

2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS

Sicily, Tunisia, Sardinia & Menorca Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

October 13 – 22, 2024

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



HARVARD

Alumni Travels



View from Trapani, Sicily, Italy (above) and Tunis, Tunisia (below)

Western Mediterranean Civilizations: Sicily, Tunisia, Sardinia & Menorca Aboard *Sea Cloud II*

Join fellow Harvard alumni and friends on a Western Mediterranean cruise aboard the luxurious *Sea Cloud II*. From Malta, sail between Southern Europe and North Africa in the wake of ancient adventurers. Expert guides will join you in Sicily, Sardinia, Tunisia, and Menorca, unspoiled regions teeming with historical significance. Amid Sicily's sun-kissed landscapes, go behind the scenes at the UNESCO-listed Doric temples left behind by its Greek colonists. In North Africa, arrive in Tunisia's capital, Tunis, for expert-led tours of its UNESCO-listed areas, including the legendary city of Carthage and its grand ancient Roman villas. Enjoy an inside look at one of the world's largest collections of ancient Roman polychrome mosaics at the Bardo Museum.

In Sardinia, admire the ancient Roman city of Nora and its theater, mosaics, and baths on a privately guided tour. Before disembarking in Tarragona, Spain, step ashore on the Spanish island of Menorca for a behind-the-scenes look at the Museu de Menorca. The museum chronicles the island's heritage through Roman mosaics, Islamic ceramics, and exquisite paintings. At an immense prehistoric settlement on Menorca, discover stone *talayots* (watchtowers) and other features unseen elsewhere in the world.

You will sail in the company of travelers from The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The National Trust for Historic Preservation as well as alumni from Columbia, the University of Notre Dame, and Tulane.

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 assist you in boarding/deboarding 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, we recommend packing 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.

Her books include *The Reader and the Text: Interpretative Strategies for Latin American Literatures*, *Facundo and the Construction of Argentine Culture* (winner of the MLA Prize for the best book in the field in 1996), and *Sarmiento: An Annotated Edition of His Complete Works*. In 2008, she was awarded a Cabot Fellowship for her book, released in August 2007, *A Turbulent Decade Remembered: Cultural Scenes from the Latin American Sixties*. Her lecture topics for this upcoming travel program will be announced closer to departure.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
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Map of the region (left); The Dancing Satyr, Mazara del Vallo, Italy (right); Carthage, Tunisia (below left) and the Bardo Museum, Tunis, Tunisia (below right)

Schedule by Day

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Departure

Depart for Valletta, Malta, on an overnight flight.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Valletta, Malta / Embark *Sea Cloud II*

Arrive this morning in Valletta and gather for lunch. Afterwards, board the elegant *Sea Cloud II* and set sail for Sicily. L,D

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Porto Empedocle (Sicily), Italy / Agrigento

Sea Cloud II arrives this morning at Porto Empedocle, where you will transfer to beautiful Agrigento, formerly the ancient Greek city of Akragas. Discover the Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples), a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring colossal ancient Greek temples. The site's nearly intact Tempio della Concordia is perhaps the world's most well-preserved Greek temple, featuring a bronze statue of the fallen Icarus by the Polish sculptor Igor Mitoraj. Archaeologists recently unearthed 60 terracotta vases and other votive objects at the site. Tonight, gather for the captain's welcome reception and dinner. B,L,R,D

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Trapani / Segesta or Mazara del Vallo / Afternoon at Sea

From the port of Trapani, transfer to the magnificent Tempio di Segesta and its adjacent theater, which were built in the fifth century B.C. and remain in remarkable condition. While exploring the site with your expert guide, learn how local authorities recently unearthed an extraordinarily well-preserved altar here from the Hellenistic period more than 2,000 years ago.

Alternatively, drive to the village of Mazara del Vallo to see its spectacular seven-foot bronze statue, retrieved from the sea by local fishermen. With his flying hair and goat ears, the figure was quickly dubbed *The Dancing Satyr*. B,L,D



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Tunis, Tunisia / Carthage

Upon arrival in Tunis, join an expert guide for a tour of the ancient ruins and Roman villas of Carthage, founded by Phoenicians in the ninth century B.C. and later claimed by Rome. Then join a privately guided visit to the recently reopened Bardo Museum, renowned for its extensive collection of Roman polychrome mosaics, which depict scenes of ancient daily life. A highlight is the *Virgil Mosaic*, which shows the Latin poet flanked by Melpomene and Clio, the muses of tragedy and history. Following this, enjoy a walking tour through the historic medina of Tunis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to 698 A.D. Key landmarks include the eighth-century-A.D. Zitouna Mosque, Tunisia's largest mosque and the oldest in the city. B,L,D

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL](https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel)



