

September 14 : Civitavecchia - Bonifacio – Calvi – Monaco – Cannes

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.

All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions



BONIFACIO

Isolated on the Southern most point of Corsica, majestic Bonifacio's natural surroundings are nothing less than remarkable. Sheer, white limestone cliffs rise out of the sea, forming a perfect natural harbour as well as a picturesque setting for this unique town. The first historical mention of Bonifacio is actually in Homer's Odyssey: "An excellent harbour, closed in on all sides by an unbroken ring of precipitous cliffs, with two bold headlands facing each other at the mouth so as to leave only a narrow channel in between." Homer's was an accurate description of Bonifacio. In Roman times, Bonifacio was only a small village. It began to develop around 828 AD when Count Bonifacio of Tuscany built a castle on the peninsula. Its strategic location was much coveted by European powers, and like other places in Corsica, it was subject to numerous raids and attacks. The predominant forces were the Genoese who held dominion over the territory from the 12th to the 19th century until Corsica was given back to France.

Until the advent of tourism Bonifacio was just a sleepy town whose main activity was fishing. Nowadays, visitors will discover an exciting destination possessed of both old and new-world charm and breathtaking beauty.

Sartène the oldest Corsican village

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40 per group

Duration 4h30

Euro 64

Discover Sartène, the archetypal Corsican village.

The tour begins with a scenic drive along the rugged west coast highlighting the two distinctive aspects of the island's geography, the coastline with its crystal clear waters and the mountains with their huge granite boulders and dense vegetation.

Before leaving the coast road and penetrating into the hinterland, you will pass the famous "Lion de Roccaspina", the silhouette of a lion carved in red granite rock high up on the mountain overlooking the beach of Roccaspina-Murtoli.

The village of Sartène stands atop a rocky promontory and some of the houses are literally built into the rock face. In the Middle ages it was the scene of vendettas, pirate attacks and fierce battles with the Genoese occupiers and became known as "the most truly Corsican town in Corsica". Visit the Church of St Maria, which houses the hood, chain and cross carried by local penitents during the Good Friday Procession and enjoy some free time before returning to the ship.

Corsican roads are winding, so this tour is not recommended for people suffering from vertigo or car sickness

The tour includes a long panoramic drive with several photo stops



Coastal Boat Trip

Guided tour

Transport : on foot to the marina and then by boat

Duration 1h30 including the walk to and from the ship

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 38

Euro 50

A Specially chartered boat will pick you up at the pier. After climbing aboard, you will set off on your coastal exploration trip, leaving the harbour through a narrow channel between the towering cliffs of Bonifacio. The boat will pass by the « Madonetta » lighthouse, built in 1854, before entering the Sdragnato or « Little Dragon » marine cave. There is a long fissure in the roof of the cave through which you can see the sky, and the outline of this natural skylight is strangely reminiscent of the shape of Corsica. Sunlight filters through the crack and illuminates the underwater rocks creating a magical play of light with a wonderful display of colours ; an awe inspiring moment of natural beauty. The tour continues on to « Fazio Creek » and then, following the cliff in a south easterly direction you will pass by the rock known as the « Rudder of Corsica», as well as the King of Aragon's staircase. According to legend the steps were carved by the Aragonese in a single night in 1420 to facilitate a surprise attack on the inhabitants during the siege of Bonifacio. However they actually predate this event and had a much more mundane function, enabling locals to carry water up to the citadel.

The last highlight of the tour is the « Grain of Sand » rock, a large isolated rock, shaped by erosion, which stands in about 10m of sea. This picturesque site will have you reaching for your camera, as it provides the perfect background for a photo souvenir.

If the sea is too rough the itinerary may be modified for your comfort

The boat is chartered exclusively for Star Clippers' passengers

There is a 15 minute walk to the marina

CALVI

Seen from the water, Calvi is spectacular. Its three immense bastions are topped by a crest of ochre buildings, sharply defined against a hazy backdrop of snow-capped mountains. Below the citadel, a finely drawn strip of red-roofed houses and spidery palm trees delineate the Basse Ville, with its yacht-crammed marina, from where the town beach sweeps in a semicircle around the bay. Legend has it that Calvi is the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. The history of Calvi has always been closely tied to the former Republic of Genoa. The city placed itself under Genovese protection for the first time in 1268. Today, Calvi is an appealing yachting haven. Its pine forests, clear blue seawater, mountains, citadel and charming town make for a vibrant composition of natural colors and a first-class seaside resort.



