



## Monaco - Genoa Cruising Guide

# Portofino

Portofino is a charming fishing village that has become a boutique stop-off point for the yachting set. But although it fills up with trippers, this prettily-painted harbour settlement still exudes an air of tranquillity, and it's certainly a must for anyone visiting this stretch of coastline.

A very pleasant walk heads up to the right as you face the harbour. Up a series of steps, you come to the Church of St. George, a church with a cool, plain interior, dramatically situated on the narrow neck of the Portofino headland. As a lookout point, and probably as a site of religious significance, the spot goes back thousands of years. There are benches to sit on, and some great photo-opportunities looking back down over the harbour.

Hotel Splendido - [www.belmond.com](http://www.belmond.com)  
Ristorante Puny



# Porto Ercole

This pretty seaside resort is one of the most famous in Tuscany and is one of the two main towns on Argentario.

The fortresses of La Rocca, Filippo, Santa Carolina and Stella dominate the hillside above the perfect little natural harbour and are reminders of more belligerent times when the town was controlled by the Spanish in the 16th century. Now that Porto Ercole is a place more associated with pleasure, good food, boats and relaxation (the renowned Pellicano hotel is just outside the town), the profusion of these fortifications takes one by surprise but adds another interesting angle to this incredibly picturesque little port.

The historic centre of Porto Ercole can be reached through the Porta of Sienese origin surmounted by a clock tower on which one can read the plate commemorating the great painter Michelangelo Merisi – “Caravaggio” – who died in Porto Ercole in 1610.





## Porto Cervo

Porto Cervo is the main centre and meeting point of the internationally renowned Costa Smeralda, one of the most prestigious tourist destinations in the world. Porto Cervo is in the Gallura region, on the northeast coast of Sardinia. Created by Prince Karim Aga Khan, at the end of the 1950s, Porto Cervo was once an exclusive retreat for the international jetset. It is still one of the most luxurious resorts in the world, but with the 2004 opening of Olbia airport, at just a thirty minute drive from Porto Cervo, it has become more widely accessible. The Costa Smeralda is, however, an exclusive holiday destination, with designer boutiques, spa hotels, the finest restaurants and exclusive nightspots.

Porto Cervo is a small and picturesque village of soft pastel-coloured buildings, positioned in a natural port surrounded by gentle hills. The land and seascapes are incredibly beautiful, with many islands and the finest beaches.



## Cala di Volpe

On the most strikingly romantic stretch of the Costa Smeralda, Hotel Cala di Volpe, a Luxury Collection Hotel, resembles a charming fishing village, with its picturesque Sardinian houses and landing stage jutting out into a sea of translucent turquoise, emerald green and deepest azure.

The Cala di Volpe Restaurant for a romantic candlelit supper; the Pool Bar for a cooling drink or tasty snack; the Pontile Piano Bar and the Lobby Bar, both with panoramic view of Cala di Volpe bay; the Barbecue, for delicious grills of fresh Sardinian seafood, the perfect venue for chic gala dinners or banquets.



## Bonifacio

Bonifacio is a star attraction in Corsica, drawing visitors from all over the island and overseas to marvel at its medieval houses precariously teetering on the edge of the imposing limestone cliffs.

Bonifacio's Old Town, with a labyrinth of narrow streets and historic buildings, was built by the Genoese and is a fascinating place to wander around. Founded in 828 AD by Count Bonifacio of Tuscany, it's natural harbour bears a striking resemblance to the home of the Laestrygonians referred to in Homer's *Odyssey* of the 7th century BC. Bonifacio also boasts a busy marina filled with impressive yachts and lined with chic bars, restaurants and hotels, enhancing the vibrancy of this fashionable coastal resort.

Add to this the fact that Bonifacio is close to several idyllic, unspoiled Corsican beaches as well as staggeringly beautiful mountains, and you have a near perfect, varied holiday destination.



