



Cruise : **MEDITERRANEAN**
Italy, France, Spain, Portugal

Cruise Ship: **MSC ORCHESTRA**

Departing from: **Genoa (Portofino), Italy**

**Itineraries: Marseille (Provence), Malaga (Granada), Cadiz (Seville),
Lisbon (Cascais), Alicante, Mahon, Olbia**

Departure Date: 03/06/2024

Duration: 11 Days, 10 Nights

Marseille (Provence)

Tue 4 June 2024

CITY TOUR

AIX-EN-PROVENCE - MRS02

Duration
4 h



We will leave Marseille port for an approx. 45-minute drive to the lovely town of Aix-en-Provence. The excursion starts with a visit to the famous XII century St. Saviour's Cathedral and gardens. The Cathedral was built on the site of a Roman Temple and dates from a period that spans the XI and XIII centuries. Fronted by a richly decorated Gothic-style portal with elaborately carved doors, the Cathedral is flanked on the north by an unfinished tower. Enjoy a pleasant walk (approx. 1.5 hours) through the historic town centre before reaching the famous Mazarino Quarter, a residential district created by Cardinal Mazarin's brother in the last half of the XVII century for the gentry of Aix en Provence. Enjoy some free time for shopping before boarding the coach to return to the port.

Please note: this tour includes long periods of walking on uneven ground; guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits. Due to local rules in France every guest must be properly sitting on the excursion coach. This includes also children aged from 0 up to three years old. If you travel with children in this age, please contact the Shore Excursions' Desk on the ship at least 48 hours prior to your tour to have a baby chair requested and placed on the excursion coach and for any additional information. Even with this early notice, the baby seats are never guaranteed.

CASSIS ON YOUR OWN - MRS03

Duration
4:30 h



Formerly a quiet fishing village on the southern coastline of France near Marseille, Cassis has grown into a charming small town and popular international tourist resort. The town is particularly famed for its cliffs, calanques - steep-walled inlets - and the local white and rosé wines. This excursion allows you to visit it on your own, at a more relaxed pace, stopping at the places that most interest you. Get on the coach and leave Marseille behind, following the coastal road to reach this renowned resort in the south of France after an approx. 1.5-hour drive. At the coach park, a local wheeled train awaits you for a short transfer to the centre of Cassis. Once there, you will have about 2 hours free time to stroll along the picturesque streets lined with brightly-coloured houses or along the charming harbour, where you can admire the splendid panorama from the waterfront. Shopping lovers can wander around the shops, while those in search of relaxation can opt for a quiet stop at a café. At the appointed time, you will pick up the little wheeled train that will take you to the coach for the return journey to Marseille and your ship.

Please note: the starting place of the local wheeled train may be crowded; please expect some queues. The little tourist train is available from May through middle September; for any call before May or after middle September, guests will walk to the city centre from the coach parking lot (approx. 500 mt.). This tour is not available from October until February inclusive.

**MSC****EXCURSIONS**

Discoveries designed for you

MARSEILLES CITY TOUR - MRS06

**Duration**
4:30 h

Located in the south of France, Marseille is an important maritime town in the south of France and will seduce you with its cosmopolitan charm and rich history. After leaving the port and boarding your coach, your first encounter with the city is from the top of the hill where the Basilica of Notre Dame de la Garde stands majestically. The Basilica consists of a lower and an upper church and was built on the site of an ancient chapel. Once off the coach, your guide will give you some information about one of the symbols of the city before you have some free time to admire the beautiful view of Marseille or to visit the basilica on your own. Afterwards, the tour continues with a coach tour passing by some of Marseille's landmarks. You will drive along the Corniche Kennedy, a long panoramic road that runs alongside the sea, and passing by the Château de Borely, you will admire from the outside this splendid 19th-century villa that now houses the Museum of Decorative Arts. The route continues through the centre of Marseille with a short photo stop outside the Palais Longchamps. Finally, you will reach the "Vieux Port", the old port, where you will have further free time. The pedestrian area is ideal for a pleasant stroll through one of the oldest parts of the city, full of shops, bars, and restaurants. This half-day tour ends with a return to the ship.

Please note: this tour includes walking uphill with some steps around the Basilica; guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits. The visit to the Basilica of Notre Dame de la Garde may be replaced with a visit to Marseilles Cathedral in case of special events. Due to local rules in France every guest must be properly sitting on the excursion coach. This includes also children aged from 0 up to three years old. If you travel with children in this age, please contact the Shore Excursions' Desk on the ship at least 48 hours prior to your tour to have a baby chair requested and placed on the excursion coach and for any additional information. Even with this early notice, the baby seats are never guaranteed.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

DELUXE VISIT TO PROVENCE: AVIGNON & AIX-EN-PROVENCE - MRS14

**Duration**
7 h

While the sun-kissed shores of southern France make ideal holiday destinations, the delightful towns lying inland are equally worth a visit. Designed to let you savour two such jewels, the outing begins with an approx. 45-minute drive to Aix-en-Provence, where you will visit the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour. Sitting on the site of a former Roman forum and amalgamating a variety of architectural styles from the 5th- to the 17th-centuries, the Cathedral boasts a richly decorated Gothic façade with elaborately carved doors, and to the north of the building an unfinished tower. You will then walk through the historical district to reach the lovely Mazarin quarter, a residential area built for the town's gentry in the second half of the 17th-century. A chance to relax then follows on the approx. 90-minute drive up to Avignon, after which you'll have some time for lunch in one of the town's many brasseries before moving on to the monumental Papal Palace, the seat of Christianity in the 14th-century and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Rich in galleries and chapels as well as frescoes and hand-painted wall-hangings in the private papal suite, the palace still bears testament to its former opulence. The pleasant return drive to Marseille and your ship then brings the tour to an unhurried close.

