

2025 National Patron Tour
**Nelson on Shore and at Sea:
A Life of the British Admiral**

With Author and Lecturer Flora Fraser, July 6-14, 2025
From Naples to Malta aboard Sea Cloud Spirit





Nelson on Shore and at Sea

2025 Voyage with Flora Fraser aboard Sea Cloud Spirit

July 6-14, 2025

Set sail on an extraordinary journey through history aboard the magnificent Sea Cloud Spirit, retracing the footsteps of one of Britain's greatest naval heroes, Admiral Horatio Nelson. This exclusive voyage, co-hosted by the English-Speaking Union and Sea Cloud Cruises, offers a unique blend of luxury, adventure, and intellectual stimulation.

By day, explore picturesque ports and historic sites central to Nelson's career and private life. By night, dine under the stars and engage in stimulating conversation with fellow history and adventure enthusiasts.

Trip Highlights

- Sail from Naples to Malta on board Sea Cloud Spirit, ranked among the best luxury passenger ships in the world. This three-mast windjammer's 28 sails are hoisted by hand for authentic sailing experience.
- Enjoy lectures by renowned biographer Flora Fraser
- Visit key locations in Nelson's Mediterranean campaigns
- Visit the ports of Naples, Capri, Trapani, Palermo, Naxos, Syracuse, and Valletta, Malta
- Experience the thrill of sailing on a tall ship in Nelson's wake
- Indulge in luxurious accommodations and gourmet cuisine

The English-Speaking Union promotes cross-cultural understanding, and expands opportunities of students, teachers, English language learners and members through the English language.

ESU National Patron Tours enhance our Patrons' engagement with the ESU community through bespoke experiences of cultural enrichment, educational exploration and unforgettable adventures.



About Sea Cloud Spirit

It must be the most magnificent show in all of cruising!

Stand on the teak-lined top deck of Sea Cloud Spirit, and witness the spectacle of a dozen or so sure-footed deckhands scurrying about high in the rigging to unfurl the sails. Feel them catch the wind and set the massive vessel – five decks high and 453 feet long – in motion.

You will be underway, propelled by the power of the wind alone!

In the world of large sailing ships, only a handful have sails that are still set by hand in the old-fashioned way, like it was done centuries ago.

You will be sailing on one of them.

Sea Cloud Spirit welcomes up to 136 passengers and has 85 crew. It offers a restaurant, lido bar and bistro, lounge with Steinway piano, library, boutique, wellness and spa space, fitness area with ocean view, and a swim platform. It is powered by 28 sails on three masts with total sail surface of about 44,000 square feet.

Dress Code

During the day, comfortable and casual yachting clothes are recommended. For the evening, the dress code is business casual. No swimwear during lunch and/or shorts at dinner. For the Captain's dinner, twice on the voyage, elegant/cocktail attire is recommended: a suit for the gentleman and cocktail dress for the lady. Being on a sailboat, non-slip footwear, which provides grip on the spacious teak decks, should be part of each passenger's luggage.





Itinerary



July 6: Naples, Italy

11:00 PM: Embarkation
Dinner

July 7: Capri, Italy

8:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Leisure time. Sailing subject to wind conditions: afternoon under sails.
Breakfast, lunch, dinner

July 8: Day under full sail

Today is all about sailing
Breakfast, lunch, dinner

July 9: Trapani, Sicily

8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Breakfast, lunch, dinner

July 10: Palermo, Sicily

8:00 AM - 11:00 PM
Breakfast, lunch, dinner

July 11: Day under full sail

Today is all about sailing
Breakfast, lunch, dinner

July 12: Taormina, Sicily

6:00 AM - 11:00 PM
Breakfast, lunch, dinner

July 13: Syracuse, Sicily

8:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Breakfast, lunch, dinner

July 14: Valletta, Malta

9:00 AM: Embarkation
Breakfast

A selection of shore excursions is already included in your cruise fare. Availability may differ by destination and /or sailing.



Lecture Program

Nelson on Shore and at Sea



The Lectures

When Admiral Lord Nelson (1758-1805) died at the naval battle of Trafalgar, he knew that he had defeated the combined Napoleonic and Spanish fleets. Upon the return of his body to England, he was given a State funeral in 1806, foreshadowing those of Wellington and Churchill to come. He too had kept Great Britain safe against her enemies, a fact which is largely forgotten today.

His personality was so magnetic as to inspire a rare affection and even love not only among his fellow officers and men but amongst his contemporaries - men, women, aristocrats, gentry and the public at large. The public, at least, overlooked his foibles and faults, not the least of them being his passionate affair with Emma, Lady Hamilton, in Naples.

