Cruise Details

Name:	Unhurried Islands of the Mediterranean: Corsica, Sardinia & Sicily
Reference:	EMERALDE31M190627-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Sakara
Regions:	Mediterranean
Departs On:	19 Jun 27
Departs From:	Civitavecchia
Arrives On:	30 Jun 27
Arrives At:	Valletta
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Civitavecchia (Italy)

Your unforgettable cruise begins in Italy and Civitavecchia, a historic seaport and gateway to Rome, the ancient capital of Italy, aptly known as the ‘Eternal City.’ From here, you’ll be transferred to your Emerald Cruises luxury yacht and begin your voyage discovering the charms of the West Mediterranean. Please book your flight to arrive into Rome prior to 01:00 PM. Docked: 18:00

Arrives On: 19 Jun 27

Day 2: Bonifacio, Corsica (France)

Perched atop a narrow limestone peninsula on the stunning French Island of Corsica, Bonifacio reveals breathtaking views of the sparkling Mediterranean Sea. Take a step back in time, exploring Bonifacio’s atmospheric Old Town, a fortified medieval citadel filled with quaint narrow streets and historic structures. Be sure to visit The Staircase of the King of Aragon (Escalier du Roi

d'Aragon), a steep flight of steps carved into the cliffside, which leads down to the clear, blue-green sea. DiscoverMORE
Highlights of Bonifacio with Tasting (extra expense, must be pre-booked)
Discover the dramatic clifftop town of Bonifacio, where medieval streets, spectacular coastal scenery, and centuries of Corsican history combine to create one of the island's most unforgettable destinations. Begin with a ride on the tourist train to the upper town, passing the Bosco Quarter, the Convent of St Francis, and the distinctive Marine Cemetery, renowned for its elaborate mausoleums. On clear days, enjoy views across the Strait of Bonifacio to neighbouring Sardinia. Continue on foot through the fortified citadel, exploring its maze of narrow streets and historic landmarks, including St Dominique Church, one of the few examples of Gothic architecture in Corsica, St Marie Majeure Church, Place des Armes, and the spectacular viewpoints overlooking Bonifacio's towering limestone cliffs. Pause at a local wine bar to sample Corsican specialities accompanied by a glass of regional wine while enjoying breathtaking views over the cliffs. Your walk concludes at the Porte de Gênes and St Roch Chapel, before descending the famous Escalier de la Montée Saint-Roch to the marina. You may either return with your group or remain in Bonifacio to continue exploring independently.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours 30
minutes DiscoverMORE
Coastal boat trip (extra expense, must be pre-booked)
Embark on an exclusive coastal exploration excursion starting directly from the pier. Board a comfortable boat and set sail from the harbor, navigating through the narrow channel nestled between the majestic cliffs of Bonifacio. Along the way, you'll pass by the historic "Madonetta" lighthouse, a beacon of maritime history dating back to 1854. Prepare to be enchanted as we approach the entrance of the Sdragnato, or "Little Dragon," marine cave. Marvel at the natural skylight formed by a long fissure in the cave's roof, offering a glimpse of the sky above and showcasing the unique silhouette of Corsica itself. Continuing your journey, you'll glide past "Fazio Creek" and follow the cliff line in a south-easterly direction. Keep an eye out for notable landmarks such as the "Rudder of Corsica" rock formation and the legendary King of Aragon's staircase. Legend has it that these steps were carved overnight in 1420 for a surprise attack, but in reality, they served a more practical purpose of transporting water to the citadel. Excursion culminates with a visit to the iconic "Grain of Sand" rock, a striking natural formation sculpted by erosion and rising from the sea about 10 meters high. Capture this picturesque sight with your camera as it provides the perfect backdrop for a memorable souvenir photo.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 1 hours 15 minutes Docked:
08:00–22:00

Arrives On: 20 Jun 27

Day 3: Porto Cervo (Italy)

