

Via Piraeus

Olympic fleet of cruiseships

Eight cruise ships accommodating some 10,000 passengers will line 3km of quays in the southern side of Piraeus port this August as the eyes of the world focus on the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Two existing cruise terminals have been renovated and a new one has been added by converting existing port facilities.

Centre stage will be the 1,310-cabin Queen Mary 2 – chartered by the Athens 2004 Committee to house Heads of State and other VIPs for which a new 400mtr pier has been specially built; a new 200mtr pier has been built opposite.

Other vessels being used as floating hotel accommodation during the Games are World Renaissance, AIDAaura, Rotterdam, Westerdam, Ocean Countess, Silver Whisper and Silver Wind.

Athletes from nearly 200 countries will compete in 28 sports in 296 events between August 13–29, 2004. The majority of events will be held in two main venues: the Athens Olympic Sports Complex and the Faliron Coastal Zone. Another MedCruise port member Volos will host the preliminary phase of the Olympic Football tournament.



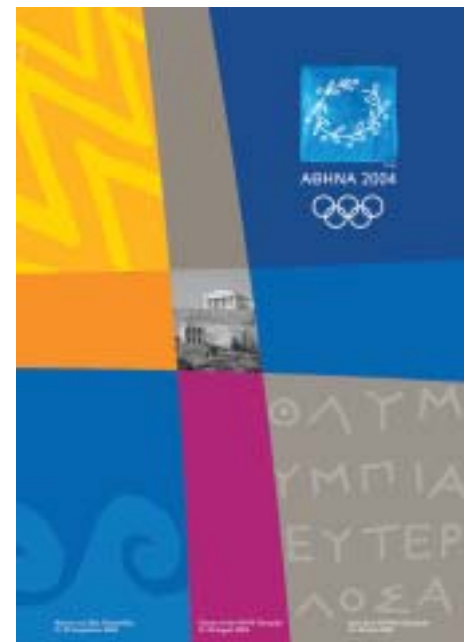
■ Piraeus waterfront will host eight cruiseships during the Olympics

The cruiseship mooring area will benefit from high-level security at all times throughout the Games. The whole area will be fenced off, with four guarded entry and exit gates and CCTV and patrolled inside and out.

The moored cruiseships will be connected to new systems for water supply and state-of-the-art sewage collection that have been especially built for the Games. New power supply, lighting and telecommunications networks have been installed in a total port-related spend (excluding security) of almost €30m.

From mid-2004 Piraeus will be able to receive any size cruiseship in the world. The huge infrastructural works throughout the entire city in the run-up to the Games – from a new airport and connecting highways to a metro and coastal tram as well as refurbishment of

hotels, public parks and the like – will make Athens and the port of Piraeus more attractive both as a destination and turnaround port.



Via Cagliari

Great Sardinian town



Situated in the centre of the Gulf of Angels, the Sardinian port of Cagliari is a very ancient town. Its Phoenician name Karalis means 'great town' or literally 'town of God'.

Tourist attractions include the Ancient Arsenal converted into the Musuem Citadel which houses the National Archaeologic Museum and the National Gallery where the Retabli are kept. The amphitheatre is almost intact built into the rock and is used today for

musical and theatre performances. Closeby is Molentargius lagoon where hundreds of flamingoes wade tinging the sky with a rosy hue. Poetto beach. Cagliarians' preferred destination extends for 8km and the coast beyond has a myriad of small sandy beaches.

62 cruiseships called at Cagliari last year and in 2004 the port is expecting a 20% increase in traffic with Iberojet's new Grand Latino calling weekly plus existing customers such as Cunard, P&O, HAL and Costa bringing either more or larger ships.

Cagliari has two cruise berths alongside the passenger terminal, whilst Ichnusa, Sabaudo and Rinascita piers are connected by shuttle bus. With the Italian Navy and Coast Guard based at Ichnusa, the port is very safe for cruise calls and tourism.

The Port Authority is investing €25m in extending Molo Sabaudo which will be completed by 2008. It has home port aspirations too being just 6km from Elmas International Airport, 50 mins from Rome and 80 minutes from Milan.

Via Catania

At the foot of Mount Etna



Located on the east of Sicily, Catania lies at the foot of Mount Etna which at 3,300mtr is the highest volcano in Europe and is closeby to Taormina, Siracusa and the fishing village of Acitezza.

Caltagirone 70 kilometres from the port is a quaint town renown for its ceramic manufacturers and skilled craftsmen and is one of the most popular tourist sites in the

east of the island.

Catania was founded in 729 BC by the Greeks on the site of a Phoenician trading post. The lava-flows have destroyed the city many times but famous architects have re-built the town in a particular Baroque style called 'The flowery Baroque of Catania', unique to Sicily. The cathedral and

Palazzo Biscardi, situated just near the port are only a couple of examples of the many impressive Baroque buildings you can visit in Catania.

The ancient symbol of Catania is the elephant which according to a legend once saved the town from wild animals.

The Port Authority is currently engaged in an expansion project that forsees a new passenger terminal and extension of the 280mtr long pier to accommodate two ship simultaneously.



