Cruise Details

Name:	Cultures of the Mediterranean Barcelona to Civitavecchia
Reference:	EMERALDE08M020527-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Sakara
Regions:	Mediterranean
Departs On:	02 May 27
Departs From:	Barcelona
Arrives On:	13 May 27
Arrives At:	Civitavecchia
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Barcelona (Spain)

Welcome to Spain and the cosmopolitan city of Barcelona. Your journey begins here, among the vibrant colours and cultures of the Catalan region. You'll be transferred to your Emerald Cruises luxury yacht to begin your cruise around the shores of the Mediterranean. Please book your flight to arrive into Barcelona prior to 01:00 PM. Docked: 18:00

Arrives On: 02 May 27

Day 2: Palma de Mallorca (Spain)

The capital of the Balearic Islands, Mallorca is famous for its stunning coastline, historic towns and delicious cuisine. Its capital city, Palma de Mallorca, dates back to the 13th century and is a vision in honey-coloured stone. Marvel at its grand Gothic cathedral, walk the medieval streets lined with aristocratic townhouses and sip coffee in bustling public squares. Elsewhere on the

island, discover the authentic village of Valldemossa, the unspoilt beaches and natural beauty of the landscape. DiscoverMORE
Walking tour of Palma de Mallorca (extra expense, must be pre-booked)
Step back through centuries of history as you explore the medieval heart of Palma de Mallorca, from its historic Jewish Quarter to one of the island's most iconic castles. Begin with a guided walk through Call Major, Palma's historic Jewish Quarter, before visiting the magnificent Cathedral of Santa María (La Seu), Spain's second-largest Gothic cathedral. Admire its soaring columns and elegant interior before exploring the Cathedral Treasury Museum, home to an impressive collection of religious art, manuscripts, and historic treasures. Continue along the scenic Paseo Marítimo, lined with luxury yachts and waterfront hotels, en route to Bellver Castle. This unique 14th-century circular fortress offers spectacular panoramic views over Palma and its beautiful bay while revealing fascinating stories from its royal and military past.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours DiscoverMORE
Valdemosa and Son Marroig Tour (extra expense, must be pre-booked)
Step into the timeless charm of Valldemossa, one of Mallorca's most beautiful mountain villages, renowned for its historic monastery, cobbled streets, and artistic heritage. Travel through the scenic Tramuntana Mountains to the picturesque village of Valldemossa. Enjoy a guided walk through its flower-filled lanes, passing the Carthusian Monastery Gardens and the Chopin Monument before visiting the historic Royal Carthusian Monastery. Originally a royal residence and later home to Carthusian monks, the monastery is best known for the winter spent here in 1838 by composer Frédéric Chopin and writer George Sand. Explore the museum, which houses original manuscripts, musical scores, and exhibits dedicated to their stay. After your guided visit, enjoy free time to wander the charming streets, browse local shops, or relax at a local café (own expense).
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours 30 minutes Docked: 08:30–18:00

Arrives On: 03 May 27

Day 3: Mahón, Menorca (Spain)

The quietest and most relaxed of the Balearics, Menorca gives you a taste of how these islands used to be. The island’s capital, Mahón, is on the east coast and is yours to explore today. It sits on the largest natural harbour in the Mediterranean and was colonised by the British in the 18th century, leaving a legacy of grand naval buildings and Georgian townhouses. Beyond that, there’s a wealth of prehistoric structures to explore and the interior of the island remains largely untouched, dotted with rolling farmland and whitewashed villages. DiscoverMORE
Villages of Menorca & Caves (extra expense)
Take in some of Menorca's most spectacular scenery, combining panoramic viewpoints, dramatic coastal landscapes, and one of the island's most picturesque villages. Begin at Monte Toro, the highest point on the island, where a peaceful 17th-century sanctuary offers sweeping views across Menorca and the surrounding coastline. Continue to the spectacular Cova d'en Xoroi, dramatically perched on limestone cliffs above the Mediterranean. Enjoy a refreshing

drink while admiring the breathtaking views and hearing the romantic legend associated with this unique cave setting. Complete your excursion in the charming village of Binibeca, where whitewashed houses and narrow lanes recreate the atmosphere of a traditional Mediterranean fishing village. Enjoy free time to stroll through its picturesque streets or browse the local shops before returning.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours DiscoverMORE
Cultures of Menorca (extra expense)
Discover the authentic charm of Menorca, where picturesque fishing villages, local culinary traditions, and elegant historic streets offer a true taste of island life. Begin in the peaceful harbour village of Fornells, where whitewashed houses and a relaxed waterfront invite you to explore at your own pace. Continue to a traditional cheese farm to learn how the island's famous Mahón Cheese is produced, before enjoying a tasting of this celebrated local speciality. Conclude your excursion with a guided walk through Mahón, Menorca's historic capital. Admire its elegant architecture and visit landmarks including the Church of Santa María, while discovering the island's rich history and cultural heritage.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours Docked: 08:00–22:00

