

Destination MEDCRUISE

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Via Alexandria, Egypt

Access to the last remaining Ancient Wonder



Alexandria Port Authority has invested in a new passenger terminal and trading centre (pictured below). The Port of Alexandria has also built a railway station that provides cruise passengers with direct access from the Alexandria Port Terminal to the popular tourist areas near the pyramids at Giza.

Cruise calls to the port have been steadily rising. 2008 saw 110 ships bring 178,432 passengers. 120 ships are expected by the end of this year and 130 are scheduled for 2010.

The most popular shore excursion from Alexandria port is to enjoy the panoramic view of the Pyramids of Giza (pictured) and the Great Sphinx. Some of the pyramids built of brick or stone, are among the world's largest constructions. The age of the pyramids at Giza date back to 2575–2150 BC. 138 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt to date. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the largest in Egypt and one of the largest in the world and is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World still in existence. The Great Sphinx of Giza, a statue of a reclining lion with a human head, stands on the Giza Plateau, and is the largest monolith statue in the world, standing 73.5mtr long, 6mtr wide, and 20mtr high.

Another excursion is to Alexandria's National Museum. The museum is housed in the old Al-Saad Bassili Pasha Palace which dates back to 1923. It is the first museum in Egypt that narrates the history of the people of Alexandria through antiquity, as opposed to being a building storing antiquities. Each of the museum's three floors depicts a different period of Egyptian history. One of the highlights is a replica of a tomb, similar to those in the Valley

of the Kings on the West Bank at Luxor (ancient Thebes), that includes a mummy along with genuine funerary items. Follow this with a drive along the Mediterranean coast to the Montaza Gardens, which feature 115 acres of gardens surrounded by great walls on three sides and the sea. Within its walls, you will see the exterior of the Montaza Palace, built in 1932 by King Fouad and inherited by his son King Farouk, last of the Egyptian kings.





Via Alanya, Turkey

New maritime museum to open

Alanya is one of the most charming holiday resorts on the Turkish Riviera and is only 125km away from the international airport.

With its vast beaches, historic sites, numerous fish restaurants and its cafes and bars, Alanya is an outstanding getaway.

Shore excursions from Alanya include the 13th century Seljuk Castle, which sits atop Alanya Peninsula, the Ethnography Museum, and numerous caves. A new tourist attraction opening next year is The Marine and Shipping Museum, located near the old shipyard and part of the Alanya Castle Protection and Development Plan.

Alanya was the finishing point for the 45th Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey, which took place in April this year. The new international event started in Istanbul, ran over eight stages and totalled 1,212km.

In 2009, Alanya hosted 74 cruise calls and 55,000 passengers. Figures for 2010 are forecasting 100 cruise calls and 80,000 passengers. New visitors this year included



Mano Maritime's Golden Iris, a newcomer this year

Mano Maritime's Golden Iris, Voyages of Discovery's Discovery and Fred Olsen's Balmoral. Next year Fred Olsen's Boudicca, Oceania Cruises' Nautica and Phoenix

Reisen's Amadea will be making their maiden calls. The port will also be receiving five cruise calls this winter, up from three during last winter.

Via Volos, Greece

In the shadow of Mount Pelion



Port of Volos has invested in a new 6,000sq mtr passenger terminal, which will be in use by the end of the year. Also completed is a 50mtr extension to the main passenger pier bringing a new depth of 11mtr.

This year there has been a 15% increase in passenger numbers with 24 cruise calls bringing 23,293 passengers from January to August 2009, compared to 26 cruise calls and 20,230 passengers for the same period

in 2008.

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'.

Another shore excursion is a visit to the town of Volos itself overlooked by Mount

Pelion. Visit the Volos Archaeological Museum, which houses a collection of ancient treasures, or Makrinita village, located on the slopes of Mount Pelion. The narrow cobblestone streets are lined with small shops selling candid fruit, herbs, spices, and the like. The village square offers an astounding view of the surrounding countryside. A visit to Portoria, a resort village located high above sea level, offers stunning views of the Aegean below.



Via Trieste, Italy

City centre facilities upgraded



Trieste cruise terminal is situated at Molo Bersaglieri, which is located in the centre of the city. There are two berthing stations: moor 29 on the north side has a depth of approximately 11mtr; moor 30 located on the south side of the quay, has a depth of 8mtr.

