Join Betchart & The Planetary Society to view the Total Solar Eclipse in 2027!

AAAS Travels · Sigma Xi Expeditions · ACS Expeditions · Planetary Society · Betchart Expeditions Inc.



Malta & Sicily by Yacht

Special Total Solar Eclipse Voyage

Jul 31 - Aug 7, 2027!

We invite you to embark on a journey from Valletta, the captivating capital of Malta to Naples, Italy for an enthralling exploration of Malta, Sicily and Southern Italy.

Visit the impressive sites, cities and beaches of Syracuse, Catania, Lipari and Capri with scenic cruising along the famed Amalfi Coast and the volcanic island of Stromboli to watch sparks of lava light up the dark sky.

*On **Monday, August 2, 2027** the yacht will be position in the center of the moons shadow approximately 135 nm from Valletta, near Latitude 33°53'1"N, Longitude 13°56'5"E to observe the **Total Solar Eclipse** with almost 6 minutes of Totality!*

*Leading this expedition will be astronomer **Dr. Joe Llama**. Joe is an astronomer at University of Texas, Austin, McDonald Observatory. He is a keen photographer and popular Betchart Expedition leader. He will provide a talk about the Total Solar Eclipse and evening stargazing.*



This enchanting cruise adventure promises unforgettable moments against the backdrop of the sparkling Mediterranean and dark night skies!

Reservations: Phone Lori or Terri: (800) 252-4910

Email: Info@betchartexpeditions.com

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THE BEST OF MAN AND NATURE WORLDWIDE℠

Planetary Society, AAAS, ACS and Sigma Xi
Discover Malta, Sicily and Capri by Yacht
A Special Total Solar Eclipse Voyage

July 31 - August 7, 2027

ITINERARY

MALTA PRE-TRIP July 28 - July 31, 2027. Highly recommended for first time visitors to Malta.

VOYAGE DAY 1: EMBARK VALLETTA, MALTA
(Sat, July 31) Embarkation at the port of Valletta starts at 3:00 pm. Enjoy a welcome cocktail as the sun sets over Valletta's golden bastions. Welcome dinner onboard surrounded by the charm of the Grand Harbour. D

DAY 2: VALLETTA, MALTA



(Sun, Aug 1) Morning greets us with an enchanting arrival at Malta's beloved Gozo Island, home to the awe-inspiring Ggantija Temples. These remarkable structures — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — rank among the oldest free-standing monuments in the world, dating back over 5,500 years. Enjoy ample time to explore Gozo's many treasures at your own pace, or join our included morning excursion to discover the island's hidden gems with an expert guide.



Return onboard for lunch, followed by a chance to unwind with an afternoon swim in the serene waters surrounding Malta *(weather and port authorities permitting)*. Evening lecture on the Eclipse. As the sun begins to set, we sail away from Malta, setting course toward our Total Solar Eclipse observation point — a once-in-a-lifetime celestial experience awaits. B, L, D

DAY 3: TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



(Mon, Aug 2) Awaken to a day of celestial wonder as we reach our Total Solar Eclipse observation point. Experience this astonishing astronomical event from the comfort of your ship — minutes of awe shared under the darkened midday sky against the backdrop of the sparkling Mediterranean.

Our planned observation point, approximately 135 nautical miles from Malta, offers a possible duration of the totality just under 6 minutes, as the Moon passes across the center of the Sun

Lunch and dinner will be served onboard as we continue to savor this extraordinary day at sea. Early afternoon departure to our next destination. B, L, D



DAY 4: SYRACUSE, SICILY
(Tue, Aug 3) Morning arrival in Syracuse, Sicily's enchanting "White City." After a delightful breakfast onboard, step ashore to explore this historic gem at your own pace or join our included guided tour to uncover Syracuse's rich heritage and cultural treasures.

Lunch is at your leisure, offering the chance to savor authentic Sicilian flavors in one of the city's charming trattorias. Spend the afternoon strolling through ancient streets, relaxing by the sea, or delving deeper into the city's captivating past.

