

HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



SICILY BY SAIL: PALERMO TO VALLETTA ABOARD *SEA CLOUD II* SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 2, 2021

DETAILED ITINERARY

Some of the world's most extraordinary Greek temples grace the rugged landscape of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean. Discover these pearls of antiquity as you circumnavigate the island aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud II*. Embark this three-masted sailing yacht in Palermo, where a highlight will be the mesmerizing Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Norman Kings. One after the other, marvels follow, from the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento to the well-preserved vestiges of one of the world's most important cities of antiquity, Syracuse.

Throughout your journey, Sicily will reveal her rich and unique culture as you walk in storied cities that were once centers of the Greco-Roman, Carthaginian, and Byzantine worlds, and are received in the dazzling private palazzi of local nobility. Disembark in Valletta, Malta, where an optional postlude is offered.

SHIP SIZE: Up to 94 guests

PRICING: Starting from \$8,999 per person single occupancy / \$10,999 single occupancy

STUDY LEADERS: **Harvey V. Fineberg MD, PhD** is Professor Emeritus of Health Policy and Management at Harvard. He is the president of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in Palo Alto and serves as a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the China Medical Board.

Fineberg has devoted most of his academic career to the fields of health care, public health, and decision-making at the individual and policy levels. He served as president of the National Academy of Medicine for twelve years, concluding in June 2014, and was dean of the Harvard Chan School of Public Health from 1984 to 1997 and provost of Harvard University from 1997 to 2001.

& Mary Elizabeth Wilson MD is Adjunct Professor of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of California, San Francisco. Her academic interests include the ecology of infections and emergence of microbial threats, travel medicine, vaccines, and antibiotic resistance. She has served on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the CDC, the Academic Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico, and the Advisory Board for Fogarty International Center at NIH.

Wilson worked in the Haiti at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital during her infectious diseases fellowship at Harvard. She helped to develop the Harvard-Brazil collaborative course held in Brazil and has lectured in multiple countries in Latin America, Asia, and Europe. Her most recent book, *Antibiotics: What everyone needs to know*, was published in June 2019 by Oxford University Press.

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SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPT 24

DEPART FOR SICILY

Depart on an overnight flight to Palermo, Sicily.

SATURDAY, SEPT 25

ARRIVE PALERMO, SICILY / EMBARK

Arrive this morning in Palermo and gather for lunch.

This afternoon, embark the elegant *Sea Cloud II*.

Overnight: *Sea Cloud II (L, D)*

SUNDAY, SEPT 26

PALERMO / TRAPANI

Step ashore this morning for a visit to the dazzling 12th-century Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Norman Kings, described by Guy de Maupassant as “the most surprising religious jewel every dreamt of.” Afterwards, stop at Palazzo Abatellis to admire Antonello de Messina’s outstanding *Virgin Annunciate*.

Enjoy a reception at a private *palazzo* before continuing to Segesta. Explore its splendid Doric temple, strangely unfinished, whose columns are said to produce organ-like tones on windy days.

Rejoin the *Sea Cloud II* this evening in Trapani and attend the captain’s welcome dinner.

Overnight: *Sea Cloud II (B, R, D)*

MONDAY, SEPT 27

PORTO EMPEDOCLE

Today, step ashore at Porto Empedocle for a drive to Agrigento, which Pindar called “the most beautiful city built by mortal men.”

Tour the Valley of the Temples and marvel at the Temple of Concord, perhaps the best-preserved Greek temple in the world.

Overnight: *Sea Cloud II (B, L, D)*

TUESDAY, SEPT 28

POZZALLO / NOTO

This morning, arrive in Pozzallo and drive to the exquisitely preserved town of Noto. This Baroque jewel is situated on a plateau surrounded by olive and almond groves.

In the beautiful historic center, see Corso Vittorio Emanuele, an elegantly manicured walkway flanked by buildings of golden sandstone, where every façade is embellished with sculptures of gods, mythical beasts, saints, and angels.

Spend the afternoon at sea sailing to Syracuse.

Overnight: *Sea Cloud II (B, L, D)*

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 29

SYRACUSE

Today, explore Syracuse, one of the most important cities in antiquity, touted by Cicero as “the greatest Greek city.” Discover the well-preserved Greek and Roman theaters of the Archaeological Zone.

On beautiful Ortygia Island, see the cathedral built on the ruins of the Temple of Athena, and in the church of Santa Lucia alla Badia, see Caravaggio’s *Burial of Saint Lucy*.

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By special invitation, visit the Baroque *palazzo* of a Sicilian baron, who will welcome the group for a tour followed by cocktails.

Overnight: *Sea Cloud II (B, L, R, D)*

THURSDAY, SEP 30 CATANIA / PIAZZA ARMERINA

This morning take a walking tour of Catania, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its beautiful Baroque monuments. Stop in the historic center to see the cathedral dedicated to St. Agatha, the nearby market, Ursino Castle, and the impressive Benedictine monastery.

This afternoon, drive to Mount Etna, Europe's highest active volcano, for a tour of the historic Benanti Winery followed by a wine tasting.

Alternatively, travel to Piazza Armerina to discover the imperial Roman Villa del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, whose captivating collection of mosaics is considered the most beautiful and best preserved of its kind.

Overnight: *Sea Cloud II (B, L, R, D)*

FRIDAY, OCT 1 DAY AT SEA

Experience the thrill of sailing aboard your fine ship, enjoying lectures and delighting in the grace and romance of a bygone era of travel.

Tonight, the captain hosts a farewell reception and dinner.

Overnight: *Sea Cloud II (B, L, R, D)*

SATURDAY, OCT 2 VALLETTA, MALTA

Disembark in Valletta and transfer to the airport for independent flights home.

An optional postlude in Malta will be offered (B).