



UNDER SAIL: THE DALMATIAN COAST TO GREECE ABOARD THE *SEA CLOUD*

11 Days | Sea Cloud | 58 Guests | September 10-20, 2017



This expedition immerses you in the history and culture of some of Europe's most spectacular places. Ply the waters of the Aegean, Ionian, and Adriatic Seas aboard the tall ship *Sea Cloud*. Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites in one remarkable voyage. Discover Albania, cut off from the modern world for decades, and revel in its historic sites. And, explore the delights of Montenegro, a country of surprising beauty, plus the incomparable Dubrovnik.

SEPTEMBER 10: DUBROVNIK / EMBARK

Arrive in Dubrovnik, Croatia and embark the *Sea Cloud*. (L, D)

SEPTEMBER 11: HVAR / AT SEA

In Hvar, one of the most attractive and lively of Croatia's historic towns, a walking tour shows us key sites. You may also hike up to the Citadel. Or take a dip in the sublime water. Head southward in the evening. (B,L,D)



SEPTEMBER 12: KORČULA

Sail in the morning, then explore beautiful Korčula. See the house believed to be Marco Polo's birthplace; enjoy free time at Korčula's cafés and waterfront; see a lively performance of the traditional Moreška sword dance. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 13: DUBROVNIK

We anchor off Dubrovnik's city walls and land in the heart of Old Town. Stroll marble-paved streets and walk on the ramparts. There's a private performance of traditional klapa music which is a highlight for man. Opt for an after-dinner stroll through town. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 14: KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

Sail into the Gulf of Kotor. Visit Perast, then take a boat to the islet of Gospa od Skrpjela. See medieval Kotor, and drive up the 27 serpentine switchbacks to the top of the fjord for an unrivaled view. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 15: TIRANA, ALBANIA

Dock in Durrës, drive to the ancient capital of Kruje, and visit the medieval market and remarkable Ethnographic Museum. Continue to the contemporary capital, Tirana, scattered with the vestiges of one of the longest dictatorships in Eastern Europe. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 16: SARANDE AND BUTRINT, ALBANIA

Visit the ancient city of Butrint, a World Heritage Site. Later, we'll continue to Lekuris Castle for great views of Albania's coastline. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 17: ITHACA, GREECE

Few names elicit the intrigue and sense of adventure as Odysseus's home of Ithaca. Today, the island remains off the beaten track, with gems of small Ionian villages. We'll drive to explore the sites that link it to the era described by Homer. In the afternoon, we sail north to Albania. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 18: KATAKOLON/OLYMPIA

Explore the ancient site of Olympia, home of the Panhellenic Festival held here beginning in 776 BC. Return to the ship and continue southward. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 19: SAILING ABOARD SEA CLOUD

Everyone’s sure to be on deck as *Sea Cloud*’s sails are hoisted the old-fashioned way: by hand. Sail around the Peloponnesian Peninsula. (B,L,D)

SEPTEMBER 20: ATHENS, GREECE/DISEMBARK

Disembark for flights home, or to join the optional extension. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: SPLIT, TROGIR AND MOSTAR

We begin in the Old Towns of Split and Trogir, whose cobblestones, ancient buildings and narrow lanes combine the richness of the past with the vibrancy of the present. Then we visit historic Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where you’ll visit the beautiful, renowned Old Bridge, whose rebuilding has come to symbolize the rebirth of the Balkan States. Our IRT guests who did this in 2015 loved it.

OPTIONAL POST VOYAGE EXTENSION: ATHENS

Venture straight to the heart of Ancient Greek culture. See the Acropolis on an early morning walk, visit renowned museums, see the landmarks of the city, and dine on regional specialties—all in the company of a guide who weave the narrative of life of this ancient city. This extension was astonishing and wonderful -- everyone who did in in 2015 agreed.

Cost Includes: Accommodations aboard ship; meals indicated; excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions’ leader, historian & naturalist staff and expert guides; all port charges and service taxes. All gratuities; all bar tab

Not Included: Air, extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature such as e-mail, laundry.

Bar tab and staff gratuities are included.

SEPTEMBER Sept 10-20, 2017

Important Flight Information: Please confirm your arrival and departure timings and dates prior to booking flights.

