

Destination MEDCRUISE

QUARTERLY JUNE 2009

ISSUE 24

35th MedCruise General Assembly October 29th-30th, 2009

Off to Monaco



Monaco's harbour Port Hercule will provide the backdrop for the 35th MedCruise General Assembly to take place on the 29th and 30th of October 2009.

Participants attending the GA will have the chance to see Monaco's new cruise facilities located in the heart of the city plus some of the most famous landmarks around the Principality, including the Casino and the Prince's Palace.

New members

From the Azores to the Ukraine



Theodosia

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Latest members to join MedCruise perfectly illustrate the diversity of the Association featuring destinations located the length and

breadth of the Mediterranean and adjoining seas.

The ports of Ponta Delgada, Praia da Vitoria and Horta, collectively known as the Azores, and previously part of the Portuguese Ports umbrella requested full membership which was accepted at the 33rd GA held in Venice in December.

At the Cartagena GA last month Theodosia was approved to join MedCruise. Located on the Crimean peninsula on the Black Sea coast of Ukraine, Theodosia is a small city with a rich history going back to the first century AD. Today Theodosia is a key Black Sea port and famous as a health resort.



Ponta Delgada

EU tourism draft report

8 MedCruise members feature in the top 15 EU ports of call

According to a draft report looking at tourist facilities in ports presented by Policy Research Corporation and commissioned by the EU, eight MedCruise members featured in the top 15 EU ports of call and six appeared in the top 15 turnaround ports for 2008.

Looking at passenger numbers the top three ports were all MedCruise members: Barcelona, Naples and Civitavecchia with Palma holding fifth place. Four more member ports; Livorno, Venice, Malaga and Valletta, also appeared in the top 15 list.

In terms of passenger spending the regions of Naples and Civitavecchia are clearly the most important regarding transit call expenditures in Europe. However, these ports are only a gateway to the tourist hotspots of Pompeii and Rome respectively. The port cities themselves receive only a minor share of the passenger expenditures; the related economic impact must therefore be allocated to the tourist destinations, stated the Policy Research Corporation. This is also the case for ports such as Livorno (Florence and Pisa) and Le Havre (Paris).

In total, EU ports received 17,738 cruise calls last year of which 72% were in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.



Civitavecchia - gateway for Rome



Via Tunisia

New quay at La Goulette

MSC Fantasia made its maiden call at the new wharf in La Goulette, Tunis in May. The quay is currently 1,050ft but will be extended to 2,165ft by 2010, allowing two Fantasia-class vessels to berth simultaneously.

When completed, the new quay and terminal will include a tourism and recreation complex designed in the style of a traditional Tunis neighbourhood.

Prior to the new facility La Goulette could only accommodate cruise ships up to 294mtr in length. About one year ago under the supervision

of Samir Hakimi, ceo for the Office of Merchant Marine and Harbours, a committee was set up involving port executives, engineers and technicians in co-operation with MSC Cruises to ensure the maximum security for the ship berthing at the harbour.

Eight MSC Cruises ships will use the new wharf in 2009, including MSC Fantasia, MSC Splendida, MSC Sinfonia and MSC Melody, all of which will call weekly during the summer.

La Goulette Harbor which was granted ISO certification last year welcomed over 700,000 cruise passengers and 433 ships in 2008. The

Office of Merchant Marine and Harbours is now looking to expand cruise facility infrastructure at other Tunisian ports including Bizerte, Sousse, Sfax, Gabès and Zarzis knowing that these regions have significant tourist appeal.



Passengers arriving in La Goulette receive a Roman welcome

Via Lattakia, Syria

Lattakia and its mythical foundations

Ruins found in and around Lattakia date back to between 4,000 and 2,000 BC.

The Phoenicians, Canaanites, Sumerians, Babylonians, Romans and the French have all lived in Lattakia and left important traces. 15km from Lattakia is Ugarit or Ras Shamra. It was the capital of Syria 2,000 years BC. Accidentally discovered in 1928 by a farmer, the resulting excavations revealed texts engraved on pottery slates, the so called Ugarit Alphabet consisting of 30 letters.

There are numerous ancient citadels around Lattakia including Salah Alden citadel to the east, dating back to the mid-10th Century located on a rocky spur surrounded by a natural trench on three sides.

Also in the eastern part of the ancient city is the Great Arch (pictured) dating back

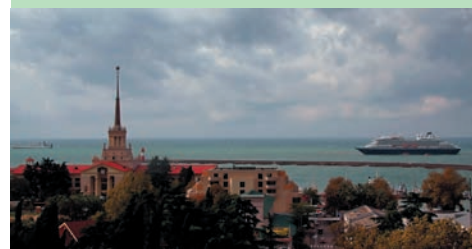
to the 12 century AD built by Roman emperor Septimus Severus. The monument is square in shape 12mtr by 12mtr, built with sandstone and rising 16mtr high. 200mtr to the north of the arch are the Bacchus Pillars believed to be part of an ancient temple assigned to Bacchus, god of wine.

