

MedCruise NEWS



issue 57

March 2019

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Seatrade Cruise Med & 53rd MedCruise GA in Lisbon

The Cunard Queens; Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria sail into Lisbon



Croatian Cruise ports with Airam Diaz, MedCruise President



MedCruise member Corfu Port with Aris Batsoulis, MedCruise Senior VP

MedCruise VIP and Seatrade Speakers Dinner - The traditional dinner was celebrated at the New Lisbon Cruise Terminal (LCT) and attended by more than 300 professionals from MedCruise members, Portuguese Authorities, Seatrade speakers, Cruise lines representatives and CLIA Diamond members, this distinctive event gave the starting shot of the fruitful Seatrade Cruise Med 2018



MedCruise VIP and Seatrade Speakers Dinner



MedCruise member Gibraltar Port Authority and Tourist Board with Nicky Guerrero, BoD - Partnerships & Events



MedCruise VIP and Seatrade Speakers Dinner

The 5th Meeting of the Working Group-China/Asia took place on the 20th of September.

Carla Salvadó, WG coordinator, worked together with the participants on the budget and actions for 2019, among others.



ItinEra project presentation with Cristina De Gregori, BoD - Projects & Studies



MedCruise member Marseille Provence



Costa Brava Cruise Port Presentation with Maria Cano, BoD - Communication, Marketing & Promotion

The 5th Meeting of the Working Group-Studies took place on the 20th of September, during Seatrade Med exhibition

Cristina De Gregori, WG coordinator, updated the participants with the latest actions taken and discussed the next steps for the "Measuring the impact of cruise activities on ports/cities/destinations" survey. Valeria Mangiarotti presented the three LNG maps developed following the survey results.



MedCruise member Egyptian Ports

The conference programme was full of interesting and current topics, MedCruise members and MedCruise Board of Directors were part of most of the panels as experienced and recognized cruise industry professionals. In total 13 MedCruise panelists participated at the conferences.

Lucy Hockings from BBC World News moderated the State of the industry panel, where MedCruise President, Airam Diaz Pastor, together with David Dingle, Chairman, CLIA Europe and Carnival Cruise Line UK; Stuart Leven, Royal Caribbean International; Gianni Onorato, CEO at MSC Cruises; Costa Crociere President, Neil Palomba; and Pullmantur Group President & CEO, Richard J. Vogel, had the opportunity to discuss latest developments and future challenges in the cruise industry.



MedCruise member Galataport, Istanbul



MedCruise member Portofino



State of the Industry conference panel



Opportunities in New Destinations panel



How the Cruise Industry deals with Air Emission Challenges panel



53rd MedCruise General Assembly



53rd MedCruise General Assembly



Fam trip to the Sintra Mountains

#53MedCruiseGA
 #PortsTogether
 #WeAreSocial

The 53rd Medcruise General Assembly dealt with internal matters of the association. MedCruise Members had the opportunity to discuss and plan future actions together with the BoD and MedCruise President according to the Working Plan presented in the General Assembly held in 2017 in Toulon (France).



Fam trip to the Sintra Mountains



Organisational teams of MedCruise & Port of Lisbon after the 53rd MedCruise General Assembly

MedCruise Diary 2019

CLIA Cruise360, Fort Lauderdale
2-8 April



Seatrade Cruise Global, Miami
8-11 April



54th MedCruise GA, Kusadasi
7-10 May



5th Posidonia Sea Tourism Forum,
Athens, 28-29 May



Professional Development Course,
Genoa & Savona
25-27 June



Seatrade Europe, Hamburg
11-13 September



MedCruise members

ALANYA
ASHDOD
AZORES
BALEARIC ISLANDS
BARCELONA
BASTIA/NORTH CORSICA
BURGAS
CABO VERDE PORTS
CANARIAN PORTS
CARTAGENA
CASTELLON
CENTRAL ADRIATIC SEA
CENTRAL-NORTHERN TYRRHENIAN SEA
CENTRAL TYRRHENIAN SEA
CEUTA
CONSTANTA
CORFU
COSTA BRAVA CRUISE PORTS
CYPRUS PORTS
DUBROVNIK, KORCULA
EASTERN LIGURIAN SEA
EASTERN SICILIAN SEA
EGYPTIAN PORTS
FRENCH RIVIERA PORTS
GIBRALTAR
GIOIA TAURO
HERAKLION
HUELVA
IGOUMENITSA
IONIAN SEA
ISTANBUL
KAVALA
KOPER
KOTOR
KUSADASI/ANTALYA/BODRUM
LISBON

LIVORNO 2000
MADEIRA PORTS
MALAGA
MARSEILLE
MONACO
MOTRIL-GRANADA
NORTH TYRRHENIAN SEA
ODESSA
PATRAS
PIRAEUS
PORTIMAO
PORTOFINO
RIJEKA
SARDINIAN SEA
SETE
SIBENIK
SOUDA/CHANIA
SOUTHERN ADRIATIC SEA
SPLIT
THE STRAIT
TANGIER
TARRAGONA
TENERIFE PORTS
THESSALONIKI
TOULON-VAR PROVENCE
TRABZON
TUNISIAN PORTS
VALENCIA
VALLETTA
VARNA
VENICE
VOLOS
WESTERN LIGURIAN SEA
WESTERN SICILIAN SEA
ZADAR

Associate members

ALFASHIP
ALGERIA CRUISE SERVICES
CEMAR
CEUTA TOURISM
COUNCIL OF SAINT CARLES DE LA RAPITA
COUNTY P. A. OF DUBROVNIK
CRUISE SERVICES MONACO
DP WORLD LIMASSOL
INTERCRUISES SHORESIDE & PORT SERVICES
KVARNER COUNTY TOURISM OFFICE
KYRIAKIS TRAVEL S.A.
LA GOULETTE CRUISE TERMINAL
LANZAROTE TOURISM
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TURISME DE BARCELONA
VAR PROVENCE CRUISE CLUB

Balearic Islands



Menorca

Well aware of its charm, Mahon, along with the delightful neighbouring town of Es Castell, pays attention to the finer details year after year to ensure it continues to win over its visitors' hearts, with the port in this town being one of the main attractions. Charming, simple, with very interesting culinary and leisure offerings plus the historical legacy of its own architecture.

Classic tours continue to hold their appeal across the five ports managed by the Port Authority of the Balearic Islands: Palma, Ibiza, Mahon, Alcudia and La Savina. These include: city tour and Drach Caves (Portocristo, Manacor) from Palma de Majorca; city tour

and hippy markets in Ibiza; Menorca tour for ships calling Mahon and city sightseeing and Roman ruins tour in Alcudia.

Some new thematic tours are proving popular especially those featuring local gastronomy.

The five ports are expecting a total of 842 calls in the coming year, with a total of 2,733,186 passengers.

Works are under way for the extension of North Poniente Quay Esplanade, due to be completed by the end of 2019.

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Barcelona



Penedès

Barcelona has fun activities for all the family! The city has countless plans to guarantee visitors won't get bored, whether they're a thrill-seeker who enjoys sailing, or a foodie or culture vulture. Visitors can wander among sharks, stroke a dolphin, enjoy an adrenalin-fueled roller-coaster ride, eat as if they were at home, enjoy breathtaking views of Barcelona and the peace and quiet of its parks... there are endless plans for kids and adults.

A new tour is to Penedès, for wine tourism, walking and culture. Penedès region, located just 30 minutes from Barcelona and Tarragona, blessed with wonderful beaches and protected by mountains in the interior, has a remarkable landscape characterized by endless vineyards dotted with country houses, unique historical sites and a host of wineries that have made the Penedès region internationally famous.

Penedès is home to more than 80 wineries, most of them family-owned for generations, where one can experience first-hand the great Mediterranean lifestyle. Tasting wines is just the beginning: find the most authentic wine tours, indulge yourself with brunches or picnics with local products, get in touch with nature just walking or cycling along vineyard trail and discover why this is the homeland of cava.

In 2019, with 838 cruise calls Port of Barcelona expects to have a sustainable growth, working to increase the added value for the region and promote the most environmental friendly ships.

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Bastia/North Corsica



Spirit and Flavours city tour is a brand new shore excursion in Bastia to discover the old town in a very unique way with different stops. Firstly a perfume workshop, so you can leave with your own created sample of perfume made of organic plants and scents from Corsica, then a biscuit artisan who makes you discover and taste the sweet traditions of Corsica including the famous 'canistrelli', next an artisan, who plays with our sacred and secular traditions and will tell you all about them, especially 'l'ochju' (the evil eye) story, and finally a drink tasting in the oldest boutique of Bastia, classed as a historical monument where Corsican history and industry meet.