Advance Payment.....\$1,500 pp

Sample Airfares:

Economy:.....from \$1,200
Business Class:.....from TBD

Airfares are subject to change

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“I’ve always wanted to sail on the Sea Cloud. It’s the Orient-Express of the ocean, a 1930s-era grande dame. And when I came on board, I was smiling from ear to ear. The experience on board far exceeded my or any of our guests’ expectations.”

~ Owen C. Hardy, CEO & Founder, Society of IRT

COST PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY						
01	02	03	04	DB	DA	OS
\$12,690	\$14,350	\$17,350	\$18,260	\$19,870	\$21,500	\$24,230
COST PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY						
1S						
\$18,990						





A Tale of a Sea Cloud Voyage: The Magic was in the Sailing

By Owen C. Hardy

CEO & Founder, Society of International Railway Travelers

Reprinted from Track25, our blog

When Cathy Jackson entered her Sea Cloud cabin, she burst into tears.

“Don’t you like your room?” implored the steward.
“You don’t like the white?”

Quite the contrary, she replied. “I love it! I feel as if I were inside a wedding cake!”

Her husband Clay had surprised her with Cabin No. 1, the lavish personal quarters of none other than Marjorie Merriweather Post. Cathy said she felt like a princess.

The Sea Cloud is that kind of ship: a one-of-a-kind fairy tale masterpiece of marine design. Built in 1931 and still going strong, the four-masted bark is the world’s last authentic square-rigged luxury sailing yacht.

Since I am an old sailor, I jumped at the chance to sail the Sea Cloud, and arrange for a lively group of Society of International Railway Travelers guests to join us. It was a huge success.

Our route was a dream: from Dubrovnik, Croatia down the Dalmatian Coast to Athens, Greece. We sailed the Adriatic, the Ionian and the Aegean seas.

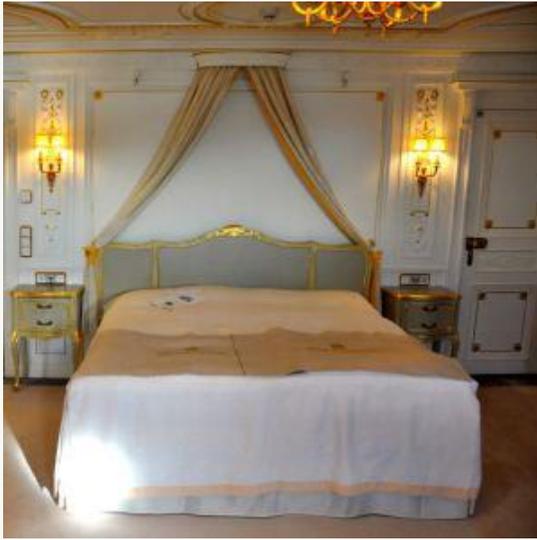
But it was the ship itself that lured me away from my familiar railway haunts.

As befitting a multi-millionaire’s yacht, the Sea Cloud is a work of art on water. And the 84-year-old, 360-foot sailing ship is surprisingly comfortable as well.

From the smallest cabin to the 8 original “guest cabins” below decks to the two owners’ suites – the aforementioned white-and-gold Mrs. Post confection and the darker, decidedly masculine quarters of Marjorie’s then husband, E.F. Hutton – most were masterpieces of planning as well as décor.

Our twin-bedded room had ample storage space in a variety of lockers, and bureaus and under the beds as well as a large hanging closet — with 22 hangers.





Detail from Sea Cloud Cabin No. 1 — Marjorie Merriweather Post's personal suite. IRT Photo by Owen Hardy

The marble bathroom was small but efficient. It had multiple brass towel racks, pegs and hooks, ample storage space under the sink for toiletries, and a powerful shower that rivaled most on land.

The food also was ample and delicious, reflecting the cuisines of the areas through which we passed: Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece.

Fresh-from-the-seas fish, octopus, calamari, shrimp, scampi and more – not to mention the freshest salads and local cheeses and fruits were staples of the cruise.

A smoked ham, for example, came straight from a smokehouse atop Montenegro's mountains. The Croatian wines — both whites and reds — were fabulous.

No one possibly could have gone hungry. Nor could they complain about the very well-stocked bar on the lido deck.

