

Destination MEDCRUISE

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Via Ceuta

Ceuta to host the next Medcruise General Assembly



The 26th General Assembly of Medcruise will be held between 5th - 6th May 2005 in Ceuta, Spanish city in the north of Africa which is located just 17 km away from the Spanish mainland.

Ceuta welcomes Medcruise members. Visitors to the General Assembly will find a unique enclave, the Spanish gateway to Africa in which two continents converge. Two seas also converge there, to create an unequalled natural environment. Strolling through the streets of Ceuta you can relive a thousand-year old history and at the same time, enjoy all the comforts of a modern-day city. Ceuta's gentle climate makes it an ideal destination at any time of year.

Shopping: The tax advantages of the autonomous city have attracted many merchants, who have opened up business in the central parts of Ceuta. Prices are considerably lower than in mainland Spain; there

is no VAT in Ceuta, so all goods are free of the chief mainland tax. The bazaars are the place to buy imported electronic goods. In addition, Ceuta specializes in jewellery and watches,



fashion, perfumery, drinks and tobacco. The traditionally Muslim quarters deal chiefly in Moroccan craft, ceramics, leather goods and costume jewellery.

Ceuta has been a cultural melting pot. Berbers, Carthaginians, Romans, Mauretanians, Vandals, Visigoths, Byzantines, Arabs, the Portuguese, Spaniards... all have been welcomed here and have found a home. They all left a sample of their cultures and traditions for the enrichment of Ceuta.

Ceuta is also a good base from which to visit the surrounding Magreb towns in Morocco with the European service and experience of specialised travel agencies. Tangier, for example, is one hour by bus. In Ceuta there is a lot to discover.

Ceuta can handle any size of cruiseship at two terminals close to the city centre which is just 200mtr away from the pier. Last year 19 cruiseships called bringing around 6,500 passengers and traffic in 2005 is expected to be about the same.

For more tourist information visit:
www.turiceuta.com



Via Zadar

Heart of the city

Port of Zadar is situated in the heart of the city providing direct access to shopping, sightseeing and other tourist attractions. Walking distance to most facilities is five minutes. Downtown Zadar is centred around the Roman Forum, within the old preserved city walls full of old Croatian monuments. The Archeological Museum founded in 1832 is the second oldest museum in this part of Europe.

The old town and five National Parks in the Zadar region are the most popular tours taken by cruise passengers.

Zadar in Croatia received 35 cruise calls last year and is expecting around 50 vessels this summer. The largest ship accommodated so far had 1,250 passengers and the port has



invested in a new cruiseship terminal which provides one berth for ships up to 150mtr in length with no width restrictions. This was

finished in June last year and at the moment the port is working on plans for a new car and ferry terminal in Gazenica.

Via Split

1,700 years' celebrations

Calling all adventure seeking passengers arriving in Split this summer! Rafting is one of the most exciting ways to experience river courses and their picturesque surroundings. Our river adventure starts on the banks of the Cetina River in the Biokovo Mountain region. Short instructions are followed by a white-water descent to the Radman's Mills, where passengers leave their rafts to enjoy swimming in the clear mountain river, or a stroll through the woods. There trip can be arranged through one of the local travel agencies and would include guide, instructor, raft, equipment and open air lunch.

For those not looking for a bare-knuckle experience there are plenty of other tours available and special for this year the City of Split is celebrating 1,700 years of its foundation. From March to October the City of Split together with the Tourist Board of Split is organizing a number of events to mark this celebration.



In 2005 Split is expecting to receive 140 cruise calls similar to last year's tally when 134 ships brought 34,134 passengers. The biggest cruise ship to call will be the 292mtr long Costa Mediterranea.

Split Port Authority has began a project

named 'summer berths' on the south side of the main breakwater in the City port. These new berths will allow even the biggest cruiseships to moor in the city port. The project will be completed for the 2006 summer season.



Via Dubrovnik

Fortress views

Dubrovnik is a port city with a rich past and cultural heritage which is pacy and alive. The most recognisable feature which defines the history of Dubrovnik and gives it its characteristic are its intact city walls which run uninterrupted for 1,940mtr encircling the city. This complex structure, one of the most beautiful and strongest fort systems in Europe, is the main tourist attraction.

