

Malta, Italian shores and Isle of Beauty

From **02/07/2023**
to **12/07/2023**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

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



Kid's Club in partnership with MAUD FONTENOY FOUNDATION.

From the splendid Maltese capital to the pearl of the French Riviera, set sail on a **brand-new 11-day cruise** in the Mediterranean Sea. Aboard *Le Bougainville*, discover the Isle of Beauty, the Italian shores and Malta during an unforgettable trip.

From **Valletta**, you will head for **Gozo**, an unspoiled island that is home to a megalithic site listed with UNESCO. On foot, kayak or bike, explore the island and its spectacular scenery, from the endless turquoise sea to the dreamlike decor of the salt marshes. Do not miss your chance to taste the local wines.

You will then arrive on Malta's smallest island, the idyllic **Comino**, whose blue lagoon, renowned for its turquoise waters, rivals the finest beaches of the Seychelles!

A little further north, you will discover the Aeolian islands. **Lipari** is the capital of the Aeolian volcanic archipelago and is renowned for its many natural and architectural gems.

Your ship will stop at **Porto Ercole**, a charming Tuscan village with colourful houses, on the Monte Argentario peninsula. Here, you will have the possibility of meeting fisherman from the Orbetello Lagoon as well as local producers. The peninsula's rolling and lush landscapes will also provide you with opportunities for magnificent outings.

After a port of call on the Tuscan island of **Giglio**, you will visit **Portofino**. Built in a natural harbour protected by a pine forest, it is a picturesque and lively port that has successfully retained its authenticity and traditions.

You will finally set sail for **Calvi** in the heart of the Balagne region. Between steep peaks and sublime beaches with turquoise waters, you will experience a wild and authentic Corsica.

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



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

VALLETTA

Embarkation 02/07/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 03/07/2023 at 12:00

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.

MGARR, GOZO ISLAND

Arrival 03/07/2023 early afternoon

Departure 04/07/2023 late evening

Located to the north of Malta, a lot less urbanised than its larger sibling and protected from mass tourism, the **small island of Gozo** has managed to remain natural and authentic. Lush hills and valleys alternate with a mosaic of cultivated fields. The buildings, some of which are medieval, are built from honey-coloured limestone and blend in perfectly with the surrounding scenery. Gozo also boasts a unique historic site that is now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site: **the megalithic temples of Ggantija** near the town of Xaghra. An **archaeological museum** adjoining the site presents a number of objects that were found there. Red-sand beaches and a crystal-clear sea add to the calm and serenity of Gozo.

COMINO

Arrival 05/07/2023 early morning

Departure 05/07/2023 mid morning

In the turquoise waters of the Maltese Mediterranean, the small island of **Comino** is a real jewel that delights swimmers, divers or just simply nature lovers. This **natural reserve**, measuring barely 35 square kilometres, allows no cars on its preserved territory and is perfect for walks in an enchanting setting. Wild thyme, fennel and over 300 plant species perfume the island, although it is cumin that gives it its name. A pirate stronghold in the Middle Ages due to its many inlets which served as hiding places for corsairs, it was then used as a hunting ground by the Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem before becoming a place of exile and imprisonment between the 16th and 17th centuries. Today, it is renowned for its **magnificent, cerulean-blue lagoon**, an exceptional natural pool surrounded by two rocky islands.

SAILING IN FRONT OF STROMBOLI

Arrival 06/07/2023

Departure 06/07/2023

Like Ulysses during his Odyssey, you will have the opportunity to admire the Stromboli, the capricious volcano that looms over the Aeolian Islands. Its activity, uninterrupted for thousands of years, has earned it the nickname the "Lighthouse of the Mediterranean".

LIPARI, AEOLIAN ISLANDS

Arrival 06/07/2023 early morning

Departure 06/07/2023 late afternoon

Of the seven **Aeolian islands**, this is the largest and the most populated. Lying off the north coast of **Sicily**, in the Tyrrhenian sea, **Lipari** is one of UNESCO's marvellous World Heritage sites. Its lava stone quarries and obsidian flow of **Rocce Rosse** are indications of its volcanic nature. The town, the largest urban area in the whole archipelago, proudly houses its **citadel** and its **castle**, both rooted in Antiquity. If you head further into the centre, you'll be surprised to come across a Norman cathedral, complete with a magnificent baroque façade.

AT SEA

Arrival 07/07/2023

Departure 07/07/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

PORTO ERCOLE

Arrival 08/07/2023 early morning

Departure 08/07/2023 late evening

With its landscapes of undulating hills covered in lush meadows, narrow streets with colourful houses, and picturesque paths shaded by pines... Porto Ercole is a concentration of all of Tuscany's beauty. And what would it be without a fascinating, mystery-filled history? Overlooked by its 16th century fortress, this small village is renowned for having witnessed the final days of the famous painter Caravaggio, said to be buried there. On the Monte Argentario peninsula, you might have the chance to meet the fishermen of the Orbetello Lagoon, classed as a natural reserve, who perpetuate traditional fishing methods, or meet local wine, olive oil and cheese producers. For our sportier guests, the surrounding wild and pristine nature will provide the opportunity for a hike along the island's heights to enjoy breathtaking views.

GIGLIO

Arrival 09/07/2023 midday

Departure 09/07/2023 evening

On the shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea, the small island of **Giglio** is home to a concentration of all of Tuscany's secrets and beauty. Fine sandy beaches and hidden coves compose a landscape in which the emerald sea serves as a setting for wild nature. This mountainous land is covered by garrigue on which pine forest and vineyards grow, a real paradise in the Mediterranean. A walk through the heart of this bucolic environment will also be the opportunity to discover rich history, as reflected in the medieval village of **Giglio Castello**.

PORTOFINO

Arrival 10/07/2023 early morning

Departure 10/07/2023 late evening

Close to the Cinque Terre, **Portofino** is the jewel of the **Ligurian Riviera**. This "small village that stretches like a half moon around a silent basin", described by Guy de Maupassant, is today a pretty, lively little port that has managed to preserve the authenticity of its maritime traditions, which have been recognised since Ancient times. Built in the hollow of a small natural cove sheltered by the pine forest, the village is at the heart of a **protected maritime reserve**. The shimmering colours of its house fronts and the exceptional location of this village have inspired many authors and artists. You will also see the **Portofino lighthouse**, immaculate in its green setting. Perched on the **Punta del Capo**, it watches over the peninsula and its postcard setting.

CALVI, CORSICA

Arrival 11/07/2023 mid morning

Departure 11/07/2023 late afternoon

Nestled on a rocky spur in the north-west of Corsica, the port of **Calvi** offers its whiteness between two sapphire-coloured bays. Capital of the **Balagne** region, the Genoese city benefits from an exceptional natural setting between the abrupt relief of the central chain, fertile hills and long sandy beaches. From the promontory of the **Notre-Dame-de-la-Serra chapel**, built in the 19th century on the ruins of a 15th century sanctuary, you will not miss the sublime panorama of the seaside, the mountains and the Calvi citadel. A little further west, you will have the opportunity to discover with the **peninsula of Revelatta**, a wilder and more preserved part of Corsica.

NICE

Arrival 12/07/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 12/07/2023 at 08:00

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.