Before dinner onboard, join our chef for a special culinary moment as he shares the recipe for Pesto alla Trapanese — a simple yet flavorful dish to recreate at home. B, D

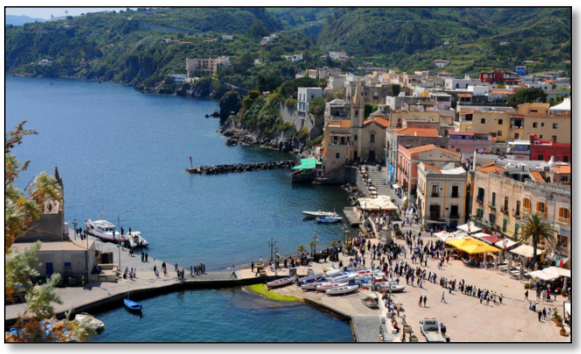


DAY 5: CATANIA & MOUNT ETNA, SICILY
(Wed, Aug 4) We set sail from enchanting Syracuse in the early hours, bound for Catania. After a hearty breakfast onboard, take the opportunity to join our included full-day excursion to Mount Etna, Sicily's iconic volcano.

Journey through the mythical landscape shaped by the majestic forces of nature — from bustling towns to verdant citrus orchards, sprawling vineyards, and ancient lava fields. Delve into the region's rich volcanic history and folklore as you traverse picturesque villages.



Ascend 2,000 meters above sea level, where you can stroll around the awe-inspiring Silvestri craters or savor local delicacies, such as mountain honey, while taking in the panoramic views. The tour concludes with a visit to a renowned winery on Mount Etna, where you can immerse yourself in the aromas and flavors of Sicily through an exclusive wine tasting accompanied by a light lunch. In the late evening, we set sail toward the Aeolian Island of Lipari, enjoying an overnight passage at sea. B, D



DAY 6: LIPARI ISLAND (AEOLIAN ISLANDS)
(Thu, Aug 5) Our yacht gracefully anchors at Lipari, the largest gem in the crown of the Aeolian Islands. Renowned for its rich mythology and breathtaking natural landscapes, Lipari beckons with irresistible charm.

Join an optional half-day Lipari tour *(fee)*. A scenic coach ride takes us to Quattrocchi, where panoramic views of the Aeolian archipelago unfold before you. Next, we visit Quattropani, home to a picturesque church and mesmerizing vistas of the island of Salina. The tour continues to a Spanish-built castle, once an ancient necropolis and now the site of a cathedral and museum filled with artifacts from prehistoric, Greek, and Roman eras.

After the tour, enjoy leisure time in the village for your own lunch arrangements. The afternoon is free to wander charming streets, relax by the sea, or explore Lipari at your own pace.

Before dinner, join us for one of our most beloved onboard events: the Cocktail Demonstration. Led by our skilled Bar Manager, this hour-long session showcases the creation of two signature cocktails, complete with recipes to recreate them for your friends and loved ones at home.

Enjoy dinner as we bid farewell to Lipari in the late afternoon, setting sail for the enchanting shores of Amalfi and Capri, passing the dramatic Stromboli volcano at night. Overnight at sea. Meals onboard: B, D



DAY 7: SCENIC CRUISE AMALFI & CAPRI, ITALY

(Fri, Aug 6) In the early morning, enjoy a scenic cruise along the stunning Amalfi Coast, taking in the dramatic cliffs, charming villages, and sparkling waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. By mid-morning, we arrive at the illustrious island of Capri, often hailed as the "jewel" of the Bay of Naples. Blessed with breathtaking vistas, azure skies, and a perfect Mediterranean climate, Capri promises an unforgettable experience.

Upon anchoring, step ashore to join our included half-day Capri excursion, exploring the island's iconic sights, hidden corners, and legendary charm.

Lunch is at your leisure, allowing you to savor local flavors at your own pace. In the late afternoon, we set sail towards Naples. Tonight, join us for the Captain's Dinner, marking a memorable finale to your adventure. Overnight in Naples. Meals onboard: B, D

DAY 8: NAPLES - HOME
or begin OPTIONAL NAPLES & POMPEII EXTENSION



(Sat, Aug 7) Wake up in Naples and indulge in a leisurely breakfast with your fellow travelers, taking in the sights and sounds of this vibrant Italian city.

