

**Following Spanish Silver from Seville to Genoa
15 July – 5 August 2023 (Year IV) Savona to the Balears**

Sailing along Genovese Trading Routes 2020 - 2024

We reached Istanbul but got no further – we now sail to Seville



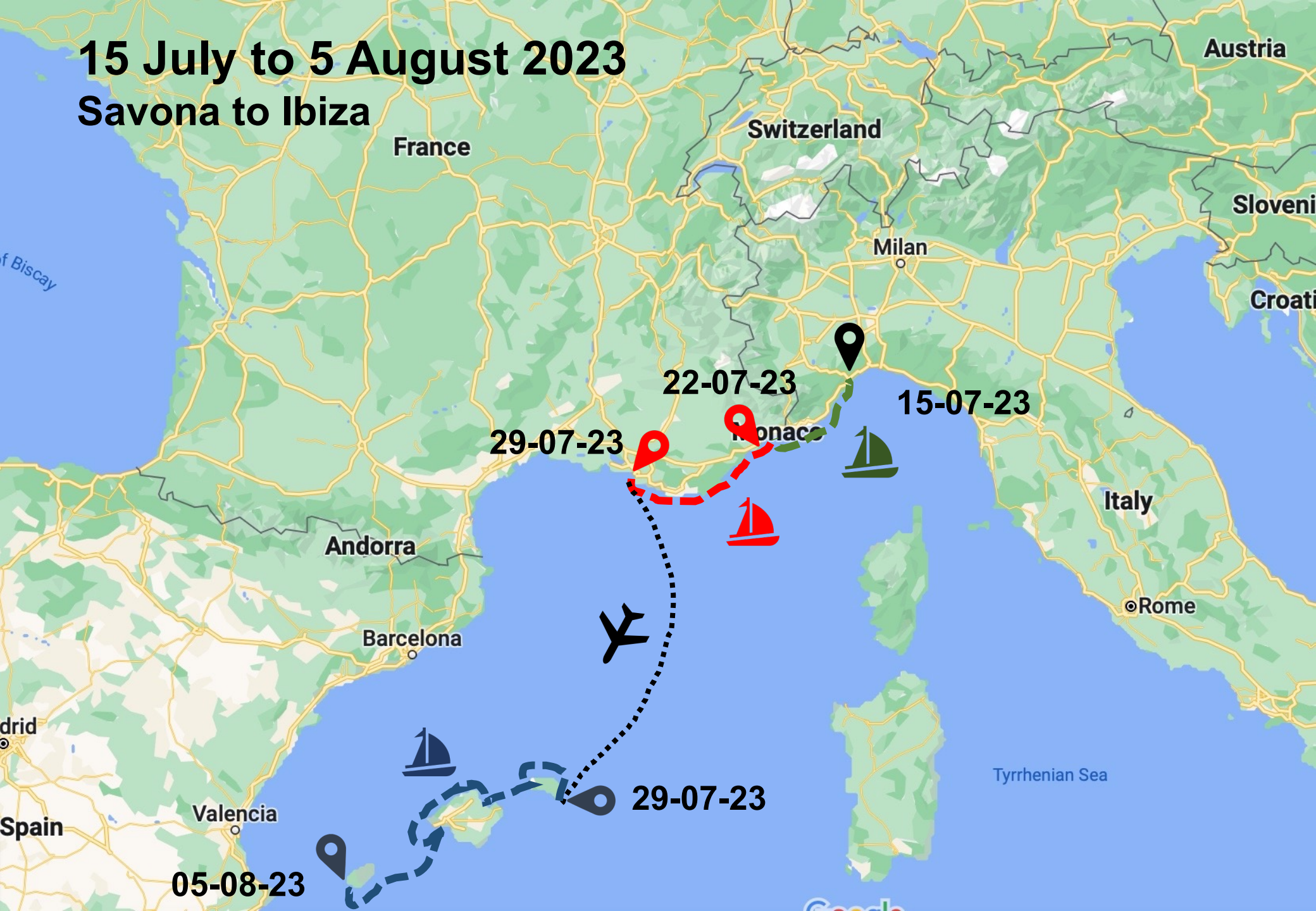
Sailing along Genovese Trade Routes

- Genoa to Syracuse 2020
- Malta to Athens 2021
- Athens to Istanbul 2022
- Istanbul to Georgia (suspended)
- Savona to Sagunto 2022
- Valencia to Seville 2024

Genoa, its colonies & sphere of influence in the early 15th century

15 July to 5 August 2023

Savona to Ibiza



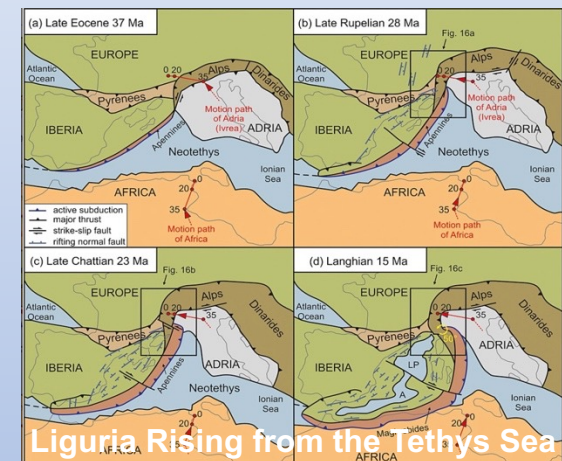
Liguria

A landscape shaped by Geology

- Hemmed between Tyrrhenian Sea and Apennine, Liguria was lifted from the Tethys sea floor when the African and European Plates collided 20 m years ago
- Mountainous Liguria has little flat land. People live on the hilltops or on narrow coastal strips. With little arable land, the region was and is thinly populated.
- The sharply rising mountain formed many natural deep-water harbors which the Greek settlers developed when they arrived in the 7th century BC
- Powerful rivers cut thru the Ligurian mountains forming long sand and pebble beaches. They also gave access to the forests higher up with their valuable timber
- Many towns on the Ligurian coast were of Greek origin. Genoa, Savona, Noli, Monaco, Nice, Antibes, Marseilles, Agde, Béziers, Rosas, Emporio
- The first Greek settlers who wanted Liguria's copper, brought olives and wine. Both plants do well in Liguria with its sunny and humid climate.
- A new way of life developed. The flat beaches became shipyards, olive oil and wine was exported, grain was imported. The harbors served the increasing east-west trade in Rome's Mare Nostrum.



Apricale in Liguria

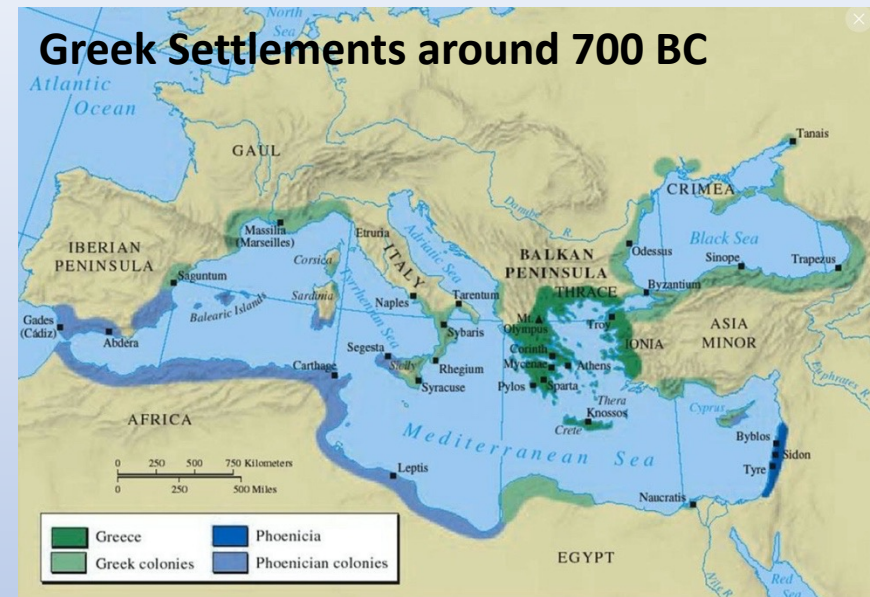


Noli – Genoa's old rival

Greek – Roman Liguria

1'000 Years of Stability

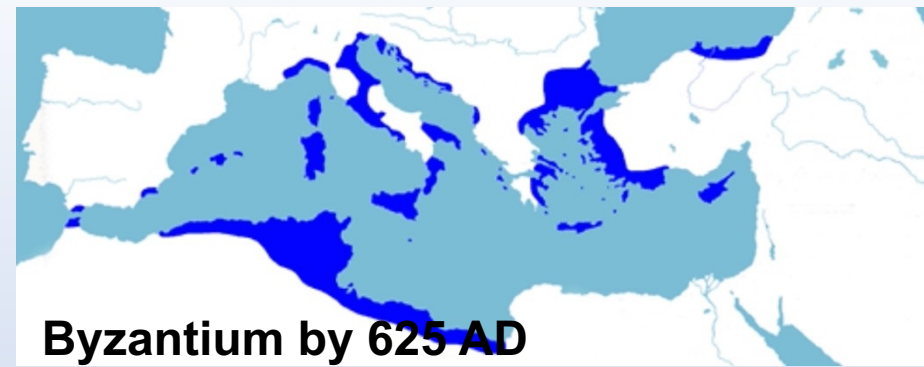
- During Greek and Roman times, the name Liguria was used for the coast from Barcelona to Tuscany.
- It was inhabited by a very old people, the Ligures. It is still unclear whether they were proto-Indo-Europeans like the Basque or of proto-Celtic descent.
- The Ligures lived scattered on the hills and the coast. There was never a Ligurian kingdom. Ligures were organized in tribes. They had no written language and there are only few archeologic findings.
- Ligures were on friendly terms with the Greek who came to their coast. The Greek harbors became important parts of their economy. Soon they exported not only copper but also wine, olive oil & timber.
- In the Punic Wars they sided mostly with Rome and were left in peace, The few tribes who supported Carthage went to war and lost after decades.
- For Rome, Liguria was an important land-bridge to Gaul which they started to conquer after the Punic Wars. Caesar invaded northern Gaul by 58 BC
- Liguria was thoroughly Romanized and part of the Roman Empire for 1'000 years. The Ligurian culture & language completely disappeared though.



