



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

# CRUISING THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Gibraltar to Naples aboard the 59-cabin, all-suite *Hebridean Sky*  
April 27–May 7, 2025  
with archaeologist **Jenifer Neils**





## DEAR TRAVELER,

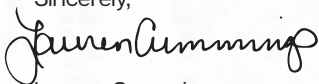
I invite you to **join Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Jenifer Neils aboard the elegant, 59-cabin, all-suite *Hebridean Sky* for an eight-night western Mediterranean cruise.** This unique educational program highlights phenomenal architecture in Spain and Italy, and fascinating archaeological sites from Gibraltar to Spain's Balearic Islands, Sardinia, Sicily, and mainland Italy.

Begin the program in Gibraltar, U.K., where we will witness where the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea meet at Europa Point; and stop at **Gorham's Cave Complex**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where four caves have provided archaeological and paleontological evidence of more than 100,000 years of Neanderthal occupation. Embark the spectacular *Hebridean Sky* and cruise to Spain to visit the outstanding **Alhambra** fortress and **Generalife Gardens**, with a special Andalusian lunch to follow. On **Menorca**, the most northerly of the Balearic Islands, see the UNESCO Prehistoric Site of **Talayotic Menorca** with its mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic, T-shaped stone monuments.

Call at **Cagliari**, Sardinia, home to the ruins of **Nora**, an ancient Punic-Roman city, and **Su Nuraxi di Barumini**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is the largest and best preserved of the island's 700 Bronze Age *nuraghi* (stone fortresses). On Sicily, you will have the chance to visit the hilltop fortress of **Erice**, and see the Greco-Roman theater at **Taormina**. Finally, witness the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Paestum** with its three Doric Greek temples before cruising along the spectacular **Amalfi Coast** to Naples. There will be opportunities to participate in a **pre-trip extension in Gibraltar**, and/or a **post-trip extension in Naples and Pompeii**.

Throughout this program you will be joined by **expert study leaders**, including popular AIA lecturer/host Jenifer Neils, an archaeologist and professor who has accompanied many study tours, who together will offer a **series of illustrated lectures and informal discussions**. This is not an exclusive AIA program and is co-sponsored by other organizations. With only 59 cabins available, I encourage you to reserve your preferred cabin today by contacting AIA Tours at [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org) or **(800) 748-6262**.

Sincerely,



Lauren Cummings

Education & Program Manager, AIA Tours  
Archaeological Institute of America

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA AND 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.



## STUDY LEADER



A professor of ancient art history and a classical archaeologist, **Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Professor Jenifer Neils** is an expert on the ancient Mediterranean. An indefatigable lecturer and traveler, she has served as study leader for over a dozen trips to ancient sites across the Mediterranean, from North Africa to Turkey. As a field archaeologist, Professor Neils has participated in excavations in Italy, Sicily, and Greece, and her research has resulted in 15 books. After earning her Ph.D. at Princeton, Professor Neils regularly taught courses in ancient art and archaeology from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where she held two endowed chairs. She has also been a visiting professor at the University of California at Berkeley and Johns Hopkins University, and has been granted prestigious fellowships at the American Academy in Rome, the J. Paul Getty Research Center, and the Paul Mellon Center at Yale. During the 2011-12 academic year Professor Neils was the Joukowsky Lecturer for the AIA, and recently she served for five years as the Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Visit **five UNESCO World Heritage Sites**: Gibraltar, the Alhambra in Granada, Prehistoric Sites of Talayotic Menorca, Sardinia's Su Nuraxi, and the Greek Temples of Paestum.
- ◆ Witness a 360-degree view of the Mediterranean, Europe, and Africa from **the Rock of Gibraltar**, a former British military outpost with a rich natural and cultural history.
- ◆ Marvel at the beautiful buildings, intricate and colorful tilework, and splendid gardens of **the incomparable Alhambra Palace**, a jewel of Moorish architecture.
- ◆ Stroll among the **giant megaliths of Menorca** – enormous T-shaped stone monuments erected some 4,000 years ago.
- ◆ Enjoy **Sardinia's archaeological wonders at Su Nuraxi di Barumini** with its massive, well-preserved Bronze Age stone fortresses, or examine the **ruins of Nora**, an ancient Punic-Roman city with spectacular mosaics.
- ◆ Explore **the magnificent Doric temple of Segesta**, a legacy of the Greeks of the 5th century B.C., and view **Taormina's spectacular Greco-Roman theater**.
- ◆ Peer down upon the clouds from the **cobblestone village aerie of Erice**, a Carthaginian stronghold conquered by Romans during the Punic Wars.
- ◆ **Savor local flavors** including Andalusian specialties over lunch in a beautiful *carmen* (a traditional style of house unique to Granada) and a Sicilian wine tasting at Marsala's oldest winery.



MENORCA



GRANADA CATHEDRAL



## ITINERARY

### Sunday – Monday, April 27 – 28 HOME / GIBRALTAR, U.K.

Depart home on an overnight flight to Gibraltar, U.K. Arrive Monday, April 28, and transfer to your luxurious, centrally located hotel, The Elliott, for an orientation and welcome reception with fellow travelers.

