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The Corsican town of Bonifacio, situated on cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean and Sardinia (this photo and all others free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)

A VOYAGE TO CORSICA AND SARDINIA

15 days, Wednesday, May 11, to Wednesday, May 25, 2022

A leisurely exploration of two wonderful Mediterranean islands, one French with a lot of Italian flavor, the other Italian, but with plenty of Spanish influence! Magnificent coastal as well as mountain scenery and fascinating historical sites conjure up the mythical adventures of Ulysses, the amazing Phoenicians and their eager Greek competitors, Romans battling Carthaginians, holy wars between Christians and Saracens, and of course Napoleon, the most famous of all Corsicans. This tour features first-class hotels, excellent food, and talks about history and culture by your escort, Jacques Pauwels, PhD, author of books such as 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places,' London, 2009.

**Tour cost: Land only (from/to Rome Leonardo Da Vinci Airport): \$3,385 –
Single room supplement: \$875**

REGISTER NOW WITHOUT DEPOSIT!

Please note that at this time the best available airfare to Rome is \$936.00, including one checked bag. However, we are unable to book flights until we know we can operate the tour which, due to Covid 19, is not yet the case. We therefore require no deposit from those who wish to register for the tour. As soon as it will be possible to confirm the tour and flights can be booked, we will advise and a deposit will be required at that time. So, registering now does not involve a firm commitment, it only means that, when the time comes, you will be able to decide to go ahead or opt out without any penalty!

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 – Wednesday, May 11: Evening departure from Toronto to Rome on a non-stop flight with Air Canada. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Thursday, May 12: Late morning arrival in Rome, where our private coach will be waiting to take us to Livorno (also, in English: Leghorn), a seaport situated on the shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Check into the first-class/4-star Hotel Gran Duca, centrally located on the waterfront (<http://www.granduca.it/eng/main.php>). Free time to settle in and perhaps explore the town, and dinner in the restaurant of the hotel.

Day 3 - Friday, May 13: Morning free to explore Livorno. In the afternoon we take a ferry bound for Bastia, Corsica; the crossing will take approximately four hours. Arrival in Bastia, named after a *bastiglia* (fortress) founded in the 14th century by the Genoese, who were then the masters of the island, and transfer to the pretty fishing village (and resort) of Macinaggio, located on the peninsula known as Cap Corse, for dinner and overnight in the first-class/4-star Hotel Uricordu (<http://best-western-hotel-uricordu.macinaggio.hotels-corsica.net/en>).

The Ancient Greeks called Corsica Kallisté, “the most beautiful island,” and this compliment has found an echo in the contemporary French term “Ile de Beauté”. Italian and Gallic culture blend spectacularly on this rugged mountain rising from the sea and covered by dark forests. Napoleon was born in the Corsican capital of Ajaccio in 1769, only one year after the island’s annexation by France. For more information on Corsica, see: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corsica>

Day 4 - Saturday, May 14: This morning we tour Cap Corse, which arguably features the most spectacular scenery on the island, with rugged mountains, olive orchards and vineyards, sandy beaches, quaint villages, and a rocky coastline dotted with so-called ‘Genoese’ watchtowers. Also short visit to a winery, with a tasting of some typical Corsican wines. In the afternoon we visit Bastia, with its citadel, the picturesque old port, historic churches, and vast St. Nicholas Square with the statue of Napoleon Bonaparte. Return to Macinaggio and some free time before dinner again in our hotel’s restaurant.



< Corsican wines!

Day 5 - Sunday, May 15: Departure after breakfast. We motor via Bastia to the lagoon known as the Étang de Biguglia, an important bird sanctuary, and stop en route to view the fine medieval church of La Canonica, built by the Pisans when they ruled this island in the 12th century. On into Corsica’s mountainous and rugged interior, to Ponte Nuovo, where in 1769 the Corsican freedom fighter Pascal Paoli lost a battle whose outcome resulted in the island’s annexation by France. On to Ajaccio, Napoleon’s birthplace and Corsica’s capital, tucked between the mountains and the sea on the shores of a magnificent bay. Accommodation in the 3-star/superior tourist-class Hotel San Carlu, centrally-located in the old town and near the harbor (<http://www.hotel-sancarlu.com>). No group dinner this evening.