But a visit to Lattakia is not all about ancient ruins and myths, in addition the city is surrounded by forests and has beautiful beaches perfect for sailing and water sports. 9km to the north-east of the city is the country's top resort area known as Blue Beach (Shaati Al Azraq).



Via Sochi, Russia

Port of Sochi is 75



Sochi's commercial port was founded in 1934 and since then ships have been carrying passengers from the Russian port to the Georgian coast year-round. In the mid-1990s a ferry link was established to ports in Turkey and continues to operate today.

The period between 1970 and 1990 was the golden age of the port. Sochi then became a home port for Black Sea cruising. The Crimea-Caucasus line was enormously popular with the population of the former Soviet Union.

Today the port of Sochi is at the centre of the development of Black Sea cruising. It receives ships from the leading cruise lines, including Cunard, Costa. The Yachts of Seabourn, TUI, AIDA, Holland America Line and MSC Cruises and is committed to attracting more calls.

The port of Sochi has been a MedCruise member since 2003 and is also highly visible in the Black and the Azov seas Ports Association as well as in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation.

A major reconstruction of the port has started in preparation for the 2014 Winter Olympics. Once completed, Sochi will be able to receive five cruise ships simultaneously including two of more than 300mtr in length. A new marina will be able to accommodate 350 yachts. In total, the redevelopment plans call for 15 new berths and refurbishment of the terminal.



Krasnaya Polyana staging 2014 Winter Olympics



Via Cyprus

Projects progress



Plans for the redevelopment of Lemesos and Larnaka ports have moved onto the next stage.

At Larnaka, a major redevelopment is planned for transit calls and a marina for 1,000 craft, plus a leisure and commercial complex.

Constructed on a Build, Operate and Transfer basis, the project has recently been re-awarded by the Ministry of Communications & Works to a consortium headed by local firm Vouros Investments with partners including Singapore Cruise Centre.

Work on the project covering 260,000sq mtr of land comprising offices, shopping malls, leisure and commercial facilities plus widening of the turning circle in the port and enlarged marina will start in the next two to three months and will be implemented in stages over a six year period, costing around half a billion Euros.

At the island's main port of Lemesos an €18m project to build a new passenger terminal, partly funded by the EU, will go out to tender at the end of this year. A separate tender for extending the existing linear container quay from 340mtr to 840mtr in length will be issued next year. The new terminal, covering an area of 7,000sq mtr, and lengthened quay should be operational by end of 2011. Port's capacity has recently been significantly strengthened, with the dredging of the western container terminal basin to 16mtr and the turning and entrance circle to 17mtr. 98 cruise calls are expected at Lemesos in 2009.



Kourion, Lemesos

Via Livorno, Italy

New megaship pier ready

A new 350mtr long dedicated cruise berth in Livorno will be partly operational in July this year. The Tuscany port has fast tracked the expansion of its cruise handling capability by utilising an existing quay close to the Benetti shipyard.



The site is a 500mtr walk from the city centre and located in a waterfront area which has recently been redeveloped and includes a marina and commercial premises.

The first 200mtr length of pier, providing a 9mtr water depth alongside, will be able to accept cruise ships in July. Additional dredging

work needs to be completed alongside the remaining 150mtr of berthing which will commence later this year. Currently Livorno can accept seven cruise ships at any one time at three quays devoted to cruise operations, including ships up to 250mtr in length at the passenger terminal. In 2009, passenger numbers are expected to be slightly up at around 850,000, with no variation compared to 2008 (849,050 passengers).

Via Venice, Italy

Venice opens another cruise terminal

A recent study showed cruise tourism brings direct economic benefits to Venice of around €150m a year, accounting for 10% of the total value of tourism in the lagoon area.

Venezia Terminal Passeggeri handled 1.2m cruise passengers last year and the number is expected to rise to 1.3m in 2009. The rise in traffic has led to significant investment in cruise infrastructure and the port's newest passenger facility, Isonzo Terminal, opened in May.

The two storey building (pictured) comprises a 4,450 sq mtr arrivals area at ground level whilst a departure area with 25 check-in desks is located on the

first floor. Embarkation is via a walkway and there is a viewing balcony running alongside the quay. The inside décor is minimalist with floor to ceiling glass walls.

Next, VTP plans to convert building 109/110 into a cruise terminal and is studying a project for handling the largest ship's afloat costing around €95m, with completion estimated in a few years.





Via Cartagena, Spain

On the move

Visiting Cartagena, and the wider Murcia region, is an immersion into history. There are a number of modern tourist attractions which have been developed around its past presented in a modern and lively way.