Welcome to Italy and the gorgeous Island of Sardinia. Your first port of call is Porto Cervo, a popular hotspot on the island’s northern coast favoured by discerning travellers drawn to its upscale hotels, luxury boutiques, exceptional gourmet restaurants and vibrant nightlife. Porto

Cervo's marina is crammed with opulent yachts and is the illustrious host of prestigious sailing events such as the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup. Despite its reputation for luxury, Porto Cervo however has not, lost its unmistakable Sardinian charm. DiscoverMORE
Panoramic tour and visit to La Maddalena (extra expense)
Journey through the beautiful landscapes of northern Sardinia to discover the enchanting La Maddalena Archipelago, renowned for its crystal-clear waters, granite islands, and spectacular coastal scenery. Meet your guide at the landing place before a short uphill walk to the coach. Travel through the charming villages of San Pantaleo and Arzachena en route to Palau, where you will board a scheduled public ferry to La Maddalena Island. Enjoy a scenic drive across the island, stopping at Guardia Vecchia for panoramic views over the La Maddalena Archipelago and towards Corsica. Continue to the historic centre of La Maddalena, where you will have free time to explore Garibaldi Square, browse local shops, or relax at a café (own expense) before departing for the return journey. Upon arrival back in Porto Cervo, you may either return to the landing place with your guide or remain in the village for independent exploration.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 5 hours DiscoverMORE
Villages of Sardinia and Coddu Vecchiu Giant’s Tombs (extra expense)
Explore the ancient heritage and spectacular landscapes of northern Sardinia, where prehistoric monuments, traditional villages, and breathtaking coastal scenery reveal the island's unique character. Meet your local guide in Porto Cervo before a short uphill walk to the coach. Travel to the charming granite village of San Pantaleo, beautifully set beneath dramatic rock formations, for a brief stop before continuing to the remarkable Giants' Tomb of Coddu Vecchiu, one of Sardinia's finest examples of Nuragic funerary architecture. Dating back to the Bronze Age, this exceptionally well-preserved archaeological site offers a fascinating insight into the island's ancient civilisation and burial traditions. Continue to the seaside resort of Baja Sardinia, where free time allows you to relax and admire magnificent views across the La Maddalena Archipelago before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours Anchored: 08:00–22:00

Arrives On: 21 Jun 27

Day 4: Sardinia (Italy)

Arbatax is best known for its maritime heritage, and its port has been a hub of activity since ancient times due to its strategic coastal location along Sardinia’s eastern shores. One of the most iconic sights in Arbatax is the Rocce Rosse, or Red Rocks, a dramatic outcrop of red porphyry cliffs plunging into the sparkling blue sea. DiscoverMORE
Sardinian Coast by Motorboat (extra expense)
Cruise along the spectacular coastline of the Gulf of Orosei, where towering limestone cliffs, hidden coves, and crystal-clear waters create one of Sardinia's most breathtaking natural landscapes. Sail past dramatic landmarks including Pedra Longa, the striking Baus Waterfalls, the impressive Colombi Cave, and the spectacular headland of Monte Santo. Continue along the coast, admiring the secluded inlets of Portu Quau and Portu Pedrosu, the rugged Montes Insani, and the world-famous Cala Goloritzé

before arriving at the stunning Cala Mariolu. Enjoy free time to swim, relax on the beach, or simply take in the exceptional scenery. The cruise continues past the forest-backed Cala Biriala, Cala Sisine, the fascinating Fossil Furrow Groove, Cala Ginepro, and the beautiful Cala Luna, offering unforgettable views of Sardinia's pristine coastline before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 5 hours DiscoverMORE
Unexplored Sardinia by 4x4 Jeep (extra expense)
Venture into the rugged interior of Sardinia on an exciting 4x4 adventure, exploring mountain landscapes, ancient archaeology, and traditional island culture. Travel by 4x4 vehicle from Arbatax through the mountain village of Baunei before ascending to the scenic Golgo Plateau. Visit the ancient Nuraghe Coa e Serra, where the impressive remains of a prehistoric Nuragic settlement offer a fascinating glimpse into Sardinia's distant past. Continue to the remarkable Voragine del Golgo, one of Europe's deepest natural sinkholes, and the nearby natural pools set within the island's dramatic limestone landscape. Pause at a traditional mountain refuge to enjoy refreshments before visiting the charming country Church of San Pietro, peacefully nestled on the plateau. Afterwards, depart for the return journey.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 4 hours Docked: 08:00–18:00

