

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Depart the US for Barcelona, Spain.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21: BARCELONA

Arrival in Barcelona and transfer to the Hotel Arts, the finest in Barcelona.

Welcome cocktail and dinner at the hotel.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22: BARCELONA

Morning sightseeing tour of beautiful Barcelona. This exciting city, the capital of Catalonia, is Spain's second largest, and was founded by the Phoenicians in the 3rd century BC. We will visit the Gothic Quarters, the Picasso Museum, the Olympic Stadium, the Miro Foundation, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia Church and his Guell Park (these are "art nouveau" masterpieces).

After lunch "All Aboard" **SEA CLOUD**. The world's most beautiful sailing vessel will be our home for the next seven nights.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23: AT SEA.

While under full sail, we will enjoy a talk by Brian Lavery on the epic Battle of Trafalgar, about which he is an acknowledged expert.

Afternoon arrival in Mahon/Menorca. The entrance into Mahon's remarkable fjord-like harbor is an unforgettable experience. The port is the location of the first scene in Patrick O'Brian's first book, *Master and Commander*, and is also visited by H.M.S. Surprise in *The Hundred Days*. Brian Lavery will take us on a Jack Aubrey walking tour of the town of Mahon including the Governor's Palace, the Crown Inn and down the Pigtail Stairs.

This evening the captain will host a welcoming champagne and caviar party followed by a gourmet dinner.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24: MAHON/MENORCA

A British possession through most of the 18th century, the harbor features a majestic flight of stairs once known as the "Pigtail Stairs". Legend has it that drunken sailors from men-of-war were hauled down them by their pigtails on their way back to their ships.

We will spend the day on this island to visit the various sights that were important during Nelson's time, including Fort San Felipe, Fort Marlborough and the Governor's House.

As we sail out of Mahon we will pass first the *Islas del Lazareto* and *Cuarentena*, formerly the quarantine wing of the Royal Naval Hospital. Later, we will pass a fine rose-colored Palladian style mansion, the *Finca de San Antonio*, where Horatio Nelson briefly lived in 1799.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25: PORT VENDRES

After a beautiful morning of sailing we will arrive in Port Vendres, a sleepy Catalan-French fishing village on the far western French Mediterranean coast. Our brief walk will take us to Coullioure, one of France's most charming seaside villages, that was Patrick O'Brian's home for 50 years. Count Nikolai Tolstoy will give us a private tour of O'Brian's home and gardens. All the rooms are exactly the way he left them (the writing desk still has open books and his pens and pencils lay about). We will also enjoy a reception with local wines and specialties in the courtyard of the house. The area is highly regarded for its fine wines and our wine train will take us through these scenic vineyards.

MONDAY, APRIL 26: BANDOL/AIX-EN-PROVENCE

While under full sail this morning, we will enjoy a fascinating talk by Eleanor Sharpston about the Napoleonic wars from the “French side”, particularly the Battle of Trafalgar.

Early afternoon arrival in Bandol, a charming fishing village from where we will take an excursion to Aix-en-Provence. We will visit Old Aix with its beautiful mansions, statues, pleasant squares and fountains, Town Hall and St. Savior’s Cathedral.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27: ST. TROPEZ

After a beautiful morning of sailing along the spectacular French Riviera, we will arrive in St. Tropez, located on the foothills of the Maures Massif. A small town with a harbor filled with luxury yachts, St. Tropez has become a very fashionable resort frequented by writers, artists and celebrities from all over the world. St. Tropez also offers great shopping!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28: ST. FLORENT/CORSICA

We will continue our sail along the French Riviera from where we will be able to observe the medieval village of Eze perched on the top of a mountain, as well as Villefranche and Monte Carlo. Count Tolstoy will give us a fascinating talk about his fifty years with his stepfather, Patrick O’Brian, and his intimate and revealing new biography of him.

After lunch we will arrive at Corsica and St. Florent, a charming ancient town.

During your free time here, you might enjoy a hike up to the citadel, go for a swim or simply enjoy the various shops and small restaurants.

Tonight is our farewell celebration, an elegant affair with our captain, topped by a gourmet dinner and great wines. Later, there will be dancing under the Mediterranean skies.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29: NICE

Early morning arrival in Nice.

Transfer to Nice airport for our departure to the US. (or you may participate in the Nice extension).

Itinerary is subject to change.

NICE EXTENSION

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Upon arrival in Nice, we will go on an excursion to the medieval town of St. Paul de Vence (your luggage will go separately to the Hotel Negresco).

Many of Europe’s greatest artists, such as Picasso and Matisse, have at one time or another called St. Paul their home. Its Maeght Foundation, which we will visit, has one of the most outstanding modern art collections in France. Lunch will be at the charming Colombe D’Or restaurant, followed by a stroll through the village.

Our dinner this evening will be in a rustic brasserie in Nice.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Our excursion today will take us to Villefranche to visit the villa and gardens of Ephrussi de Rothschild, then continue to the medieval town of Eze where we will enjoy a delicious lunch at Chateau Eza.

Afternoon free in Nice.

Our farewell dinner will be at the Chantecler restaurant in the hotel.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Transfer to Nice airport.