

Destination MEDCRUISE

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Via Lisbon

Roaming around Lisbon



Independence of the Seas arriving in Lisbon earlier this year

Red Tour offers self-guided sightseeing circuits, using electric vehicles, with a talking GPS audio guide providing information ranging from orientation and local facts to the best amenities and historical places.

The circuits are self-guided which means travellers have the freedom to drive the vehicles themselves, although Red Tour can also arrange a driver, if requested in advance. The vehicles are fun and easy to drive. Red Tour has two and four seat electric Buggies, Segways and Bicycles.

Three tours are offered on buggies: the Belem Tour, which takes you back to Portugal's Golden Age, when Portuguese explorers ruled the seas; the Lisbon 'Soho-Style' Circuit around Chiado, a favourite shopping and residential area dating back to the 19th century and the third tour is around Old Lisbon, covering one of Lisbon's oldest quarters.

The Port of Lisbon expects 310 cruise calls and around 370,000 passengers in 2008, representing an increase of 21% in cruise traffic compared to 2007. In 2009, the port has already 260 calls booked, which will bring around 360,000 passengers.

This year Lisbon will welcome 20 new visitors including Norwegian Jade, Zuiderdam, MSC Poesia, Azamara Journey, Ventura, Royal Princess, Independence of the Seas, Balmoral, Carnival Splendor, Minerva, AIDAbella, Alexander von Humboldt and Costa Serena. 63 ships are scheduled to call in the 2008/09 winter season.

The Port Authority has started construction of a new cruise quay in Santa Apolónia area at the heart of the city of Lisbon. A new cruise terminal is due to be ready in 2010, which will improve the way passengers and cruise ships will be welcomed in Lisbon in future.



Segway tours - freedom to roam the city



Via Sibenik

In full bloom

Sibenik recently saw the first tourist visits to the attractive medieval gardens of the Sveti Lovro monastery. The gardens were completely revamped, with the pupils of Sibenik's First Private Secondary School taking part in its renewal. The

renovation project, following the well-known layout of medieval monastery gardens, is the work of renowned Croatian landscape architect Dragutin Kis.

The

Sveti Lovro monastery gardens cover an area of 600sq mtr with a cruciform path and a well at its hub, a field hedged with boxwood, and cypress trees at the edges of the fields, old rose varieties, citrus fruits and figs with spices and medicinal herbs in the fields and capers on the surrounding rocks.

Meanwhile, the Landscaping Institute of the Zagreb Faculty of Agronomics has conceived a

project for the creation of the first Mediterranean arboretum in Croatia. It will be located on the Primosten area islet of Smokvica, in the vicinity of Sibenik.

The Primosten Arboretum will feature the significant traditional flora of Dalmatia – about 20 old species of grape vine, olive trees, fields of lavender, conifers and other varied Mediterranean flora, as well as plants from other parts of the world that are adaptable to the Croatian climate. Especially attractive for visitors will be the range of summer fruits, in particular citrus fruits and various types of bamboo.



Primosten



Primosten – site of the new arboretum

Via Zadar

City sights



The World alongside Zadar city

The most popular tours taken by cruise passengers arriving in to the 3,000 year old Croatian port city of Zadar are St. Donat's Church, The Sea Organ and The Monument to the Sun as well as five national parks.

Cerovacke Caves are newly opened to

the public this year. The 1,300mtr cave system, which is considered the most beautiful in Croatia, is just an hour away from the port.

Project designs for a new passenger terminal in Gazenica, 2 miles from Zadar old town, are almost finished and construction is expected to start at the

end of this year. The building will be operational in a couple of years.

The Port of Zadar received 99 cruise calls in 2008 bringing about 25,000 passengers. The Port Authority is expecting about 100 calls in 2009. There are seven calls booked for the coming winter mainly smaller ships, such as Elegant Cruises' Monet.



Via Messina

Sicilian scenery

A scenic drive runs inland from Messina to Savoca, which is considered one of the most attractive places in the vicinity of Taormina. Bar Vitelli, with a gorgeous terrace, has a collection of photographs taken when Francis Ford Coppola shot some scenes of 'The Godfather: Part II'.