Arrives On: 22 Jun 27

Day 5: Cagliari (Italy)

At the southern tip of the island, nestled between the rolling hills and the sea, today, you'll discover the capital of Sardinia, Cagliari. The city is home to one of the longest beaches in Italy, Poetta Beach, and Molentargius-Saline Regional Park, well-known for its bright pink flamingo colonies. Be sure to sample the local culinary specialities, which include traditional dishes like 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: 08:00–14:00

Arrives On: 23 Jun 27

Day 6: Tunis (Tunisia)

Cruise south across the Mediterranean Sea for the exotic North African coast and Tunisia, arriving in its colourful capital, Tunis. With a rich cultural heritage that blends an intriguing tapestry of Arab, Berber, French, and Italian influences, this historic city is characterised by its distinctive architecture, bustling markets and vibrant atmosphere. 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 DiscoverMORE
Carthage Tour (extra expense)
Step into the fascinating history of Carthage, one of the ancient Mediterranean's greatest cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where Phoenician, Punic, and Roman civilizations left an extraordinary legacy. Travel to the remarkable Ruins of Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC and later rebuilt by the Romans after its destruction in 146 BC. Explore some of the site's most significant monuments, including the impressive Baths of Antoninus Pius, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Punic Ports, the vast Roman Cisterns, and Byrsa Hill, where panoramic views complement the rich history of this once-powerful empire.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 3 hours 30 minutes Docked: 08:00–18:00

Arrives On: 24 Jun 27

Day 7: Trapani, Sicily (Italy)

Returning to Italy, today, you’ll arrive at the magnificent Island of Sicily and a visit to Trapani, a charming port city that boasts stunning Mediterranean views and a rich Sicilian cultural heritage. Take a stroll through the picturesque Old Town, where you’ll discover quaint narrow streets lined with historic buildings, traditional markets and tantalising eateries that tempt with local delicacies like freshly-caught seafood and the world-famous Sicilian pastry, cannoli. DiscoverMORE
Segesta & Erice (extra expense)
Journey through western Sicily to discover the ancient splendour of Segesta and the timeless charm of the medieval hilltop town of Erice. Travel inland to the remarkable archaeological site of Segesta, where you will visit one of the best-preserved Doric temples in the Mediterranean, dramatically positioned on the slopes of Mount Barbaro. Continue by shuttle bus to the spectacular Greek Theatre, where breathtaking views extend across the surrounding countryside and towards Castellammare del Golfo. Your journey continues to the medieval town of Erice, perched high above the coast with panoramic views of the Egadi Islands and the

Mediterranean Sea. Enjoy a guided walk through its cobbled streets, passing the Trapani Gate, Chiesa Madre, Church of San Francesco, Venus Castle, the Balio Gardens, and Umberto I Square. During your visit, savour a traditional Sicilian lunch before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration 8 hours DiscoverMORE
Marsala, Salt pans and winery visit (extra expense)
Follow the historic Salt Road through western Sicily, where shimmering salt flats, traditional windmills, and renowned vineyards reveal the region's rich cultural heritage. Travel along the scenic coastline to the historic Ettore Infersa Salt Pans, where a beautifully restored 500-year-old windmill stands as a testament to Sicily's centuries-old salt-making tradition. Learn how the unique combination of sun, wind, and shallow lagoons has shaped this remarkable landscape and sustained salt production for generations. Continue to the charming town of Marsala, located on the site of the ancient city of Lilybaeum. Join a guided walk through its historic centre, admiring the exterior of the Cathedral and discovering the town's rich Carthaginian, Roman, Norman, Arab, and Spanish heritage. Enjoy free time to explore at your own pace before visiting the renowned winery, where you will learn about the history of the famous Marsala wine and enjoy a guided wine tasting before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration 5 hours EmeraldPLUS
Folklore Show on Board
Celebrate the vibrant traditions of Sicily with an authentic onboard folklore performance showcasing the island's rich musical and cultural heritage. Enjoy an entertaining evening featuring four musicians and four dancers dressed in traditional Sicilian costumes. Through lively music, regional songs, and energetic dances, the performers bring Sicily's centuries-old traditions to life. Guests are warmly invited to join in the celebration, making this an engaging and memorable cultural experience.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes Docked: 08:00–22:00