"Bebot" Roldan, a 33-year Sea Cloud veteran, is a master "mixologist." And he'd stocked his bar with many a premium spirit, including "Carlos Primero," a favorite brandy of IRT's guests Olga & Orlando Herrera and José and Maria Becerra Martin. Their fame for warm hospitality and friendship quickly spread to our entire group (we were 14 in all).

The Orient-Express of the Seas is how I've described the Sea Cloud, based on its rich history and stunning décor. But the similarity also can be seen in the professionalism of the personnel.

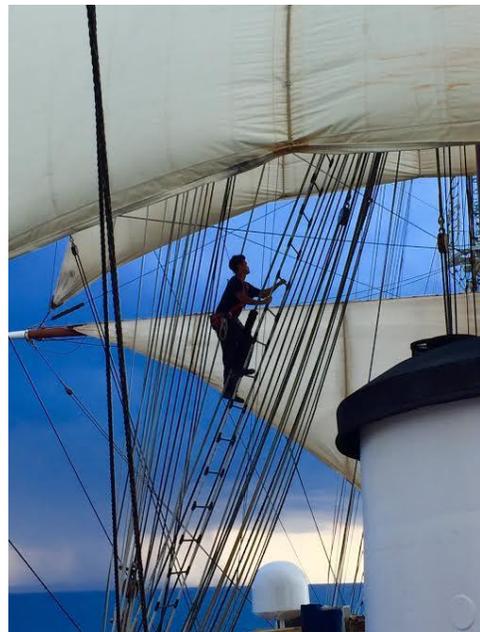
The Sea Cloud's captain and crew, coupled with the dedication of the Lindblad team, made for an even more seamless experience.



Sea Cloud crew member cleaning up in the galley after lunch. IRT Photo by Owen Hardy

When the young deck hands weren't scampering up the rigging to set the sails, they were varnishing, painting and repairing, and doing the thousands of other tasks sailors have done for centuries. And they did it all with smiles and enthusiasm.

Meal and cabin service was equally professional and warm. And it would be hard to find anyone more enthusiastic than Tom O'Brien, the congenial and professional Lindblad expeditions leader, who seemed to live and breathe the romantic life of square-rigged sailing.



A deck hand climbs the rigging of the Sea Cloud. IRT Photo by Eleanor Hardy.

The Sea Cloud is a remarkably stable ship. We encountered rough seas one or two times. But her relatively small size – she carries a maximum of just 64 passengers – means she can duck into coves and inlets too shallow for the big cruise ships.

We covered an amazing amount of territory in just 10 days. We visited quaint villages, vibrant harbors and a host of World Heritage Sites from ancient Greek and Roman times.



The Sea Cloud as seen from the ramparts of Dubrovnik's city walls. IRT Photo by Owen Hardy

Best of all were the voyage's final two days, which were reserved for "pure sailing." Captain Sergey Konstantin ordered his men aloft to set our principal square sails. Suddenly, the ship's auxiliary engines fell silent.

And there we were, much like the square-riggers of old: our bow cutting through the waves, the wake roiling from the stern and the ship's standards snapping smartly in the stiff breeze.



Dubrovnik's ancient city walls. IRT Photo by Eleanor Hardy. For the strong-willed few who made it up to catch the sunrise (I did so only once), it was a magical

sight to see the dawn come up over the Aegean with the ship under full sail.

The effect was mesmerizing. This was the way it used to be: in Marjorie Merriweather Post's time – and for much of maritime history.

Reviews from Society of International Railway Travelers guests were raves. They're not giving up their love of train trips — but they loved this ship.

"What a great trip!" said R. Fisher, of Arlington, Va., in an email earlier this week.

"I loved the shore excursions, as always...But the thing I'll remember is being aboard that ship. And watching the sailors unfurl the sails, and the way the sails billowed and flapped. What a sight. It's one I never expected to experience. All thanks to IRT."



Serene seas on the coast of Montenegro. IRT Photo by Eleanor Hardy.

Comparing notes with others on board, I learned that most passengers booked the Sea Cloud one to two years before departure. *We blocked space on the journey two years ago — and we are doing it again for 2017.*

If you want to sample this amazing small-ship venue, please call us right away – for 2017.

Sailing aboard the world's last, "hand-sailed" square-rigged luxury yacht is an experience you'll never forget. Join us!



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