

TUSCAN ISLANDS CRUISE



 **CATLANTE**
CATAMARANS

TUSCAN ISLANDS : ELBA AND CAPRAIA

AN ARCHIPELAGO BETWEEN CORSICA AND ITALY

Alone, as a couple, with family or friends,
one cabin or the whole boat.

Scattered between the Italian coast and Corsica, the seven Tuscan islands of Elba, Capraia, Pianosa, Giglio, Giannutri, Gorgone and Montecristo are pearls that have fallen from Aphrodite's necklace into the Tyrrhenian Sea. This gift of the gods was recognized by Unesco as a biosphere reserve in 2003. Departing from the Macinaggio marina north of Bastia, this cruise by catamaran in the Tuscan archipelago, will take you to the island of Capraia. If you love unspoilt nature and the sea, you'll love this island.

A former penal colony for some 100 years, it has only been open to tourism since 1986. Its volcanic origin gives it a majestic coastline, populated by seabirds and falcons. Beyond the port and the coastal village stretches an incredible maquis, testifying to the richness of the original flora of this Mediterranean region.

Just 30 miles south of Capraia, the island of Elba, Tuscany's largest island, offers a shoreline of dream beaches: golden sand, white pebbles, granite rocks and crystal-clear seas. From Marciana to Fetovaia, via the capital Portoferraio and Porto Azzuro, you'll be scouring the shores of this green oasis.

Each port of call has its own particularity: Elba leaves no room for monotony. Napoleon 1st spent 10 months here. The traces of his time on the island are omnipresent. What better place to recharge your batteries before plunging back into battle?

Exile yourself for a few days to the Tuscan archipelago on your next catamaran cruise.



Barbarossa Beach



Portoferraio



INFORMATION & BOOKING

+33 (0)1.55.20.90.90, 9am-8pm, 7 days a week
www.catlante.com

YOUR CRUISE DAY AFTER DAY

DAY 1

Macinaggio (30 km north of Bastia)

Meet at 6pm at the Macinaggio marina to board your catamaran. You'll fall under the spell of this small seaside village on Cap Corse. After settling into your cabins, you'll be briefed by your crew on safety rules and life on board, a welcome cocktail, followed by dinner. The first night will be spent in a sheltered anchorage on Cap Corse, in Meria.



DAY 2

Macinaggio - Capraia Island

At around 8 a.m., after a hearty breakfast, you'll weigh anchor for a four-hour trip east to Capraia. You'll sail into the open sea of the Pelagos sanctuary, Europe's largest marine reserve, where large cetaceans and dolphins are frequently spotted. The wild and unspoilt Capraia reveals its untouched hills, covered in scrub: the arrival on the coast is spectacular.

After anchoring in Porto Vecchio, the small port with its colorful houses, you'll be eager to disembark and discover the sights. The best way to get to the island's only village, perched on its promontory, is to take the €1 shuttle bus, which passes through the port every quarter of an hour.

On the cultural front, the Church of Saint-Nicolas and

Sacré-Cœur de Jésus, with its late Baroque architecture, and the Genoese fortress. Through the village's charming alleyways, reach the Torre del Porto for a splendid panoramic view. On your way back to the port, stop off at La Gelateria to refresh yourself with a famous ice cream. If the heat isn't too great, hikers can choose one of the many paths through the fragrant maquis that criss-cross the island. The remains of the old prison are only an hour's walk away. For the less sporty, there's swimming and walking in and around the village. Dinner and overnight at anchor in the marina.

DAY 3

Capraia Isola – Elbe, Marciana Marina

In the morning, you'll leave Porto Vecchio for a leisurely sail along Capraia's east coast, admiring its cliffs and succession of rocky, crystal-clear coves. At the southern tip of the island, admire Cala Rossa, one of the most spectacular coves in the Mediterranean.

The contrast between the sanguine volcanic rocks of the wall that falls sheer into the sea and the whiteness of the Zenobito promontory is striking. Leaving Capraia behind, we head for Elba via Marciana Marina, a charming port village nestling at the foot of Mount Capanne.

