




# Grand Mediterranean

With Viking Cruises

 **Tour Length:** 21 Days

 **Tour Departs:** 5 June 2027

Embark on an unforgettable journey that begins in Barcelona before setting sail along the French Riviera on a luxury cruise aboard Viking Jupiter. Discover a dazzling mosaic of cultures, landscapes, and histories as you explore the iconic ports of France, Croatia and Italy. From the golden shores of the eastern Mediterranean to iconic European gems, each port offers a unique blend of flavours, architecture, and unforgettable experiences. Immerse yourself in the rhythm of the sea and the stories of civilizations past on an extraordinary voyage that blends relaxation with discovery. With curated excursions, world-class amenities, and breathtaking destinations, this voyage offers a refined and enriching experience across the heart of the Mediterranean.

## Highlights

- Marseille
- Monte Carlo
- Rome
- Naples
- Messina
- Bari
- Sibenik
- Venice

## Tour Costs Per Person

### Per Person Share Twin/Double Room

\$25,500

### Per Person Single Room

\$43,500

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more about this tour

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# Mediterranean & Italian Sojourn

14 NIGHTS

Journey through the Mediterranean, exploring the vibrant streets of Barcelona and enchanting canals of Venice. In Croatia, visit the remarkable old town of Šibenik. In France, discover Montpellier's rich heritage and take in Marseille's coastal charm, then experience Monte Carlo's glamour. Stay overnight in Tuscany, immerse yourself in ancient Rome and sail along Italy's boot, calling at Sicily's Messina and the historic ports of Crotone and Bari.

## Cruise Inclusions

- Once complimentary shore excursion in every port of call
- Free Wi-fi
- All onboard meals, featuring regional specialities
- Beer, wine & soft drinks with onboard lunch & dinner



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## Tour Costs

### Inclusions

- Economy Class travel from Auckland - Upgrade to Premium or Business Class available at additional cost
- Prepaid government and airport taxes, security and fuel surcharges
- First Class accommodation throughout
- DV4 Veranda Staterooms on board the cruise, with the finest amenities
- One included shore excursion in each port
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach and rail transportation for all touring
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
- English speaking local hosts and guides as appropriate
- Baggage handling of one suitcase per person – where possible
- Tips to local guides and coach drivers
- Fully escorted by a Maher Tours Leader

### Exclusions

- Any meals and sightseeing not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance – advice and assistance offered
- Items of a personal nature such as room service, laundry, drinks, telephone charges etc.
- Shore excursions available on cruise

### Booking Conditions

- First Deposit - Due at time of booking: NZD \$3,000
- Second Deposit - Due Wednesday 13 January 2027: NZD \$3,000
- Final Payment – Due Friday 5 March 2027: Balance

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or [tours@mahertours.co.nz](mailto:tours@mahertours.co.nz)

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# Tour Itinerary

21 DAYS

## Day 1 | Home – Dubai

SATURDAY 5 JUNE

Late this afternoon, we report to the airport and join the flight to Dubai.

## Day 2 | Dubai

SUNDAY 6 JUNE (D)

We arrive in Dubai early this morning and after clearing Customs and Immigration formalities, we are met and transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay. There is time to rest up after the flight until mid-afternoon when we visit the Museum of the Future. One of Dubai's most famous landmarks, the museum takes pride of place along the city's superhighway, Sheikh Zayed Road. Founded by the Dubai Future Foundation and launched on 22 February 2022, the museum explores how society could evolve in the coming decades using science and technology. Termed a 'living museum', it incorporates elements of traditional exhibitions, immersive theatre and themed attractions, so visitors can look beyond the present and towards the future's limitless possibilities. Visitors have the chance to engage with this game-changing technology. Each floor of the museum is designed like an expansive, interactive movie set, brought to life by expert storytellers, technologists and visionary artists. There is time for exploration before we return to the hotel for dinner this evening.

## Day 3 | Dubai - Barcelona

MONDAY 7 JUNE (B,D)

An early morning transfer to the airport where we join the 7-hour flight to Barcelona. On arrival early afternoon, we are met and transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay. The afternoon is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening.

