

## ROYAL CLIPPER

## 7-NIGHTS WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN:

May 12, 2018

Cannes – Monaco – Lerici – Portoferraio –  
Palombiagga – Bonifacio – Porticcio – Ajaccio –  
Cannes

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace.

Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

Some excursions are only available on certain dates and/or are dependent on the ship's arrival and departure times. Fitness requirements vary according to the chosen activity, hiking, snorkelling and boating require an average to good level of fitness.

## 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.

No tours are offered during the Monaco Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Historique.



## LERICI

**Wonderful Pisa****By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot****Minimum 20 participants, no maximum****Duration: 4h30****Euros 65**

The beautiful buildings to be found in Pisa bear witness to the fact that it was once a wealthy and powerful maritime trading republic, on a par with its historical rival Genoa. Nowadays it attracts tourists from all over the world, keen to see for themselves the famous leaning tower and the other fine buildings in the Piazza dei Miracoli which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

The oldest building in the square is the impressive Duomo or cathedral dedicated to St Mary of the Assumption, followed by the baptistery then the bell tower, the famous leaning tower of Pisa, and the Campo Santo cemetery. Although the buildings were not constructed at the same time they share the same architectural style, materials and decoration as well as a tendency towards circular designs, which gives the square a pleasing sense of visual unity.

The construction of the cathedral started in 1063 to commemorate the Pisan victory against the Saracens in Sicily the same year. The granite Corinthian columns set between the nave and the aisle originally came from the Mosque of Palermo captured during the battle. The interior also includes superb 13th century mosaics by Cimabue.

The leaning tower was built as a bell tower for the cathedral; construction started in 1174 and took 199 years to complete. For five years after the initial period of construction the tower was straight, and it was only after the addition of the third floor that the tower began to lean.

The reason for this is that the alluvium sub soil is not resistant enough to withstand the weight of the tower. Once it was realised that there was a problem with the tower, construction was halted for 100 years in the hope that the soil would settle. A new architect, Giovanni di Simone, resumed work on the tower adding four additional floors, but despite his best efforts he was unable to remedy the problem.

The leaning tower is cylindrical in form and comprises six open galleries which appear to spiral upwards due to the inclination. The lower part of the tower is decorated with lozenges in the true Pisan style. There are 294 steps leading to the top terrace where all efforts will be rewarded by some spectacular views. (not included in the tour)

After the guided visit you will have some leisure time to explore, before boarding the coach for the drive back to Lerici.

- The guide will be waiting to meet you in Pisa.
- The excursion fee includes admission to the cathedral and baptistery.
- If there are religious celebrations going on in either the cathedral or the baptistery, explanations will be given outside the building.
- The drive to Pisa takes 1h15.
- There will be time at leisure after the guided tour.
- The Piazza is 15 minutes walking distance from the car park.



### Lucca

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4h30

Euros 60

Your guide will be waiting to greet you on the pier before you set off for the 1h15 drive to Lucca. This wonderful city has emerged into the 21st century virtually unscathed with a city centre which has remained intact, as if immune to the ravages of time.

Lucca was founded by the Romans in 180 BC. The Roman-Medieval urban structure is clearly visible in the two main thoroughfares that cross the town and massive Renaissance era city walls enclose and protect it, hiding this jewel of a city from the chaos of the modern world.

During our walking tour of the city we will admire the exterior of San Michele in Foro church with its Pisan Romanesque façade and 4m statue of the Archangel Michael. The church was built on the site of the ancient roman forum and is first mentioned in the records in 795 AD.

We will also see the outside of the Guinigi Tower. The tower was built in the 13th century by a prominent merchant family, the Guinigi; at the time, towers like this were built as status symbols like a swimming pool or a home cinema today. The tower boasts a roof top garden, which was originally a kitchen garden as the kitchen was on the floor below it. Of course the tour would not be complete without a stop at Piazza Anfiteatro or Amphitheatre square, built on the site of the old Roman amphitheatre. The original Roman edifice existed in this location since the second century and the square you now see developed from the Middle Ages onwards. The square has retained the elliptical shape of the old amphitheatre, and like its predecessor is the real heart of the city centre, buzzing with life and activity.