Please note: this tour includes long periods of walking on uneven ground with stairs to negotiate; guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits. The cost of lunch (optional) is not included in the price of the tour. Due to local rules in France every guest must be properly sitting on the excursion coach. This includes also children aged from 0 up to three years old. If you travel with children in this age, please contact the Shore Excursions' Desk on the ship at least 48 hours prior to your tour to have a baby chair requested and placed on the excursion coach and for any additional information. Even with this early notice, the baby seats are never guaranteed.

CITY TOUR

MARSEILLE WALKING TOUR - MRS20

**Duration**
2 h

Spend 2 hours off the ship enjoying the sunshine and stretching your legs in the fresh air on a leisurely walk around the lovely French city of Marseille, situated in the nation's deep south. You'll catch a shuttle bus to reach the city centre, after which the tour continues on foot. Taking through a mainly pedestrianised area, the guided walk begins at the foot of the old town and ends at its highest point, with information provided on the city's storied past as you go. Key landmarks include the 17th-century city hall, 16th-century Hôtel de Cabre, the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Mary Major, completed in the late 19th-century, and Fort Saint-Jean, built in 1660 by order of Louis XIV. You'll also have some free time to explore the Vieux Port - the old harbour - area before catching a shuttle bus back to the ship.

Please note: This tour includes approximately 1.5 hours of moderate walking, at times over uneven surfaces. Guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. All visits are external.

**MSC****EXCURSIONS**

Discoveries designed for you

Malaga (Granada)

Thu 6 June 2024

CITY TOUR - MAL01

**Duration**
4:30 h

Situated in the deep south of Spain on the Mediterranean coast, the city of Málaga is not just a popular tourist attraction for its sunny climate and beaches; it is also one of the world's oldest cities and the birthplace of Pablo Picasso. Your half-day excursion begins with a panoramic bus tour on your way to the Gibralfaro Fortress, one of the city's most important monuments, boasting 30 centuries of history, exhibitions, and views of the city. After an internal visit of this fortress which was considered the most impregnable castle on the Iberian Peninsula for a time, re-board the coach to head to the city centre. Your guide will take you on a walk through the main streets of the city via the Alameda Principal, a large boulevard lined with lush trees. You will also admire Picasso's house, the Alcazaba, the Roman Theatre from outside on your way to the Cathedral. Enjoy an inside visit to the 16th-century Cathedral, one of the most important examples of Andalusian Renaissance architecture, followed by some free time to spend at your pace before returning to the ship.

Please note: Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for visits to places of religious importance. Should the Cathedral be closed (e.g. on Sundays, public holidays or during special events), the visit will be external only. This tour involves a moderate amount of walking. Guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. The visit to the Alcazaba fortress could replace the visit to the Gibralfaro on some dates.

MIJAS, THE WHITE TOWN - MAL02

**Duration**
4 h

Situated only a little way inland from the beautiful Costa del Sol coastline approx. 1 hour's coach ride from Malaga lies Mijas, a pretty little Andalusian town with cobbled streets and typical white-washed buildings. Thanks to its elevated location at a height of 428 metres above sea level, the town's Pueblo Mijas district is known for its views of the African coast, the Atlas Mountains, the rock of Gibraltar and a generous portion of the Costa del Sol. There are many small independent stores mainly selling meticulously crafted artisan products, including attractive pottery and clothing. You will have some free time to enjoy Mijas on your own before heading back to Malaga and your ship.

Please note: this tour includes a moderate amount of walking. Guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part.

MARBELLA & PUERTO BANÚS - MAL05

**Duration**
5 h

Your half-day excursion to the seaside resort of Marbella - one of Spain's most popular holiday destinations on the Costa del Sol and certainly one of the prettiest - begins with an approx. 1-hour coach ride from Malaga port. Marbella is ideally set, tucked away in between the Sierra Blanca mountains and the Mediterranean Sea. Your guide will show you around the key sights of the city, such as the 16th-/17th-century Iglesia de la Encarnación, a fabulous church built in late Gothic style that features an ornate golden altar. The next stop is the pretty marina at Puerto Banús, a suburb of Marbella. You will have some free time to have coffee, explore the resort and admire the beautiful yachts moored in the luxury marina before returning to the port and your ship.

Please note: external viewings only of the places visited.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.



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SOMETHING SPECIAL

ROMANTIC MÁLAGA - MAL10



Duration
4 h



Make a date with Málaga and discover all the romance of this lovely seaside city - the birthplace of Pablo Picasso. Your half-day tour begins with boarding a shuttle bus to reach the city centre where a guided walk will give you a chance to amble down the main streets of Málaga. Your guide will keep you entertained with interesting snippets about the city's history and stories of some famous weddings that were celebrated in the town. After some free time to spend at your pace, enjoy the lively ambience of one of Málaga's best tapas bars. Your snack of tasty tapas and a drink will be accompanied by the soothing sounds of serenades sung to a soft guitar by a group of costumed university students known as a "tuna". Having originated in 13th-century Iberia, the tradition remains popular as a means for students to earn money for their keep. Take your seat, sip, and savour the authentic flavours and sounds of Spain! Your return the port brings your tour of romantic Málaga to a close.

