsica's 340,000 inhabitants have a strong sense of regional pride, tested annually by an influx of three million tourists. The island's status as a territorial collectivity grants it greater autonomy within the French Republic, allowing for the preservation of its Corsican language and customs. This blend of French governance and Corsican heritage creates a rich, multifaceted culture that sets the island apart from mainland France. Our 'Your Choice' experiences fill our morning, with time this afternoon to enjoy the town of Bastia on your own, before we sail for the French mainland in the early evening. Founded in 1378 by the Genoese, Bastia blends French and Italian influences, making it a quintessentially Corsican town. Its Baroque historic centre captures the essence of an ancient Mediterranean port. The name "Bastia" comes from "bastion," referencing the Genoese fortress built to guard against islanders. Explore the Terra Vecchia (Old Town) on foot, starting at the palm-filled Place St-Nicolas, which flanks both the port and the lively Boulevard Général-de-Gaulle. The vibrant colours of the old town's houses once served as landmarks for returning sailors and continue to brighten the town today. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 - Morning experience: Cap Corse West Coast Discovery. Embark on a breathtaking journey through the west side of Cap Corse, discovering the island's wild beauty and coastal charm. From Bastia, travel across the spectacular Teghime Pass, enjoy free time in Nonza, the hidden gem of Cap Corse, and take in the scenic Patrimonio wine region. Conclude your adventure with a delightful visit to Saint-Florent, before returning via the Teghime Pass — this time from a different angle — for even more stunning views of Corsica's contrasting coasts. \*Note: This excursion involves many winding roads, which may not be suitable for those prone to car sickness or vertigo. Option 2 - Morning experience: Wine Tasting in the Patrimonio. Experience the charm of Corsica's Patrimonio wine region, renowned for its unique terroir. Located in the northwest corner of the island, Patrimonio's rugged, scrub-covered landscape features soils distinct from the rest of Corsica, enriched by chalky clay and limestone. The region benefits from a wide temperature range between day and night and is influenced by the cooling sea winds from the Ligurian Sea. Patrimonio, one of France's pioneering organic viticulture regions, was granted AOC status in 1968, making it the island's oldest appellation. On this tour, you'll explore a local winery and gain insight into the winemaking process. Learn about the main grape variety, Nieluccio, along with Sangiovese, Grenache, and Sciaccarello for reds and rosés, and Vermentino for whites. Enjoy a guided tour of the vineyards and cellars, followed by a tasting session of the region's exceptional wines. Discover the historical roots of Corsican winemaking and savour the distinctive flavours crafted by dedicated winemakers who uphold traditional practices and organic cultivation. Option 3 - Afternoon experience: The Living Heritage Company - LN Mattei Distillery. Discover the LN Mattei Distillery, a Corsican heritage landmark since 1872. Founded by Louis Napoléon Mattei, it's renowned for Le Cap Corse Mattei, an aperitif blending quinquina wine with local fruits like citron and myrtle. Mattei's vision to highlight Corsican produce continues with a diverse range of spirits, including Cap Corse Mattei Grande Réserve, Eaux de Vie, and new liqueurs. In 2021, the distillery introduced two distinctive gins: LN Mattei Distilled Dry Gin, which won a Gold Medal at the 2022 Concours Général Agricole, and L'Immortel Gin. Located on Domaine Mavela, the distillery's traditional methods and seasonal rhythms are showcased through the meticulous hand-picking of fruits, careful ingredient preparation, and the creation of "mistelle" from Corsican grapes. A tour of the LN Mattei Distillery highlights its artisanal expertise and commitment to quality. Finish your visit with a tasting of their exceptional spirits, reflecting the craftsmanship that has earned the distillery the title of 'Living Heritage Company.'

Day 5 Bastia,  
France (Port:  
Bastia)

Our journey today takes us to a slice of France in the Mediterranean. Though it has been part of France since 1769, Corsica maintains a distinct identity, blending Italian and French influences due to its historical ties with both nations. Known for its rugged landscapes, winding roads, and craggy coves, Corsica's 340,000 inhabitants have a strong sense of regional pride, tested annually by an influx of three million tourists. The island's status as a territorial collectivity grants it greater autonomy within the French Republic, allowing for the preservation of its Corsican language and customs. This blend of French governance and Corsican heritage creates a rich, multifaceted culture that sets the island apart from mainland France. Our 'Your Choice' experiences fill our morning, with time this afternoon to enjoy the town of Bastia on your own, before we sail for the French mainland in the early evening. Founded in 1378 by the Genoese, Bastia blends French and Italian influences, making it a quintessentially Corsican town. Its Baroque historic centre captures the essence of an ancient Mediterranean port. The name "Bastia" comes from "bastion," referencing the Genoese fortress built to guard against islanders. Explore the Terra Vecchia (Old Town) on foot, starting at the palm-filled Place St-Nicolas, which flanks both the port and the lively Boulevard Général-de-Gaulle. The vibrant colours of the old town's houses once served as landmarks for returning sailors and continue to brighten the town today.

Day 6 Nice,  
France (Port:  
Nice)

