



DESTINATION GUIDE QUIET SEASON MEDITERRANEAN

Discover iconic destinations with a relaxed atmosphere and fewer crowds



The Mediterranean QUIET SEASON

*For the leisurely traveller seeking new experiences
in a more relaxed environment.*

From ancient Rome to Moorish Spain and classical Greece, the empires of the Mediterranean left a remarkable historical legacy set amid unmatched beauty.

Home to some of the world's most picturesque towns, villages and cities, the Mediterranean beckons travellers all year round. However, the quiet season, from November to March, provides opportunities to see these great cities in their most authentic form.

Imagine strolling through the usually bustling Square of Miracles in Pisa, now serene and inviting, or exploring iconic landmarks such as the Acropolis at a leisurely pace. Marvel at Antoni Gaudi's surreal architectural masterpieces on a guided tour of Barcelona,

delve into the rich history of the city of Valletta, narrated by a present-day knight and wander the charming promenades of Marseille.

Take your time to Indulge in the Mediterranean's culinary delights, from fresh seafood at a quaint seaside taverna to handmade pasta in a charming Italian trattoria

Linger at places that interest you, with fewer crowds and less pressure to rush, soaking up an atmosphere few travellers will get to savour.

At Viking, we bring you closer to the unique art, heritage, traditions, and people that define each destination, crafting unforgettable experiences that will stay with you forever. We hope this guide inspires your next journey.

ON THE COVER: VIKING MARS, VALLETTA, MALTA



ROMAN FORUM, ROME, ITALY



VIKING ORION, ITALIAN COASTLINE

4 | *Quiet Season Mediterranean Guide*

CONTENTS

Testimonials: Mediterranean	6
10 Highlights of the Mediterranean in the Quiet Season	8
An Unforgettable Mediterranean Cruise: Jessica Rowe	14
One Day in Santorini.....	18

RECIPES

Spaghetti Alle Vongole	20
Black Risotto	22
Pizza Margherita	24
Spanakopita.....	26

THE QUIET SEASON

Something for Everybody	28
Map of the Mediterranean	32
Iconic Western Mediterranean.....	34
Ancient Mediterranean Treasures.....	36
Journey to Antiquities.....	38
Malta, Morocco & the Mediterranean.....	40
Greek Odyssey.....	41
Ancient Mediterranean Antiquities.....	42
Mediterranean Antiquities	42
Mediterranean & Adriatic Odyssey.....	43
Iconic Mediterranean Treasures	43
Explore More: Extensions	44
How to book with Viking	46

Discover why our loyal guests LOVE VISITING THE MEDITERRANEAN

We know well that our Viking guests are discerning, experienced travellers who crave authentic experiences that provide them with a deeper understanding of the world. And so, who better to explain what it's like to embark on a Mediterranean ocean voyage than those who know us best – our Viking guests.



VIKING SEA, CROATIAN COASTLINE

“The best of the best ocean cruise (8-day Iconic Western Mediterranean) we have ever been on! The service is outstanding and the food is awesome. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at each port and love coming back to the ship to be pampered by the friendly Viking crew.”

Nina K.

“Travelled on Viking Jupiter last year though the Mediterranean. Was just wonderful. Can recommend highly.”
Valerie G.

We went to the most magical locations along with some unforgettable experiences in each destination.”
Coral M.

“...I walked where ancient Olympians walked and more. It was a dream come true. Thank you, Viking Family. Each of you are absolutely fabulous. See you soon on another adventure.”
Lynn S.

“Great ocean cruise to Barcelona, Monaco, France and Italy. We are glad we extended our trip while in Rome. We will be back for another cruise soon!”
Jon B.

“Seeing the Acropolis was a once in a lifetime experience which was made possible (by) Viking. The tour guide made Ancient Greece come alive.”

Vick H.



THE ACROPOLIS, ATHENS, GREECE

10 Highlights of the MEDITERRANEAN IN THE QUIET SEASON

From the sun-soaked shores of Spain and Sicily to the fascinating past of Greece, Viking reveals ancient history made along these fabled waters. Here are some of the highlights you can look forward to.

1

NICE, ÈZE & MONTE CARLO

Immerse yourself in cultural wonder and scenic splendour during a grand panorama of the French Riviera. Drive to Nice, where you can admire the palm lined Promenade des Anglais and explore the colourful flower and fruit market of Old Nice. Continue to the magnificent hill town of Èze. Stroll its charming stone streets before returning to Monte Carlo and “The Rock”. To conclude your tour enjoy a drive along a portion of the Grand Prix Motor Race circuit before stopping at the famous Grand Casino, where you can admire coastal views from its elegant terrace or try your luck inside.



2



ARKADI MONASTERY, GREECE

ARKADI MONASTERY AND RETHYMNON'S OLD TOWN

Admire an astounding baroque monastery and a quaint seaside village located on Crete's dramatic northern shore. Drive along stunning coastal roads past rocky mountains, deep blue gulfs and soaring sea cliffs. At the Arkadi Monastery, marvel at the Venetian-baroque detail of its stone white church. This fortress-like complex provided not only refuge for townspeople, but was also a scholar's haven of science and art. Continue to the seaside town of Rethymnon, a fascinating and scenic village. Explore by foot the 16th-century buildings, charming arched doorways and stone staircases, as well as the municipal gardens for shade and tranquillity.