Please note: this tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

MÁLAGA & THE PICASSO CONNECTION - MAL16



Duration
4 h



Sitting pretty on the Costa del Sol, the bustling city of Málaga is up for exploration on this appealing half-day sightseeing tour. Prepare to board a shuttle to reach the city centre and then, accompanied by your guide, set off on a 30-minute walk that will acquaint you with the artistic legacy left by Picasso. You'll first cross Plaza de la Marina - Málaga's main square - en route to Plaza de la Merced and the house in which Picasso was born. Today, the building serves the purpose of showcasing the great man's life and works. Following this first introduction to the world of Picasso at the Museo Casa Natal (Birthplace Museum), a 15-minute walk will take you to the nearby Picasso Museum, which is housed in the 16th-century Buenavista Palace. Explore the museum and feel inspired by the many paintings, sculptures, drawings, ceramics, and graphics created by Picasso throughout his life. After the visit, you'll have some free time to spend in Málaga city centre before the shuttle returns you to your ship.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

SEA & SUN

TORREMOLINOS BEACH TRANSFER - MAL17



Duration
4 h



Grab your beachwear and prepare to spend some time in the hot Spanish sun on one of the most popular stretches of sand in the coastal resort of Torremolinos. After leaving your ship, you'll first board a coach for an escorted 30-minute transfer to reach the beachside area. Offering a wide range of facilities, the beach is ideal for families and your stay includes use of a sunbed and one drink per person. Kick back and relax, go swimming, feel the sand squishing through your toes on a stroll along the shoreline or help your kids to build sandcastles - the choice is entirely yours. Your escort will return at the appointed time for the return transfer to your ship.

Please note: this tour is available only from June to September and is subject to weather conditions. One parasol and two sunbeds per couple included. This tour is not available on Sundays.



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EXCURSIONS

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Cadiz (Seville)

Fri 7 June 2024

CITY TOUR

SEVILLE AT YOUR OWN PACE - CAD06


 **Duration**
7 h



After leaving the port, your tour begins with an enjoyable 2-hour drive through the Spanish countryside to Seville, a stunning Spanish city, and the capital of the autonomous community of Andalusia. Independent travellers will appreciate having plenty of free time to explore this lovely city at their leisure. The old part of town is the largest in Spain and covers almost 4 square kilometres and Seville harbour, approx. 80 km from the coast, is Spain's only river port. Whether you check out the monuments and historical buildings, visit the beautiful Cathedral of Seville, which is also the final resting place of Christopher Columbus, or simply stroll through the elegant streets and squares, especially of the charming Jewish Quarter, you will find Seville is an all-round delight. Make the most of a day spent under the Spanish sky, soaking up the authentic Andalusian atmosphere.

Please note: The cost of the lunch (optional) is not included in the price of the tour.

PROTECTOURS: WALKING TOUR OF CADIZ - CAD07

 **Duration**
2:30 h




Undoubtedly, the best way to explore the city of Cadiz is on foot. This guided tour starts near the port in the "Plaza de España" and takes in the "Plaza de la Mina", the outside of the Museum of Cadiz and "Calle Ancha" where we will stop and admire the XIX century palaces. We will also pass through the lovely walled "San Juan de Dios" Square, located close to the sea and with a magnificent marble fountain. Continue to the Town Hall and Cathedral for exterior visit. You will have some free time to stroll the city before returning to the port.

Please note: this tour includes walking on uneven ground and is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties.

CITY TOUR

SEVILLE - CAD11

 **Duration**
8 h



Upon leaving the port of Cadiz, a 2-hour drive will take you to Seville and your first stop: a guided visit to the city's impressive Gothic Cathedral, the world's third-largest church. The tour then continues on foot to Barrio de Santa Cruz, Seville's Jewish quarter, which is characterised by its quaint, narrow streets and typical local patios. Next up is a stop at Pilato's House, a palace dating back to the 15th century that combines Andalusian and Italian Renaissance architectural styles. The palace boasts a splendid patio with 24 arches housing the busts of important Roman emperors. During your visit, you will be fascinated by the beauty of the precious azulejos that adorn the palace. After the visit, enjoy a stop in a local restaurant to have lunch. The tour continues with a visit to Maria Luisa's Park and the Plaza de España, which is surrounded by luxurious pavilions that date back to the Latin-American exposition of 1929.

Please note: As the tour involves walking on uneven ground at Barrio de Santa Cruz and there are numerous steps inside the cathedral, it is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for visits to places of religious importance. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call. In some Sunday calls, the visit inside the Cathedral could be omitted due to religious celebrations. In this case, the guides will give information outside only.



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EXCURSIONS

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JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, HOME OF SHERRY WINE - CAD15



Duration
4:30 h



Bottoms up! Jerez is the home of sherry and we will drink to your health during this fun half day outing! Enjoy an approx. 45-minute drive to Jerez de la Frontera, a small, pretty town some 50 km from Cadiz. Visit the wine cellars and learn more about the famous Jerez sherry. Have fun spotting the signatures of celebrities that have visited the wine cellars and keep your eyes open for the glass of wine and cheese that is on the floor for the cellar mouse! We will end the excursion with a sightseeing tour of Jerez before returning to port.

