

Mediterranean Island Voyage

Malta, Gozo, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica and Elba with Smithsonian Journeys



Join Dick and Leslie West aboard the 184-guest Dumont d'Urville on an exceptional 9-day itinerary. This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture. This voyage in the heart of the Mediterranean explores six islands – Malta, Gozo, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica and Elba - that, despite their differences, share a history of successive waves of civilizations that have washed over them from prehistoric times to the present.



Dates:

2027 – May 18-26

Duration: 9 Days/8 Nights

Embark: Valletta, Malta

Disembark: Nice, France

Ship: Dumont d'Urville

From: \$9,240*

All Inclusive – Port Charges, Open Bar,
Gratuities to ship crew, Shore Excursions,

***After 25% early Booking Savings**

Expedition Highlights

- Engaging discussions onboard with two Smithsonian Journeys Experts, including architectural historian and preservationist Gail Cornell and geologist Allen Glazner.
- An opportunity to explore six Mediterranean islands on one itinerary: Malta (embarkation point), Gozo, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, and Elba.
- Six UNESCO World Heritage Sites en route: Gozo, Palermo, Monreale, Taormina, Syracuse, and Noto.
- Well-preserved Greek and Roman ruins in Syracuse and Taormina, and on Sardinia.
- Stunning Byzantine-Arab mosaics in the Cappella Palatina in Palermo and the Norman Cathedral of Monreale.
- The medieval clifftop town of Bonifacio on Corsica.
- Napoleon's villa on Elba.
- Opportunities for tasting wines and local specialties in Noto, Taormina, Palermo, and Portoferraio.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – May 18, 27 – Valletta

Embarkation 05/18/27 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Departure 05/18/27 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.



Day 2 - May 19, 27 - Gozo

Located to the north of Malta, a lot less urbanized 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-colored 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.



Day 3 - May 20, 27 - Syracuse, Sicily

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 civilizations, 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, colors and flavors.

Day 4 - May 21, 27 - Taormina, Sicily

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 center, suspended 300 meters 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.

Day 5 - May 22, 27 - Palermo, Sicily

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 splendors that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in color, and headily picturesque.



Day 6 - May 23, 27 - Cagliari, Sardinia

The capital of Sardinia, Cagliari, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Its Sardinian name means “castle”, in reference to the citadel, its historic center, which dominates the city. The old ramparts are now pleasant panoramic terraces bordering picturesque streets. The city hosted the Nuragic, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine civilizations 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 seafront, Art Nouveau-style public monuments give way to the Poetto beach, a magnificent stretch of sand that is 8 kilometers long.

Day 8 - May 25, 27 - Portoferraio, Elba

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 specialties including gurguglione and rice with cuttlefish ink.



Day 7 - May 24, 27 - Bonifacio, Corsica

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”.

Day 9 - May 26, 27 - Nice

Capital of the Cote d’Azur, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheater 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.

PRE- AND POST-CRUISE ARRANGEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUIT YOUR INTERESTS



DECK PLAN

2027- Dumont d'Urville

GUESTS: 184

RATES – 2027 (Rates subject to change without notice – Book early for best rates.)

After 25% Early Booking Savings.

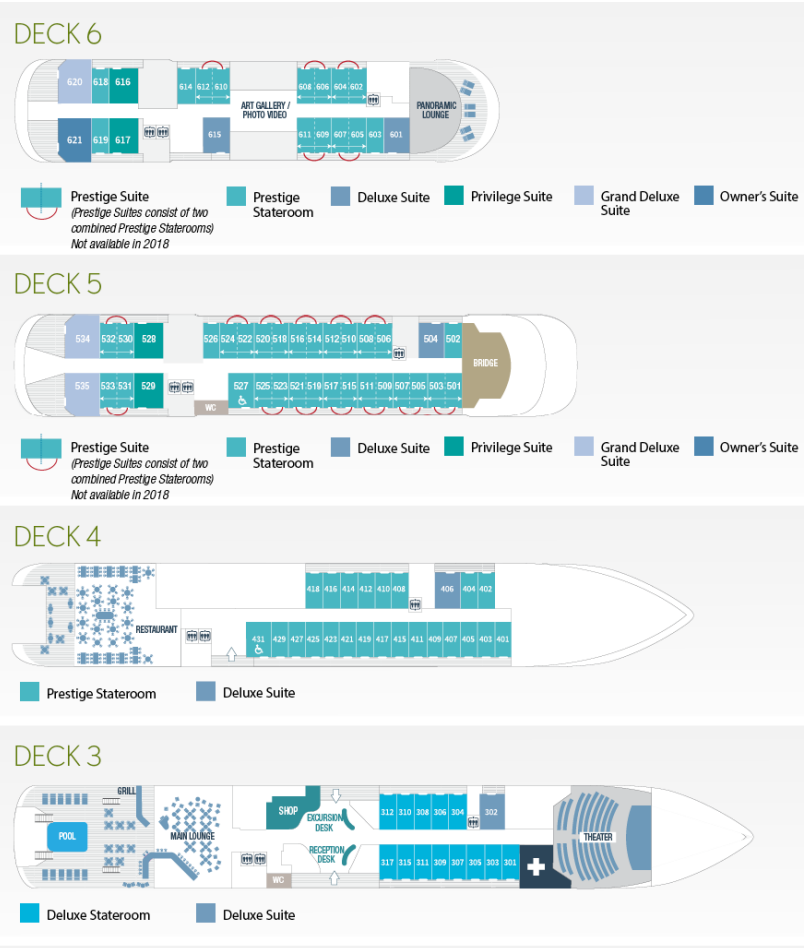
All inclusive – Gratuities to crew; all beverages – open bar; Port Charges; Room Service; Shore Excursions; Wi-Fi, Timeless Exploration, a \$100 per guest shipboard credit or Past Guest Savings, and Airport-ship/ship-airport transfers.

SUITE – 2027	May 18
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$9,240
Prestige – Deck 4	\$10,230
Prestige – Deck 5	\$10,730
Prestige – Deck 6	\$11,330
Deluxe Ste – Decks 3-6	\$15,710
Prestige Suite – Dk 5	\$21,170
Prestige Suite – Dk 6	\$22,280
Privilege Suite – Dk 5-6	\$23,370
Grand Deluxe Suite – Dk 5-6	\$25,660
OWNER SUITE	\$35,730



Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email – info@explorcruises.com
www.explorcruises.com



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