

Malta & the Western Mediterranean

Traverse the historic and heritage-rich waters of the Western Mediterranean during a 10-night roundtrip voyage from Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will discover the magnificent Amalfi Coast from elegant Naples, gateway to Pompeii, and visit Messina, Sicily's cultural crossroad. See the storied sites of ancient Rome and immerse in Tuscan Florence and Catalonian Barcelona's art and architecture during your unforgettable journey.

Day by Day

Day 1 – Embarkation Valletta, Malta

Day 2 - Valletta, Malta

Day 3 – Messina, Sicily

Day 4 – Naples, Italy

Day 5 – Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy

Day 6 – Florence/Pisa, Italy

Day 7 – Genoa, Italy

Day 8 – Barcelona, Spain

Day 9 – Barcelona, Spain

Day 10 – Sail the Mediterranean Sea

Day 11 - Valletta, Malta



Shore excursions vary by itinerary and are subject to change.

Compiled by The Cruise & Travel Group on 14/05/2021

Valletta, Malta

Explore the humble facades of Malta's churches and view grand palaces that hide extravagant interiors of marble, tapestries and paintings. During a stroll around the city's walls and bastions, take in the magnificent bird's-eye view over the spectacular Grand Harbor. At St. John's Co-Cathedral, learn about the city's ties to the Knights of Malta and their emergence as a military order during the Crusades. The legacy of Britain's rule is evident across the island; while Malta remains a republic, the island today is a member state of the Commonwealth of Nations.



MALTA SCENIC DRIVE INCLUDED TOUR

DURATION: 3 HOURS

A LEISURELY ISLAND OVERVIEW

Witness the natural and cultural beauty of Malta, from sweeping bays to fishing villages, on a panoramic excursion. You will meet your guide at our berth and drive to the picturesque fishing village of Marsaxlokk, where colorful traditional Maltese luzzu fishing boats bob with the currents in the small harbor. Continue to Żurrieq, one of Malta's oldest towns, for a dramatic view of the Blue Grotto, a series of yawning sea caverns, and the tiny, flat-top rocky island of Filfla; a rest stop for many migrating birds as they journey between Africa and Europe. Continue into the rural reaches of the island toward the medieval fortified city of Mdina, Malta's former capital. From here your route takes you toward the coast again, passing the resort area of Xemxija Bay and St. Paul's Bay, where the patron saint of the island is said to have been shipwrecked in 60 AD.



* Easy - Walking portions are generally over easy surfaces with few steps or inclines. Total time walking or standing is normally not longer than 1.5 hours.

MALTA'S CAPITALS, OLD & NEW

DURATION: 4 HOURS

MALTA'S GLORIES, PAST AND PRESENT

Compare Malta's two most influential cities, Mdina and Valletta. You will drive with your guide to the former capital, Mdina, one of the world's best examples of a medieval walled city. Locals call it the "Silent City," as cars are not allowed in its streets. During a walking tour with your guide, admire the views of the countryside from centuries-old bastions and soak up the atmosphere. Continue to the present-day capital, Valletta, founded in the 16th century. Walk these bustling cobblestone streets past St. John's Co-Cathedral and the Magisterial Palace of the Grandmaster. Pass the Auberge de Castile, the Prime Minister's residence, to Barrakka Gardens, where splendid views of the Three Cities and Fort Ricasoli await.



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Modifications based on current health and safety protocols may be applied to this shore excursion.

MDINA & MOSTA TOUR

DURATION: 4 HOURS

A HILLTOP FORTIFIED CITY AND A MIRACULOUS CHURCH

Step into the medieval splendor of Mdina and see Mosta's remarkable dome on this fascinating excursion. Drive with your guide to the old walled city of Mdina, sitting atop a hill. En route, you will pause outside the walls at an arts center to witness glassblowing by local artisans. In Mdina itself, enjoy a walking tour through timeless, car-free streets, stopping to enjoy views from the bastions and to step inside the magnificent Mdina Cathedral with its pair of majestic bell towers. Continue to nearby Mosta for a visit to the spectacular Mosta Church. Constructed in the early 19th century by the town's residents, it boasts one of the world's largest unsupported domes. During World War II a bomb pierced the dome but miraculously did not explode; you can see a replica of the bomb in the sacristy. Later, enjoy a scenic drive back to your ship.