Via Ancona

In search of Italian art and architecture



Ancona situated centrally in the Adriatic offers mooring quays up to 220mtr long with 11mtr draught and a fully renovated maritime station. Just under 1 hour away is Urbino one of the most important towns in Italy for the tourist in search of great Italian art and architecture and its beguiling streets well reward the curious traveller. Its Centro Storico now boasts the honour of being included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

For the second half of the 15th C its windy hill was the setting for one of the most illustrious courts in Europe. Duke Federico da Montefeltro gathered around him the greatest painters, poets

and scholars of his day and housed them in one of Italy's most beautiful Renaissance palaces.

The Palazzo Ducale houses the Galleria Nazionale delle Marche – a remarkable collection of paintings including one of the world's greatest and most enigmatic images, Piero della Francesca's Flagellation of Christ.

Just south of Ancona rises the solitary limestone peak of Monte Conero whose steep slopes slide down to the sea and the prettiest beaches on the whole of the Northern Adriatic shore. The southern spur of Conero shelters the riviera's two chief resorts: Sirolo and Numana. Since 1853 Senigallia has been one of the most popular seaside resorts on the Adriatic Coast with its thirteen kilometres of golden sands, the famous Velvet Beach.

Both Rimini and San Marino are 1 hour's drive from the port.



Via Messina

History of art and monuments: a must see



Over 2,700 years of history has left indelible traces in the culture, customs and characteristics of Messina. The modern town stretches along the shore, reaching up the green sloping outcrops of the Peloritani Mountains.

History of art and monuments are a must-see in this Sicilian town. The cathedral bell tower has a spectacular attraction – the clock, made in Stasbourg and inaugurated in 1933, tells astronomical time having a face showing the planetary system. In the cathedral square is the Orion Fountain by Montorsoli and a polygon basin portraying Orion as one of the legendary founders of the city.

Along the Tyrrhenian coast one of the places not to be missed is Milazzo. The green headland is 6km long like a finger pointing towards the archipelago of the Aelion islands.

The Ionic coast starts to the south of Messina with a succession of broad beaches

framed by Mediterranean vegetation. 35km away lies Isola Bella, a geological gem of sculptured rock rising from crystal clear waters.

Messina port situated in the town centre and close to Taormina had 243 cruise calls last year and 245,000 passengers. It also has homeport aspirations due to its close proximity to two international airports at Catania and Palermo which will play a pivotal role in this goal.





Via Balears

Palma: base port specialist



The Port Authority of the Balearic Islands manages the five main ports in the archipelago - Palma and Alcudia in Mallorca, Mahón in Menorca, Ibiza and La Savina in Formentera.

With modern and functional facilities, Palma de Mallorca has consolidated its position as a leading base port in the Mediterranean. The Fly-Cruise-Stay product is very popular and this summer seven ships offering West Med itineraries will homeport in Palma: Ocean Village, Island Escape, Thomson Spirit, AIDAaura, AIDAvita, Carousel and Sunbird. Over 700,000 passengers will visit Palma in 2004.

The maritime promenade in Palma has a host of hotels, bars, restaurants and discos. Also of interest are Bellver Castle, a circular Gothic construction offering panoramic views of the city, the gothic Cathedral, Almudaina Palace a former Arab fortress, the Gothic Quarter, Cort

square and Town Hall and Las Ramblas.

Mahon harbour is a natural 6km long bay with berthing for vessels up to eight metres depth. It is a unique port situated in an extraordinary landscape. There are berths for 3 cruiseships right in the heart of the city.

The Port of Alcudia is situated in the north of the island of Majorca, in a lovely bay. The port is suitable only for dropping anchor in order for passengers to go on excursions around the beautiful north coast.

Up to three cruise ships, maximum eight metres depth can berth at the same time in Ibiza Port. The port is situated at the end of the historical centre with a great variety of shops, restaurants and discos. A new breakwater of more than 500mtr and its quay can accommodate any size of ship. From Ibiza port visit the small island of Formentera. With its virgin beaches, fine white sand and transparent waters, it is the last treasure of the Mediterranean.

MedCruise at Seatrade events in Miami and Genoa



MedCruise will have a pavilion of 600sq mtr with stands for over 20 members. A bar area offering typical Mediterranean food and beverages will also be available.

Genoa is the European Capital of Culture for 2004 and there is an opportunity for visitors this year to see many historical venues and art which have been previously closed.

Just 500 mtr walk away from the new Maritime Promenade lies

Europe's largest medieval centre with a number of great attractions: the Sacred Basin (relic of the Last Supper) at the Cathedral, Columbus House, the museum of Jeans (the original Genoese fabric), many medieval towers and the Doges Palace. There is a post convention tour on November 6 to see the sights of Cinqueterre.

At Seatrade Med 2004, MedCruise will present its new Yearbook 2005-06 which will contain information on all members as well as destinations accessible via these ports.

A fold-out map of the region with port and tourist information on all members will also be distributed.

MedCruise participated as an exhibitor at the 2004 Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami in March. Pictured is the MedCruise Events Committee led by Mario Flores (far right) president, Port of Alicante. Also present was L-R: MedCruise secretary general Carla Salvado, Mateu Ginard (Balears), MedCruise president Juan Madrid, Sandra Yunta (Barcelona) and Antonio Crespo (Valencia) who were meeting to discuss participation at the Seatrade Med 2004 taking place in Genoa between November 3-5.

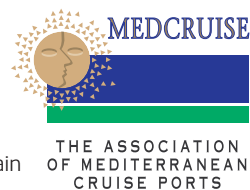
MedCruise Members

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

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