Liguria in Turmoil

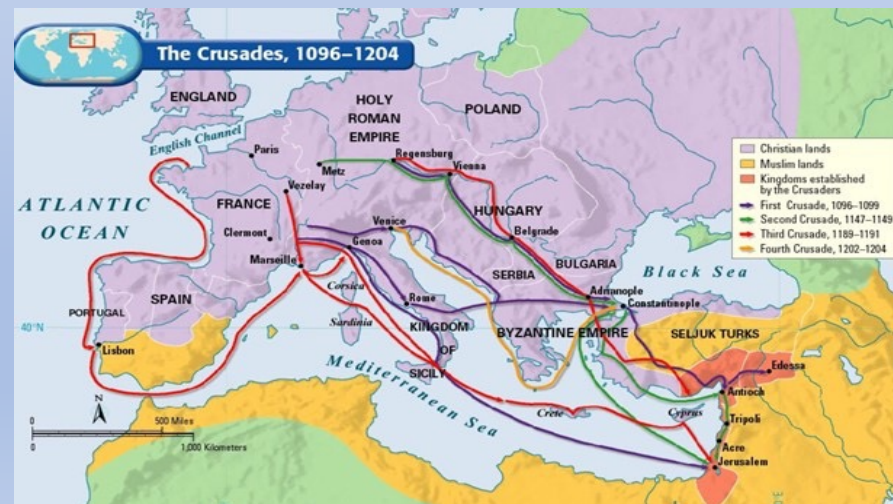
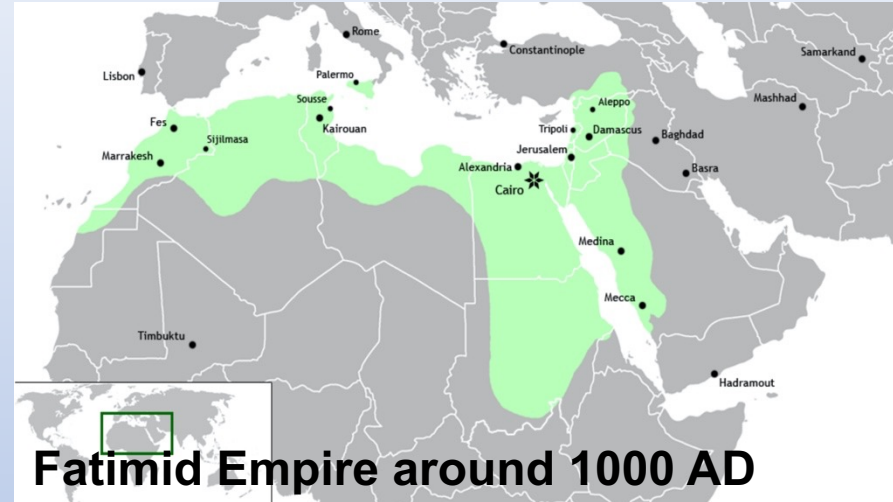
The Shock of Rome's Collapse

- The fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD was a shock for Liguria
- With the collapse of its export markets for wine, olive oil, copper and timber towns and villages started to shrink or were deserted
- There were fewer and fewer people left to defend their home territory
- The Ligurian ports (Genoa, Savona) were the last harbors of the Byzantine Navy in 625 AD, but the navy was small and not match for the expanding Muslim forces
- Muslims had conquered Spain in the 8th century and started to push into Gaul and Liguria
- Liguria's coastal area, a peaceful region for over 1'000 years, became a frontline region
- Narbonne was Muslim for 100 years. The Rhone river was the border to Muslim Territory
- Under Charlemagne, the Carolingian Empire began to push back but left the Ligurian towns in the frontline between the two powers
- Muslim raids on the Ligurian coast were frequent



Ligurian Mediterranean From Defense to Offense

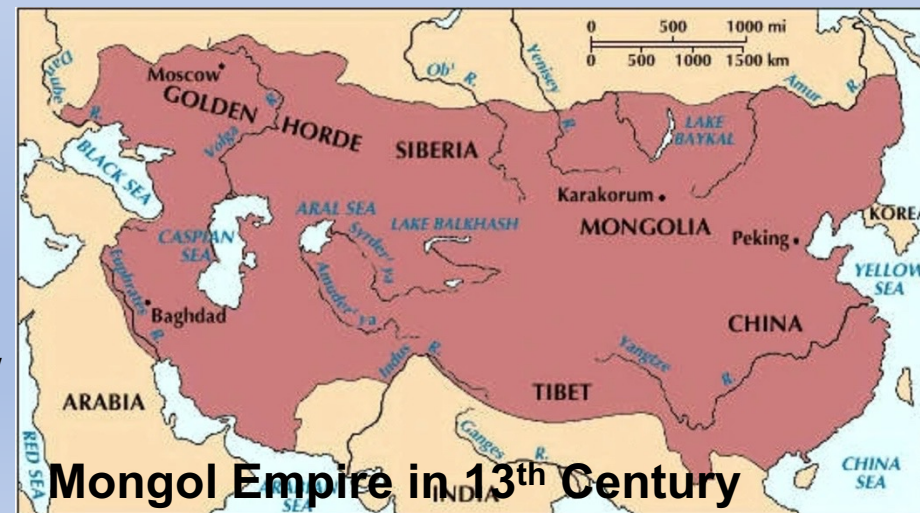
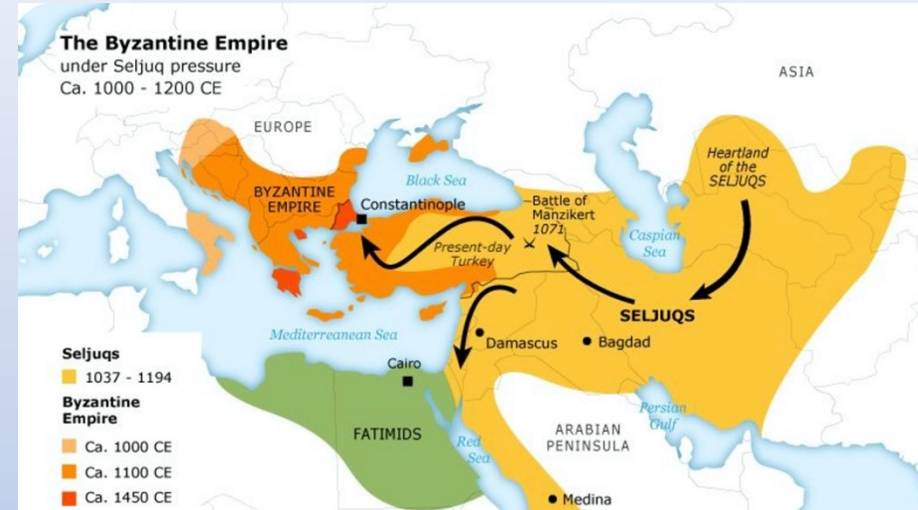
- With the rise of the Fatimid Empire, Muslim forces pushed again further north
- In 902 they conquered the Balears and occupied from 889 - 975 Frejus on today's French Riviera
- From here, they launched frequent raids on other Ligurian towns and occupied Corsica & Sardinia
- Genoa was sacked in 935 AD by a Fatimid fleet. Other Ligurian towns suffered a similar fate.
- There was no other option than fighting back or giving up the coastal settlements forever. All towns started massive fortification programs (still visible today) and building fleets to go on the offensive
- Under Genoa's and Pisa's leadership they first conquered Corsica & Sardinia back.
- In 1087, they took their new ships to Tunisia destroyed the Fatimid Fleet in Madia
- The Mediterranean became a Ligurian sea - open to trade which would bring fabulous wealth to Liguria
- It was also the opening chapter for the Crusades



Genoa becomes a Great Sea Power

Supplying Crusades, Trading Slaves & Chinese Goods

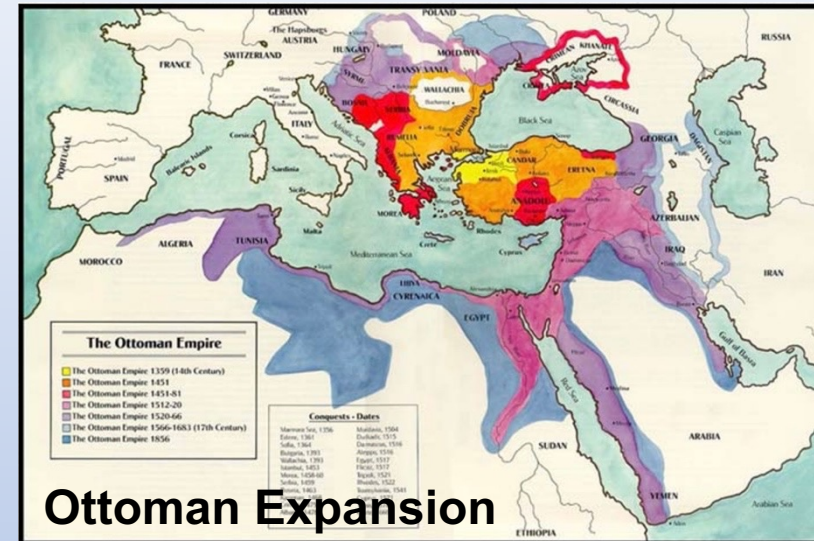
- In 1095, Pope Urban II called the knights of Europe to help Byzantium and liberate the Holy Land.
- In 1071 the Seljuk Turks had defeated the Byzantine Emperor and now slowly moved into Anatolia.
- Timing was perfect. In 1092 the great Seljuk leader, Malik Shah, died. His successors quarreled.
- In 1098, the 1st crusade took Antioch. A year later Jerusalem was “liberated”. All inhabitants were killed
- Whilst the Christian Armies marched on land, their supplies followed on sea, transported by ships from Venice, Amalfi, Pisa, Genoa, Savona & Noli.
- The Byzantine Empire rewarded these towns with lucrative trading concession.
- But the Italians got greedy. Venice manipulated the 4th crusade to sack Constantinople in 1204. Genoa helped Byzantium to win its capital back in 1261.
- Genoa obtained even more trade privileges and new colonies (Galata, Chios, Samos, the Crimean)
- it now controlled the northern silk road and sold Mongolian slaves to the Mamluks in Egypt.



