

International Sailing Guide



Sicily – 07-14 October 2023



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.FollowThatDreamSailing.com
(904) 468-3758
FollowThatDreamSailing@gmail.com



Yacht Location

Your sailing adventure begins about the yacht located at:

Portorosa Marina – Sicily
Via Prestipaolo
Tonnarella, Furnari 98054

This location has electricity, Water, Toilets, Showers

Embarkation time is 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 07, 2023

*this time may change based on marina crew availability
so please be ready as soon as 3:00 pm

Cast off time is 9:00 am on Sunday, October 08, 2023

Docking Time is 5:00 pm on Friday, October 13, 2023.

Disembarkation is 8:00 am, Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Baggage

Please only bring soft bags and not hard suitcases as they are hard to stow.

Your Crew

Your crew will consist of 2 individuals; both are USCG licensed captains but one will serve as the charter captain and one as First Mate and Chef. If space is available, a 3rd Crew Member may be added to split the Chef and First Mate duties.

Charter Captain: Richard “Bud” Brasier

Captain Bud is our Chief Captain. He is a US Coast Guard licensed 100-ton captain with certifications from the American Sailing Association (ASA) in ASA101 - Basic Keelboat Sailing, ASA-103 Basic Coastal Cruising, ASA-104 Bareboat Cruising, ASA-105 Coastal Navigation, and ASA-114 Cruising Catamaran. Bud was the chief dive boat captain and Master Instructor for the scuba diving company that he and his wife owned in Hawaii where he would often captain 2 to 3 dive charters each day. Bud is a PADI Master SCUBA Instructor (if you want to learn how to dive or refresh your skills; ask him!), he



holds a 5th degree black belt in Combat Hapkido, and is a proud Vietnam era US Air Force Veteran.

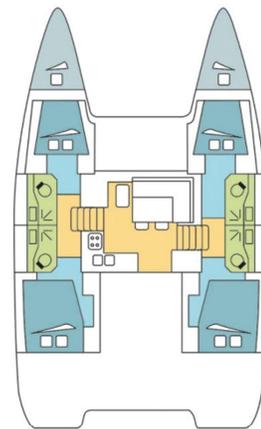
First Mate/Chef: Miriam “Mir” Zoole

Captain Mir is a US Coast Guard licensed 25-ton Captain with several ASA certifications. She is also a PADI Master Scuba Diving Instructor, and 5th degree black belt. Mir has worked for the Federal government on and off since 1984 and is currently counting down the final months until her retirement. Passionate about the ocean and the creatures that thrive on it, Mir enjoys being First Mate more than Captain as this gives her time to interact with the guests and discuss local history and the impact we have on our water environment. Her goal is to ensure you walk away with positive memories of your experience on Follow That Dream.



Your Yacht

We will set sail on a luxury catamaran, a Lagoon 40, with 4 cabins and 2 heads. This yacht has a full galley (kitchen) and spacious room to relax and enjoy the sights of Sicily.



How To Get There

Plane

Catania Fontanarossa International Airport (CTA) is a 2 hour drive on the south east portion of the island while Palermo Airport (PMO) is a 2 hour drive on the north west side of the island.

Transfers From the Airport to the Marina

Shared and private taxis and vans are available from both airports. We suggest you purchase your transfer a few days prior to your arrival.

Both airports offer rental car services; you should make your reservations ahead of your arrival.

Bus and train service is also available from both airports to the marina. They both take significantly longer time but are about half the price of driving a rental car

Expenses

The cost for the cruise is \$1,885.00 per person based on double occupancy. If you would like your own cabin, that can be arranged; please note there is a premium for a private room.

What is included with the cruise

- The cost to charter the boat
- Your crew – Captain is licensed to operate in the European Union
- Marina Fee on First and Last nights
- Shared accommodations aboard the boat 5:00 pm, Saturday October 07 – 8:00 am, Saturday October 14, 2023
 - 2 persons per bed unless otherwise arranged
 - Unless otherwise noted, each cabin will have its own bathroom
 - No more than 8 people total including the crew
- Common Living Areas (cockpit, saloon, galley and deck space)

Expenses that will be shared equally by all members on board; including the crew

- Docking Fees
- Water/Electric fees if not included in docking fees
- Fueling fees (both for the catamaran and the dinghy)
- Internet fees for the Catamaran
- Provisioning fees for shared meals on board
 - This includes food, drinks, delivery fee, service fee and gratuity
 - See section on provisioning for more detail

Expenses not included with the cruise

- Transportation to/from the Portorosa Marina
- Ground Transportation (taxis, buses)
- Hotel prior to or after the cruise

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- we recommend planning on arriving in Sicily a minimum of 24 hours prior to the start of the cruise – your crew will be there approximately 2 days ahead of time getting everything ready.
- Sightseeing tours, activities, or rentals
- Rentals from the Marina of items to be used on the boat such as kayak, paddleboards, snorkeling gear
- Gratuities for your crew, dock hands, and other service individuals
- Scuba gear/tanks, lessons
- Trip insurance
- Medical expenses
- Items purchased for your own use/comfort (souvenirs, toiletries, etc)
- Restaurant/Bar charges

Provisioning

Provisioning consists of food, beverages and shared supplies on board the boat; such as paper towels, toilet paper, saran wrap, trash bags, etc.

