



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you



Cruise : **MEDITERRANEAN**
Italy, Montenegro, Greece

Cruise Ship: **MSC OPERA**

Departing from: **Venice, Italy**

Itineraries: **Kotor, Mykonos, Santorini, Corfu, Bari**

Departure Date: **28/04/2019**

Duration: **8 Days, 7 Nights**

Kotor

Mon 29 April 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

KOTOR & THE MARITIME TRADITION OF PERAST - KTR01

Duration
4 h

The excursion begins with a walking tour through the old town of Kotor, one of the best preserved medieval towns in this part of the Mediterranean. The asymmetric structure of the narrow streets and squares, combined with the many important medieval monuments helped secure Kotor's position as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will visit the Maritime Museum before continuing to the elegant town of Perast that built its wealth on maritime trade the city is the most significant example of Baroque architecture on the Montenegrin coast and has numerous examples of lavish palaces and houses. A short boat ride will take you to a man-made island in the middle of the beautiful Boka Bay where you will visit the church of Our Lady of Rock. Then, back to Perast you will enjoy a walking tour of the city and a visit to St. Nicholas Church. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. This tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. In Perast, guests not interested in visiting the church of Our Lady of Rock may remain in the city to explore on their own until the guide returns from the island.

SCENIC ROUTE

MONTENEGRO COASTAL TOUR - KTR02

Duration
5 h

Panoramic views of Montenegro's stunning coastline on the Adriatic Sea, complete with rugged cliffs falling steeply to the water far below, as well as calls at two picturesque coastal resorts, the port of Kotor itself and the nearby Budva, await you on this relaxing half-day excursion. Starting out from the port of Kotor whose sheltered position on the Gulf of Kotor gave rise to strong historical ties with Venice, as evidenced by the many the Venetian-style houses in the town you will make your way to the nearby resort of Budva on the so-called Budvanska Rivijera. A vast body of archaeological and documentary evidence is available to prove that Budva is one of the oldest urban settlements on the Adriatic coast, having been founded in the 5th century B.C.. You will have a guided walking tour including exploration of the old city walls or citadel in Budva's appealing historical quarter followed by some time on your own, perhaps to amble through the narrow streets with their many churches, inviting cafés and a slew of great souvenir shops. Returning to Kotor, the tour continues with a short guided walking tour with internal visit to Maritime Museum and exterior look at the 12th-century Cathedral of St. Tryphon on your way to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

BIKE TOUR - KTR09

Duration
4 h

There is no better way to discover the highlights of Boka Bay and its natural beauty than by bike. At the pier you will be met by an assistant who will give you a short introduction to the tour, a safety briefing and all the equipment you will need. Your 24-km biking adventure around the bay will then take you through stunning landscape to some of the most interesting places in the area, including typical fishing villages, small islands with churches, old palaces and gorgeous beaches. Your guide will provide information en-route on the places you pass along the way. Several stops will also be made for you to admire the scenery and take photos. Please note: participants must be physically fit and competent bike riders; helmets are compulsory. We recommend wearing light clothing, comfortable shoes, sunglasses and taking sunscreen. The tour is open to guests over the age of 14, but is not suitable for guests with mobility problems, pregnant women or guests with heart conditions or respiratory problems. This tour will run in all weather conditions so you are advised to take suitable rainwear. Guides available only in English.

SOMETHING SPECIAL
PORTO MONTENEGRO SIGHTSEEING & NAVAL MUSEUM - KTR10

Duration
 3 h

Tucked away in a secluded nook of the Gulf of Kotor, the eponymous town sits like a pristine jewel amid limestone cliffs and stunning Mediterranean countryside. Fortifications built during the Venetian period surround the town, which also features Porto Montenegro, the region's largest yacht marina development project. Only a short coach ride from the pier and with the nearby mountains forming a scenic backdrop, the supersized marina stretches along the palm-fringed coastline on the site of a former Austro-Hungarian naval shipyard. A relic of those times is a fully restored P-821 submarine called Hero, which you will have a chance to visit along with the co-located museum. The interior of the submarine, complete with weapons, equipment and even personal belongings of crew members, is sure to impress with the ingenuity of its compact design. You will then have some free time to spend on your own doing some sightseeing or going shopping before a drive around the bay en route to the pier and your ship ends the tour. Please note: this tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