EPHESUS, TURKEY

WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Witness one of Turkey's great archaeological finds and see many of the finest artifacts of Ephesus. Journey to the edge of Selçuk, where the great Temple of Artemis once stood, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Imagine its former glory with the help of your guide. Walk the remains of the Byzantine Basilica of St John and the impressive 14th-century İsa Bey Mosque. At the Ephesus Archaeological Museum explore some of the ancient city's relics, including excellent examples of Roman sculpture.



THE MANY FLAVOURS OF SANTORINI

Admire the inspiring wonders of a volcanic island and a remarkably preserved ancient city. Visit villages perched on a caldera's rim and toast it all at a winery. At Akrotiri, uncover a city frozen in ash, astonishing archaeologists with its multilevel houses and richly coloured frescoes. Sample Santorini's wines at the Gavales Winery, where the owner invites you to visit the wine-making cave. For lunch enjoy Greek Tapas, also known as sumptuous mezedes. From the ridge of red rock in Oia, take in stunning island and sea views before exploring the narrow warrens and charming shops, as well as the cobblestone squares of Thira.

HIDDEN VENICE ON FOOT

Explore Venice by foot and uncover treasures that are hidden to those who explore only the canals. Follow the narrow streets and passageways of Venice which many never get to see. Pass through the impressive Porta Magna, the imposing entrance to the Venetian Arsenal. Admire the lovely campanile of the San Giorgio dei Greci church, built in 1548. Cross the famed Rialto Bridge, the oldest in the city, to the thriving market, a Venetian commercial hub for centuries.



FLORENCE AND THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA

Witness the splendours of the Renaissance in two of Tuscany's most renowned cultural centres: Florence and Pisa. Enjoy a scenic drive through the Tuscan countryside before arriving in Florence. From the city's pedestrian zone, pass the magnificent Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, the nearby Baptistry and the Giotto's Bell Tower. Admire the Palazzo Vecchio, the power centre of the Florentine Republic, at the Piazza della Signoria. After lunch, begin exploring the architectural wonders in Pisa. Admire the Square of Miracles and its famous Leaning Tower, Cathedral, Baptistry and the Camposanto Monumentale.

6

PISA, ITALY



ISTANBUL ON FOOT & BAKLAVA

Discover iconic Istanbul landmarks, indulge in a taste of local favourites and learn to make baklava. Immerse yourself in a striking blend of architectural brilliance and maritime history. At the Tophane Clock Tower, learn fascinating history and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Begin the culinary portion of your tour at a beloved deli, featuring various Turkish delicacies, to savour authentic flavours, including mezes, olives, cheeses and pastries. Then, walk to an iconic bakery for a hands-on experience, learning the art of making baklava, followed by a taste of the delicious treat.



BAKLAVA, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

POMPEII: CITY OF BEAUTY AND RUIN

Stroll the streets, explore the residences and squares, and picture ancient life frozen in time. After Mt. Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, Pompeii was buried under 6 metres of ash. Excavation has now revealed what life was like on that day, with incredible precision. When visiting this UNESCO World Heritage Site, walk the ancient cobblestone warrens past baths, temples, an amphitheatre and the forum. As you explore, your guide will describe a typical day in Pompeii, as well as information regarding its catastrophic destruction, centuries-long disappearance and incredible rediscovery.

8



[VIEW EXCURSION](#) 

POMPEII, ITALY



9

ACROPOLIS & PLAKA DISTRICT BY FOOT

Explore ancient and modern landmarks of Athens, from the heights of the Acropolis to the intimate Plaka District. During your visit to the iconic Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, climb 80 steps through its grand entrance, the Propylaeum, to the plateau of the rock. Here, the mighty Parthenon reigns over the Nike, Erechtheum and other temples. A panoramic drive through Athens will take you past many iconic landmarks, including the Panathenaic Stadium, the Hellenic Parliament and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Meander through the cobblestone streets of the laid back Plaka district, admiring colourful facades and incredible views of the Acropolis.

ITALIAN RIVIERA BY LAND AND SEA

Explore the scenic town of Sorrento and village of Amalfi during a motor coach and boat excursion along the famous Italian Riviera. Drive to Sorrento, overlooking the Gulf of Naples, observe a wood carving demonstration, then enjoy time to stroll the town's narrow, picturesque streets. Board a motorboat in Salerno for a trip across the Gulf of Salerno to the quaint village of Amalfi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tour its historic centre, stopping to admire the façade of the Cathedral of St. Andrew, witnessing the blend of Italian Gothic and Arabesque-style architecture.



An unforgettable **MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE WITH FAMILY**

Jess Rowe discovers European antiquities while rediscovering connections with her mum and sisters.

Wrapping my arms tightly around Mum, the pair of us laughed aloud as a thoughtful tourist offered to take our photo in front of the Trevi Fountain. Smiling for the camera, tears filled our eyes, as we wanted to hold onto this moment of pure joy that had bookended our family adventure from Athens to Rome. "Thank you my darling," Mum whispered into my ear. "Thank you Mummo ..." I replied, before we started to cry. Gazing at the sculpture of Oceanus pulled by a chariot of sea horses, the beautiful, deep blue blur of the past eight days rushed through me. Mum, my two sisters; Harriet and Claudia, and I had been journeying on board the Viking Jupiter, for its Journey to Antiquities cruise. Our senses had been overloaded with ancient ruins, blood red moons and tales of the gods, goddesses and their dysfunctional offspring.



