

Destination MEDCRUISE

Celebrating 10 Years 1996–2006

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Via Volos

The Meteora Monasteries – suspended in air



Holy Trinity Monastery

Meteora, in northern central Greece, is one of the most remarkable places in the country and is accessible on a full day shore excursion from Port of Volos. Medieval monasteries hang precariously along the sides of giant rock formations – the name Meteora comes from the Greek word 'meteoros', meaning 'suspended in air'.



Iconography from within one of the monasteries

Beginning in the 14th century, Greek Orthodox hermits and holy men built the monasteries as religious safe havens, isolated from the conflict and civil strife occurring in many other parts of the country. Until the 1930's the monasteries were only accessible by ropes and ladders, the provisions and the monks would be hoisted up in a net and descend on a retractable rope ladder. The monks would descend in order to grow grapes, corn and potatoes in the valleys below. Nowadays roads and pathways have been built to link all the monasteries and the valley below.

There were once 24 monasteries but now only six remain in use whilst the rest are ruined or inaccessible. Today the monasteries are a designated UNESCO World Heritage site.

Another shore excursion available from Port of Volos is to visit the town of Volos itself and Mount Pelion which overlooks the town. Visit the Volos Archaeological Museum, which houses a collection of ancient

treasures. Also visit Makrinitza village, located on the slopes of Mount Pelion. The narrow cobblestone streets are lined with small shops selling candied fruit, herbs, spices, and the like. The village square offers an astounding view of the surrounding countryside. In addition, visit Portoria, a resort village located high above sea level, offering stunning views of the Aegean below.



Volos port



Via Koper



into a significant logistics and distribution centre.

Besides all the other services it offers pilotage, towing, fresh water supply, garbage and sewage removal, bunkering and ship-chandler services.

The establishment of the passenger port of Koper is part of an urban regeneration project. The passenger port is located about 200 mtr – only a three minutes walk – from the main town square with the cathedral, cafes, restaurants and the main tourist attractions.

The proximity of international airports, the high number of luxury hotels and the full range of ship handling capabilities means Koper offers an excellent base for turnaround operations. There are also various possibilities for pre- and post-cruise packages, including a plenitude of spa resorts.

The variety of attractive tourist destinations in a relatively small area, easily reachable by bus, first-class services and safety definitely make Slovenia an excellent new cruise destination.

Slovenia presents a charming patchwork of landscapes: high mountains with lake districts, wooded uplands, verdant valleys, the mysterious karst and a sunny slice of Adriatic coast. All the regions offer a wide range of gastronomic and oenological specialities.

Slovenia seems so small, it only measures 20.273 sq km and barely 300 km across, but it is large enough to have everything: the Mediterranean, the Alps, the Pannonian Plain, and the mysterious Dinaric karst world. The only one of its kind in the European Union.

Koper, makes Slovenia a perfect, new and safe cruise destination.

The Port of Koper is the main Slovenian port and represents the southern gate to international commercial links between Europe and overseas.

Koper lies on the shortest transport route linking commercial centres in Central and Eastern Europe with both the Mediterranean countries and those along the Suez Canal. These factors contribute to the development of the port of Koper

Laying in the heart of Europe, between the sunny Alps and the Mediterranean, Slovenia is surrounded by Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. The diversity of sights, easily reachable from the port of



Lipica Stud Farm



Postojna Caves



Koper's main square

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO KOPER

Your chance to enter a free draw to win a short break for two to Slovenia. The prize, sponsored by the Passenger Port of Koper, the City of Koper and Slovenian Tourist Board, includes air travel to and from Slovenia for two persons, two nights bed and breakfast plus two days of tours – including port and city of Koper sightseeing and opportunity to visit the Slovenian Coast, Lipica Stud Farm, Postojna Caves and capital city of Ljubljana.

Please fill in the short entry form enclosed with this newsletter and return to Seatrade by January 31st 2007. Please see details on entry form.





Via Castellon

Walled fortress

Visiting Morella is like going back in time. Located in the northernmost tip of Valencia, this small town is built on a rock overlooking the Mediterranean sea from a height of 1.072 mtr above sea level. The impressive castle of Morella sits on the top of the hill, and the village is surrounded by an ancient wall.

The structure of the existing castle was built by Arabs during the Moor occupation of Spain and throughout history, because of its strategic position, Morella Castle has experienced numerous battles. The castle has been destroyed and then rebuilt by Iberians, Romans, Arabs and Christians.

Visitors will enjoy strolling around Morella's peaceful streets which have a historical and

artistic feeling to them. The road up to the castle is full of surprises. Gothic



Archpriest's Church

arcades line the streets, noble porches, stately homes of old, facades in half timbered style and diminutive chapels come into view at each



The Castle and Walls of Morella

San Franciscan Convent and the town aqueduct.

Morella and its surroundings is famous for its excellent cheeses, cured meats, pumpkin tarts, sweet potato tarts, meatpies, herb liqueur, honey, olive oil, truffles, ham and game. The main street (Calle Principal) in Morella is a lively area lined with small shops selling local produce at reasonable prices.

Restaurants along the coastal area of Morella offer shellfish. Visitors should also try the local vegetables (especially artichokes) and rice dishes.



Fine Morellan cuisine



A typical Morellan street

turn of the street.