Genoa as the World's Bankers

The 1st financial center in the West

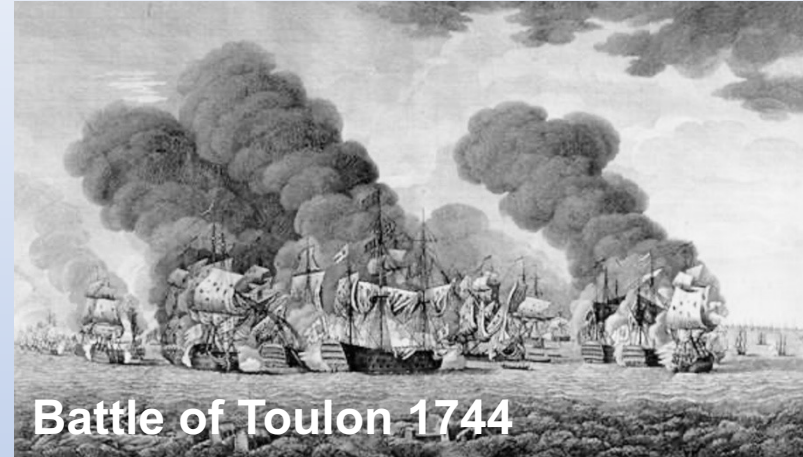
- Genoa's super profits would not last. The rise of the Ottomans finished the Republic's business model
- When Constantinople fell in 1453, the Ottoman Empire terminated Genoa's privileges & conquered its colonies
- The discovery of the Americas by Columbus came to the rescue ...!
- Large amounts of silver from Latin America arrived in Seville, transported on the Spanish Treasure Fleet
- Spain was not equipped to handle these inflows but the small Genovese community in Seville had the expertise
- With its 60 war galleys Genoa could also ship the Spanish silver safely through the Mediterranean
- For 100 years, the Genoa handled exclusively Spain's finances and got a cut of 10 – 20%.
- Genoa's luxurious Renaissance Palazzi, the Palazzi di Roli, are a living testimony to this Golden Age
- In the middle of the 17th century, the world's financial centers moved to Amsterdam and London though. Liguria started to decline and became impoverished.
- Tourism in the 19th century revived Liguria



Still no peace

The Royal Navy in the Mediterranean

- Despite Genoa's declining importance and the fading of the Spanish – Ottoman conflict, peace did not return.
- In the 18th century, the Royal Navy entered the frame to check Spain's & France's growing naval power.
- During the War of Spanish Succession, it captured Gibraltar (1703) and Menorca (1708) and kept them under the Treaty of Utrecht (1713)
- Both became naval bases. The Mediterranean Station was the most prestigious command in the Royal Navy
- Many battles for supremacy ensued. The largest were the Battle of Toulon (1744) & the Battle of Hyeres (1795), the latter fought with 30 ships on each side
- Toulon was conquered by the British in 1793 but lost again due to Napoleon's skills as artillery commander
- In 1798, Nelson destroyed the French Fleet in Aboukir
- In 1802, England captured Malta and had again a permanent fleet base it kept until 1967
- The opening of the Suez Canal in 1867 made the control of the Mediterranean even more important
- Major naval actions were fought here again in WWII



Battle of Toulon 1744



Siege of Toulon 1793

Motor Yacht or Sailboat?

Our homes 15 July to 5 Aug

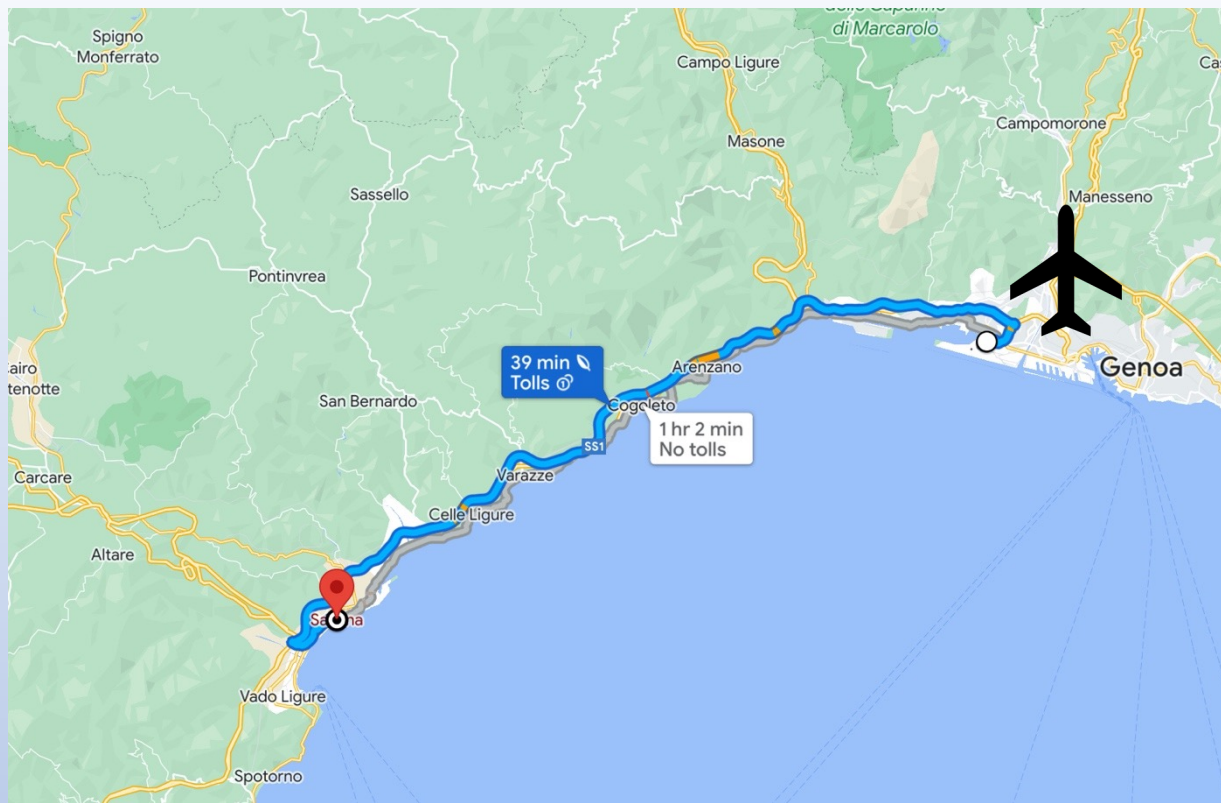
- Renting a boat in the Western Med is more challenging than in the Eastern Med
- Spain has its own licensing rules (how do they get away with in the EU?). Only few boats will cross the French-Spanish border
- The supply of rental boat is limited - the price levels elevated.
- We may have to switch to a motor yacht with 3 or 4 cabins and use more than one boat
- There may be a French leg with one boat and a Spanish leg with a second boat
- We will have to see – am sure there will be a solution





Old Harbor of Savona in 19th Century

**Week One
Savona – Fréjus
15 to 22 July**



Saturday, 15 July 2023

Start of the trip in Savona

- **Crew 1 arrives at the old harbor of Savona \approx 15.00 pm**
- **Taxis from Genoa airport arranged individually**

Savona to Fréjus

Enjoying the Ligurian Coast

15 - 22 July 2023

- Meeting time: Mon, 15 July 2023, 12.00 pm
- Meeting point: Savona, Yacht Harbor
- Travel arrangements to Genoa (closest airport) by participants individually
- Travel from Genoa to Savona: take a taxi – travel time around 20 minutes
- Arrival in Fréjus: Friday, 21 August 2023 in the evening
- Travel to Nice Airport: – takes 45 minutes – we arrange a van
- Travel arrangements back home from Nice: by participants individually
- Dress code: casual, swim wear, hiking shoes but also bring a fleece and a wind proof jacket
- Please remind us of any dietary restrictions like gluten and lactose intolerance

Grand Harbor La Valletta



Week One 15 – 22 July 2023

Savona to Fréjus



**Genoa
Airport**

Nice Airport

Savona

**Noli
Sanremo**

Monaco

Nice

Antibes

Fréjus

Marseille

Savona to Noli - Albenga

Saturday, 15 July 2023

- Our trip starts in Savona, an old rival to Genoa who conquered it in 1528, land filled the port and built the giant Priamar Fortress
- Savona was founded by the Liguers. Allied to Carthage, Rome took the town in 180 BC. Savona remained Roman for 1'000 years.
- As Genoa, it suffered heavily from Fatimid attacks in the 9th and 10th century
- Savona won independence in the 11th century and reported directly to the Emperor. There was fierce rivalry between Savona and Genoa for 500 years.
- 2 Popes came from Savona: Sixtus IV & Julius II
- Noli was founded by Greek settlers as Neapolis
- It was an independent town from 1193 – 1797
- Like Genoa and Savona, it had its own navy and supported actively the crusades
- Noli allied itself with Genoa in 1202 as a protection against Savona. The alliance lasted to 1797
- Noli's beach was the best shipyard in Liguria



