

2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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CATALAN INTERLUDE

Featuring Valencia, Ibiza & Mallorca Aboard *Sea Cloud II*
October 18–26, 2024

with Diana Sorensen, James F. Rothenberg Professor of Romance Languages
and Literatures and Professor of Comparative Literature



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Tarragona Amphitheater, Tarragona (above); Cover: Catedral de Santa María de Palma de Mallorca, Palma de Mallorca

Catalan Interlude: Featuring Valencia, Ibiza & Mallorca Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

On a unique land and sea adventure, travel with fellow Harvard alumni to Spain's northeastern region of Catalonia, which boasts its own distinctive language and cultural identity. Go behind the scenes of immaculate Roman ruins, opulent Gothic cathedrals, and museums brimming with excavated treasures. Savor Michelin-starred Catalan cuisine in a 16th-century farmhouse. This program includes a four-night Balearic Sea cruise aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud II* to Valencia, Ibiza, and Mallorca.

By land, begin with three nights within Girona's medieval city walls. At the exceptional Museu d'Història dels Jueus, housed in a medieval synagogue, admire treasures from the city's legendary medieval Jewish community. Take an inside look at the world's widest Gothic nave in the Catedral de Girona. Nearby, discover the world's largest collection of works by Catalan artist Salvador Dalí in his hometown of Figueres. In Tarragona, Spain's oldest Roman city, go behind the scenes of UNESCO-listed seaside ancient ruins.

Then embark *Sea Cloud II* for Valencia, where you will have a private tour of its UNESCO-listed 16th-century Gothic silk exchange. Marvel at the purported Holy Grail during a guided tour of the 13th-century Valencia Cathedral. Uncover Ibiza's little-known archaeological wonders, including one of the world's largest Phoenician necropolises. Sail to Mallorca for an exclusive reception at a historic mansion and enjoy special looks at impressive sites like its 13th-century cathedral, with its interior designed by Gaudí. Travel in the company of members from The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The National Trust for Historic Preservation as well as alumni from Columbia, Miami University, and Wake Forest.

Activity Level 3:

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This program involves a good deal of walking and standing while visiting museums and historic sites. Comfortable walking shoes are crucial. Please note that *Sea Cloud II* does not have an elevator. At certain ports of call, *Sea Cloud II* may not be able to dock directly at a pier, and in such cases, ship staff will utilize a tender/Zodiac for transfers to the shore. The weather is expected to range from the mid-50s to low 70s °F. As October might bring occasional rain, pack a lined raincoat and a folding umbrella, along with a hat, sunblock, and insect repellent. Most of the time, casual attire is suitable, with a focus on layered clothing to adapt to changing conditions. For welcome and farewell dinners, gentlemen often opt for a jacket and tie, while ladies wear similar evening attire. For other dinners aboard *Sea Cloud II*, we suggest smart casual clothing.

Study Leader



Diana Sorensen is James F. Rothenberg Professor of Romance Languages & Literatures and Professor of Comparative Literature. Before joining the Harvard faculty in 2001, she worked at Columbia and Wesleyan Universities. She is a specialist in 19th- and 20th-century Latin American literature, with additional expertise in cultural theory and gender theory.

Please note that Diana will join the group on Tuesday, October 22, when you embark *Sea Cloud II*. Diana is also leading the previous *Sea Cloud II* voyage, *Western Mediterranean Civilizations*, from October 13–22, 2024.



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ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL



Girona (left) and Teatre-Museu Dalí, Figueres (right)

Schedule by Day

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Departure

Depart for Barcelona on an overnight flight.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Barcelona, Spain / Girona

Gather for lunch upon arrival in Barcelona, then travel by motor coach northeast to Girona, set in the Pyrenees foothills. Check into the elegant Hotel Palau de Bellavista Girona, your home for three nights prior to the cruise. Mingle at a welcome cocktail reception this evening. L,R

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Girona / Palau-Sator / Púbol / Figueres

Start your day with a guided walking tour of Girona, an ancient Roman stronghold, admiring its opulent Romanesque and Gothic architecture. Then take a privately guided tour of the Museu d'Art de Girona, housed in the former Episcopal Palace. Discover more about Girona's history through the museum's collections of precious liturgical relics and artworks.

Savor lunch at Mas Pou, a Michelin-starred restaurant in the medieval village of Palau-Sator. Housed within a 16th-century stone farmhouse, this family-run establishment presents Catalan cuisine with locally sourced, seasonal ingredients.

