

# Island Hopping in the Mediterranean

From **18/5/2022**  
to **25/5/2022**

Ship: **LE JACQUES-CARTIER**

From **Valletta**  
to **Nice**



Discover a **PONANT** itinerary in the heart of the **Mediterranean**: join us aboard *Le Jacques-Cartier* for an unforgettable **8-day cruise** between **Malta, Italy** and **France**. Succumb to the charms of the Mediterranean and its breathtaking islands.

Your cruise will start in **Valletta**, the capital of the island of Malta, and former stronghold of the Knights of the Order of Malta.

Set sail for the Mediterranean islands and discover the beautiful **Sicily**. Your first stop will be in **Syracuse**, one of the most prestigious Sicilian cities, whose monuments are listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage**, and you will take the sea once again to discover **Taormina**. Its streets will lead you to its famed ancient Greek theatre, where the quality of the acoustics is exceptional.

You will also call in at **Palermo**, the capital, where you will be able to visit emblematic landmarks such as the **12th century cathedral** and **Teatro Massimo**, one of the largest theatres in Europe.

*Le Jacques-Cartier* will then arrive in **Cagliari**, capital of **Sardinia** and one of the largest natural harbours in the Mediterranean; its historic centre is full of charm, with shaded stairs, small squares inundated with light and remains conjuring up its medieval grandeur.

Your ship will set a course for **Bonifacio**, in the far south of the **Isle of Beauty**. Veritable fortress sculpted by the wind and the spray, the “sentinel city” will reveal its historical centre and its long cobbled streets

Your ship will then sail to the **island of Elba** for a final call in **Portoferraio**, a small corner of paradise on the island of Elba, where Napoleon spend many days in exile.

Your cruise will end in **Nice**, capital of the French Riviera.



The information in this document is valid as of 20/5/2022

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### VALLETTA

Embarkation 18/5/2022 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Departure 18/5/2022 at 6:00 pm

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.

### SYRACUSE, SICILY

Arrival 19/5/2022 early morning  
Departure 19/5/2022 evening

Its undulating rocky coastline, the endless sandy beaches, the menacing form of **Mount Etna** which surveys its island like a patriarch, the flowery gardens on the hillside... **Sicily** lays out its varied landscapes like a shopkeeper displays his wares. Described by Cicero as "the most beautiful city in the world", **Syracuse** was one of the most prestigious cities in Sicily and at her height was even a rival for Athens. **A central city of Ancient Greece**, it was home to a succession of civilisations, each of which has left their mark. The blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine and Spanish cultures makes Syracuse a town that is extraordinarily rich in fragrances, colours and flavours.

### TAORMINA, SICILY

Arrival 20/5/2022 early morning  
Departure 20/5/2022 evening

Located on Sicily's eastern coast, in the province of Messina, the seaside town of Taormina is Sicily's Saint-Tropez, boasting heritage sites, secluded beaches and luxury shopping. You can visit its medieval centre, suspended 300 metres above sea level, where terraces offer a spectacular view of the Mediterranean Sea. Another vestige from its past are the ruins of the **Greco-Roman theatre**. This extremely well-preserved site attracts visitors who are fascinated by the natural beauty of the area which overlooks a **turquoise bay**.

### PALERMO, SICILY

Arrival 21/5/2022 early morning  
Departure 21/5/2022 mid afternoon

**Palermo** is the guardian of the Sicilian soul. Many have been attracted to this city, the largest capital of the Italian islands. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... Palermo is a rich culmination of so many cultural influences as seen in the Moorish designs on the **cathedral**, and the Byzantine mosaics of the **Palatine chapel**, which is itself housed within the precincts of the **Norman palace**. You will fall under the spell of the palaces, **baroque splendours** that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in colour, and headily picturesque.

## CAGLIARI, SARDINIA

Arrival 22/5/2022 midday

Departure 22/5/2022 late afternoon

The capital of Sardinia, **Cagliari**, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Its Sardinian name means “castle”, in reference to the citadel, its historic centre, which dominates the city. The old ramparts are now pleasant panoramic terraces bordering picturesque streets. The city hosted the Nuragic, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine civilisations before the rein of the Spanish Hapsburgs and the House of Savoy. The monuments of Cagliari bear the traces of these successive dominations, such as the Bastion of Saint-Rémy or the **Sainte-Marie Cathedral**. On the sea front, Art Nouveau-style public monuments give way to the Poetto beach, a magnificent stretch of sand that is 8 kilometres long.

## BONIFACIO, CORSICA

Arrival 23/5/2022 early morning

Departure 23/5/2022 early evening

The spectacular town of **Bonifacio** located on the very tip of southern Corsica, clings to a narrow promontory of white rock overhanging the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. You can admire its limestone cliffs hewn out by the wind, before setting off on a cultural tour of its cultural treasures. From the little paved streets in the ancient **Haute Ville**, to the promenade on the open-air medieval **chemin de ronde**, this stunning town will take you on a journey back in time. Frequented or secluded, there are numerous beaches to choose from, all in keeping with the high standards of the “Île de Beauté”.

## PORTOFERRAIO, ELBA

Arrival 24/5/2022 early morning

Departure 24/5/2022 mid afternoon

In the elbow of a creek on the northern coastline of **Elba Island**, a small corner of paradise awaits in the form of **Portoferraio**. As you approach its coastlines, you will make out the powerful and majestic contours of its **Medici fortresses**. **Napoleon Bonaparte** spent many of his 300 days in exile here. The **Palazzina dei Mulini**, his first imperial residence, whose gardens offer outstanding views of the sea, is a must-see. Historical treasures are followed by another kind of treasure, namely white sand beaches, and equally tempting local specialities including gurguglione and rice with cuttlefish ink.

## NICE

Arrival 25/5/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 25/5/2022 at 7:00 am

**Capital of the Cote d'Azur**, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills and mountains that protects it from the wind. You will probably want to explore the Promenade des Anglais, where you can sit on one of the famous blue chairs laid out opposite the baie des Anges. The Château hill is also a very pleasant place to walk. This is the entrance to the **old city**, with its bustling markets and regional products along the main street, the Cours Saleya.