Five fortresses give visitors unforgettable views of the city.

Other notable places of interest are the State Archives in the Sponza Palace, which contains documents from the 12th century. It is a popular attraction for anyone wanting to know more about the political and economical relations between the Dubrovnik Republic and other European

countries in the past.

Other city attractions are the Franciscan monastery with a museum that contains the Old Pharmacy's inventory dating back to 1317, the Dominican monastery with the collection of Dubrovnik School of 15th and 16th century Art, Cathedral with relics and Rector's Palace.

Later this year the port plans to extend the quays alongside berths 10-16. Dubrovnik is expecting to receive 380 ships in 2005 bringing 300,000 passengers, up 15% on last year's figures. A newcomer this summer is the 110,000gt Carnival Liberty sailing Carnival Cruise Lines' maiden summer season in the Med.



Via Valletta

Calling sports fans

Golf, Sport fishing, grape & olive picking combined with a Maltese culinary experience, adventure trails in Malta's fortifications, the movie trail taking passengers to the actual places where films such as *Gladiator* and *Count of Monte Cristo* were shot are all exciting tours that passengers calling Valletta this year have in store.

For those looking for active/sports-related tours kite surfing, windsurfing, dinghy sailing, sailing, abseiling, jeep safari, cycling, diving and golf are all available.

Malta received 327 calls last year bringing 269,714 passengers and is looking to increase cruise business this year to 335 calls and 300,000 visitors.

New for 2005 will be Iberjet's Iberostar

Mistral (ex Mistral) which will be a regular caller and at 272mtr long and 105,000gt Costa Magica will be one of the largest ships to call Malta. Built last year, Costa Magica will be calling from April through to November.

In July 2005, the new cruise terminal will be completed as part of the major renovation of the Valletta waterfront.





Via Malaga

Picasso draw

Since the opening of the Picasso Museum in 2003 and Picasso's Birth House Foundation there has been increasing interest to find out more about the genial artist born in Malaga and his work. The Picasso museum is now the most visited museum in the Andalusian region.



This year Cunard's Queen Mary 2 will be amongst 210 ships scheduled to call bringing a total of 200,000 passengers, a slight drop on 2004 figures in terms of calls but up on passengers.

The port's 2,500mtr long quay provides excellent docking facilities making it an ideal stopover for cruiseships. A new passenger terminal will be finished in 2006.

The quays are located close to the city centre so passengers are just five minutes away from all the major tourist attractions including the Picasso Museum, the cathedral, Gibralfaro Castle and La Concepcion Manor house.

For the adventurous cycling, kayaking, 4x4, and helicopter rides are offered as an alternative.

Via Alicante

City of Light



Alicante, capital of the Costa Blanca (White Coast) and also known as the 'Ciudad de la Luz' (City of Light), is situated on the shores of a large deep bay that forms a magnificent natural harbour.

There are many tours to be taken but a popular one is the Alicante City tour, beginning with a visit to Santa Barbara Castle which is the focal point of Alicante.

It is a magnificent fortress, built on a mountain ridge 200mtr above sea level. It is the most famous castle in the province, both for the history written deep within the ancient stones of its ramparts and for the fantastic views of the surrounding countryside and the city of Alicante.

Leaving the castle, the excursion continues into the city centre. You will pass the lovely baroque Church of Santa

Maria, a 16th century church, which was built on the site of an ancient Arab Mosque. It has a Gothic interior and a Baroque high Altar and doorway. Then your guide will take you into the Cathedral of San Nicolás de Bari, considered as one of Spain's finest examples of high baroque architecture.

From this point we may go to visit the MARQ. The museum covers over 9,000sq mtr, dedicated exclusively to Alicante's archaeological heritage a unique cultural space dedicated exclusively to Alicante's archaeological findings.

The main tourist attraction, on the Costa Blanca is the Terra Mítica theme park where entertainment, strong emotions and unforgettable sensations are guaranteed. The park renews its attractions continuously.