Sant' Antonino & Pigna authentic Corsican villages

By air conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 44 per group

Duration: 3 hours

Euro 64

This excursion is the perfect way to enjoy one of Corsica's main attractions: its ruggedly beautiful scenery; winding roads will take you from one picturesque village to another.

The ancient circular village of Sant'Antonino, perched on a craggy rock overlooking the sea, is one of the oldest inhabited villages in Corsica and one of the highest. It is visible from miles around and offers superb 360° panoramic views. In the 9th century it was ruled by the Counts of Savelli who built the now-ruined castle in order to defend their clan. The narrow cobbled lanes, vaulted alleyways and neat stone houses have survived the passage of time and have changed very little over the past three hundred years. Sant' Antonino features in the list of "the most beautiful villages of France" and is highly prized by visitors for its spectacular views.

After a short visit of Sant' Antonino you will be driven to the hill top village of Pigna.

This delightful village in the heart of the Balagne region is built on a rocky promontory 224 m above sea level, situated at the foot of a mountain some 562m high. It is a veritable feast for the eyes with flower decked streets and an attractive village square. Pigna is dedicated to the pursuit of arts and crafts and a community of artists has settled there. It is the ideal place to buy some authentic Corsican souvenirs, made on site and sometimes before your very eyes.

You will spend some time in the village and then the coach will take you back to Calvi via the charming old villages of Corbara and Aregno.

Due to restricted access the coach will park below Sant'Antonino. The walk to the village is uphill over uneven and rough ground. Good shoes are a must.

Corsican roads are winding, so this is not the ideal tour for guests suffering from vertigo or car sickness

During the summer months heavy traffic can be expected, which may cause delays

This tour involves a lot of driving. You will spend approximately 30 minutes in each village

E bike experience

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 12

Duration 3 hours

Euro 126

The bike tour starts directly from the port and proceeds along mostly tarmac roads for about 4km before going off the beaten track. The ride covers various different types of terrain including uphill stretches, downhill slopes and flat land. During the excursion there will be a photo opportunity and also a swim stop (weather and sea conditions permitting). Don't miss out on a relaxing dip in the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean or, if you prefer, just sit back and enjoy the sea breezes.

The pace of the tour depends on participants; it is not meant to be a competition but an enjoyable outing for everybody



Revellata – a Hike to the ends of the earth

Nature walk

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 12

Duration 3H30

Euro 44

The tour starts directly from the port and your destination is the lighthouse situated on the Punta de la Revellata. This 3 hour hike through breath-taking scenery is not to be missed. During the walk you will enjoy glorious views and see various cacti and endemic Mediterranean species of flora, some brightly coloured and strangely shaped. The Revellata peninsula is like being on the edge of the world. Access is via a coastal path and there are many beautiful creeks and secluded beaches along the way, perfect for cooling off with a dip in the pristine waters of the Mediterranean. The lighthouse itself is constantly visible, guiding your footsteps, and when you reach it you will be rewarded by marvellous views of the Mediterranean and the surrounding mountains. The return trip to Calvi is via a cliff top path over the peninsula

The walk is 15km long

Possible swimming stop on the way

MONACO

The Principality of Monaco, tucked between the French and Italian borders, covers just 1.1 square miles. This independent sovereign state is headed by Prince Albert II who is descended from the Grimaldi dynasty which has ruled Monaco since 1297. The principality is synonymous with the High Life: glamorous celebrities, Formula One racing and Casinos. Monte Carlo is the most famous area, but in reality Monaco is divided into four sections: Monaco Ville, the old section of town which includes the Prince's palace, the Condamine, which is the port area and Fontvieille, a man-made water front district.

Monaco has some of the finest examples of Belle Epoque building, an architectural style which began during the rule of the Emperor Napoleon III.

