

Itinerary

Rome, Athens and the Eastern Mediterranean

June 5-17, 2018



Day 1 -- Tue, June 5, 2018

Arrive in Rome

Fly into Rome. You can arrange your flights with our agent, Jim Pierce, 800-795-1633. (If you wish to arrive earlier and spend a few more days in Rome, Jim can help with that too.) Upon arrival at Rome airport, transfer on your own to our hotel, the **Massimo d'Azeglio**. It has a 4-star rating on TripAdvisor. We will give you tips on transportation from the airport. Group meeting that night, and maybe dancing!

Day 2 -- Wed, June 6

Rome

Breakfast at hotel. Tour the **Coliseum** [below], ancient Palatine Hill overlooking Circus Maximus and the Imperial Palace, and the **Roman Forum**. Remainder of the day at leisure. Lunch and dinner on your own. Dancing in the evening. **(B)**



Day 3 -- Thu, June 7 **Rome – Vatican – Civitavecchia**

Breakfast at hotel. Visit the **Vatican Museums** with impressive **Sistine Chapel** and grand **St. Peter's Basilica**. Lunch on your own. Afterwards, bus transfer to ship *Norwegian Spirit* in Civitavecchia. Ship departs at 5:00 p.m. Dinner on board. **(B, D)**

Day 4 -- Fri, June 8 **At sea**

In addition to our three meals and exploring our floating hotel, we'll be folk dancing!
In fact, we plan to dance on the boat every day of the cruise.

Day 5 -- Sat, June 9 **Mykonos**

Our first stop is the Greek island and city of Mykonos. We'll take a 2-1/2 hour walking tour of the town, through narrow streets to the **Aegean Maritime Museum**, finishing with a sampling of mezedes (Greek tapas) and ouzo. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mykonos>

Day 6 -- Sun, June 10 **Athens**

Today is an 8-1/2 hour bus and walking tour of Athens and its scenic coast. We'll climb to the top of the **Acropolis** [below] and take a drive to many of the city's other highlights. After the included lunch, we'll travel along the coast, culminating in the Temple of Poseidon.



Day 7 -- Mon, June 11 **Rhodes**

The Greek island and city of Rhodes is off the coast of Turkey. The ship docks just five minutes from the town, so there's no scheduled excursion for us (although a la carte excursions may be available through the ship). The medieval Old Town is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes#Sea>

Day 8 -- Tue, June 12 **Santorini**

If this is Tuesday, it must be Santorini! This Greek island/city perches on what land was left after the Great Minoan volcanic eruption 3,000 year ago. We will take a 5-1/2 hour bus and walking tour, starting with the highest town on the island, where you can take in the immensity of the caldera. After a visit to another village, we'll have an included lunch with food, drink, music and dance – *opa!*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santorini>

Day 9 -- Wed, June 13 **Crete**

We dock at the port of Chania, where we'll take a 3-1/2 hour bus/walking tour of the town and learn about the history of Crete, a destination for many conquerors.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chania>

Day 10 -- Thu, June 14 **Malta**

We dock at Valletta, the capital of the Republic of Malta. On our mostly walking 5-hour tour of the city, we'll see the Upper Barracca Gardens, St. John's Co-Cathedral (home to the Knights of Malta), and the Magistral Palace, before driving to the village of Mdina for a look at the countryside.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malta>

Day 11 -- Fri, June 15 **Sicily**

Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean, and the home of the volatile Mt. Etna. We'll dock at Messina and from there take a tour of the enchanting medieval town of **Taormina** [below].

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taormina>



Day 12 -- Sat, June 16 **Naples/Pompeii**

On our last day, we'll take an 8-hour bus and walking excursion, starting with a drive around the Bay of Naples and ending up in Sorrento for lunch and a visit to a woodworking shop. We'll finish up with a walk through legendary Pompeii, a city remarkably preserved under deadly volcanic ash in 79 A.D.

Day 13 -- Sun, June 17 **Civitavecchia – Rome**

Ship docks at 6:00 a.m. After breakfast we'll disembark and take a chartered bus to the Rome airport.