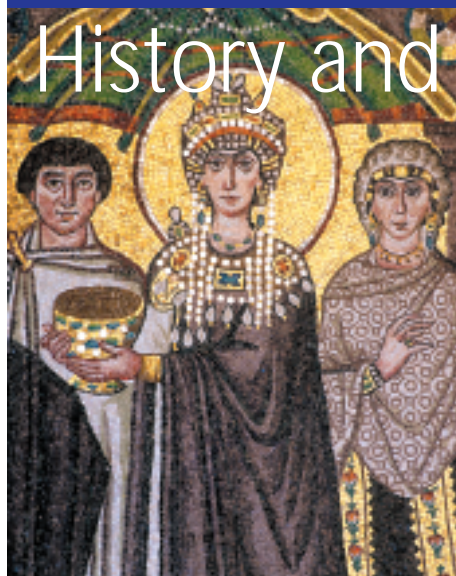
Elche (near Alicante), has recently been designated area of World Heritage by UNESCO, owing to its botanical phenomenon, the Imperial Palm.

This bustling city is actually the biggest palm-tree reserve in Europe, as well as one of the European cities with the highest percentage of green space per inhabitant. Visit the "Huerto del Cura", an orchard and garden.



Via Ravenna

History and sports pursuits



Sant'Eufemia) hosting the gorgeous mosaics of a magnificent Byzantine palace dating back to the 6th century AD.

Set up in the splendid setting of a XIV century church, the dominant theme of the Domus del Triclinio exhibition is Roman age dwellings of Ravenna. The centerpiece of the exhibition consists of the Domus del Triclinio which came to light in 1980 during the construction of the new head offices of the Banca Popolare di Ravenna, in the heart of the city.

The Domus dates back to the I-III century A.D. and the discovery of numerous bronze fragments belonging to the decoration of a triclinium couch – the characteristic Roman couch, on which diners reclined when eating their meals – made it possible to confirm that this is in fact the dining room of the Roman domus.

Surrounded by the Adriatic, the green of the pinewoods, the salt waters of the salines in a natural environment of rare beauty, Ravenna

offers some of the most avant-garde structures at both national and international level where one can enjoy all kinds of open air activity such as windsurfing, horse-riding, cycling and golf.

In 2005 the port is expecting to receive 30 cruise calls carrying 20,000 passengers. Among the ships scheduled to call this year Costa Allegra, Emerald, Adriana, Le Levant and Le Diamant will be first time visitors.

Infrastructural works further deepening the canal bed to 11.5mtr are underway. The Port Authority of Ravenna has also already embarked on a new project for the construction of a new and larger passenger Terminal at Porto Corsini that will reduce berthing times and will allow longer ships access and safe night activity.

The Domus of Stone Carpets and the Domus del Triclinio are two new and extraordinary monuments, of the most significant Italian archaeological sites discovered over the last few decades and inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Italy in 2003.

The Domus of Stone Carpets is an underground space (located 3mtr below the road level and under the floor of the Church of



Via Portoferraio

Napoleonic past



Portoferraio is the capital of Elba, the largest island in the Tuscan archipelago. This summer about 60 cruiseships will call, up from 54 calls last year.

The most popular tours are the Portoferraio walking tour which takes 2 hours

and Portoferraio and surrounding area tour which is 3.5hrs. A visit to Mount Capanne the highest mountain in Elba takes 4.5hrs.

On a walk around Portoferraio you will see the Palazzina dei Mulini, a national monument, situated between Forte Stella and Forte Falcone, which are the two

Medicean fortresses of the city. It was the official residence of Napoleon and his sister Paolina. The museum houses several relics and from the garden you can enjoy a beautiful panorama on the Tyrrhenian sea.

The Villa of S. Martino, 5 km from Portoferraio, was Napoleon's summer dwelling. Worth seeing are the Egyptian Hall and the Demidoff Gallery. The Museum of the Church of Reverenda Misericordia houses important relics belonging to Napoleon, such as the bronze dead-mask taken at Saint Helena by his personal doctor Antonmarchi.

The most important forts are Forte Falcone and Forte Stella (in the old town) and the Torre del Martello (near the entrance of the old harbour). Other places of interest include: the Roman Villa of Le Grotte, which dates back to 1st century BC – 1st century AD; the romanesque Church of S. Stefano alle Trane (12th century); the International Art Centre of Italo Bolano in S. Martino; the Pinacoteca Foresiana (a painting collection); and the Botanic Palm Garden of Ottone.



