

# MEDITERRANEAN & ADRIATIC CRUISE

Cruise on *Norwegian Spirit* from Rome  
October 14, 2018 - 20 Days



a world to experience



**Fares Per Person:** based on double/twin

**\$8,955** Inside Category IA

**\$9,320** Outside Category OA

**\$10,070** Balcony Category BA

> Other categories available along with single and triple fares.

> Please add 0.2% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 14 seats; \$150 on next 8

> **Experience Points:** Earn 140 points from this tour.

Redeem **140 points** if you book by **July 5**.



## \* PORTS OF CALL \*

**ROME (port is Civitavecchia)**  
**DUBROVNIK (Croatia)**  
**VENICE (Italy) — overnight**  
**KOPER (Slovenia)**

**SPLIT (Croatia)**  
**CORFU (Greece)**  
**OLYMPIA (Greece)**  
**VALLETTA (Malta)**

## Includes

- Coach transportation to/from Vancouver
- 7 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Flight from Vancouver to Rome and return
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- Transfer from Rome Airport to hotel and return
- Coach transportation in Rome and Florence
- Locally-guided walking tour of historic Rome
- Rome Colosseum, Vatican Museum, St. Peter's
- Florence walking tour with Galleria Accademia
- Locally-guided tour of Tuscany with a winery
- Stateroom for 11 days/nights on board *Spirit*
- Ultimate beverage package on ship
- Fees for 4 specialty restaurants on ship
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges and cruise taxes
- Guided ½ day tour of Dubrovnik with cable car
- Boat transfer from ship to Venice and return
- Guided walking tour of Venice with gondola ride
- Guided ½ day tour of Koper and Piran
- Guided ½ day tour of Split and Trogir
- Guided ½ day tour of Corfu
- Guided tour of Olympia with Temple of Zeus
- Guided tour of Malta with Barrakka Gardens, Grand Master's Palace and Mdina.
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **49 meals:** 17 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 17 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831  
Kelowna > 250-762-3435  
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## Norwegian Spirit

The *Spirit* was launched in 1998 and had a multi-million dollar refurbishment in 2014. Carrying 2,018 passengers, the *Spirit* is one of the smallest in the Norwegian fleet of 15 ships, and is intimate compared to some of the mammoth cruise ships nowadays. *Spirit's* gross tonnage is 76,000 and she is 267 metres long with 10 decks and 9 elevators. Facilities include the Stardust live entertainment theatre, 12 bars and lounges, casino, duty-free shops, beauty shop, library, games room, internet access, spa, fitness centre, 2 swimming pools, and 5 hot tubs.

The *Spirit* offers 14 places to eat. The complimentary dining rooms include Windows, Garden Room, and Raffles Court buffet. Six specialty restaurants such as Cagney's Steakhouse, Le Bistro, La Trattoria, and Teppanyaki have different themes and gourmet menus. Your tour fare includes the extra fee for 4 dinners in these specialty restaurants. You can also dine in the privacy of your stateroom by ordering from the room service menu 24 hours a day (\$8 charge for lunch and dinner). You may wish to reserve your restaurants in advance, or just show up when you are ready.

Staterooms have TV, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink, and shower or bathtub. A great variety of stage shows is presented in the Stardust Theatre and Norwegian is well known for its extravagant entertainment. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, board games, and fitness classes.

## Cruise notes

**Shore excursions included:** On many cruises, shore excursions are a significant additional expense. This cruise includes seven tours: Dubrovnik, Venice, Koper, Split, Corfu, Olympia, and Malta.

**Importance of booking early:** Norwegian has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing. However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship fills and this has happened on several recent cruises. We had to turn away disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the connecting motorcoach. **Please book early.**

**Ultimate Beverage Package included:** Order your favourite drink such as wine, beer, cocktail, mixed drink, or soft drink, and relax with friends in a lounge, on deck, in a dining room, or in your stateroom. It's all included and complimentary, even the gratuity. The maximum value per drink is \$15. Please note that specialty coffees or teas and bottled water are not part of this beverage package.

**4 Specialty Restaurants included:** Make a reservation to have dinner in Cagney's Steakhouse, Le Bistro (French), La Trattoria (Italian), Teppanyaki (Asian), or Sushi and savour fabulous menus and cuisine. Normally there is a charge of \$25 to \$30 at each (plus gratuities), or some have a la carte pricing, so the first 4 restaurants you select are complimentary. Use this in conjunction with your beverage package and even your wine, beer and cocktails are included. You can reserve online up to 3 months before sailing or after you board the ship.

**Additional taxes:** Some cities in Europe are considering a Tourist Tax which could be in effect for this tour. The tax of 6 Euros in Rome and 5 Euros in Florence (per night) must be paid by you directly to the hotels.

## Itinerary

### Sunday, October 14:

Meals: L

We drive to Vancouver, and stay overnight at the Blue Horizon Hotel on Robson Street.