The Bordeo farm, 50 minutes from Bastia, is

a brand new eco-tour, starting with a guided stroll to the aromatic garden to see and touch plants and trees from all over the world and learn their specific properties. Then, visit the essential oils distillery to learn about the process of transformation from plants to oil. After the visit to the distillery, you'll make your own organic cosmetic during a workshop with an expert and take your own creation away. To end, a beautiful tasting with organic and local products will wait for you on the terrace.

Bastia and North Corsica ports will welcome 27 different ships in 2019, nine of those being maiden callers.

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Cabo Verde ports



Vulcão do Fogo is the highest peak of Cabo Verde at 2,829mtr. The first climb recorded took place on April 7th, 1826. The volcano's climb begins with an approximately 30-minute walk from Portela, one of the towns in Chã das Caldeiras, to the foot of the volcano. From this point, begins the real challenge of reaching the highest point of Cabo Verde. On days of good visibility, one can see a large part of the Cabo Verde Islands from the ridge.

Cidade Velha is the main city of the island of Santiago, near to Praia - capital of Cabo

Verde. The main attractions are: the Pelourinho, a white marble column and dating from the early 16th century. It was a symbol of municipal power, and of slavery as it was were rebellious slaves were punished publicly; The Church Of Nossa Senhora do Rosário, the first documented church to be built in the tropics, and the only one to survive in Cidade Velha to this day, it was the privileged place of prayer until the Cathedral was built; The Cathedral was an ambitious project, with stone coming from Portugal for its construction, work began in 1556, and was completed more than 100 years later, in 1693. But its walls were short lived and today it is only a ruin; In the centre of the town, downtown area, you can walk along Rua Banana, the first street developed by the Portuguese in sub-Saharan Africa, with beautiful houses.

In 2019, Cabo Verde ports are expecting 102 cruise calls and will also be starting the building of 1,000sq mtr Mindelo Cruise Terminal on São Vicente Island. Work is to start in June 2019 and be completed by October 2020 at a cost of Euros29m.

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Cartagena



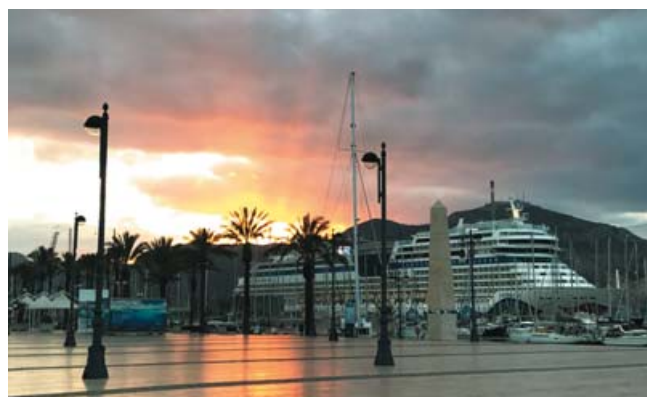
The Region of Murcia holds three wines with denomination of origin: Bullas, Yecla and Jumilla. It is in the northern part of the Region of Murcia where we find Jumilla, in the Sierra del Carche National Park. The winery Hacienda del Carche-Casa de la Ermita has created a new wine museum, where visitors are able to learn about the history of the region, the culture and tradition of this area. In this new shore excursion, guests will explore the vineyards and witness the winemaking process in one of the most popular wineries of

Jumilla. The great moisture retention capacity of the soil, allows vines to survive in the drought conditions of the area, giving the grapes a unique taste. A modern winery equipped with the latest winemaking systems and stainless steel tanks. End this tour tasting this wonderful wine delight!

The five must-see destinations accessible from port of Cartagena are Roman Cartagena, Murcia, The Spanish Horse, La Manga of Mar Menor and Jumilla: vineyards and wineries.

18 new ships will be visiting the port of Cartagena in 2019, as well as 164 ship calls in total with 240,000 passengers.

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Burgas



Sozòpol is an ancient seaside town located 30km south of Burgas on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. One of the major resorts in the country, it is known for the Apollonia art and film festival (which takes place in early September) that is named after one of the town's ancient names.

The first settlement on the site dates back to the Bronze Age. Undersea explorations in the region of the port reveal relics of dwellings, ceramic pottery, stone and bone tools from that era.

The current town was founded in the 7th century BC by Greek colonists. The symbol of the town – the anchor, present on all coins minted by Apollonia since the sixth century BC, is proof of the importance of its maritime trade.

The rich town soon became an important cultural centre. The ancient icons and magnificent woodcarving are a remarkable accomplishment of the craftsmanship of these times. The architecture of the houses in the old town from the renaissance period makes it a unique place to visit today.

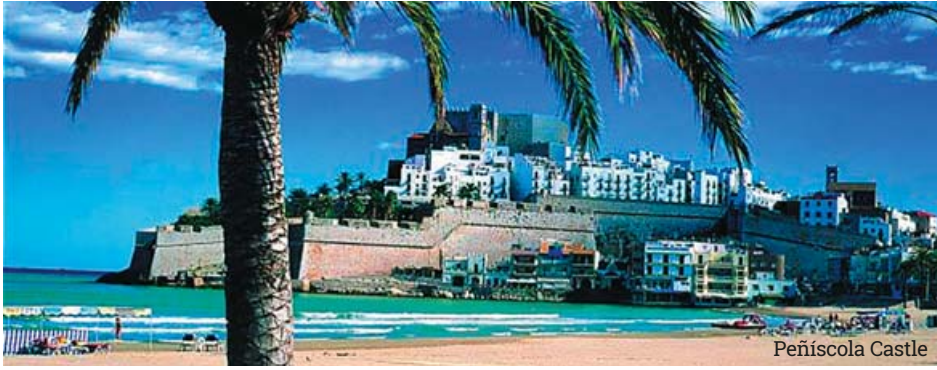
South of Burgas is Strandja mountain. On an area of 116,000 hectares is situated Strandja Nature Park, the largest protected area in Bulgaria. In the park there are 5 nature reserves, 14 protected areas and many natural landmarks. There are 54 species of mammals and 261 species of birds in the park.

Strandja Nature Park is recognized as one of the most interesting oases of rare species and habitats on the Balkan Peninsula and in the European Union. Here are preserved plant species from the Tertiary era, when Europe is covered with glaciers and all the lush vegetation dies. The Nature Park team offers guides for various walking and eco-routes.

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Castellon



Peñíscola Castle

In the province of Castellón and 40 miles north of the port of Castellón, sits the seaside town of Peñíscola, popularized by Game of Thrones. (The iconic Papa Luna castle, built by the Knights Templar in the early 13th century, filled in for the fictional slaver city of Meereen in GOT.) The castle's many historical occupants include Papa Luna himself: Pope Benedict XIII, who fought for his legitimacy at the height of the Papal Schism in 1411 and perished inside the walls a decade later. The castle and surrounding buildings of the Old Town are situated on a tombolo (mound connected to the mainland) in the Mediterranean Sea. The castle's rooftop offers panoramic views of the town, wharves, mountains, and sandy beaches flocked by

tourists in the summer.

Visitors who are keen on cycling, climbing, making cheese with their own hands, learning the craft of bread making, tasting extra virgin olive oil from millenary olive trees or reforest Las Palmas Dessert (one of the eight natural parks we have in the province) will be delighted to discover Castellón as an exciting region.

Port of Castellon will have six calls during 2019, which is a significant increase for the Spanish port. Two new companies will be calling the port this year, Marella Cruises and Oceania Cruises. Additionally, it will welcome luxury cruise ship, Crystal Esprit.

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Port Authority of Central Tyrrhenian Sea



Salerno

For foodies, a tour to experience the production of Buffalo Mozzarella in Salerno is a must. The mozzarella di bufala is one of the best known cheeses in the world, it is one of the first dairy products in Italy to be exported abroad, and has a history that dates back to the Middle Ages. The uniqueness of buffalo mozzarella is given by essential characteristics of milk origin and processing of mozzarella.

The breeding of buffaloes of the Italian Mediterranean breed and the production of Campania buffalo mozzarella D.O.P. find their favourite place of choice in the province of Salerno.

Visit one of the excellences of these agri-food activities in the Salerno area, a certified organic farm, where the necessary fodder is grown to feed the 600 buffaloes that are raised in stalls with showers and brushes, rubber mats and music. State-of-the-art milking techniques safeguard animal welfare, hygiene and milk quality; milking robots allow buffalo self-management with a more natural and less stressful life rhythm. Each animal is treated only with homeopathic remedies.

Taste the mozzarella, which is produced exclusively with company milk and the processing is done entirely by hand, in full compliance with a scrupulous hygiene protocol.

The five must-see attractions of the Salerno area are: Amalfi and the Amalfi Coast (UNESCO World Heritage Site); The Archeological Park of Paestum (part of a UNESCO World Heritage site); The Castle of Arechi & the Garden of Minerva – Hortus Sanitatis of the Medical School of Salerno; Capri and Salerno and its waterfront.