Arrives On: 04 May 27

Day 5: Cagliari (Italy)

The best way to arrive in Sardinia’s historic capital is by sea, so be sure to wake early and stand out on your balcony this morning. Cagliari comes prettily sandwiched between rolling verdant hills and the sparkling Mediterranean Sea, rising up steeply to the hilltop citadel of Il Castello. It is home to one of the longest beaches in Italy, Poetta Beach, and Molentargius-Saline Regional Park, known for its bright pink flamingo colonies. For a taste of authentic Sardinian flavours, sample one of the traditional local dishes, such as malloreddus (Sardinian gnocchi) and porceddu (roast suckling pig). DiscoverMORE
Cagliari City Sightseeing & Archeological Museum (extra expense)
Explore the rich history and panoramic beauty of Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, where ancient fortifications, elegant churches, and archaeological treasures reveal over two thousand years of history. Visit the historic Castello district, the city's medieval citadel, and explore the fascinating National Archaeological Museum, home to one of Sardinia's finest collections of prehistoric, Punic, and Roman artefacts. Continue to the beautiful Cathedral of Santa Maria, admired for its magnificent Baroque interior and ornate marble decorations. Along the way, enjoy views of the Santa Gilla and Molentargius Lagoons, renowned for their resident flamingos and abundant birdlife, before passing landmarks including Arsenale Square, the impressive Tower of San Pancrazio, and Piazzetta Mundula.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours 30 minutes Docked: 08:00–18:00

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 6: Tunis (Tunisia)

Cruising south, today you'll arrive on the northern coast of Africa at Tunis, the capital of Tunisia. A fascinating crossroads of cultures for thousands of years, Tunis has at its heart the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Medina, a maze of winding alleyways filled with bustling souks, historic mosques, and ornate palaces. Just beyond the city, the legendary ruins of Carthage stand as a testament to one of history's greatest civilisations, offering a glimpse into the power and grandeur of the ancient Phoenician and Roman empires. Included Excursion
Medina and Guided Visit of the Village of Sidi Bou Said
Experience two of Tunisia's most iconic destinations, where vibrant markets, historic architecture, and breathtaking Mediterranean views capture the country's unique cultural heritage. Travel to the historic Medina of Tunis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the cultural heart of the capital. Join a guided walk through its maze of narrow streets before enjoying free time to browse traditional souks filled with carpets, spices, perfumes, brassware, leather goods, and handcrafted souvenirs. Continue to the picturesque village of Sidi Bou Saïd, famous for its whitewashed houses, blue-painted doors and shutters, and spectacular views across the Bay of Tunis. Enjoy free time to explore the charming streets, browse local boutiques, or relax at a traditional café with a refreshing mint tea (own expense).
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours 30 minutes Docked: 12:00–19:00

Arrives On: 07 May 27

Day 7: Porto Empedocle (Italy)

Cross back into Italy and the island of Sicily. The town of Porto Empedocle was once a sleepy fishing village, but today is a bustling resort town famous for its glorious. golden beaches. In the 1400s, it was a significant port for transporting grains and later became known for sulphur and rock salt mining. Stroll along the lively Via Roma on the waterfront, watch the ferries sailing to the Pelegai Islands from the Marina and admire the enormous Carlo V Tower, an historic fortififcation and former prison. DiscoverMORE
Valley of the Temples in Agrigento (extra expense)
Step back in time at the magnificent Valley of the Temples, one of Sicily's greatest archaeological treasures and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travel from Porto Empedocle to Agrigento, the ancient Greek city of Akragas, founded in 581 BC and once among the most powerful cities of Magna Graecia. Enjoy a guided walk through the remarkable archaeological park, where beautifully preserved Doric temples stand among olive and almond groves overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Admire the remains of the monumental Temple of Olympian Zeus, the iconic Temple of Castor and Pollux, the ancient Temple of Heracles, and the distinctive Tomb of Theron. The highlight of your visit is the magnificent Temple of Concordia, one of the best-preserved Greek temples in the world, followed by the Temple of Hera, dramatically positioned at the eastern end of the sacred ridge with sweeping views across the valley.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 4 hours Docked: 13:00–18:30

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 8: Valletta (Malta)