### Monday, October 15:

Most of the day is at leisure. While it may seem unnecessary to travel to Vancouver the day before your flight, weather and accidents can close the Coquihalla. Our flight to Rome leaves in late afternoon.

### Tuesday, October 16:

Meals: D

After arrival in **Rome**, we meet our local driver and guide and enjoy a city tour of Rome by coach and on foot. We pass famed highlights such as

**Colosseum, Roman Forum**, River Tiber, Vatican, and Piazza di Spagna to admire the view and atmosphere. We stay three nights at Hotel Savoy. A welcome dinner is included.

### Wednesday, October 17:

Meals: B,D

The morning is leisure time. During the afternoon, a local guide leads a guided walk in the historic centre of Rome which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with wonderful palaces, millennium-old churches and basilicas, grand ruins, opulent monuments, ornate statues, and graceful fountains. A tour of the impressive **Colosseum amphitheatre** is included.

**Thursday, October 18:***Meals: B,D*

The day is devoted to the Vatican museums. **Vatican City** is renowned for its impressive artistic masterpieces and architecture, its collections of painting and sculpture, and the Sistine Chapel frescoes. St. Peter's Basilica's dome was designed by Michaelangelo and is one of the largest in the world. It houses an ornate cathedral, the tombs of popes since early Christian times, and galleries of masterpieces, including Michaelangelo's *Pieta*.

**Friday, October 19:***Meals: B,L,D*

Leaving Rome, we drive to **Florence**, birthplace of the Renaissance and home to many of the world's greatest art treasures. A local guide conducts a walking tour. You can almost feel the presence of such masters as da Vinci, Botticelli, Ghiberti, and Raphael as we stand in Signoria Square. We visit Galleria Accademia which houses Michelangelo's famous sculpture **David**. We stay two nights at Hotel Roma.

**Saturday, October 20:***Meals: B,L,D*

During today's visit to **Tuscany**, we admire the lovely hilly landscape, full of vineyards and olive groves. Our first stop is **Siena**, the Gothic town and Italy's best preserved medieval hill town. We stroll on Piazza del Campo, with its shell shape and typical Tuscan colours of orange and red. We visit a winery to learn everything about Italian wine and enjoy some tastings before lunch. San Gimignano is a 14<sup>th</sup> century town with an authentic atmosphere and interesting medieval towers. Piazza del Duomo is noted for its Collegiate Church, the palaces, and the seven towers.

**Sunday, October 21:***Meals: B,L,D*

We drive to Civitavecchia, the port for Rome, and board the **Norwegian Spirit**. We sail at 5 pm into the Mediterranean Sea. Enjoy your first sumptuous dinner in one of the dining rooms, followed by a lively show in the theatre.

**Monday, October 22:***Meals: B,L,D*

This is a relaxing day at sea as we cruise around the boot of Italy and into the **Adriatic Sea**.

**Tuesday, October 23:***Meals: B,L,D*

In early morning, we cruise among the myriad islands of the Croatian coast. We dock at 8 am at **Dubrovnik** near the southern tip of Croatia. Founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, the city is noted for its walled Old Town and several monasteries. A local guide meets us for a driving and walking tour along the ancient walls, visiting the Franciscan Monastery, Europe's oldest surviving pharmacy (founded in 1317), and the Cathedral Treasury with relics of Saint Blaise. We also walk past the Sponza Palace, noted for its magnificent 30-metre tall tower. Then we ride the cablecar up

Srd Mountain and admire a panoramic view of Dubrovnik and the offshore Elafiti Islands. We return to the ship at 1 pm (lunch included on board), or you can stay in town and make your own way back prior to sailing at 5 pm.

**Wednesday, October 24:***Meals: B,L,D*

Vibrant, vivid and vivacious, **Venice**, Queen of the Adriatic, holds a mystical aura of a city of canals and palaces and is one of the most enchanting places in the world. Called "City of canals", Venice extends across 120 islands that are joined by 455 bridges. Its colonization dates back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century, when inhabitants came to these marshy islands to escape the Barbarian invasion of the Mongols. Over time, the city grew across these islands, thus making Venice unique in the world. After the ship arrives at noon, we transfer by boat to famous **Piazza San Marco**. During an afternoon walking tour, we learn the history behind the most famous landmarks. **St. Mark's Basilica** was built over several centuries in the Byzantine architecture style, and is the work of artists and craftsmen from many countries. **Doge's Palace** was built in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and served as the Doge residence, the seat of government and palace of justice. Later, we board a **gondola** for a relaxing ride through narrow and enchanting canals. The ship stays in Venice overnight.

**Thursday, October 25:***Meals: B,L,D*

This is a free day to enjoy more sights of Venice on your own. The *Spirit* sails at 6 pm.