Via Palermo

Cultural forays



P rinciple port of Sicily, Palermo continues to register an increasing growth in the cruise market. Sicily offers cultural forays into ancient civilisations and to

sophisticated cities for passengers in search of sun, fine dining and glamorous resorts. In Palermo itself there are traces of history from the Phoenicians through the Spanish

domination to liberty style. City tours cover the Arab to Norman period; Gothic to Renaissance period, a Baroque itinerary, a 19th century Art Nouveau itinerary and a villa tour. Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe and Taormina are reachable on a full day tour from Palermo.

The Cruise Terminal, located at the Maritime Station is a modern well equipped and comfortable building.

Palermo has nine quays with a total length of 2,790mtr with an 8–14mtr water depth alongside and a modern cruiseship terminal with air conditioned halls. Last year 139 cruiseship calls brought 193,197 cruise passengers which has been consistent during the last few years. 165 ships are expected throughout the 2005 summer season with passenger numbers forecast at 200,000.

Palermo is currently investing €7m in new passenger terminal/berthing facilities but this work will not be ready for the coming cruise season.

Via Sevastopol

Ancient destiny, new destination



Balaclava

S evastopol is a mythical city, long forbidden to visitors and now emerging under the sun of the Black Sea. It is a place to discover history and heritage. Some of the must-see tourist attractions are:

- 'The Defense of Sevastopol 1854–1855' is one of the biggest and well-known battle-paintings (the length of the canvas is 115mtr, the object foreground is 900mtr). Panorama depicts the repulsion of the assault of Sevastopol 18th June 1855.
- The historical centre of Sevastopol, the Gfarskaya landing stage – the grand sea

gates to the city, the monument to the Scuttled Ships – the emblem of Sevastopol, the Memorial to Sevastopol defenders of the period of the World War II, the monument to brave Russian Admiral Nakhimov, St. Vladimir's Cathedral – the burial-vault of famous admirals.

- Chersonesus of Taurida – an unique historical & archeological complex, including the ancient town, the Museum of Antique & Medieval history, a port, the ancient plots of land of the citizens of the ancient

town founded by the Greeks 2,500 years ago, numerous basilicas & St. Vladimir's Cathedral. Christianity became the official religion in Chersonesus in the IV century & came to Russia in the X century. Kiev Prince Vladimir & his squadron was baptized in Chersonesus in 988.

Recognized by UNESCO one of the most significant ancient monuments of human civilization. In 2004 Sevastopol Sea Trade Port received 26 ocean cruise calls and 71 river cruise calls bringing 22,000 passengers.

- Cold War Museum in Balaclava. During the Soviet rule there was a secret submarine tunnel inside the mountain which has become a Cold War museum. Balaclava is 20 minutes drive from the Port.





Via Sochi

Of tea drinkers and dachas



Two of the most popular tours for passengers visiting Sochi are the Dagomys Tea Plantation and Stalin's Dacha.

For most Russian tea drinkers Sochi is well-known as the only place where Russian tea is cultivated and produced. The Sochi tea plantations are the northernmost in the world too. A trip to the tea farm includes a lecture on the History of Tea, a visit to the Museum of Samovars and Russian craft, a tea-party in a Russian wooden Izba.

It is not without reason that Stalin's former dacha is located at Zelenaya Roscha –

as the energizing nature and the healing waters have always attracted people with their wonderful qualities and favourable effects. In the thirties and forties this place was meant for the top leaders of the state and the party, heads of socialist countries. In the museum on the

ground floor there is a wax modelled monument of the former leader – he is sitting at the table in his high-necked tunic, holding a paper in his hand. Stalin's famous divan, made to his order, billiard table, his personal belongings are all on show.

For the more active passenger there is a five kilometre stretch of river for whitewater rafting and for the less adventurous horseriding.

In 2004 port of Sochi received 24 cruise ships and 8,155 passengers. In 2005 the Russian port is expecting 25 ships and 10,000 passengers including visits from new callers Astoria and Le Levant.

The port is currently undergoing a \$2.5m refurbishment which will be finished in May this year.



Via Portimao

Tee-ing off for growth

A new shorex for passengers arriving this year at port of Portimao is Morgado golf course the newest course to open in the Algarve. Lying to the North of Portimão it is laid out in a large 980 hectare estate through undulating small valleys. It is just 10 minutes away from the Cruise Terminal.