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PALAZZO PARISIO & PROSECCO

DURATION: 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

THE IMMACULATE PALACE OF A BARONESS

Visit a fabulous palace lovingly maintained by a baroness in the name of her long line of ancestors, the Sciclunas. You will drive to Naxxar with your guide. Here, in the heart of the village, the 18th-century Palazzo Parisio has stood for generations. This opulent and grand residence features gilded plasterworks, ceiling frescoes, crystal chandeliers, lush paintings and sculptures, as well as formal gardens. On a guided tour, you will gaze upon the ornate grand ballroom, the finely detailed chapel and, weather permitting, the landscaped gardens and orangery. Conclude your visit with a glass of Prosecco and light refreshments. En route back to the ship, stop in the village of Mosta to visit its distinctive church. Built by the town's citizens during the 19th century, it boasts one of the world's largest unsupported domes. During the World War II, a bomb pierced the dome but it miraculously failed to explode.



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VALLETTA & THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

DURATION: 4 HOURS

THE STUNNING CITY OF ST. JOHN AND HIS FOLLOWERS

Discover Valletta, a UNESCO Site, and learn about its ties to the Knights of Malta from a present-day knight. With a local guide, you will explore this mighty fortress city, viewing the auberges built to house the knights of the Order of St. John. Visit St. John's Co-Cathedral, one of Europe's finest examples of high baroque architecture, in which 375 of the Order's knights and grandmasters are buried. The Cathedral's most famous work, Caravaggio's *The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist*, hangs in the Oratory. You will also meet a local member of the present-day Hospitaller Military Order of Jerusalem. He will present a short talk about the historical role of the knights, their founding as part of a hospital providing care to sick pilgrims in the Holy Land, their emergence as a military order during the Crusades, and how they conduct business in the present day.

Please note: St. John's Co-Cathedral cannot be visited on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays. On these days, you'll visit the National Museum of Archaeology.



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Sicily (Messina), Italy

Today you will call on the Sicilian city of Messina, celebrated as one of Europe's ten great cities when it fell under Spain's purview in the 17th century. Admire the surrounding mountains, picturesque orange and olive groves and rolling vineyards. Long a commercial crossroad due to its location just two miles from the Italian mainland, today it is a remarkable repository of culture and architecture that spans the centuries. You will see the best of the city during a tour, including the Renaissance-style cathedral and bell tower and the ornate gate.



MESSINA & ITS TREASURES INCLUDED TOUR

DURATION: 3 HOURS

RESPLENDENT GEMS OF A MONUMENTAL CITY

Marvel at the architectural and artistic treasures held dear by the Sicilians of Messina.

Meet your local guide for a short drive to the heart of Messina's historic center. See the expansive Piazza Municipio, the Via Garibaldi and the Piazza Cairolì, the heart of Old Town. Drive along the Via Cannizzaro to view the university, court of law, and picturesque Corso Cavour. Enjoy a photo stop by the hillside Votive Temple of Christ the King, a Sicilian baroque wonder, and admire the views over the port and the Messina Strait. Next you will reboard your coach and continue your panoramic tour along the north coast of Messina, which offers stunning vistas over the Ganzirri Lakes and the Capo Peloro. The saltwater lakes are used by fishermen to breed clams and mussels which feature heavily in the local cuisine.



