

Destination MEDCRUISE

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Via Constantza

New Black Sea member...



Black Sea port of Constantza has become a member of MedCruise port association. This year the port is expecting around 80 calls, roughly spread half and half between ocean and river cruise ships.

Next year cruise traffic will climb to 90 ships with more ocean-going vessels including Sea Dream, Oceania, Artemis and Seven Seas Navigator. Constantza is also a hub port for Grand Circle's Danube river cruise operations. Visiting ships mainly use the new passenger terminal located in the old northern part of Constantza Port, between the Royal Pavilion, now transformed into the

Port Museum, and The Old Lighthouse.

Being one of the largest ports in Europe – it is the major container hub for the Black Sea – it is able to provide the full gamut of services, including used water reception facilities free of charge. The terminal can handle 100,000 transiting passengers a year and has a berth measuring 293mtr in length for vessels up to 11mtr draught.

It is close to the old historical and tourist area of the city. Passengers looking for a cultural experience should spend some time visiting the Folk Art Museum and the National History and Archaeology Museum which are always offering interesting exhibitions for

visitors to discover their historic and contemporary collections.

To get even deeper into Constantza's fascinating history, the Tropeum Traiani fortress takes one 2,000 years back to the glorious times of the Roman Emperors Trajan and Constantine the Great. The area of Dobrogea houses the ancient Greek citadels of Histria, Callatis and Tomis.

New this year, five red double-decker buses offering a hop on-hop off service for visitors to explore the tourist attractions of Constantza and its surrounds, including the sandy beaches of Mamaia, just 7km away. Cost of the one day pass is €19 per person.

Via Civitavecchia

...and another Italian port member



the most powerful, largest and longest-lasting empire of classical Western civilisation.

Rome is full of history and has many places of interest:– The Colosseum was built AD72 by Emperor Vespasian. It is the biggest Roman amphitheatre in the world where gladiators duelled with wild animals. These spectacles went on for centuries and were banned only in 404.

The Pantheon was a temple dedicated to all the gods built by Agrippa in 27BC. In AD80 it was damaged by fire and restored by Domitian. Then Emperor Hadrian (117–38) rebuilt it. Today, one of the chapels inside, contains the tomb of Vittorio Emanuele II (1820–78), the first king of unified Italy and the tomb of Raphael.

The Trevi fountain is a late Baroque creation

and one of Rome's unforgettable sights. In 19BC Agrippa decided to build a long canal to bring water to Rome. According to legend, if you throw a coin into the water by expressing a wish, your wish will become true and you will certainly return to the Eternal City.

For centuries the Popes lived in the area of the right bank of the Tiber that has become the Vatican City, but the Vatican only developed into the Church's governmental centre in the 14th Century. It was not until 1929 that the State of the Vatican City was established as the official home of the Pope and the centre of the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican is the smallest sovereign state in the world (its 108 1/2 acres make it one-third the size of Monaco). It has its own currency, postal service, passport, newspapers, radio station and railroad system. Its population of less than 1,000 consists almost entirely of Church personnel, Vatican administrators and representatives of international organizations.

Civitavecchia is a town of the province of Rome in the central Italian region of Latium. According to legend, Rome was founded on April 21, 753 BC by the twins Romulus and Remus and was once the capital of the Roman Kingdom, the Roman Republic (since 510 BC) and the Roman Empire (since 31 BC),



Via Malaga



The city of Malaga was founded by the Phoenicians and then dominated by the Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans and Moors until near the 15th century when the Catholic Kings conquered it and added it to the brand new Kingdom of Spain.

Malaga is definitely a very attractive destination for cruise passengers. Traces of its Roman and Moorish heritage, like the Roman Theatre and the Alcazaba surprise visitors, plus its excellent weather makes it worth visiting in all four seasons.

For those interested in culture, there is a wide range of Museums to visit, and the number is expected to grow in the next few years. The Picasso Museum, dedicated to the internationally known painter, whose home town was the city of Málaga, is the most famous. Málaga is perfect for those who are looking for fun

too. It has a great variety of restaurants and a very lively nightlife. Don't forget its lovely beaches either.