BOAT TRIP ALONG THE BAY OF KOTOR - KTR12

Duration
 4 h

A full 4 hours off the ship will see you get comfy on a motorboat and sail through the lovely Bay of Kotor, passing the tiny offshore islets of St. George and Our Lady of the Rocks, which sit opposite the town of Perast. You'll get to explore Our Lady of the Rocks – an artificial island created by a bulwark of stones and sinking condemned and seized ships by loading them down with rocks – and also enjoy an inside visit of the eponymous church. The motorboat ride then continues to the town of Perast itself, famed for its long maritime history. Among the many sacred monuments found in the pretty little town is the early 17th-century Church of St. Nicolas, thought to stand on the site of a former 16th-century church. Your look around Perast also includes time to spend as you please, after which you'll rejoin the motorboat for the trip back to Kotor. You'll have some more free time to spend in the coastal town before heading back to the ship. Please note: the tour is considered to be unsuitable for guests of limited mobility or who use a wheelchair. Guests are requested to wear conservative attire when visiting places of religious importance.

CULTURE AND HISTORY
KOTOR & MONTENEGRO LANDSCAPES - KTR13

Duration
 4 h

Trade half a day of your time for a chance to explore the charming coastal town of Kotor and enjoy a guided tour of an organic farm in the Grbalj Valley. A coach ride will first see you reach Kotor, whose beautifully preserved medieval centre has earned it UNESCO World Heritage Site status. A guided stroll through the town's higgledy-piggledy maze of narrow street and pretty squares will reveal its many medieval gems, including the 12th-century Cathedral of St. Tryphon, built in Romanesque style. After returning to the coach, the tour continues on to the beautiful Grbalj Valley to pay an organic farm a visit. You'll first be greeted with a taste of farm-made brandy, followed by a look around the estate accompanied by information about village life, farming organic produce and the renovation of a so-called phylum church. The visit ends with a chance to sample some of the farm's produce, savour a glass of wine and enjoy a live performance by local musicians. After this encounter with Montenegrin folklore, you'll return to the ship. Please note: the tour is considered to be unsuitable for guests of limited mobility or who use a wheelchair.

SCENIC ROUTE
KOTOR BAY TUK-TUK TOUR - KTR14

Duration
 2:30 h

Hop on a Tuk-Tuk ride alongside the magical Boka bay, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its unique beauty and historical significance. After a short safety briefing, the tour begins from Kotor old town along an itinerary with enchanting views of maritime villages along the Kotor bay, each interesting in its own charming way. After passing through the fishermen's village of Muo, you reach the small village of Prcanj; learn the story through unseen images of its old houses and sacred objects, among which is Our Lady's temple, the biggest monument of this kind in this part of the Mediterranean. The highlight of the ride will be the Verige straight as Tivat and Kotor bay embrace, showing you the lovely islands of the baroque Perast. Entering deeper into Tivat bay you will discover the beauty of the modern part of Boka bay, Porto Montenegro. Enjoy some time at leisure in Porto Montenegro before returning to Kotor along a route that will allow you to admire Kotor bay from above, in a different perspective, as you descend down from Vrmac mount. Please note: the tour is considered to be unsuitable for guests of limited mobility or who use a wheelchair. Each tuk-tuk has a capacity for 6 guests and are driven by licensed drivers. Guides available in Italian, English and French. Guides will give explanations at each stop; guests will receive information during the ride through audio-guides installed in each vehicle.