There are plenty of treats on offer today as we reach the French mainland and berth at the port of Nice in true "Riviera style". More than any other Riviera city, Nice oozes charm. Its kilometres of beach, backed by iconic hotels and luxurious apartments and fronted by the Mediterranean Sea, have attracted the rich and famous for centuries. The broad boulevard along the beachfront, named Promenade des Anglais, honours Queen Victoria, who often brought her entourage to escape the dreary English winter. Russian aristocrats also made Nice their home, building a Russian Orthodox church that today holds a memorial to the fallen Czar and his family. Noted for its sunny days and enchanting evening light, Nice has long drawn artists whose galleries are filled with paintings of the city itself. Chagall, Matisse, Dufy, Picasso, and more worked, lived, and loved here among their wealthy sponsors and bon vivant friends. Residents, focused on fun in the sun, stroll to the market daily, buying fresh produce, gourmet foods, and flowers to adorn their seaside homes. The centrally located port offers us the chance to stroll the iconic Promenade des Anglais, enjoy a swim in the Mediterranean from Nice's Plage Publique De l'Opera, or perhaps head to the city's famous neighbour, Monaco. One thing is for sure: in true Riviera style, today will have a touch of decadence. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Walking Nice and its Famous Markets. It's Saturday, and in Nice, that means markets. Our guided walk through the Old Town leads us along cobblestone streets, where our host regales us with tales of French delights. Our food-focused tour culminates at the vibrant Cours Saleya, renowned for its bustling flower market since 1861. Here, locals and tourists alike revel in a dazzling array of flowers – from elaborate bouquets to single blooms, each infused with unforgettable scents and colours. But where there are flowers, there is also French cuisine. Wander among colourful stalls where local vendors passionately display Provençal fruits, artisanal cheeses and savoury charcuterie. Don't miss Queen Victoria's cherished chocolate shop, offering historical confections and aromatic delicacies. The market buzzes with energy, creating a vibrant Mediterranean atmosphere where every stall tells a story of tradition and flavour, and the warm hospitality of Nice. Option 2 – Morning experience: The Principality of Monaco and Prince Albert's collection. From the days of its early Genoese rulers, the ever-expanding Principality of Monaco has been a political curiosity on the map of southern Europe. Ruled as a business rather than a country by the Grimaldi family, this exclusive enclave offers an insight into the lives of the 'filthy rich'. Ferraris replace Fiats, designer dogs are carried in handbags and champagne flows like water, all thanks to an economy, which has earned the respect of, rather than robbed from, the rich. Smaller than New York's Central Park, Monaco's 500 acre size boasts the second highest GDP per capita in the world. Although the 9,500 native Monégasque are banned by law from gambling, it is the nation's foreign-born citizens with their bulging bank accounts, multi-million euro apartments and high-roller habits who boost the principality's income, with over 30 per cent of its residents listed as millionaires. Our guided walking tour introduces us to this unique place, culminating with a visit to Prince Albert's own car museum. Following in the footsteps of Grace Kelly at the superyacht-filled marina, we recall how she met Prince Rainier during a visit to Monaco suggested by a friend while filming To Catch a Thief. Within a year, they were wed, and Grace Kelly became a princess, with 140 official titles. Her tragic passing left Monaco in mourning, with her face, name and favourite things found throughout the principality, reminding us of her enduring legacy. Our tour includes the palatial precinct known locally as 'The Rock', and the Cathedral (also known as Cathedral of Our Lady Immaculate), where Princess Grace and Prince Rainier were married and now rest. Moving to the waterfront, our journey takes a hairpin bend. From a wartime Ford Jeep to Prince Albert's favourite Bugatti, the Prince's private collection is packed with rare vehicles, Formula 1 winners and numerous Ferraris, Lamborghinis and the odd Rolls-Royce. Appealing to car aficionados and non-drivers alike, this decadent display is set to impress. Option 3 – Morning experience: Living La Belle Époque. Snuggled on the headland of Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Villa Kérylos embodies the Belle Époque spirit—an age when the French Riviera was synonymous with elegance, leisure, and artistic brilliance. Conceived by scholar Théodore Reinach, the villa is both a tribute to ancient Greece and a reflection of the Riviera's 'Beautiful Era'. Inside, luminous rooms reveal intricate murals, shimmering mosaics, and furnishings of marble, bronze, and ivory, each detail echoing the refinement of antiquity. With the Mediterranean stretching out beyond its terraces, Villa Kérylos offers a rare glimpse into a world where history and artistry meet the glamour of the Riviera's golden age. \*Note: The Villa Ephrussi have advised the villa and gardens will be closed during this time for restoration.

Day 6 Nice  
(Port: Nice)

There are plenty of treats on offer today as we reach the French mainland and berth at the port of Nice in true "Riviera style." More than any other Riviera city, Nice oozes charm. Its kilometres of beach, backed by iconic hotels and luxurious apartments and fronted by the Mediterranean Sea, have attracted the rich and famous for centuries. The broad boulevard along the beachfront, named Promenade des Anglais, honours Queen Victoria, who often brought her entourage to escape the dreary English winter. Russian aristocrats also made Nice their home, building a Russian Orthodox church that today holds a memorial to the fallen Czar and his family. Noted for its sunny days and enchanting evening light, Nice has long drawn artists whose galleries are filled with paintings of the city itself. Chagall, Matisse, Dufy, Picasso, and more worked, lived, and loved here among their wealthy sponsors and bon vivant friends. Residents, focused on fun in the sun, stroll to the market daily, buying fresh produce, gourmet foods, and flowers to adorn their seaside homes. The centrally located port offers us the chance to stroll the iconic Promenade des Anglais, enjoy a swim in the Mediterranean from Nice's Plage Publique De l'Opera, or perhaps head to the city's famous neighbour, Monaco. One thing is for sure: in true Riviera style, today will have a touch of decadence.

Day 7 Toulon  
(Port: Toulon)

Fronted by a marina packed with yachts and a port dominated by the French Navy, Toulon is a city on the rise. Not as glitzy as Saint-Tropez, Nice or Cannes, Toulon is a working town with coastal appeal and a vibrant culinary scene, attracting predominantly French holidaymakers. A crucial naval port since the 15th century, Toulon's strategic harbour has played a vital role in French maritime operations. During World War II, the local Resistance fighters, including the Maquis, undertook numerous acts of sabotage, including the dramatic 1942 scuttling of the French fleet to prevent it from falling into enemy hands. This act stands as a testament to the city's resilient spirit, which adds to its rough charm and very "French" attitude. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Toulon's Sunday Market Scene. Sunday in Toulon brings alive the bustling Cours Lafayette Market, a beloved local institution. Led by our local guide, we weave through vibrant stalls brimming with the sights, scents and tastes of Provence and delight in specialties like cade toulonnaise, a savoury pancake, and fougasse adorned with plump olives and aromatic herbs, while fresh seafood, straight from the bay, enhances the market's vibrant palate. Our gastronomic journey through Toulon is a sensory feast, inviting us to connect with local providores dedicated to celebrating regional flavours. The markets offer more than just tasty delights – they are a window into Toulon's culinary community and Provençal heritage. Option 2 – Full day experience: Living the High Life in Saint-Tropez. Following the narrow winding roads through rolling hills and past craggy coves for around an hour, we find a waterfront town like no other. Few cities on the French Riviera evoke decadence like Saint-Tropez. A seaside playground adorned with superyachts, waterfront cafes and designer boutiques, it exudes luxury at every turn. Michelin-starred restaurants and chic boutiques line the marina region, frequented by the elite who arrive in Ferraris and dock their yachts without turning heads. Saint-Tropez's allure as a playground for the super-rich began in the 1950s, when artists and celebrities discovered its charm and tranquillity. Since then, it has become synonymous with exclusivity and extravagance, drawing the world's elite to its shores. Today, it remains a symbol of wealth and status, where a morning stroll offers a fleeting glimpse into a realm that epitomises the pinnacle of luxury living – a place that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime. After a brief walking tour to points out the local sites, there's plenty of time for you to indulge in what the French Riviera's most famous town has to offer. Option 3 – Full-day: Aix en Provence and Wine Tasting at Chateau De La Galinière. 'Aix', as it's affectionately known to its inhabitants, exudes elegance with leafy boulevards, public squares and grand avenues reflecting its wealth and status. Hosted by our local guide, we marvel at medieval ramparts, aristocratic facades, and enchanting fountains, as we explore the Saint Sauveur Cathedral, a blend of architectural styles from the 5th to 17th centuries. We walk the vibrant heart of Aix along the pedestrian-only Cours Mirabeau, a verdant tunnel adorned with opulent hotels, Belle Époque villas with their wrought iron balconies. Having built up a thirst, we venture further inland to Château de la Galinière. Nestled in the heart of Provence, spans 122 hectares of gently rolling terrain rising to 257 meters above sea level. Its distinctive red soils, rich in minerals, impart unique character and depth to the wines. The estate is dedicated to organic cultivation, producing elegant reds, crisp whites, and the region's signature rosés that capture the essence of Provence. During your visit, indulge in a tasting of these exceptional wines, complemented by appetiser boards featuring artisanal cheeses, cured meats, tapenade and fresh vegetables, a perfect expression of Aix's charm and Provence's proud winemaking heritage.

