

## ROYAL CLIPPER

## 7-NIGHTS WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN:

September 29, 2018

Cannes – Lerici – Portoferraio – Palombiaggia –  
Alghero – Saint Tropez – 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.

## 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 Guinigis; 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.

## ALGHERO, SARDINIA

### Alghero Capo Caccia Scenic Drive & Tasting of Local Produce

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration: 3 hours

Euros 62

The tender will leave you right in the historical centre of Alghero, where your guide will be waiting to greet you and accompany you on the scenic drive to Capo Caccia.

During the trip you will learn about the “Nuraghe”, megalithic edifices which are to be found all over the island. There are over 1000 of these constructions and they are as synonymous with Sardinia as the Great Pyramids are with Egypt.

Palmavera was built during the second millennium BC and consists mainly of two towers. Around the Nuraghe there was a small village which is still being excavated and examined by archaeologists. The coach will not stop at the nuraghe, but the guide will provide some general information about the site.

Capo Caccia is the most extreme point of the limestone promontory facing Alghero and its bay in the east, and Spain in the west. In the beginning of the 20th century the area was famous for pigeon hunting hence the name Capo Caccia (caccia means hunting in Italian). Nowadays however it is a nature reserve, home to various protected species. There will be a photo opportunity at a panoramic viewpoint before driving to a country estate, Leda' d'Ittiri, where you will enjoy a wine tasting accompanied by local cheese, bread, bruschetta and olive oil. The estate consists of 19 hectares of olive orchards and vineyards, cultivated with love and attention. The care lavished on the land by the owners is clearly reflected in the quality of the wine and olive oil they produce. The estate is situated at the foot of Monte Doglia whose peak can be seen from the promontory of Capo Caccia. After the wine tasting you can either go back to the ship or enjoy some free time exploring Alghero.



**Nuraghe Palmavera****By air-conditioned motor coach****Minimum 20 participants, no maximum****Duration 3h30****50**

Sardinia, with its 1800 km coastline, is known the world over as a fantastic holiday destination for water sports enthusiasts and sun seekers alike, offering vistas of unspoilt natural beauty as well as an advantageous geographical position. However Sardinia also boasts a rich and varied history in which the town of Alghero featured prominently. The Aragonesi landed on the coast of Alghero in 1353 and wrested the fortified town from the hands of the Dorian family from Genoa. The Catalan influence is still very strong in the town and can be found in its streets, shops, life style, cuisine and traditions. Even the local dialect is a variant of the Catalan language.

Your guide will be waiting to greet you at the pier and accompany you on the coach for the trip from the Gulf of Alghero to the Gulf of Porto Conte to visit the “Nuraghe Palmavera”. Traces of human habitation in Sardinia date back to 4000 BC, and the Nuraghe of Palmavera were constructed by the Nuraghic people, a patriarchal warrior society that appeared in the area from 1500 BC. The Nuraghe consist of circular stone towers and dwellings surrounded by exterior fortifications and an ancient village, which is still being excavated.

After the visit you will proceed to Capo Caccia for a wonderful photo opportunity and then it's back to Alghero for a short panoramic bus and walking tour.

- The drive to the Nuraghe takes 30 minutes, and you will spend 45 minutes on site.

**SAINT TROPEZ****Fruit of the Vine Tour****Walking tour****Minimum 10 participants, maximum 14****Duration: approximately 2h30****Euros 69**

St Tropez and the French Riviera immediately conjure up images of glamorous starlets, yachts and fashionable hot spots, but there is much more to it than that, as our wine expert guide will show you.

St Tropez was, and still is if you know where to look, an authentic Provençal village with a rich cultural heritage. Eva our knowledgeable wine expert is a member of many prestigious Wine Brotherhoods: “Les Compagnons du Beaujolais”, “les Chevaliers Rabelaisiens” and “les Chevaliers de la Méduse” , so she is ideally suited to leading you on a voyage of discovery under the auspices of Bacchus, as well as showing you the architectural treasures of St Tropez. The wine tasting will take place in a local wine bar where you will learn about the history, grape varieties and production of local wines and the determining influence of the Mediterranean Sea. You will also have the pleasure of putting theoretical knowledge into practice with a comprehensive tasting of red, white and rosé wines accompanied by cheese and snacks.

- This tour will not be available during the Voiles de Saint Tropez event.



## 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 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