Arrives On: 25 Jun 27

Day 8: Palermo (Italy)

Welcome to Palermo, the enthralling capital of Sicily, nestled on the island’s rugged northern shores. Here, you’re sure to be enchanted with the city’s storied Sicilian history, stunning architectural wonders and vibrant street markets. Palermo reveals a fascinating mix of cultures, including Italian, Arabic, and Norman influences, which is evident in its diverse architectural styles and cuisine. The historic centre is today a UNESCO World Heritage Site, brimming with beautiful churches, palaces and bustling squares. You can also discover Palermo’s renowned street food scene, with markets like Mercato Ballarò and Mercato Vucciria serving up a wide array of delicious local specialties that include arancini, panelle, and sfincione. Today choose between our EmeraldACTIVE or DiscoverMORE option EmeraldACTIVE
Palermo on Foot & Granita Tasting
Step into the vibrant heart of Palermo, where magnificent churches, grand theatres, and elegant piazzas reveal over a thousand years of Sicilian history and culture. Meet your guide at

the pier and receive your personal audio headset before setting off on a guided walk through the city's historic centre. Stroll to Piazza Castelnuovo to admire the impressive Politeama Theatre, then continue along Via Maqueda to the magnificent Teatro Massimo, one of Europe's largest opera houses. Continue to the iconic Quattro Canti, the elegant crossroads at the heart of Palermo, before visiting Piazza Pretoria and its spectacular Fontana Pretoria. Explore the beautiful Martorana Church, renowned for its magnificent 12th-century Byzantine mosaics, then pass Bellini Square, where you will admire the exterior of Santa Caterina Church and San Cataldo. Your walk concludes at Marina Square, home to the historic Garibaldi Gardens and its remarkable giant ficus tree. Before departing for the return journey, pause at a local café to sample a traditional Sicilian granita.
Activity Level: Active, Duration: 3 hours 40 minutes DiscoverMORE
Monreale with Cannoli Tasting (extra expense)
Travel to the hilltop town of Monreale, home to one of Sicily's most magnificent monuments and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Journey through Palermo before arriving in Monreale, where the spectacular Cathedral of Santa Maria Nuova stands as one of the finest achievements of Norman architecture. Founded in the 12th century by King William II, the cathedral is renowned for its breathtaking Byzantine mosaics, which cover more than 6,500 square metres and depict biblical scenes in extraordinary detail. Learn about the remarkable blend of Norman, Byzantine, and Arab influences that make this masterpiece one of Sicily's greatest artistic treasures. Following your guided visit, enjoy a tasting of a traditional Sicilian cannolo and free time to explore the charming town before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours Docked: 08:00–17:00

Arrives On: 26 Jun 27

Day 9: Pantelleria (Italy)

Situated between Italy and Tunisia within the Strait of Sicily, you'll visit the picturesque Italian island of Pantelleria – part of the Sicilian Province of Trapani. As well as centuries of history, Pantelleria is distinctive for its stunning volcanic landscapes and unique geological features, revealing rugged coastlines, dramatic cliffs, and beautiful coves. DiscoverMORE
Pantelleria Scenic Drive and Passito Tasting (extra expense)
Discover the volcanic landscapes and unique traditions of Pantelleria, an island where dramatic scenery, ancient farming techniques, and renowned wines come together. Travel across the island to Lago di Venere (Lake of Venus), a beautiful volcanic lake famous for its mineral-rich waters and natural thermal mud. Continue to the iconic Elephant's Arch, a striking lava rock formation naturally sculpted to resemble an elephant drinking from the sea, before enjoying panoramic views of Pantelleria's distinctive terraced vineyards, where the island's celebrated Zibibbo grapes and capers have been cultivated for centuries. Conclude your excursion with a visit to Azienda Agricola Bonomo, where you will learn about local wine production and enjoy a tasting of the island's famous Passito di Pantelleria dessert wine before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 4 hours 30