Savona Old Port and Town



Noli Town and Fort

Albenga to Imperia

Sunday, 16 July 2023

- Imperia was created by Mussolini who merged the two towns of Oneglia and Porto Maurizio in 1923
- Oneglia was a Ligurian settlement “Pagus Uneglia”. Its date of foundation is unknown
- Porto Maurizio is a Roman settlement established in the 3rd century AD and was one of the last Byzantine ports in Liguria
- Both Oneglia & Porto Maurizio were sacked by the Fatimids and completely leveled
- Oneglia was then rebuilt by the Genovese Doria family. Andrea Doria was born here. It was sold to the Dukes of Savoy in 1576
- Genoa acquired Porto Maurizio in 1288
- Imperia was a battleground for Genoa, France and Spain in the 17th century and again during the Napoleonic wars. It suffered terribly
- Today, the town lives from tourism, olive oil based food and its large yacht harbor



Imperia to Sanremo

Monday, 17 July 2023

- Sanremo is less old than other towns in Liguria. Founded by Rome as Matutiana it had more than 50'000 inhabitants
- During the Fatimid raids in the 9th & 10th century, people moved to higher grounds and settled on the nearest hill: Sanremo's old town today
- For the following centuries, Sanremo was a small place with less than 5'000 people
- In 1753, it succumbed to Genoa who built the Santa Tecla Fortress to control the port
- Sanremo's rise to world fame started in the late 19th century when new roads, a railway line from Genoa and steamships made it accessible
- Famous people arrived on the beautiful coast of Sanremo. Austrian Empress Sissi lived for a few years here, Russian Tsar Nikolaus II holidayed in town and Alfred Nobel, the Swedish chemist who created the Nobel Prize, made it his home
- Sanremo was famous for its Grand Prix and its Music Festival but its fame faded in the 1970s
- Today, it is a cheap summer holiday place



San Remo to Monaco

Tuesday, 18 July 2023

- Monaco is an ancient Greek settlement founded by settlers from Massalia (Marseille)
- The two harbors which surround the original town were ideal for sheltering ships during bad weather
- Genoa acquired Monaco early and ruled it for several centuries before the Grimaldis, a Genoese family, snatched it & established their own rule
- At this time, Monaco was much larger including not only Monte Carlo but also Cape Martin and Menton
- After Napoleon, Monaco's fate was uncertain for almost a century. Both Savoy and France claimed it
- When Savoy ceded Nice to France in 1860 as a reward for the help during the Italian Risorgimento, Monaco became almost French. But England and other great powers objected
- As for Sanremo, luxury tourism came to the rescue and Monaco became a favorite sea side resort for the rich and famous by the end of the 19th century
- Monaco today owes its prosperity to tourism & low taxes. Unlike Sanremo, it continues the Grand Prix



Monaco to Villefranche & Nice

Wednesday, 19 July 2023

- Both Villefranche and Nice were settled by the Ligures. In Nice, there are even neolithic remains
- Greeks and Romans loved Villefranche's deep bay but did not establish a permanent settlement
- Eventually Villefranche was founded in 1295 by the Duke of Anjou. To attract people, he granted the new town the status of a free port (=tax free).
- It was sacked in 1543 by a Turco-French army
- Subsequently, the Dukes of Savoy fortified the town with a citadel and built the Fort Mont Alban.
- Nice (Nikaia) was founded by Greek from Marseille in 350 BC and became Roman 200 years later
- Both Nice and Villefranche were raided by Muslim forces in the 9th and 10th century
- Nice allied itself with Pisa to check Genoa's power but with Pisa's decline became part of La Provence
- In 1543 it repulsed the Franco-Turkish army led by Francois I and Barbarossa – a most unholy league
- In 1860 Savoy ceded Nice to France. It still looks and feels like an Italian town though



Nice to Antibes

Thursday, 20 July 2023

- Antibes is another Ligurian town which welcomed the Greek from Marseille when they arrived
- Officially founded in 430 BC, it was named Antipolis the town opposite Nice
- No traces of the Greek settlement have been found yet but it is reasonable to assume that the Greek settled on the rock, in the old town
- By 43 BC Antipolis was formally integrated into the Roman Province of Gallia Narbonensis. Remains of the Roman aqueduct survived to this day.
- Antibes saw its fair share of Muslim raids
- When the French Kings inherited La Provence in 1481, Antibes became the border town to Savoy
- The French King Henry II fortified it and famous Marshall Vauban strengthened the defenses
- In the 18th century it was heavily fought over by Austria and France in various wars
- It became a center for bohemian lifestyle after WWI and stayed this way. Picasso lived here for a while
- Today it is a busy tourist resort



Antibes from the Fort Carré



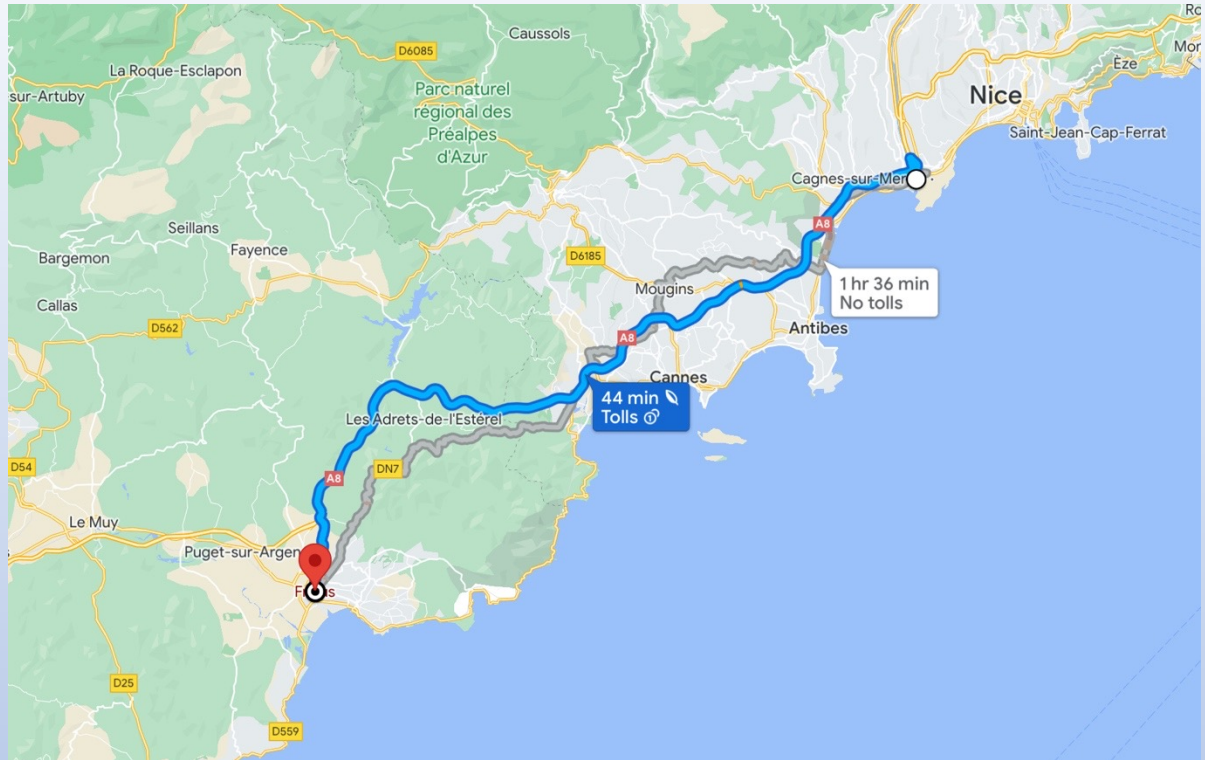
Vauban's Fortifications

Antibes to Fréjus

Friday, 21 July 2023

- Fréjus is another town which dates back to the Ligures. Greeks never settled here.
- Caesar though loved the place and founded Forum Julius around 49 BC. It became very important under Augustus who settled the veterans of his 8th Legion here.
- With 35 ha, Fréjus was big and had a 3.4 km long town wall. There are many Roman remains here such as a light house at the former port, a bridge and an aqueduct
- After Rome imploded, Fréjus was subject to many Muslim raids. Between 889 – 975 AD it was a colony of the Fatimid Empire and served as base for Muslim Raids
- By the 11th century, there was very little left of the splendor of Forum Julius. Under the dukes of Savoy, it was rebuilt as small town
- It gained some attention in 1799 when Napoleon landed here on his return from his wasteful campaign in Egypt.