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ENCHANTING TAORMINA

DURATION: 5 HOURS

AN EXTRAORDINARY CLIFFTOP CITY WITH A VOLCANIC VISTA

Explore one of Europe's most scenic cities, with spectacular views of Mt. Etna. You will drive with your guide down Sicily's eastern coast to Taormina, perched high on a rocky terrace overlooking the Ionian Sea. Upon arrival, walk to the Piazza Badia and the magnificent, Arab-influenced Corvaja Palace, dating to the 15th century. Continue to the spectacular Greek Theater, beautifully situated with panoramic views of the sea, the countryside and the conical summit of Mt. Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Still today, the acoustics here are extraordinary. Reconstructed in a Roman style in the 2nd century, it is the second largest theater in Sicily, after the one in Syracuse. You can linger here before returning to town to explore the Piazza del Duomo. The church for which this square is named, with its crenellated roof line, dates to the 13th century, lending the square a distinct medieval feel.



* Demanding - Physically challenging activities, including extensive walks, hiking, riding, water sports, and high altitude activities. Activities by foot may contain difficult, unpaved surfaces and/or multiple stairs and steep inclines. Total time walking or standing may exceed 3 hours.

A SICILIAN RIDE THROUGH RUSTIC VILLAGES

DURATION: 5 HOURS 30 MINUTES

WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GODFATHER FILMS

Delve into the Sicilian atmosphere of the classic Godfather film trilogy, driving through an idyllic Italian isle. Steep winding roads flanked with villas, flowering gardens and little picturesque villages take you to your first stop, Savoca, one of the most attractive and lesser-known places in Sicily. Step back in time and through the rustic, vine-embraced doors of the famous "Bar Vitelli," where there are a collection of photos and memorabilia from the movie. In this ancient village there are several churches, including the famous 13th-century Church of San Nicolò (or Santa Lucia), decorated with Byzantine frescoes, where the wedding of Michael and Apollonia took place. Reached via a twisting corkscrew road from the coast, your next stop is the charming medieval hilltop village of Forza D'Agrò, where in the second film Vito takes refuge in the Sant'Agostino church. Forza d'Agro is dominated by a 16th-century castle with stunning views overlooking the coast toward Messina.



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Naples, Italy

Visit Naples, home to the world's first pizzeria and Mt. Vesuvius, the still active volcano that famously destroyed the town of Pompeii. During an included tour, take in magnificent examples of Greek and Roman architecture and the Piazza del Plebiscito, the grandest public square in the city. Optionally, explore ancient Pompeii, drive along the stunning Amalfi Coast, or savor a glass of limoncello, the region's famous lemon liqueur.



SCENIC NAPLES **INCLUDED TOUR**

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

ENJOY THIS SOJOURN THROUGH NAPLES

Discover the highlights of Naples, a major center of Italian culture, during a scenic drive and walking tour. Naples was the location of a powerful independent kingdom for 500 years, luring the region's finest architects and artists, yet its history stretches back thousands of years. See evidence of its rich past, from Greek and Roman monuments to Renaissance splendors. Drive by Piazza del Plebiscito, perhaps the grandest public square in the city, with the former Royal Palace of Naples overlooking the bustling square. Explore the Old Town of Naples on foot with a short 20-minute stroll to the Piazza del Gesu Nuovo. Enjoy a guided visit to the exquisite cloisters of Santa Chiara Monastery, founded in the 14th century by the king of Naples. Afterward, enjoy free time in the piazza to sample the local Neapolitan coffee at one of the famous coffeehouses nearby, or walk around the inviting shops, perhaps sampling a gelato.



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POMPEII: CITY OF BEAUTY & RUIN

DURATION: 4 HOURS

A PICTURE OF ANCIENT LIFE FROZEN IN TIME

Stroll the streets, explore the residences and squares, and glimpse life in this city frozen in time. In 79 AD when Mt. Vesuvius erupted, Pompeii was buried under 20 feet of ash. Excavation has revealed with astounding precision exactly what life was like on that day. During your guided tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, you will walk ancient cobblestone warrens past baths, temples, an amphitheater and the forum—public buildings once teeming with life. Peer into the mansions of the wealthy and the more modest homes of the working class. See remarkable plaster casts of victims, anchored to the moment of catastrophe: a mother protecting her child, a dog tied to its chain. As you explore, your guide will describe a typical day in Pompeii. At tour's end, you will have free time to explore.



