

## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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## ART & HISTORY FROM ANDALUCIA TO THE FRENCH RIVIERA - 10 DAY CRUISE

Join us aboard the MS Island Sky for a seven-night cruise from Malaga to Nice which we have timed for September when just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites. Our voyage promises to be an informative and relaxing journey allowing you to immerse yourself in the artistic, historical and cultural gems of the region. Following an overnight stay in Malaga with time to discover the history and art of the city, we will embark the MS Island Sky and sail to the historic city of Tarragona in Catalonia, a veritable museum-town with remains of all the civilisations that have crossed the Iberian Peninsula and where we will discover the remnants of the Roman period. We continue to the Medieval town of Figueres, the birthplace of Salvador Dali and in the Dali Theatre Museum can view many of his surrealistic works; to balance the day the afternoon will be spent in the Graeco-Roman site of Empuries. The second half of our journey focuses on the south of France starting with the 'Cote Vermeille' or rocky coast, one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean which has inspired some of the world's most famous artists and from where there will be the opportunity to visit the wonderful Musee d'Art Moderne. Sailing along the coast to Marseille we begin our exploration of the Cote d'Azur, a region which in the late 19th century witnessed an extraordinary flowering of art that transformed the area into the greatest concentration of modern art in Europe. You can choose to discover Aix en Provence, renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne, to view many of the painter's most celebrated works or spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes. Our voyage ends in Nice from where a feast for the eyes will be had

at the Villa Rothschild with its stunning location and beautiful gardens, a fitting conclusion to



our journey.

### ITINERARY

Day 1 London or Manchester to Malaga, Spain.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Malaga.

After breakfast in the hotel a morning tour will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. With its mix of Renaissance and Gothic styles it has been declared a national

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landmark. Alternatively, our Picasso tour will start in La Merced Plaza to view the house where he was born before we continue to the Museo Picasso which contains over 200 pieces of his works. After lunch we transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in the city and sail this evening. (B, L, D)

### Day 3 At Sea.

Spend a relaxing day at sea, maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck.

### Day 4 Tarragona.

During the second Punic War in 218 AD the city of Tarraco was established as a garrison which developed into the main military base for the Roman army in Spain. Today we can still see remnants of the Roman period as we explore the city by foot. See the impressive walls that once surrounded the city, the 2nd century amphitheatre and the Roman Circus where chariot races were held. After lunch on board there will be time to explore more of Tarragona at your leisure. Maybe see the 12th century cathedral, visit one of the food stalls in the market or take in the street art whilst strolling in the old town.

### Day 5 Palamos, Figueres & Empuries.

Arriving on the Costa Brava at the port of Palamos we travel inland to Medieval Figueres, an impressive town of Modernist and Neoclassical architecture that is most renowned as the birthplace of Salvador Dali. Our tour includes the impressive 18th century castle of St Ferran and the old city walls before continuing to the Dali Theatre Museum. Designed by Dali himself, the museum takes us through the life of the artist. After lunch in the city you can choose to return to the ship and spend the afternoon at leisure or drive along the coast to the archaeological site of Empuries. Founded by Greek merchants in

the 6th century BC as Emporion, it was a commercial hub and became a major port. In 218 BC the town was taken by the Romans who built an even greater city above the Greek town.

### Day 6 Port Vendres, France.

The 'Cote Vermeille', or rocky coast, is one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean and has inspired some of the world's most famous artists. We will drive the short distance to Collioure which has always been a source of inspiration for artists. Here we will have time to explore the colourful streets and visit the local artist studios and the 12th century Royal Castle. This afternoon choose to explore the historic town of Port Vendres independently or join a tour to the charming town of Ceret located in the foothills of the Vallespir Mountains. After a walking tour of the town we visit the wonderful Musée d'Art Moderne containing works from Picasso, Chagall and Dali as well as pieces drawn in Collioure by Matisse.

### Day 7 Aix en Provence & Avignon.

From our berth in Marseilles, we will offer a choice of excursions today. You can choose to head inland to Aix en Provence which was founded by the Romans in the 1st century and is renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will visit the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' which is located on the heights of Aix en Provence, a few hundred metres from the Atelier Cezanne. It is famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant we will spend some time in Aix with its leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Alternatively spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the





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Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe, built in the 14th century as a fortified palace for the pontifical court. We also visit the cathedral and the famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon, and the Pont du Gard, one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19 BC in order to provide the city of Nimes with fresh water from the Uzes area.

### [Day 8 La Seyne sur Mer & Le Castellet.](#)

Arrive this morning in the port of La Seyne sur Mer and enjoy a leisurely morning to explore the town. This afternoon we drive inland to the hilltop Medieval village of Le Castellet. This remarkable stronghold, formerly owned by the Lords of Les Baux, has well preserved ramparts, a carefully restored 12th century church and a castle dating back to the 11th century. We will have time to explore the village and its winding streets before enjoying a wine tasting at one of Le Castellet's centuries-old vineyards.

### [Day 9 Nice.](#)

Disembark this morning and join your choice of excursion. You may wish to enjoy a drive along the coast to the charming village of Eze perched on a rocky peak overlooking the Mediterranean. Fortified in the 14th century we will have some time to wander the cobblestone streets, admire the beautiful stone buildings and enjoy the magnificent views. Alternatively visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Built in 1900 in Italian palazzo style and surrounded by magnificent gardens, it houses an unbelievable collection of works including tapestries, furniture, candelabras, terracottas, porcelains and Chinese

vases. Both tours will include lunch before we check into our hotel this afternoon and spend the remainder of the day and evening at leisure. Maybe choose to visit one of the city's museums dedicated to artists such as Henri Matisse or Marc Chagall, walk amongst the charming architecture of the old city or enjoy a stroll along the palm tree-lined Promenade des Anglais. (B, L)

### [Day 10 Nice to London or Manchester.](#)

Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London or Manchester. (B)

### [Please Note:](#)

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

**YOUR SHIP:** Island Sky

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**

With a maximum passenger capacity of only 116, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers- the friendly crew of 75 crew and Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. We promise there will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, guest speakers, informative port briefings from our cruise director and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly

comfortable ship. Your Suite Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD player which can also play CDs and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. The suites on each deck have their own colour theme. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. Your Space The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book and is stocked with reference books pertaining to the places the vessel is visiting along with a selection of games and two computers with internet access. Daily newspapers and magazines are also placed in the library depending on local availability. There is

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also WI-FI access throughout the vessel. Outside there is a rear sun deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a Jacuzzi and further observation and sun deck. There is also a small hairdressers on board with appointments made on request. Your Dining Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and bring a local touch to the



varied menus.

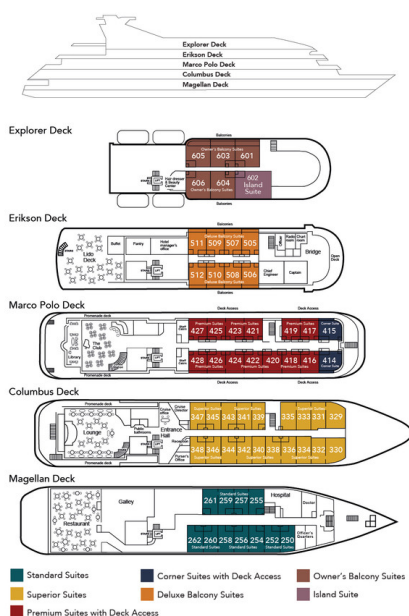
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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## PRICING

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