After lunch, you can take the 116 bus (€3 round trip) up to the cabinovia cable car (€20 round trip), which takes you up to the summit of Monte Capanne (1019m) in around 20 minutes on small yellow gondolas.

The 360° view of Elba, the Tuscan islands, Cap Corse and the Italian coast is breathtaking.

On the way back, enjoy a swim from Marciana beach before returning to your catamaran.

Dinner and overnight at anchor.



Mount Capanne - cabinovia cable car



Capraia



Portoferraio





Portoferraio



Porto Azzuro



DAY 4

Marciana Marina - Gulf of Viticcio - Portoferraio

Leaving Marciana in the morning, we skim the coast towards Portoferraio. Elba offers more than seventy beaches, so it's always difficult to choose, but in this area we particularly like those in the Gulf of Viticcio, surrounded by a cliff covered in pine trees and scrubland, or Enfola, where you can see the sea on both sides of the peninsula. Your captain will take care of finding you the best anchorages for swimming and lunch.

In the afternoon, we head for the island's capital, Portoferraio. Its splendid port, a haven for ships since antiquity and judged by Admiral Nelson to be the safest in the world, and the island's iron deposits are the source of its incredibly rich history. Founded by the Medici on the remains of the Roman city of Fabricia, Portoferraio has retained all the charm of the Renaissance. The narrow streets of the historic center are welcoming and lively, and a stroll at the end of the day is a real pleasure, including the warm Italian atmosphere. Dinner and overnight at quay or anchorage.



Port of Marciana

DAY 5

Portoferraio – Ortano – Porto Azzurro

Morning departure from Portoferraio to round Elba to the northeast. Our first stop of the day is Ortano, with its beach and islet of the same name. A former iron mining center, the quay where ore was loaded onto ships still exists. The sea is particularly transparent at Ortano, making it a great place for snorkeling around the islet. After lunch, a short sail takes you to Porto Azzurro. This charming fishing village nestles at the head of the Gulf of Mola. It's renowned for its seaside atmosphere and its many nearby beaches, including Barbarossa. If you like hiking, push on to the Sanctuary of Montserrat, nestled in the wilderness 3km away of the village. After dinner on board, don't hesitate to return to shore to enjoy the lively summer evenings.

DAY 6

Porto Azzurro – Innamorata – Marina di Campo

You'll continue your tour of Elba, rounding Cape Calamita on your way to Innamorata beach. This romantic cove takes its name from the legend of Lorenzo and Maria. The story goes that Maria, the lover, in an attempt to save her lover kidnapped by Barbarossa's pirates, threw herself into the sea and drowned. All that was found was her shawl on a rock, now known as the Scarf. Opposite Innamorata, the two small Gemini islands are a wonderful playground for gentle water sports. Get out your paddle, kayak, flippers, mask and snorkel to explore them.

After a siesta, head for Marina di Campo. In one of Elba's deepest gulfs, the wide beach of Marina di Campo faces the island of Montecristo (which is closed to pleasure boating). Its one-and-a-half kilometers of fine golden sand are bordered by the seaside village and the little port - charming, of course! Like all Elba's small ports. Dinner and overnight at anchor.



Fetovaia



Innamorata and Gemini



Punta bianca

DAY 7

Marina di Campo – Fetovaia – Cap Corse

Leaving the gulf of Marina di Campo, we sail quietly towards the beach of Fetovaia. Protected by an 800-metre-long promontory jutting out into the sea and covered in wild scrub, the Fetovaia cove is a paradise. The color of the sea ranges from intense blue to light green as you approach the white sand. A favorite with summer visitors, discovering it aboard your catamaran is a privilege. After this last Elboise stopover, set sail for a five-hour sail to the Cap Corse coast, some 30 miles to the west, to reach the Meria marina or the port of Maccinaggio. Dolphins may be see you there ! Farewell party and overnight at anchor or quayside.

DAY 8

Macinaggio

By 9 a.m. at the latest, after breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to your fellow passengers, if you didn't know them before this Tyrrhenian odyssey, and to your crew.

Please note : Depending on sailing conditions, this program may be reversed to start in Fetovaia and end in Capraia, at your Captain's discretion.



Marina di campo



Fetovaia





Portoferraio



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Capraia

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