TEMPLE OF POSEIDON, NEAR ATHENS, GREECE

A HISTORY LESSON BROUGHT TO LIFE

The Acropolis, Temple of Poseidon, the Palace of Knossos, Olympia and Pompeii had been legendary places I had daydreamed about during art history in high school, when my teacher would project small Kodak slides of them onto the screen. Now these ancient masterpieces were coming to life right in front of my eyes during our own odyssey.

We had never travelled all together as 'grown ups', without our children and partners for distraction. How would four strong, opinionated and different women, varying in age and quirks, fit together for the trip of a lifetime? Well, the myths of the ancients combined with the luxury of cruise travel proved to be the ideal ingredients. Every evening we'd meet up for drinks in the Explorers Lounge, making sure to grab our favourite corner couches with the best view as our ship headed off to its next port. But direction has never been my strong point, so the four of us would 'debate' whether we were heading left, right, north or south as we watched the sun set over the endless horizon.

Apart from navigation tips, we'd also share the latest legend or newfound historical fact that had wowed us that day during our tour excursion. Almost every morning we'd wake in a new port. I couldn't wait to pull aside the curtains and discover what life was unfolding in the harbour below our ship. However, I'm sure the local fisherman of Messina didn't know what to make of the demented Aussie, clad in a white bathrobe, waving and yelling 'ciao' from her cabin balcony, as the golden morning light reflected off the waterfront buildings of this seafaring city.





MT VESUVIUS, POMPEII, ITALY

EXPLORING ITALY ON A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

Later that day, winding our way along impossibly narrow roads lined with orange prickly pear, we arrived at the Sicilian village of Savoca. Perching on the edge of the stone fence in the medieval village we ate freshly baked pizza while over our shoulder, snow-capped Mount Etna was gently blowing off some steam. And just a day later we marvelled at the dangerous beauty of Mount Vesuvius in Naples, her layer of volcanic ash immaculately preserving the city of Pompeii.

While my sisters and I leapt across the stepping stones which were laid to stop citizens' togas from dragging in the dirt, we stopped to rub our hands in the grooves in the pavement, left behind by the chariots that had been pushed through the city gates two thousand years ago.

Our exclamations of wonder soon quietened when our guide showed us a plaster cast of a girl trying to protect her face from deadly volcanic gases. This, along with the other plaster casts of people and animals, captures so movingly the precious and precarious nature of life.

The four of us were determined not to miss a moment of our trip, so when we had a day



INTERESTED IN THIS VOYAGE?

PREVIEW OUR 8-DAY
JOURNEY TO ANTIQUITIES
ITINERARY HERE



JESS ROWE WITH HER MOTHER & SISTERS

crossing the Ionian sea, I managed to convince Claudia, my youngest sister, to join me in a Nordic Spa (a Viking speciality). Firstly, you go into the 'snow room', which is just as it sounds, a room filled with snow. When you can't bear the cold any longer you go into the steam room. You repeat the process as many times as you like, and you can interrupt it with an ice bucket shower! The pair of us laughed and laughed, later showing off our dewy complexions to our less adventurous travelling companions!

Other new experiences I didn't want to miss involved my tastebuds. Drinking strong, gritty Greek coffee, eating cannoli, spoonfuls of melon gelato, slabs of pizza and carbonara pasta during our day trips. And my catch cry during my tasting journey even before we got to Rome was, 'When in Rome!' What had been my wish, as I'd hurled a copper coin into the Trevi Fountain? Just moments before Mum and I had been giggling that we needed to be careful not to clonk anyone below at the edge of the fountain. I'm not sure about revealing exactly what I had wished for on that twilight evening. Here's a hint – I don't want this to be last time I share such an adventure with the favourite women in my life.

Article originally published in May 2019 issue of *The Australian Women's Weekly*



One day in **SANTORINI**

Words Mary Ann Haslam

White-washed stone buildings with royal-blue dome roofs perched prettily along a clifftop... it can only be Santorini. This stylish, iconic island can be visited on a classic Mediterranean sailing and will have plenty for visitors to see and do. So many superlatives can be experienced here, including the food, wine and—perhaps most famous of all—the sunsets.

MORNING

Journey to Santorini's highest peak and explore one of its prettiest towns and an early 18th-century monastery on the Summits & Countryside excursion. From our anchorage, you will tender to the island's main port at Athinios. Meet your local guide here for a scenic drive to the cliffside town of Oia, where you will have an opportunity to stroll its narrow, cobblestone streets. On a clear day, you may see spectacular views of the volcano of Palea and Nea Kameni and the island of Thírassia. Afterwards, travel to the Prophet Elias

Monastery, a massive 18th-century stone church. One of the oldest churches on Santorini, it sits at the island's highest point and offers the sweeping views of the countryside, from green valleys to the blue sea.