Please note: as the tour involves walking on numerous steps and uneven ground in the cellars; it is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call.



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EXCURSIONS
Discoveries designed for you

Lisbon (Cascais)

Sat 8 June 2024

SOMETHING SPECIAL

ARRABIDA WINERY TOUR - LIS07



Duration
4:30 h



Beautiful natural views, free time to discover Setubal, and a Moscatel wine tasting await you on this half-day excursion. After leaving Lisbon and crossing the Tagus River, you will head south to the town of Azeitao, known for its pastries but especially the local "Moscatel de Setubal" wine. Your first stop will be at the oldest winery in the region, which has belonged to the same family for more than 7 generations. Before a tasting of this sweet aperitif wine, you will learn about the traditional techniques for producing Moscatel. The excursion continues passing by the "Parque Natural da Arrabida", created to protect the endemic landscapes, on a road offering beautiful views of both the Atlantic and the vast surrounding area. The last stop of the tour is Setubal. Although mainly an industrial city and a commercial fishing port, the city reveals a fascinating historical centre and offers surprising attractions. After an introduction to the city by your guide, you will have some free time to explore its centre before reboarding the coach and returning to Lisbon.

Please note: this tour includes long transfers by coach. Visibility in Arrabida depends on weather conditions the day of the call. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call.

LISBON BY LAND & WATER - LIS23



Duration
2:30 h



Care to explore the great city of Lisbon in a manner less ordinary? Then join this tour and prepare to spend a few hours traversing land and sea in a vehicle that will chime with your inner 007: an amphibious craft! You'll board the ingenious hybrid at the pier, after which you can enjoy the land-based leg with views of key landmarks such as Praça do Comércio, Praça do Rossio, Liberty Avenue and Marquês de Pombal Square. A stop is scheduled in the Bélem quarter for you to try a "pastel de Bélem", a tasty Portuguese custard tart, and to have a external look at the Monument to Discoveries standing alone in a striking position on the breakwater on the bank of the Tagus. And then it will be time to take the plunge for a nearly 30-minute trip along the River Tagus, during which you can soak up great views of Lisbon's skyline from a waterside perspective. Once back at the pier, your outing draws to a close with your return to the ship.

Please note: as entering/exiting the amphibious vehicle involves negotiating 5 large steps, the tour is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems. The tour runs with an English- or Portuguese-speaking guides only. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

FATIMA - LIS28



Duration
7 h



You do not necessarily have to be driven by religion to visit the Fatima shrine. A visit to this town, which has grown from a small rural centre to a major destination for the Catholic faith, is undoubtedly a unique experience, beyond faith. The excursion begins with an approx. 1.5-hour coach drive across the Portuguese plains to reach this important religious destination. Millions of pilgrims have visited this site annually since 1917 when three little shepherds claimed to have seen Virgin Mary here. Once on the site, one cannot fail to be impressed by the size of the Sanctuary, its architecture and the symbols that lead back to the vision of the three little shepherds. You will have free time to visit the Shrine, the Chapel of the Apparitions - built on the site where the apparition took place - with a statue of the Virgin Mary dating to 1920 or have time to shop for souvenirs. A lunch in a local restaurant is also included.

Please note: guides will give explanations from outside the site; guests will proceed to inside visits individually. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.



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EXCURSIONS

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PROTECTOURS: LISBON BY ELECTRIC TUK TUK - LIS48



Duration
3 h



Step aboard a tuk tuk, an open-air, four-wheeled electric vehicle, for an exciting three-hour tour of the ancient quarters of Lisbon. Feel like you're back in the Middle Ages as you make your way through narrow and twisting alleys, stopping at a viewpoint in the Graça quarter for splendid views of the city. There, enjoy a complete panorama of the town and its remarkable sites, including the medieval Saint Georges Castle, the 25th of April Bridge and the Tagus River. Next, make your way to Rossio Square, the heart of the downtown, where you'll see a variety of beautiful churches, theatres and high-end shops and boutiques, stopping along the way for photos at multiple points of interest. A stop to taste the famous "Pastel de Nata" is scheduled before heading back to your ship.

Please note: Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call. This tour is unsuitable for guests with back problems; the Tuk Tuk suspension is not soft as it goes through cobblestone streets of old town.

CITY TOUR

CITY TOUR - LIS49



Duration
4 h



Your excursion to discover Lisbon begins with a bus transfer to the Ajuda Palace. Situated on a hill overlooking the historic city centre and the Tagus River, the Palace is one of the earliest neoclassical buildings in Lisbon. Follow your guide for a tour of the Palace, which over time has evolved into a two-three-storey structure and discover the wonders it houses. The excursion continues to Belém Tower for admiring one of Lisbon's landmarks during a short photo stop. Board the coach again and enjoy a panoramic tour of Lisbon's "new" city centre, built after the devastating earthquake of 1755: you will pass the Parliament and Prime Minister's House, the Marquis of "Pombal" Square, "Liberdade" Avenue and "Rossio" Square - the heart of Lisbon's downtown, where some free time will be yours before returning to the ship.