A walk can be made to the Chiesa

Madre to view its fine 16th Century portal surrounded by a beautifully carved oculus and the coat of arms of Savoca, bearing the elderberry branch from which the name of the town is supposed to derive. Then on to Forza d'Agrò, an attractive medieval hamlet with a splendid view of the coast. Here in 1990, Al Pacino and Sophia Coppola shot some scenes of the film 'The Godfather: Part III'.

Mount Etna is Sicily's tallest peak and one of Europe's most famous active

volcanoes. The most violent eruptions took place in 1910, leading to 23 additional craters being formed. In 1928, a lava flow destroyed the village of Mascali and several other eruptions followed in the 1980's and 1990's. The most recent eruption was in 2005.

The harbour of Messina is located very close to the city centre and the main places of interest and shops can be reached easily by foot from the cruise quays. Also close by are the Reggio Calabria and Catania international airports.



Taormina and Mt. Etna

Via Naples

A taste of Dolce Vita

A tour of the Amalfi Coast beginning from Naples and travelling along the scenic coastal road is a great experience. Stroll around the narrow alleys of Positano, where delightful white and pastel-coloured houses litter the hillside.

Along with the beautiful beaches, its ancient fishing port, the splendid dome of the church of Santa Maria Assunta and craft shops, you'll enjoy a taste of the Dolce Vita. The town of Amalfi once enjoyed a prestigious past when it was a major naval power. Made of a labyrinth of narrow lanes and alleyways that climb the surrounding hills, the town features typical Mediterranean style architecture with houses piled one on top of the other. Here you can sample the local Lemoncella drink or perhaps visit the celebrated Paradise Cloister built in the Arabian style and which dates back to the thirteenth century. A visit to the town of

Ravello, that sits high up above the Amalfi Coast, enables you to call in at the famous Villa Cimbrone, where, from its terrace nicknamed 'Terrace of Infinity' you can enjoy incredible views of the coast.

Any trip to Naples must include a visit to Pompeii to view the remarkable ruins of the city buried under the ashes of Mount Vesuvius. Enter the fabled city through the Sea Gate and walk down the cobbled street to the agora, surrounded by temples, porticoes and law courts. It was the religious, civic and business centre of the city. Because Pompeii is so well preserved, you can see many fine details that reveal the lifestyles of the residents, such as mosaic floors and colourful frescoes in some of the homes. As you wander through this ancient city, you can't help but notice the still-active Mount Vesuvius towering above.





Via Constantza

Seven Seas Navigator's day in port



Regent Seven Seas Cruises' 490-passenger Seven Seas Navigator called twice this summer at the Port of Constantza, in July and August. During the ship's 13-hour stay in port, passengers took a variety of tours, as well as visiting the city via a shuttle bus, leaving every 20 minutes.

Most popular organised tours were the visit to the ancient citadel of Histria (4 hours), Constantza City and Roman Ruins (3.5 hours), Constantza Sights, Romanian Folk Show & Wine Tasting (4 hours), Multi-Culture Tour (5 Hours) and a full day tour of Bucharest by road (12 hours).

Passengers who went on the Bucharest excursion (a three hour drive from Constantza) were impressed by the magnitude of the the Palace of Parliament, which is the second largest construction in the world after the Pentagon in the US. It was built by

President Ceausescu for governmental use, with everything being conceived on the largest scale possible. Now it shelters the seat of the Parliament of Romania and a congress centre. The Metropolitan Church was built between 1654 and 1658 by Prince Constantin Serban Basarab and restored in 1960. It retains many features of Byzantine architecture and is located near the Palace of the Patriarch, the seat of the head of Romania's Orthodox Church. The Village Museum is an extensive collection of old, traditional Romanian houses, huts, barns and mills, representing every region of the country with its specific folk art.

On their return to the terminal, a small reception was organised where guests were served ice-cold champagne and fresh towels.

The master of the ship, Captain John McNeill, appreciated the open collaboration with the port authorities and the handling of passengers. The terminal, which opened in 2006, has its own access gate to ensure a fast connection between the ship and the old part of the town (10 minutes away walking and five minutes by shuttle bus).