AFTERNOON

In the village of Pyrgos, the former capital of the island, stroll among traditional homes built around the ruins of a Venetian fortress. Enjoy a short walk with your guide through these medieval labyrinthine streets. You are also invited into a traditional island home to meet locals who will share what island life is really like. Then explore hillside Thíra, the island capital.

EVENING

Experience the breathtaking sunset from the comfort of your ship, whether from the balcony of your suite or elsewhere with a delicious sundowner of your choice.

VISIT SANTORINI 



OIA,
SANTORINI,
GREECE

Mediterranean Cuisine

SPAGHETTI ALLE VONGOLE

This delicious clam pasta was originally considered peasant food and has become an Italian classic. This is so simple to make you can't get it wrong – if you can boil spaghetti you can make it “alle vongole”. Use fresh or frozen clams, just don't forget the white wine!

SERVES 4 SERVINGS

450g fresh clams
2 tbs olive oil
1 garlic clove
1 tsp red chilli, finely
chopped
60ml white wine
1 tsp salt
Pinch pepper
450g dried spaghetti

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil. Add the spaghetti and cook according to the pack instructions, stirring occasionally, until just al dente.
2. To a cold saucepan, add the olive oil, garlic and chilli. Heat gently until the garlic is just golden. Add the clams and pour in the wine. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook over a medium heat for 3 to 4 minutes, shaking the pan occasionally.
3. Drain the pasta and transfer to a large bowl. Add the clams, including all the pan juices, and toss well. Discard any clams that are still closed. Serve immediately, garnishing with fresh parsley.





Mediterranean Cuisine

BLACK RISOTTO

This traditional Croatian seafood dish gets its unusual colour from squid ink. Sachets of ink are widely available from supermarkets and fishmongers.

SERVES 4 SERVINGS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 450g cherry tomatoes
2 tbsp olive oil
2 cloves garlic, crushed
450g squid, prepared and sliced
2 tbsp olive oil
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1.2 litres fish stock
2 tbsp butter
1 small onion, chopped
355g Carnaroli risotto rice
150ml white wine
Salt and pepper
1 x 4g sachet squid ink | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prepare the cherry tomatoes. Blanch briefly in boiling water, then remove with a slotted spoon, peel and chop.2. In a frying pan, heat the olive oil, then add the crushed garlic and the squid. Sauté really fast and remove from the pan as soon as the squid starts to curl. Reserve and keep warm.3. In the same pan, add a further 2 tablespoons of olive oil and the chopped garlic. Briefly fry the garlic until golden and then add all of the chopped cherry tomatoes. Cook gently until reduced and thickened, then add in the squid. Season with salt and pepper to taste, then keep warm.4. For the risotto, heat the fish stock in a saucepan, then in a heavy based pan melt the butter, add the onion and cook for 5 minutes until soft without colouring the onion. Add the rice and stir well, coating in the oil, then add the white wine and cook the rice until all the wine has been absorbed, stirring all the time.5. Begin to add the warm fish stock, a ladle at a time, stirring the risotto constantly and never allowing it to dry out. Add the squid ink to the risotto and keep stirring, then keep adding the stock until the rice is just tender and the risotto is slightly runny. This should take about 15 minutes.6. Serve the risotto and top with the squid in tomato sauce. |
|---|--|

Mediterranean Cuisine

PIZZA MARGHERITA

The very basic Pizza Margherita, named for the Queen Consort Margherita. Extra delicious when baked in a brick pizza oven as we do on board our ships, but regular ovens are just fine. Some even choose to make pizzas in a skillet!

SERVES 4 SERVINGS

For the pizza bases:
7g sachet dried yeast
2 tsp salt
325ml lukewarm water
500g strong white bread flour
Drizzle olive oil

For the tomato sauce:
Drizzle olive oil
2 garlic cloves,
peeled and crushed
400g tomato passata
Salt and pepper
Fresh basil leaves, chopped

Suggested toppings
(for 1 pizza):
Mozzarella,
torn into small chunks
Parmesan, shaved or grated
Black pepper
Fresh basil leaves, torn
Drizzle extra virgin olive oil

1. Add the yeast and salt to the water and stir until dissolved. Pour this, along with the flour and oil, in to the bowl of a food processor and mix using a dough hook – first at the highest speed for 5 minutes and then at a medium speed for 8 minutes, until the dough is smooth.
2. Divide the dough into 4 roughly equal portions, pat into balls, place in a lightly oiled bowl, cover with plastic wrap and leave for about 45 minutes until the dough has doubled in size.
3. On a floured surface, roll out each dough ball until the dough is about 0.5cm thick. Stack between oiled layers of aluminum foil, cover in plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes.
4. To make the sauce, add the olive oil to a saucepan and gently cook the garlic over a medium heat until it just begins to colour. Add the passata, stir and simmer for 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste, stir in the fresh basil leaves, then take off the heat and set aside.
5. To assemble your pizza, transfer one pizza base to a lightly oiled baking sheet ready for topping. Using a tablespoon or small ladle, spread a layer of sauce on to the pizza base, making sure the sauce reaches the edge of the dough.
6. For the classic Margherita, place the mozzarella chunks evenly over the base. Scatter over the Parmesan, add a pinch of pepper and the basil leaves and finally drizzle a modest amount of extra virgin olive oil over the whole pizza. Bake for 7 to 10 minutes at 250°C until golden and serve.