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SORRENTO & POMPEII

DURATION: 7 HOURS

TWO VIEWS OF ITALY

Contrast life in two different cities at two different times in history on this eye-opening excursion.

Join your guide for a drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pompeii, where you can explore a city that was frozen in time when Mt. Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD. You will stroll its cobblestone streets past the mansions of the wealthy and the modest homes of the working class and stop to see great public buildings that once bustled with crowds. You will also drive along the scenic Sorrento Peninsula and have time to explore the narrow streets and wide-open square at Sorrento's heart. Your guide can help you follow your interests. You can pause for lunch, sampling the locally made limoncello (the famous lemon liqueur) as a digestivo. In the charming shops, you will find the finely crafted woodwork for which Sorrentinis are known.



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NEAPOLITAN HIKE

DURATION: 3 HOURS

WALK THE IDYLIC HILLTOP DISTRICT OF VOMERO

Escape the hustle and bustle of lower Naples for the peace and tranquility of the Vomero District. Located in the upper section of the city, this hilltop district was created around 1800 and is prized for its green spaces and scenic views of Naples and the sea. Take a motor coach to the hill, then begin your guided walk to San Martino, the district's highest point. Upon arrival, you will have free time to see the imposing 16th-century sandstone facade of the Castel Sant'Elmo and explore the Certosa di San Martino, a former monastery that is now a museum housing numerous Spanish and Bourbon artifacts. Admire panoramic views of the city before descending down the steep stone steps of the Pedamentina di San Martino, the oldest pedestrian route in Naples. Board a funicular for a short ride to the city center, then enjoy more free time to explore before returning to your ship.

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SORRENTO & LIMONCELLO

DURATION: 6 HOURS

SWEEPING VIEWS OF THE GULF OF NAPLES AND A POPULAR LEMON LIQUEUR

Discover charming Sorrento and indulge in the zesty taste of limoncello during a journey along the Gulf of Naples. Embark on a scenic drive by motor coach along the stunning Gulf of Naples coastline. Along the way, stop at a limoncello factory for a demonstration and tasting of this popular lemon liqueur. Continue on the narrow, winding roads that hug the sides of the rocky cliffs and enjoy stunning views of the Italian Riviera. Disembark in Sorrento, overlooking the gulf and once a favorite resort for wealthy Romans due to its sun-drenched Mediterranean climate. Observe a wood carving demonstration, then enjoy free time to stroll the town's narrow streets and alleyways. See the sights, enjoy coffee at a charming café or browse the many antique shops that specialize in ceramics, lacework and woodcrafts. Afterward, you will board your coach and return to your ship.

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Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy

Explore the “Eternal City” today with a local guide. Marvel at the magnificent Colosseum where gladiators once battled, and the historic Roman Forum, a gathering place and political center of the ancients. Or set out to visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, and behold the treasures of the world’s smallest country.



SNAPSHOTS OF ROME INCLUDED TOUR

DURATION: 9 HOURS

ENJOY HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND GRAND ARCHITECTURE AT AN EASY PACE

Relax and take in the sights of Rome, admiring historic monuments and glorious architecture on a leisurely drive. Travel along some of the city’s most scenic routes. See ancient Roman sites, including the Aurelian Walls, Baths of Caracalla, Pyramid of Cestius, Colosseum and the Circus Maximus. Admire the Arch of Constantine, the best triumphal arch in the city, built in 315 AD to celebrate Constantine’s victory at the battle of the Milvian Bridge. Drive along the elegant Via Veneto, enjoying views of Villa Borghese Park. At Piazza della Repubblica, admire the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore and Fountain of the Naiads. Stop for photos at the Circus Maximus and enjoy free time in the Vatican area. As you depart Rome, the great facade of St. Peter’s Basilica will come into view.