For 2019 Naples and Salerno are expecting 520 cruise calls bringing 1,500,000 passengers.

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Central Adriatic Ports Authority - Porto of Ancona



'Pala Gozzi' also known as 'The Apparition of the Virgin' is dated 1520, and is the first dated known work of the artist. 'The Crucifixion' represents the most advanced phase of the artist's work and was completed in 1558, when Titian was approaching seventy years of age.

As well as these two works, visitors will be able to see works of art by other renowned Italian artists such as Carlo Crivelli, Lorenzo Lotto, Francesco Podesti plus many more.

The excursion continues with a guided walk exploring the historic centre of Ancona, including a wonderful view of the natural harbour as well as a walk along its streets to admire the beautiful old buildings and churches, dating back to different eras and belonging to different architectural styles.

Other popular tours from Ancona are Conero Riviera and Natural Park, Jesi historical city centre and vineyards, the Frasassi caves and Urbino ancient city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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For 2019, there will be an increase of nearly 10,000 cruise passengers to the port of Ancona, totalling 77,000 guests which is an increase of 15%.

Passengers visiting the port may partake in a new tour called 'Titian and Titian: two masterpieces in comparison'. Titian was an Italian painter, and the most important member of the 16th century Venetian school, and has two works of art on display in Ancona: 'Pala Gozzi' and 'the Crucifixion' hung in the renovated Civic Art Gallery, located five minutes from the centre of Ancona.

Ceuta



The Desnarigado is a tourist boat with a capacity of 40 passengers which makes a daily journey along the coast of Ceuta.

The tour lasts approximately 45 minutes and starts at España Dock, taking in the Royal Mint towards South Bay, the Ribera Beach, Fuente Caballos, the Painter's Battery, Cala and Fortin del Sarchal (the former women's prison), Camino de Ronda (the old Roman road), The Marabout de Sidi Abbas, Desnarigado Hold with

the Desnarigo Castle and the cliffs of Hacho Mount.

Another popular tour is a visit to the Monumental Complex of the Royal Walls, which runs along the borderline of ancient Ceuta. Outside of the walls is the Royal Moat, navigable since the era of Portuguese rule.

In olden days the Bridge of Christ, which connects the Mallorquines Fortress to the Walls, could be raised. At a certain time in the afternoon a cannon shot would be fired to signal that the bridge would be raised, therefore isolating the city from the outskirts.

Along the walls it is possible to visit Saint Peter's Fortress with the Plaza de Santiago, Saint Anne's Fortress where the ancient horse grooms used to live, and Saint Paul's Fortress. There are two audio visual shows about the history of the Walls and the city of Ceuta, both are free admission. There is also a museum with travelling exhibitions in Saint Ignatius' Ravelin.

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Constanta



While visiting Constanta, one of the easiest and best way to learn about the city is to enjoy the City tour.

Discover the ancient beauty and understand the culture of one of oldest cities of Europe by visiting many sites and especially the Roman Ruins.

On the way to the History and Archaeology Museum, visitors will have the chance to see the oldest part of the city which exhibits buildings dating from 19th Century. The Museum displays exhibits gathered from all over Dobrogea. Among the wonderful sites to be seen and photographed in the

Museum is the stunning Roman Edifice, constructed in the 4th century AD, and the largest of its kind in south east Europe.

Just next to the tremendous Museum visitors will get the chance to see the largest Roman Mosaic from south east Europe.

At the centre of Ovidius Square, the statue of the exiled Roman poet is exhibited. Known also as the singer of tender love, Ovidius Publius Nasos was credited with the first written description of the ancient region and its people.

Also, not to be missed is the Ancient Citadel of Histria, the Tropaeum Traiani & Monarchal Picnick of St. Andrew's Cave and the Romanian Folk Show.

The port is expecting two cruise calls for 2019.

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Corfu



A popular eco-tour when calling Corfu is to visit the birthplace of the multi-award winning olive oil 'The Governor' The Dafnis family, producers of 'The Governor', welcome and introduce you to an unforgettable olive oil experience. An experience which travels you back in time, teaches you about the Dafnis olive history. Learn all the truths and myths of olive oil, from olive experts, taste one of the highest phenolic olive oils in the world and receive a certificate of participation.

Other popular tours are Corfu's historic centre: a scene out of a classic film; UNESCO has declared the island's historic centre a World Heritage site. The stately buildings with neoclassical influences will dazzle you. Who could not be moved by the Palace of St Michael and St Georgiou, the Liston Arcade, the Reading Society, the Catholic cathedral, the Maitland rotunda, the Ionian Parliament and the Kapodistrias family mansion.

Or maybe a visit to the Achilleion Palace, the island's imperial past and considered one of the most glamorous and luxurious destinations in Greece.

Empress Elizabeth of Austria-Hungary, the legendary Sissi, chose Corfu to build her palace, a place where she found consolation after her son Rudolph's suicide. It is an elegant Pompeian-style building with luxurious, neoclassical living rooms. In the beautiful gardens you'll admire the famous statue of Achilles in his death throes.

In 2019, 416 vessels are expected with approximately 780,000 visitors, a growth of 7% in passengers by 32 cruise lines with a variety of new ships including; Costa Cruises' Costa Venezia, Princess Cruises' Emerald Princess and Sky Princess and Norwegian Cruise Lines' Norwegian Epic.

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Costa Brava ports



The five best selling shore excursions for Costa Brava ports are: Medieval Villages; Tossa de Mar combined with beach and leisure; Barcelona; Girona and the Dali Museum. These five tours are all within a 2-hour drive of the ports.

Also available is an eco-tour by burricleta. The burricleta is an electric bicycle with assisted pedalling. It's like a normal conventional bike but it has a small electric motor incorporated into it which helps to make the climbing easier and riding on the flat a pleasure. The tours are the spirit of the burricleta experience. They fit in with, and respect, the surroundings and the local society as well as offering an opportunity to learn about the local culture and heritage.

The steady pace of the electric bike allows you to travel over long distances effortlessly

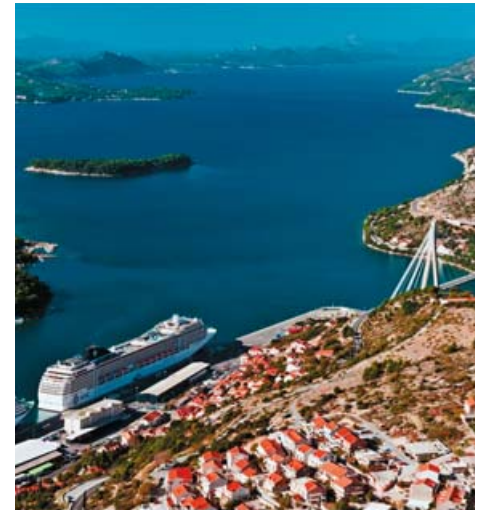
and reflect about what you are experiencing as all the tours go through amazing landscapes away from tarmac and crowds.

An experiential tour available from Palamós is local breakfast in a typical rustic house in the middle of a vineyard. Breakfast is served with breathtaking views, followed by a tour of the compound to learn the entire procedure of production. Finally, visitors will be able to taste the wines and enjoy the flavours.

The 2019 season looks busy for Palamós, 46 calls are expected bringing 54,000 passengers. Nine cruise lines will call at port of Palamós with maiden calls from Oceania's Marina and Marella Cruises' Marella Explorer 2.

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Dubrovnik



Two exciting tours for the more adventurous traveller from Dubrovnik port are firstly, a Jeep Safari. This excursion offers a unique opportunity to see the spectacular scenery of the Konavle valley from a completely different perspective. Driving with the high quality jeeps, you will have the chance to get in touch with the nature in your own way. A drive through the valley will first take you to the viewpoint 'Sivi Soko' (Gray Falcon) in the hills, which offers a magnificent view of the valley and the Adriatic coast. After descending back to the valley, you can visit the charming seaside village of Molunat, which is the southernmost settlement on the Adriatic coast.

The second tour is a 'Blue Trail' Horse Riding Tour. Horse riding on the trails today is a serene experience. You will be offered a short lesson and then an experienced trainer will lead you through the scenic countryside of Konavle. Idyllic pastures and beautiful surroundings – a vacation both horse and rider will be sure to enjoy.

Cruise traffic is expected to reach last year's levels with a slight increase. Projected numbers for 2019 are 550 cruise calls and 810,00 passengers.

New visitors include Costa Cruises' Costa Venezia, Viking Ocean Cruises' Viking Jupiter, Royal Caribbean Cruises' Jewel of the Seas, Norwegian Cruise Lines' Norwegian Pearl, and TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 6.