Mediterranean Cuisine

SPANAKOPITA

With crisp, buttery pastry and a soft spinach and feta cheese filling, this delicious pie is classic Greek family comfort food. The trick to creating the perfect Spanakopita is to be generous with the herbs. Serve with a Greek salad and crusty bread.

SERVES 4 SERVINGS

450g spinach, drained
1 bunch of fresh parsley,
chopped
1 bunch of fresh dill,
chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
3 eggs, beaten
285g Greek feta cheese
1 lemon, zested
Salt and pepper
1 pack frozen filo pastry,
thawed (you will
need about 8-10 sheets)
4 tbsp butter

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C.
2. Make the filling by mixing the spinach, chopped herbs, garlic, eggs, crumbled feta and lemon zest together in a bowl. Season to taste.
3. Unroll the thawed pastry and immediately cover with a clean, damp cloth to keep it from drying out.
4. Melt the butter in a small pan, then take a square or rectangular baking dish and line with a few sheets of the filo, laying each one in a different direction and making sure they drape over the sides of the dish. Brush each layer generously with butter. Keep layering until you have used about two thirds of the pastry.
5. Spoon in the spinach and feta mixture and smooth over the top, then butter a few more sheets and layer over the pie, bunching the sheets slightly to give lots of texture and fit snugly across the top of the pie. Finally, fold in the overlapping edges of pastry towards the middle. Butter the finished pie generously.
6. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour, until crisp and golden. Allow to rest and serve just warm or at room temperature.

Quiet Season Mediterranean: SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

No matter your interest, the Mediterranean has something to pique your curiosity. Travel to places of historic significance, immerse yourself in cultural hubs brimming with art and music, or sample local gourmet delights. Here we share a selection of some of the intriguing experiences found along the coastline of Southern Europe.

HISTORY

You can read about history in books, but travelling to the places where history was made gives a whole new perspective. If history is the central focus for your travel, these experiences allow you to visit historically significant sites, immersing you in architecture, art and experiences that changed the course of civilisation.

GO BACK IN TIME

Troy, Turkey

Explore legendary Troy with an expert guide and take in the sights of Çanakkale. Once a thriving ancient city of Asia Minor, today's archaeological site of Troy shows evidence that as many as nine cities existed on this spot over millennia. But it is most remembered as the setting of the Trojan War, described by Homer in the Iliad. Troy saw its peak as part of the Roman Empire under Augustus, but lost its way as Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire rose to prominence. Drive into Anatolia to view this incredibly preserved city and hear the story of Helen of Troy as you see the walls that were besieged during the famous war.

TROY, TURKEY





BARCELONA, SPAIN

ARCHITECTURE

Sometimes, one single building can become symbolic of a destination, with designs that can transport you through time. Whether old, new, ornate or minimalistic, stunning architecture is all around us wherever we go. We invite you to explore some of the world's architectural wonders.

DISCOVER THE WORKS OF GAUDI

Barcelona, Spain

Admire the creative architectural genius of Antoni Gaudí's surreal works. View some of his finest work at Park Güell. Covering almost 50 acres, the park was built between 1900 and 1914 and declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. La Sagrada Família is the centrepiece of your tour. Construction began in 1882 and is scheduled for completion in 2026, the centenary of Gaudí's death. Step inside to marvel at its breathtaking, fantastical sanctuary. Along the Passeig de Gràcia, pass the Casa Batlló, or House of Bones, and the hulking Casa Milà, two impressive Gaudí buildings featuring his characteristic curved facades and "scooped out" windows.

ART

From ever-changing street art and world-class museums to iconic opera performances, the world is home to countless cultural treasures just waiting to be discovered. For the traveller for whom the city's galleries and museums are the main drawcard, we take you to the heart of these destinations to uncover artistic and musical experiences.

SEE RENAISSANCE TREASURES

Florence, Italy

See Florence's treasured works of art and at one of its renowned museums. During the Medici rule, Florence exploded into a Renaissance of art and culture and the legacy lives on around every corner. Drive with your guide to the Uffizi Gallery. Here, gaze upon brilliant works by Da Vinci, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and others. Then, take a walking tour of the city, passing the magnificent Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore with Brunelleschi's Dome and the Baptistery, adjacent to the Giotto's Bell Tower. Pass the Accademia Gallery and learn about some of Michelangelo's flawless sculptures, including his famous David, and many other great works of art.



DETAIL OF THE BIRTH OF VENUS BY BOTTICELLI IN FLORENCE, ITALY



GREEK BAGELS, ATHENS, GREECE



RESTAURANTS, ATHENS, GREECE

CULINARY

Nothing reveals the nature and soul of a destination quite like food and wine do - they are after all an integral element of any culture. Exploring the culinary delights of a region can give you a unique insight into the life and traditions of the people who call it home. Our itineraries will take you on a voyage of discovery to some of the world's most renowned food and wine destinations.