Seven Seas Navigator will return to Constanta again in summer 2009.



Via Sochi

Spa treatment

A new shore excursion is available from Sochi Port taking four hours. Highlights include a panoramic drive, visits to Matsesta Springs and Bathhouse and a walk around Ordjonikidze Park.

Sochi's origins as a spa resort lie at Matsesta Springs 170 years ago. Initially they simply dug holes near the springs, poured water inside and had baths. One of the springs can be seen while walking to the Bathhouse. Since 1950 its curative waters have been taken from mines of between 700 and 2,000 mtr deep made of limestone from the Cretaceous Jurassic periods. Matsesta draws thousands of visitors each year and there they can taste its renowned mineral water.

Stalin played an important role in the development of Sochi as a spa resort. He monitored the building of some local spa

houses and sanatoria himself. Visitors can enjoy the brilliance of Ordjonikidze Park with its attractive fountain and magnificent buildings in the so-called Stalin-style.

Port of Sochi will construct a new passenger terminal with work beginning in 2009. The total amount invested will be about €115m. The project will be completed in 5 years. The project presents a vision for the transformation of Sochi Seaport into a vibrant mixed-use city-centre destination. At its heart there will be a 350-yacht marina and an international cruise terminal.

The proposed port layout is designed to

accommodate three 3,000-passenger cruiseships and two 380-car ferries (potentially three ferries, subject to further study).

A raised and enclosed walkway with travelators will connect the terminal building to the cruise ships.

The Port of Sochi is expecting about 40 cruiseships in 2009 and around 23,000 passengers, up from 33 calls and 19,000 passengers in 2008. New visitors this year include Amsterdam, Deutschland, Saga Rose, Seven Seas Navigator, The World, Artemis, Rotterdam, Minerva and Delphin Voyager.



Matsesta mineral springs



Via Koper

Steaming ahead

Port of Koper the only Slovenian port, is situated just 200 mtr from the town square. It is expecting a 50% increase of cruise traffic in 2009, its third year of cruise operations. Advanced bookings indicate that 80 calls and 40,000 passengers are anticipated.

In September work is starting on the port's first passenger terminal building. It will be ready for the beginning of the 2010 season. Another important investment is the wide Spanish steps, which will connect the

passenger terminal with the old town centre.

Each winter some smaller ships call. In spite of a low temperature and possibility of bad weather in winter months, the passengers can visit the Postojna caves which have an air temperature of around 8–9 degrees year-round.

A new excursion available from Koper is a journey on an old steam train, dating back to 1914. Owned and restored by the Slovenian Railways, it takes passengers into the past with a unique insight into the way of life and rule of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his court. At the time, this railway was the most important link between Vienna and Trieste. The railroad was built by hard-working locals.



The train's slow speed allows the passengers to immerse themselves in the journey and see the country from a different angle. It is a wonderful way to see the sights and to meet local people.



Via Cartagena

Of history and archaeology

Port of Cartagena is predicting a significant increase in cruise calls in 2009 compared with 2008. Next year 50 calls are expected, a rise of 25%, whilst 65,000 passengers will arrive compared with 40,000 this year. The 62.5% increase in passengers is due to the larger vessels visiting next year.

Two new operators visited the port this year, Club Mediterranee and Crystal Cruises.

The port is investing in an extension of the cruise berth by about 150 mtr to a total of 500 mtr which will allow two cruise vessels to berth at the same time. Cruise passengers will be just 200mtr from the city centre. The terminal will also be increased by about 1,500 sq mtr. Construction is expected to begin by the end of 2008.

AIDAcara will visit four times this winter, a repeat of her winter programme in 2004/05.

There are two new tourist attractions available to visitors. The first is the Navidad Fort, built in the 19th century and located next to the Navidad

Lighthouse. This fort houses a bureau providing information about the defensive architecture (forts, batteries and castles) located in the area. The city is hoping to be named a 'World Heritage City' for its value, both historic and archaeological. Cartagena is also a major base of the Spanish Navy.