**Friday, October 26:***Meals: B,L,D*

Overnight we cruise across the upper end of the Adriatic Sea to **Slovenia** and dock at Koper at 8 am. Slovenia has a coastline of only 47 km and **Koper** is its only seaport. In the old town, we explore the narrow streets, picturesque squares, and historic buildings on a short guided walk, and visit the Cathedral of Mary's Assumption and the town tower. Then we drive to **Piran**, one of the oldest and most beautiful Slovene towns with rich history and culture. Giuseppe Tartini, the composer and violinist, was raised in Piran and had a great impact on the town. You can return to the ship at noon or stay longer in Koper until sailing at 5 pm.

**Saturday, October 27:***Meals: B,L,D*

Continuing down the Croatian coast, the *Spirit* arrives in **Split** at 8 am. Our half-day tour explores this town of ancient history, built and preserved over the course of 1,700 years by its loving inhabitants. The vast **Diocletian Palace** was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century and dominates the city. We visit **Trogir** including the Cathedral with its portal by the local master Radovan, the 15<sup>th</sup> century City Loggia, the Čipiko palace, and the Benedictine monastery from the year 1064. The ship sails at 4 pm.

**Sunday, October 28:***Meals: B,L,D*

We dock on the Greek island of **Corfu** at 11 am. The island is bound up with the history of Greece from the beginnings of Greek mythology and its history is full of battles and conquests. This tour begins with a scenic drive through the wonderful Corfiot countryside, full of olive groves, pine, cypress, lemon, and orange trees. A stunning viewpoint is the **Bay of Paleokastritsa**, called the "Capri of Greece", which has crystal-clear waters and rocky promontories. On the opposite hill is the Byzantine Fort of Angelokastro, perched high on a rocky pillar rising 300 metres above the sea. Back in Old Corfu Town, there is a walking tour of Esplanade Square, a maze of winding narrow cobbled streets known as 'kandounia', and the Church of the Patron St Spiridon with its priceless collection of icons. The *Spirit* departs at 7 pm.

**Monday, October 29:***Meals: B,L,D*

Katakolon, a charming fishing village on the Ionian Coast, is our gateway to **Ancient Olympia**, the archaeological site of the first Olympic Games in 776 BC. Every four years the Olympic flame is rekindled here and carried to wherever the games are hosted around the world. The Olympic Games were held at this site until 393 BC when the Emperor prohibited pagan festivals and eventually ordered the temples to be destroyed. In the 6<sup>th</sup> century, earthquakes completed the ravages of man and successive floods gradually buried what was left of the sacred land, preserving it until archaeologists discovered the ruins in 1875. Our six-hour tour visits the **Temple of Zeus**; once the richest in the sanctuary, it contained the giant gold and ivory statue of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Then view the Temple of Hera, the Shrine of Pelops, the Council House where the

athletes took the Olympic oath, the Treasuries, the Palaestra and Gymnasium. Step through the gate onto the floor of the original Stadium, which could hold 20,000 spectators. In the Archaeological Museum, there is a unique collection of Greek sculpture including the famous Hermes of Praxiteles. Lunch is included in a local restaurant before returning to the ship for departure at 5 pm.

**Tuesday, October 30:***Meals: B,L,D*

Overnight we cruise southwest from Greece to the small island nation of **Malta**, and dock at Valletta at 1 pm. Valletta was built by the Knights of St. John after the Great Siege of Malta by the Ottomans in 1565. It is the fortified city that was said to be "Built by gentlemen for gentlemen". It boasts over 320 monuments in a few blocks, is a Baroque Capital, and is being recognized as the European Capital of Culture in 2018. Our afternoon tour visits the **Upper Barrakka Gardens** which overlook the Grand Harbour, the Grand Master's Palace which has been Malta's administrative centre for 3½ centuries, St. John's Co-Cathedral, and the medieval city of **Mdina** with architecture that includes Norman and Arabic features (*Game of Thrones* was partly filmed here). The ship departs at 8 pm.

**Wednesday, October 31:***Meals: B,L,D*

A day at sea.

**Thursday, November 1:***Meals: B,L,D*

The *Spirit* arrives back in Civitavecchia and we drive into **Rome**. There is leisure time for shopping or visiting more amazing sites of this eternal city. We stay overnight at Hotel Savoy.

**Friday, November 2:***Meals: B*

We fly from Rome to Vancouver and drive home.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 5, 2018. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.


**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 14 seats and \$150 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 5.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to June 5, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From June 6 to July 5, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From July 6 to August 1, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From August 2 to August 31, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 31, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from airlines, cruise ships and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Photo credit:** Wikimedia Commons, photo by Peter K. Burian

 **Activity Level:** Due to the historic nature of most ports, the included tours have lots of walking with frequent rest stops. Cobblestone streets are common and there can be lots of stairs. You can opt out of these tours if they are too strenuous for you. Check activity level for shore excursions you purchase on the ship. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, local guides and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense. Travel insurance will probably not cover you.

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 140 points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until July 5.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924