Later, explore the quaint village of Púbol and encounter a surreal homage to love and creativity at the Castell de Púbol. Salvador Dalí refurbished this 11th-century fortress

as a gift for his wife, Gala. Go behind the scenes in the castle's museum and its unconventional collection of Dalí's art and furnishings. Continue to Figueres, Dalí's birthplace, where you will gain privately guided access to the Teatre-Museu Dalí, designed by the artist himself. Take a guided look at the world's largest collection of Dalí's works, showcasing over 1,500 creations, and even see the crypt where Dalí rests. Conclude your day back in Girona at the welcome dinner. B,L,D

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

Girona

Enjoy an enriching morning lecture, followed by a guided visit to the Museu d'Història dels Jueus. Housed within a medieval synagogue, the museum displays a vast array of artifacts representing the daily lives and traditions of medieval Catalan Jews, many of whom lived in Girona's thriving Jewish quarter. After lunch, venture to the 12th-century Banys Àrabs (Arab Baths), a rare surviving example of Romanesque public baths. These baths also served as a *mikveh*, a sacred ritual bath, for Girona's Jewish community during the 14th century.

Enjoy a private look at the Cathedral de Girona, which boasts the world's widest Gothic nave. Built over centuries, the church seamlessly blends Romanesque, Baroque, and Gothic elements. Inside, behold the *Tapestry of Creation*, a remarkable Romanesque artwork depicting scenes from the Garden of Eden, and admire an 11th-century white-marble high altar. Conclude your day with an afternoon and evening at leisure. B,L

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Girona / Tarragona or Poblet / Embark Sea Cloud II

After checking out of the hotel, transfer to Tarragona (Tarraco), Spain's earliest Roman stronghold, dating back to 218 B.C. In this city of stunningly well-preserved Roman remains, take a guided tour of the Museu Nacional Arqueològic de Tarragona (MNAT), the region's oldest archaeological repository, housing more than 25,000 Roman treasures. Then an expert guide will lead you through the 14,000-seat seaside Tarragona Amphitheater, erected in the second century A.D. Pause at the Gothic-style medieval Pont del Diable (Devil's Bridge), which spans the river Llobregat atop original Roman foundations, crowned by a stone chapel.

Alternatively, opt for a visit to the UNESCO-listed 12th-century Poblet Monastery, a pristine Cistercian abbey of immense proportions, which includes a Gothic church and tranquil cloisters. Within its crypts lie the Catalan and Aragonese kings, alongside other illustrious nobility. In the late afternoon, board the awaiting *Sea Cloud II* in Tarragona. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Morning at Sea / Valencia

After a morning lecture, arrive in Valencia, one of Spain's oldest cities, founded as a Roman colony in 138 B.C. Join an expert guide to meander through the Old Town, where colorful houses are adorned with ornate ceramic tiles and intricate iron balconies. Stop for an inside look at the UNESCO-listed Lonja de la Seda—the Silk Exchange—a late Valencian Gothic marvel erected between 1482 and 1533.



Mercado Central, Valencia (left) and Dalt Vila, Ibiza Town (right)

You will also visit the Mercado Central (Central Market), an exemplary showcase of Valencian Art Nouveau, where more than 300 stalls overflow with local delights. See the spectacular Gothic Valencia Cathedral, whose architecture ranges from Romanesque to Neoclassical. Within, visit the Chapel of the Holy Chalice, housing a first-century A.D. cup believed to have touched Christ's lips during the Last Supper. Before returning to the ship, discover the Museo de Bellas Artes de Valencia, Spain's second-largest art gallery, whose collection includes treasures by Velázquez, Goya, and Sorolla. Alternatively, marvel at the futuristic Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, designed by Valencia-born architect Santiago Calatrava, with its six magnificent structures and a distinctive bridge. B,L,D

THURSDAY OCTOBER 24

Morning at Sea / Ibiza Town, Ibiza

As we approach Ibiza, an island whose strategic importance lured the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, and Spaniards, take in the island's pristine beaches and hills dotted with fig and olive trees. In Ibiza Town's historical center of Dalt Vila—a UNESCO World Heritage Site with Phoenician foundations built in 650 B.C.—travel with an expert guide through its narrow cobblestone streets within its ancient walls. Join an expert guide for an inside look at the Museo Arqueológico de Ibiza y Formentera, which showcases Carthaginian figurines of the goddess Tanit, the Phoenician-Punic

necropolis of Puig des Molins (the region's largest of its kind), Roman statues, and prehistoric relics. B,L,D

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Palma de Mallorca (Mallorca)

Step ashore on Mallorca, an island beloved by artists like Chopin and Borges. In the capital of Palma de Mallorca, we hope to enjoy a special visit with refreshments at the Fundació Bartolomé March, a wealthy banker's former residence that features a sculpture terrace with magnificent views and art by Moore, Hepworth, Consagra, Rodin, Chillida, and Dalí.

