

Sardinia & Lago Maggiore

ITALY

**May 11-23
2022**



MYRA



Dear Compass Traveler,

We invite you to join us on our trip to Sardinia, the enchanted Italian island rich in old traditions, folklore, archeology, and the most beautiful beaches of the Mediterranean Sea. Come discover the mysteries of the Nuraghi dwellings, indulge in the pleasure of Sardinian cuisine (pane carasau bread and the Filindeu pasta among others), and taste their delicious wines. Learn why the locals are included in the Blue Zone—an area that boasts the healthiest and longest living people on the planet (*maybe it's the wine!*)

And, as a special treat, we are going to take a side trip to Cannero Riveria, which we can only describe as magical.

Holly & Luigi

Itinerary



Cagliari cityscape—a colorful past, a colorful present.

Wednesday, May 11

Our trip begins with a private transfer from New London, New Hampshire, to Boston's Logan Airport for our overnight flight to Sardinia.

Thursday, May 12

Our professional guide meets us upon arrival in Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, described by D.H. Lawrence as a "White Jerusalem." With an amazing panorama of stone and sea, salt pans and Roman and Spanish heritage, it represents the quintessential Mediterranean city.

Overnight: Cagliari–Villa Fanny (D)

Friday, May 13

This morning we enjoy a tour of the ancient Medieval quarter of Cagliari, the Castello district, founded by the Pisans from Tuscany in the 12th

century and later occupied by the Aragonese, Spanish, and the Savoy. After lunch in front of the sea, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Overnight: Cagliari–Villa Fanny (B, L)

Saturday, May 14

Mining in Sardinia has a history that spans over two thousand years. The Phoenicians, the Romans and, more recently, the British and French all mined valuable natural sites, which are now protected by UNESCO.

Today, we visit the mine of Porto Flavia, built between 1922 and 1924. Suspended between sky and sea, this daring enterprise made it possible to load minerals directly onto the ships destined for the Northern European foundries.

Overnight: Cagliari–Villa Fanny (B, L)

Sunday, May 15

Our first stop is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Su Nuraxi, the largest nuraghic fortress in Sardinia and the symbol of the island. We continue on to the Giara di Gesturi, a basaltic plateau, for a one-hour hike with a local expert to discover the wild horse breed Cavallino della Giara, followed by a picnic lunch. Our home for the next four nights is Su Gologone, an "experience hotel" like no other on the island—famous in all Sardinia for its beautiful setting, colorful decor, and exquisite restaurant.

Overnight: Oliena–Su Gologone (B, L, D)

Monday, May 16

Today, we take an excursion in 4-wheel-drive vehicles to the Supramonte, the highest mountain range in Sardinia. There we visit an archeological site before arriving at Mount Corrasi to enjoy amazing views on the highest peaks of the island. We then meet the Shepherds and have lunch with them for an unforgettable authentic experience. This evening we watch the making of su filindeu, the rarest pasta in the world whose name means *the threads of God*.

Overnight: Oliena–Su Gologone (B, L, D)

Tuesday, May 17

Our destination today is Mamoiada, famous for its Mamuthones mask tradition. At Carnival, the men in town wear the wooden masks and tie a set of cow bells to their backs, reinterpreting an old procession to

celebrate Saint Anthony. We visit the museum and an artisan studio where we see how the masks are made. We then enjoy a cocktail in the vineyards drinking Cannonau, the most important red grape of Sardinia. After lunch we visit Orgosolo, the “town of the bandits,” with its incredible and colorful murals that adorn the walls of the village. Relax before we get together at the Nido del Pane (Bread Nest) in our hotel where we are shown how different types of bread, including the famous Sardinian flat bread Pane Carasau, are made. We enjoy the warm bread served with local cold cuts and cheeses—and of course, wine!

Overnight: Oliena–Su Gologone (B, L, D)

Wednesday, May 18

Embark a private boat today in the seaside town of Cala Gonone and navigate in the deep transparent sea to visit the most famous beaches of Sardinia. Lunch will be served on board and weather permitting, we can also swim! Our farewell dinner to Sardinia will include learning the old tradition of the local BBQ, an ancient way to cook local meat using a spit.

Overnight: Oliena–Su Gologone (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 19

Today we transfer to Olbia Airport, fly to Milan, and then transfer to Luigi’s beautiful and charming village of Cannero Riviera on Lake Maggiore.

Overnight: Cannero Riviera—Hotel Cannero (B, D)

Friday, May 20

This morning, we travel down the lake by boat to visit Isola Bella (*beautiful island*) and Isola dei Pescatori (*fishermen’s island*). One of three magical islands on Lake Maggiore, Isola Bella will charm us with its magnificent Baroque palace and terraced gardens that slope to the lake. Next, our captain takes us to Isola dei Pescatori, a picturesque island with its ancient village and narrow lanes with characteristic two-story houses with long balconies traditionally used for drying fish.

Overnight: Cannero Riviera—Hotel Cannero (B, D)



Sardinia is an island jewel off the western coast of Italy. Above: The pool patio at Hotel Su Gologone.

Saturday, May 21

A day to explore at your leisure.

Overnight: Cannero Riviera—Hotel Cannero (B, D)

Sunday, May 22

Cannobio is one of the prettiest towns on Lake Maggiore and home to one of the region’s most typical markets. Today, we travel by boat up the Lake to experience the sensual delights of this market—straw bags, sandals and hats, frivolous dresses, sweet smells of fresh fruit and delicious aromas of roasted meats. It’s great fun to barter the price of bracelets and necklaces, scarves and foulards, among fresh flowers and silk skirts that flutter in the wind. The square is lined with restaurants and bars—enjoy lunch on your own before we return to Cannero for our farewell dinner.

Overnight: Cannero Riviera—Hotel Cannero (B, D)

Monday, May 23

We reluctantly bid *Arrivederci* to Cannero and transfer to Milan Airport for our flight to Boston. Our private motorcoach transfers us back to New London.

Steeped in history and bedecked with glorious gardens, Isola Bella has many secrets to discover.



*Cannero Riviera on Lago Maggiore.
Left: The gardens of Isola Bella.*



PRICE

\$6,550.00 per person
Based on double occupancy
(Single supplement upon request)

Airfare Not Included

TOUR LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS

Note: The tour price is subject to change due to currency fluctuation.

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Included Features:

- Escorted by Holly Walker and Luigi Minoletti
- Private motorcoach from New London, NH to Logan Airport and return
- Accommodations for 11 nights in first class hotels
- Meals: 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 9 dinners (noted in itinerary as B, L, D)
- Sightseeing as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of a professional, English-speaking tour guide throughout
- Transportation by private motorcoach
- Portage of one suitcase per person at hotels

Compass Travel reserves the right to adjust the itinerary due to weather and other circumstances beyond our control.

For more information, please contact:

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