Take afternoon flights home or extend your stay to explore Naples with a variety of experiences to choose from. Step back in time with an optional excursion to Pompeii, wandering the remarkably preserved streets and ancient ruins of this Roman city frozen in time. Alternatively, enjoy a scenic drive along the coast to Mount Vesuvius, where you can marvel at the volcano that shaped the region, or explore Naples' historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site filled with narrow streets, bustling piazzas, and centuries of history. Take the opportunity to savor Naples' culinary delights, from traditional pizza to fresh seafood, or simply enjoy the city's vibrant atmosphere as you wander its charming streets. Meals onboard: B

Note: Itineraries may change at the discretion of the Vessel's Captain in case of adverse weather conditions – winds of 6/7 Beaufort or more depending on the vessel or port authorities not allowing a vessel to leave port, or in case of other extraordinary conditions.

NAPLES OPTIONAL POST VOYAGE EXTENSION:



August 7, 2027 Disembark and enjoy a half-day walking tour of Naples. Visit the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napol. *Hotel (2 nights).*

August 8, 2027. Today visit the famous archeological site of Pompeii. Learn about the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79 AD that covered the thriving city of Pompeii with ash. The ash preserved the city, including buildings, frescoes, and even the shapes of the deceased. Our guide will share details about history, art and archeology from this time. Return to the hotel for a farewell dinner. B,D

August 9, 2027. Take flights home from Naples today, or extend your time with independent travels. B

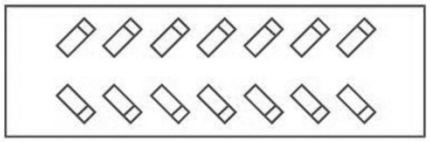
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VARIETY VOYAGER

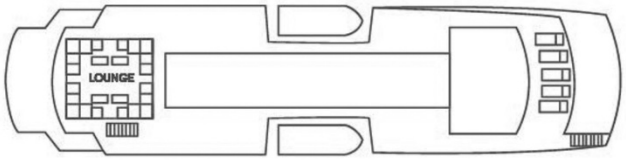


The Essence of Boutique Yachting - The Variety Voyager offers an intimate haven of sophistication, blending modern design with timeless elegance. With exceptional service and elegantly designed onboard spaces, each voyage is a refined experience in comfort and exclusivity.

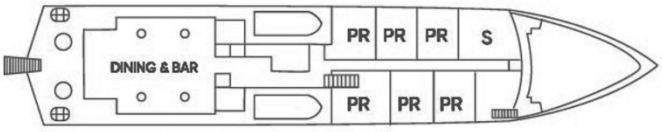
HORIZON
Sky Deck



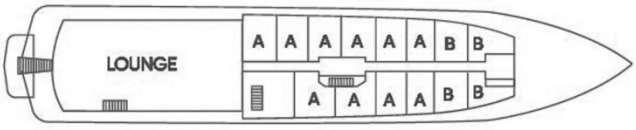
360°
Sun Deck



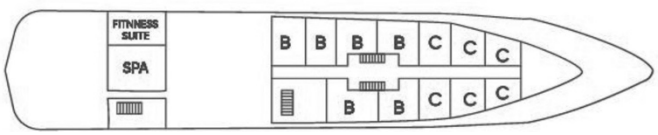
INFINITY
Upper Deck



RIVIERA
Main Deck



OCEANS
Lower Deck

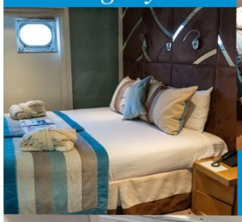




Voyager Cabins
Category C



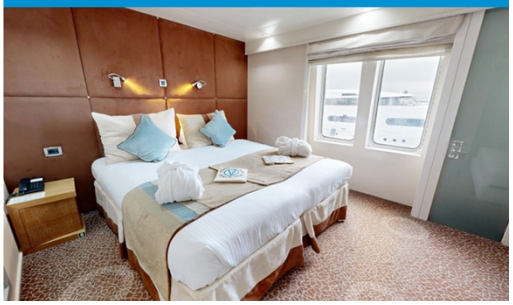
Category B



Category A



Category P



COSTS & CONDITIONS

Voyages Fees: Are per person, twin share *(depending on cabin category)* cruise only, for 7 nights onboard *M/Y Voyagers*. Port taxes, air fare and land arrangements are additional. Port Charges additional $595 per person (estimated rate, to be confirmed in 2027). Estimated air fare New York-Valletta, with return Naples-New York is $1,295 per person. Air fares and port fees are subject to change.