THE ELLIOTT HOTEL (R)

### Tuesday, April 29 GIBRALTAR / EMBARK

Spend the day in Gibraltar, formerly a strategic British military outpost. After taking in stunning views from Europa Point, where the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea meet, stop at Gorham's Cave Complex to learn about its Neanderthal history. In St. Michael's Cave, watch an immersive light and sound show illuminating the geological wonders while weaving in tales of Gibraltar's rich history. Also tour the fascinating Great Siege and WWII Tunnels to learn about their construction and military use over nearly 200 years. Embark *Hebridean Sky* in the afternoon and enjoy the Captain's welcome reception and dinner this evening.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,R,D)

### Wednesday, April 30 GRANADA, SPAIN

From the port of Motril, travel to Granada for a visit to the incomparable Alhambra fortress and Generalife Gardens, followed by an Andalusian lunch in a beautiful *carmen* – a traditional home unique to Granada. Spend the afternoon on a walking tour of Old Granada, with visits inside the Cathedral and Capilla Real before returning to the ship.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

### Thursday, May 1 AT SEA

Experience a full day at sea as the lecture program continues. Relax and enjoy the many amenities of *Hebridean Sky* and the pleasures of cruising.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

### Friday, May 2 MAHÓN, MENORCA

During breakfast arrive in Menorca, the most northerly of the Balearic Islands, and wander the UNESCO Prehistoric Site of Talayotic Menorca with its mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic T-shaped stone monuments erected some 4,000 years ago. Next visit Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca.

Alternatively, stroll the picturesque harbor town of Mahón, with free time for individual pursuits.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

### Saturday, May 3 CAGLIARI, SARDINIA, ITALY

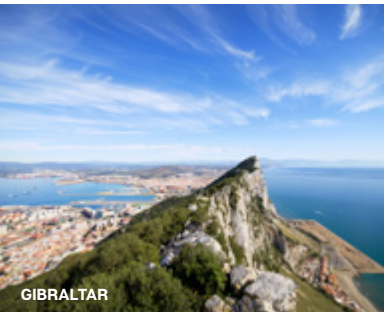
Enjoy a morning at sea before calling at the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, with a choice of afternoon activities: 1) drive along the spectacular southwestern coast to explore the extensive ruins of Nora, an ancient Punic-Roman city with splendid mosaics; 2) head inland to Su Nuraxi di Barumini, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest and best preserved of the more than 700 Bronze Age nuraghi, or stone fortresses, that dot the island; or 3) explore Cagliari, an ancient city dating back to the Phoenicians and Romans, on a guided walking tour through its charming narrow streets with stops at the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th-century Cathedral of St. Cecilia.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

### Sunday, May 4 TRAPANI, SICILY

Arrive in Sicily this morning and begin the day with a visit to Segesta, one of the most important cities of the





Elymians, an indigenous population of Sicily. This afternoon there is a choice of tour options: 1) venture to the hilltop fortress of Erice; or 2) savor a wine tasting in Marsala.  
*HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)*

**Monday, May 5**  
**MESSINA / TAORMINA**

This morning, travel from the port to the hilltop resort town of Taormina on the east coast of Sicily for a leisurely walking tour along the pedestrian-friendly and historic Umberto Street to the stunning 3rd-c. B.C. Greco-Roman theater. Admire the stunning views of Mt. Etna and the Ionian Sea, then enjoy several hours on your own to have lunch, shop, walk on the beach, and explore independently before the return drive to Messina. After a short orientation tour of this port city, there will be time to explore on your own. Return to the ship early in the evening before dinner onboard.  
*HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,D)*

**Tuesday, May 6**  
**SALERNO / AMALFI COAST**

Dock this morning in Salerno for a short drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Paestum, an ancient Greek city famous for its three excellently preserved Doric Greek temples, dating from 550 to 450 B.C. Marvel at the magnificent Temple of Neptune—the most complete of the three temples—which is said to be modeled after the Temple of Zeus in Olympia. This afternoon, cruise along the picturesque Amalfi Coast and enjoy the Captain's farewell reception and dinner on board.  
*HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,R,D)*

**Wednesday, May 7**  
**NAPLES / HOME**

Disembark in Naples this morning for flights home or join the post-tour extension in Naples and Pompeii.  
(B)

**OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR  
EXTENSION:  
GIBRALTAR**

**April 26–28, 2025**

Spend an extra day in Gibraltar before the main tour begins for an in-depth look at its role in WWII, including Eisenhower's Operation Torch, and enjoy a local gourmet wine and tapas experience.

**OPTIONAL POST-TOUR  
EXTENSION:  
NAPLES & POMPEII**

**May 7–9, 2025**

Extend your stay in the beautiful, history-rich, food-forward city of Naples and visit the haunting ruins of Pompeii, the ancient city that was buried by an eruption of nearby Mt. Vesuvius and uniquely preserved as a result.

*Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.*

PHOTO CREDITS (from dreamstime.com): Menorca © Anibal Trejo; Taormina Theater © E55evu; Paestum © Crisstanley; Limoncello © Marina Bakush; Granada Cathedral © Antonio Jodice; Gibraltar © Artur Bogacki; Erice © Ellesi; Alhambra © Madrugadaverde; Mosaic at Nora © Gruppoeaya; Scooter © Rinofelino; Taormina © Rolf52; Tapas © Marcin Jucha; Segesta Temple © Andrea Paggiaro

# HEBRIDEAN SKY



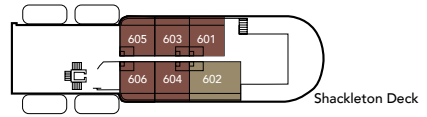
STANDARD SUITE

The 59-cabin, all-suite *Hebridean Sky* is a spacious, yet intimate, expedition vessel. After a major refurbishment in 2016 and further enhancements since, she now boasts beautifully designed public spaces that include a large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library, and two outdoor seating areas. All suites have an ocean view and feature a sitting room, en suite bathroom, TV, spacious wardrobes and dressing table. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. Wifi is available on board, though signal strength varies depending on location and demand. Chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional, personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

## PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>A</b>	<b>STANDARD SUITE (forward)</b> portholes; 238 sq. ft.	<b>\$6,990</b>	<b>\$10,990</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>STANDARD SUITE</b> portholes; 238 sq. ft.	<b>\$7,990</b>	<b>\$12,790</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>SUPERIOR SUITE</b> picture window; 226-241 sq. ft.	<b>\$9,490</b>	<b>\$15,190</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>PREMIUM SUITE</b> picture window; 221 sq. ft.	<b>\$10,990</b>	—
<b>E</b>	<b>CORNER SUITE</b> picture windows; 237 sq. ft.	<b>\$11,990</b>	—
<b>F</b>	<b>DELUXE BALCONY SUITE</b> 225 sq. ft. plus 43 sq. ft. balcony	<b>\$13,490</b>	—
<b>G</b>	<b>OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE</b> 237 sq. ft. plus 86 sq. ft. balcony	<b>\$14,490</b>	—
<b>H</b>	<b>HEBRIDEAN SUITE</b> 264 sq. ft. plus 101 sq. ft. balcony	<b>\$16,490</b>	—

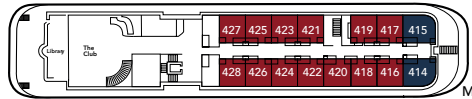
All suites can be configured as 2 twins or 1 queen except for #601 and #602 which have fixed queen beds.



Shackleton Deck



Scott Deck



Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including nine breakfasts, seven lunches, eight dinners, **one hotel night, and eight nights aboard *Hebridean Sky*** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • **Group airport transfers** for all participants on program arrival and departure dates • **Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers and shipboard personnel for all group activities** • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all lunches and dinners aboard the ship** • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

### 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. 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

The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking each day, often over very uneven and cobblestoned terrain, and extended periods of standing. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. All participants will be required to follow safety 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.

### INSURANCE

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

**GENERAL INFORMATION** (continued)

**PROGRAM RATES**

**DO NOT INCLUDE**

- U.S. domestic and international airfare
- Passport/visa expenses
- Medical expenses or immunizations
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance
- Private transfers or airport transfers outside of program arrival and departure days
- 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, fax, internet, or email charges
- Room service
- Other items of a personal nature

**GROUP SIZE**

This program can accommodate 97 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, Noble Caledonia, Williams Alumni Travel Study, and Yale Alumni Academy.

**A NOTE ABOUT RATES**

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

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**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 St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. Balance of payment is due 120 days prior to departure (December 28, 2024). We accept checks, payable to 'Eos AIA-CruisingMedCRI4/25' 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.

**PASSENGER 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 December 28, 2024 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 Travel, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as AIA Tours and Criterion Travel are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Neither AIA Tours nor Criterion Travel 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](http://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

# CRUISING THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Gibraltar to Naples aboard the all-suite *Hebridean Sky*  
**April 27–May 7, 2025**

Please send your deposit check, payable to "**Eos AIA-CruisingMedCRI4/25**" and this form to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938; Fax: 603-756-2922. For questions or to hold your space while you send in your Reservation Form please contact us at 800-748-6262; or by email: [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org). Website: [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org).

**CONTACT INFORMATION** (please print)

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

**PAYMENT**

Please charge the \$1,000 per person deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to "Eos AIA-CruisingMedCRI4/25") to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Gibraltar to Naples**

**SINGLE TRAVELERS**

I prefer to have single accommodations (*limited availability*) or  I plan to share accommodations with:

or  I'd like to know about roommates

*I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 28, 2024, I will pay the single rate.*

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Cabin category preference (not guaranteed):

1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference:  One bed  Two beds

*I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:*

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



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April 27–May 7, 2025

with archaeologist **Jenifer Neils**



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS  
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Sacramento, CA