Please note: on Wednesday calls, a visit to the Maritime Museum will replace the visit to Ajuda Palace. Guests using a wheelchair can take part, but they must be advised that the excursion includes long periods of walking. If they want to participate, they must be accompanied by a paying helper to aid with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Due to parking restrictions in force in Belém Tower area, the photo stop at the site is not guaranteed; if the stop cannot take place, guests will be able to take pictures of Belém Tower from the coach. Every last Sunday of the month or in special occasions, restrictions to traffic are in force on Liberdade Avenue; on these occasions, this avenue will be omitted from the itinerary.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.



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EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

Alicante

Mon 10 June 2024

BENIDORM ON YOUR OWN - ALI07



Duration
4 h



Leave the ship for a 45-minute coach drive to Benidorm, a coastal town known for its hotel industry, beaches, and skyscrapers. Often referred to as the "New York of the Mediterranean" Benidorm is the city with the most skyscrapers per inhabitant in the world and per square meter second only to New York. You will have approx. 2.5 hours to spend as you like it. In spite of being a modern city, Benidorm has much to offer. You can explore the old part, Tossal de la Cala, pay a visit to the Church of Saint James and Anne, dating back to 1740, take a walk along its many famous beaches, reach the viewpoints for a look over the city or look for a souvenir. You will have enough time to visit the city at your pace before joining the coach again for the return back to Alicante and your ship.

Please note: The bus stops near "Avda del Mediterráneo"; this is the point of arrival and departure of your tour.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

ALICANTE CITY TOUR & CASTLE VISIT - ALI08



Duration
3 h



In addition to its holiday-friendly vibe and sun-drenched beaches, the resort of Alicante is equally blessed with a rich history and numerous appealing landmarks, some of which you will have a chance to see on this entertaining tour. Setting off on foot, you'll first make your way through the city on a route that includes views of such gems as the 18th-century Baroque-style town hall and a visit to the Museo de Hogueras - Les Fogueres de Sant Joan. This curious museum is dedicated to showing how Alicante's midsummer St. John's Eve celebrations - including the bonfires that traditionally go with the festival - have taken shape through their history. Five exhibition rooms will be yours to explore before you will then have some free time to spend in the city as you please. Moving on by coach, the Castle of Santa Bárbara, built in the 9th century while the Iberian Peninsula was under Muslim rule, is next. Situated on top of Mount Benacantil at a height of 166 m above mean sea level, the castle is not only fun to explore, but also provides stunning views of Alicante and the harbour. After your castle visit, the tour will end with your return drive to the port and your ship.

Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground at Santa Bárbara Castle and using stairs, guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. The Museo de Hogueras is closed on Sunday.

CITY TOUR

ELCHE & HUERTO DEL CURA - ALI09



Duration
3:30 h



A short drive to the south of Alicante and just a little inland from the Costa Blanca coastline lies Elche, a Spanish city noted particularly for its abundance of palm groves, one of which is the Huerto del Cura. After an enjoyable coach ride to the city, your sightseeing tour will first take you past Elche's major landmarks before you pay the amazing Huerto del Cura a visit. Providing dappled shade in which to walk and savour the surroundings, you begin with a walk down the the municipal garden, a good chance to be ready for the highlight of the tour: the "Huerto del Cura" (the Priest's Garden): With more than 300 different species, it is home to a wide variety of tropical and Mediterranean plants, including the seven-fronded "Imperial Palm", which was named after the Empress Elisabeth of Austria, or Sisi, as she was affectionately known. The return drive to Alicante then ends your tour.

Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground at the gardens, guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part.



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EXCURSIONS

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FASCINATING MOUNTAIN TOWN OF GUADALEST - ALI11



Duration
4:30 h



Tiny in size and one of those places that time seemingly forgot, the historical village of Guadalest with Moorish origins rewards visitors with buildings dating back more than 400 years, gorgeous views of the nearby Sierra d'Aixorta, Sierra de Serella and Sierra de Aitana mountains and an 11th-century Muslim-built castle, among others. Your tour to Guadalest begins with an approx. 1-hour drive, passing Benidorm on the way, to reach the elevated location of this charming village. You'll then get to pay the imposing Castle of San José, aka the Castle of L'Alcazaiba, a visit, after which you'll move on to another of Guadalest's key attractions, Orduña House. This four-level dwelling - built by the originally Basque Orduña family mid-17th-century - finally became a municipal museum following refurbishment work in the mid-1990s. This is where interesting architecture meets beautiful interiors and furnishings, a place to relive history in the most enjoyable way. One of the highlights of Orduña House is its library with more than 1.000 volumes. Leaving Orduña House behind, your outing will then end with your return drive to Alicante and your ship.

Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground in the village and at the castle, guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

FUN AT TERRA NATURA OR AQUANATURA PARKS - ALI12



Duration
6 h



A 45-minute bus ride from Alicante takes a some of hours of fun at the Terra Natura theme park or at the Aquanatura water park. Terra Natura fulfils the dream of many who like to see wild animals in their own environment, without restrictions, but at the same time without having to go to faraway and exotic places. The park is home to more than 1.500 animals of 200 different species, so you will be spoilt for choice during your individual visit. Elephants, lions, tigers, crocodiles, jaguars, but also reptiles and exotic birds. You can watch an educational show with birds of prey such as eagles, hawks, owls. An educational and entertaining experience for the whole family. But if the heat prompts you to choose water activities, the Aquanatura Park will satisfy all your needs. With a Greek-themed layout that includes more than 1 km of slides, beach bars and a dedicated children's pool, Aqua Natura offers something for guests of all ages. A walk leads to the beach, where you can relax in the sun or take a swim in the sea. You can experience the thrill of "La Cresta", a slide that reaches a height of more than 15 metres and will make you feel weightless as you slide down a completely enclosed course. Try the winding path of the Aqua Snake, the fast descent of the Rio Aventura or half a dozen other unique attractions to experience the excitement and exhilaration that Aqua Natura has in store for you. Don't miss the sea lion experiences or the mermaid school! When you are ready to relax, visit the solarium or head to Zorba Beach and relax in the 1.2-acre (5.000 square metres) pool. With attractions ranging from 3 man-made islands to waterfalls and geysers, a picturesque and relaxing experience awaits you. The tour concludes with the return to the port.