Before returning to Lerici, you will have some time at leisure to discover the city on your own.

- The excursion to Lucca is a walking tour.
- The walk from the car park to the city centre takes 10 minutes.

- We recommend casual clothes and comfortable shoes.
- The city tour does not include any inside visits.
- If you wish to enter a church on your own, note that the entrance requires specific attire guide lines: ladies must cover knees and shoulders, while gentlemen's attire must include pants/slacks or jeans only (no shorts). For all churches there is an entrance fees of approx 3€ per person.



**E Bike Tour**

By electric bike

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 25

Medium level activity

Duration: 3 hours

Euros 79

The tour lasts about three hours and you will be accompanied by a licensed bike guide. Setting off from Lerici, you will leave the village behind you and start the trek towards Monte Marcello, enjoying stunning views of the Gulf of la Spezia, the islands of Palmaria : Tino and Tinetto and the fabulous Cinque terre villages scattered along the sheer rocky coastline. On a clear day you can even see the island of Corsica.

The price includes electric bike rental (to make the hills a pleasure rather than a penance), helmets, licensed guide, bike transport to Lerici, water and a snack.

**PORTOFERRAIO, ELBA**

Island Tour and Mount Capanne

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 80

Duration: 4h30

Euros 60

The scenic drive starting from Portoferraio will take you to the island highlands on the west side. The drive cuts through the centre of the island before continuing along the coast to the up market resort town of Marciana Marina. The coach will then drive into the hills to reach the cable car station in Marciana Alta. During the drive your guide will tell you a bit about the island culture and natural environment as you sit back and enjoy the beautiful views of the surrounding hill top villages and coastline.

The cable car station has rest room facilities. Upon arrival, your guide will give you a safety briefing and explain how to get in and out of the cable basket safely. The baskets, which leave every 20 seconds for the 20 minute climb up to the top of Mount Capanne (1.019m), accommodate two passengers each. The views during the cable car ride are quite spectacular, so make sure you have your camera handy. From the top of the mountain you can enjoy breathtaking views of all the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago and relax on the panoramic terrace.

After some leisure time (approximately 30 minutes) your guide will lead you back to the coach and the tour continues to Marciana Mariana. Here you will have some time to stroll along the water front and browse around the picturesque village shops. Look out for Elba's specialities : wonderful perfume, truly the scent of the Mediterranean captured in a bottle, and delicious local wines.

There will be a short wine tasting in a typical Cantina to allow you to sample some of the islands' wine before you return to the ship. As you take a last lingering look at Mount Capanne on the drive back, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have actually scaled its dizzy heights.



- You will take a cable car to the top of Mount Capanne.
- There will be good shopping opportunities in Marciana Marina.
- We recommend good walking shoes and a sun hat on this excursion.
- The tour is not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties, heart problems or vertigo.

### “Napoleon’s Tour”

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration: 4 hours

Euros 66

The tour begins with a panoramic drive through the hinterland to Napoleon’s summer residence. The Villa San Martino is located in a pleasant valley planted with vineyards, a setting of lush vegetation, far from the bustle and heat of Portoferraio.

The Emperor converted a small country house into a fine private villa. The Neo-Classical building at the entrance of the property is the Demidoff Gallery, built in 1851 by Count Anatolio Demidoff. Demidoff was a fervent admirer of the Emperor, and his wife, Princess Mathilda, was Napoleon’s niece. The building was used to house Demidoff’s collection of Napoleonic Memorabilia.

The villa San Martino is situated on a terrace above the Demidoff gallery and consists of eight rooms. Three rooms were occupied by Napoleon himself, three others were for his officers and the remaining two: the “2 colombes” council chamber and the Egyptian room were used for meetings and receptions.