Works have been ongoing for the redevelopment of cruise facilities. Upgrade to the north side of the quay has finished. The next phase is the restoration, redevelopment and modernisation of hangar 42, currently not in use. The hangar will become an extension of the existing Maritime Station and is intended as a

reception room and disembarkation zone for passengers. Works are expected to be completed for 2011. Phase 3 of the project involves a 150mtr extension of the north shore of Molo Bersaglieri to accommodate ships with a length of up to 360mtr. An extension of the south shore will follow as phase 4 in the plan. Phases 3 and 4 are scheduled for completion in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

The most popular shore excursion outside of the city of Trieste is a bus trip to Venice or the white wine region of Collio. A bicycle tour through the vineyards stopping off at various cellars for tastings is a lovely way to spend the afternoon.

As Trieste is a city close to the border, it is also possible to visit Lipica in Slovenia, which is most famous for the Lipizzaner horses. Guests can ride the horses and watch an equestrian show in the afternoon before returning to the ship.

Via Cagliari, Italy

Hill-top splendour



Cagliari is the capital of the island of Sardinia, a region of Italy. Cagliari's Sardinian name, **Casteddu**, literally means the castle.

The old part of the city lies on top of a hill, with a wonderful view of the Gulf of Cagliari (also known as Angels Gulf). Most of its city walls are intact, and feature the two 13th century white limestone towers, St. Pancras Tower and the Elephant Tower. The local white limestone was also used to build the walls of the city and many buildings. D. H. Lawrence, in his lively memoir of a voyage to Sardinia, Sea and Sardinia, undertaken in January 1921,

described the effect of the warm Mediterranean sun-light on the white limestone city and compared Cagliari to a "white Jerusalem". The city is said to be built on seven hills (Sant'Elia, Bonaria, Monte Urpinu, Castello, Monte Claro, Tuvixeddu and San Michele).

The Cathedral was restored in the 1930s but the bell tower is original. The interior has a nave and two aisles, with a pulpit (1159–1162) sculpted for the Cathedral of Pisa but later donated to Cagliari. The crypt houses the remains of martyrs found in the Basilica of San Saturno. In Castello is also the Sardinian Archaeological Museum, the

biggest and most important regarding the prehistoric Nuragic civilisation of Sardinia.

Cagliari has one of the largest fish markets in all of Italy with a vast array of fish for sale to both the public and trade. Cagliari has some peculiar gastronomic traditions. Many dishes are based on the wide variety of fish and seafood available, such as, burrida. Although it is possible to trace influences from Spanish cuisine, Cagliaritanian food has a distinctive and unique character. Very good wines are also part of Cagliaritanian dinners; excellent wines are in fact produced in the nearby vineyards of the Campidano plain.



Via Civitavecchia, Italy

Starting point for Rome

Civitavecchia, the cruise port for Rome, is the main starting point for sea connections from central Italy to Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, Tunis and Barcelona. All major cruise lines start and end their cruises at this location, and many others stop for shore excursion days that allow guests to see the sights of Rome and the Vatican, which are about 90 minutes away.

Walking the streets of Rome is wonderful. You can walk or take a taxi or subway to the Colosseum (pictured), a great place to start your tour of Rome. You can almost picture the animals and gladiators in the small rooms underneath the Colosseum floor. Across the street from the Colosseum is the ancient Roman Forum.

Using a detailed map of the city, you can walk to the Trevi Fountain from the Forum. Tradition has it if visitors throw money into the fountain they will return to Rome. The Trevi Fountain is fed with water from the Acqua



Vergine aqueduct and was completed in 1762.

The church next to the Trevi Fountain has an interesting history. It seems that for years, popes willed their hearts and intestines to the church, and they were buried inside. According to legend, the church was built on a site of a spring that developed at the time of the beheading of St. Paul, at one of three sites where his head is said to have bounced off the

ground.

The Pantheon is the best-preserved ancient monument in Rome, having been rebuilt by Hadrian in 125 A.D. The masons who constructed the Pantheon used granite as one of the building materials, which helped ensure its longevity. It was originally dedicated to all of the gods, but was transformed into a church by Pope Boniface IV in 609 A.D.

Via Portoferraio, Italy

Natural beauty abounds



Portoferraio, principal port of call of Elba, the third largest island in Italy, is situated in a natural bay right in the centre of the island, protected from winds of all directions.

Its happy position makes it a crossroads for the most important routes of the western Mediterranean.

The island of Elba, at the centre of the Tyrrhenian Sea, is strategically placed close to all the most important Italian cruise destinations, in particular Livorno and Civitavecchia, and it is thus an ideal pause between stopovers at the great Mediterranean capitals.

Amongst the oldest settlements on the island, its origins date back to the Etruscans and Greeks, before it became a Roman colony

with the name of Fabricia.