Please note: The tour includes only the entrance ticket to one of the two parks; guests can choose whichever one they prefer. Some attractions in both parks are not included in the tour price and may require additional cost on the spot. Shows take place at predefined times. We recommend that you bring a beach towel, sunscreen and sunglasses and wear a swimming costume. Aquanature Park closes from October to March inclusive. Guests booking this tour in October will only visit Terra Natura Park.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

FUN AT TERRA NATURA & AQUANATURA PARKS - ALI13



Duration
6 h



A 45-minute bus ride from Alicante takes a some of hours of fun at the Terra Natura theme park and the Aquanatura water park. Terra Natura fulfils the dream of many who like to see wild animals in their own environment, without restrictions, but at the same time without having to go to faraway and exotic places. The park is home to more than 1.500 animals of 200 different species, so you will be spoilt for choice during your individual visit. Elephants, lions, tigers, crocodiles, jaguars, but also reptiles and exotic birds. You can watch an educational show with birds of prey such as eagles, hawks, owls. An educational and entertaining experience for the whole family. And if the heat prompts you to choose water activities, the Aquanatura Park will satisfy all your needs. With a Greek-themed layout that includes more than 1 km of slides, beach bars and a dedicated children's pool, Aqua Natura offers something for guests of all ages. A walk leads to the beach, where you can relax in the sun or take a swim in the sea. You can experience the thrill of "La Cresta", a slide that reaches a height of more than 15 metres and will make you feel weightless as you slide down a completely enclosed course. Try the winding path of the Aqua Snake, the fast descent of the Rio Aventura or half a dozen other unique attractions to experience the excitement and exhilaration that Aqua Natura has in store for you. Don't miss the sea lion experiences or the mermaid school! When you are ready to relax, visit the solarium or head to Zorba Beach and relax in the 1.2-acre (5.000 square metres) pool. With attractions ranging from 3 man-made islands to waterfalls and geysers, a picturesque and relaxing experience awaits you. The tour concludes with the return to the port.

Please note: Some attractions in both parks are not included in the tour price and may require additional cost on the spot. Shows take place at predefined times. We recommend that you bring a beach towel, sunscreen and sunglasses and wear a swimming costume. This tour is not available from October to March inclusive.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

Mahon

Tue 11 June 2024

SCENIC ROUTE

NORTH COAST PANORAMA - MAH02



Duration
4 h



Leave the port of Mahon and drive northwards through Puerto de Addaya where we will stop for photos. We will continue to the fishing village of Fornells, famous for its lobster stew and one of Winston Churchill's favorite places. Enjoy a scenic tour through the lovely landscaped gardens of Cala Tirant and up to Mount Toro. Here we will stop to explore the "Nuestra Señora del Toro" monastery, built by the monks of St. Augustin's Order in the XVII century. Return to Mahon where you can either spend time in the city centre or return to the port.

Please note: this tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties as it includes walking on uneven ground. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

THE VILLAGES OF MINORCA - MAH03



Duration
4 h



Enjoy a comprehensive excursion exploring some of the villages of this enchanting island. We will drive to Binibeca, a quaint town located on the south east coast of Minorca; it has a sheltered cove with a small, sandy beach. Next, we will drive to Torralba, which is famous for its "taulas" - T-shaped stone monoliths typical of the Talayot culture (2.000 BC), mysterious edifices that possibly served as altars. Our next stop will be at Mount Toro; here we will have time for a short visit of the "Nuestra Señora Del Toro" monastery built by the monks of St. Augustin's Order in the XVII century. Return to the port.

Please note: this tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties as it includes walking on uneven ground. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits.

CITY TOUR

HIGHLIGHTS OF MINORCA - MAH06



Duration
4:30 h



Spend half a day off the ship exploring Menorca, the second largest of the Balearic Islands and home beautiful landscapes, pretty villages, and lovely beaches. On leaving the port of Mahon, you will first travel north to reach the horseshoe beach of Arenal d'en Castell for a photo stop. Moving on, the next destination will be the pretty fishing village of Fornells, located on the island's northern shore. A leisurely stroll around the village with its green-shuttered, whitewashed houses then follows, after which you will continue on to the highest point on Menorca, the hill known as El Toro. From an elevation of nearly 350 m (approx. 1.150 ft.), this vantage point provides superb views of the surrounding area and is just the spot to take some more photos. Leaving the northern shoreline behind, you will then travel to the southern coastline to visit the quaint town of Binibeca, which boasts a secluded cove and a small sandy beach. After visiting the village, the return trip to your ship brings the tour to a close.

Please note: this tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties as it includes walking on uneven ground.