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SISTINE CHAPEL & VATICAN CITY

DURATION: 10 HOURS

BEHOLD THE GRACE AND BEAUTY OF VATICAN CITY

You will meet your guide upon arrival in Rome and see the important monuments of ancient Rome on a panoramic tour—the Aurelian Walls, the Pyramid of Cestius, the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum. In Vatican City, the smallest sovereign state in the world, visit the world-renowned Vatican Museums. You can see its diverse collection ranging from Egyptian and Etruscan art to pieces by Raphael and Caravaggio. In the famed Sistine Chapel, marvel at the art-adorned walls and, of course, Michelangelo's famous ceiling painting in which the hand of God gives life to Adam. Find more inspiration in St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world and one of the holiest sites in the Roman Catholic Church. After your tour, enjoy free time to explore St. Peter's Square.



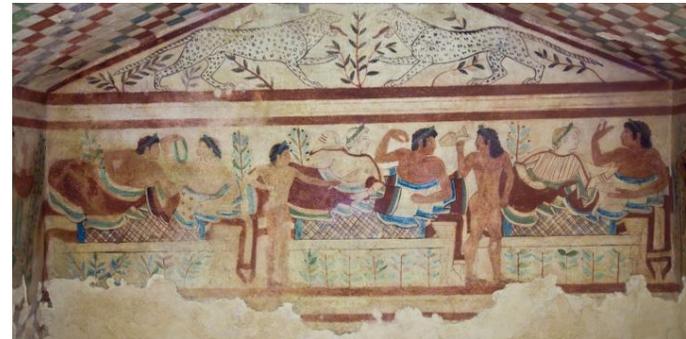
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THE ETRUSCAN NECROPOLISES OF TARQUINIA

DURATION: 4 HOURS

AN ETRUSCAN EXCURSION

Journey with a local guide to the ancient city of Tarquinia, founded in 449 BC. This was the principal metropolis of the 12 cities of the Etruscan League that thrived here long before the rise of the Roman Empire. Explore the fascinating Etruscan Necropolises, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dating from the 7th to the 2nd centuries BC, the numerous tombs, with their decorative frescoes, chronicle the development of Etruscan culture. Outside these ancient quarters, the city of Tarquinia boasts a wealth of historic buildings. Visit the 15th-century Palazzo Vitelleschi, whose galleries and cloistered courtyard display an extensive collection recovered from the tombs, including fine examples of Etruscan sarcophagi. Its golden terra-cotta horses hint at the high degree of artistry that was prevalent in Etruscan society. You may use your time to linger a while over the exhibits.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF ROME & THE COLOSSEUM

DURATION: 10 HOURS 30 MINUTES

ANCIENT ROME AND ITS SPECTACULAR ARENA

Upon arrival in Rome, enjoy a panoramic drive past the city's important ancient sites. See the Aurelian Walls, Pyramid of Cestius and Circus Maximus. Stop to visit inside the Colosseum, the most important amphitheater in the Roman world. This impressive arena could hold 80,000 spectators and hosted gladiator contests and imperial ceremonies. Later, enjoy a walking tour past the famous sites of the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain. You will step inside the Pantheon with your guide (on Sundays, mass is observed, so you will view the exterior). After, enjoy free time in the picturesque square of Piazza Navona. You can have lunch on your own here, then continue your panoramic tour past Castel Sant'Angelo, with the picture-perfect St. Peter's Basilica as a backdrop, before returning to your ship.



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Florence/Pisa, Italy

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Tuscany with an included, well-curated tour of Pisa. Alternatively, enjoy a full-day tour that combines Pisa and Florence. Begin with a scenic drive through the countryside to Florence, where you will stroll by the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore. Then on to the medieval Ponte Vecchio, and the attractive Basilica di Santa Croce, resting place of Michelangelo. In Pisa, explore the Square of Miracles including the famous Leaning Tower, as well as the Pisa Cathedral and Baptistery.