Portoferraio was built in the form that we can still admire today by Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, who decided to construct the great defensive system of the port.

The most important traces in the history and culture of the city are those left by Napoleon Bonaparte, relegated after the defeat of Leipzig to rule the Island of Elba from 1814 to 1815.

In this brief period, all his efforts were concentrated onto his new, small kingdom, which he administered energetically.

It is not difficult to visit all the Napoleonic sites. The most important are the Villa dei Mulini at Portoferraio, between the Falcone and the Stella fortresses, in a favoured position for the control both of the sea and of the city, and

his summer residence, the Villa of San Martino, a short distance from Portoferraio.

The noble Roman patricians loved to discover enchanted sites where they could build magnificent villas with a sea view. Thanks to its beauty, Elba counted at least three such residences, in ideal positions to enjoy the panorama. Two of these face onto the sheltered bay of Portoferraio – the Linguella villa and, the most important, the Villa delle Grotte.

The island has a rich heritage of geological activity and the extraction of minerals, mainly iron ore, has been conducted for centuries.

The mines are concentrated on the eastern side of the island where numerous extractive sites are still visible and may be visited.



Via Sete, France

A view of 'Little Venice'

Sete is a night's sail from Palma, Barcelona and the ports of Provence and Cote d'Azur and offers four berths for cruise ships in the harbour and one stopover anchorage for tender transfers.

Well known as a welcoming, colourful town, Sete has long been known as 'Little Venice' with its many canals and bridges. It is a great centre for culture and traditions and is proud to have become the home of the Regional Contemporary Arts Centre in recent years, adding to its many museums and art galleries.

A stop in Sete also offers a chance to discover its culinary traditions based on produce from the sea.

A tour of Montpellier and the wine estate of Chateau de Flaugergues can be reached on a five hour tour from Sete. Exploring Roman Nimes is another five hour shore excursion which is



popular. Situated at the gateway to Provence, Nimes is of great historical and cultural interest. The town was at its height in the 2nd Century AD, in the reign of the Emperors Hadrian and Antonius. A tour of the Roman monuments include the amphitheatre, the Maison Carree, Diana's Temple and the La Fontaine gardens.

On a full day tour (nine hours) the UNESCO

World Heritage site of Carcassonne is reachable. It is the largest and best-preserved fortress in Europe and its walls contain more than 2,000 years of history which knowledgeable guides recount with enthusiasm. On the way back to Sete, a stop at the Cistercian Abbey of Fontfroide provides an outstanding cultural experience set amongst Mediterranean vegetation.

Via Constantza, Romania

Ancient metropolis and Romania's largest port

Situated at the crossroads of several commercial routes, Constantza lies on the western coast of the Black Sea, 185 miles from the Bosphorus Strait. An ancient metropolis and Romania's largest seaport, Constantza traces its history some 2,500 years. Originally called Tomis, legend has it that Jason landed here with the Argonauts after finding the Golden Fleece.

The third largest city in Romania, Constantza is now an important cultural and economic centre, worth exploring for its archaeological treasures and the atmosphere of the old town centre. Its historical monuments, ancient ruins, grand Casino, museums and shops, and proximity to beach resorts make it the focal point of Black Sea coast tourism. Open-air restaurants, nightclubs and cabarets offer a wide variety of entertainment.

While in the area, you can visit traditional villages, vineyards, ancient monuments and the Danube Delta, a bird-lover's paradise.

The Romanian Black Sea coast is home to a wide range of summer resorts tailored to



suit most tastes and ages, from small children to those seeking health-spa treatments. The sandy sea bottom slopes gently away from the shore, there are no dangerous currents and the sea is almost tideless. In the summer, days are warm and long with an average of

11 hours of sunshine. A swath of gold-sand beaches stretches from Constantza to the Bulgarian border, and visitors will encounter resorts named after mythological gods and goddesses, such as Eforie, Jupiter, Neptun, Olimp, Saturn, Venus and Mangalia.



Via Sevastopol, Ukraine

Seeped in history



Sevastopol is a port city in Ukraine, located on the Black Sea coast of the Crimea peninsula. The city, formerly the home of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet, is now a Ukrainian naval base mutually used by the Ukrainian Navy and Russian Navy.

One of the most notable events involving the city is the Siege of Sevastopol (1854–1855) carried out by the British, French, Sardinian, and Turkish troops during the Crimean War, which lasted for 11 months. Despite its efforts, the Russian army had to leave its stronghold and

evacuate over a pontoon bridge to the north shore of the inlet. The Russians had to sink their entire fleet to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy and at the same time to block the entrance of the Western ships into the inlet. When the enemy troops entered Sevastopol, they were faced with the ruins of a formerly glorious city.

