

ART AND CULTURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN



DATE: JUNE 19 – JULY 2, 2005

Sunday, June 19th
Chicago / Venice, Italy

We depart from Chicago O'Hare for our flight to Venice.
(Meals aloft)

Monday, June 20th
Venice

We arrive in Venice this afternoon and transfer to the pier to board Celebrity Cruise's *Millennium*. Unpack and relax before tonight's welcome dinner. (D)



Tuesday, June 21st
Venice

One of the world's most beautiful cities also happens to be one of its most unusual. Venice is actually made up of over 120 islands in the Adriatic Sea. Because the city is connected by canals instead of streets, a good way to see Venice is on a romantic gondola ride, or circle the city in a vaporetti, boats that serve as the city's transit system. The epicenter of the city is St. Mark's Square, where you'll find the 900-year-old Basilica of St. Mark, Doges Palace, the Campanile and the Bridge of Sighs. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, June 22nd
Dubrovnik, Croatia

This medieval city known as the "Pearl of the Adriatic" is a gleaming jewel of white marble set on a shelf-like peninsular. The famous walls of Stari Grad (old city) were built between the 11th and 15th C. Saint Vlaho's (St. Blaise) is a lovely church built in honor of the city's patron saint. A giant open square in the center of Old Town holds the public market with its unbelievable bargains. Once you experience this city that George Bernard Shaw described as "paradise", you will find it hard to leave. While in Dubrovnik, you may want to visit the island of Lokrum and revel in its enchanting botanical gardens. (B, L, D)

Thursday, June 23rd
At Sea

Enjoy day at leisure at sea. (B, L, D)

Friday, June 24th
Athens, Greece



Piraeus is the main port for Athens, the bustling metropolis that weaves both sixth century BC history and 21st century modernism. Everywhere you look are examples of Corinthian, Hellenistic and Minoan architecture and statuary. Highlights include the Acropolis, a natural fortress of limestone rock rising 230 feet above Athens, the Parthenon, the most magnificent and graceful architecture in the ancient world. European civilization began here more than 2,000 years ago. This port also offers opportunities to venture to Cape Sounion on the Apollo Coast and Argolis, where the beehive tombs are located. (B, L, D)

Saturday, June 25th
Santorini (Thira)

This stunning sun-washed port will be one of the highlights of your tour in Greece. Santorini's signature bleached white homes beckon you from their volcanic ridge. You will enjoy excursions to Fira, the capital and Oia, a photographic point on the island's northernmost peninsula. This island is truly a photographer's dream. (B, L, D)

Sunday, June 26th

At Sea

Enjoy day at leisure at sea. (B, L, D)

Monday, June 27th

Naples, Italy

The crescent-shaped city of Naples is possibly one of the most interesting in Italy. Its varied quarters consist of warm people and breathtaking architecture. The city's range of specialties are classic museums, bright frescos, mozzarella and pizza. (B, L, D)



Tuesday, June 28th

Rome (Civitavecchia)

After a ride through the lovely Etruscan countryside, you'll be in Rome, the Eternal City. There are so many things to see and do -- visit the coliseum, the Trevi Fountain and toss a coin, the Pantheon, Rome's best preserved ancient building, Vatican City, the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel with frescoes by Michelangelo. You won't want to miss St. Peter's Basilica, a cathedral full of works by Bramante, Michelangelo, Raphael and Bernini. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, June 29th

Florence/Pisa (Livorno)

This will be your gateway for Pisa and Florence. You will, of course, be able to see the Leaning Tower and learn about this architectural anomaly. Florence with its splendid Renaissance treasures including the richly marbled Duomo (Cathedral) of Santa Maria del Fiore, the 11th C Baptistry and the famous Ghiberti's bronze doors (Gates of Paradise), the campanile (Bell Tower) by Giotto will amaze you. The tombs of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo are also located in this compact city. Enjoy sitting at a sidewalk cafe in the Piazza Signoria looking at the Palazzo Vecchio. Cross the Arno River on Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge) and explore its many shops. There are many more rich opportunities to experience in this city full of masterpieces by geniuses. From the 13th to 15th centuries, Florence became a haven for poets, sculptors and painters. Today, there are many opportunities to see the fruits of their labors. The tombs of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo are also located here. (B, L, D)

Thursday, June 30th

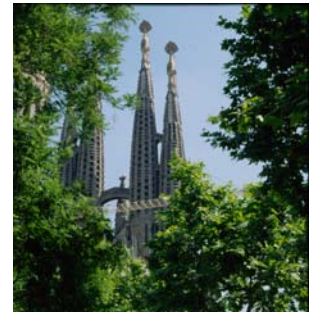
Nice, France (Villefranche)

Villefranche is a charming port above a fishing village that reminds one why the French Riviera is known for class and sophistication. It is also your gateway to Nice, Cannes, the Grand Corniche, Èze and Monte Carlo, Monaco. This area is still the playground for the rich and famous and the Côte d'Azur is known for pristine beaches and scenic drives. Once a retreat for artists, this region also offers spectacular museums. (B, L, D)

Friday, July 1st

Barcelona

Formerly a sleepy Spanish city, Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain. Before leaving this unique, bustling city, a stroll down bohemian La Rambla is a must. It has recently been reborn as a fusion of modern and medieval. Seek inspiration in the modernist architecture of Antonio Gaudi and see his unfinished church, Sagrada Familia, after Gothic Quarter, or the Picasso Museum. Or take in the breathtaking cathedrals in the Gothic Quarter. (B, L, D)



Saturday, July 2nd

Barcelona

This morning we disembark in Barcelona and transfer to the airport for our flight home to Chicago. (B)