ITALY, GREECE, CROATIA, MONTENEGRO

Discover the beauty of the Adriatic aboard Celebrity Ascent while exploring four remarkable countries, spending two unforgettable days in Rome, and sharing the journey with friends.

Travel is one of life's greatest investments. It broadens our perspective, deepens our appreciation for different cultures, and creates memories that stay with us forever.

For more than 15 years, Mary and I have had the privilege of leading groups of friends to some of the world's most fascinating destinations. Together we've explored Alaska, Western Europe, Russia, Israel, Peru, the Mediterranean, the Baltic States, the Greek Isles, the British Isles, North Africa, and more.

What has made these trips memorable isn't simply where we've gone—it's the people we've shared them with. The friendships that develop while traveling together often become just as meaningful as the destinations themselves. That's why we call these journeys Travel with Friends. Mary and I would be honored to have you join us as we explore one of Europe's most beautiful regions together

The 2027 trip will feature two incredible opportunities.

- Mary and I have visited 64 countries, but it wasn't until four years ago that we added Croatia and Montenegro to our list. Few tourists have visited these two countries, though they are the gems of the Adriatic Sea—famous for being one of the cleanest and clearest bodies of water in Europe. You will marvel at the beauty and history of these two countries.
- We've been on 30+ cruises, sailing on five different cruise lines. Without doubt, our favorite cruise ship is the Celebrity Ascent. An Edge Series ship, it redefines cruising. Just sailing on this magnificent ship makes the trip worthwhile.

There are so many things to like about this trip:

- Explore four fascinating countries: Italy, Greece, Montenegro, and Croatia.
- Spend two full days exploring Rome.
- Sail aboard the stunning 5.5 star Celebrity Ascent (launched in 2024).
- Enjoy seven included shore excursions.
- Fly non-stop between Dallas and Rome.
- We'll have cool weather; average high temperature will be 72°F.

Travel takes time and money, but it's worth the investment. You'll be stretched and challenged, and you'll learn more about the world in which you live and the life you live in the world.

I hope you'll join us on this memorable trip.

Don and Mary McMinn djmcminn@msn.com

OCTOBER 5-18, 2027

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Celebrity Ascent

YOUR 14-DAY JOURNEY

Oct. 5 — Departure for Rome
Your adventure begins with an overnight flight to Rome.

Oct. 6 — Welcome to Rome
Settle into your hotel and enjoy an introductory tour of the Eternal City.

Oct. 7 — Discover Rome
Full day to discover St. Peter's Basilica, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Navona Square

Oct. 8 — Embarkation
Travel to Civitavecchia to board Celebrity Ascent

Oct. 9 — Messina, Sicily
Explore Messina and beautiful Taormina with views of Mount Etna.

Oct. 10 — Day at Sea
Enjoy the ship's dining, entertainment, spa, and spectacular Mediterranean views.

Oct. 11 — Olympia, Greece
Walk through the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

Oct. 12 — Corfu, Greece
Discover Corfu's UNESCO-listed Old Town and lush island beauty.

Oct. 13 — Split, Croatia
Explore Diocletian's Palace and stroll the Riva waterfront.

Oct. 14 — Bar, Montenegro
Experience one of the Adriatic's hidden gems.

Oct. 15 — Dubrovnik, Croatia
Visit the Pearl of the Adriatic and its magnificent medieval walls.

Oct. 16 — Day at Sea
Relax and savor your final full day aboard.

Oct. 17 — Naples, Italy
Gateway to Pompeii, Sorrento, and Mount Vesuvius.

Oct. 18 — Return Home
Disembark in Rome and fly home with lasting memories.

CELEBRITY ASCENT

What Makes Celebrity Ascent One of the Greatest Cruise Ships at Sea

- The Ascent replaces the traditional single massive dining room with four distinct main dining rooms—Normandy, Cyprus, Cosmopolitan, and Tuscan—each offering a unique theme and exclusive menu items while remaining complimentary.
- Infinite Verandas: These staterooms replace traditional balconies with a motorized window that drops halfway down, effectively turning the entire cabin into a balcony and increasing living space by roughly 23%.
- Magic Carpet: A tennis-court-sized platform suspended over the side of the ship. It functions as a luxury embarkation station at Deck 2, a specialty restaurant at Deck 16, and an open-air lounge in between.
- The ship is essentially a floating art gallery, filled with contemporary art, architecture, and sculpture.
- The theatre reimagines cruise entertainment by eliminating the traditional stage and curtain. It immerses guests in the action with four distinct stages, one of which juts out directly into the audience to create an interactive, theater-in-the-round experience with three large, moving projector screens.