minutes DiscoverMORE
Volcanoes and Thermal Springs (extra expense)
Venture into the volcanic heart of Pantelleria, where dramatic landscapes, panoramic viewpoints, and natural thermal springs showcase the island's unique geological heritage. Travel to Montagna Grande, the island's highest peak, where a short walk leads to spectacular viewpoints overlooking Pantelleria's rugged coastline and volcanic terrain. Visit Benikulà Cave, renowned for its naturally heated steam, while your guide explains the island's volcanic origins and distinctive ecosystem. Continue to the thermal springs of Gadir, where you will have time to relax in the naturally heated pools and experience the mineral-rich waters long valued for their therapeutic properties. Before returning, pause at Bagno dell'Acqua, a small volcanic lake formed within an ancient caldera, offering another glimpse into Pantelleria's remarkable geological landscape, before departing for the return journey.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours Anchored: 08:00–18:00

Arrives On: 27 Jun 27

Day 10: Porto Empedocle (Italy)

Located on the southern shores of Sicily, Porto Empedocle presents a charming port town, named in honour of the ancient Greek philosopher, Empedocles, who, as local legend attests, was born in the area. Here, within this picturesque town, enjoy exploring a lively waterfront area filled with fishing boats and yachts and sampling the renowned fresh local seafood and traditional Sicilian cuisine. Porto Empedocle also makes a convenient base for exploring the surrounding area, including the striking Scala dei Turchi cliffs and historic sites of Agrigento. Included Excursion
Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
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: 08:00–15:00

Arrives On: 28 Jun 27

Day 11: Mgarr, Gozo (Malta)

Mgarr, a small Maltese village known for its picturesque countryside and agricultural landscape, with abundant vineyards and olive groves scattered throughout the area. The village has

a quaint and traditional feel, with charming old stone houses and winding cobbled streets and offers a unique and authentic Maltese experience. DiscoverMORE
Culinary & Artistic Gozo (extra expense)
Celebrate the craftsmanship and traditions of Gozo through a fascinating journey showcasing the island's finest artisan food, textiles, and sculpture. Begin with a visit to a local artisan food producer, where a short presentation and live demonstrations reveal the traditional methods used to create a variety of authentic Gozitan specialities, from infused oils and preserves to honey, cakes, and other local delicacies. Continue to Fontana Cottage, where skilled artisans keep Gozo's traditional crafts alive. Watch demonstrations of hand-weaving, lace-making (Bizzilla), and intricate silver filigree, with time to browse and purchase locally made products. Your final stop is a private sculpture gallery, where you will meet a local artist renowned for his distinctive Neolithic-inspired limestone sculptures. Learn about his craft before relaxing in the peaceful garden with refreshments, then depart for the return journey.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 4 hours Anchored: 08:00–14:00

Arrives On: 29 Jun 27

Day 12: Valletta (Malta)

Your luxurious yacht cruise and grand Mediterranean journey concludes in Malta and its enchanting capital, Valletta. From here, you'll be transferred to the airport for your return flight home, or to continue your holiday. DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of Mdina & Valletta (extra expense, must be booked on board)
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

Notes: This excursion is available for guests continuing on the next cruise and for disembarking guests with flights departing after 4:30 pm. Luggage will be stored securely on the bus. Please book your flight to depart out of Valletta after 11:00 AM. Docked: Overnight The itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such Emerald Cruises cannot guarantee the cruise will be operated unaltered from the itinerary states above.

Arrives On: 30 Jun 27

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

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