Categories:

_____ Category C: $ 7,195 per person Double occupancy: $10,975 Solo occupancy
_____ Category B: $ 7,795 per person Double occupancy: $11,495 Solo occupancy
_____ Category A: $ 8,495 per person Double occupancy: $12,995 Solo occupancy
_____ Category P: $ 9,895 per person Double occupancy: $15,795 Solo occupancy
_____ Owners Suite: $12,995 per person Double occupancy: $25,995 Solo occupancy

Singles: We encourage all solo travelers to bring a roommate, or we may be able to pair you with a roommate. If you do not have a roommate, or we cannot assign one, you must pay the solo occupancy rate.

Triples: A limited number of cabins are available in Category A & P for triple occupancy (3rd bed is a sofa) with a discount of $1,500 for the third person sharing a cabin with two full paying guests.

Expedition Fee Includes: Accommodations on board ship in comfortable yacht-sized cabin with private bath; buffet meals and Captain's Italian Night dinner, regular coffee, tea and drinking water on board ship; use of snorkeling equipment (subject to availability); group shore excursions in Gozo, Syracus, Catania & Capri; tour leadership and lecture program; blanket gratuity to onboard shipboard staff; administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare to Valletta, Malta with return from Naples, Italy; pre/post voyage accommodations, independent transfers, tours and other land arrangements; meals and expenditures incurred ashore; optional shore excursion in Lipari, any other excursions and activity unless explicitly listed as included; fuel surcharges; medical expenses; baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (emergency medical and evacuation coverage is mandatory); all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage and communication charges; gratuities to leaders and local guides (guidelines will be provided); port taxes; baggage handling; alcoholic beverages, snacks, sodas, bottled water, laundry, internet use, passport and visa expenses; government arrival and departure taxes; anything not mentioned in voyage program.

What to Expect: This Expedition is planned for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy exploring crystal-clear turquoise Mediterranean waters, historic coastal towns, spectacular scenery and the intriguing history of Malta and Italy by Yacht, including the Total Solar Eclipse, August 2, 2027. Excursions and outing are on foot, be prepared to walk one-half to two miles over uneven terrain at archaeological sites, museums, and in cities at a pace suitable for exploring the wonders of the region. Stairs may not have hand rails, and elevators are not readily available. Malta and Italy have a Mediterranean climate. In the summer, temperatures can be quite hot and humid. Typically, it will be in the 80s & 90s with temperatures at night tempered by sea breezes dropping to the 70s. You will spend days outdoors in hot, sunny weather. Vehicles and buildings are air conditioned, but you must be prepared to prioritize hydration by drinking water often, not just when thirsty. Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke or other serious heat-related illness. If concerned, please consult your physician before joining this program. For safety reasons it is requested that physical disabilities of any kind be advised at time of reservation. It is understood that passengers requiring special attention or treatment must be traveling with a personal escort to assist them. This expedition is a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure who have a keen interest in learning about the nature, history and culture of the region and seeing the Total Solar Eclipse, August 2, 2027. There are excellent prospects, but please keep in mind the sea has an element of unpredictability. We may encounter rough seas and winds during this voyage. There is always the chance overcast skies may hinder visibility, and that adverse conditions may alter the pre-planned route. The ship's captain has the final word on any decision made with regard to the vessel's itinerary, and it is understood that such decisions will be made in the interest of the safety of the vessel and all passengers on board. With this in mind, you will have a once-in-a-lifetime voyage of discovery and adventure.

M/Y Variety Voyager: Discover the Mediterranean at an un-rushed pace of 13 knots per hour, one island or seashore at a time. The contemporary state of the art 68-meter, 36-cabin Variety Voyager was launched in 2012 and complies with the most stringent SOLAS safety regulations. Her sleek lines and ample deck space redefining what yachting was meant to be. Warm fabrics, rich marbles, soft tones and wood-paneling are just some of the elements that define her. Please be aware that a small number of cabins may have a partially obstructed view due to the size of the porthole/windows and the design requirements of the ship. For example, some windows may be partly obstructed in the lower half by a gangway. The best view is always on the ample outer decks. The ship has stairs with hand rails, there is no elevator. Mingle with like-minded travelers in the main lounge and enjoy buffet breakfast and dinner in the dining room or al fresco. We look forward to sharing this magnificent journey with you!