Day 7 Toulon  
(Port: Toulon)

Toulon is a city on the rise, characterized by a marina packed with yachts and a port dominated by the French Navy. Not as glitzy as Saint-Tropez, Nice, or Cannes, Toulon is a working town with coastal appeal and a vibrant culinary scene, attracting predominantly French holidaymakers. A crucial naval port since the 15th century, Toulon's strategic harbour has played a vital role in French maritime operations. During World War II, the local Resistance fighters, including the Maquis, undertook numerous acts of sabotage, including the dramatic 1942 scuttling of the French fleet to prevent it from falling into enemy hands. This act stands as a testament to the city's resilient spirit, which adds to its rough charm and very "French" attitude. Sunday in Toulon brings alive the bustling Cours Lafayette Market, a beloved local institution. Led by our local guide, we weave through vibrant stalls brimming with the sights, scents, and tastes of Provence and delight in specialties like cade toulonnaise, a savoury pancake, and fougasse adorned with plump olives and aromatic herbs, while fresh seafood, straight from the bay, enhances the market's vibrant palate. Our gastronomic journey through Toulon is a sensory feast, inviting us to connect with local providores dedicated to celebrating regional flavours. The markets offer more than just tasty delights; they are a window into Toulon's culinary community and Provençal heritage.

Day 8 Sète  
(Port: Sète)

Often dubbed the 'Venice of Languedoc' for its picturesque canals and bridges, Sète is known for its thriving seafood industry, with its bustling fish market and waterfront restaurants offering fresh catches from the nearby Thau Lagoon. Sète's waterside promenades are dotted with colourful buildings and busy cafes, offering a relaxed atmosphere perfect for enjoying an aperitif, glass of locally produced wine, or a cool beer amid soothing waterfront views. For those selecting a morning 'Your Choice' experience, the charming town of Sète waits for independent exploration in the afternoon. The city centre is just a ten-minute walk from the port, making it easy to discover its attractions at your own pace. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

**Option 1 – Morning experience: Montpellier and Château de l'Engarran Wine Tasting.** Montpellier, a gem of French culture, is the seventh-largest city in France and a vibrant Mediterranean crossroads. After a scenic drive from the harbour, you will explore this enchanting city with its architectural wonders like the Italianate-style Opera Comédie and the historic Faculté de Médecine, while a stroll through the charming older quarter, reveals 17th and 18th century streets. The day continues with a visit to Château de l'Engarran, an estate dating back to the 17th century. The estate's wine legacy began in 1978 when Francine Grill bottled the first wine. Her daughters further developed the range, and today, Diane Losfelt, named Winemaker of the Year in 2021, continues the matriarchal tradition. Enjoy a wine tasting amid the estate's picturesque vineyards and learn about its rich history and evolving style, before returning to Sète.

**Option 2 – Morning experience: Medieval Pezenas and the Art of Making Vermouth.** What better way to spend a morning in the Languedoc than visiting a picturesque medieval village and touring France's top-selling liqueur: vermouth. Start your day in Pezenas, a royal town dating to the 13th century. Wandering through the historical centre, you will find revolution era bourgeois houses, cobbled streets, and period features. Pezenas is also known for its craft stores, where local artisans display a variety of handmade goods, adding to the town's artistic vibe. After exploring Pezenas, continue your journey to La Maison Noilly Prat for a tour and tasting. Vermouth, in the true tradition of French aromatised wines, was originally made for medicinal purposes. However, its taste quickly caught on as an aperitif, and it now ranks among the most popular aperitifs in the world, not just in France where it shares centre stage with pastis, an anise-flavoured spirit. At La Maison Noilly Prat, you'll tour the cellars to learn about the history and production of this renowned vermouth, followed by a tasting that showcases its distinctive flavours. Combining the historical charm of Pezenas with the cultural experience of vermouth tasting at La Maison Noilly Prat offers a delightful morning in the Languedoc, weaving together history, culture and the art of French aperitifs.

**Option 3 – Full-day experience: The Prince of Walled Cities – Carcassonne.** Surrounded by turreted walls and a deep moat, Carcassonne has attracted moviemakers since 1908, after French inventors the Lumiere brothers first produced short films using their newly developed motion-picture camera and projector, between 1895 and 1905. The setting for Charles Perrault's classic tale of Puss in Boots, Carcassonne's fortified walls offered a fairy tale ambience. Of course, life here was nothing like the 'men in tights' Robin Hood movie. The reality of flaming arrows, grapnels, catapulted stones and towers full of French soldiers shattering the peace as the town braced itself for invasion, provides modern-day visitors with a truer tale of life in the Middle Ages. Carcassonne is also a port on one of the world's most successful engineering endeavours, the Canal du Midi. Running 240 kilometers from Toulouse to the coast, the canal opened the Mediterranean to barge traffic from the Atlantic, an important economic miracle at the time.