FROM TUSCANY TO PISA **INCLUDED TOUR**

DURATION: 4 HOURS

A TOUR OF ITALY'S SQUARE OF MIRACLES

See the famous Leaning Tower and its magnificent Square of Miracles on this included tour. You will join your guide for a scenic drive through Tuscany to Pisa. The origins of this ancient city are unclear, but the presence of an Etruscan necropolis points to a very long history. Upon arrival, walk to the Piazza dei Miracoli, or the Square of Miracles, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the marble-clad Romanesque Pisa Cathedral you will discover a breathtaking interior adorned with Byzantine-influenced mosaics. It is said that Galileo formulated his theory of pendulums here by observing an incense burner swinging from the ceiling. Also in the square, you will see the grand circular Baptistery, the Leaning Tower, which took 177 years to build, and the walled Camposanto Monumentale, said to be the most beautiful cemetery in the world. After your tour, you will have free time to explore.



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THE RENAISSANCE TREASURES OF FLORENCE

DURATION: 10 HOURS

VISIT TWO OF THE CITY'S GREAT ART INSTITUTIONS

See Florence's treasured works of art in its spectacular public architecture and at two of its renowned museums. During the Medici rule, Florence exploded into a Renaissance of art and culture and the legacy lives on every corner. Drive with your guide to the city's Uffizi Gallery. Here, gaze upon brilliant works by da Vinci, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and many others. Join your guide for a walking tour of the city, passing the magnificent Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore with Brunelleschi's Dome and the nearby Baptistery, adjacent to the Giotto's Bell Tower. Admire the mighty Palazzo Vecchio overlooking Piazza della Signoria and the sculptural masterworks in the Loggia dei Lanzi. You will also stroll to the medieval Ponte Vecchio spanning the Arno River. At the Accademia Gallery, you'll see some of Michelangelo's flawless sculptures, including David, his most famous, and many other great works of art.



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A DAY IN TUSCANY

DURATION: 8 HOURS 30 MINUTES

TOUR HISTORIC AND BEAUTIFUL SAN GIMIGNANO

Indulge in two enchanting experiences: a stroll through the hill town of San Gimignano and lunch at a Tuscan farm. After a scenic drive through the countryside, arrive at the walls surrounding San Gimignano, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will marvel at the city's medieval architecture, including its 14 towers. Some believe they were part of the fortifications, while others think they were built to demonstrate the wealth of dueling families. Walk with your guide past the elegant southern gate, or Porta San Giovanni. Stroll through the Piazza della Cisterna, with its herringbone pattern of bricks, and the Piazza del Duomo, home to impressive palaces. Explore on your own during free time. For lunch, travel to a local farm and dine among ancient olive groves and vineyards with spectacular views of San Gimignano. You can also visit the farm's winery for a tasting.



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Genoa, Italy

Today, call at Genoa, the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. The city is steeped in history; its complex of grand palaces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, line Le Strade Nuove, the “new streets” that were laid during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The city is also home to the Romanesque Cathedral of San Lorenzo, the crowning glory of the Old Town. During an included tour, explore Genova’s main sights. Or venture out to neighboring Milan, famed for its fashion houses and the beautiful neoclassical Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Europe’s oldest shopping arcade.



SCENIC GENOA INCLUDED TOUR

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

SEE HIGHLIGHTS OF HISTORIC MEDITERRANEAN PORT CITY

Discover the major sights of Genoa, the vibrant port city that once ruled over the Mediterranean Sea. Travel by motor coach along the Via Gramsci to the Old Harbor. See the Genoa Aquarium, the largest in Italy, as you pass in front of Palazzo San Giorgio, once home to the first chartered bank in Europe. Continue on to the Piazza de Ferrari, where you can admire its iconic bronze fountain and the Carlo Felice Theater, originally opened in 1828. View the 18th-century reconstruction of the former childhood home of native son Christopher Columbus and the tall semicircular towers of the Soprano Gate, a part of the city’s 12th-century fortifications. After taking in sweeping views of the city center atop Carignano Hill, travel down to the Piazza della Vittoria and its triumphal arch—dedicated to those who died during World War I—before discovering the beauty of the residential areas along the Corso Italia promenade.