DPA is in the process of acquiring building permission for the construction of new berths at Batahovina basin, approximately 450mtr of new operative quays with two ferry ramps. New berths are expected to be operative in the first quarter of 2023.

DPA in cooperation with the City of Dubrovnik is implementing the programme 'Respect the City' which aims to harmonise tourist flows and migrations through city infrastructure, where cruise passengers represent significant percentage of daily visitors. The aim of the programme/project is to find optimal solutions for sustainable tourism development in the destination.

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Cyprus ports



Limassol Marina

they can visit the historic centre with its beautiful buildings and local cafes, stroll on the sea promenade and visit the old Limassol Port with its cafes and restaurants as well as nearby Limassol Marina.

A unique and fun experience to meet and ride the friendly Cyprus donkeys in their own environment is a great idea for all the family. Meet the friendly donkeys and enjoy a ride through

the peaceful Paphos countryside before arriving at the abandoned 14th Century Monastery, 'Panayia tou Sindi'.

UNESCO has recently expertly restored it. In 1997, this project was granted the prestigious EUROPA NOSTRA award and was recognised as a World Cultural Heritage monument. Back to the farm where, a typical BBQ meal accompanied by home cooked specialities, will be waiting. To finish, a show of Cypriot folk dancing and music.

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Limassol is a destination that offers excellent and variant opportunities both for year-round excursions and for those who prefer, a visit to the vibrant City of Limassol located just a breath away from port.

The unique UNESCO sites offer a look in the past combined with a taste of the local cuisine and the opportunity to dream in the birthplace of goddess Aphrodite in Paphos.

On the other hand, another option is to head north towards the Troodos mountains and discover the hinterland of Cyprus, with its picturesque villages, monasteries, wine vineyards, boutique wineries, great scenery and local traditions at Lefkara village.

For those interested to discover the city,

French Riviera



The four French Riviera ports of Cannes, Antibes, Nice and Villefranche sur mer are expecting to welcome 352 port calls and 670,000 passengers in 2019. Maiden callers to the ports will be Celebrity Cruises' Celebrity Edge, Azamara Cruises' Azamara Pursuit, MSC Cruises' MSC Seaview, Crystal Cruises' Crystal Esprit, Ponant Cruises' Le Bougainville and Star Clipper's Flying Clipper. A new walking tour on offer from Cannes takes in the old world charm of the town. The half -day walking tour features the Old Quarter, Le Suquet and La Croisette where the Cannes Film Festival is held, and finishes

with a visit to the typical Provencal markets. A visit to Marineland, an animal exhibition park in Antibes is great for all the family. One of the biggest parks of its kind in the world, it receives more than 1.2million visitors per year. The park has whales, dolphins, sea lions, sharks and polar bears to see. The top five must-see destinations available from French Riviera ports are: Grasse and the perfume factory with museum; Monaco; Eze; Nice and St Paul de Vence.

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Gibraltar

With Gibraltar only being 6.7sq km, there is an abundance of activities and attractions for all. Tours for 2019 not to be missed include; The Rock Tour, WW2 Tunnels (Fortress Gibraltar), Gibraltar Vault, Round the Rock Helicopter Tours and The Mediterranean Steps. For a special experience, visitors should try the Lower St Michael's Cave Tour: Whilst the upper section of St Michael's Cave has been known for over 2000 years, it was only in 1942 that Lower St Michael's Cave was discovered - a cavern was found, with several chambers, which may have been sealed for 20,000 years. This extraordinary beautiful cavern is remarkable for three reasons: the size of the main chambers, the profusion and variety of

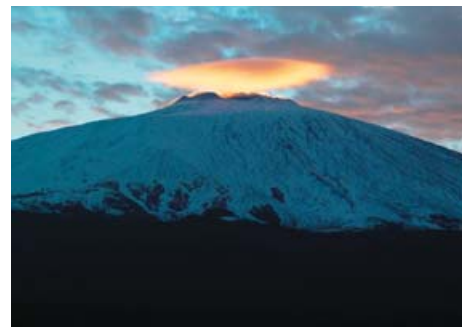
calcite formations, and last but not least - a lake of crystal clear water, nearly 36mtr long estimated to hold over 170,000 litres. The cave is totally in its original natural state (although it is fully lit). One of the sites visited during this tour is a beautiful underground lake and fortunately for the visitor, who will no doubt not want to forget this wonderful speleological experience, photography is permitted. The tour normally lasts around three hours. Those wanting more of an adrenaline rush will be pleased to know the 'Round the Rock Helicopter Tour' is planned to start in May 2019.

Each flight will take off from Gibraltar Airport and will fly around the Rock in one direction before reversing direction to repeat the flight in the other direction - this in order to ensure that passengers on both sides of the helicopter get uninterrupted views of the Rock. Each flight will last between 10 and 15 minutes. This tour will allow cruise passengers the opportunity to take photos of their cruise ship with the Rock in the background.

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Port System Authority of the Eastern Sicilian Sea



From Catania it is possible to reach various interesting and well-known destinations such as Mount Etna, Taormina and Syracuse. Furthermore, some new proposals are now being offered to cruisers arriving at the Port of Catania.

Etnaland, a tour for all generations and Piazza Armerina are two examples of novelties. Etnaland, an island of fun, filled with leisure opportunities: from mainly playful activities in the Themepark and in the Aquapark, to didactic ones in its Prehistoric Park and its special botanical trail, attend a variety of edutainment shows and practical hands-on laboratories. The Themepark is considered to be the jewel in the crown of automated attractions. During spring and fall season it is open at daytime, while in summer it turns on its magical lights for a night time opening, giving you a thrill of amusement in an enchanting atmosphere. Highly spectacular amusement rides: extreme ones like The Storm, Etnaland Tower, Quasar, Vortigo; adventurous one as Eldorado, The School, Revo-Rock; the boats of the Love Lagoon, the family coaster Hip Hop Coaster, the 'splash battle' Kaos and many others. Piazza Armerina, where it is possible to see the UNESCO site Villa Romana del Casale as well as the medieval village and baroque churches. All cruisers are also offered a didactic, complimentary food and wine tasting. The year 2019 sees an increase in cruise calls and passenger numbers for the Port of Catania with 113 calls bringing 219,200 passengers.

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Huelva

The Port Authority of Huelva has invested in the surrounding area, building a riverside walk of eight hectares near the city. This estuary walk recently opened and has been well received.

This has positively improved the Port-City integration because it offers citizens and tourists a beautiful and large recreational area. In addition, the Port of Huelva has some future projects in which Levante Wharf will undergo some changes, creating a marina and also a leisure zone which cruises passengers can joy.

At the end of the Middle Age, the port of Huelva experienced a period of great splendour. Christopher Columbus' first expedition set sail for the New World from the dock of Palos de la Frontera in 1492. The Columbus Places have been declared a historic artistic heritage.

The Monastery of La Rábida, is the location where discoverer Christopher Columbus planned his trip, safe in this refuge belonging to the Franciscan order. Built during the 14th and 15th

centuries its Gothic-Mudejar style contrasts with the frescoes of painter Vázquez Díaz and is a key to understanding the Discovery that would change our perception of the world.

In the Caravels Wharf are replicas of the three ships that discovered America: the caravels Pinta and Niña, and the vessel Santa Maria. All this in a unique natural setting that will make you feel a part of that glorious adventure.

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Igoumenitsa



Accessible from the Greek port of Igoumenitsa are the recently introduced tours of Parga, Nekromanteion and Preveza.

Parga is a charming seaside town set in an attractive bay with a small green islet at its centre. The old quarter is reminiscent of a Greek island settlement and its waterfront is lively with cafés, taverns and shops. Among its features there is a 17th Century Venetian Castle, originally built by the Normans in the 14th Century, a number of churches and an ecclesiastical and folkloric museum.

Not far from Parga lies the important archaeological site of Nekromanteion (Oracle of the Dead), near the Acheron River. According to ancient belief, it is close to where the souls of the dead would begin their journey up river to reach Lake Acherusia and the Gates of Hades. The oracle is mentioned in Homer's Odyssey and its cult clearly existed for millennia, with findings at the site dating back to prehistoric times. It is a place of unique serenity and mystical power. Considered one of the Ionian's prettiest seaside towns, Parga combines a wealth of history with a relaxing holiday atmosphere.

Preveza is first mentioned by name in a 13th Century record of its conquest by the Genoese, then allied to the Byzantine Empire. Close to Preveza is the fascinating archaeological site of Nicopolis. Literally "Victory City", it was founded by Octavian after crushing Mark Anthony's fleet in the Battle of Actium (31 BC). Nicopolis flourished as capital of the Roman province Epirus Vetus, but from the 9th Century AD onward barbarian invasions drove it to decline. Visitors can see the city walls, a monument to Octavian, a theatre, an Odeon, the Nymphaeum, early Christian basilicas and a nearby archaeological museum.