Its great connections should also be emphasized: the main cities of Andalusia, including Seville, Cordoba and Granada, are reachable within 1.30–2 hours drive. Madrid, Spain's capital, is only at 2.30 hours distance with the high speed train.



Roman theatre

Malaga has an international Airport, which has connections worldwide.

Malaga has been undergoing major infrastructural work to meet the increasing demands of the port and city, including the construction of a new passenger terminal capable of handling passengers from two cruise ships at one time.

Providing the most up-to-date security facilities and baggage handling processes, the multi-purpose terminal will be opened by the end of this year.

As a result, Port of Malaga will be able to handle 5,000 cruise passengers simultaneously and potentially 560,000 annually. Current traffic of around 250 calls and almost 300,000 passengers in 2007, could double once the new facilities are operational.



The Picasso Museum

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO MALAGA

Your chance to enter a free draw to win a short break for two to Spain. The prize, sponsored by the Port of Malaga, includes air travel to and from Spain for two persons and two nights bed and breakfast. Things to do include sightseeing of the port and city of Malaga, featuring Picasso's Museum and Birthplace, as well as nearby beautiful locations such as Nerja, Marbella and Ronda.

Please fill in the short entry form enclosed with this newsletter and return to Seatrade by January 31st 2008. Please see details on entry form.





Via Cyprus

Larnaka expands

Larnaka port, with a quay length of 666mtr and dredged depth to 12mtr serves both cargo and passengers. Specifically, the port handles bulk and conventional cargo, as well as transit passengers.

The Ministry of Communication and Works, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, has initiated a tender process for the award of a concession contract to a suitable bidder for the redevelopment of Larnaka Port and Larnaka Marina, through a public private partnership, into a major cruise passenger and tourist destination for Cyprus and the only one of its kind in the Eastern Mediterranean. The re-development and operation of the Port and Marina will be undertaken using a Design – Build – Finance – Operate style concession contract with an appropriately qualified and experienced private sector consortium encompassing local and foreign interests.

The main aims of the Project are:

- to ensure the re-development of the Port in order that it can attract the developing cruise market in the Eastern Mediterranean and to expand and respond to demand;

- to expand and transform the Marina into a high quality recreation harbour with a capacity of at least 400 crafts with a minimum length of 10mtr;

- to develop the Port and Marina facilities to acceptable international standards in a timely manner to match the growing needs of the Cyprus economy; and

- to re-develop the land surroundings of the existing Port and Marina area, as an integral part of the Project in order that the area may be made more attractive to cruise passengers, marina users and the general public.

Meanwhile the main Cypriot port of Lemesos is one of the most important cruise centres for visiting cruise ships in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is also a permanent base for Cypriot-owned cruise ships which, for at least



Lemesos port

nine months a year, carry out excursions in the region on a regular basis carrying both local and foreign tourists.

The new passenger terminal, partly financed by the EU, will have an area of around 7,000sq mtr and is expected to cost some £10m. It is due to be completed in 2011 and will be a noteworthy project for the Cyprus Ports Authority, the town of Lemesos and for Cyprus in general. It will be fully compliant with Schengen, safety and new security requirements as set by the EU.

Via Toulon

Toulon's chance to shine



PHOTO: JEAN-CLAUDE BELLONNE, COURTESY OF IMBERT & PHELIPPEAU

The Port of Toulon Côte d'Azur and the Var Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIV) jointly hosted a three-day familiarisation trip in October to promote both airline traffic to the International Toulon-Hyères Airport and passenger shipping traffic to the port. Execs attending included Star Clippers owner Mikael Krafft, P&O Cruises' programme executive Abi Tizzard and Corsica Ferries' Pierre Mattei.

The trip provided a welcome opportunity to meet the port's new cruise marketing team, led by

Anne-Marie Blum and Delphine Beudin. Their appointment followed an organisational change earlier this year, which saw the airport and port grouped together under the charge of Bernard Stouff, executive md of the CCIV. Stouff's vision is to try and increase the number of turnaround traffic at Toulon – which claims the distinction of being the nearest port to St Tropez (as well as the Îles Porquerolles or 'Golden Islands') where large vessels can berth. Cruise execs had a chance to visit the port's main berths, which are located close to the city centre and served by two air-conditioned passenger terminals, as well as an

additional berth on the other side of the harbour. The main berths are pictured above, hosting a tallships regatta earlier this year.

