

Sicily

Circumnavigation



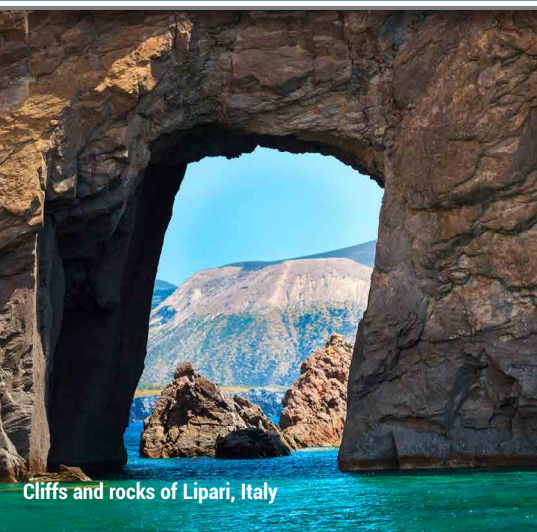
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Sailing Around Sicily and Malta

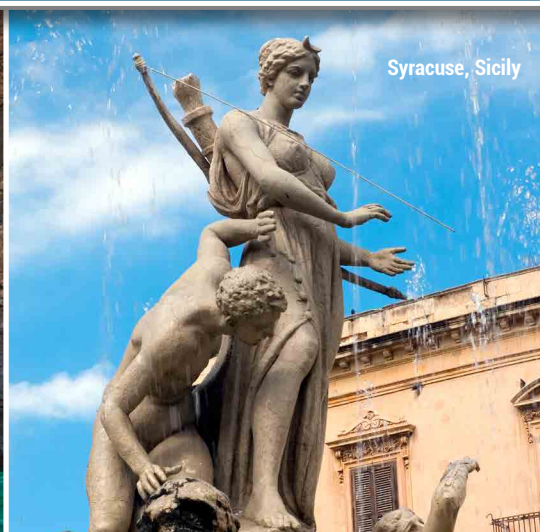


MAY 24–JUNE 2, 2027

Aboard the 47-stateroom *Sea Cloud II* with archaeologist James Higginbotham



Cliffs and rocks of Lipari, Italy



Syracuse, Sicily



Narrow streets in Sicily

Dear Traveler,

I invite you to **join archaeologist Jim Higginbotham, our AIA lecturer and host**, on this delightful, **eight-night circumnavigation of Sicily aboard the iconic, 47-cabin Sea Cloud II**.

Our journey begins and ends in **Valletta, Malta**, one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world. Sail to **Sicily** and cruise clockwise around this marvelous island, bursting with archaeological and architectural wonders including the Doric Greek temple at **Segesta**, **Palermo's** stunning Norman Palace, and the Greek theater at **Taormina**. Sample the rich flavors of **Marsala** with a guided tasting of this famed Sicilian wine, and on **Syracuse's** Ortygia island enjoy a wine tasting hosted by a nobleman in a private Baroque palazzo.

In all, our itinerary features **six UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, including a full day in the **Aeolian Islands**, along with a specially timed sunset sailing through the Strait of Messina. An **optional pre-trip extension is available**, for an unforgettable introduction to **Malta and Gozo**.

Along the way, we will benefit from the knowledge and insights of a **team of onboard experts**, including AIA lecturer/host James Higginbotham, who will provide a series of **lectures and informal discussions**.

"Jim Higginbotham was excellent, well prepared, and relevant. He was also an interesting, knowledgeable traveling companion."
- Ann, Maryland

Our means of cruising from port to port is delightful. Like Marjorie Merriweather Post's legendary *Sea Cloud*, the *Sea Cloud II* embodies the elegance and romance of a bygone era while offering the highest standards of modern comfort. This magnificent windjammer is operated by a highly skilled crew that hand-sets more than 30,000 square feet of canvas, a rare and captivating sight at sea. Life onboard seamlessly blends classic sailing traditions with refined service, spacious accommodations, and thoughtful amenities.

This program is co-sponsored by other organizations, and the *Sea Cloud II* has only 47 cabins, so I encourage you to contact AIA Tours today at aia@studytours.org or **800-748-6262** for your preferred cabin.

Sincerely,



Lauren Cummings, Education & Program Manager
AIA Tours | Archaeological Institute of America



SCAN ME WITH YOUR
SMART PHONE OR TABLET
TO REGISTER ONLINE

Archaeological Institute of America *Lecturer and Host*



James Higginbotham,

Associate Professor of Classical Archaeology at Bowdoin College, holds a Ph.D. in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Michigan. His scholarly interests focus on ancient Phoenician, Greek, and Roman colonies, as well as the social history of the late Roman Republic. Professor Higginbotham was a regular member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and the

recipient of several fellowships, including a Fulbright-Hays Research Grant to Italy and the Oscar Broneer Fellowship in Classical Archaeology at the American Academy in Rome.