Saturday, 22 July 2023

Change of Crew in Fréjus

- **Crew 1 leaves the boat at the Yacht Harbor** \approx **09.00 am**
- **Crew 2 arrive at the Harbor** \approx **15.00 pm**
- **A van to and from Nice airport will be arranged by us**




Citadelle de Saint-Tropez

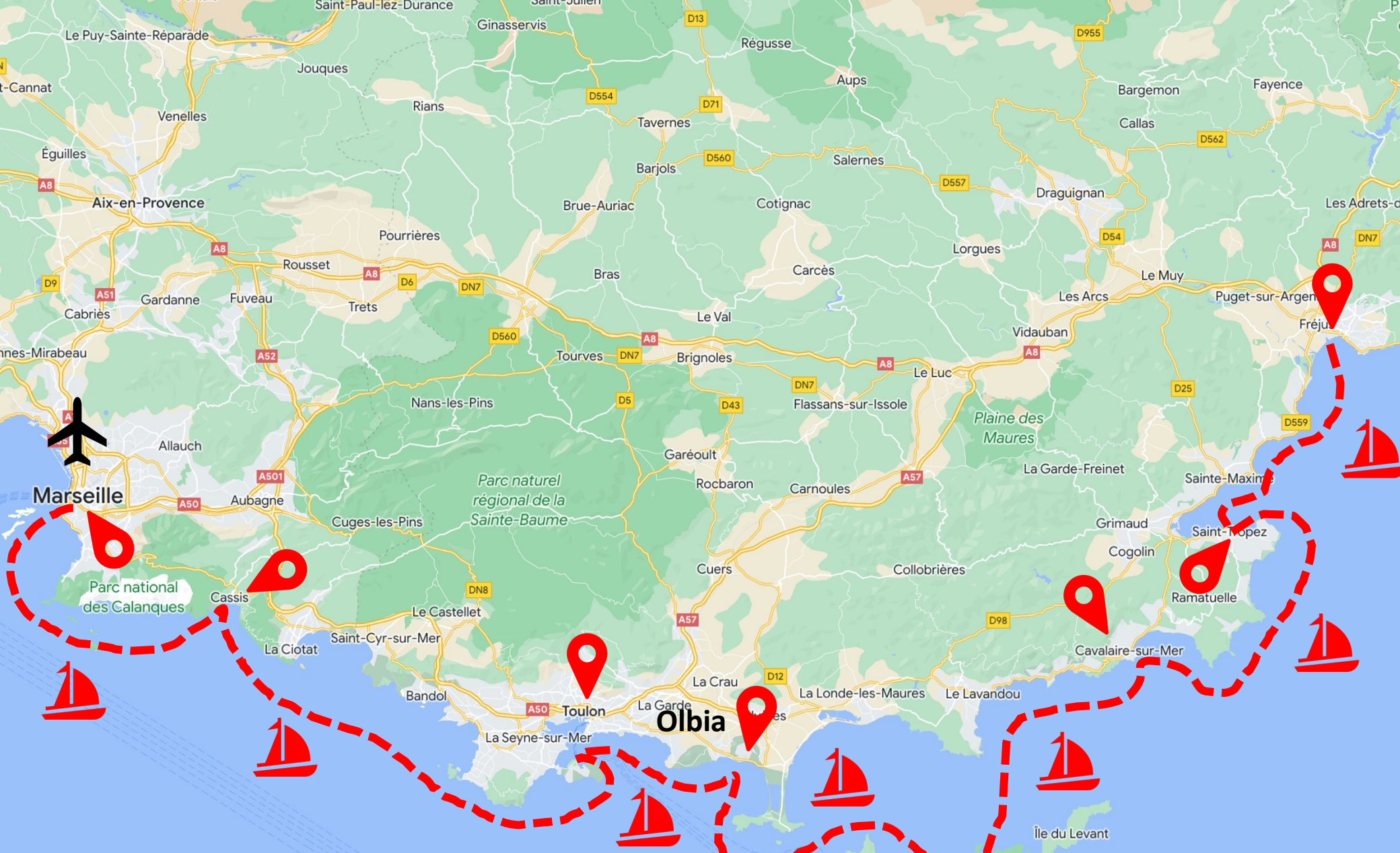
**Week Two
Frejus to Marseilles
22 – 29 July 2023**

Fréjus to Marseille

On Ancient Greek Trails

22 to 29 August 2022

- Meeting time: 22 July, 15.00 pm
 - Meeting point: Fréjus Yacht Harbor
 - Flight arrangements to Nice Airport: by people individually
 - Travel to Fréjus Yacht Harbor: we arrange a van for the 45 min trip
 - Arrival in Marseille: Friday, 28 July in the evening
- 
- A large, multi-deck ferry boat with a white upper section and a dark blue lower section is shown on the water. The boat has several windows and a radar scanner on the top deck. The water is blue and the sky is clear.
- Travel to Marseille Airport on 29 July : take a taxi. There are plenty. 20 min travel time
 - Travel arrangements back home from Marseille Airport: by participants individually
 - Dress code: casual, swim wear, hiking shoes but bring a sweater for the evening and a wind proof jacket – just in case
 - Please remind us of dietary restrictions



Week Two 22 – 29 July 2023

Fréjus to Marseille

Fréjus to Saint Tropez

Saturday, 22 July 2023

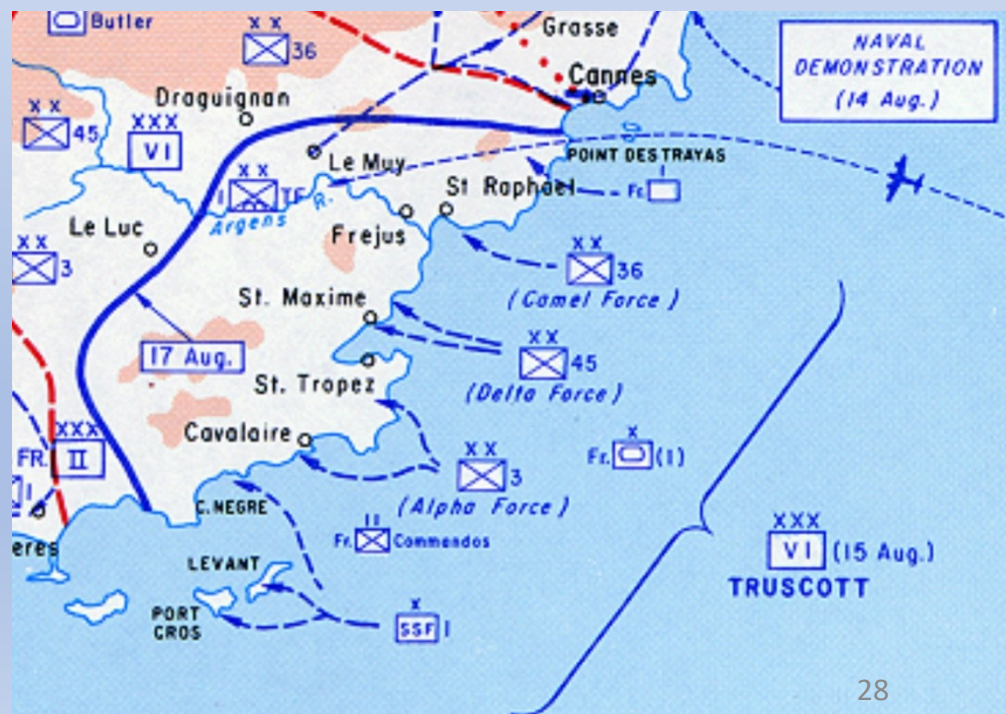
- As many sister towns on the Ligurian coast, Saint Tropez is also of Greek origin. Founded by people from Massalia, its original name was Athenopolis – it was a small settlement
- The Romans took it over in 31 BC. The perfect climate attracted wealthy Romans who built their villas in the hills behind town
- In the 9th and 10th century, Saint Tropez was an Arab-Muslim colony and governed from Fréjus. It was only liberated in 980 AD
- The town took its name from Saint Torpes, a Christian martyr who was killed in Pisa during Nero's time. His body is said to have been washed up on the shores of Saint Tropez
- In the 15th century, the town was rebuilt with the help of Genoa and was a small republic
- It became French in 1481 with the rest of La Provence
- Saint Tropez became a bohemian town in early 20th century and a luxury seaside resort after World War II with Brigitte Bardot



From Saint Tropez to Cavalaire

Sunday, 23 July 2023

- South of Saint Tropez, there are many beach clubs with intl. brand names like Nikki Beach, Bagatelle, Byblos and La Reserve
- Beach goers sip their drink, listen to lounge music and hang out in their deck chairs
- It was different though on 15 August 1944
- A good two months after the Normandy landing, men of the US 3rd Infantry Division stormed these beaches to liberate France
- Within less than two weeks they would reach Toulon, Grenoble and Montélimar
- The operation code named “DRAGOON” contributed to the fast collapse of German forces in France & withdrawal to the Rhein
- It takes the eye of a soldier to find all the monuments remembering those crucial days for Europe’s freedom. But there are plenty
- The prosperity we enjoy today, we owe to these 20-years-old youngsters in summer 1944 who stormed these beaches
- Something we ought to remember



Cavalaire to Port Cros or Porquerolles

Monday, 24 July 2023

- Leaving the landing-beaches we will sail over to Port Cros and Porquerolles where we will stay for the night. Both are part of the island group Îles d'Hyères
- The island were settled by Greek & Romans
- The Fatimid Fleets and later the Ottoman pirates under Admiral Barbarossa used the island as staging areas for their raids
- French King François I began fortifying the island in 1541 to deny the pirates these safe heaven. His efforts suffered from lack of funds
- Under Cardinal Richelieu, eventually three forts were built in Port Cros. All still in good condition
- But peace did not return. Once the Royal Navy kept a permanent fleet in the Mediterranean > 1700, the island got into the line of fire again
- To the Napoleonic wars, the Royal Navy tried to conquer them. In 1795 they were the site of major battle between a French & British Fleet
- Today, Port Cros is a natural park and a paradise for hiking and swimming



Port Cros to Olbia

Tuesday, 25 July 2023

- Olbia is often called the lost city in the Mediterranean
- Forgotten until 19909, when pottery was found on the site, Olbia was one of the great Greek towns on the Ligurian coast
- Founded in 325 BC by Greek from Massilia, it prospered under both the Greek and Romans
- But with the collapse of the Roman Empire it was abandoned in the 7th century – its harbor submerged
- Nobody has solved the puzzle of the sinking harbor yet. Underwater archeologist took detailed photos of the entire site and hope to resolve the mysterious riddle.
- Given size and fortifications, it must have been a very wealthy place