Beautiful natural surroundings, sunny climate, a yacht filled harbour, casino, designer boutiques, prestigious events and gala parties, Monaco can truly be said to have it all.

A heady atmosphere of glamour and excitement permeates the Principality, captivating all who visit this storybook land of princes and princesses.



A Monaco Fairytale

By air-conditioned minibus and on foot
Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35 per group
Duration 5 hours
Euro 60

This special tour will start with a short drive to the old town of Monaco, perched on the Rock. You will walk through the gorgeous St Martin's gardens to reach the cathedral where the "Wedding of the Century" between Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly was held on April 19th 1956.

Among the 600 guests at the ceremony were numerous heads of state and diplomats but also high profile celebrities such as Cary Grant, the Aga Khan, David Niven, Gloria Swanson, Aristotle Onassis and Ava Gardner to name but a few. The bride's wedding gown was made under top secret conditions by MGM's fashion designer Helen Rose who also made the costumes for Miss Kelly's films "High Society" and the "Swan". The dress, made of silk and 125 year old Brussels rose point lace, was a present to the bride from the MGM studios. At the time of her marriage Grace Kelly was tied to her contract with MGM for another seven years; in order to be free of her contractual obligations, she had to agree for the wedding to be filmed by the studio. The wedding dress is owned today by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In the cathedral you will also see the tombstone of Princess Grace and that of Prince Rainier III.

On the day before the wedding a civil ceremony was held in the Throne Room of the Palais Princier. During the visit of the residence of HSH Prince Albert II, Grace and Rainier's son, you will see some portraits of Princess Grace.

You will then get back on the coach for a short drive to the district of Fontvieille to visit the Princess Grace Rose Garden (best in May/June) where you will see a life size bronze statue of the Princess by Dutch sculptor Kees Verkade, a Monaco resident, as well as hundreds of varieties of rose including the famous "Princesse de Monaco" rose.

The Prince's Palace apartments are open from April through October

This tour involves a lot of walking

Appropriate dress is required for the visit to the cathedral and the Prince's palace.

Walking tour & local specialities

On foot
Minimum 15 participants, maximum 25 per group
Duration 3h30
Euro 39

Accompanied by your guide, you will leave the pier and cross Port Hercule Harbour on board an E-boat. The walking tour starts with the Monte Carlo quarter, including the famous casino, opera and pedestrian area. After a short walk you will reach "Place d'Armes" the site of an open air fruit, vegetable and flower market and a covered market selling many local specialities. "Go Native" and, just like the Monaco residents, feast your eyes and palates on this wonderful array of fresh produce.

Afterwards your guide will take you back to the vessel, or you may choose to stay and explore the city by yourself.

The sampling of local specialities includes: Barbagiuau (a local appetiser which is enjoyed all year round, and especially on November 19th, Monaco's national day), red onion tart, focaccia (flat bread seasoned with olive oil and herbs) fruit pie and a glass of Provençal rosé wine.



Strictly for high flyers !

Panoramic Helicopter tour of Monaco & the French Riviera

Transfer by van to Monaco Heliport

Panoramic flight lasts 20 minutes

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 6 per helicopter

Euro TBC

The Helicopter rises vertically into the air above the Heliport and begins a spectacular 20 minute flight revealing the beauties of the Monaco coast flying towards the Italian border. You will get spectacular views of The Rock (Monaco Old Town) , the Prince's palace, the cathedral where Prince Rainier and Princess Grace were married and where their son Prince Albert wed Princess Charlene many years later, and the famous Oceanographic Museum founded by Prince Albert's great great grandfather. You will then hover over Monaco Port with its amazing cruise ships, site of the legendary Monte Carlo Grand prix Formula one race. Next you will see the beautiful Belle Epoque casino where so many fortunes have been lost and won, the Larvotto beaches, the famous tennis courts which host the Monte Carlo Rolex Masters tournament and some of the Principality's most sumptuous hotels. Monaco boasts a unique architectural tradition and showcases both majestic Belle Epoque buildings and cutting edge modern designs.