LEARN TO MAKE GREEK FOOD

Athens, Greece

Discover the secrets of Mediterranean cooking as a chef leads you on a culinary adventure. Enjoy a scenic drive into the heart of Athens before arriving at a local vegetable market. Here, you will meet your culinary expert who will lead you through the stalls filled with colourful offerings enroute to the kitchen studio. You will prepare several traditional and delectable Greek dishes and learn tips and techniques to adjust them so they can be prepared and enjoyed in the comfort of your own home. Afterward, sit and enjoy the fruits of your labour and savour your menu that features some of the region's highlights, including dips, pies, and classic mains, served with pita and of course, dessert.

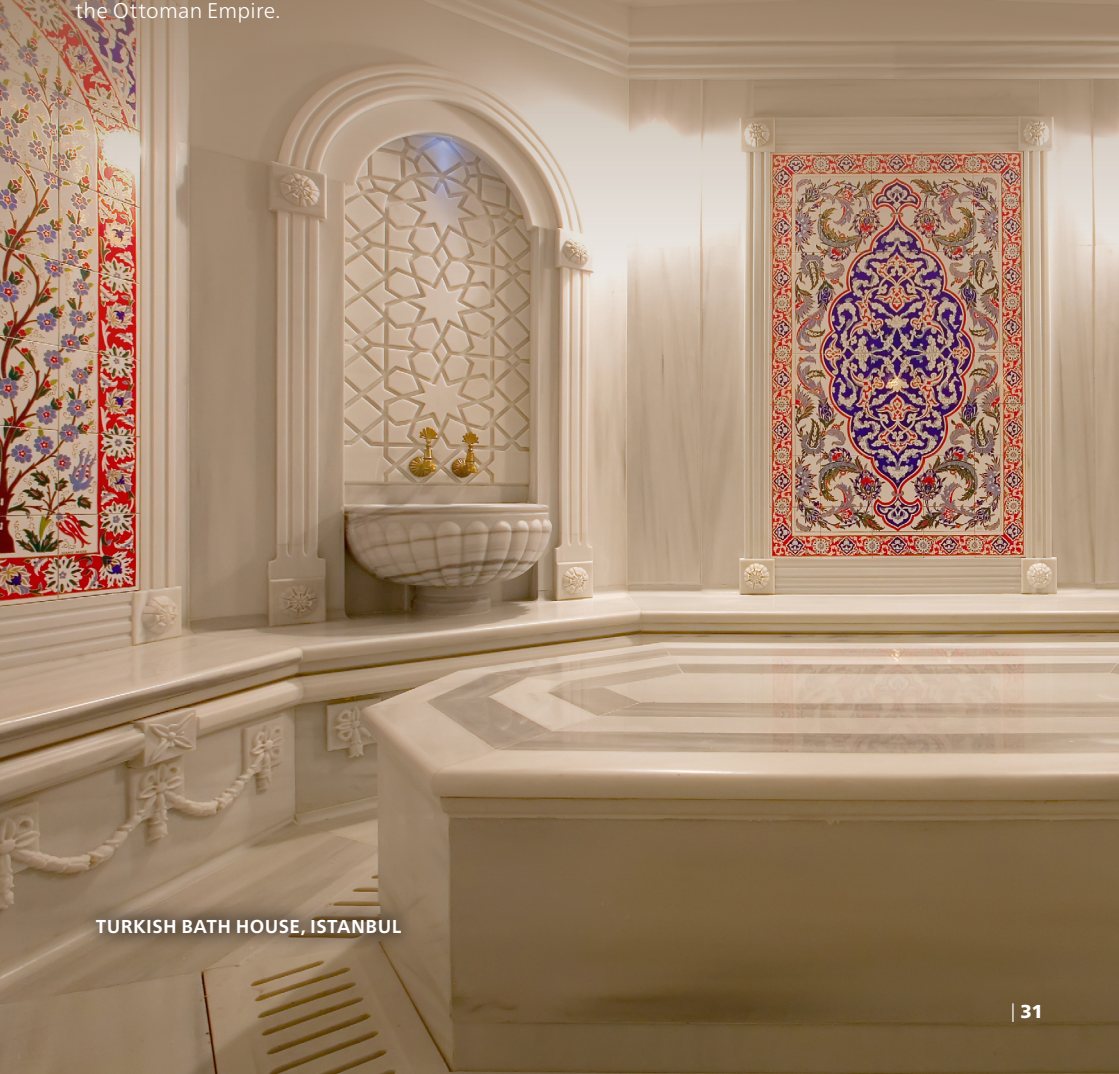
CULTURE

Immersing yourself into the rich traditions and customs of a new region is exactly what we believe travelling should be about. Experiencing a city as the locals do allows you to gain a greater understanding of the world around us and inspire a fresh perspective of how things are.

TAKE A TURKISH BATH

Istanbul, Turkey

Experience firsthand a hammam, or Turkish bath, a long and cherished tradition in Turkish culture. Donning a traditional cotton wrap, proceed into your male or female steam room, where you can stretch out on a warm marble table and relax. An attendant will vigorously exfoliate your skin and smother you in bubbles. Then enjoy a soak in one of the baths. During your visit, you will be entranced by the sounds of the sultans as Ottoman rhythms transport you to the golden era of the Ottoman Empire.