Olbia to Toulon

Wednesday, 26 July 2023

- Toulon is one of the few ports on the Ligurian coast that has neither Greek nor Ligurian roots
- Founded by Roman Legionnaires in the 2nd century BC, Telo Martius became quickly a manufacturing center for purple dye which the Romans had brought from Phoenicia
- Its large natural harbor became a welcome shelter for Roman ships in the Mediterranean
- In the 9th and 10th century, Toulon shared the fate of the Ligurian towns and was often raided
- It started to prosper again under the Counts of Provence and became French in 1486
- The French Kings immediately recognized its strategic value and made it a royal port in 1494
- King François I invited the Ottoman Corsair and Admiral Barbarossa in 1543 to winter with his fleet in Toulon. Europe was outraged.
- During the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, Toulon was besieged and blockaded by the Royal Navy. It is still the French Navy's main port



Toulon to Cassis

Thursday, 21 July 2023

- Our next stop after Toulon will be Cassis, a town first settled by the Ligures
- It was a small fishing & hunting village. The Greek and the Romans used the many Calanques to sit out bad weather but never developed the site
- Cassis is famous for its steep cliffs and narrow calanques, narrow inlets carved into a limestone plateau by slightly acidic rain. We found similar structures in 2019 in Dalmatia.
- The village on the beach could not be defended against raiders from the sea. Thus the villagers built a castle right above the beach. To my knowledge the castle was never sacked
- Cassis saw considerable development in the 19th century. Its limestone, Pierre de Cassis, was saltwater resistant and widely used for building quays all around the Mediterranean
- The limestone soil was also ideal for vineyards and olive plantations
- Today, Cassis is a typical Provencal tourist town and very busy during summer time

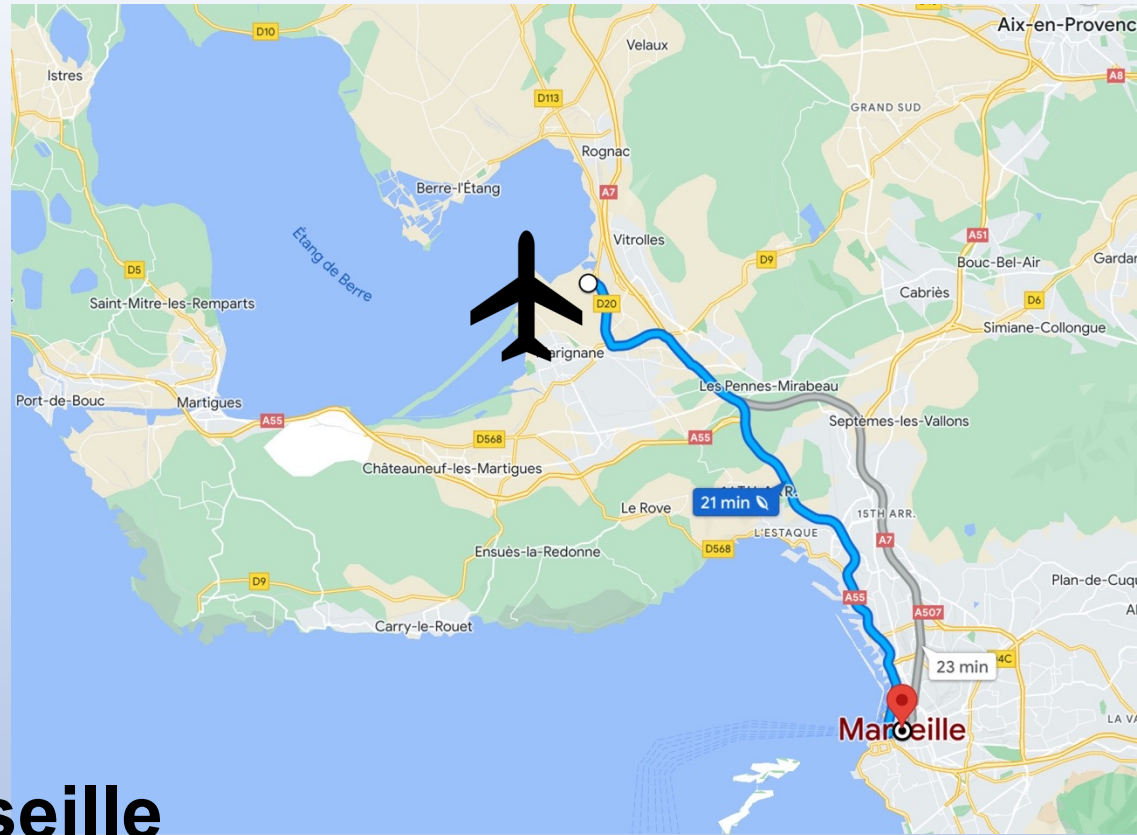


Cassis to Marseille

Friday, 21 July 2023

- Last day of sailing. We arrive tonight in the Greek harbor of Massalia or modern Marseille
- Founded by Greek settlers from Phocaea – just north of Izmir (we visited Foca 2022), Massalia was the preeminent Greek town on the Ligurian coast and parent to many follow-on settlements. Only Béziers is older than Marseille.
- During the Punic Wars, it sided with Rome and could preserve its independence
- It declined during the Arab raids from the 8th century onwards and only began to prosper again under the Counts of Provence
- The Black Death devastated it in 1347 as did the sack by the Kingdom of Aragon a little later.
- After it became French in 1481, it played a secondary role compared to Toulon which was closer to Italy and more important for the French Kings with their ambitious Italian plans.
- With almost 2 mio people, it is France's second largest city & its most port in the Mediterranean



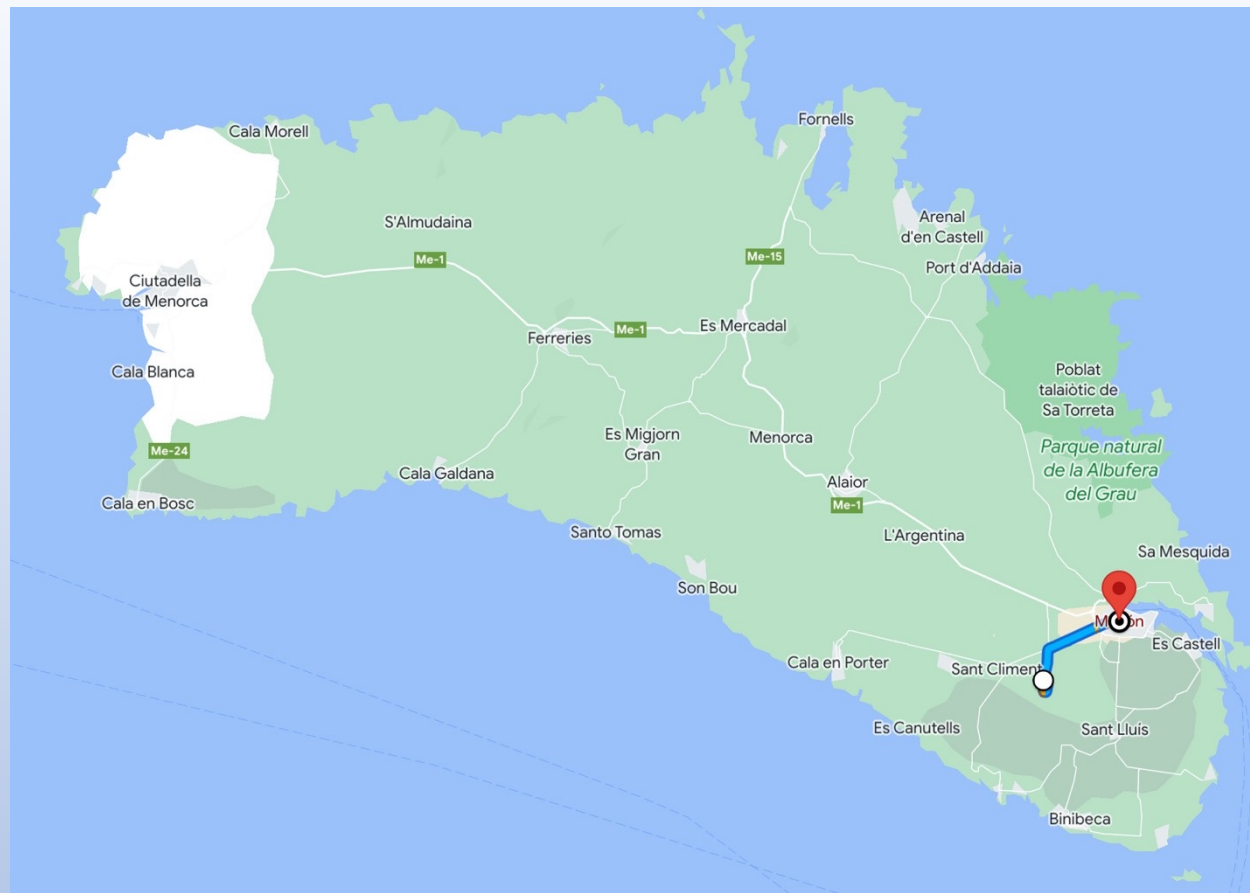


Saturday, 29 July 2023

We return the boat in Marseille

- **Crew 2 leaves the boat in old port \approx 09.00 am**
- **Taxis from and to Marseille airport arranged individually**
- **JAB and HBA take a flight to Menorca for the 3rd week**

Sat, 29 July 2023



Meeting the Boat and Crew 3 in Mahon

- **Crew 3 arrives at Port Mahon** **≈ 15.00 am**
- **Transport arrangements from Menorca Airport by Taxi, there are plenty – it takes 10 min only**



