

Destination MEDCRUISE

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Via Madeira Ports

Madeira Ports joins MedCruise



Funchal

Madeira ports (comprising Funchal and Porto Santo), is the newest member of MedCruise, having joined the association during the Monaco General Assembly late in October 2009. 'We are one of the biggest ports in the Atlantic and we felt that it would definitely be worthwhile for us to join this organisation. There are already a number of other Portuguese ports in the association,' says Bruno Freitas, President of Portos de Madeira.

The port, which currently receives approximately 400,000 passengers per year from about 300 cruise calls, is optimistic about the benefits of the MedCruise brand. 'We hope that this strategic move will boost traffic in the lower summer season and will make Madeira a more profitable year round destination,' he says.

In order to accommodate this expected influx of passengers, the port authorities have embarked on construction of a new €12.8m

cruise terminal. 'We began work in June 2008 and expect to launch operations by March 2010,' Freitas says. The project is funded through a combination of money raised by the port authorities (37% of the total €12.8m), with the remaining 63% sourced from EU funds.

The terminal will be 6,000sq mtr in size and capable of handling 1,000 passengers in transit per hour. It will also feature a large quay capacity, able to berth two vessels of 300mtr or three vessels if they are 220mtr in length.

From many historical monuments, squares and streets in the capital of Funchal to enchanting

gardens, picturesque villages, amazing landscapes, impressive volcanic caves, rugged coast lines and beautiful natural beaches, cruise passengers soon realise that one visit to Madeira just isn't enough.





Via Croatian ports

A coastline full of surprises



Dubrovnik

Croatia has an amazing 5,835km of coastline, 4,057km of which belongs to islands, cliffs and reefs. There are 1,185 islands in the Adriatic, but only about 50 are populated.



Split

Warm dry summers and mild winters, make Croatia one of the sunniest coastlines in Europe and a popular cruise destination.

Croatia's main cruise port, Dubrovnik, is in the midst of a major reconstruction plan including new 300mtr quay at Gruj, finishing in

December, followed by a new passenger terminal and leisure and entertainment complex which will start in 2010 and take two years to complete. 640 calls bringing 860,000 passengers are expected this year and 6% growth is forecast for 2010. The Old Walled City is most popular with cruise passengers. 130,000gt Carnival Dream became the largest cruise ship ever to visit Dubrovnik in September this year.

Port of Zadar Authority has started work on building a new cruise and ferry terminal in Gazenica, 3.5km south of the existing passenger facilities. First phase entails reclamation of 20.5 hectares of land and a new breakwater. This should be completed by May 2010. Phase Two involves the construction of 12 berths, access roads and pedestrian areas. This will be finished by August 2012 followed by a terminal one year later.

Sibenik is undergoing a five year expansion programme including a €12m refurbishment of Vruļje Quay enabling ships up to 260mtr to call. This is phase one of a larger project that will entail a new terminal building. Next year Sibenik is expecting 70 calls and around 11,000 passengers.

An extension of St Dujе's pier in Split will be finished in 2010 providing two additional cruise berths. Amongst newcomers next year will be Norwegian Gem, Nieuw Amsterdam and Celebrity Equinox. Whilst cruising represents just 3% of Split's overall passenger traffic, accounting for 236 calls this year, the figure is rising at this old Roman city.

Rijeka is anticipating a significant growth in cruise calls in the coming years triggered by a new 400mtr berth with 7.5mtr water depth and passenger terminal officially opened in October. The entire port area is undergoing a major reconstruction which is aimed at transforming the port into a major hub for central and eastern Europe. Winter cruising is also a target as the mountain resorts can be reached within 90 minutes of the port.



Zadar



Plitvicka Jezera National Park, near Rijeka



Sibenik



Black Sea ports expand



‘MedCruise members Odessa and Sevastopol in Ukraine and Russia’s Sochi are amongst several Black Sea ports that are undertaking expansion plans to grow cruise traffic in the coming years,’ notes David Stupelman, director of MedCruise responsible for the Black Sea region, where seven ports are members including rookie Theodosia in Ukraine.

Stupelman hails from Sochi, host port city of the 2014 Winter Olympics, where construction starts this month on a new 700mtr long cruise berth due to be ready in March 2013.

MSC Melody, MSC Opera, Crystal Serenity, Discovery, Queen Victoria, Azamara Quest, Black Watch, Costa Mediterranea, Le Boreal and Artemis are just some of the cruise ships sailing

in the Black Sea next year suggesting that the destination meets the requirements of various tastes and budgets including the most sophisticated and discerning.

Popular on any itinerary is Odessa in the Ukraine which is expecting 65 ocean going calls in 2010, an increase of seven on this year’s figure. Plans are afoot to add three more berths.

Next year Crystal Serenity (at anchor) and Westerdam will become first time callers at Sevastopol. The new anchorage allows ships over 180mtr to come in very close to the city centre and tender passengers to Grafskaya Quay.

The eastern Crimea port of Theodosia is a recent newcomer to the Black Sea cruise map where passengers will find the gallery of 19th century marine artist Ivan Aivazovsky and his amazing seascapes. Built in 1854, the gallery

displays about 150 of his works.

Sinop in north Turkey has 15 calls booked so far for 2010, as Kristina Regina, Arion and Delphin featured amongst newcomers this year. The city of Sinop offers history and cultural attractions such as the Castle, Archeological Museum and Ethnographical Museum. In addition special tours can be arranged for small groups such as a waterfall tour where there are 19 found in an 8sq km area.

The next MedCruise General Assembly will be in the Black Sea port of Constantza. If ships stay over 12 hours in the Romanian port then it is possible to take a full day tour to Bucharest – the capital city. Popular around Constantza itself are tours to its museums, churches and monasteries, and to the Danube Delta, which is 60 miles away.





Via Alanya, Turkey



Port of Alanya witnessed a renewing of wedding vows of Andy & Wendy Lavallee, British passengers on board of Thomson Cruises' Calypso, which called at the Turkish Mediterranean port on October 22nd. Pictured far right is MedCruise director and Port of Alanya's Haluk Sayman, and on the left the ship's master.

Via Malaga, Spain

Malaga forges ahead with expansion plans

Increased cruise traffic at Malaga's Eastern Passenger Terminal, opened two years ago, has prompted operator Cruceros Malaga to bring forward plans to construct the second phase of its development plan.

Starting before the end of the year the whole project has a total investment of €15m and will be ready in 18 months.

The second phase of the Eastern Passenger Terminal calls for a 7.714sq mtr

area, distributed on two floors. When the extension is ready, the terminal will have a total area of 13,700sq mtr and will be able to operate as one or two separate terminals, as required.

The existing facility, which opened in January 2008, receives ships using the southern berth. The second phase will receive passengers coming from the northern berth, inaugurated last October, making it possible to handle two ships at the same time.

The Port of Malaga is expecting almost half a million passengers in 2009, an increase of around 40% on 300 ship calls. Seventeen ships are new visitors.

Turnaround traffic has increased significantly, up 278% on last year, reaching 103,896 passengers.



MedCruise Members

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

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