The tiny city of Valletta, the capital of Malta, is the smallest city in the European Union and covers just over half a square kilometre. Built by the Knights of St John in the 16th century, it’s a living testament to the Baroque period, with well-preserved buildings, ornate churches and magnificent fortifications. The city is located on a hilly peninsula, offering breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea. Despite its compact size, Valletta has a vibrant cultural life and regularly hosts lively markets and festivals. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Mdina & Valletta
Travel through Malta’s scenic countryside to Mdina, the island’s former capital, perched high on a hill with sweeping views across the island. Considered one of Europe’s finest examples of a fortified city, Mdina’s blend of medieval and baroque architecture reflects its long and storied past. Stroll through the narrow, winding streets as your guide shares 4,000 years of history and introduces you to the city’s highlights. From the bastions, admire panoramic vistas reaching the distant coastline before enjoying some free time to explore independently. Continue by coach to Valletta, Malta’s present-day capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the magnificent St. John’s Co-Cathedral, renowned for its baroque splendour, and enjoy a guided walk past key landmarks, including the Grand Master’s Palace, the Renzo Piano-designed Parliament Building, and Our Lady of Victories Church. Pass the Auberge de Castille, now housing the office of the Prime Minister, before reaching the Upper Barrakka Gardens. Perched high above the Grand Harbour, this peaceful spot offers shade, tranquillity, and one of the most spectacular panoramic views in Malta.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 5 hours Docked: 08:00–18:00

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 9: Giardini Naxos (Italy)

The picturesque seaside town of Giardini Naxos is on the eastern coast of Sicily, Italy. Its sprawling seafront offers stunning views of the Ionian Sea and Mount Etna. The town is known for its beautiful sandy beaches, clear blue waters, and vibrant waterfront promenade lined with restaurants, shops, and cafes. Giardini Naxos is the gateway to the exclusive resort of Taormina, perched on the side of the mountain above. One of Italy’s most popular summer destinations, it draws the rich and famous from around the world to its luxury hotels and fine dining restaurants. The area also has a rich history, with archaeological sites dating back to ancient Greek and Roman times. DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of Taormina (extra expense)
Experience the timeless elegance of Taormina, one of Sicily's most celebrated hilltop towns, renowned for its spectacular views, ancient monuments, and charming medieval streets. Travel along the scenic eastern coastline, passing through Giardini Naxos before arriving in beautiful Taormina. Join your guide for a walking tour through the historic centre, viewing the exterior of the Cathedral, the magnificent Ancient Greek Theatre with its breathtaking backdrop of Mount Etna, the medieval Palazzo Corvaja, and the remains of the Odeon. Stroll along lively Corso Umberto, lined with elegant boutiques, cafés, and historic buildings. After the guided tour, enjoy

free time to browse local shops, relax at a café (own expense), or continue exploring Taormina's picturesque squares, stairways, and medieval alleyways at your own pace. At the designated time, rejoin your guide for the return coach journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours Anchored: 07:30–14:00

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 10: Sorrento (Italy)

 Sorrento is a much-loved resort town on the Amalfi Coast, perched dramatically atop cliffs that overlook the Bay of Naples and boasting stunning views of Mount Vesuvius across the water. An impossibly romantic haven, Sorrento bewitches with its elegant Italian villas, world-class restaurants serving up mouth-watering cuisine and fragrant lemon groves. The town's historic centre is filled with narrow streets lined with shops selling locally made ceramics, limoncello, and other traditional products. Explore the town's ancient Greek and Roman ruins, like the Villa Pollio and the Museo Correale di Terranova, get a glimpse into its storied past as you explore grand cathedrals and palazzos built of warm golden stone, then sit down at a cafe to watch the world go by. EmeraldACTIVE
Discover Pompeii
Step back in time at Pompeii, one of the world's most remarkable archaeological sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where an entire Roman city was preserved beneath volcanic ash for nearly 1,700 years. After tendering ashore, board the local shuttle to the coach departure point before travelling to Pompeii. En route, enjoy views of the Bay of Naples and, weather permitting, a glimpse of Mount Vesuvius. Upon arrival, join a guided walk through the ancient streets, discovering the Forum, Stabian Baths, theatres, elegant villas, and beautifully preserved frescoes and mosaics. Learn how the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 buried the thriving city beneath ash, preserving an extraordinary snapshot of everyday Roman life. Following your visit, enjoy a slice of traditional Neapolitan pizza accompanied by a soft drink before returning by coach to Sorrento.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 5 hours 30 minutes EmeraldPLUS
Neapolitan Evening Tarantella (performance on board)
Immerse yourself in the vibrant energy and captivating rhythm of the Tarantella, a celebration of Sorrento's culture and music from the late 19th century. Enjoy traditional dances, lively music, and interactive moments that make every guest an integral part of the show. Be mesmerized by the rhythmic beats and intricate footwork of the Tarantella, showcased on stage with delightful musical interludes and entertaining strolling artists. Join in the fun as the performers engage the audience, inviting everyone to clap along, feel the rhythm, and even dance along with the lively atmosphere of Sorrento's rich cultural heritage.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes Anchored: 10:30–22:00