TURKISH BATH HOUSE, ISTANBUL

Map of the MEDITERRANEAN





8 DAYS | 5 GUIDED TOURS | 4 COUNTRIES



ICONIC WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Barcelona to Rome or vice versa

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS

JAN & FEB; NOV & DEC



MONTE CARLO, MONACO



Italy's Renaissance treasures and France's famed southern coast take centre stage on this eight-day Mediterranean sojourn. Immerse yourself in Tuscan and Catalan art, architecture and history during overnights in Tuscany and Barcelona. In the South of France, call on Monte Carlo, Monaco's glamorous city by the sea, picturesque Marseille and historic Montpellier.



Itinerary day by day

DAY 1-2 Barcelona, Spain

DAY 3 Sète, France

DAY 4 Marseille, France

DAY 5 Monte Carlo, Monaco

DAY 6-7 Florence/Pisa (Livorno), Italy

DAY 8 Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy



VIEW VOYAGE



RHODES, GREECE

Witness the origin of civilisation as you cruise the fabled Aegean Sea. Spend two days in majestic Istanbul, with its Byzantine treasures and intriguing blend of Eastern and Western influences. Travel to the ruins of Troy, long steeped in myth and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See historic sites in Ephesus and marvel at the gorgeous islands of Rhodes and Crete. Discover the architectural gems of ancient Athens during an overnight stay.



ATHENS, GREECE

Itinerary day by day

DAY 1-2 Istanbul, Turkey

DAY 3 Troy (Çanakkale), Turkey

DAY 4 Ephesus (Kuşadası), Turkey

DAY 5 Rhodes, Greece

DAY 6 Crete (Heraklion), Greece

DAY 7-8 Athens (Piraeus), Greece

8 DAYS | 6 GUIDED TOURS | 2 COUNTRIES



ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN TREASURES

Istanbul to Athens or vice versa

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS

MAR, NOV, DEC



ISTANBUL, TURKEY

8 DAYS | 5 GUIDED TOURS | 3 COUNTRIES



JOURNEY TO ANTIQUITIES

Rome to Athens or vice versa

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS

FEB; NOV & DEC



CELSUS LIBRARY RUINS,
EPHESUS, TURKEY



SICILY, ITALY

Travel through waters once ruled by mighty empires and flourishing city-states during an insightful 8-day voyage between Rome and Athens. Visit Naples, gateway to Pompeii, and Messina, Sicily's cultural crossroads. Discover Crete, the former seat of the once flourishing Minoan kingdom, and see remarkably preserved ancient ruins in Ephesus. Immerse yourself in Athens, the birthplace of democracy, and admire the famous Acropolis and see the bustling Plaka District.



CRETE, GREECE

Itinerary day by day

DAY 1 Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy

DAY 2 Naples, Italy

DAY 3 Sicily (Messina), Italy

DAY 4 Sail the Ionian Sea

DAY 5 Crete (Souda Bay), Greece

DAY 6 Ephesus (Kuşadası), Turkey

DAY 7-8 Athens (Piraeus), Greece

MALTA, MOROCCO & THE MEDITERRANEAN

Roundtrip Barcelona, Spain

16 DAYS | 9 GUIDED TOURS | 7 COUNTRIES

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS - JAN-FEB, NOV & DEC



Trace the routes of centuries-old mariners as you set sail on a roundtrip journey from Barcelona. Visit scenic Marseille and elegant Corsica, birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte, France's great emperor. See the UNESCO city of Valletta and delve into the ancient North African cities of Algiers, Tunis and Casablanca. Wander amid Andalucian treasures in Seville, famed for its rhythmic flamenco, and admire the mighty Alhambra palace of Granada.



Itinerary day by day

DAY 1 Barcelona, Spain

DAY 2 Marseille, France

DAY 3 Corsica (Ajaccio), France

DAY 4 Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy

DAY 5 Sail the Mediterranean Sea

DAY 6-7 Valletta, Malta

DAY 8 Tunis (La Goulette), Tunisia

DAY 9 Sail the Mediterranean Sea

DAY 10 Algiers, Algeria

DAY 11 Sail the Strait of Gibraltar

DAY 12 Casablanca, Morocco

DAY 13 Seville (Cádiz), Spain

DAY 14 Granada (Málaga), Spain

DAY 15 Sail the Balearic Sea

DAY 16 Barcelona, Spain



GREEK ODYSSEY

Roundtrip Athens, Greece

11 DAYS | 8 GUIDED TOURS | 2 COUNTRIES
QUIET SEASON SAILINGS - JAN-FEB & NOV



Explore the Aegean Sea during an 11-day voyage to important sites of antiquity. Visit Athens, the “birthplace of democracy,” and Crete, home of the mysterious Minoan civilization. Admire whitewashed buildings with azure domes in Santorini and walk the streets of Rhodes to the imposing Palace of the Grand Masters. You will also call on Volos, Ephesus and Nafplio during your cruise through several millennia of culture and history.