Then join an expert guide at the splendid La Seu, also known as the Catedral de Santa María de Palma de Mallorca, a Gothic Roman Catholic cathedral constructed from 1229 to the 17th century. Highlights include Gaudí's striking interior and the 45-foot-wide "Gothic eye" rose window. If time allows, visit the Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró a Mallorca, a museum featuring more than 6,000 paintings, sculptures, and other treasures donated by Miró, including his oldest surviving oil painting. Return to *Sea Cloud II* for lunch and gather this evening for the captain's farewell dinner. B,L,R,D

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Tarragona / Disembark / Barcelona / Return

Disembark *Sea Cloud II* upon return to Tarragona this morning and transfer to the Barcelona airport for your flights home. B



Lonja de la Seda, Valencia (above)

Accommodations

Hotel Palau de Bellavista Girona

This elegant hotel sits in a quiet corner next to Girona's Jewish quarter and Barri Vell (the historic old town). Combining chic design with impeccable service, the Hotel Palau de Bellavista features great views from the hotel's roof terrace as well as a bar and a pool.



Hotel Palau de Bellavista Girona

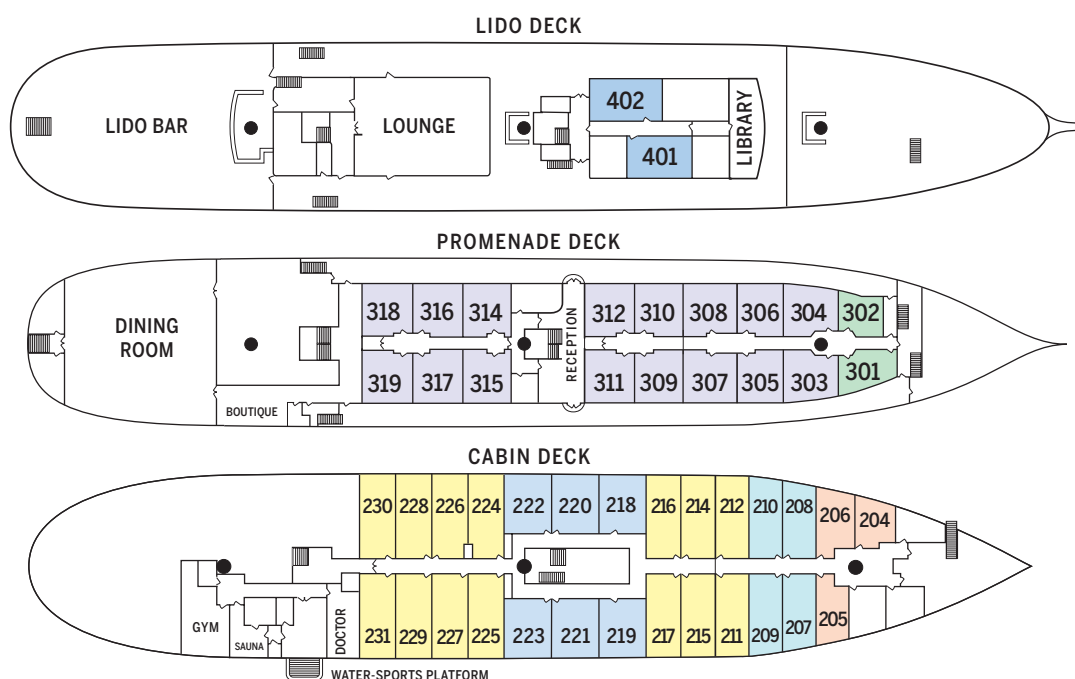
Rates Per Person

CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE RATES	SINGLE RATES
204 to 206	\$6,999	\$8,399
Cabins; Cabin Deck; Upper/lower twin berths, shower		
207 to 210	\$8,999	\$13,499
Superior Cabins; Cabin Deck; Twin beds, shower		
211 to 217 & 224 to 231	\$10,999	\$16,499
Deluxe Cabins; Cabin Deck; Twin beds, shower		
218 to 223	\$11,999	Inquire
Deluxe Cabins; Cabin Deck; Twin beds, shower		
301 & 302	\$12,999	Inquire
Deluxe Cabins; Promenade Deck; Twin beds, shower		
303 to 319	\$14,999	Inquire
Junior Suites; Promenade Deck; Twin beds, bathtub with shower		
401 & 402	\$16,999	Inquire

Owner's Suites; Lido Deck; Queen-size bed, bathtub, and separate shower

Sea Cloud II

Sea Cloud II is a three-masted sailing yacht steeped in the elegance of yesteryear and complemented with the most modern amenities. Sister ship of the legendary Sea Cloud, Sea Cloud II has 47 outside cabins and travels under 23 billowing sails trimmed by hand. From the mahogany-paneled library and gracious lounge to the gym and water sports platform, no detail has been overlooked. Praised by the world's most discerning travelers, Sea Cloud II receives consistently high rankings from *Condé Nast Traveler*. Passengers enjoy open seating at all meals and complimentary use of all water sports equipment. A doctor is on call 24 hours a day. Please note that there is no elevator on Sea Cloud II.



Sea Cloud II Junior Suite (top), Lido Deck (center) and Dining Room (above)

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To review this program's terms and conditions, visit alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/catalan-2024.

Sea Cloud II (top) and Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, Valencia (bottom).

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