In addition to teaching courses in Archaeology and the Classical Languages, Professor Higginbotham has excavated Classical sites in Greece, Israel, and Italy, where he was Field Director of the joint University of Michigan-Bowdoin College excavations at Paestum. In his capacity as Curator for Ancient Art, Professor Higginbotham oversees the collection of antiquities housed in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. His publications include "Small Bronzes in Context" in *Figures from the Fire* (London, 2023), *Ars Antiqua: Treasures from the Ancient Mediterranean World at Bowdoin College* (Brunswick, 2005), *Piscinae: Artificial Fishponds in Roman Italy* (Chapel Hill, 1997), and contributions in J.G. Pedley and M. Torelli's *The Sanctuary of Santa Venera at Paestum I* (Rome, 1993). Professor Higginbotham has lectured for the AIA on 14 previous tours since 2004, including several to southern Italy, Sicily, and Malta.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA & THE AIA TOURS PROGRAM

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

Highlights

- ◆ Customize your journey with a menu of excursion options tailored to a range of interests in nearly every port, including Valletta, Trapani, Palermo, Lipari, and Giardini Naxos.
- ◆ Visit six UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Monreale Cathedral, the Aeolian Archipelago (with a visit to Lipari), Mount Etna, and the historic centers of Valletta, Palermo, and Syracuse.
- ◆ Spend one night and day in Valletta, Malta's historic capital, before sailing from its magnificent harbor framed by honey-colored ramparts glowing in the sun.
- ◆ Marvel at archaeological and architectural wonders including the ancient temple at Segesta, the riches of Palermo's Norman Palace, and the Greek theater at Taormina.
- ◆ Sample the rich flavors of Marsala with a guided tasting of its famed Sicilian wine.
- ◆ Experience the scenic countryside and historic treasures of Lipari, one of the seven Aeolian Islands.
- ◆ Delight in a private reception with a nobleman who welcomes guests to his Baroque palazzo, dating back to the Middle Ages.



Itinerary

Monday–Tuesday, May 24–25

DEPART HOME / VALLETTA, MALTA

Overnight flight to Valletta, a city known for its Baroque architecture, historic fortifications, and charming cafés that reflect its rich heritage. Upon arrival on May 25th, transfer to *Sea Cloud II* and meet fellow travelers at a welcome orientation and reception. *Sea Cloud II* (R,D)

Wednesday, May 26

VALLETTA

Start the day with two full-day excursions to choose from. Explore Malta's prehistoric and archaeological treasures with visits to the National Archaeological Museum, Tarxien Temples, and the Hypogeum, an underground site renowned for its prehistoric significance. Alternatively, tour Valletta's architecture,

including the ornate interiors of St. John's Co-Cathedral and modern works by Renzo Piano. Depart in the evening, sailing from the historic harbor toward Sicily. *Sea Cloud II* (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 27

AT SEA

Enjoy a full day under sail. As part of the educational program, attend a lecture, take a guided tour of the ship, or, weather permitting, use the tenders to photograph *Sea Cloud II*. In the evening, the Captain's welcome reception and dinner provide the perfect opportunity to mingle with your fellow travelers. *Sea Cloud II* (B,L,R,D)

Friday, May 28

TRAPANI, SICILY, ITALY

Begin the day exploring the Doric Greek temple at Segesta, perched on Mount Barbaro with

panoramic views over Sicily's countryside. Later, choose between two afternoon excursions, one being a visit to the medieval hilltop town of Erice, known for its cobbled streets and Norman castle; or sample the fortified wines of Marsala with a guided tasting. *Sea Cloud II* (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 29

PALERMO

Spend the morning visiting Palermo's Norman castle, Capella Palatina, with its stunning mosaics; and Monreale Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy lunch in Palermo's Old Town, followed by two afternoon options: 1) The Abatellis Art Museum, which houses Sicilian and Renaissance masterpieces; or 2) The Archaeological Museum, featuring an impressive collection of ancient artifacts. *Sea Cloud II* (B,L,D)



Ruins of Ancient Theater in Taormina

Temple at Segesta



Sunday, May 30

LIPARI, AEOLIAN ISLANDS

Discover Lipari with either a walking tour that includes the Archaeological Museum, or take a scenic drive with free time to wander the town's charming streets and coastline. In the afternoon, enjoy swimming, sailing, and educational programming, followed by a sunset cruise past Stromboli to see its volcanic activity. *Sea Cloud II* (B,L,D)

Monday, May 31

GIARDINI NAXOS

Embark on one of two morning excursions:

- 1) To Mount Etna, visiting Silvestri Crater and riding the cable car to the summit; or
- 2) Head to Taormina to tour the 3rd-century B.C. Greek theater and enjoy free time in

town. The afternoon is dedicated to relaxation on deck while taking in Sicily's coastline.