Day 8 Sète  
(Port: Sète)

Sète, often dubbed the 'Venice of Languedoc' for its picturesque canals and bridges, is known for its thriving seafood industry. The bustling fish market and waterfront restaurants offer fresh catches from the nearby Thau Lagoon. Sète's waterside promenades are dotted with colourful buildings and busy cafes, creating a relaxed atmosphere ideal for enjoying an aperitif, a glass of locally produced wine, or a cool beer amid soothing waterfront views. For those selecting a morning 'Your Choice' experience, the charming town of Sète awaits independent exploration in the afternoon. The city centre is just a ten-minute walk from the port, making it easy to discover its attractions at your own pace.

Day 9  
Barcelona,  
Spain (Port:  
Barcelona)

Arriving in Spain, we are welcomed by the vibrant Catalan capital, Barcelona. Enjoy a fun-filled day on a 'Your Choice' experience, selecting either a morning exploration of the city's iconic landmarks or an afternoon indulging in Barcelona's celebrated food scene with tapas hopping through its historic centre. The remainder of your morning or afternoon is at leisure to discover the city's many attractions. Stroll along the famous Las Ramblas, visit one of Barcelona's renowned galleries or museums, or enjoy some time shopping at your own pace. Socially, culturally and industrially, Barcelona shines as a beacon of difference in Spain. Proudly Catalanian first and Spanish second, its people are free-spirited, liberal thinkers with a passion for their freedom. In the last 30 years, Barcelonans have sculpted their city into one of Europe's most venerated travel destinations. Its boulevard-style main street, Las Ramblas, is the name on every traveller's lips, and Barcelona's vibrant is as sought after as it was during the Spanish Empire's monarchical peak. A palatial stronghold of the 15th century power couple, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, Barcelona greeted a jubilant Christopher Columbus upon his return to Spain and the rest as they say, is history. The city has never looked back. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

**Option 1 – Morning experience: The Best of Barcelona.** Our locally guided tour this morning celebrates the artists and authors who have venerated Barcelona as a work of art for centuries. Famed for its vibrant arts scene, Barcelona shows off its style with works scattered in its plazas and parks. Miro, Picasso, Vidal and Montaner all called Barcelona home. But it is the name Antonio Gaudi, which attracts 21st century art aficionados worldwide. Queues of admirers line the streets outside his apartment buildings daily, yet Antonio Gaudi was a pious soul, befriended by the men of his church. We start our day in Barcelona at his masterpiece of modernist architecture – La Sagrada Familia. We explore its intricate interior and exterior with our specialist guide and learn about the history and symbolism of this ongoing construction project, before reboarding our coach for a panoramic drive of the city with its grand boulevards and elegant avenues such as Paseo de Gracia, home to Barcelona's most inspired modernist architecture. After your tour, you can return to the ship for a relaxing lunch or take the opportunity to linger longer in this captivating city and make your way back at your leisure. (sequence of sites may vary. Entrance to Sagrada Familia is subject to availability).

**Option 2 – Morning experience: The Art of Food Catalanian Style.** After a morning free to explore Barcelona, join your local guide at midday to discover Barcelona's vibrant culinary scene on a flavourful journey through the Gothic Quarter, guided by a local expert. This walking tour immerses you in the city's 'foodie' delights, from Catalan specialities to tempting finger foods, when we linger like a local at two of the city's popular tapas bars. Each stop reveals a taste of Barcelona's rich culinary heritage, while the narrow, historical streets connect you to the city's unique food culture, while you'll have time to buy some treats to take home in the Bohemian Born Quarter prior to returning to the ship. This culinary adventure combines history with the region's flavours, offering a delicious insight into Barcelona's gastronomic story.

Day 9  
Barcelona,  
Spain (Port:  
Barcelona)

Arriving in Spain, we are welcomed by the vibrant Catalan capital, Barcelona. Enjoy a fun-filled day on a 'Your Choice' experience, selecting either a morning exploration of the city's iconic landmarks or an afternoon indulging in Barcelona's celebrated food scene with tapas hopping through its historic centre. The remainder of your morning or afternoon is at leisure to discover the city's many attractions. Stroll along the famous Las Ramblas, visit one of Barcelona's renowned galleries or museums, or enjoy some time shopping at your own pace. Socially, culturally and industrially, Barcelona shines as a beacon of difference in Spain. Proudly Catalanian first and Spanish second, its people are free-spirited, liberal thinkers with a passion for their freedom. In the last 30 years, Barcelonans have sculpted their city into one of Europe's most venerated travel destinations. Its boulevard-style main street, Las Ramblas, is the name on every traveller's lips, and Barcelona's vibrant is as sought after as it was during the Spanish Empire's monarchical peak. A palatial stronghold of the 15th century power couple, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, Barcelona greeted a jubilant Christopher Columbus upon his return to Spain and the rest as they say, is history. The city has never looked back.

Day 10 Mallorca  
(Port: Palma de  
Mallorca)

It's time to say "Hola" to Mallorca, with a full day in port at Palma de Mallorca to enjoy the sun, wine and food that makes this island so unique. An autonomous region of Spain, the economy of the Balearic Islands has ebbed and flowed in line with the waters to which they owe their fame. Recent years have brought an influx of tourists on flight inclusive packages and Europeans seeking an 'expat' lifestyle on a budget. But there is more to these islands than a suntan and a smile. Their history paints a portrait of brave islanders defending their lands from far more sizeable empires. The Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, British and Spanish have all left their mark, gifting this eclectic archipelago a story waiting to be told. We spend the morning ashore, before sailing west to the Spanish coast. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 - Morning experience: The King of Oils. Olive oil, a cornerstone of Spanish cuisine, is produced with exceptional quality on the island of Mallorca. Revered as "liquid gold" by early traders, Mallorca's organic olive oil has recently become a hallmark of the island. This morning, we delve into the rich history and modern importance of this essential ingredient, exploring its impact on Mallorcan traditions, lifestyle, and economy. At a local olive oil farm, our host will guide us through the production process, sharing the fascinating story of this prized fruit. We'll gain insights into every aspect of olive oil before savouring its exquisite flavours firsthand. Option 2 - Morning experience: Palma de Mallorca. Our locally guided tour takes us to squares, palaces, courtyards and gardens in Mallorca's capital. Palma's most iconic site is no doubt its cathedral. Taking over 300 years to build, the honeycomb-like attributes of the Catedral-Basílica de Santa María de Mallorca depict the city's grandeur in a style called Mediterranean Gothic. Its partner in architecture, the Almudaina Palace, is located next door. The summer residence of the King of Spain, the palace houses royal collections from the past 600 years, including priceless tapestries, paintings and sculptures. On a hilltop above the city is Bellver Castle. Courtesy of its unique design, making it one of Europe's only circular castles, its 360-degree view offers a breathtaking panorama of the city below. Built in the 14th century for King James II of Majorca, its story is one of many political conspiracies, with its use as a prison for high-ranking parliamentary officials a tale to be heard. We take time to explore the city's monarchical wonders, along with its alleys and back streets, gifting us a true insight into the island's capital city.