On the way back there will be a stop at Porto Azzurro where you will have some time to stroll along the streets of this charming town, dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress. The town also boasts a picturesque fishing harbour and numerous shops selling crystals and minerals.

There will also be a stop at “La Chiusa” an old country wine estate, nestling in a vineyard overlooking the ocean. The estate dates from the 1700’s, and includes a country house, wine cellar and miniature chapel. The owner’s house with the exterior double staircase was built later during the 1800s. “La Chiusa” hosted Napoleon Bonaparte on two separate occasions: once on May 3rd 1814 on his arrival in Elba, while waiting to be officially welcomed to Portoferraio, and another time during a hunting party on Mount Fabbrello.



Here you will get the opportunity to sample some local specialities and a selection of three different wines.

- On Mondays the Villa San Martino is closed, so you will visit the Villa dei Mulini in Portoferraio.
- On Tuesdays the villa dei Mulini is closed, so you will visit the Villa San Martino.
- This tour is not operated on Sundays afternoon.
- Whenever the museums host an exhibition an extra fee will be added to the tour cost.

## PALOMBIAGGIA

To the south of Porto Vecchio lies the Palombaggia peninsula which offers the visitor no less than six incredible beaches. Umbrella pines provide shade and frame long stretches of white sandy beaches and glistening blue water, punctuated with jagged rock formations of pink granite shaped by the elements. The beaches have a grandstand view of the Archipelago of Cerbicale, uninhabited rocky islets which are now a nature reserve providing sanctuary to Crested Cormorants and other protected species who come to nest there. The combination of sand dunes, pine trees and red rocks is quite amazing, and it is no wonder that Palombaggia is considered by many to one of the finest beaches in Europe.



## BONIFACIO

## Sartène The Oldest Corsican Village

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration: 4h30

Euros 59

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 Roc-caspina", 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 to the Cliffs

On foot to reach the marina and thereafter by boat

Guided excursion

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration: 1h30 (including the walk to/from the ship)

Euros 44

At the marina a specially chartered boat awaits Star Clippers guests. Once on board you will leave the harbour by a narrow chanel bordered by the high cliffs that shelter the old town. The boat will pass by the Madonetta lighthouse situated on top of a triangular block of sandstone, before entering Sdragonato's marine cave. The vault of the cave is open to the sky via a long fissure in the rock, the outline of which is reminiscent of the shape of Corsica. The sunlight filters in through the opening and illuminates the underwater rocks with a multitude of colours. This vision of awe inspiring natural beauty will stay with you long after you leave.

The tour continues to "Fazio Creek" and then follows the south east cliff, passing sea grottoes and skirting the rock known as "The rudder of Corsica". You will pass by the "King of Aragon's steps", a stony staircase carved into the vertical side of a limestone cliff. Legend has it that the staircase was carved in a single night by the troops of the King of Aragon, Alfonso V, during the unsuccessful siege of Bonifacio in 1420. Afterwards you will pass by a huge chalky rock known as the "Grain of Sand", which makes the ideal background for a stunning photo.

- In case of rough sea, the trip will be modified for optimal comfort.
- The boat is chartered exclusively for Star Clippers guests.
- There is a 15 minute walk to the marina.



## PORTICCIO

Situated on the south bank of the Gulf of Ajaccio , directly opposite the Imperial City, Porticcio is a seaside resort much prized for its sandy beaches, turquoise blue sea and panoramic views of Napoleon's city. After some rest and relaxation on the beach, you will get the opportunity to find out a bit about Porticcio's cultural heritage and the Genoese fortified towers scattered over the coastline. The Capello tower stands guard proudly over the northern entrance to Porticcio at the mouth of the Gravona river. It is one of the first such towers to be built in the 16th century. In 1793 the tower sheltered Napoleon's family when (still a simple citizen) he was forced by Pasquale Paoli and his followers to flee Corsica and start a new life in Toulon.