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Barcelona, Spain

Soak up the charm of sunny Barcelona, the Catalan capital of culture. Stroll along Las Ramblas, take in the architectural masterpieces of Antoni Gaudí or explore the myriad side streets of the ancient Gothic Quarter. Take an included tour today, or opt for one of the many optional shore excursions we offer.



ICONIC BARCELONA INCLUDED TOUR

DURATION: 4 HOURS

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY

Discover Barcelona's most iconic landmarks on a relaxing drive and a leisurely walk around this impressive city. You will pass the Columbus Monument and Port Vell, the seaside cultural and shopping complex. Admire the Arc de Triomf, a stately remnant from the 1888 World's Fair. Stop for photos at La Sagrada Família, Gaudí's stunning unfinished masterpiece. Next, you will take a drive to Plaça Catalunya and walk into the historic center, stopping to view the stunning neo-Gothic Barcelona Cathedral. This 14th-century marvel is adorned with a wide range of animal and mythical gargoyles; its interior is a wonder of vaulted ceilings buttressed by soaring columns. Later, enjoy free time in the heart of Old Barcelona, browsing its shops or lingering at a café before returning to your ship.



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THE GOTHIC QUARTER: BACK TO THE ORIGINS OF THE CITY

DURATION: 4 HOURS

SEE WHERE BARCELONA BEGAN IN THIS ROMANTIC LIVING MUSEUM

Journey into the evocative heart of Barcelona, the Barri Gòtic, where the Romans founded a walled settlement.

Today the Gothic Quarter is bounded by Las Ramblas, the lively boulevard famous for its kiosks and tapas bars. But we will focus on two of its most historic treasures, starting with the Romanesque Church of Santa Maria del Pi, set on a romantic plaza and crowned with a bell tower from which you can enjoy marvelous views of the surrounding barri. Then walk the quarter's narrow streets to the Museum of the History of Barcelona, or MUHBA, which is housed in a Gothic palace. Here you will see remarkable archaeological treasures from the Roman era to the modern age, with art and artifacts from the old Jewish district, Roman temples, Spanish Civil War industrial buildings and more. After this interesting visit, return to your ship.



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JEWELS OF MODERNISM **PRIVILEGED ACCESS**

DURATION: 4 HOURS

EXPLORE BARCELONA'S COLORFUL ARCHITECTURE

See two impressive examples of the beautiful and interesting modernist buildings for which Barcelona is renowned. First, view the Palau de la Música Catalana, one of the world's leading concert halls and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy its beautiful exteriors and take in its spectacular interiors. Privileged Access allows you to discover parts of the building not accessible to all. Drive along the elegant avenue Passeig de Gràcia, lined with architectural masterworks, exclusive shops and quality restaurants. Here, visit Casa Amatller, industrial chocolatier Antoni Amatller's house renovated by artist Josep Puig i Cadafalch. Casa Amatller and neighboring Casa Lleó i Morera and Casa Batlló comprise the "Manzana de la Discòrdia" (Apple of Discord), so named because the three buildings, built by three famous modernist architects, show very contrasting styles. Before returning to your ship, you may choose to taste famous Amatller's chocolate and enjoy some free time in its sweet shop.



* Demanding - Physically challenging activities, including extensive walks, hiking, riding, water sports, and high altitude activities. Activities by foot may contain difficult, unpaved surfaces and/or multiple stairs and steep inclines. Total time walking or standing may exceed 3 hours.

Shore excursions vary by itinerary and are subject to change.