Day 10 Mallorca  
(Port: Palma de  
Mallorca)

It's time to say "Hola" to Mallorca, with a full day in port at Palma de Mallorca to enjoy the sun, wine, and food that makes this island so unique. An autonomous region of Spain, the economy of the Balearic Islands has ebbed and flowed in line with the waters to which they owe their fame. Recent years have brought an influx of tourists on flight inclusive packages and Europeans seeking an 'expat' lifestyle on a budget. But there is more to these islands than a suntan and a smile. Their history paints a portrait of brave islanders defending their lands from far more sizeable empires. The Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, British, and Spanish have all left their mark, gifting this eclectic archipelago a story waiting to be told. We spend the morning ashore, before sailing west to the Spanish coast.

Day 11 At Sea

It's time to relax and enjoy sailing the Med today as we follow the traditional trade route from the Balearic Islands to the Spanish coast. Enjoy a swim, sauna or simply relax with a good book. Hone your photography skills with our resident photographer or join a presentation by our host.

Day 12  
 Granada (Port:  
 Motril)

We meet the mainland at the port of Motril affording us access to the city of Granada and the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada; the Alpujarra's. We immerse ourselves in the rural culture, with a chance to spend time with descendants of those who have lived on the land for generations with a farm to plate experience or walk amongst the Moorish empire and Christian monarchical periods greatest architectural achievements at the eclectic city of Granada. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Full day experience: Getting to know Granada. Once a flourishing Moorish stronghold, Granada later became the final chapter in the Christian Reconquista, a turning point that reshaped Spain's destiny. This morning, we explore the heart of Granada with our local guide, along with a visit to the Capilla Real within the elaborate Granada Cathedral complex. A striking Renaissance landmark the Capilla Real holds the tombs of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, the Catholic Monarchs who united Spain and launched its age of global exploration. After your visit, explore Granada's vibrant streets at your own pace, browsing local shops, or relaxing in one of its charming squares, where the city's Moorish heritage is still felt in its architecture, atmosphere, and rhythm. Your time in Granada concludes with lunch overlooking the Alhambra, its towers rising above the city like a silent witness to centuries of history. This iconic fortress palace offers a stunning backdrop as you enjoy lunch, before returning to the ship mid-afternoon. Option 2 - Full day experience: Moorish Granada. More than any former Moorish stronghold, Granada affords visitors an insight into the sophisticated society assembled by the Moors, and the determination of the Christian monarchy to establish their dominance by forcing them out of the Iberian Peninsula. Scattered throughout the city are monuments to the days when each empire ruled the peninsula, the wealth and power they wielded and the expansion of their influence worldwide. Crested by the famed Alhambra, the city revels in the wake of its past. Unable to recreate Allah's physical features due to their religious beliefs, the scholars and craftsmen of the Moorish Empire worked verses and poems of praise from the Qur'an into their art, architecture and gardens, the best examples of which are the wonders that are the Alhambra and the geometric gardens of the Generalife. Without the filigree masonry work of Alhambra, Spain would not be Spain. Exquisite handcrafted wooden calligraphy fills the arches, ceilings and corners of this former palace while intricately patterned ceramic tiles hint at religious fervour. Capped off by clever engineering disguised in the form of water features and fountains, Alhambra is a story unto itself. Even its 15th-century addition represents the conquest and reconquest of La Reconquista, with Charles V, who was considered at the time to be the most powerful man in the world, building his palace directly on top of the original ramparts. Option 3 - Full day experience: The Alpujarra. Strewn with almond trees and whitewashed towns, the Alpujarra is the food basket of Andalusia. Cuisine is high on the list here with speciality pastries and cakes made from recipes dating back to the time of the Moors, and techniques used to cure meat coming straight from early Christian cookbooks. During the early days of the Arab invasion, the Alpujarra was a nucleus of Christian resistance, but it was the Muslim domination of Al-Andalus that allowed the Alpujarra to thrive. When the region fell to the Catholic monarchs, all Muslims were forced to be baptised or emigrate; those who chose the first option were known as Moriscos. Languages were suppressed and customs lost. In recent times, the people of the Alpujarra have supported a resurgence of former traditions. Villages, such as Pampaneira and Trevélez, are returning to their roots. We visit an Andalusian village to gain insight into the region's rich history and contemporary life, followed by lunch at a typical Alpujarra taberna where we enjoy traditional local fare, before returning to the ship.

Day 12  
 Granada and  
 Alpujarra (Port:  
 Motril)

We meet the mainland at the port of Motril affording us access to the city of Granada and the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada; the Alpujarra's. We immerse ourselves in the rural culture, with a chance to spend time with descendants of those who have lived on the land for generations with a farm to plate experience or walk amongst the Moorish empire and Christian monarchical periods greatest architectural achievements at the eclectic city of Granada.

Day 13 Tangier,  
 Morocco (Port:  
 Tangier)