Cabins: All cabins have private bathroom with marble floors as well as Glass and Corian showers, and are equipped with individually controlled A/C, TV with DVD player, mini fridge, safe deposit box, deluxe toiletries and bathrobes. Cabins with flexible bedding have 2 twins or 1 double.

Category C: Cabins are located on the lower deck offering oversized twin port holes. 3 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration. Category C: $7,195 per person Double occupancy; $10,975 Solo occupancy

Category B: Cabins are located on the lower and main deck offering oversized twin port holes (lower deck) or small double windows (main deck), 7 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration.
Category B: $7,795 per person Double occupancy; $11,495 Solo occupancy

Category A: Cabins are located on the main deck offering double windows. 9 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration. Category A: $8,495 per person Double occupancy; $12,995 Solo occupancy

Category P: Cabins are located on the Upper Infinity Deck offering double windows, all cabins offer flexible bedding configuration, while 4 of the 7 include an extra sofa bed.
Category P: $9,895 per person Double occupancy; $15,795 Solo occupancy

Owner's Suite: Located on the Upper Infinity Deck, features four large windows that flood the space with natural light and offer stunning panoramic views. Elegantly designed, the suite includes a queen-size bed, luxurious fabrics, and marble finishes throughout the bathroom, along with a range of exclusive amenities.
Owners Suite: $12,995 per person Double occupancy; $25,995 Solo occupancy

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: To reserve your preferred cabin category, please contact Terri Betchart Expeditions Inc., Telephone (800) 252-4910 (USA) or (408) 252-4910 (International)
Email: betchartTerri@gmail.com

A deposit of $2,000 per person is required to confirm your space. The balance is due 270 days before departure (November 1, 2026).

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 360 days before departure less a handling fee of $500 per person. There is no refund after the 360-day period unless your place is resold, then only the $500 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, services, or other trip features. Trip cancellation insurance will be available.

Insurance: The ship's operator, Variety Cruises, requires all travelers have Emergency Evacuation Insurance for this voyage in the unlikely case of a medical evacuation/repatriation. We will offer this insurance. **Health:** This expedition is physically demanding and you should be in general good health and able to walk medium distances over uneven and rough terrain. Since you are traveling to a remote area without access to sophisticated medical facilities for viewing the eclipse, you must not join this expedition if you have a life-threatening condition. If you need assistance or medical treatments, you must have a traveling companion to assit you.

- **cut off & mail** -

RESERVATIONS #1815

YES! I/We want to join Betchart's **Discover Malta Total Solar Eclipse Voyage, July 31 – Aug 7, 2027.** Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for $_____ ($2,000 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account. (Balance due November 1, 2026).

____ I/We Would like additional information about the Optional **Malta PRE-Trip July 28 - 31, 2027**
____ I/We Would like information about the Optional **Naples & Pompeii POST-Trip August 7 - 9, 2027**

Name _____ Age_____ Sex_____

Name _____ Age_____ Sex_____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone:_____ Email:_____

Membership: Planetary Society AAAS Sigma Xi ACS

Accommodations Preference: _____ double _____twin or _____ single accommodations.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

Categories:

_____ Category C: $ 7,195 per person Double occupancy: $10,975 Solo Occupancy
_____ Category B: $ 7,795 per person Double occupancy: $11,495 Solo Occupancy
_____ Category A: $ 8,495 per person Double occupancy: $12,995 Solo Occupancy
_____ Category P: $ 9,895 per person Double occupancy: $15,795 Solo Occupancy
_____ Owners Suite: $12,995 per person Double occupancy: $25,995 Solo Occupancy

Please mail to: **Malta & Sicily Eclipse Voyage 2027**
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

Responsibility:

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the Planetary Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and other affiliates of Betchart Expeditions Inc act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motor coach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. Eclipse viewing is not guaranteed, cloud cover or other conditions could obscure it. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Any and all Excursions included within the itinerary may be subject to minimum or maximum numbers of participants. Excursions are subject to availability. Subject to the Variety Cruises terms and conditions. Excursions, lecturers and personalities may vary from those advertised.

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