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 11: Ischia Island (Italy)

The island of Ischia sits just off the coast of Naples and is famous for its volcanic thermal waters, which are said to have curative powers. This charming town, nestled on the northern coast of the island, is renowned for its wealth of natural thermal springs—so much so that the word "thermal" (or Terme) is part of its name. Known for its rejuvenating waters and wellness culture, it has long been a destination for those seeking relaxation, healing, and a touch of luxury amid picturesque surroundings. The town’s thermal heritage is deeply woven into its identity, offering everything from historic spas to modern wellness retreats. DiscoverMORE
Aragonese Castle & winery (extra expense)
Experience the authentic charm of Ischia on a journey that combines history, spectacular scenery, and the island's celebrated winemaking traditions. Begin in the picturesque village of Ischia Ponte, the island's oldest quarter, where a guided walk leads to the magnificent Aragonese Castle, Ischia's most iconic landmark. Perched on a rocky islet and linked to the mainland by a stone bridge, this impressive fortress boasts more than 2,500 years of history and offers panoramic views across the Bay of Naples. Following your guided visit, enjoy free time to browse local shops, take photographs, or relax and soak up the atmosphere. Continue to a local winery, where a guided tour introduces the estate, wine cellar, and the island's unique volcanic terroir. Learn about traditional winemaking techniques before enjoying a tasting of four locally produced wines, each thoughtfully paired with seasonal specialities that highlight the distinctive flavours of Ischia.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 7 hours DiscoverMORE
Sant’Angelo Village & Poseidon Thermal Resort (extra expense)
Experience two of Ischia's most celebrated highlights, combining the charm of a traditional seaside village with the island's famous thermal waters. Travel to the picturesque fishing village of Sant'Angelo, where colourful houses, elegant boutiques, and waterfront cafés create one of the island's most photogenic settings. Enjoy free time to stroll through its pedestrian streets, browse local shops, or simply relax and soak up the Mediterranean atmosphere. Continue to the renowned Poseidon Thermal Gardens, Ischia's largest thermal park, beautifully situated on the Bay of Citara. Spend time enjoying the extensive complex of thermal and seawater pools, wellness areas, Mediterranean gardens, and direct access to the sandy beach. During your visit, you may also enjoy lunch or refreshments at one of the park's restaurants or cafés (own expense). At the designated time, rejoin your guide for the return transfer.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 7 hours Anchored: 08:00–18:00

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 12: Civitavecchia (Italy)

Your luxurious yacht cruise returns to Italian shores today and concludes in Civitavecchia, the main seaport for the dynamic capital of Italy, Rome. Here you’ll be transferred to the airport for your return flight home or to continue your travels. DiscoverMORE
Rome On Your Own (extra

expense, must be booked on board)
Experience the timeless appeal of Rome, where ancient monuments, elegant piazzas, and world-famous landmarks showcase more than two thousand years of history. Travel along the scenic Tyrrhenian Coast before arriving in the Eternal City for a panoramic drive past iconic sights, including the Circus Maximus and the magnificent Colosseum, once the largest amphitheatre in the Roman Empire. Continue into the heart of the city to enjoy free time at leisure, with the opportunity to discover celebrated landmarks such as the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, and the lively Piazza Navona, or relax at one of Rome's traditional cafés. In the afternoon, continue your orientation drive past Castel Sant'Angelo, Vatican City, and the magnificent St Peter's Basilica, pausing for photographs before departing Rome.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 9 hours
Notes: This excursion is available for guests continuing on the next cruise. DiscoverMORE
Rome Tour & Transfer (extra expense, must be booked on board)
Make the most of your final day with a journey from Civitavecchia to Rome, combining a comfortable transfer with the opportunity to experience some of the Eternal City's most celebrated landmarks before continuing to the airport. Travel through the scenic Etruscan countryside along the Tyrrhenian Coast before meeting your guide in Rome. Enjoy a guided orientation featuring exterior views of iconic sights including the magnificent Colosseum, the historic Roman Forum, and the beautiful Trevi Fountain, while learning about the fascinating history behind these world-famous monuments. Following your visit, continue directly to Leonardo da Vinci–Fiumicino Airport (FCO) for your onward flight.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 5 hours 30 minutes
Notes: Available only to participants on flights departing from FCO after 4:30 pm. Luggage will remain securely stored on the coach throughout the excursion. Please book your flight to depart out of Rome after 02:00 PM. Docked: 08:00 The itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such Emerald Cruises cannot guarantee the cruise will operated unaltered from the itinerary states above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.

Arrives On: 13 May 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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