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VISIT THE LOVELY TOWN OF CIUTADELLA - MAH07



Duration
4 h



This appealing half-day tour gives you a chance to leave the current capital of Menorca and travel to the other side of the island on a 45-minute coach ride to its former capital, the lovely seaside town of Ciutadella. Originally founded by the Carthaginians, a major trading centre in the Middle Ages and further extended in the 17th and 18th centuries, the old walled town is a joy to explore. You will be taken on a guided walk around the narrow lanes and alleyways of the old quarter, the centrepiece of which is the 14th-century Cathedral of Santa Maria de Ciutadella. Keep your camera at hand to capture numerous views of lovely architecture during your walk, after which the relaxing coach ride back to your ship ends the tour.

Please note: this tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties as it includes walking on uneven ground. Guests need to walk approx. 350 metres from the bus car parking to the Ciutadella.

SCENIC ROUTE

SCENIC BOAT CRUISE & MAHON EXPLORATION - MAH11



Duration
3:30 h



Leave the ship and discover the history of Mahon, the capital of Menorca, with this short excursion that combines a scenic part at sea with a guided walk through the lively streets of the city. A walking tour will take you to a boat anchored in the old harbour, the second largest natural harbour on the island. Once on board, you will begin your visit to Mahon from the sea. During the navigation, as well as learning a little about the history of the town, you will have plenty of opportunities to take photos of the opulent whitewashed villas and stone merchants' houses that dot the coastline. So, keep your camera handy. The second part of the tour will give you a closer encounter with Mahon, walking with your guide through its streets and discovering its bustling food market. Your guide will explain some interesting facts about local products and leave you some time for shopping. Conclude the tour by visiting a local gin distillery before returning on board.

Please note: It is recommended to wear comfortable shoes and to bring sunscreen, a hat, and a bottle of water. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call. No alcoholic beverages will be served to minors. The tour is not available on Sundays.

**MSC****EXCURSIONS**
Discoveries designed for you

Olbia

Wed 12 June 2024

THE ARCHIPELAGO OF MADDALENA - OLB01

**Duration**
5 h

A short coach ride from Olbia will first take you north to the coastal town of Palau to board a ferry for the crossing to Maddalena Island, one of the seven main islands making up the Maddalena Archipelago located in the Straits of Bonifacio between north-eastern Sardinia and Corsica. While Maddalena Island looks back on a long military history, even once hosting Admiral Nelson and his fleet, it is now a designated national park - the Parco Nazionale Arcipelago di La Maddalena. The island's granite coastline and verdant interior provide a rich natural habitat for a variety of wildlife and its unspoiled beauty draws tourists from around the world. A coach-based sightseeing tour will be followed by some free time to spend exploring the surroundings at your own pace. The island's wonderful scenery is well worth a photo or two, so do remember to bring your camera. The leisurely tour is brought to an equally relaxing close with your return journey back to Olbia and the ship.

Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties.

PANORAMIC TOUR OF COSTA SMERALDA - OLB02

**Duration**
4 h

Beautiful by name and simply gorgeous by nature, the verdant Costa Smeralda is one of the most exclusive stretches of coastline in the whole of Sardinia and a popular holiday playground for the super-rich. This panoramic tour of the Emerald Coast begins with a scenic coach ride and a stop en route at Cala Volpe to take lovely pictures. Then, you make your way into Porto Cervo and the resort's lovely piazzetta. After enjoying some free time, you will continue on to the Baia Sardinia, a pretty cove with a lovely beach of white sand. After a short guided walk to explore this beautiful seaside village, you will have free time to stroll and enjoy the small square that overlooks the beach. The tour ends with the coach ride back to the ship.

CITY TOUR

SANTA TERESA DI GALLURA - OLB04

**Duration**
5 h

After leaving the port of Olbia by coach, the first stop on this enjoyable tour will be in San Pantaleo, a lovely little village located in the hills of the amazing Costa Smeralda, the Emerald Coast. Look forward to a short stop in the village to stroll around, browse in the small shops and visit the craft workshops. The excursion then continues up through the northernmost part of the island to Santa Teresa di Gallura, a coastal resort that faces the Strait of Bonifacio and Corsica. A guided tour of this small, but pretty town will follow, after which you will also have some free time to stroll around on your own. Return to the port.

SEA & SUN

SUN, SEA & SAND: THE SARDINIA BEACH-COMBER TOUR - OLB06

**Duration**
5 h

Island life comes with many advantages, one of which being the commanding presence of the sea. And when the island in question is situated in the Mediterranean Sea, blessed with fantastic weather, and happens to be Italian to boot, the list of benefits is almost endless. Among Sardinia's many attractions number a raft of gorgeous beaches and this tour gives you a chance to visit one of the island's most beautiful. Upon boarding a coach at the pier, a relaxing drive will first transfer you to the beach, after which you will have a few hours to enjoy the scenic surroundings. Whether you stretch out and snooze in the shade, work on your tan in the sun, swim in the crystal-clear blue of the sea or simply sit and watch the world go by, the outing is sure to deliver what holidays are all about: time to do exactly as you please. This family-friendly tour then draws to a close with your return drive to the port and your ship.

Please note: this tour is available from June until the end of September and is subject to weather conditions.