Day 6 - Monday, May 16: Morning sightseeing of Ajaccio, including the impressive Napoleon Monument, the Bonaparte family home, the Cathedral, and the Citadel, followed by a sidetrip along the scenic coastal drive to Cape Parata, featuring superb views of the offshore Sanguinaires Islands. Afternoon at leisure in Ajaccio. No group dinner.



< Bonifacio on top of the cliffs! (photo by J. Pauwels)

Day 7 – Tuesday, May 17: Departure from Ajaccio after breakfast. We will enjoy wonderful scenery as we motor, partly along the coast and partly via the interior, to the southern tip of Corsica, to experience one of the most spectacular sights in Europe: the fortified former pirates' den of Bonifacio, perched precariously on top of a steep cliff, overlooking the blue

waters of the Strait of Bonifacio, about 10 km wide, which separates Corsica from Sardinia! After our sightseeing program as well as some free time to explore on your own, a one-hour ferry ride will take us to the little Sardinian town of Santa Teresa de Gallura for dinner and overnight in a superior 3-star hotel.

Day 8 – Wednesday, May 18: Via another scenic coastal drive, we continue to the picturesque seaport of Alghero, situated on Sardinia's Coral Coast, arriving in late afternoon. For many centuries, Sardinia belonged to the Spanish kingdom of Aragon-Catalonia, which explains why Catalan is still spoken here! Dinner and overnight in the excellent 4-star/first-class Hotel Florida, overlooking the beach at a stone's throw from the entrance to the old town (<http://www.hotelfloridaalghero.com/en>).

Day 9 – Thursday, May 19: A relaxing day in Alghero. In the morning we visit the walled old town, known as Sardinia's "Little Barcelona" on account of the Catalan influence. Afterwards, free time for shopping, exploring Old Alghero on your own, or relaxing around the pool of the hotel or on the beach. Weather permitting, an *optional* boat tour may be offered to the famous Grotta di Nettuno, the Sardinian version of Capri's Blue Grotto. Dinner again in the restaurant of our hotel.



The walls of Old Alghero >

Sardinia, the second largest island in the Mediterranean, closes the Tyrrhenian Sea to the West. It was the home of remarkable stone age civilizations and of the mysterious Shardana or Sards, a non-Indo-European people, until it was colonized by the Phoenicians, followed in due course by Carthaginians and Romans, Genoese, Spaniards from Catalonia, and Austrians. In the 19th century, Sardinia joined newly independent Italy. In spite of some fairly recent industrial and touristic development, exemplified by the resorts of the Costa Smeralda, the island has continued to be a largely rural habitat of shepherds and fishermen, and features wonderful scenery as well as very hearty food much appreciated by Italian (and other) city slickers! For more information on Sardinia, see: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardinia>



Day 10 - Friday, May 20: Departure from Alghero after breakfast. We motor inland and bypass Sassari, the island's biggest city after Sardinia's capital, Cagliari, to visit Santa Trinita di Saccargia, an impressive solitary 12th-century church in the Pisan Romanesque style. Penetrating the rugged central highlands, a region known as Barbagia, from the Latin for "Land of Barbarians," we reach Nuoro, situated at the foot of towering Mount Ortobene; once a "nest of bandits and murderers," the town is now praised as the heart of the island's cultural life. After lunch, we use a breathtaking serpentine road to descend rapidly from the Sardinian highlands to Su Gologone, an isolated but very picturesque seaside resort. Dinner and overnight in the four-star resort Hotel Parco Blu (<http://www.parcoblu.com>).