A panorama of the siege created by Franz Roubaud and which was restored after its destruction in 1942 is housed in a specially constructed circular building in the city (pictured). It portrays the situation in the height of the siege, on 18 June 1855.

During World War II Sevastopol withstood bombardment by the Germans in 1941–1942, during the Axis siege which lasted for 250 days before it fell in July 1942. The city was renamed as "Theodorichhafen" in 1942. It was liberated by the Red Army on May 9, 1944 and was awarded with the Hero City title a year later.

Via Rijeka, Croatia

An alternative winter cruise destination

Croatia's port of Rijeka, located in the very north of the Adriatic is anticipating significant growth in cruise traffic in the coming year as the new waterfront regeneration project, financed by a World Bank loan, becomes operational.



Platak ski resort



Plitvice Lakes National Park

The recently completed passenger terminal and 400mtr long berth opened this summer and the port is expecting current capacity of 200,000 passengers a year will rise to 450,000 passengers a year in just a few years.

Situated in the centre of the city it is the centrepiece of Rijeka's revitalised waterfront providing easy access to the city situated close to numerous islands and mountains which are less than one hour away by car or bus.

A sightseeing tour of the city's nucleus takes in the Church of St. Jerome, University Library (permanent exhibition of the Glagolitic script) and Museum of Modern



and Contemporary Art, Maritime and Historical Museum, Natural History Museum, the Old Gateway 'The Roman Arch', Church of the Assumption and the Leaning Tower and market.

Near to the city is the Platak ski centre set amongst snow covered mountains making it an ideal venue for winter cruise itineraries.

The region is rich with inland and seaside resorts but also mountains, national and natural parks both with abundant summer and winter tourist offers.



Via Motril, Spain

Andalucian gateway

The town of Motril is located in the Spanish region of Andalusia on the Costa Tropical. This is the biggest town on the Costa with a thriving commercial, fishing and leisure

port. Situated an hour and a half's drive east of Malaga International Airport and within easy reach of the magnificent Sierra Nevada mountain range, Motril is an ideal base for

exploring the many delights of the Andalusian coastline and hinterland.

The town is ideally placed for exploring the historic city of Granada (just 40 minutes drive away) with its Generalife Gardens and fabulous Alhambra Palace. The Sierra Nevada mountain range, at 3,000mtr, is a paradise for skiing, snowboarding and mountaineering and is near enough for you to be skiing in the morning and sunbathing back at the beaches in Motril in the afternoon.

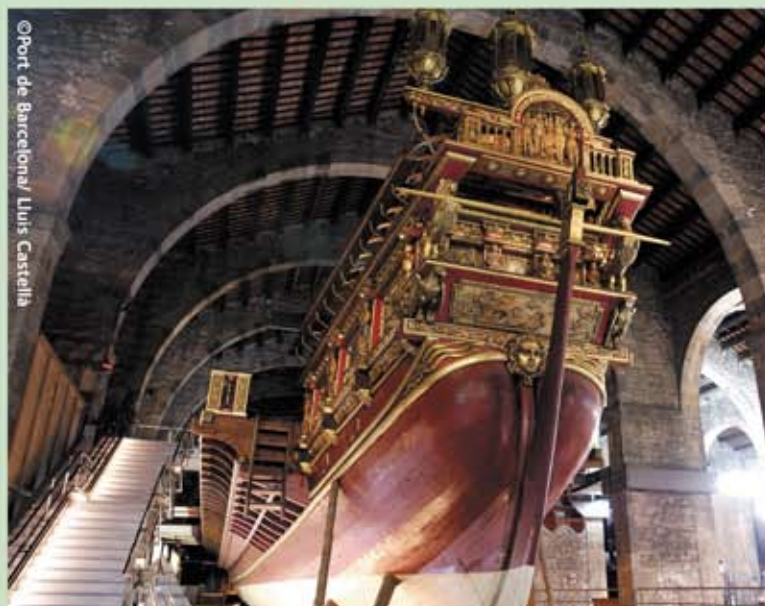
The Alhambra (pictured) is a palace and fortress complex of the Moorish rulers of Granada in southern Spain (known as Al-Andalus when the fortress was constructed during the mid 14th century), occupying a hilly terrace on the southeastern border of the city of Granada.