Itinerary day by day

DAY 1-2 Athens (Piraeus), Greece

DAY 3 Volos, Greece

DAY 4 Thessaloníki, Greece

DAY 5 Scenic Sailing: Mt. Athos

DAY 6 Ephesus (Kuşadası), Turkey

DAY 7 Rhodes, Greece

DAY 8 Santorini (Thíra), Greece

DAY 9 Crete (Souda Bay), Greece

DAY 10 Nafplio, Greece

DAY 11 Athens (Piraeus), Greece



ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN ANTIQUITIES

Istanbul to Rome or vice versa

15 DAYS | 9 GUIDED TOURS | 3 COUNTRIES

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS - OCT-DEC



ISTANBUL, TURKEY

MEDITERRANEAN ANTIQUITIES

Barcelona to Athens or vice versa

15 DAYS | 11 GUIDED TOURS | 6 COUNTRIES

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS - JAN-FEB & OCT-DEC



SPANISH STEPS, ROME, ITALY

MEDITERRANEAN & ADRIATIC ODYSSEY

Rome to Athens or vice versa

15 DAYS | 12 GUIDED TOURS | 3 COUNTRIES

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS - FEB, NOV



ICONIC MEDITERRANEAN TREASURES

Barcelona to Istanbul or vice versa

22 DAYS | 16 GUIDED TOURS | 6 COUNTRIES

QUIET SEASON SAILINGS - NOV & DEC



EXPLORE MORE

*See more of the world with our
pre and post extension packages*



BARCELONA, SPAIN



LEARN
MORE



2 NIGHTS IN BARCELONA

An additional two nights gives you ample time to explore Barcelona's impressive architecture, including Antoni Gaudí's La Sagrada Família and Park Güell. Sample tasty tapas, stroll down the legendary Las Ramblas or meander through the Gothic Quarter.



LEARN
MORE



2 NIGHTS IN MADRID

Ernest Hemingway called Madrid the most Spanish of all cities. Witness its authenticity firsthand in one of Europe's most lively and elegant capitals. From the breathtaking art collection of the Prado Museum to the sprawling baroque Plaza Mayor, experience the true spirit of Spain.

MORE DAYS MEANS MORE TIME TO DISCOVER

Whether it is more time in an embarkation or disembarkation city or to visit a new destination altogether, we have designed extension programs all over the world to be the perfect complement to your itinerary.



LEARN
MORE



2 NIGHTS IN ISTANBUL

Discover where East meets West as you visit the imposing Blue Mosque and the impressive Underground Cistern. Explore the expansive Grand Bazaar and much more in the city between the continents of Europe and Asia.



LEARN
MORE



2 NIGHTS IN ROME

Spend two days discovering beautiful Rome, the Eternal City. Explore its ancient buildings and ruins, tour the Colosseum, see the Trevi Fountain and sample traditional Italian food.



LEARN
MORE



2 NIGHTS IN ATHENS

Enjoy ample time to explore Athens in greater depth. Ascend Acropolis Hill to explore the ancient Parthenon and admire the Temple of Athena Nike. Stop by an authentic taverna to sample meze, with a taste of ouzo or a glass of wine. Or wander the labyrinthine streets of the historic Plaka District.



LEARN
MORE



3 NIGHTS ULTIMATE ITALY – SICILY

Experience the picturesque isle of Sicily and sample its culinary delights. Visit the Archaeological Park of Neapolis and historic Ortigia and savour a selection of Sicilian dishes at a traditional masseria. View Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, and discover the quaint town of Taormina.

How to book WITH VIKING

We're here to help make all parts of your journey as smooth as possible

FIND AND BOOK VIA OUR WEBSITE

Seven days a week, you can check departure dates, prices or book your preferred itinerary. Browse our many destinations, a choice of staterooms, learn about everything that is included and browse the many extensions that are available.

CONTACT THE VIKING RESERVATIONS TEAM

Wherever you choose to go, or whether you need some further information our friendly Cruise Consultants are on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Call 138 747 (AU) 0800 447 913 (NZ)

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VIKING TRAVEL AGENT

If you have an existing travel agent, we encourage you to discuss your future voyage plans and get expert advice.

DISCOVER SAILING WITH THE SMALL SHIP EXPERTS

If you prefer an elegant, serene ship ambiance, more time in each port and an inclusive experience complete with exquisite dining and thoughtfully curated shore excursions, the world's best ocean cruise line was created for you.

ORDER A BROCHURE

Learn about the many fascinating destinations you can visit on our voyages. Our inspiring, full colour brochures are available free of charge and provide all the information you need to plan your next Viking journey.



LEARN MORE 

Click here to order
your brochure.





ATHENS, GREECE

DISCOVER MORE OF THE WORLD OF VIKING

Viking.TV

Access complimentary livestreams and on-demand programs focused on science, art, literature, music and more. Delve into the world's most iconic destinations—which you can explore with us.

Facebook

Explore our Viking Facebook page and discover the many destination-focused journeys we offer on rivers, oceans and lakes across all seven continents.

YouTube

Discover a library of videos including a virtual tour of our fleet of vessels, destination insights and experiences across our river, ocean and expedition voyages.



NO KIDS • VOTED WORLD'S BEST • ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICING

☎ 138 747 (AU) 0800 447 913 (NZ)

🖱 [VIKING.COM](https://www.viking.com)

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT

**VIKING
LEVEL 6, 66 WENTWORTH AVE
SURRY HILLS, NSW 2010
AUSTRALIA**



V2 2025