## Monaco

Squeezed into just 200 hectares (2.8 sq km), this confetti principality might be the world's second-smallest country (the Vatican is smaller), but what it lacks in size it makes up for in attitude. Glitzy, glam and screaming hedonism, Monaco is truly beguiling.

The principality of Monaco offers a great balance of historical and modern attractions. There are various museums and palaces to visit as well as shopping malls and casinos. Monaco also offers relaxation spots along the harbor and even around the attractions. It is relatively easy to navigate Monte Carlo and Monaco if you take the time to learn where the various "short cuts" are. City maps are generally available at most news vendor stands and shops for a small fee.



## Sanremo

Known colloquially as the City of Flowers for its colourful summer blooms, San Remo also stages an annual music festival (the supposed inspiration for the Eurovision Song Contest) and the world's longest professional one-day cycling race, the 298km Milan–San Remo classic.

During the mid-19th century the city became a magnet for regal European exiles, such as Empress Elizabeth of Austria and Tsar Nicola of Russia, who favoured the town's balmy winters. Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel maintained a villa here, and an onion-domed Russian Orthodox church reminiscent of Moscow's St Basil's Cathedral still turns heads down by the seafront.

Beyond the manicured lawns and belle époque hotels, San Remo hides a little-visited old town, a labyrinth of twisting lanes that cascade down the Ligurian hillside. Curling around the base is a 25km bike and walking path that tracks the coast as far as Imperia, following the course of a former railway line and passing through the town's two character-filled harbours.



# Itinerary

## Day 1

12:00pm	Depart Monaco for Sanremo
13:30pm	Light lunch on board or ashore
15:00pm	Sanremo, stroll around the historic old town to see the local sites and shops.
18:00pm	Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
20:00pm	Dinner on board

## Day 2

10:00am	Wake up in the beautiful Portofino, anchor off a secluded bay, water sports and relaxation
13:00pm	Lunch on board
15:00pm	Portofino, stroll around town to see the local sites and shops. A Bellini at the Splendido is a must!
18:00pm	Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
20:00pm	Dinner a shore at Ristorante Puny

## Day 3

Overnight cruise to Elba or leave in the early hours of the morning and finish the cruise whilst enjoying breakfast.

10:30am	Brunch on board
12:30pm	Explore Porto Ferraio and visit the villa where Napoleon spent his exile, Villa dei Mulini or sample the excellent local wines, Elba Bianco and Elba Rosso
16:00pm	Cruise to Porto Ercole

18:00pm Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

20:00pm Dinner on board

## Day 4

Cruise overnight from Porto Ercole to Porto Cervo

10:00am Slowly move around to Cala di Volpe and anchor for water sports in the morning

13:00pm Lunch at the famous Cala di Volpe Hotel

15:00pm Enjoy a post lunch treatment at the Beauty Spa or enjoy a spot of retail therapy at some of the well known boutique stores

18:00pm Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

20:00pm Dinner a shore at the exclusive harbour of Porto Cervo. Try the ever attentive Pedrinelli's, followed by the thrills of the Billionaire Club as the night continues. Pedrinelli - <http://www.giannipedrinelli.it>

## Day 5

11:00am Enjoy a late morning cruise around the Costa Smeralda

13:00pm Lunch a shore at Hotel Pitrizzia, overlooking the yacht at anchor <http://www.pitrizzahotel.com>

15:00pm Enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board, swimming and water toys

18:00pm Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

20:00pm Dinner on board

## Day 6

11:00am	Enjoy a late morning entry into the harbour of Bonifacio
13:00pm	Lunch on board
15:00pm	Enjoy some local shopping and visit the hisorical sites
18:00pm	Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
20:00pm	Dinner a shore at Club Natique, offering excellent pasta and fish dishes

## Day 7

10:00pm	Relaxing morning on board
13:00pm	Find a secluded spot for a beach BBQ
15:00pm	Start the cruise along the west coast of Corsica, enjoying the sites
18:00pm	Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
20:00pm	Dinner on board

## Day 8

10:30pm	Brunch on board
12:00pm	Disembark



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