Week Three
Menorca - Mallorca - Ibiza
29 July - 5 Aug 2023

Mahon to Ibiza

The Beauty of the Baleares

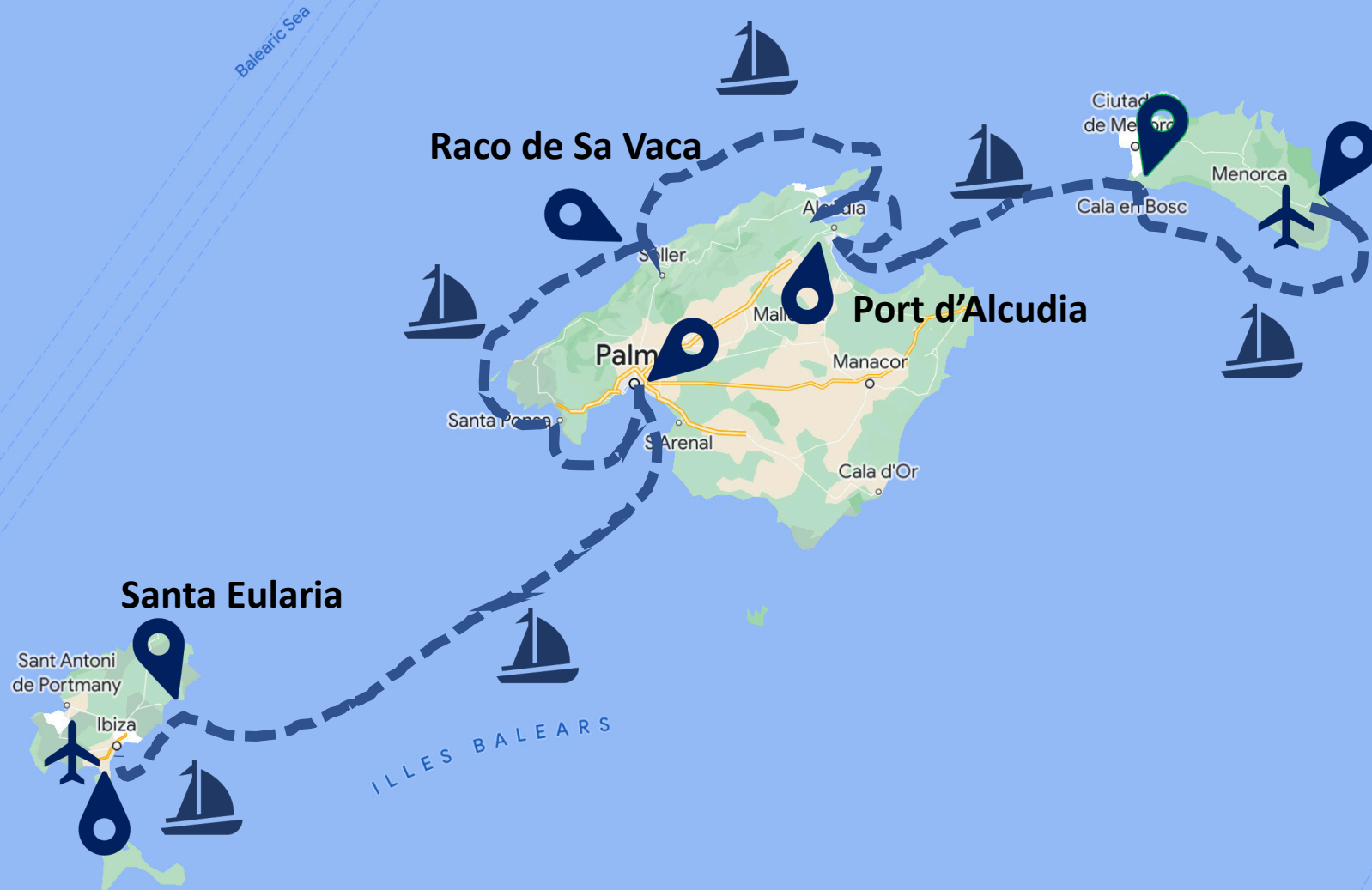
29 July – 5 Aug 2023

- Meeting time: 29 August, 15.00 pm
- Meeting point: Mahon Yacht Harbor
- Travel arrangements to Menorca Airport: by participants individually
- Travel to Mahon Yacht Harbour: take a cab – there are plenty – it takes ten minutes
- Arrival in Ibiza Friday, 4 Aug 2023
- Travel to Ibiza airport on 5 August: by taxi – there are plenty – takes 17 min
- Travel arrangements back home from Ibiza: by participants individually
- Dress code: casual, swim wear, hiking shoes but bring a sweater and a wind proof jacket
- Please remind us of dietary restrictions



Week Three 29 July – 5 August 2023

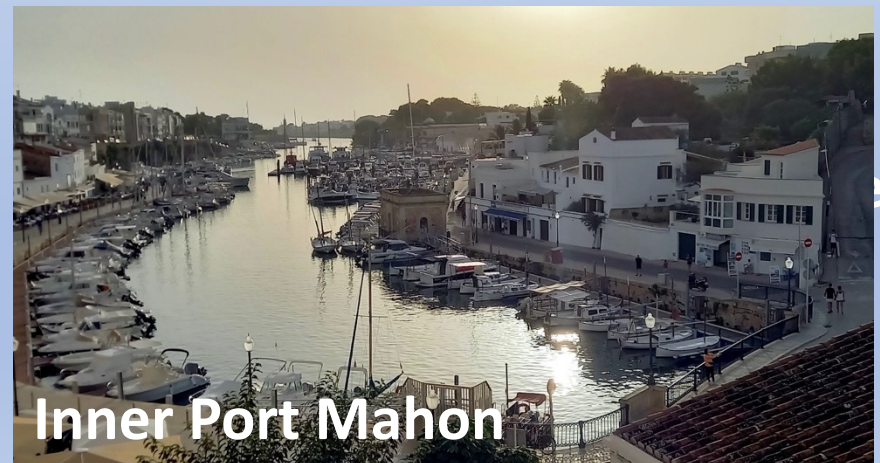
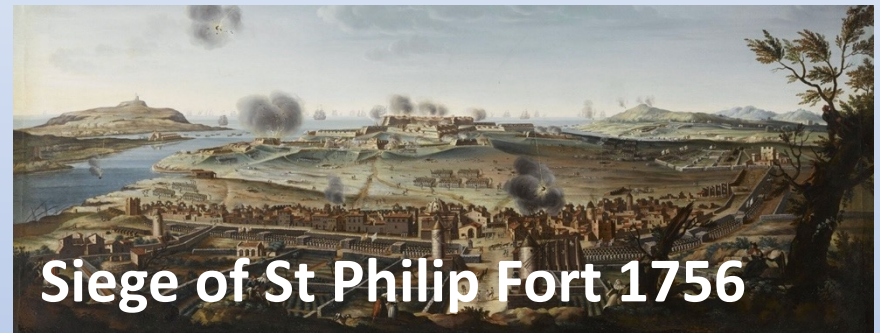
Port Mahon to Ibiza



Port Mahon

Saturday, 29 July 202

- We now leave the Greek world and enter the realm of the Phoenicians and its colony Carthage (Tunis)
- Mahon with its excellent, 5 km long natural harbor always attracted mariners. Founded by Carthage, it was taken over by Rome after the Punic Wars. In the 9-10th century it was a colony the Islamic Caliphate of Cordoba
- Captured in 1287 by the Aragon King Alphonso III, it became Aragon's most important trade hub in the Mediterranean
- Its wealth attracted Barbarossa, Ottoman Corsair, who invaded in 1553 with 30 ships and 2'500 men, sacked the town and enslaved 6'000 people
- Less than a year later, construction of the San Felipe fortress started to guard the port
- Once the Royal Navy ventured into the Med in 1700, it needed a permanent base for the fleet
- With the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, it acquired not only Gibraltar but also Menorca & stayed to 1782
- The English moved Menorca's capital to Mahon



Option A: Ciutadella

Sunday, 30 July 2023

- We have two options for today: visit either the scenic southern coast or sail west see to Ciutadella. We decide in the morning
- After 5 hours, we could arrive the rocky shores of Ciutadella
- After the Punic Wars it became part of the Roman Empire and its large economy
- Visigoth for a short while, it became Muslim from the 10th to the 13th century and was known under the name Medina el Jezira.
- Under the Aragon Kings, it was Menorca's capital and rebuilt in Spanish Style.
- Despite being well fortified, it was sacked by Turgut Reis, the Ottoman corsair, who had arrived with 140 ships & 15'000 soldiers.
- The 3'000 surviving inhabitants were all sold in North Africa's slave markets
- It was Menorca's capital until 1713 before the English moved it to Port Mahon

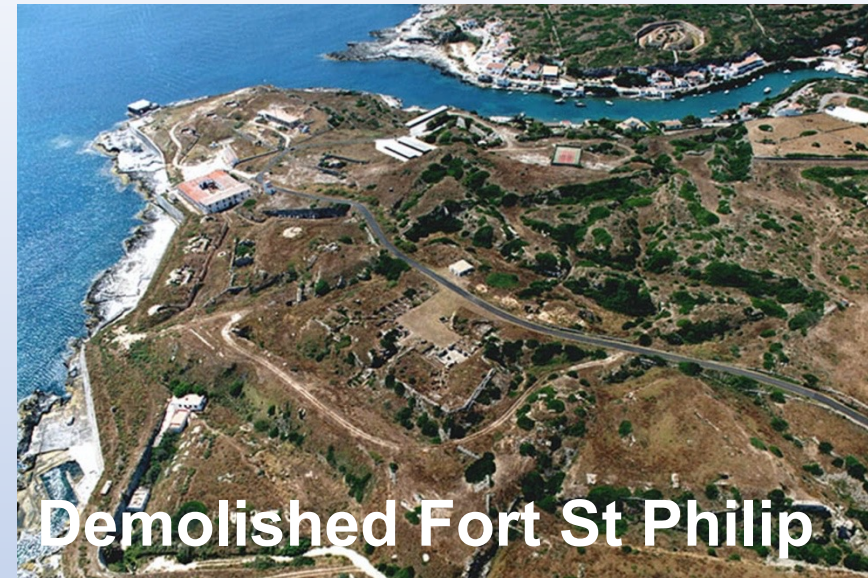
Scenic Ascent will take 90 min
Crotona Medieval Town