## Day 4 | Barcelona

TUESDAY 8 JUNE (B,D)

We enjoy a sightseeing tour of Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia and one of Spain's most spectacular and vibrant cities. Our tour includes the Gothic Quarter with its magnificent Cathedral and also Gaudi's Sagrada Familia including an inside visit. We also visit Park Guell. After some time for lunch, we take a stroll through Olympic Port, home of the 2024 America's Cup.

## Day 5 | Barcelona – Commence Cruise

WENESDAY 9 JUNE (B,D)

Enjoy some free time this morning, before later this afternoon we board Viking Jupiter.

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## Day 6 | Barcelona

THURSDAY 10 JUNE (B,L,D)

Barcelona is steeped in history, with stunning architecture and a rich culture. Mediterranean breezes grace the shore and Catalonia's capital is a feast for the senses. Long strolls on wide boulevards—such as Las Ramblas, the mile-long leafy pedestrian way, and the Passeig de Gràcia, lined with some of Europe's most elegant buildings—set the tone for a city that moves to its own tempo. Native son and famed architect Antoni Gaudí adorned his city with whimsy, whether along fantastical city blocks or with his colossal masterpiece, the towering La Sagrada Família cathedral.

## Day 7 | Sete, France

FRIDAY 11 JUNE (B,L,D)

In a picturesque setting on France's southern coast, Sète is renowned for its vibrant atmosphere and cultural charm. Known as the "Venice of Languedoc," its network of canals offers an alluring ambience, with boats bobbing in the water and colourful buildings lining the banks. Due to its booming fishing industry, Sète features an array of delicious seafood, centred around the town's bustling fish market, Les Halles de Sète. The best way to explore is on foot or by bicycle, where you can while away the time along the canals that link the Mediterranean to the Thau Lagoon.

## Day 8 | Marseille, France

SATURDAY 12 JUNE (B,L,D)

Marseille is rich in historic treasures, nestled between the Mediterranean and rocky hills of limestone. Two 17th-century fortresses dominate the charming Vieux Port, or Old Port, the natural harbour that hosts all manner of watercraft, from sleek elegant yachts to old style fishing vessels. Its picturesque quay is one of the world's most romantic walks, lined with dozens of cafés and shops. Also worth exploring is the city centre, graced by La Canebière boulevard. Linger in a café and sample the city's signature bouillabaisse made from freshly caught fish.

## Day 9 | Monte Carlo, Monaco

SUNDAY 13 JUNE (B,L,D)

The chic city of Monte Carlo in the petite kingdom of Monaco boasts some of the world's most exclusive shopping and a beautiful old port. A fairy-tale aura has settled on this glittering city of the Grimaldi family, perhaps nowhere more elegantly than at the Prince's Palace, where the late American actress-turned-princess Grace Kelly presided with Prince Rainier III. Monte Carlo's medieval quarter perches on "The Rock," an escarpment at the foot of the Maritime Alps, and offers spectacular views of the Mediterranean and the harbour lined with mega-yachts.

## Day 10 | Florence/Pisa

MONDAY 14 JUNE (B,L,D)

Tuscany is known equally as the cradle of the Renaissance and a centre of culinary delights and astounding wines. Throughout this emerald-green countryside dotted with cypress trees, endless delights unfold. Among them is Florence, a living museum of the Renaissance. Brunelleschi's famous Duomo dominates the medieval cityscape—an architectural achievement. Another Tuscan treasure, the Square of Miracles, unfolds in Pisa. Here, a trinity of masterpieces—the Leaning Tower, Pisa Cathedral and Baptistery—comprise some of Europe's finest art and architecture.

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## Day 11 | Florence/Pisa

TUESDAY 15 JUNE (B,L,D)

We enjoy another day here is this stunning part of Tuscany.

## Day 12 | Rome

WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE (B,L,D)

For centuries, Rome ruled much of Europe, building a vast empire from the power of emperors. More than 2,500 years of history live in the city's streets. Ancient structures recall those heady days when the cheers of 80,000 spectators roared from the Colosseum, citizens mingled in the Forum and senators asked the gods for guidance at the Pantheon. Along with the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica, this rich pocket of Italy is one of the world's greatest repositories of history and civilization.