The flight continues to Cap Martin and Roquebrune village. As the helicopter reaches Menton and the Italian border it will change altitude and start heading back , flying over Saint Agnes, The highest village on the Mediterranean coast, Gorbio and La Turbie with its famous "Trophée des Alpes" or Trophy of Augustus which was erected by the Emperor Augustus to celebrate his conquest of Gaulle and his victory over the Ligurians more than 2000 years ago. You will also get a bird's eye view of the medieval village of Eze perched on a cliff top, Villefranche and Cap Ferrat before returning to Monaco.

You need to bring ID with you (passport) on this trip

The helicopter is a H130 model

There is a ten minute transfer to the Heliport

The itinerary may be altered to suit meteorological conditions

CANNES

The name Cannes calls to mind images from "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." The city is known the world over as one of the most elite resorts anywhere. Its beginnings, however, were anything but grand. Originally, Cannes was a sleepy fishing and farming village. This changed considerably when Lord Henry Brougham was forced to stay in the village. He was to remain only a few days, but ended up residing there for the last 34 years of his life. His correspondence with British colleagues eventually drew the English aristocracy to Cannes. Shortly thereafter, Cannes became the premiere domain of Europe's high society. In little over a century the quiet village became a chic and elegant town world-renowned for the art of entertaining well.



Scenic transfer to Nice airport (ends at Nice airport)

Transport by air conditioned minibus
 Minimum 4 participants, maximum 8 per minibus
 Duration approximately 3h30
 Euro 75

Unaccompanied transfer with an English speaking driver

You will drive straight on to St Paul de Vence, a few kilometres past Cannes. This authentic medieval fortified village was built on a hill top so as to avoid Saracen attacks. In the 1920's it was discovered by artists such as Bonnard, Modigliani, Signac and Soutine, and since that time it has attracted a good number of the rich and famous literati and glitterati.

You will have approximately one hour at leisure to go round the village before driving to the airport. Stroll down Rue Grande, the main street which runs right through the village and explore the XVI^e century ramparts which afford spectacular views over mimosa, olive and orange groves.

your luggage will go with you in the minibus

« Follow your nose » Tour (ends at Nice airport)

Visit Grasse the world's perfume capital
 Transport by air-conditioned minibus
 Unaccompanied visit of a perfume factory
 Minimum 4 participants, maximum 8 per minibus
 Euro 84

Transfer with an English speaking driver – no guide.

Ever since the 17th century Grasse has been enveloped in a heady cloud of perfume; today the town is the universally acknowledged perfume capital of the world.

After a 45 minute drive you will arrive in Grasse where you can visit the prestigious Gallimard factory and be initiated into the art of traditional perfume making. Follow each step from the assembling of raw materials to the final precious elixir, piercing the mysteries of distillation and enfleurage on the way. You will visit the laboratory and the conditioning room where you will learn about the origin of perfume. You will also discover the "seat of power", the work place of the indispensable "Nose". This olfactory genius is a Maestro who plays his perfume organ with incredible virtuosity, composing fragrances of unsurpassed subtlety and charm. Some "insider" secrets will be revealed before its time to visit the gift shop to do some last minute shopping before flying back home. (not a guided visit)

If you don't feel like visiting the factory you can set off on your own to discover this fascinating town. The Place aux Aires at the heart of Grasse is a good starting point. This charming square with its ochre façades, arcades and four tiered fountain dating from Louis XV's time is always bustling with activity, and boasts many interesting shops, outdoor cafés and restaurants. The Old town is a maze of narrow winding streets, alleys and stairways with buildings from the Middle ages and the Renaissance. Discover the traces of the city's past as you admire a square Saracen tower, the remains of the 16th century ramparts, and the town hall, formerly the bishop's palace. You will see medieval dwellings and superb private mansions (the Hôtel de Cabris, the Hôtel de Ponteves and the Court de Fontmichel) as well as elegant 18th century villas; not forgetting the wonderful Belle Epoque casino, which is now a conference centre.

The drive to Grasse takes 45 minutes
 The drive to the airport takes 45 minutes
 Time at leisure in Grasse approx. 1h30