Sea Cloud II (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 1

SYRACUSE

Tour Syracuse Archaeological Park, then stroll through Ortygia Island, experiencing the morning market and Cathedral Square. In a private Baroque palazzo, enjoy a wine tasting hosted by a nobleman. The afternoon is spent cruising to Malta, concluding with the Captain's farewell reception and dinner.

Sea Cloud II (B,L,R,D)

Wednesday, June 2

VALLETTA, MALTA / HOME

Disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



Valletta, Malta

MALTA PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

May 22–25, 2027

This two-night, pre-trip extension offers an unforgettable introduction to Malta beyond its capital. Discover the island's stunning landscapes and local charm, including a day trip to the idyllic island of Gozo to see the world's oldest megalithic temples. Explore the south coast, starting with the awe-inspiring prehistoric complex at Hagar Qim, then visit the colorful fishing village of Marsaxlokk. Dine within the walled city of M'dina, and spend two nights at the *Malta Marriott Resort*. Cross to the smaller island of Gozo to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ġgantija and the charming city of Victoria, then return to Valletta to join the main *Sea Cloud II* program with the rest of the group. Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



Ortygia, Sicily, Italy



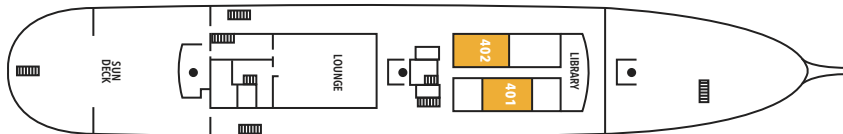
Sea Cloud II

The iconic *Sea Cloud II* is perhaps the most luxurious three-masted sailing yacht on the seas today. Like Marjorie Merriweather Post's legendary *Sea Cloud*, she combines the seafaring elegance of a bygone era with the highest modern standards of luxury. In the grand tradition of the world's finest sailing vessels, guests can experience this marvelous ship under sail as the skilled crew hand-sets over 30,000 square feet of canvas.

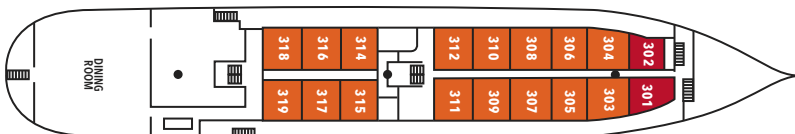
The *Sea Cloud II* offers an intimate setting with just 47 beautifully appointed cabins, gracious common areas, world-class service, and five-star dining. Four spacious outdoor decks and *al fresco* dining on the Lido Deck provide ample space for relaxation. Indoors, enjoy inviting spaces such as the sizable lounge and dining room, as well as a library, gym, and spa featuring a sauna and massage therapy.

PROGRAM RATES PER PERSON:

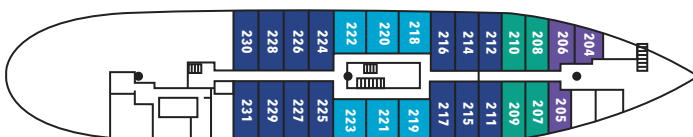
Cabin Category	Double	Single
1 CABIN DECK 150 sq ft upper & lower single beds, two portholes, shower	\$8,990	\$13,990
2 CABIN DECK 204 sq ft twins or queen bed, two portholes, shower	\$11,990	\$18,590
3 CABIN DECK 215 sq ft twins or queen bed, two portholes, shower	\$13,490	\$20,790
4 CABIN DECK 226 sq ft queen bed, three portholes, shower	\$13,990	_____
5 PROMENADE DECK 215 sq ft queen bed, panorama windows, shower	\$14,990	_____
6 PROMENADE DECK 247 sq ft twins or queen bed, panorama windows, tub/shower	\$15,990	_____
7 LIDO DECK 290 sq ft king bed, panorama windows, bathtub & shower	\$18,990	_____



LIDO DECK Category 7



PROMENADE DECK Categories 5-6



CABIN DECK Categories 1-4

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

Eight nights aboard *Sea Cloud II* • Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including eight breakfasts, seven lunches, and eight dinners • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754 or by e-mail at tourflights@vwti.com. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some sites. Daily activities can involve up to two miles of walking, often on uneven surfaces; elevators may not be available and stairs may not have handrails. The ship does not have an elevator, so you will need to navigate stairs, possibly while on choppy seas. You will need to climb into and out of tenders for two shore excursions (staff and crew will be on hand to assist). Participants should be fit and in active good health. Limited medical facilities are available on board the *Sea Cloud II*.

All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.



GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 78 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, National Trust Tours, Cornell's Adult University, and Harvard Alumni Travels.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions, including Statement of Responsibility, will be made available to you at the time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. Balance of payment is due 120 days prior to departure (January 25, 2027). We accept checks, payable to "Eos AIA-MaltaSicilyCRI5/27" as well as VISA, MasterCard, and American Express for deposits. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Credit cards are NOT accepted for final payment.

PARTICIPANT CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the January 25, 2027 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not participate in any part of the program, who do not complete the tour for whatever reason, or whose entry into any country and/or

hotel or aboard any cruise vessel on the itinerary is delayed or denied.

TRIP CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

If the program is cancelled by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. However, if trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by AIA Tours or Criterion, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as AIA Tours and Criterion are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Neither AIA Tours nor Criterion shall have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing.

HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary and study leader presented for this tour are subject to modification and change by AIA Tours and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, AIA Tours and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

RESPONSIBILITY

By submitting your deposit, you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure. Due to space limitations these are not AIA Tours' complete Terms & Conditions, which are available upon request, can be viewed on-line at www.aiatours.org, and will be sent to you along with a Release of Liability requiring your signature.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

PHOTO CREDITS: DREAMSTIME & SHUTTERSTOCK
Cliffs and Rocks of Lipari; Italy @Eugenia Struk;
Syracuse Statue and Fountain @Gratien Jonxis; Narrow Streets in Sicily @Gratien Jonxis; View from Erice Mountain @Dmitrijs Mihejevs; Teatro Politeama in Palermo @Kafer photo; Italian Lemons in Sicily @Homrodinka; Ruins of Ancient Theatre in Taormina @Igorzh; Temple at Segesta in Sicily @Vladimir Zhuravlev; Valletta; Malta @Martin Brayley; Syracuse; Ortygia; Sicily; Italy @Alessandro Neri; Erice Sicily @Michalbe, Lipari Old Town Church @Alexander Nikiforov.

Sicily Circumnavigation

Sailing Around Sicily and Malta with archaeologist James Higginbotham • MAY 24–JUNE 2, 2027

To reserve your space, please complete this form and send it to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938. Deposit checks should be made payable to "Eos AIA-MaltaSicilyCRI5/27." You may also call AIA Tours at 800-748-6262 or 603-756-2884. Fax: 603-756-2922. Email: aia@studytours.org. Website for online reservations: www.aiatours.org.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____

MOBILE PHONE _____

E-MAIL 1 _____

E-MAIL 2 _____

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

Yes, _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Eos AIA-MaltaSicilyCRI5/27) for _____ place(s) on the **SICILY CIRCUMNAVIGATION** cruise.

Please charge my deposit of \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) to my (circle one): VISA / MC / AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD _____

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____ SEC CODE _____

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD _____ DATE _____

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference: One bed Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer to have single accommodations (limited availability)

I plan to share accommodations with: _____

I'd like to know about roommates. I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of **January 25, 2027** I will pay the single rate.

I / We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 _____ DATE _____

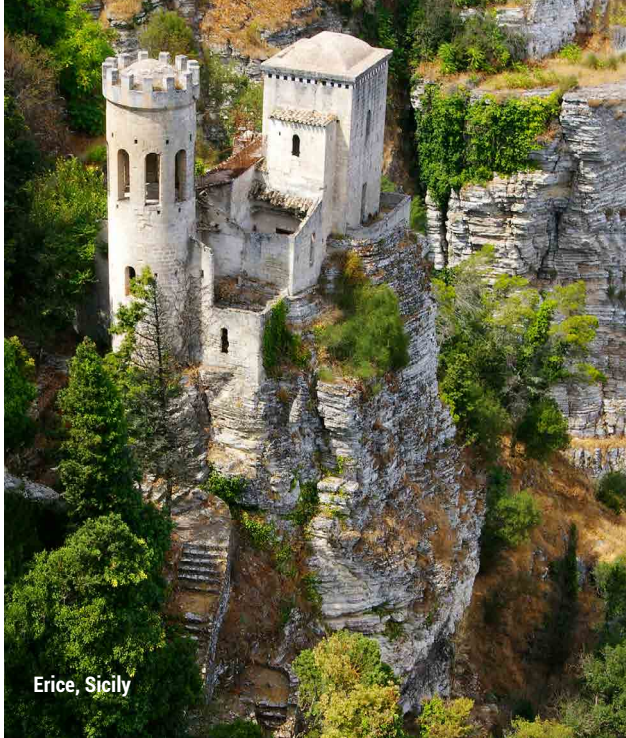
SIGNATURE #2 _____ DATE _____





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Sicily

Circumnavigation

Lipari Old Town Church

Aboard *Sea Cloud II* with archaeologist James Higginbotham • **MAY 24–JUNE 2, 2027**