Meeting the African coast at Morocco, we find a city with a few tales to tell. Unique amongst Moroccan cities, Tangier has a chequered past, affording us one of Europe's most egocentric stories. Designated an 'International Zone' in the early 20th century, Tangier harboured no drug laws, no taxes, no banking restrictions, no censorship laws and no morality laws. Attracting a worldly mix of expat residents, it played house to everyone from eccentric British nobility to American authors, Franco's civil war army to Nazi spies, while it awaited its inclusion in the post-war nation of Morocco. Stories of illicit affairs, underworld deals, and espionage abound in this city which remains as colourful as its history suggests. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 - Morning experience: Tangier Kasbah district, Kasbah Museum and American Legation Museum. We begin our journey at Tangier's fabled Kasbah. Largely unchanged since Roman times, the Kasbah was the traditional residence of the Sultan and his harem and is now one of the most fashionable residential areas of Tangier. During a guided stroll we discover the Grand Socco. This café filled plaza serves as the gateway to Tangier's medina and was once the haunt of Paul Bowles, William Burroughs and their Beatnik friends who gathered here to discuss life and literature while mingling among double agents and expats during the notorious time of international rule. Our next stop is at the American Legation. The first American public property outside the United States, the American Legation is now a museum that traces the history of the two countries relationship. As one of the first countries to recognize America's independence, Morocco permitted the new United States government to establish a legation in Tangier in 1821. It is the only historical monument to have remained in American possession since the birth of the American nation. Amongst several displays here is a letter from George Washington to the Sultan - Moulay Abdellah. Option 2 – Morning experience: A Taste of Tangier. This 'foodie' tour of Tangier allows you to dive into the city's culinary journey. Tangier's cuisine reflects a fascinating blend of Moorish and Spanish influences, with each bite telling a story of its past. From the Moorish tradition of intricate spice blends to Spanish touches like rich, savory stews, and delicious colonial French deserts, the food here is a testament to the city's eclectic past. Stroll through the historic M'sallah and the old town district, where narrow alleyways and traditional architecture set the stage. Taste local delights like caliente, stuffed dates, and bissara, each crafted with time-honoured techniques. As you visit bustling markets and interact with artisans, your guide will reveal how these diverse cultural influences have shaped Tangier's unique identity, while we snack like a true local. Option 3 – Full-day experience: The Artisan Enclave of Tétouan with Traditional Lunch. Little more than an hour's drive east of Tangier lies the coastal enclave of Tétouan. This authentic whitewashed town sits at the foot of the Rif Mountains. Once the capital of the Spanish protectorate of Morocco Tétouan blends Arabic and Spanish culture and architecture. Our morning is spent exploring the UNESCO World Heritage listed medina. We walk the meandering lanes of the souk, discover the Jewish and Spanish quarters and visit the Bab Akla School of Traditional Arts and Crafts, where we observe masters instructing apprentices in 10 ancient crafts gifting us an insight into how the Kingdom keeps its ancient traditions alive. Tétouan's numerous artisan schools have produced some of Morocco's best painters over the past half century. They proudly encourage traditional art forms which may otherwise be lost to the modern world. Lunch is taken at a local Riad before we return to the ship.

Day 13 Tangier,  
Morocco (Port:  
Tangier)

Meeting the African coast at Morocco, we find a city with a few tales to tell. Unique amongst Moroccan cities, Tangier has a chequered past, affording us one of Europe's most egocentric stories. Designated an 'International Zone' in the early 20th century, Tangier harboured no drug laws, no taxes, no banking restrictions, no censorship laws and no morality laws. Attracting a worldly mix of expat residents, it played house to everyone from eccentric British nobility to American authors, Franco's civil war army to Nazi spies, while it awaited its inclusion in the post-war nation of Morocco. Stories of illicit affairs, underworld deals, and espionage abound in this city which remains as colourful as its history suggests.

Day 14 Cádiz,  
Spain (Port:  
Cádiz)

The proud city of Cádiz sits at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River. As the gateway to the Mediterranean, it is touted as the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in Europe, with its dominant families claiming ancestry dating back to Roman times, when the city was called Ceret, and the wine produced was Vinum Ceretensis. From Phoenicians to Iberians, Romans to Moors, Cádiz had its fair share of invaders. It is no wonder its skyline is dotted with 120 watchtowers, including the 150-foot-tall Torre Tavira, used for spotting sails as they appeared on the horizon – often the first sign of the return of long-lost explorers. A Spanish naval base even today, it was off the coast of Cádiz at Cape Trafalgar where the British won the battle of the same name over Napoleon's fleet, with the loss of Horatio Nelson. It was from Cádiz where Christopher Columbus set sail to discover the 'new world'. And it was in Cádiz harbour where Sir Francis Drake sacked and burned so many ships that he delayed Spain's attempt at invading England's by at least a year and changed the course of world history. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Jerez – Spain's Sherry Obsession. Head west to the coastal town of Jerez to discover a rich mix of Islamic and Christian monuments surrounding the Alcázar, as we journey through the region's history and learn how each ruling empire left a lasting impression on the city's culture. It is the fortified wine, known worldwide as sherry, which has dictated the fate of Jerez. Introduced by the Phoenicians in 1100 BCE, this popular wine has brought both wealth and strife. Jerez's bodegas and local rural wineries remain the world's largest producers of sherry, which although considered by some as a wine that has seen better days, is as popular in Spain today as it was in centuries past. After a short walk of the historic centre of Jerez, we spend time with a wine expert who will teach us how to differentiate good wine from bad wine, while sampling a few good wines for ourselves. Option 2 - Morning experience: A Taste of Cádiz. The heart of Cádiz is the whitewashed Casco Antiguo, where a maze of narrow streets takes us past plazas, baroque churches and 18th century merchant houses, but it is the old port of Cádiz which brought riches to the town. Known as the Golden Age of Cádiz, goods hailing from all four corners of the world crossed paths here, with the trade coming from the Americas a particular favourite. Modern day Cádiz trades a different kettle of fish – literally. Situated on the Strait of Gibraltar, Cádiz is on the path of the bluefin tuna's seasonal pilgrimage as they pass through the Mediterranean to mate. This locally guided culinary adventure combines history with Andalusia's coastal flavours, offering a delicious insight into Spain's gastronomic story. Option 3 – Full-day experience: Walking the Heart of Seville. Driving 1.5 hours north from Cadiz we find Andalusia's colourful capital of Seville. Our local guide tells a tale of Seville on this extensive walking tour, with stories of history's famed conquerors, stories of the 'New World,' and a clash of cultures as compelling as the buildings we visit. This walking tour of Seville's UNESCO World Heritage sites begins with the Alcázar. Built in the 14th century in Mudejar style, the Alcázar is the oldest royal residence in Europe still in use. Islam and Christianity vied for power here, with Christianity asserting dominance by constructing Europe's third-largest cathedral directly over a 12th-century mosque. The largest Gothic structure in the world, the cathedral houses many notable figures. In 1899, 400 years after his death, the renowned explorer Christopher Columbus was finally laid to rest in Seville Cathedral, where our guide introduces us to this magnificent structure with time to pull up a pew.