Compiled by The Cruise & Travel Group on 14/05/2021

THE ARTISTS OF BARCELONA

DURATION: 7 HOURS

ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE CITY'S GREATS: MIRÓ, PICASSO & GAUDÍ

Learn more about the lives and works of Barcelona's three most famous artists. You will drive to the Joan Miró Foundation, created by famous Catalan painter and sculptor Joan Miró, for a visit to this modern building that houses some of his most interesting pieces. Then continue along the Passeig de Gràcia—this major avenue contains some of the city's most celebrated buildings, including Casa Amatller, Casa Lleó i Morera, and Gaudí's Casa Batlló and Casa Milà. Next, stop in El Born, a chic, artistic area within the Old Town. Enjoy free time to walk around, visit the beautiful Gothic Basílica de Santa Maria del Mar or have lunch on your own. Then take a guided tour of the famous Picasso Museum, located in the Palau Aguilar. Enjoy a one-hour guided visit to this museum, to which Picasso himself donated some of his work, before returning to your ship.

* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.



THE PICTURESQUE TOWN OF SITGES

DURATION: 4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

CHARMING COASTAL RESORT ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

Enjoy a scenic southward drive by motor coach to explore Sitges, on the Mediterranean coast. Sheltered by the Garraf Massif mountain range, it enjoys a warm microclimate and is famous for its 2½ miles of beach and charming Old Town. Its most striking landmark is the 17th-century Church of Sant Bartomeu i Santa Tecla, sitting proudly on a rocky elevation that separates the main beach from the smaller, quieter Sant Sebastià Beach. The Town Hall, built between 1887 and 1889 on the site of the medieval castle, is considered one of the finest examples of Catalan civil Gothic-style architecture due to its ornate design and its coats of arms. The beachfront promenade features turn-of-the-20th-century colonial-style Indiano mansions. On a walking tour, your local guide will show you the beauty of this Catalan town. Afterward, you will have free time to explore on your own before returning to your ship.

* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.



Shore excursions vary by itinerary and are subject to change.

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GAUDÍ'S HOUSES OF MODERNISM **PRIVILEGED ACCESS**

DURATION: 4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

BARCELONA'S FATHER OF ARCHITECTURE

Witness the evolution of Antoni Gaudí's creative genius as you tour some of his distinctive works. Drive to Casa Vicens, the first project for which the world-renowned architect was commissioned at just 30 years of age. The turreted private house was created for stock and currency broker Manuel Vicensi Montaner in 1885 and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the house and its uniquely designed facade on a Privileged Access tour followed by a delicious morning snack provided by the Hoffman Culinary School, famed for its artisanal pastries. Continue your discovery of Gaudí as you gaze up at the facade of his unfinished masterpiece, La Sagrada Família, whose towers are still under construction today. Complete your tour with a visit to the Passeig de Gràcia, where you will visit the Casa Batlló, or "House of Bones." Step inside to admire Gaudí's characteristic curved facades and "scooped out" windows, and enjoy free time to explore before returning to your ship.



* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.

LEISURELY WALK THROUGH BARCELONA

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

MARVEL AT BARCELONA'S WORLD-RENOWNED ARCHITECTURE

Be captivated by the creativity of architectural genius Antoni Gaudí, and see some of Barcelona's modern gems. Begin your tour by motor coach with a stop at the imposing La Sagrada Família, whose towers are still under construction today. Continue to the Passeig de Gràcia, where you will begin your walking tour. This avenue is one of Barcelona's most exclusive and home to some of the city's most celebrated architectural wonders from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Admire the characteristic curved facades and "scooped out" windows of Gaudí's Casa Batlló, as well as modernist masterpieces Casa Lleó i Morera and Casa Amatller. Today, the avenue boasts many of Barcelona's exclusive fashion boutiques and deluxe hotels. After your stroll, relax and sip on a chilled glass of cava before returning to your ship.



* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.

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