A highlight of the trip was a pilot boat tour of Toulon Bay, the largest natural harbour in the Mediterranean, affording scenic views of historic defensive fortifications and modern naval vessels, as well as the mountains behind Toulon that give it the sunniest microclimate of any town in France. The Port of Toulon Côte d'Azur represents a true alternative to calling at the French Med coast.

For more details please contact Anne-Marie Blum at anne-marie.blum@var.cci.fr



Via Livorno



Livorno port

Ninety percent of passengers transiting Livorno take a tour to either Florence and/or Pisa. For those that opt to stay closer to Livorno itself, next summer access will be even easier as megaships will be offered a priority berth just 15 minutes from the city centre.

Guido Asti, chairman of Porti di Livorno 2000, managers of cruise traffic at the port, confirms that dredging will start soon at the 500mtr long Molo Italia, located just 15 minutes by bus from the city centre. 'Initially there will be 10mtr water depth alongside the berth which will be used exclusively for cruise ships,' he confirmed. The final plan is for a 12mtr depth.

This year Livorno handled 509 calls and 680,000 transiting passengers plus 25,000 on

turnarounds mainly from 30 weekly sailings by MSC Melody. To date, only (four) ships up to 250mtr length could be handled in the passenger port plus five at commercial quays located elsewhere in the port area, away from the city.

With a 90mtr width quay there will be plenty of room for buses to come alongside Molo Italia, says Giovanni Spadoni, head of marketing and sales at Porti di Livorno 2000. There will be a free shuttle bus to the city centre and passengers will also have the opportunity to buy a day pass allowing use of all public transport for €5 each.

'The channel offering access to the Darsena (commercial) quays which is currently 52mtr wide will be extended to 70mtr by the end of 2008, giving even more possibilities to handle larger cruise ships,' said Spadoni.

Winner of the MedCruise Koper competition

Barbara McComb, tour planner for Seabourn Cruise Line, paid a visit to Koper in Slovenia this summer, together with her husband John, as she was the winner of the 2006 MedCruise competition which ran in the September issues of MedCruise News and Destination MedCruise.

The prize, sponsored by the Passenger Port of Koper, the city of Koper and Slovenian Tourist Board, included a two day visit with tours of the port and city of Koper, sightseeing visits to the coast, The Lipica Stud farm and Postojna Caves, plus the city of Ljubljana.

'We were really overwhelmed with Slovenia's beauty, history, architecture and culture, and the total experience was truly priceless,' Barbara told MedCruise on her return. 'Although the visits to Bled, the Stud Farm and Santomas Winery stand out in particular as the highlights, every visit throughout the itinerary was invaluable,' Barbara added. The Seabourn executive said she got some valuable ideas for excursions when Seabourn calls at Koper next Spring and then throughout 2009.



Lunch at Santomas Winery



John & Barbara at Lipica Stud Farm

MedCruise Members

■ Alanya	■ Moroccan ports
■ Alicante	■ Naples
■ Almeria	■ Palamos
■ Balearic Islands	■ Palermo
■ Barcelona	■ Pescara
■ Bari	■ Piraeus
■ Batumi	■ Portoferraio
■ Cagliari	■ Portuguese ports
■ Cartagena	■ Ravenna
■ Castellon	■ Rijeka
■ Catania	■ Sete
■ Ceuta	■ Sevastopol
■ Civitavecchia	■ Sibenik
■ Constantza	■ Sinop
■ Cyprus ports	■ Sochi
■ Dubrovnik, Korcula	■ Split
■ Egyptian ports	■ Tarragona
■ French Riviera ports	■ Toulon, St Tropez
■ Gibraltar	■ Trieste
■ Koper	■ Tunis
■ La Spezia	■ Valencia
■ Lattakia	■ Valletta
■ Livorno	■ Venice
■ Malaga	■ Volos
■ Messina	■ Zadar
■ Monaco	

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