Your First Mate/Chef will provision the boat for you based on your input of what food you like, dislike, have allergies to, enjoy, and the availability. The chef will normally prepare the welcome dinner on board as well as all breakfasts. Typically, people enjoy eating out during their excursions but the chef will ensure there is food for lunches and dinners based on your input. The chef typically also will have dinner for the final night aboard and if the sail plan takes us to a location where dining out is not an option.

Your chef will contact you to make sure your preferences are on file but please note that not all items are available in foreign countries and substitutions will be made. Chef will also have plenty of snacks and drinks on board; alcoholic and non, and this will also come with your input.

Galley (kitchen) space is very limited on a boat; most boats do not come with a freezer or ice maker so be aware of some of these limitations. Meals will be shared by everyone on board; passengers and crew and these costs will be shared equally by everyone.

Toiletries should be brought by each individual; soap, shampoo, toothpaste, brush, hair products, etc. Please make sure you bring only plastic containers and small enough to fit into limited space. If you have a special snack you want; it might be best to bring that as well – but please check to make sure you can bring it with you into the country.

Provisioning fees will be charged ahead of time based on previous experience and the Chef will keep a running total of expenses not only for provisioning but for other charges, such as docking and fueling. You may ask at any time for an accounting.

Area Guide

Local Area Introduction - Sicily

We will set sail from Portorosa and explore the full chain of Aeolian islands. The cruising grounds blend chic ports of call such as Panarea Island, with the quiet ambience of islands off the tourist track such as Salina. We will explore the imposing volcanoes, abundant castles and historic waterfront villages.

Sicily is considered a classical crossroads of Mediterranean culture. The island has an exquisite beauty with Norman churches, Greek temples and Baroque infrastructure. Sicily is also rich in natural resources – on this island, you will find Mt. Etna, Europe's highest active volcano. If Sicily's classical heritage is not enough to captivate you, this island is also an artistic architecture of its own. A short stroll around Palermo you will see Arab domes and arches, Byzantine mosaics and Norman palace walls. To see Baroque architectural masterpieces, you only need to circle southeast Sicily. Throughout the island, you'll stumble upon vast evocative remnants of Arab and Norman castles. And, this is just one of the reasons why Sicily remains as one of the most captivating places in the world.

Top Things to Do on Sicily

We suggest you plan on spending more time in Sicily than just for the charter. This could be before or after your cruise; or both. Do plan on being in Sicily at least 1 day prior to boarding the boat; especially if you are flying in just before the cruise. Your crew will plan to be there Thursday morning to get over jet lag, relax a bit and contact the marina for any last minute items that need attention.

While in Sicily; here are a few things to see and do:

1. Hike Stromboli, an active volcano to see the lava flow. If active volcanoes aren't your cup of tea; there are several extinct volcanoes to hike
2. Take a mud bath on Vulcano
3. Swim, Snorkel or scuba dive in the Tyrrhenian Sea
4. Tour a vineyard

Don't forget local restaurants, bars, and numerous cafes in open squares where people-watching and sipping drinks is a time-honored tradition. There are numerous day trips to take and spectacular sights nearby if you plan to stay in Sicily a bit longer.

While on your sailing experience, here are a few stops and things you might see and do:

1. Enjoy a glass of wine and a beautiful sunset over the Aeolian Islands on Lipari
2. Take a hike on the island of Salina and enjoy fresh pasta at one of its charming restaurants
3. For a true relaxed experience, we will spend a day on Panarea, the gem of the Aeolian Islands with winding cobbled streets and no cars! From there it's off to Stromboli where we can hike an active volcano or relax on the black beach

4. With favorable winds, we'll then explore the Grotta del Bue Marino in Filicudi and perhaps head to Alicudi for more grottos amidst bright blue water
5. We can stop at Vulcano, one of the most famous Aeolian Islands where you can hike the volcano, take a mud bath, kayak in the bay, sip wine in a café or relax on the beach

Basics about Sicily

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Voltage: 220V

Dialing Code: (+39)

Internet

You will find free Wi-Fi in many town squares, shopping malls, restaurants and cafes; speeds will vary. Cell phones with sim cards from EU countries, except Switzerland, operate without roaming fees. For other countries, contact your provider. Local sim cards are available for sale at telecommunication shops

Regulations

Scuba diving is available during the cruise but there are no tank fill stations along the way – you will need to rent enough tanks for the dives you'd like to do and the tanks will need to be stored securely. Both your Captain and First Mate are certified scuba instructors. If you wish to scuba dive, please make arrangements with the crew a minimum of 2 weeks prior to your cruise. If you are NOT a certified diver but would like to get your certification; please contact your crew 2 – 3 months ahead of your charter to ensure you have time to take the online instruction, do the pool instruction then go on your open water checkout dives prior to your cruise.

Fishing requires a special license; type D. If you would like to fish during your cruise, please contact your crew at least 2 weeks ahead of time. You will be responsible for the cost of the rental equipment and license as well as any special cleaning fee required by the charter company.

Weather

The best time to visit Sicily and the and the Aeolian Islands is the end of May to mid-October with great temperatures averaging 80F in July and August and plenty of sunshine hours. There are fewer tourists during the shoulder months of April – Mid May and Sep – Oct.

The water temperature in Jul, Aug and Sep averages about 74 degrees; cool but pleasant with a wetsuit.