Under construction at the port the 2,300sq mtr Terminal 3 building as well as a 197mtr long finger pier for the mooring of 300,000 dwt ships.

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Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea - Port of Taranto

Getting lost among the olive groves and vineyards dotting the countryside near Taranto, cruise passengers calling this port, may enjoy an experience based tour in one of the many ancient fortified farmhouses called masserie, which are increasingly being turned into restaurants and hotels. Here a local chef will teach the guests how to bake the traditional fragrant Apulian bread and to make mozzarella (soft cheese) with hot milk.

Tucked away in Puglia, the heel of the boot, Grottaglie is a small gem and a new shorex destination from Taranto. Guests will be charmed and artistically involved in this village with earthenware laden roofs and pottery workshops, as Grottaglie boasts an ancient tradition of ceramic art. During the tour an expert artisan will guide visitors in the creative process of making a vase with a

treadle wheel.

Falanto port service center, the new infrastructure aimed at providing dedicated services to passengers and upgrading the waterfront is in the pipeline. The investment covers the building of the new Multipurpose Service Center, including a passenger terminal to receive and welcome travellers visiting the Ionian City. The Centre will be named after the mythical hero 'Falanto', the founder of the city of Taranto, and will be ready by September 2019.

This year Marella Cruises is set to call five times plus one visit from Noble Caledonia. All of the calls are new ships to the port. Around 8,793 transiting passengers are expected.

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Koper



A recently introduced tour from Port of Koper is a trip to the Lipica Stud Farm with a carriage ride and picnic style lunch. Historical Lipica Stud Farm, is not known only for magnificent white Lipizzaner horses, but also for some unique and memorable experiences. Lipica estate is surrounded by beautiful green scenery, which is perfect for an open air picnic. Guests firstly visit Stud Farm, where they could admire the stallions and history of the farm, before special transfer.

Afterwards, the guests are taken with vintage carriages drawn by Lipizzaner horses, to their very own lunch location. The picnic area, is rustically decorated with piles of hay as the seating area surrounding a wooden table full of locally made Karst delicacies, as prosciutto, local cheeses, Karst rolled dumplings and many more, with of course a variety of wine from nearby vineyards and

other homemade beverages.

One of Koper's most special experiences, is Private Home Dining, which is a unique opportunity to connect with Slovenian culture and meet a Slovenian family. Guests will be welcomed by local hosts under the shadows of 100-years old walnut trees where they will sample local aperitifs and hear about the history of the region. Afterwards, the owner takes the guests into the wine cellar to share knowledge of wine production along with some wine tasting. After the educational part of the tour, the family serves some homemade delicacies, made with traditional recipes.

In 2019, numbers around 100,000 passengers and approximately 70 calls are expected in Koper.

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Lisbon



Arrábida & Setúbal Market is a new tour from the port of Lisbon. From the city, visitors cross the Tagus River south towards the town of Azeitão. Here they will visit the oldest cellar of the region, which has been in the same family for more than seven generations, and learn how they make the wine and taste the local Moscatel.

Continuing towards Setubal, they'll travel past Arrábida Natural Park. The road offers a fascinating panorama of the Atlantic and the extensive area. The typical Mediterranean climate due to the proximity of the sea, with nature represented in the mountains beyond, through its flora, which is unique to Europe.

In Setúbal the guide will introduce the Livramento Market. There visitors will have

the chance to browse the displays of fresh fish, seafood and vegetable vendors, before returning back to Lisbon.

Also available from the Portuguese capital are a number of eco tours; Lisbon by tram; the Lisbon Hills by Segway; A stroll through Lisbon; Lisbon by electric tuk tuk, and Lisbon by bicycle.

The port expects 332 cruise calls in 2019, bringing 600,000 passengers. There will be 22 maiden callers this year including TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 2, MSC Cruises' MSC Bellissima, Hapag Lloyd's Hanseatic Nature, Hurtigruten's Roald Amundsen and Costa Cruises' Costa Smeralda.

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Porto di Livorno 2000



The port of Livorno is expecting 400 calls and 825,000 passengers in 2019 including eight new ships; Viking Cruises' Viking Jupiter, Celebrity Cruises' Celebrity Infinity and Celebrity Edge, Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Jade and Norwegian Pearl, Princess Cruises' Sky Princess and TUI Cruises' Marella Discovery II and Marella Explorer II.

An experience based tour available from the port is 'Italian food Cooking Lesson with Market Tour in Livorno'. Visitors will learn to cook from a professional Italian chef, making an entire meal under his supervision and tasting what they prepare at the end.

The activity begins at the Central Food Market where visitors choose and pick the best fresh ingredients, also feeling the lively atmosphere of an authentic Italian market.

The 4.5 hours cooking class will continue in a pleasant location in the town centre, where they first learn cooking tips about the menu and prepare all the ingredients.

The Italian chef will teach them how to make every element of the meal, from appetizers to dessert, including a lesson on how to make pasta from raw ingredients. At the end of the cooking lesson, visitors will have the opportunity to taste everything during a pleasant lunch, paired with a glass of the best Italian wine or other drinks.

A popular eco-tour is the 'Cycling from Pisa to Lucca' shore excursion. This excursion includes an English-speaking guide, hybrid bikes and helmet rental and transfer from ship to starting point and back.

The total riding distance is about 30 miles on flat terrain. They will ride through the beautiful Pisa city centre, along the river front to discover the many enchanting spots of this medieval city, passing by Miracle Square, where the Leaning Tower is, and the Cathedral and Baptistery are situated. After Pisa, visitors will ride to Lucca, Tuscany's jewel which is encircled by a massive wall with a road on the top on which you can ride. They will spend about 2 hours here, visiting the magnificent Cathedral, the Foro, the heart of the Roman city, the Fillungo, the main street with its picturesque shops and workshops and the birthplace of Giacomo Puccini, the famous opera composer.

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Madeira ports

The five must-see destinations from the ports of Madeira are: Porto Moniz Natural Swimming Pools; Cabo Girão Cliffs Skywalk; Monte Church and Gardens/Toboggan Run; Funchal Old Town and Farmer's Market and Madeira Botanical Gardens.

Cabo Girão Cliffs Skywalk is the highest in Europe, at an elevation of 580mtr, and is famous for its suspended glass platform. The Cabo Girão viewpoint offers a vertiginous view of the fajãs of Rancho and Cabo Girão – small areas of cultivated land at the foot of the cliff – as well as magnificent panoramic views over the ocean and the municipalities of Câmara de Lobos and Funchal.



The viewpoint has been renovated, and a suspended glass platform, called a skywalk, was built. It is an excellent spot to practice paragliding and base jumping. Recently, the Portuguese parachutist Mário Pardo performed a spectacular motorcycle leap here.

Nearby is the Chapel of Nossa Senhora de Fátima (Our Lady of Fátima), built in 1951 and one of the main pilgrimage sites of the island.

Funchal Old Town and Farmer's Market, the historical centre of the city of Funchal, better known as the "Zona Velha" (Old Town), presents the Painted Doors Project that transforms this area into a permanent art gallery.

This public art project intends to stimulate one of the most emblematical areas of downtown Funchal in order to turn it into a more significant and attractive cultural centre and a permanent art gallery, joining several guest artists to work on decorative paintings on doors of houses, shops and other premises along Rua de Santa Maria.

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Port Authority of North Tyrrhenian Sea



If calling at the port of Portoferraio, diving off Elba Island is possible. Located in different areas of the north side of the island are several diving bases, equipped with facilities, logistics and welcoming staff able to provide the best service and every comfort.

Near Portoferraio, where cruise vessels berth, several hotels/camping sites have private docks, perfect for diving (daily diving, all level diving courses, free diving courses, snorkelling and diving courses for children).

More than 30 dive spots around Elba are suitable for all levels. There is a possibility to visit dive spots in Pianosa (National Park) and Capraia islands.

Popular from the port of Piombino is the Archaeological Park of Baratti and Populonia, a gleaming outdoor iron museum that shows

the prominence of the old industrial city of Populonia, the only Etruscan city built by the sea. Walking on this gleaming land of iron powder and metal waste you can discover the city (the Acropolis), the temples, the industrial city and the necropolis of San Cerbone, with mounds and tombs (made like little temples), sarcophagus (VII-IV BC), and cave tombs dug into the rocks (IV-III BC). It is connected entirely by paths, as it was in the past, follow the original roads, through woods and Mediterranean bush, with blooms to unexpected views of Elba Island.

Ship calls forecast for 2019 are 14 for Piombino, 100 for Portoferraio and 400 for Livorno.

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Motril-Granada



A new gastronomy experience is available to cruise passengers from port of Motril-Granada. The 'espetos', and more specifically the espetos of sardine, are a classic of the gastronomy of the Costa Tropical of Granada.