## Day 13 | Naples

THURSDAY 17 JUNE (B,L,D)

Naples boasts a long history in a stunning seaside setting and has long been a major centre of Italian culture. The city was the seat of a powerful independent kingdom for 500 years. So great was its sway that it lured the region's finest architects and artists. In the grand Piazza del Plebiscito, the grand and sweeping public square, the San Francesco di Paola Church flaunts a colonnaded facade reminiscent of the Pantheon in Rome, and the Royal Palace overlooks Neapolitans with statues of all the kings of Naples peering out from alcoves.

## Day 14 | Messina, Sicily

FRIDAY 18 JUNE (B,L,D)

Sicily has been shaped by countless civilizations, from Greek to Byzantine to Roman. When it fell under Spain's purview in the 17th century, it was celebrated as one of Europe's ten great cities. Surrounded by undulating mountains, orange and olive groves and vineyards are plentiful. During World War II, Messina was the destination of the unofficial "Race to Messina" between US General Patton and British Field Marshall Montgomery. In the end, Patton arrived just hours before his British comrade, receiving credit for securing Sicily.

## Day 15 | Crotone, Italy

SATURDAY 19 JUNE (B,L,D)

Crotone, according to Ovid, was named by Hercules himself in memory of a friend he had accidentally slain. Today, it is the capital of its eponymous province, a region known for its pristine waters, untouched mountains and vast forests. As the gateway to a landscape bestowed with great natural beauty, Crotona prides itself in its deep historical roots, which can be traced back to the 7th century BC in the city's archaeological museum and the ruins of two redoubtable fortifications, the Castle of St. Charles V and Le Castella, situated on a small peninsula south of the city.

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## Day 16 | Bari, Italy

SUNDAY 20 JUNE (B,L,D)

Located at the heel of Italy's boot, Bari boasts a sunny, palm-lined promenade, romantic honey-toned balconied houses, welcoming courtyards, and Romanesque and baroque churches. It is pure pleasure to take in the distinct Mediterranean atmosphere of this picturesque port, with colourful fishing boats bobbing on the turquoise harbour. History and culture take centre stage at the splendid Norman-Swabian Castle; the Romanesque Basilica of St. Nicholas, named for the city's patron saint; and the Petruzzelli Theatre, one of Italy's most important opera houses.

## Day 17 | Sibenik, Croatia

MONDAY 21 JUNE (B,L,D)

Šibenik is the oldest Croatian city on the Dalmatian Coast. The remarkable architecture of this UNESCO World Heritage Site spans the centuries, having witnessed the rise and fall of empires, from Byzantine to Venetian. In its remarkably preserved Old Town, narrow cobblestone streets lead past medieval houses and churches, all surrounded by four historic fortresses, including the imposing St. Nicholas Fortress. St. James Cathedral, built by several architects in the Gothic and Renaissance styles over a century, is the most important Renaissance structure in Croatia.

## Day 18 | Venice

TUESDAY 22 JUNE (B,L,D)

Chioggia is a charming fishing community located at the southern end of the Venetian Lagoon and steeped in age-old seafaring traditions. Its combination of canals, bridges and fishing boats have lent it the nickname "Little Venice." Lined with shops, bars and restaurants, the main pedestrian street of Corso del Popolo exudes a lively atmosphere amid the aroma of delicious fresh seafood dishes. Chioggia shares a long history of cultural and economic ties with Venice, dating back to the Middle Ages, and is a scenic journey by water taxi from the capital of the Veneto region.

## Day 19 | Venice - Dubai

WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE (B)

Sadly we disembark this morning and start our journey home. We get into Dubai airport late this evening and have hotel rooms reserved inside the airport.

## Day 20 | Dubai - Auckland

THURSDAY 24 JUNE

Time for the last leg of our journey on our flight home.

## Day 21 | Welcome Home

FRIDAY 25 JUNE

Arrival time is mid-morning.



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WANAKA, NEW ZEALAND  
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E: [tours@mahertours.co.nz](mailto:tours@mahertours.co.nz)  
W: [www.mahertours.co.nz](http://www.mahertours.co.nz)

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