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SCENIC ROUTE

VIEWS, SHOPPING & LEISURE IN COSTA SMERALDA - OLB15



Duration
5:30 h



In addition to providing a convenient sea link with mainland Italy, Olbia is also a gateway to the beautiful stretch of coastline called the Costa Smeralda. After leaving the ship and boarding a coach, you'll head north towards Porto Cervo, passing through the village of San Pantaleo on the way. You'll have some time to spend in Porto Cervo, a town that not only boasts numerous high-end boutiques, but is also graced by a lovely town square, before moving on to Golfo Aranci for stunning views of the Gulf of Marinella and the bay of Cala di Volpe, where you can then enjoy a little more free time. Back on the coach again, the return journey will give you a chance to savour more lovely views of the Gulf of Olbia and the limestone Tavolara Island, which sits just a short distance from the shoreline.



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour - Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

SEA & SUN

VISIT PORTO CERVO AND TIME AT MANNENA BEACH - OLB16



Duration
7 h



Famous for its beaches and crystal-clear sea, Sardinia has been a favourite destination of the international jet set for years. This full-day excursion aims to make you appreciate not only its natural beauty with time on the beach, but also to let you discover one of its most famous locations on the Costa Smeralda. So, get ready to experience a corner of Sardinia at its best for a day. The coach transfer of about 40 minutes along the north-east coast of Sardinia offers you splendid views and will take you to Porto Cervo. Follow your guide for a tour of about 45 minutes through the streets of this small seaside village, the kingdom of luxury holidays. Built around a small natural inlet, Porto Cervo will surprise you with its narrow streets, alleys, small squares and exclusive boutiques, and you will understand why, in the 1960s, this resort fascinated Prince Karim Aga Khan IV so much that he turned it into an exclusive holiday resort. But Sardinia is above all sea, and there is no better place in the area to enjoy the sun and crystal-clear waters than Mannena beach. Reach the Gulf of Cannigione and you will be left breathless by the scenic beauty of the place: fine sand, transparent blue-green water, unspoilt nature. You will have about four hours to relax and sunbathe, swim in the crystal-clear waters, or simply enjoy the sweet idleness. At the appointed time, the coach drive back to the port will conclude your day.

Please note: parasols and beach chairs can be hired on the beach but subject to availability. This tour is available from June until the end of September and is subject to weather conditions. We recommend wearing a swimwear under your clothes and bringing a towel and sunscreen. The cost of the lunch (optional) is not included in the price of the tour. Kiosks are available on the beach.

A VISIT TO THE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF MOLARA AND TAVOLARA - OLB99



Duration
4 h



World-famous for its scenic beauty, history and culture, Sardinia boasts numerous marine protected areas. This excursion of a few hours on board a boat will allow you to discover the beauty of Molara and Tavolara, two islands in the north-east of the Sardinian coast, part of a marine park. Your first destination will be the natural pools of Molara, reachable only by boat. You cannot remain impassive in front of this incredible natural spectacle: natural pools with white sand, transparent turquoise sea and a breathtaking landscape. This is really heaven on earth and the place where you will make your first stop for swimming or snorkelling, an experience that is sure to add an extra touch to your holiday. Afterwards, the boat will move on to the island of Tavolara, famous for its cliffs and wild nature. Here you will have free time for sunbathing, swimming in its crystal-clear waters or simply admiring the beauty of unspoilt nature. On the way to the harbour, keep your camera handy to take evocative photos as you pass off Punta Spalmatore.

Please note: the boat's skipper will act as your guide and provide information in English only. We recommend that you wear a swimming costume, bring a beach towel, sunscreen, and snorkelling equipment. Minimum age to participate: 4 years. The tour is available from June to the end of September and depends on weather conditions. The itinerary may be modified depending on weather conditions and to ensure the safety of guests.



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KEY TO SYMBOLS

Possibility of swimming	Long route by bus	Best seller	DIFFICULTY LEVEL Easy May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing Moderate May involve inclines, steps, uneven surfaces and/or extended periods of standing Strenuous Active excursions recommended only for guests in good physical health
Tasting included	Shooting videos and/or taking pictures is not allowed or subject to fee	New	
Lunch or dinner included	Shopping	Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour As guests in wheelchairs must be accompanied by their own helper, please inform Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements	
Drink included	Mini Tours		
Snack included	Limited seat		
No guide available			

OUR EXCURSIONS CATEGORIES

CITY TOUR	Explore the city centre with a guided tour and soak up the local scenery with a comfortable coach ride. The easy way to get to know your destination.
CULTURE AND HISTORY	Learn all about the history and culture of your destination, with visits to must-see locations and guided tours of key sites. The ideal route to local knowledge.
SCENIC ROUTE	Admire your destination in total comfort, with a scenic coach tour taking in the best views and the main places of interest. The relaxing road to discovery.
SEA & SUN	Treat yourself to some pure relaxation, basking on a beautiful beach or enjoying the stunning views on a scenic boat trip. A winner for sea and sun lovers.
SOMETHING SPECIAL	Pursue your interests in new places! From gastronomic tours and guided shopping trips to religious visits, there's a world of pastimes and passions to explore.

MSC PROTECTOURS

Some excursions are very popular and therefore availability cannot always be guaranteed, it is advisable to book in advance to avoid disappointment.

ALL AREAS

The tour can be provided in 5 languages (ENG-DEU-FRA-ESP-ITA) and it depends on the availability of guides. The final language will be confirmed on board during your cruise

ONLY SOA

The tour can be provided in 6 languages (ENG-DEU-FRA-ESP-ITA-POR) and it depends on the availability of guides. The final language will be confirmed on board during your cruise