Although it may seem simple to the naked eye, the art of a sardine skewer has its tricks. In this Master Class you will be taught how to do it correctly so you have to string the fish through the stomach and through a specific side of the spine with a prepared rod. After this step it is nailed in to the sand next to the embers and salt is added.

The best way to eat it is with your hands. A splash of lemon is enough to season this delicacy.

Locals eat sardine and other fish and shellfish in beach bars in almost all the coastal towns of Andalusia. The espetos of sardines are the best known. Other fish and shellfish that obtain that special flavour, being strung on a cane and roasted in the coals on the sand of the beach. The skewers of horse mackerel, sea bream and sea bass are delicious, as well as calamari or octopus' stick.

Another gastronomical tour is to learn about olive oil. A complete guided introduction to the world of olive oil! You will visit a 15th century oil mill, and taste a special selection of extra virgin oils, flavoured olive oils, olives, vinegars, salts and more. Your guide will explain all about the different varieties of olive trees and olives, the harvesting season, their life cycle and other interesting facts about these great trees. The tour takes place in the beautiful village of Niguelas, in the Lecrín Valley, 30 km south of Granada.

Port of Granada-Motril has 27 ship calls booked for 2019, bringing 10,822 passengers.

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Odessa

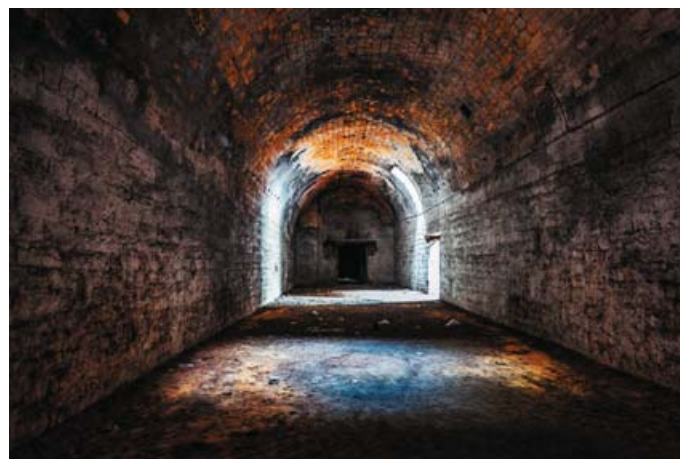
Secrets of the Odessa Catacombs is a dive under the ground to a depth of 25-30mtr. In several districts of the city, locations for visits to the underground museum and a look at the historical features of these places is possible.

The Labyrinth of Catacombs, which threads about 600miles under the city and its environs were natural hideouts for World War II resistance forces during the Nazi occupation. The excursion begins with a brief drive through the port city passing through small Ukrainian villages, farms, beautiful orchards and vineyards, giving passengers an

opportunity to admire the changing view, before arriving at the village of Nerubayskij, originally established as a kozak military settlement at the end of the 18th Century.

Passengers are escorted on a fascinating underground walk through 500 yards of the massive maze that baffled the occupation forces. To bring the passages to life, actors dressed like guerillas will perform a 10-15 minute concert for the guests.

During World War II, Odessa was besieged for seventy-three days, and then occupied for almost three years, during which local partisans harassed the (principally Rumanian)



occupational forces, until the city was liberated on April 10, 1944. Because of this dedicated bravery, Odessa was designated a City of Heroes. In the Resistance Museum across the road, guests will visit a re-creation of the resistance headquarters, and view memorabilia of Odessa's heroic stand.

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Piraeus



From the port of Piraeus visit the Acropolis, the city's most famous landmark. Begin your tour with a short coach drive to Athens. Visit the ancient site at the top of Acropolis Hill and see the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike and the Erechtheion. At the end of your visit, you'll continue on foot through the Acropolis pedestrian zone to reach the New Acropolis Museum. There, you will see its many exhibits, which include statues, sculptures and marbles from the Parthenon.

Or alternatively take a guided tour of Athens, A coach can drive you from Piraeus port to Athens city centre to join a local guide on an interactive walking tour through the famous Plaka neighbourhood. You'll stroll around the Monastiraki market, where you can browse traditional antique and jewellery shops among

others, smell and learn about the Greek herbs and try local baklava. Hear traditional Greek music and try some steps of the syrtaki dancing. Enjoy a typical Greek coffee, taste traditional spoon cherry sweet and drink ouzo.

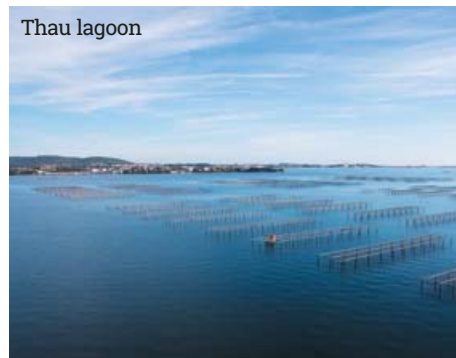
There has been an increase in the number of ships and arrivals that have been scheduled to call Piraeus port for 2019 compared to 2018, with the total number of calls well over 600, including approximately 20 new ships for 2019.

Port of Piraeus is in the process of investing in new port facilities including adding two more cruise berths for new generation cruise ships. A new cruise terminal will be constructed on the new pier.

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Sete

Thau lagoon



The five most popular tours from French port of Sète are; Carcassone Medieval city; Sète, a genuine city through waterways and lively market place; The Thau lagoon: a journey through local wildlife and oysters tasting; The Canal du Midi: back in time alongside the old medieval canal; Tease the bulls: enjoy a stunning escape in the Camargue area and experience the traditions in bull farms.

The Thau lagoon tours are new. There is an exclusive option where visitors start from Sète through the city waterways and reach the preserved Thau Lagoon. The Eco-tour on the Lagoon lets visitors see flamingos and discover genuine techniques of Oyster farms followed by a relax on the pontoon with a wine tasting at sunset.

For a more active trip to the site, visit the Thau lagoon on a Stand-up paddle to get even closer to nature and enjoy still waters while paddling through the oyster farms before enjoying a well-deserved tasting on the pontoon before heading back to the ship.

2019 will be once again a bustling year for the port of Sète with a total of 78 calls expected and more than 125,000 passengers.

Sète Cruise club will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on May 22nd. An event not to be missed!

Sète Port Authority will be financing a new Cruise and Ferry terminal in 2022 to accommodate all ships and provide premium services to the guests and possibilities to expand transit calls and also to start interporting operations.

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Tangier

Just over an hour from Tangier lies Tetouan, the Historical Capital of Northern Morocco, a welcoming city that extends along the Mediterranean with charming background. It was founded in the 3rd century BC. Echoes of the Roman and Phoenician eras known to exist in the site of Tamuda colored the region's early days. Locals affectionately call it 'The Daughter of Granada' because the architecture's got a distinctly Hispanic feel to it.

A tour starts with the main gate of the Royal Palace at Place Hassan II, together with some of the Spanish colonial architecture in the new town outside the medina around the Place Moulay El Mehdi. Stroll around town to admire its little white houses representing a mix of Arab and Andalusian cultures, surrounded by lush vegetation. You can wander through the narrow streets of the old medina and souks, discovering all the hidden corners. You will stop at a traditional teahouse to watch an exotic belly dancing show and enjoy a refreshing glass of mint tea before returning to the ship.

It is possible to catch a

glimpse into Moroccan life through a cooking class tour; the Bread & Tea Experience teaches you to serve and enjoy Moroccan Mint Tea, learn to prepare and bake traditional Moroccan Bread, visit the ferran (community wood-burning oven) and experience a Moroccan Degustation with cheese and more.

Or why not try the Chicken & Olive Tagine experience where as well as the Bread & Tea Experience you visit a spice shop, and have a hands-on, step-by-step lesson in preparing a sumptuous Tagine.

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Sibenik



Etnoland Dalmati is a theme park and excursion destination open all year round. The experience begins with a journey to the Dalmatian hinterland. This is a 1.5-3 hour day or evening experience taking place in all weathers. With a total area of 15,000mtr sq Etnoland Dalmati is the destination for all types of group arrivals, entertainment and socialising and because of the proximity to the National Park Krka (10min), visitors often combine it with a visit to the national park.

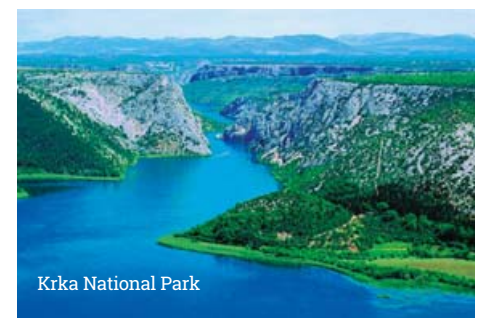
Memorable moments include the spirit of the past, local food, nature, kind and smiling hosts, as well as the tradition and customs of Croats in Dalmatia. After a formal, and for Dalmatians, sacred welcome ceremony, listen to stories of their ancestors and history, see and learn about customs and tradition. Etnoland Dalmati offers visitors indigenous Dalmatian food and drinks, and delicacies such as those prepared under 'peka' in the traditional way, 'Drniski prsut' smoked ham and traditional red and white wine.