Pre-Trip Opportunities

1. Mary and I will host two group dinners at our house before the trip so we can get to know one another and talk about trip logistics. Out-of-town guests can join via Zoom.
2. Your trip will be enhanced by learning more about our destinations, so I'll recommend books to read and videos to watch.

COST & DETAILS

TRIP COST: $7,700 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Includes

- Roundtrip airfare from DFW in Main Economy (free checked bags, choose your seat, ticket is upgradable).If you provide your own airfare, subtract $1,000 from the price listed above.
- Two nights at a 4-star hotel in Rome
- Ten-night cruise in a prime Veranda cabin (taxes and fees included)
- Private shore excursions in seven ports
- Entry fee to major sights
- All gratuities for local tour guides and bus drivers
- Transfers to and from airport to hotel and ship

Does Not Include

- Gratuities and personal charges on the ship
- Lunches on shore excursions
- Trip insurance. Numerous companies offer trip insurance which covers cancelled trips, medical emergencies, and other issues. Options include Generali Global Assistance (generalitravelinsurance.com), Travel Guard (travelguard.com), and Travelex (travelex.com). If you think an insurance policy would be beneficial, pursue this on your own.

The cost of the trip stated in this brochure is good until April 1, 2027. After that, the price may go up if cruise and airfare fares change.

Note for single travelers: Ideally, you can find a friend who will be your roommate, or, on most of my trips I've been able to find a roommate for single travelers. But if not, you'll need to pay a single supplement of $3,800.

Payment Schedule/Cancellations/Refunds

- Deposit - $600 per person (non-refundable). The trip is limited to the first 50 people who make a deposit and submit a trip registration form.
- First payment of $3,000 due February 15, 2027 ($1,500 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of $2,100 nonrefundable).
- Second payment of $2,000 due April 1, 2027 ($2,000 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of $4,100 nonrefundable).
- Final payment of $2,100 due June 15, 2027 (on this date, the entire cost of the trip is nonrefundable).

Payments can be made in four installments or less.
Make checks payable to Travel with Friends and mail to:
2322 Creekside Cir. South, Irving, TX 75063

TRIP REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 5-18, 2027

TRAVELER INFORMATION *Every person needs to fill out this form.*

1. Your name exactly as it appears on your passport

_____

2. Date of birth _____

3. Place of birth _____

4. Your passport number _____

5. Date passport issued _____

6. Date passport expires _____ *(must be valid through March 2028)*

7. Best email address _____

8. Cell number _____

9. Your roommate _____

10. Your preferred name for name badge _____

11. Mailing address

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

12. Emergency contact name _____

Emergency contact phone number _____

You can use auto-fill to insert data and then print form. Please check the accuracy of your information. Inaccuracies will create problems with reservations and tickets. For more information, email Don at djmcminn@msn.com or call 214.783.4414.

Airfare *(Please check one.)*

☐ I will make my own airfare reservation (your departure city roundtrip to Rome). If your arrival doesn't correspond to the group's arrival time, you will be responsible for transportation from the airport to our hotel.

☐ I will fly with the group from DFW.

Cost of trip includes airfare in Main Economy. You'll be able to choose your seat, check one bag at no cost, and pay for upgrades.

Pictorial Directory

Before every trip we prepare a pictorial directory that includes a picture and short bio of every guest. If you've been in a previous directory I can use that information (please update if needed). If you've not traveled with us, please write a 35-word biographical sketch (family, career, hobbies, etc.) in the space below, and send me a headshot (camera photo is fine).

As an example, here's Don's bio: Born/raised in Dallas, wife Mary, two daughters, three grandchildren, minister at Stonebriar, graduated UT Austin and UNT. Hobbies: vineyard, reading, creating pedagogical art, travelled to 64 countries.

PLACES WE'VE BEEN

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10

PHOTO LOCATIONS

1. Israel
2. Rome
3. Holland
4. Berlin
5. Loch Ness, Scotland
6. Santorini, Greece
7. Oman
8. Paris
9. Peru
10. Stonehenge, England

PLACES WE'VE BEEN

PHOTO LOCATIONS

11. St. Peter's Basilica
12. Amsterdam
13. Machu Picchu, Peru
14. Rome
15. London Bridge
16. Celsus Library
17. Parthenon
18. Sagra Familia, Barcelona
19. Acropolis, Athens