



Enchanting Sardinia and the Cinque Terre Sept. 18 – 30, 2011

You've never seen anywhere like it. Sardinia is marooned in a shimmering sea, closer to Tunisia than Europe. Visitors are drawn to its magnificent Costa Smeralda and its alluring resorts. Yet, so much more awaits the curious traveler. Now it can all be yours.

The true essence of the island lies away from the coasts, where the Sards developed their unique culture. Here you'll recognize the Italy you love. The handsome Romanesque churches, mosaics, medieval castles and fine wines. But you'll also find people who speak a language entirely different from Italian. And who think of themselves as Sards, first and foremost.

You will be immersed in a culture rooted in an ancient world. All around you are the remains of 2,000 Neolithic fairy house graves, 7,000 Bronze Age towers and giants' tombs, and hundreds of Spanish watchtowers. In this land of contrasts, you'll be shocked to discover the abstract mural art in backwater towns.

You're invited to share the fun...

Come discover this enchanting island from top to bottom on this one-time only tour. You will delight in the striking beauty of its lonely Mediterranean coastline... unsullied high meadows... the remote plateau of miniature wild horses... lagoons studded with pink flamingos... the most breathtaking gorge in Europe... mysterious

villages where brooding men cast sideways looks... towns with their own unique handcrafts, and lastly a city that seems to have floated over from Spain.

You'll relax in charming, hand-picked hotels with above-average comfort and ambience, definitely not where the big tour buses go. With a maximum of 16, our group will be warmly welcomed in local *trattorie* and *ristorante* where you'll taste their local dishes and wines.

Highlights of Our Visit to Sardinia

- Ride the *Trenino Verde*, the most popular tourist train in Italy, across the wildest landscapes in Western Europe.
- Taste the local liqueur made from myrtle berries. Could this be the secret of the longest-lived people on earth (outside of Okinawa)?
- Try your hand at making *malloreddus*, "little calves," a Sard pasta of semolina dumplings infused with saffron.
- Cruise the most spectacular coast, *Baia di Orosei*, by sea the only way possible...in a converted fishing vessel with lunch prepared on board.
- Swim and snorkel in the translucent waters of the *Costa Smeralda*, the Emerald Coast. Or relax under your umbrella on our "unbelievably beautiful" private beach.
- Taste the Sardinian wines -- Vermentino di Gallura, Cannonau di Sardegna, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignano and Muristellu -- where the grapes are hand-picked and visit the art gallery while you sip.
- Learn the story of the stones from an archaeological guide at the 3,000 year-old Nuraghe Su Nuraxi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Arrive by Jeep then follow in the footsteps of shepherds in the high pastures of rugged Barbagia where you'll glimpse a way of life that's fast disappearing.
- Try out a few words in the special Sard language, closer to Latin than any other spoken tongue. *Domus*, not *casa*, is the word for house.
- Shop for gold or silver-filigree jewelry, coral jewelry, collectible hand-made pocket knives or hand-carved masks.
- Discover the amazing spring where crystal-clear water creates a pool of extraordinary color, somewhere between liquid emerald and sapphire.
- Visit the small band of farmers who harvest the precious saffron. Taste and learn how to make their special dishes.

If you've ever been on a Great Travels Italy Tour, you know that every day is another adventure! Now you can take those memories another leap ahead in incredible Sardinia.

Yet there is more that makes this journey truly remarkable. To cap it, you will also enjoy the magnificent Ligurian Coast of mainland Italy.

You will leave Sardinia by modern overnight ferry (really more like a cruise ship) where you will sleep in a private cabin. The next morning you will wake up on the sparkling Italian Riviera.

After breakfast in one of Genoa's traditional cafes, we will sightsee, visit a theatrical garden and have lunch on the Italian Riviera. The next day we will explore the Cinque Terre, first by sea marvelling at those five little fishing towns carved into steeply terraced cliffs, and then up close on foot. Walk the Via d'Amore, the super-easy, paved walkway between Riomaggiore and Manarola. Tonight we'll have our last dinner together from a terrace overlooking the Gulf of the Poets.

What this tour includes:

Accommodations for 12 nights

- Hotel Baia di Nora - www.hotelbaiadinora.com
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- Hotel Tarthesh - www.tartheshotel.com
- Hotel Nascar - www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g1095833-d1371857-Reviews-Nascar_Hotel-Santa_Maria_Navarrese_Sardinia.html
- Grand Hotel Smeraldo Beach - www.sardegna.com/en/hotel/baja-sardinia/grand-hotel-smeraldo-beach/
- Hotel Doria Park - http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g194792-d298704-Reviews-Doria_Park_Hotel-Lerici_Italian_Riviera.html

Meals

- 12 breakfasts
- 13 lunches or dinners with wine

Guides and Tour Manager

Official Guide throughout Sardinia with specialty guides as appropriate. Tour manager Patti Absher, owner of Great Travels, developing and leading unique tours to Italy for 16 years.

Wine tastings

Entrance fees for museums, archaeological sites and Cinque Terre card.

Internal Transportation

- Trenino Verde train, boat excursions and Sardinia-Genoa overnight ferry with private cabins.
- Private bus and driver for Sardinia.
- Private bus and driver for Ligurian Coast.
- Group airport transfers in Cagliari and Pisa.

Gratuities

- guides, drivers, baggage handlers, restaurant meals.

Not Included

Any other meals, snacks or any gifts and purchases of a personal nature.

Travel insurance (Available from Great Travels supplier. Ask for quote)

Air tickets

- Suggest arriving Cagliari Airport (Convenient transfer points are Rome, Milan, Pisa, Paris, London (Ryan Air from London's Stansted Airport, or Munich). If you'd like to arrive one or two days early in Cagliari, we can arrange for your pre-tour stay at the Regina Margherita Hotel. Departure will be from Pisa.

All-inclusive Cost

- \$4495 – Share Double Room \$4895 – Private Room

\$100 Early-bird Discount

- Deposit by Feb. 21, 2011

Payment

- Deposit \$1350. Group limited to 16.
- Deposit and final payment by check to Great Travels, Inc. Or if by Visa or Mastercharge, please add 3.5%.

Questions

- Please call Patti, 202-237-5220 or email patti@great-travels.com

Return the reply form with your deposit to hold your place on this remarkable tour.



POB 42282 Washington, DC 20015
Tel: 202-237-5220 email: Italia@great-travels.com