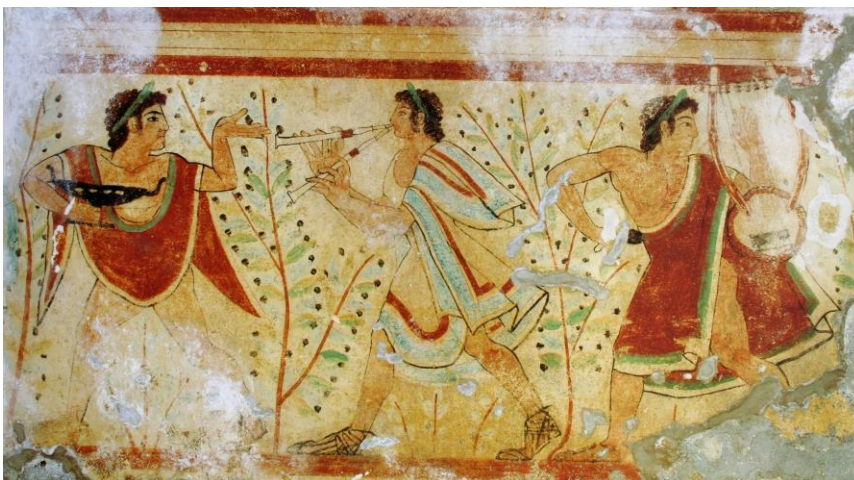
Day 11 – Saturday, May 21: Free time to enjoy a late breakfast or a walk on the beach. Departing in late morning, we visit the small but very interesting archaeological museum in the town of Dorgali. After lunch, we inspect one of Sardinia's famous "Tombs of the Giants," funerary megalithic monuments of the enigmatic Nuraghic Civilization that flourished from prehistoric times to the arrival of the Romans (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuragic_civilization). Late afternoon arrival at the first-class/four-star resort Hotel Airone (<http://www.aironehotel.eu>) on Sardinia's Costa Smeralda, overlooking the clear blue waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. Dinner in the hotel.

Crystal-clear waters along the Costa Smeralda >



Day 12 – Sunday, May 22: Today is a free day. However, an *optional* excursion will be offered to the island of Caprera in the nearby Maddalena Archipelago, where Italy's famous freedom fighter, Garibaldi, retired, died in 1882 and is buried. Dinner again in the hotel.

Day 13 - Monday, May 23: Departure after breakfast. We tour the beautiful Costa Smeralda, developed in the sixties as a playground for the "rich and famous" by the Agha Khan, and its epicenter, the jet-set yacht harbor of Porto Cervo. On to the quaint town of Olbia, featuring Nuraghic and Roman monuments, Romanesque churches, and excellent gelato! Opportunity to have dinner (on your own) in one of the city's many eateries, followed by transfer to the harbor and departure on the ferry bound for the Italian mainland. Our destination is Civitavecchia, a port on the Italian mainland at a short distance from Rome. Accommodation on board in simple but comfortable, fully-equipped cabins.



< *Fresco in a tomb in the Etruscan necropolis of Tarquinia*

Sea is really the Etruscan Sea! Sightseeing in Tarquinia, with focus on the city's two greatest attractions, the excellent Etruscan Museum and the Etruscan necropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

(<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1158>) featuring tombs with wonderful, world-famous frescoes. Afterwards there will be time to shop and/or explore the town of Tarquinia on your own. Dinner and overnight in the 4-star hotel Civicozero Resort (<http://www.civicozeroresort.com>).

Day 15 - Wednesday, May 25: After breakfast, short transfer to Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport and non-stop return flight to Toronto, with Air Canada. Departure at 1:40 PM and arrival around 5:00 PM.

Included in the price are:

- Accommodation, based on double occupancy, mostly in first-class/4-star hotels and occasionally in superior tourist-class 3-star hotels, and one night in a cabin with private facilities on the May 19 overnight ferry from Sardinia to Civitavecchia - the tour's total single room supplement is \$875.
- Breakfast daily and a total of no less than *ten* dinners (or full lunch).
- Overland transportation via deluxe private coach, equipped with AC, WC, video/audio.
- Ferry services from Livorno to Bastia and from Olbia to Civitavecchia.
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned.
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

Not included:

- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above.
- All expenses of a personal nature.
- A gratuity for the coach driver, 25 Euros or equivalent in dollars.
- Travel Insurance is available, please call for rates.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit is not required at this time. You will be contacted when the tour is guaranteed for payment or to be removed from the list without obligation. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I

further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.
8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT *GROUP* AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be

able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in **almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection.**

It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a “land only” basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare’s conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the "Voyage to Corsica & Sardinia" tour of May 12 - 26, 2021 .

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

I wish to book on group flights _____ OR land only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth")

Address _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin (2 beds) _____ double (1 bed) _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.
We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____

Other _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ **(Signature)(s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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