Once the residence of the Muslim rulers of Granada and their court, the Alhambra is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions exhibiting the country's most famous Islamic architecture, together with Christian 16th century and later interventions in buildings and gardens that marked its image as it can be seen today.



Via Barcelona, Spain

Seafaring adventures, new and old



©Port de Barcelona/ Lluís Castellà

One of the top ten attractions in Barcelona is the Maritime Museum (pictured) reflecting man's great seafaring adventures. Located in the Royal dockyards, a magnificent Gothic

building, it offers a fascinating journey through a collection comprising over 6,600 exhibits, the most of its kind in southern Europe. Highlights include the replica of royal galley of Juan de Austria and the schooner Santa Eulalia,

which is moored in the harbour.

Barcelona is expecting two million passengers and over 850 cruise calls in 2009 with Costa Luminosa, MSC Splendida, AIDA Luna, Carnival Dream (coming very soon) and

Celebrity Solstice, amongst 15 ships making a maiden call at the leading Med hub port.

This year Port of Barcelona is investing €7.4m expanding and improving cruise infrastructure. This amount is on top of the €73.3m already invested by the Port Authority and cruise operators in the last decade.

Infrastructure works undertaken in 2009 focus on five main areas and include adaptation of part of the Adossat Wharf to gain a new berthing line with the removal of a ro-ro ramp resulting in over 2,000 mtr of quay exclusively for cruise ships; a second floor added to Terminal C to separate embarkation and disembarkation of passengers from the rest of the services to improve functionality, comfort and safety of the terminal; pavement works at Barcelona Wharf, landscaping of Adossat and turning Costa Wharf into a temporary dedicated cruise facility (as later it will become a short sea shipping terminal).

Looking ahead to the coming winter 168 cruise calls are expected from November 2009 to March 2010, which is a similar number to last year.



Seatrade Europe

MedCruise flag flies high at Seatrade Europe, Hamburg

Almeria, Azores, French Riviera Ports, Gibraltar, Malaga, Portuguese Ports, Toulon-Var-Provence and Trieste flew the flag for MedCruise as exhibitors at Seatrade Europe in Hamburg earlier this month.

Giovanni Spadoni, president, MedCruise Association, and Technical & Commercial Director, Port of Livorno 2000 joined the panel on the last day of the conference which discussed 'Global itineraries for European brands' providing the Mediterranean perspective. Fellow panellists included cruise line executives Elisabetta De Nardo, Port Operations Manager, Costa Crociere; James Duguid, Managing Director,



Graziano Cosmo from Venezia Terminal Passeggeri picks up Turnaround Port of the Year award

Tony Heuer, president of Fidelio Cruise, principal sponsor of the Awards.

Venezia Terminal Passeggeri, represented by general manager, Graziano Cosmo, picked up the Turnaround Port of the Year 2009 Award.

The exhibition booth of Toulon-Var-Provence proved to be very popular drawing crowds each day for wine tasting sessions presented by Jean-Jacques Benetti, director of Maison des Vins. His promotion centre in Les Arcs stocks 800 different wines from Provence and has been welcoming cruise passenger groups from ships calling in Toulon for the past five years. 'We sometimes offer wine tasting on the quayside at Toulon, St Tropez and St Raphael, combine with a walking tour, and passenger feedback is very good,' said Delphine Beudin, cruise promotion/operations Port of Toulon.

'It is important to make it fun and informative,' said Benetti and judging by the numbers at Toulon-Var-Provence's booth in Hamburg, he definitely succeeded.



Toulon-Var-Provence's Delphine Beudin (L) and Anne Marie Blum assist Jean-Jacques Benetti

Malaga Port's Sebastian Camps receiving their highly commended certificate

Saga Shipping and Felix Eichhorn, Vice President, Yield Management & Flight Operations, AIDA Cruises.

Amongst MedCruise port executives visiting the show, were Carla Salvado, Enrica Capretti, Valeria Mangiarotti, Jose Carrasco and Juan Madrid. All were also in attendance at the Opening Party at the Schmidts Tivoli Theatre during which the Seatrade Insider Cruise Awards 2009 were presented.

Malaga and Venice ports were both shortlisted as finalists in the respective categories: Transit Port of the Year and Turnaround Port of the Year. The Transit Port of the Year Award went to St Petersburg in Russia and Malaga was highly commended. Sebastian Camps managing director of Malaga Port went on stage to receive a certificate from Mary Bond, Seatrade Insider editor and

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
■ Cyprus ports	■ Sinop
■ Dubrovnik, Korcula	■ Sochi
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■ Messina	■ Volos
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