Day 14 Cádiz,  
Spain (Port:  
Cádiz)

The proud city of Cádiz sits at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River. As the gateway to the Mediterranean, it is touted as the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in Europe, with its dominant families claiming ancestry dating back to Roman times, when the city was called Ceret, and the wine produced was Vinum Ceretensis. From Phoenicians to Iberians, Romans to Moors, Cádiz had its fair share of invaders. It is no wonder its skyline is dotted with 120 watchtowers, including the 150-foot-tall Torre Tavira, used for spotting sails as they appeared on the horizon – often the first sign of the return of long-lost explorers. A Spanish naval base even today, it was off the coast of Cádiz at Cape Trafalgar where the British won the battle of the same name over Napoleon's fleet, with the loss of Horatio Nelson. It was from Cádiz where Christopher Columbus set sail to discover the 'new world'. And it was in Cádiz harbour where Sir Francis Drake sacked and burned so many ships that he delayed Spain's attempt at invading England's by at least a year and changed the course of world history.

Day 15  
Portimão,  
Portugal (Port:  
Portimão)

Set on the estuary of the Rio Arade, Portimão was a flourishing fishing village until only 30 years ago. Greeks, Phoenicians and Carthaginians all plied their trade but in the 11th century the Moors arrived, and Burj Munt as it became known, never looked back. A gateway to the fortified town of Silves and neighbour to a coast of classic, caved beaches, Portimão fishes for a different catch these days, with its marina home to a flotilla of gently bobbing yachts, and riverfront promenade host to casual cafes and bars. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 - Morning experience: Silves Castle and Portuguese Doce Fino delights. Once the capital of the Algarve's Moorish kingdom, Silves hosts us this morning with a locally guided tour and confectionery focused workshop. We tour the 11th century red sandstone Castelo de Silves, whose square turrets and impenetrable ramparts loom over the town from an immense orange grove. This impressive castle once formed part of the wall that encircled the city and was an important defence as the residence of the Moorish kings of the Al-Garb. Steeped in history, the castle has a 60-meter-deep well and a set of vaulted cisterns that still supplies the town with water. Occupying much of the arable land surrounding the city, the Almond tree has been a regional symbol for centuries. Its fruit is one of the main ingredients in the beloved Portuguese confectionery, marzipan, sculpted into shapes known locally as Doce Fino. This millennial art form plays a significant role in the culinary culture of Portugal. We visit a confectionery studio to explore how everyday life and festive traditions have shaped the evolution of Doce Fino, while observing the delicate artistry of a master confectioner at work and taste some of their treats. \*Note: A display of the art of Doce Fino will be visited instead of a workshop, in accordance with the confectioners' 2026 guidelines. Option 2 - Morning experience: Silves Castle and Portuguese Pottery Workshop. The former Algarve capital of Silves hosts us this morning with a locally guided tour and pottery workshop. Showcasing a unique blend of heritage, culture and imagination, emphasised by will and passion, Portuguese ceramics are famous worldwide. We enjoy time with a local ceramicist, who welcomes us to their studio. They share the art of modelling clay pieces into works of art and demonstrate how to make various pieces by using the potter's wheel and hand-working clay. Returning to town, we tour the 11th-century red sandstone Castelo de Silves, whose square turrets and impenetrable ramparts loom over the town from an immense orange grove. This impressive castle once formed part of the wall that encircled the city and was an important defence as the residence of the Moorish kings of the Al-Garb. Steeped in history, the castle has a 60-metre-deep well and a set of vaulted cisterns that still supplies the town with water. We return to the ship for lunch, with plenty of time this afternoon to self-explore Portimão. Option 3 - Morning experience: The Royal Fruit of the Algarve. More than a fruit, colour, or place name, the orange has long been revered in Europe for its rich cultural heritage. Once treasured by European royalty, oranges were celebrated for their rarity and splendour, even becoming emblems of nobility through the illustrious House of Orange. Over time, this golden fruit came to symbolise vitality, prosperity, and the warmth of the southern sun—qualities that still define the Algarve today. The Algarve's oranges are an iconic testament to its enduring agricultural traditions. On this guided visit to a citrus fruit producer, you'll discover why the citrus fruits of Silves are considered among the best in the world. Explore a rural estate surrounded by nature, where several varieties of oranges and citrus flourish. Stroll through the orchard, learn about the plants and their growth with your local guide and end the journey with a refreshing tasting of natural orange juice; an authentic taste of the Algarve's golden treasure. Option 4 - Full day experience: Caminho dos Promontórios Clifftop Walk with a Winery Picnic Lunch. The municipality of Lagos's coastline is characterised by the jagged and laced appearance of a continuous line of cliffs. Their abrupt nature mesmerises those who watch the ocean from their viewpoint. The Caminho dos Promontórios, or 'Path of the Headlands' Walk follows the coastline for four miles, between Praia do Molhe, near the mouth of the Arade River, and Praia do Paraíso, near the village of Carvoeiro. From the Ponta do Altar headland to the east, a succession of small headlands alternate with recessed beaches and coves resulting from ancient landslides, making this region of the Algarve unique. We follow the clifftop path to learn the geology, lithology and geomorphology, marine ecosystems and coastal vegetation that makes this coastline so scenic. Having worked up a thirst, we drive inland to a traditional Algarve winery. The demarcated region of the Algarve produces red, white, rosé and liqueur wines. The white and red wines are characterised by their ripe, fruity aromas and warm, velvety taste. We enjoy a handcrafted picnic lunch among the vines with a variety of local products to taste, along with wines from the producer, of course.

Day 15  
Portimão,  
Portugal (Port:  
Portimão)

On the estuary of the Rio Arade, Portimão was a flourishing fishing village until only 30 years ago. Greeks, Phoenicians, and Carthaginians all plied their trade, but in the 11th century, the Moors arrived, and Burj Munt, as it became known, never looked back. A gateway to the fortified town of Silves and neighbor to a coast of classic, caved beaches, Portimão now features a marina home to a flotilla of gently bobbing yachts, and a riverfront promenade that hosts casual cafes and bars.