Flora Fraser's forthcoming book, *Nelson On Shore and At Sea*, will not tell every last detail of Horatio Nelson's advancement in his profession. That has been done admirably by others. It is ultimately the psyche of this great and greatly flawed chief that fascinates her.

From unpromising beginnings as a parson's son in rural Norfolk in the 1750s, Horatio Nelson saw service in the East Indies and, during and after the Revolutionary War, in the West Indies. Making a good but childless marriage to a prominent Nevis planter's niece early on, he threw that union aside when he met in Naples his 'beloved Emma,' the ravishing wife of Sir William Hamilton, Britain's longstanding and now elderly envoy to the Bourbon Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.



Flushed with victory over Napoleon's fleet at the battle of the Nile in 1798, Nelson ignored orders to rejoin the Mediterranean fleet. Fleeing advancing revolutionary forces and Jacobin fervor in Naples, he took the Hamiltons and King Ferdinand and Queen Maria Carolina to Palermo in Sicily. Following suppression of revolt in 1799, the grateful monarch conferred on the Admiral the dukedom of Bronte and lands near Mount Etna. An idyll for Nelson and Emma ensued, with Sir William an indulgent husband. This included a cruise in which they were to visit Malta.

After they traveled overland to England, Emma gave birth in secret to their daughter, Horatia, on whom the admiral doted and who lived with them under the guise of an adopted child. Following the admiral's death at Trafalgar in 1805, his widow received the country's gratitude and respect. Emma, adrift in a world without male protection, which was to include a spell in a debtor's prison, died in her early fifties in Calais in 1815. Nelson's daughter Horatia was to return to her father's Norfolk roots, marry a clergyman there and produce a large family.





Our Expert Aboard

Flora Fraser



The Lecturer

Renowned historical biographer **Flora Fraser** is a graduate of Oxford University and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. A Mount Vernon Georgian Papers Fellow at the Royal Archives in 2017, Flora was awarded an honorary doctorate from King's College, London, in 2019 for her outstanding and widely acclaimed biographies. They include *Emma, Lady Hamilton, Princesses: The Daughters of George III* and *Pauline Bonaparte: Venus of Empire. The Washingtons: George & Martha* (2015) won the 2016 George Washington Book Prize, and most recently Flora published *Pretty Young Rebel: The Life of Flora Macdonald* (2022).

Having begun her career by writing about Horatio Nelson's great love, Emma Hamilton, Flora is now writing *Nelson on Shore and at Sea*, a new biography of the famed eighteenth-century British Admiral. It will be published by Knopf in 2027.



Taormina, Sicily



Trapani, Sicily



Palermo, Sicily



Syracuse, Sicily



Valletta, Malta

Tour Price



Tour Rates Exclusive to the ESU and below Sea Cloud Cruises' published rate

Deluxe Stateroom

Per person based on double occupancy in a Deluxe Stateroom: **\$9,900.**

Single supplement additional **\$4,300**

Deluxe staterooms are approximately 183 to 226 sq.ft, with California king bed 71 in. x 79 in. (2 mattresses), marble bathroom with shower, seating with table and other amenities. Large porthole windows give these staterooms a special maritime flair

Junior Veranda Suite

Per person based on double occupancy in a Deluxe Stateroom: **\$13,500.** Single

supplement additional **\$12,000**

Junior Veranda Suites are approximately 205 to 237 sq.ft. with a balcony of approximately 65 sq.ft. Characterized by the elegant interpretation of the Sea Cloud's classic design they have a California king bed 71 in. x 79 in. (2 mattresses), marble bathroom with shower, walk-in closet, sofa and chair with table and other amenities.

What's Included:

- Welcome champagne in suite/stateroom
- Daily fresh fruit basket in suite/stateroom
- All meals including nightly 4-course menu and a 5-course signature dinner
- All coffee, tea specialties, and soft drinks
- Open bar (except premium brands)
- Welcome and farewell cocktail
- Bottled water on excursions
- Gratuities and port fees
- Marina platform with use of water sports equipment such as snorkel gear, stand-up paddle boards and towable tube (weather permitting)
- Laundry service in suites
- Beach barbecues in select destinations
- Zodiac tours for beach landings and photo safaris around the ship
- Shore excursions (except curated moments, any specialty excursions) are included
- Complete pre-departure documentation and materials including reading list, travel tips, and destination information
- Onboard lectures by distinguished author Flora Fraser

What's Not Included:

- Airfare from and to USA
- Airport portorage
- Fees relating to applying for or renewing your passport
- Transfer from the airport at the arrival
- Transfer from to the airport at the departure
- Any kind of personal insurance
- Meals at leisure or not mentioned
- Extra costs at the hotel

Questions?

Contact **Rossana Ivanova** at The English-Speaking Union, 144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016

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Naples, Italy



Sea Cloud Spirit



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Palermo, Sicily



Capri, Sicily

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