Castello, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy (left); Mahón, Menorca, Spain (right); Rooftops of Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy (below left) and Talayots, Torre d'en Galmés, Menorca, Spain (below right)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Cagliari or Nora (Sardinia), Italy

On Sardinia's southern coast in Cagliari, the island's capital, take an expert-guided walking tour through the maze-like streets of the Old Town, also known as Castello. Highlights include the Piazza del Palazzo, home to the 13th-century Duomo di Cagliari. Alternatively, transfer to Nora, beautifully situated on a promontory overlooking the sea. Conquered by the Romans in 238 B.C., Nora holds marvelous ruins including a theater, an aqueduct, a nymphaeum, baths with amazing mosaic floors, and a sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius, the god of healing. B,L,D



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Day at Sea

Discover the thrill of scenic sailing aboard the legendary *Sea Cloud II*. Under a full set of billowing white sails, sit down for fascinating talks from our lecturers. B,L,D

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Mahón, (Menorca), Spain / Torre d'en Galmés

Recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the island of Menorca was home to the Talayotic culture of the Iron Age, known for its *talayots* (watchtowers), followed by Roman, Muslim, Aragonese, and 18th-century British rule. As *Sea Cloud II* approaches the picturesque harbor of Mahón, enjoy lunch on the Lido Deck as we pass the monumental 19th-century stone fortress Fortaleza de la Mola. Upon arrival, take a private tour of the Museu de Menorca, housed in a 17th-century Franciscan convent, where you will admire exhibits representing Menorca's cultural heritage, from prehistoric relics and Roman mosaics to Islamic and medieval objects.

Visit the Mercat del Claustre, a vibrant food market offering delicacies like sharp, buttery Mahón cheese and *ensaïmada* (a sweet rolled pastry). Head inland for a behind-the-scenes visit to the large prehistoric settlement of Torre d'en Galmés, featuring well-preserved ruins of *talayots* and a labyrinthine network of caves and



chambers. With the ship departing later in the evening, enjoy free time along Mahón Harbor. B,L,D

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

Day at Sea

Today, enjoy the continuation of talks from the lecturers. Attend a farewell reception and dinner this evening. B,L,D

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Tarragona / Disembark / Barcelona / Return

Disembark this morning in Tarragona, Spain, and transfer to the Barcelona airport for flights home. B

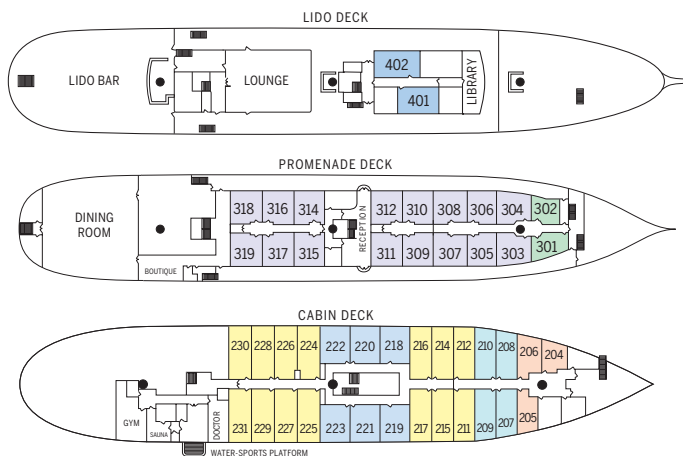
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Sea Cloud II

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 watersports 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: There is no elevator on *Sea Cloud II*.



Sea Cloud II



Rates Per Person

CABIN NUMBERS	DECKS	DOUBLE RATES	SINGLE RATES
204 to 206	Cabin	\$9,999	\$11,999
Cabins. Upper/lower twin berths, shower.			
207 to 210	Cabin	\$12,999	\$19,499
Superior Cabins. Twin beds, shower.			
211 to 217 & 224 to 231	Cabin	\$14,999	\$22,499
Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.			
218 to 223	Cabin	\$15,999	Inquire
Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.			
301 & 302	Promenade	\$16,999	Inquire
Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.			
303 to 319	Promenade	\$17,999	Inquire
Junior Suites. Twin beds, bathtub with shower.			
401 & 402	Lido	\$20,999	Inquire
Owner's suites. Queen-size bed, bathtub, and separate shower.			

Rates Include

- Eight nights cabin accommodations aboard *Sea Cloud II*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wine and beer with onboard lunches and dinners; complimentary open bar aboard *Sea Cloud II* throughout the cruise (including all standard spirits)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuity

Not Included: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Sea Cloud II Lido Deck

Cover: Ruins at Nora, Sardinia, Italy. Trip Registration page: Zitoun Mosque, Tunis, Tunisia (top); and Agrigento, Sicily (bottom)

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