Day 16  
Disembark  
Lisbon (Port:  
Lisbon)

Lisbon sits on the Tagus River, granting it access to the coast that contributed to Portugal becoming one of the world's most successful trading nations. Explorers such as Vasco da Gama, Magellan, and Bartholomeu Dias sailed under Portuguese patronage, discovering new lands and establishing trade routes. The city flourished, with much of the wealth from its colonies invested in grand architecture. On the morning of All Saints Day in 1755, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Lisbon, followed by tsunamis and fires that devastated the city. Over 75% of the population perished. Today, Lisbon reflects this history, with few buildings predating the 18th century. The city was rebuilt with wide boulevards, elegant facades, and parklands, all complemented by opulent baroque interiors and distinctive black-and-white tiled pavements. Lisbon's compact size makes it easy to explore, with hillside suburbs accessible by trams and funiculars, and a vibrant waterfront that continues its historic trading legacy. We disembark Douglas Mawson and join a locally guided tour of Lisbon. The city's story unfolds as we visit the suburb of Belem, with its Jerónimos Monastery, where we hear more of Vasco de Gama's adventures; the waterfront memorial of Monumento dos Descobrimentos, honouring Prince Henry the Navigator and his fellow explorers; and the Torre de Belém – the 16th-century fortification that acted as the gateway to Lisbon for all seafarers. This insightful tour tells tales of exploration, colonisation and devastation, drawn together by the history of a city the influence of which has shaped much of our modern-day world. Near the famed Cais do Sodré train station, sits the beautiful building of the Mercado da Ribeira with its Moorish-style dome. To end our tour, we visit this famous market and its popular 'Time Out' food complex. Lisbon's populace has shopped for fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat here since 1882, with the market's latest innovation including 30 'pop-ups' offering petiscos (Portuguese tapas) and traditional products such as cheeses, cured hams, smoked sausages, fish conserves, wines and more. Our local guide introduces us to a variety of Portuguese specialties, such as pastéis de nata – the Portuguese tart, a national specialty, with a rich egg custard nestled in shatteringly crisp pastry. Take time to explore and enjoy lunch (own expense), before transferring to our hotel mid-afternoon. This evening, we gather to celebrate our journey at a Farewell Event. Accommodation: Atlis Grand Hotel Lisbon (or similar). Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Event canapés.

Day 16  
Disembark  
Lisbon (Port:  
Lisbon)

Lisbon sits on the Tagus River, granting it access to the coast that contributed to Portugal becoming one of the world's most successful trading nations. Explorers such as Vasco da Gama, Magellan, and Bartholomeu Dias sailed under Portuguese patronage, discovering new lands and establishing trade routes. The city flourished, with much of the wealth from its colonies invested in grand architecture. On the morning of All Saints Day in 1755, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Lisbon, followed by tsunamis and fires that devastated the city. Over 75% of the population perished. Today, Lisbon reflects this history, with few buildings predating the 18th century. The city was rebuilt with wide boulevards, elegant facades, and parklands, all complemented by opulent baroque interiors and distinctive black-and-white tiled pavements. Lisbon's compact size makes it easy to explore, with hillside suburbs accessible by trams and funiculars, and a vibrant waterfront that continues its historic trading legacy. We disembark Douglas Mawson and join a locally guided tour of Lisbon. The city's story unfolds as we visit the suburb of Belem, with its Jerónimos Monastery, where we hear more of Vasco de Gama's adventures; the waterfront memorial of Monumento dos Descobrimentos, honouring Prince Henry the Navigator and his fellow explorers; and the Torre de Belém – the 16th-century fortification that acted as the gateway to Lisbon for all seafarers. This insightful tour tells tales of exploration, colonisation and devastation, drawn together by the history of a city the influence of which has shaped much of our modern-day world. Near the famed Cais do Sodré train station, sits the beautiful building of the Mercado da Ribeira with its Moorish-style dome. To end our tour, we visit this famous market and its popular 'Time Out' food complex. Lisbon's populace has shopped for fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat here since 1882, with the market's latest innovation including 30 'pop-ups' offering petiscos (Portuguese tapas) and traditional products such as cheeses, cured hams, smoked sausages, fish conserves, wines and more. Our local guide introduces us to a variety of Portuguese specialties, such as pastéis de nata – the Portuguese tart, a national specialty, with a rich egg custard nestled in shatteringly crisp pastry. Take time to explore and enjoy lunch (own expense), before transferring to our hotel mid-afternoon. This evening, we gather to celebrate our journey at a Farewell Event. Accommodation: Atlis Grand Hotel Lisbon (or similar). Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Event canapés.

Day 17 Depart  
Lisbon

After breakfast, check-out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Meals: Breakfast.

## Im Preis inbegriffen

- Airport arrival and departure transfers to/from our group hotel on the first day and final day of your voyage package
- Two night's hotel accommodation, including breakfast, in Naples on Days 1 and 2
- One night's hotel accommodation, including breakfast, in Lisbon on Day 16
- Onboard accommodation during voyage, including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea, coffee, soft drinks and juices during voyage
- Meals listed as included during shore excursions and land portions of the package
- Beer and house wine with dinner
- Captain's Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- Pre-voyage and post-voyage excursions as listed\*
- 'Your Choice' shore excursions as listed\*
- Enrichment experiences as listed, including Welcome and Farewell Events
- Presentations and guiding services provided by our Voyage Host, Aurora Expeditions Team and local operators
- Gratuities during excursions and enrichment program for local guides, drivers, venues and local sites
- Port surcharges, permits, tender, pilot and landing fees
- Onboard Wi-Fi
- Headsets are available for use during our 'Your Choice' experiences when needed
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation)
- Comprehensive pre-departure information

\*Our 'Your Choice' shore excursions listed in the itinerary are included. One excursion per person per port of call and city stay package is included, unless stated otherwise. Note, the listed experiences are indicative only. These must be reserved through our passenger portal at least 60 days prior to embarkation and cannot be amended after this time. If we do not receive your choices by this time, you will be allocated excursions by our automated system. Due to restrictions imposed by site management and government bodies, we must have your passport details to purchase tickets for the included sites at the time of booking. We will always do our best to provide you with your first preference of shore excursion; however, we may occasionally need to place you on an alternative excursion for operational reasons.

## Nicht im Preis inbegriffen

- International or domestic flights – unless specified in itinerary
- Transfers – unless specified in itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination fees and charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals – unless specified in the itinerary
- All items of a personal nature, including but not limited to, alcoholic beverages (outside of dinner service), on board gratuities#, laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, email or phone charges

*#Note: A US\$15 USD per person per day gratuity for the crew is automatically added to your onboard account. It is at your discretion if you would like to remove the tip (or adjust the amount) when you settle your bill. It is not necessary to tip the Aurora Expeditions Team members. This gratuity amount is included for suites as part of their 'Suite Benefits'.*

## Ihr Schiff

Ihr Schiff ist die "Douglas Mawson". Ausführlich stellen wir Ihnen dieses Schiff auf unseren Schiffseiten vor. [Ausführliche Informationen](#) zu diesem Schiff.