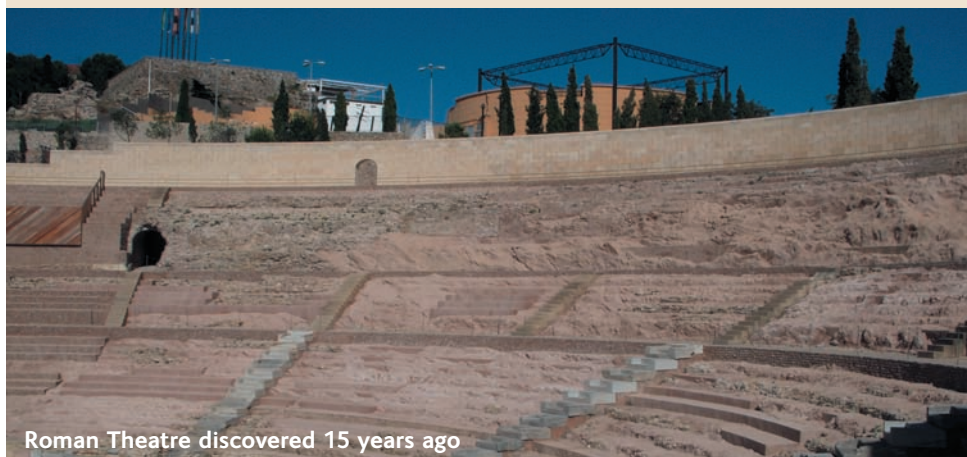
Cruise line executives participating in the May GA had a chance to explore the city on Segway transporters. The tour visited several places of interest including the recently opened ARQUA National Museum of Underwater Archaeology. The collection comprises objects found during underwater



Costa's Elisabetta de Nardo and Princess Cruises' Bruce Krumrine on the move

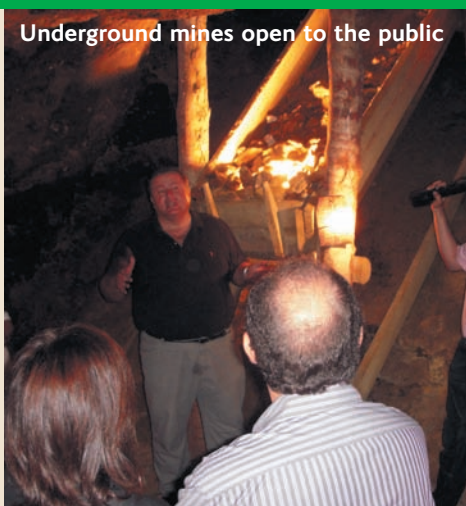
archaeological excavations and includes wrecks and artifacts spanning 2,500 years. In addition to exhibits, the museum has a restoration laboratory and education centre.

Next stop was the Roman Theatre and Museum. The tour started with exhibits recovered during the excavation of the theatre built in the late first century BC and discovered only 15 years ago. Through a series of drawings, audio-visual aids and



Roman Theatre discovered 15 years ago

Underground mines open to the public



archaeological objects the history of the town and theatre is presented. The last great hall of the museum is the open air theatre itself completely restored and approached via a corridor which runs underneath St Maria la Vieja Church.

GA delegates also visited the nearby town of La Union where over 2,000 years ago the Romans started mining silver, employing at that time more than 40,000 people. At the beginning of the 20th century new deposits of iron ore, lead and zinc were found and the town started its mining activities again with entire families including children, working underground. In the mid 1950s the mines were abandoned and today 2,000 disused mines exist in the area.

Now Agrupa Vicenta, one of the largest visitor mines in Europe covering more than 2,000sq mtr and open to the public to a depth of 80mtr, is currently being turned into a major attraction where groups of around 40 people will be able to go back in time to see how the old miners lived and worked. A train will take visitors to the mine entrance where they will don hard hats and take a half hour tour exploring the vaults and giant man-made galleries carved underground. The tour should be open later this year.

MedCruise Members

■ Alanya	■ Moroccan ports
■ Alicante	■ Motril
■ Almeria	■ Naples
■ Azores	■ Odessa
■ Balearic Islands	■ Palamos
■ Barcelona	■ Palermo
■ Bari	■ Pescara
■ Batumi	■ Portoferraio
■ Cagliari	■ Portuguese ports
■ Cartagena	■ Ravenna
■ Castellon	■ Rijeka
■ Ceuta	■ Sete
■ Civitavecchia	■ Sevastopol
■ Constantza	■ Sibenik
■ Cypriot ports	■ Sinop
■ Dubrovnik, Korcula	■ Sochi
■ Egyptian ports	■ Split
■ French Riviera ports	■ Tarragona
■ Genoa	■ Theodosia
■ Gibraltar	■ Toulon-Var-Provence
■ Koper	■ Trieste
■ La Spezia	■ Tunisian ports
■ Lattakia	■ Valencia
■ Livorno	■ Valletta
■ Malaga	■ Venice
■ Messina	■ Volos
■ Monaco	■ Zadar

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Published by Seatrade Communications Ltd