

# Destination MEDCRUISE

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## Via Cyprus

# Cyprus to welcome MedCruise general assembly in October

**T**he 27th general assembly of MedCruise will be held between October 19-21 2005 in Limassol Cyprus.

The Cyprus Ports Authority welcomes MedCruise members to experience the mystique offered by the island which houses two major cruise ports: Limassol and Larnaca.

History and hedonism are comfortably intertwined on Cyprus. Exclusive five-star resorts within walking distance of well-preserved Greek and Roman ruins offer every amenity the modern traveller has come to expect and more, from pools, gardens and beachfronts to state of the art thalassotherapy health spas. One of the most impressive archaeological sites, the ancient city kingdom of Kourion, overlooks a magnificent stretch of beaches with a sparkling blue sea beyond. Along the island's sun-kissed coastline, from Agia Napa in the east to Pafos in the west, world-class beach resorts alternate with settings untouched since antiquity.

In the interior there are old wine-producing villages with atmospheric winding streets and terraced vineyards. Explore Greek Orthodox churches nestled in the hills whose walls conceal vibrantly painted Byzantine frescoes.

The capital Nicosia, is surrounded by Venetian walls with heart-shaped bastions; Larnaka, site of the major international airport, is also home to St. Lazarus Church and the crypt of



■ *Basilica Kourion*

the eponymous saint resurrected by Christ. Near the animated harbour at Pafos are the Roman floor mosaics of the Houses of Aion, Achilles and Dionysus, their depictions of mythological scenes amazingly well preserved.

Nestled into the eastern Mediterranean Sea and a veritable crossroads of three continents, Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean.

From 1489 to 1571 the flag of Venice flew in Cyprus, until which time the Ottoman Turks

moved in. That era ended in 1878 when Cyprus became part of the British Empire. The Republic of Cyprus achieved independence in 1960 and joined the European Union in July 2004.

Food lovers delight in farm-fresh halloumi cheese and delectable meze, the local specialty appetizers that mix Western ingredients with Eastern zest. There are generally 300-plus sunny days per year.

Before the armies of

Alexander the Great made their famous thrusts east toward lands unconquered, their ships called into port at Cyprus to be readied and refitted. The same strategic location, at the crossroads of three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa, that made Cyprus a crucial starting point for Alexander's expanding empire makes the island a desirable centre today for cruising. Whether for a cruise that originates there, as a port of call or a fly and cruise option, today Cyprus is among the premier cruising destinations in the Mediterranean.

As the easternmost island in the Mediterranean, Cyprus is a natural point of departure for exploring this amazingly diverse region. Throughout the year locally-based cruise lines link the island with Lebanon, Syria and the Greek islands/Athens.

Every year more than 30 international cruise ships make more than 100 calls at the ports of Limassol and Larnaka carrying in excess of 100,000 passengers to visit the major attractions of Cyprus.

For more tourist information look at [www.visitcyprus.org.cy](http://www.visitcyprus.org.cy) and for port information [www.cpa.gov.cy](http://www.cpa.gov.cy)



■ *Agia Napa beach*





# MedCruise General Assembly No 26, Ceuta, Spain

For most attendees it was a first time visit to Spanish city Ceuta, located in the north of Africa. Ceuta's duty-free status means there is no VAT and shopping has been the main attraction in the past. However the city has an interesting history and today its 70,000 inhabitants hail from four religions: Christians, Jews, Hindus and Muslims – all living harmoniously together.

Port Authority president Jose Francisco Torrado Lopez said 'We are keen to promote Ceuta as a safe access point for Magreb towns: Tetouan in Morocco is less than 30 minutes drive away; Tangiers one hour by bus but there is a lot to discover in the city itself which is a 200mtr walk from the cruise port.' In 2004, 19 cruiseships bought 6,500 passengers and the same traffic is expected this year.

Attendees got a chance to discover Ceuta as well as a trip to Tetouan in Morocco where they visited the medina, drank afternoon tea in a palace and enjoyed an exotic dinner under a tent.

## Ceuta to less than 30 minutes from Tetouan



Ceuta cathedral

## Afternoon tea



## Tetouan souk



## Traditional Moroccan dinner







## MedCruise's newest member

**S**ituated in the heart of the Adriatic coast at the mouth of the river Krka, lies the old Croatian town of Sibenik. The great cathedral of St. Jakov which took a hundred years to build has become an eternal and indestructible symbol of the town.

Only 10km from the town is the Krka National Park and closeby is the national park of Kornati which has about a hundred islands and a historical source and inspiration to the most prominent Croatian writers, sculptors, architects and musicians.

Sibenik is a big and one of the oldest and best protected ports on the Croatian side of the Adriatic Sea. It is situated in the sunken mouth of river Krka, which forms a unique nature reserve 75km long.

The port is naturally sheltered from waves and winds. It can be reached through the Sv. Ante Strait enabling unobstructed navigation of ships up to 50,000 dwt.



The indented coastline has many coves and small ports and with more than 240 islands, islets and reefs.

Sibenik port has three quays with 8.2mtr water depth alongside. There is no air draught restriction. The city centre is just 0.5km away and Split Airport 40km.

## €200m+ infrastructure spend at MedCruise ports

**I**nvestment in new terminal facilities, passenger berths and cruise-related works continues unabated throughout the Mediterranean. At MedCruise member ports, numbering 63 across the region, an estimated €200m+ will be spent in the next three years, according to information gathered by Seatrade.

This year alone sees a new €1m terminal and dedicated cruise berth inaugurated at Ancona and at Barcelona a new Terminal B, costing over €10m, will be ready for the start of this summer, as will refurbishment work on Terminal C. New terminals will also open in 2005 at the Turkish port of Kusadasi and Malta's Valletta (part of a €25m upgrade of Grand Harbour), whilst Sochi on Russia's Black Sea shores is undergoing a €3.25m refurbishment.

In 2006, new berths will come on stream at Livorno whilst Split and Malaga will both open new terminals. In Barcelona Terminal A's refurbishment will be completed and Costa's €8m Terminal D should be ready.

'Mediterranean ports are investing a considerable amount of money to meet the demands of the cruise industry with quality



■ Valletta an example of major infrastructure investment in the region

services, security requirements and dedicated facilities,' said MedCruise president Juan Madrid. 'Nevertheless, I would also like to point out the change in cruise lines' investment strategy. In the past year the main owners have invested in Med ports (directly or through joint-ventures), a fact that was unthinkable some time ago. These investments are a positive proof of the trust that not only ports, but also shipowners, have in the cruise business in our region,' he added.

Other MedCruise ports planning and or undertaking upgrades include Venice, Dubrovnik, Volos, Valencia, Tarragona, Portoferraio, Portimao, Ravenna, Catania, Palermo, Alanya, Limassol, Tunis La Goulette, Cagliari, the Balearic Islands and not forgetting Piraeus which spent almost €30m (excluding security) refurbishing and upgrading the entire port infrastructure in the lead up to the 2004 Olympics.

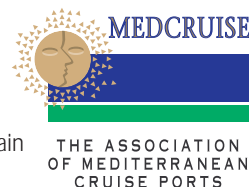
## MedCruise Members

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

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