Krka National Park is a 109km sq area of exceptional natural and cultural value, including preserved ecosystems. The purpose of the park is to offer science, culture, education and recreation, while tourism activities have been introduced for its visitors. Krka river runs from the foothills of Dinara mountain to the Adriatic sea near Sibenik. This is a truly wonderful place full of waterfalls, lush green and karstic canyons.

Krka National Park is open for visitors all year round, and can be toured by water, by road or by foot on many hiking trails.

Sibenik expects 109 arrivals in 2019 and around 21,000 passengers. The port will receive a two maiden calls from Azamara Cruises' Azamara Pursuit and DIV Cruises' MS Monet. The Maritime Passenger Terminal Project which includes the construction of a new two-storey passenger terminal building and garage should be finished by 2021.

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Tarragona



Visitors can enjoy a beautiful village of houses and cobblestone streets and the rest of the Saracens stronghold, located next to the village. At its feet, a clean and calm water reservoir offers the possibility of practicing any kind of water sports.

Siurana is a popular destination for climbers and hikers. Its legendary cliffs are known around the world as a perfect place for such activities.

Tarragona is a must due to its roman legacy. The Roman

Route introduces visitors to the history of Tarragona by means of the main monuments that survive from that era, when the city was at the peak of its splendour. On 30 November 2000, UNESCO declared the ancient Roman archaeological complex of Tarraco as a World Heritage Site.

The five most popular destinations available from Tarragona are; the city itself, the only World Heritage city in Catalonia; Poblet Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; Reus, recognized for its important Art Nouveau heritage; PortAventura World and Ferrari Land, one of Europe's foremost theme parks; and Siurana.

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Tarragona port is to create a new cruise dock called the Balears Berth, which will add an additional 700mtr of berthing. The dock is due to be ready in 2021, between May and September.

From Tarragona visitors can visit Siurana, a small village at the top of an escarpment in the Prades Mountains where you will discover a village full of historical relevance and excellent views over the Siurana Reservoir and surrounding valley.

Located in an unassailable position over the river, it needed knights of four counties to conquer it. The castle defended a frontier. If you look at the cliff, you can see why it was not conquered in three hundred years and why the end was so tragic.

Tunisian ports



The most popular tours from Tunisian ports of Bizerte, La Goulette, Sousse and Tunis are Carthage, an archaeological site only 4km from La Goulette port; Sidi Bou Said, a famous Moorish village; The Medina of Tunis; The Bardo Museum, the largest roman mosaic collection in the world; and Takrouna, a Berber village.

Takrouna is a small Berber village, located in the Sahel, more precisely in Enfidha. This village is one of the oldest in Tunisia, built on a large fossilised rock, dating back over 2,000 years.

The archaeological site of Carthage is classified among the World Heritage sites since 1979 and houses the unmissable cathedral of Saint Louis. Scattered in the city of

Carthage are the ruins of the archaeological site that show a great civilization that has been able to impose its existence since the ninth century BC until today.

The medina of Tunis is presented in an oval form, surrounded by a continuous wall and dominated by a Kasbah, the seat of government. It is built around the religious centre of the Grand Mosque Ezzaitouna, opening onto a large platform for both market place, public meetings and place for military parades, near which are arranged Souks merchants and artisans. Around these souks rise private houses with their narrow streets.

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Valencia



In the very centre of Valencia our cruise guests will find a wide variety of possibilities to visit both modern and ancient Valencia. The most popular tours are;

Historic Valencia: a journey from ancient Romans to the Arabic, Medieval, Baroque and Art Deco Period.

Avant-Garde Visit: take a walk around the most modern part of Valencia visiting the architectural complex of the City of Arts and Sciences.

The Horchata route by Bicycle: the Huerta of Valencia is the name given to a huge area for fertile farmland you can explore in a very sustainable way with your bike and taste our famous horchata vegan drink.

Among the Vines: Visit and taste our wine producing areas and the beauty of their landscapes just 40 minutes' drive from the port.

Paella Show Cooking: Cook yourself an authentic Valencia Paella, where this internationally known dish comes from the fresh products you will collect yourself.

Lake Albufera Tour: A bike trip to the Albufera Lake Natural Park, a Mediterranean ecosystem covering 20,000 hectares with unspoiled dune beaches, forest, rice fields and a huge lake where you can enjoy boat trips and discover the fauna that lives there.

In 2019 port of Valencia is anticipating 435,000 cruises passengers from 199 calls year-round. In 2018, passengers numbered 421,518 passengers from 196 calls so steadily increasing which underlines the goal of being a sustainable cruise port and destination.

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Thessaloniki



A new tour from port of Thessaloniki this year is entitled 'Ancient Pella – Traces of Alexander the Great'. This unique tour is a magical journey through time to the glorious kingdom of ancient Macedonia, where Alexander the Great was born. Peer into the rich history of the Macedonian state capital, a bustling metropolis of the Classical period. A number of excavations of the site reveal the ancient city's majestic grandeur.

Visit the monumental palatial complex that occupies the northernmost hill of the city, and covers an area of 60,000mtr sq. Wander around the city's commercial and manufacturing centre which was in fact the biggest of the ancient world. This huge building complex included shops, workshops, administration offices, and the repository of the city's historical records.

The visitors will certainly be impressed by the outstanding mosaic floors that used to decorate the city's grand mansions. These decorated floors (considered the most important group of mosaics in Macedonia) can be viewed at the new Archaeological Museum of Pella.

The Archaeological Museum of Pella is situated near the archaeological site and it gives a complete picture of the civilization in the heart of Macedonia in Archaic and early Classical Period.

The tour also includes a traditional Macedonian lunch, based on traditional ancient recipes with local products and ingredients.

In 2019, four cruise ships are scheduled to call but numbers are expected to grow significantly from 2020.

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Port Authority of Western Sicilian Sea

The Port System Authority of the Western Sicilian Sea is made up of the ports of Palermo, Termini Imerese, Trapani and Porto Empedocle.

There is a vast amount of activities for children in town, ten minutes from Palermo at Mondello; the beach, with more than two kilometres of sandy coastline with tropical colours; the a liberty bathing centre with huge pylons in the sea; the square with the Little Mermaid: the village square overlooking the sea and Monte Pellegrino; take a walk from Capo Gallo to Monte Pellegrino; visit the Addaura with its caves that preserve one of the pictorial cycles - or rather, rock engravings - dating back to the Palaeolithic period; observe the cursed villa: an Art Nouveau villa said to be inhabited by ghosts and finally, enjoy the restaurants.

A new tour in the area is to Cefalù, a medieval town, less than one hour from Palermo and twenty minutes from Termini Imerese, along the north coast of Sicily. The must-see attractions are the Duomo, the Osterio Magno, Porta Terra square, the Medieval lavatory, Mandralisca Museum and the beautiful historical centre.

Cefalù's town centre is fairly small and you can



Mondello

© Sandro Scalia

easily walk around to admire the medieval town and the shops lining its old cobblestone streets. Cefalù is part of the Arab-Norman Itinerary of UNESCO with its Duomo, whose building itself is distinctive and looks like a cross between a fortress and a church with some very unusual architecture. Once you go inside, the interior is like a traditional church with some beautiful artwork. After hiking up and down there's nothing better than go to the beach and take a dip. Cefalù's beach is easily accessible from the centre, and offers a refreshing water temperature from April onwards.

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Valletta



Although the curtain has gone down on Valletta's year-long spell as European Capital of Culture 2018, Valletta continues to bustle with activity. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage City since 1980, the recent past years have proven to be a revival for the city based on a multi-year regeneration programme. Investment both within and outside of the city walls led to the development of new infrastructural projects, the restoration of public spaces and buildings, and a multitude of events available day and night, amongst the capital's iconic hotspots.

The re-modelled City Gate with the restored Triton Fountain, the elegant Parliament building just inside the gate, along with a flight of steps in the 16th century walls, lead to garden areas with panoramic views of the fortifications and a newly landscaped moat acting as an outdoor performance space.

The extension and modernization of St. John's Co-Cathedral Museum will finally allow nearly all of the priceless artefacts to be adequately displayed, including the world's largest set of Gobelin tapestries.

Additionally, the move of the Fine Arts Museum to the 15th century Auberge d'Italie, known as MUŻA seeks to promote greater participation by the community through a story-based narrative of displays and related objects.