The historical walled area of the town deserves special interest. At the top of the hill, the castle offers outstanding views. Other historical buildings worth a visit include the Archpriests Church, the Gothic Cloister of the

Via Venice

New cruise terminal opened



On Friday November 24th, Venezia Terminal Passeggeri (VTP) inaugurated its fourth passenger terminal. Cruise Terminal 117 is a



(L-R) Cesare De Piccoli, Vice Minister of Transport, Giancarlo Zacchello, President of Venice Port Authority and Sandro Trevisanato, President of Venezia Terminal Passeggeri s.p.A.

result of a close collaboration between Venice Port Authority and Venezia Terminal Passeggeri, and involved a total investment of almost €2M.

Terminal 117 is considered a medium size

terminal and can accommodate ships of up to 270mtr in length. The renovation of building 117 has been carried out on one level, divided into two main areas for departures and arrivals. The building also has facilities to house events and conferences.

The departure lounge has three waiting rooms, a restaurant area, a duty free shop and a large check-in area as well as an X-ray machine, and a customs and passport check area. The arrivals hall provides a



Roberto Perocchio, Managing Director VTP

luggage deposit for transit passengers so that they can visit the city easily.

Managing Director of Venezia Terminal Passeggeri, Roberto Perocchio, stated that he was



Port of Livorno members with Enrica Capretti of VTP (right) at the opening

very satisfied with the new terminal. He added that building work continues at VTP on a fifth terminal which will be built on two levels with a surface area of 12.000sq mtr. Other building work includes the resurfacing of car parks and 2.500 new parking spaces built by Venice Port Authority, which would be made available to the port, town and the terminal.

As the number of terminals continue to increase at Venice so do visitor numbers. It is expected that 425 cruiseships will have called by the end of 2006 bringing in over 885.000 passengers.

Cartagena, Spain “Cruise Caucas” Conference



L-R Fernando Munoz, Port of Cartagena; Fernando Guerrero, Port of Cadiz; Hortensia Sanchez, Port of Cartagena; Juan Madrid, Port of Barcelona; Jose Campos and Manuel Gomez, Puertos del Estado

The Cartagena Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation held a conference, organised by the Cartagena Port Authority, on cruise tourism on November 22nd. This brought together a large number of industry experts at the Cartagena Chamber of Commerce Hall located on the city’s waterfront.

The President of the Cartagena Port Authority, Adrián Ángel Viudes, and the Director of Tourism of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, José Pablo Abellán, opened the conference sessions, which were packed with attendees involved in local cruise tourism.

Viudes praised the efforts undertaken by the Port of Cartagena over the last 10 years to increase its nine annual cruise calls in 1996 to the 40 expected next year.

Viudes stated that the creation of a cruise ship dock adjacent to the city centre, the promotional work at trade fairs and its relations with the top cruise lines; and participation in MedCruise, have all been factors leading to

Cartagena’s growing success. Cartagena became a member of MedCruise in 1997, shortly after the founding of the association.

Speakers at the conference included Juan Madrid from the Port of Barcelona, who presented a lively recount of how over the past 15 years, Barcelona has geared itself to be the top European and Mediterranean cruise port.

Also presenting was Xavier Pitarque, General Director of P&B Agencies, who outlined from a ship agents’ perspective business practices ports should consider while managing and promoting cruise tourism. Pitarque, whose Barcelona-

based firm manages a significant amount of cruise business at Cartagena, stated that passenger surveys consistently show Cartagena receiving very high satisfaction marks from passengers.

José Campos, MedCruise Secretary General, presented to the conference participants a four-point strategy on cruise port promotion and how MedCruise can be of assistance to ports wanting to enhance their presence in the cruise industry.



L-R Francisco Morales, Cartagena Chamber of Commerce; Jose Campos and Xavier Pitarque

Winner of the MedCruise Gibraltar-Ceuta Getaway Contest

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines’ Tours manager Tim Moore (pictured left) was the winner of the MedCruise competition run in the March issues of MedCruise News and Destination MedCruise.

The prize was sponsored by the Gibraltar Tourist Board and the Ceuta Port Authority. The trip included air travel to and from Gibraltar, two nights bed and breakfast accommodation in one of Gibraltar’s leading hotels and an executive Rock tour, plus two additional nights in Ceuta as special guest of the Ceuta Port Authority.

Tim Moore spoke to Destination MedCruise and says ‘Thank you MedCruise for an excellent four day break in Gibraltar and Ceuta. Everything went smoothly and a fine time was had. Personal thanks go to Albert Poggio, Lucy and Claire in Gibraltar’s London office, Gail Francis-Tiron who gave us the VIP tour of Gibraltar, Joe Holliday, Nicky Guerrero and Tony Davies who were kind enough to meet with us during our visit, MH Bland Travel for our transfers, The Rock Hotel for excellent accommodation, Ruth Gallo for keeping an eye on us while touring in Ceuta and Morocco, José and Victor from Ceuta Port for their hospitality, the Muralla Hotel in Ceuta for fine accommodation and Monarch for safe and comfortable flights in each direction. Despite the unusual rain in such sunny destinations, we thoroughly enjoyed our visit, saw a great deal and met some super people.’



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines’ Tours manager Tim Moore meets The Hon. Joe Holliday, Gibraltar’s Minister for Tourism

MedCruise Members

- Alanya
- Alicante
- Almeria
- Balearic Islands
- Barcelona
- Bari
- Batumi
- Cagliari
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- Ceuta
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- Dubrovnik, Korcula
- Egyptian ports
- French Riviera ports
- Gibraltar
- Israeli ports
- Koper
- La Spezia
- Lattakia
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- Monaco
- Moroccan ports
- Naples
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- Trieste
- Tunis
- Valencia
- Valletta
- Venice
- Volos
- Zadar

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