The second attraction is the Museum of the Roman Theatre of Cartagena, inaugurated in July 2008. The theatre was discovered quite by chance in 1987, making its excavation one of the most amazing finds of the town's archaeology. It had a 6,000 spectator capacity, which consisted not only of stage and seating, but also included gardens, cloisters and leisure areas. The commemorative inscriptions found

indicate that it was built in the late 1st century B.C., a period of major urban development in the

Roman colony. Today archaeologists, architects and technical specialists are working hard to restore and recreate the theatre.

The Theatre is linked with the old palace Pascual de Riquelme, which houses a museum. The entrance to the building is through the palace, which also has a souvenir shop, two great exhibition halls, a library, meeting rooms, offices and a small workshop.





Via Castellon

Down on the beach

Castellon is proud of its beaches and are a main reason why tourists simply love the place. The waters are clean and enticing for swimming and water sports. The line of old villas gives character to the sea front, and the rocky

coastline and glistening golden sand are most welcoming.

Just beside Castellon Sea Port is the famous Litoral Park Beach. It is a 14,000 mtr stretch of beach. Another notable tourist spot is Gurugu Beach, offering a very soothing place for rest

and recreation.

The third beach in the city is De la Torre Beach. It has a total length of 2,200 mtr, mainly composed of gravel giving the area a rocky appearance.

As well as beaches, Castellon is in close proximity to two towns worth visiting. Morella, located on the northernmost tip

of Castellón, rises up before your eyes offering an awe-inspiring view composed of centuries-old battlements crowned with a large castle situated at over 1,000 mtr above sea level. Peniscola is an ancient city housing a 14th Century castle perched on a rocky outcrop soaring 64 mtr above the sea.



Playa de Peniscola



Morella

Via Malaga

Pullmantur inspects Malaga

Malaga received a visit from Pullmantur executive Gianluca Suprani, director of operations and shore excursions, in advance of turn-around calls by Empress from the Spanish port this autumn.

Royal Caribbean International's former Empress of the Seas, which joined the Pullmantur fleet in March, will operate five departures from Malaga starting Oct. 4th. Suprani's visit was the first by a cruise executive since the port inaugurated its new passenger terminal in late 2007. In addition to inspecting the terminal, Suprani examined the eastern dock, southern berth and the northern berth, the latter under construction for completion late this year.

Port representatives, along with the shipping agent Cabeza Marítima, accompanied Suprani and Alicia Pérez of MacAndrews agents. The first pieces of the passenger boarding bridge, which will link ships at the south berth with the terminal and be ready for use in two to

three weeks, arrived during the visit. Pullmantur's parent company, Royal Caribbean, plans to use Malaga as a

homeport for Navigator of the Seas starting in late 2009, and Brilliance of the Seas starting in 2010.



Gianluca Suprani examines the model layout of Malaga's new cruise infrastructure



Via Palamos

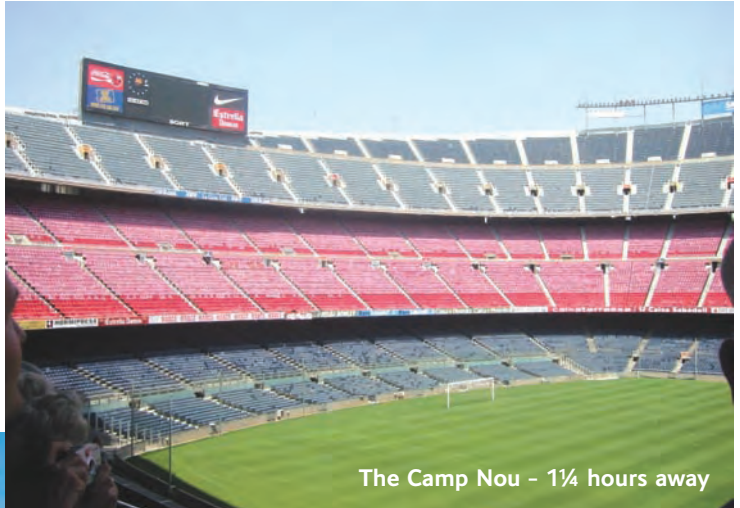
Costa Brava delights

Visitors to Palamos can enjoy the Dali Museum in Figueres, just an hour by car, the Jewish Quarter in Girona (50 minutes by car), the medieval sites of Pals and Peratallada (30 minutes by car) and the village of Ullastret.