The revival of Strait Street with its historic dwellings previously the residences of the Knights of the Order and Maltese notables have been given a new life.

Nightlife both in Valletta itself and in neighbouring towns and villages, and mild climate throughout the year are attracting locals and visitors alike. There are plenty of exciting activities going on around the Capital and the Islands to warrant an encores visit, and to surprise you if you haven't visited yet.

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Zadar



Kornati Islands

An activity based tour available from the Croatian port of Zadar is a Jeep Safari in the Mountain Velebit, a full day trip where you can enjoy beautiful views from Velebit heights and experience the unforgettable adventure.

While driving terrain vehicles through Velebit you will get to know its nature and culture. On this excursion you will experience Velebit in a completely new and different way and have a chance to take wonderful photos.

A tour for those seeking something more

sedate would be a trip to the National Park Kornati Islands. An Archipelago with 150 uninhabited islands, islets and reefs is the most indented island group in the Mediterranean. Take a boat sailing from one island to another all the way to a bay of extraordinary beauty. It is a paradise for those who know how to enjoy the pure form of fascinating crystal sea. On board you will be served a lunch, including wine or juice.

For the history lover why not try a tour of the City of Nin, the oldest Croatian royal town? Nin was an important royal and cultural centre throughout

Croatian history and the testimony to that are the monuments from the 8th and 9th century. You have the possibility to taste homemade products such as cheese, bread and wine.

In 2019, port of Zadar is expecting 140 cruise calls and 182,000 passengers. Costa Cruises' Costa Venezia and TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 6 will be maiden callers this year.

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Challenges and Solutions

We asked MedCruise member ports and destinations what is the biggest challenge they are facing in the cruise business and what is the solution - and in less than 120 words!

Palermo

The Port Authority is aiming for the renaissance of the cruise sector to make its quays more comfortable to host the new generation of vessels.

Antonella Filippi, Promotion and Communication Officer, Port System Authority of the Western Sicilian Sea



Palermo



Varna

Varna

Compared with last five years, there has been an outflow of passenger ships in the Black Sea basin, due to certain geopolitical issues in the region. Providing favourable conditions for accommodating cruise ships on their return is our main priority.

Alexander Todorov, Public Relations and Minutes, Port of Varna EAD

Civitavecchia

Space is an issue at Civitavecchia, that is why we are investing in the ports of Fiumicino and Gaeta. A development plan for the port of Fiumicino has been approved as well as at Gaeta, where 15 ships called in 2017.

Malcolm Morini, Manager of Cruise Sector & Promotion, Port Network Authority of Central-Northern Tyrrhenian Sea



Civitavecchia



Souda/Chania

Souda/Chania

Souda Port is one of the few ports in South East Mediterranean capable of accommodating mega-cruise vessels (of 360mtr length, 5,000 cruise guests). Within the next couple of years we expect an end to the geopolitics of the region and a return of mega cruise vessels movements from West Med to East Med. The cruise lines can be assured that the administration of Souda Port is already prepared.

Stella Manioudaki, Executive Director, Port Authority: Harbour Management Organisation of Chania

Tarragona

The growth in cruise calls to Tarragona have to be coordinated with all the destinations, to keep offering a high level of satisfaction to the cruise passengers.

Alba Colet, Cruises Department, Tarragona Cruise Port



Tarragona



Gibraltar

Gibraltar

Port Infrastructure developments, and capacity at destinations to cope with increased size of vessels and simultaneous calls, whilst keeping the local population happy going about their day to day business.

Nicky Guerrero, Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board



Portofino

Portofino

Portofino is a small fisherman's village which can get easily congested when multiple ships call on the same day. However, we always make sure to avoid such situations by communicating with the cruise line companies and agencies.

Giorgia Collalti, Sales & Marketing Manager, Marina di Portofino



Toulon-Var-Provence

Toulon Var Provence

Our biggest challenge is to market Toulon as an attractive cruise destination in an area where there are so many marquee cruise ports (where the cruise guests want to go mostly!) To face that challenge, we are trying to work closely with the local institution in charge of promoting the destination so they can develop a B2C ambitious strategy and action plan to better promote the destination and awake the interest of cruise visitors, which is the key to attracting the market!

Delphine Beudin, Head of Cruise Development, Ports of Toulon Bay/Var Provence Cruise Club

Piraeus

The biggest challenge stems from the external geopolitical environment and the unbalanced infrastructure among the Greek ports. Piraeus has taken initiatives through cooperative organizations in Greece to coordinate efforts for the development of the cruise cluster in Greek waters. Piraeus also actively participates in international forums and conferences to market the broader area with particular focus on the competitive advantages of cruises in the Greek islands.

Theodora Riga, Manager, Strategic Planning & Marketing, Piraeus Port Authority

Zadar

In 2018, Port of Zadar Authority finished the tender procedure for the concession for managing the terminal building in the new passenger port of Gazenica. The new concessionaire is called Zadar International Port Operations d.o.o. (Global Ports Holding). The biggest challenges in the next period for Port of Zadar Authority and ZIPO will be to put the new terminal building in to operation, to continue with other development projects for the purpose of port service empowerment and to continue with all other activities that will make Zadar one of the most attractive and safe ports in the Mediterranean Sea.

Djoni Stambuk, Assistant to GM, Port of Zadar Authority

Sibenik

The Channel of St. Anthony remains the biggest challenge for the port of Sibenik, as it limits the size of vessels that can pass through it and berth at Vrulje Quay. There is now a new option, just 5km from the city and offering anchorage for larger ships outside the St. Anthony Channel. The location of the new anchorage is parallel to the village of Zablace with existing port and transport infrastructure for cruise ship tenders and buses.

Gordana Mrcela, Marketing Specialist, Port of Sibenik Authority

Azores

Calls and passenger numbers are increasing, ships are getting bigger and days with 3 and 4 ships at the same time in port are becoming so common. It's a big challenge to manage all the ships, passengers, tours, etc. but we are improving our commercial pier to better accommodate the cruise ships berthing outside the cruise terminal.

André Velho Cabral, Cruise Manager, Portos dos Açores

Ceuta

In the cruise business we are facing new itinerary changes and increased cost of calls, but our port has developed its potential based on its geographical situation in north Africa, in the middle of the Straits of Gibraltar. The Autonomous city of Ceuta by law has been declared a free port and has a different system to elsewhere which makes the entrance and the exit of goods at a lower cost easier. That means better prices for all kinds of items, such as jewellery, liquors, tobacco and electrical items.

Victor Jiménez Serrano, Commercial & Marketing Manager, Port Authority of Ceuta

Bastia/North Corsica

The Port of Bastia enjoys a very ideal geographical position in the West Med. Our strategy is to focus on luxury cruise lines, which are already very loyal to our destination: that's the reason why we work hard to ensure their guests high standards of service and original tours to leave them an unforgettable souvenir... and make them want to come back as soon as possible!

Anne-Marie Spinosi, Cruises & Communication, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Bastia et de la Haute-Corse

Kotor

The biggest challenge for our destination, and we believe for the whole Adriatic region, is large number of passengers arriving at the same time into cruise ports. Traditionally, small places such as Kotor and Dubrovnik, are unable to develop infrastructure above a certain level so we have to think about solutions that can resolve traffic jams and crowds.

Ljubo Radovic, Assistant CEO, Port of Kotor

Kavala

The biggest challenge we are currently facing in the cruise business is the unstable situation in Turkey that has caused several cancellations of calls at the port of Istanbul, which is the driving force between the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea. The port of Kavala is affected greatly because it acts as an intermediate destination for cruise ships to and from Istanbul.

Gregory Kekropoulos, Marketing Department/PFSO, Port of Kavala



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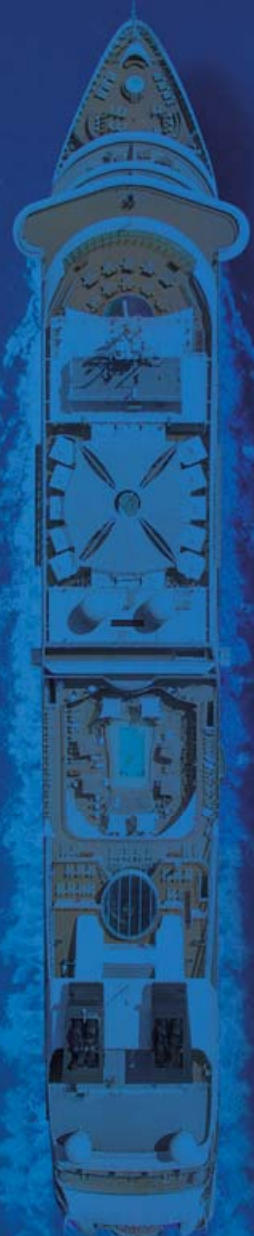
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