Option B: Cala Galdana

Sunday, 30 July 2023

- Alternatively, if you are more in the mood for a leisurely day in turquoise coves, we could follow the southern coast of Menorca
- We could stay for the night below the limestone cliffs to Cala Galdana, a tourist resort developed in the 1960s.
- Menorca is geologically divided into two:
 - The northern part are old rock formations from the continental African shelf, about 400 million years old.
 - The southern part is made from limestone from the Tethys sea floor & only 10 m years old
- The yellow limestone and turquoise water made Menorca famous.
- Once airlines offered affordable tickets in the 1970s, tourists came and now take the island over during summertime
- After two centuries of poverty, the island has a future again



Galdana to Port d'Alcudia

Monday, 31 July 2023

- The distance from Cala Galdana to Alcudia is close to 50 nautical miles. We will start early to complete the crossing by lunch time
- The area of Alcudia was already settled in Bronze Time. Am sure that the Phoenicians and people from Carthage lived here too but could not find any evidence.
- Romans settled just outside today's Alcudia in a town called Pollentia. Alcudia though was only founded in 1298 by King James II of Aragon after he expelled the Muslims from the island
- Alcudia is surrounded by well preserved medieval town walls as we saw them in Aigues-Mortes or Noli. They were completed in 1362.
- The town got its fair share of Corsair attacks in the 16th & 17th century but was never captured
- Alcudia lived in the doldrum for several hundred years and continued to shrink until the 1970s, when B-737 and DC-9 made flying affordable
- Major tourist resorts developed around the port of Alcudia – the beaches attract crowds



Alcudia to Raco de Sa Vaca

Tuesday, 1 August 2023

- It is a full sailing day where we stop on the way in little bays for swimming and some rest
- Our destination is on Mallorca's rough western coast where the rocks drop straight into the water
- At the end of the bay is the small village Sa Calobra which is only reachable by road since 1933. The pass is 682 meter above sea level and a paradise for drivers who love hairpin bends and sharp turns.
- Mallorca is part of the African continental plate. Its collision with Europe folded the two mountain chains which give Mallorca its shape. The mountains on the west coast we sail along are about 1'400 meters high and are 20 m year old coral reefs from the Tethys Sea
- Behind the bay opens the Canyon de la Calobra, a canyon cut by water into the limestone rocks. With good shoes and not minding getting wet feet it can be explored – which I am sure we will do
- We will stay overnight in the bay since it is one of the few places on the west coast that provides good protection against weather and swell.
- It is the Swiss National Holiday today.



West coast to Palma

Wednesday, 2 August 2023

- Today will be the second day of long-distance sailing. Our journey will be as long as yesterday
- After rounding the south-western corner of Mallorca we will reach a far more populated area of the island
- Palma and the surroundings are the heart of the island's tourism today and busy places.
- Palma is the sister town to Pollonia in the island's north and was founded by the Romans
- During the 10th to 13th century it was part of the Caliphate of Cordoba. It became part of the Aragon Kingdom in the 13th century.
- Palma was an important port for Aragon. Its geographical position made it ideal for trading with the Spanish east coast, Northern Africa, the Italian states and the Ottoman Empire.
- Due to its strong fortifications, it was attacked but never sacked by Ottoman corsairs.
- Some of the fortifications are still standing today. We stay here overnight



Cala de Santa Ponça



Palma de Mallorca

Palma to via Santa Eularia

Thursday, 3 August 2023

- It's time to leave Mallorca & cross over to Ibiza
- The route for the very last leg of our journey will remain open until we know about the weather and our preferences.
- We can either sail along the busy, touristy east coast of Ibiza with beautiful beaches or follow the rugged western coast with its small but unprotected little inlets and bays.
- Ibiza is the youngest of the three Balearic island and composed mostly from sedimentary limestone deposits. Its west coast looks similar to Mallorca's but the hills are much lower.
- Ibiza was founded in 684 BC by Phoenician sailors and came later under the control of Carthage, Rome's archrival in North Africa
- Roman for 1'000 years and Muslim for 400, it became part of the Kingdom of Aragon in 1235.
- Ibiza's strong defenses protected it against the Ottoman pirates
- Today' the island is known for its nightlife

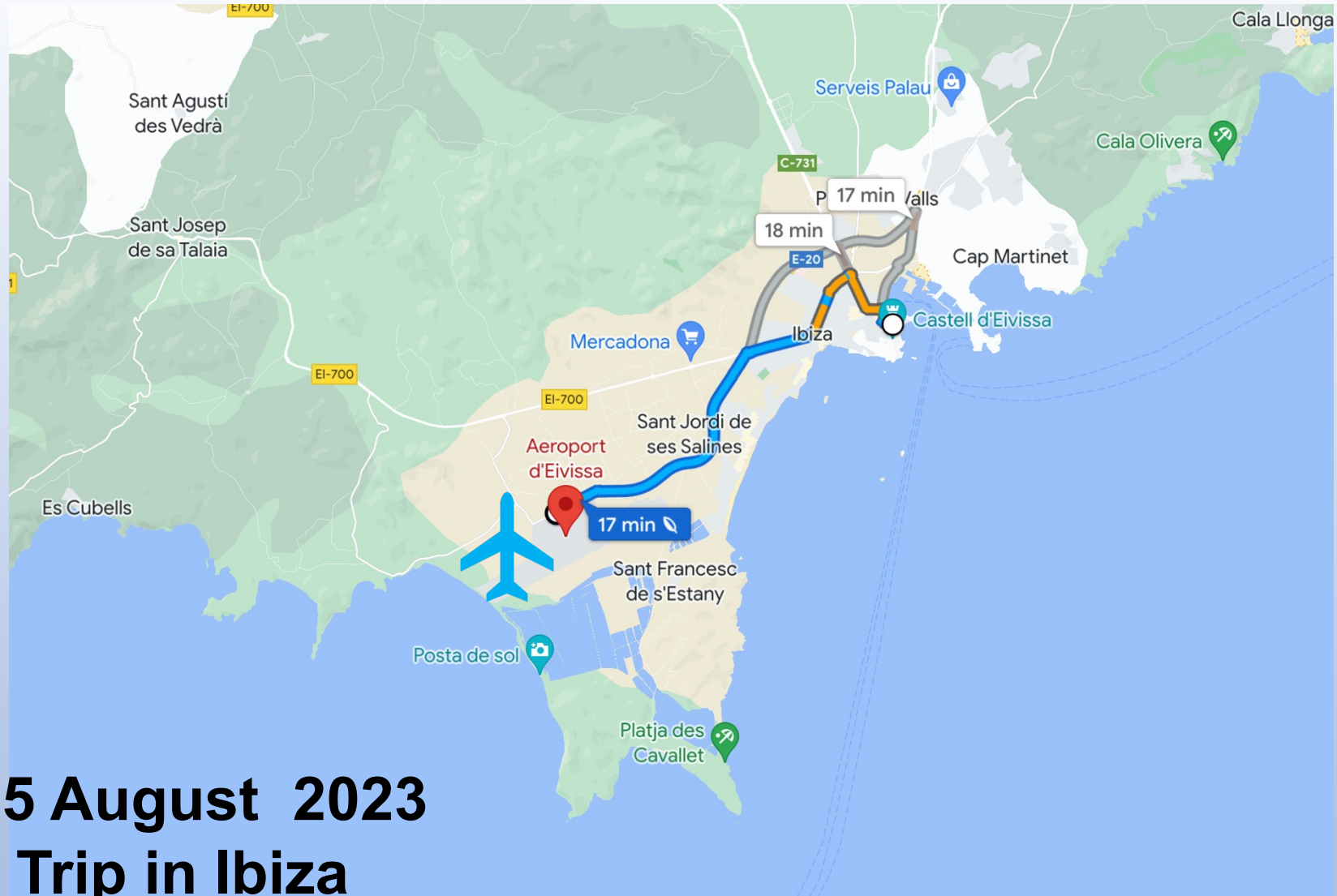


Leisure Day in Ibiza

Friday, 4 August 2023

- Last day of our three weeks trip
- After so many long sailing days we are going to take it easy today
- Whether we will explore the beautiful old town of Ibiza (the clubbing part is closer to the beach), or take the boat to a quiet bay or do an inland excursion will be decided on the spot
- There is also a large Phoenician necropolis or the remains of the first Phoenician settlement at Sa Caleta to visit.
- The northern part of the island is still quite rural with lots of forests and many farms – not what you expect on an island that has a reputation as party place.
- Agroturismo is thus the latest trend in the tourism industry – and works well. After decades of beach, sun and other stuff, people want to go back to nature.





Saturday, 5 August 2023

End of our Trip in Ibiza

- **Crew 3 leaves the boat in the Yacht Harbor \approx 09.00 am**
- **There are plenty of taxis at the harbor**
- **The ride to the airport takes less than 20 min**

2024: Sagunto to Seville with change of boat in Cadiz



The Busy Tidal Port of Seville where all Ships from LatAm arrived