For sport enthusiasts it is possible to play golf, go scuba diving or ride a

bicycle along the 100km of sign-posted trails. A visit to Camp Nou, home of Barcelona FC, is only an hour and a quarter away by car.

Sant Feliu de



The Camp Nou - 1¼ hours away



Silver Whisper - maiden call this year

Guixols will house the Thyssen art collection next year; it is just 10 minutes away from Palamos. The Costa Brava offers natural scenery with a landscape combining sea and mountain, a vast historical and cultural heritage, multiple sports activities and gastronomic variety.

Palamos Port is expecting 35 cruise calls in 2009. There have been maiden calls by three new ships this year, Le Ponant, Braemar and Silver Whisper.

Via Tarragona

Cultural attractions



Montblanc

Julius Caesar is responsible for most of the development of Tarragona, and Pontius Pilate was born there. Today Tarragona sits on a hillside overlooking the Mediterranean, it is a cultural

centre and important in the wine trade. Tarragona is also a favourite city of archaeologists who continue to find ancient Roman artefacts.

Tarragona City tour includes visits to the Cyclopean Walls that extend for over 1,000 yards and date back to the 6th century B.C.; the Cathedral that demonstrates both Romanesque and Gothic architecture and a rose window; the ancient Roman Amphitheatre that seated over 12,000; and Balcon del Mediterraneo, a terrace overlooking Milagro Beach and the magnificent Mediterranean coastline.

Montblanc and Poblet Monastery shore excursion takes tourists inland to experience the history and tradition of Catalonia. The bus first takes you to Montblanc, a former residence of kings and knights. Montblanc has a medieval atmosphere and a walking tour gives visitors the opportunity to see the

village at close hand. Montblanc's claim to fame is that St. George reportedly slayed the dragon in the village, and there is a marker commemorating the deed. Poblet Monastery is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and although it was abandoned in the 19th century, it was restored during the 1940s.



Poblet Monastery



Via The Azores

The Gateways of the Sea

Inaugurated in July 2008, Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel island, the major city of the Azores archipelago, unveiled its Gateways of the Sea – a €50m investment including a new cruise terminal with a dedicated quay of 370 mtr in length and 11 mtr in depth and a 5,300 sq mtr commercial zone.

The project also includes a 4,000 sq mtr sea pavilion, a modern convention and events centre, topped with a panoramic



all work together to respect each other's agendas so we can all reap the benefits associated with cruise tourism,' concluded Carlos Adalberto Silva, president of Portos dos Acores.

MedCruise president Laurent Monsaingeon said with so much public money being invested in new port facilities it is important to show the city authorities that ships are environmentally friendly: 'Organise visits to the ships and you will find they are amazed at how the cruise lines go over and above the set regulations to ensure the ships are green.'

Medcruise svp Albert Poggio explained how the association, of which the Azores is a member under the Portuguese Ports' banner, is working much closer with national and



restaurant. Above the sea pavilion is a public square situated alongside the city's sea promenade, flanked by an open-air amphitheatre, all facing the city. Cruise visitors are only a few steps away from the sea pavilion and the city centre. The project also includes a new 470 yacht marina.

Ahead of the new terminal's opening Ponta Delgada hosted a workshop in June entitled 'Seascope: The cruise industry of today and tomorrow', which brought together cruise line executives and Azorean port and tourism representatives.

The panels concurred that when ports invest in new or upgraded facilities it is important to look beyond the waterfront and make sure there is adequate shoreside infrastructure. 'Our challenge now is for us to



local tourism boards to maximise the benefits of cruise calls.

'With a heavy emphasis on ecotourism

the Azores are well placed to develop as a destination focusing on sustainable tourism,' said Carnival UK's Philip Naylor, responsible for P&O Cruises and Cunard, which both call at the archipelago.

Participants visited the crater lakes region in Sete Cidades, including a visit to a pineapple and a tea plantation on a tour of the Sao Miguel island.



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■ Cartagena	■ Portuguese ports
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