## AJACCIO

### The Sanguinaires Islands

By hybrid boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 80

Duration: 2h30

Euros 38

This is not a guided excursion; you will be given a route map in English before you embark.

The Sanguinaires islands, despite their blood thirsty name are in fact remarkably peaceful, being a safe haven for a large variety of sea birds and other wild life with many species of plant not found on the Corsican mainland.

The name sanguinaires or "bloody" refers to the blood red volcanic rock, particularly spectacular at sunset and perhaps the Frankenia plant a sort of maritime heather whose leaves turn a fiery red in autumn.

The Archipelago consists of four rocky islets at the entry to the Gulf of Ajaccio. The site is now a designated nature reserve, the flora and fauna are particularly varied and there are many endemic species. You may spot Yellow legged gulls, Sardinian warblers, Crested cormorants, Peregrine falcons, and Kites. Plant species include Mastic shrubs, Oleaster and Dead Horse arum lilies.

Setting out from Ajaccio your hybrid boat will take you on a sea trip around the Sanguinaires Islands lasting 2h30. First stop will be at Mezzu Mare, the largest island of the Archipelago. Here you will disembark and be able to explore the island or go swimming for about an hour. Follow the foot paths and discover the island at your leisure, including the lighthouse situated at the highest point of the island. In 1863 the author Alphonse Daudet occupied the lighthouse and it is mentioned in his work "Lettres de mon Moulin".

After this stop you will board your hybrid boat for a relaxed and tranquil tour of the Sanguinaires islands; from this point on the boat will only use elec-





tric power so that you can discover this wonderful nature reserve in an ecological manner.

- The hybrid boat is one of the first of its kind ever built and is equipped with individual seating, bay windows and a panoramic roof so you can really make the most of this beautiful site.
- There are rest room facilities on board.
- When the hybrid boat is closest to the islands, electric power only will be used so as to protect the environment.
- Access to the beach is via the rocks, so take care and wear appropriate shoes, the boat does not have a changing room.
- The islet is uninhabited and has no tourist infrastructure.
- Make sure you bring a bottle of water (none is available locally), hat, sun cream, wet shoes and a towel.
- You can bring along the Star Clippers snorkeling equipment you were issued on board.
- We recommend rubber soled shoes (tennis shoes) for climbing up to the lighthouse.

### Catamaran Sailing Tour

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 25

Duration: 3 hours

Euros 99

Get ready for an unforgettable experience on our not-to-be missed Corsican adventure tour.

Your English speaking guide will be waiting at the pier to greet you and take you to the Catamaran which is berthed at the port, a short walk away.

The Captain and crew will make you very welcome and if you wish you can participate in the sailing, tying the ropes and hoisting the sails.

Weigh anchor and set off on your adventure sailing along the stunning coastline of the aptly named "Ile de Beauté" (the Beauteous Isle). You will pass through the Gulf of Ajaccio and anchor off some wonderful beaches, whose crystal clear waters are perfect for snorkelling and scuba diving.

The Gulf of Ajaccio is considered to be one of the loveliest areas in Corsica. It is wide and deep with numerous sandy beaches, especially in the southern part of the bay.

Facing the bay there is a small cluster of islands known as the "Iles Sanguinaires" or Bloody islands. Some say that they got their name because in the past many ships sank there, and their crews were dashed to pieces against the sharp rocks. Alternatively the name may simply refer to the gorgeous blood red colour of the islands at sunset.

Snorkelling equipment will be available for guests.

- There is a five minute walk to the catamaran.



## CANNES

## Scenic Transfer to Nice Airport

(Ends at Nice Airport)

Transport by air conditioned minibus

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 8 per minibus

Duration: approximately 3h30

Euros 74

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<sup>o</sup> century ramparts which afford spectacular views over mimosas, 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

Duration: approximately 3h30

Euros 82

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 workplace 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