Portimao's excellent climate, delightful, calm waters and fine sands extending up against honey-coloured cliffs make the local beaches an important tourist attraction.

The city is the main centre in the Arade region – a place where the beach

and mountain are one and the city and countryside live in perfect harmony.

Portimão received 21 cruise ships calls and 6,502 passengers in 2004 and is expecting over 50 ships bringing about 40,000 passengers this year including RCI's Legend of the Seas – a first time caller.

Looking ahead, Portimao will dredge the channel and the turning basin and extend the quay of the cruise terminal from 330mtr to 550mtr to meet growing demand as it would prefer to bring large ships alongside rather than tender from the outer anchorage.





Piraeus

Gateway to ancient sites

Passengers disembarking in Piraeus can experience a variety of shore excursions, both close and further afield, including the Archaeological Museum and the Nautical Museum both located near the port area.

The city of Athens is just 20 minutes by metro offering remarkable sights such as the Acropolis, crowned by the Parthenon – the most magnetic of ancient sites, numerous museums, the districts of Plaka and Monastiraki and a long list of other sites that are within walking distance of the city centre.

The islands of Argosaronicos are another option which are within easy reach.

Port of Piraeus was in the spotlight last year when it hosted the Olympic fleet of cruiseships. The port authority (P.P.A. SA) implemented a programme of refurbishment and modernisation works in the lead up to the Games. This included construction of three new berthing places at the cruise terminal; construction of a new water supply



and wastewater collection network within the passenger port; restructuring and landscaping of the Main Cruise Port area and traffic management regulations.

P.P.A. SA also inaugurated two new Passenger Terminals and upgraded the entire port infrastructure.

The following works are being carried out through a BOT: a car parking facility in the PPA Exhibition central area is almost ready and a new passenger terminal (Kanelos area) and luxury hotel (Palataki area) have to be decided. Over 150,000 cruise passengers visited Piraeus last year on almost 500 ship calls.

Volos

Action, adventure

Passengers visiting the Port of Volos can experience a new tour this year: ski-ing in the Pelion mountains. Nearby, Pelion appears green and imposing with its many picturesque villages...Pelion offers its hospitality for an all season vacation.

For sports enthusiasts there are a variety of opportunities to partake in sailing, bicycle rides, swimming, rowing and water sports, including jet-skiing, along the many beaches very close to Volos.

Daily excursions to the Sporades Islands (Skiathos, Skopelos, Alonnisos) are also very popular.

Volos is constructing a new passenger terminal, fully equipped with modern facilities in the central pier. Also, a new marina is nearing completion for all types of sailing ships and leisure craft. Last year Volos welcomed 26 ships bringing 11,542 passengers.



Membership expansion

Call for Associate and Cruise Line members

In addition to port members MedCruise has two other kinds of membership: Associate members and Cruise Line members. Associate membership is open to any entity, public or private, whose activities involve tourism boards, port agents etc. The Associate member must be linked to a regular member. A Cruise Line member can be the line itself or a cruise ship tour operator. Anyone interested in becoming an Associate or Cruise Line member please e-mail Carla Salvado, Secretary General, on secretariat@medcruise.com

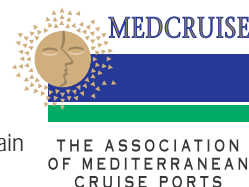
MedCruise Members

■ Alanya	■ Monaco
■ Alicante	■ Naples
■ Almeria	■ Palamos
■ Ancona	■ Palermo
■ Balearic Islands	■ Piraeus
■ Barcelona	■ Portoferraio
■ Bari	■ Portuguese ports
■ Cagliari	■ Ravenna
■ Cartagena	■ Sete
■ Catania	■ Sevastapol
■ Ceuta	■ Sochi
■ Cyprus ports	■ Split
■ Dubrovnik, Korcula	■ Tarragona
■ French Riviera ports	■ Toulon, St Tropez
■ Genoa	■ Trieste
■ Gibraltar	■ Tunis
■ Israeli ports	■ Valencia
■ Kusadasi	■ Valletta
■ La Spezia	■ Venice
■ Livorno	■ Volos
■ Malaga	■ Zadar
■ Messina	

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