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Mykonos

Wed 1 May 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

DELOS: THE ISLAND OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY - MYK04

Duration
3:30 h



Situated in the middle of the Cyclades Group lies Delos, the Island of Light, and the destination of this enjoyable tour. After a short boat trip, your exploration of Delos historical remains and rich mythology can begin. Legend has it that Zeus took a shine to the beautiful Leto, in the course of which affair she fell pregnant. However, this drew the ire of Zeus's wife, Hera, who promptly forbade Mother Earth to give Leto refuge. Just when all hope seemed to be lost, a serendipitous island Delos rose out of the sea, giving Leto a safe haven to deliver twins Artemis and Apollo. Popular as a pilgrimage site among ancient Grecians, Delos became one of the wealthiest shrines of antiquity. Among the remains of this era is the Avenue of Lions, so named for a row of originally 7th-century Naxian-marble lions that seem to guard the spot where Leto is said to have given birth. You can then crown your exceptional experience by taking the path up to Mount Cynthos, from whose peak Zeus is said to have watched the birth of his twins. Do not let the uphill hike deter you, for the mind-blowing view from the peak is worth every step. Round out your visit by exploring some of the numerous other monuments at the site before beginning your return journey to your port. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

CITY TOUR

MYKONOS ISLAND TOUR - MYK05

Duration
3:30 h



Venture out and uncover the many different facets of Mykonos island, the St. Tropez of Greece. Just how much the island has to offer is yours to discover on this relaxing and mainly coach-based tour, which begins with a drive to the so-called Panorama vantage point. A photo stop will give you a chance to capture beguiling views of Mykonos town and the old port, before a scenic route will take you through the picturesque villages of Agios Ioannis and Kalafatis as well as past the cosmopolitan beach of Ornos. A stop will be made at the heart of Mykonos to visit the island's second-largest settlement, the village of Ano Mera, at whose centre stands the monastery and church of Panagia Tourliani. Probably founded at some time during the 16th century and then remodelled in 1767, the cloister is a major draw for travellers visiting the area. A generous helping of warm Greek hospitality then awaits you in a village taverna, giving you a chance to reflect on your day of Mykonian magic as you relax to the aniseed flavour of ouzo and the savoury goodness of typical Greek appetizers. More pleasing views can then be enjoyed during the return drive to the port and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

MYKONOS WALKING TOUR & WINDMILLS - MYK06

Duration
2 h



As one of the Cycladic Islands, Mykonos has enjoyed great popularity as a holiday destination since the 1950s, offering travellers traditional Greek hospitality plus a lively nightlife against a backdrop of stunning beaches, whitewashed houses and a scenic interior. Just what makes the island so appealing is revealed in the course of this leisurely walking tour, which is set to showcase the rarely seen corners of town, its hidden gems, narrow winding streets and secluded walled gardens. In addition, if the layout of Mykonos town appears confusing, it is. Specifically designed that way to thwart pirate attacks, the town continues to flummox all but the locals to this day. A trademark feature of the island are its numerous windmills, redolent of a bygone age during which they ground the wheat that made the bread that fed the island. Standing squat, round and proud against the buffeting wind, these portly landmarks make a great photo opportunity. Your exploration of Mykonos then draws to a close with your return to the port. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. The duration of the tour will be 2 hours; guests may choose to return to the port soon after the guided tour or to remain in Mykonos city centre to have free time and come back to the port by shuttle boat later.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

A NIGHT OUT IN MYKONOS - MYK08

Duration
3:30 h



Fabulous beaches, a windmill-dotted landscape, friendly locals and a particularly lively night-time clubbing scene have all gone to make Mykonos the popular holiday destination it is today. This tour will see you leave the ship, hop on a local, public seabus for a short trip to the old port to enjoy an evening of Greek hospitality and a light dinner in a restaurant. In addition to delicious local specialities and wine, you will also get to enjoy a folkloric show while at the restaurant. You can even join in yourself and shake a leg or, if you prefer, simply clap in time with the music. After dinner, your guide will take you around the narrow lanes of Mykonos town, full of whitewashed houses and enclosed gardens. At the end of your guided stroll, you can either return to the ship straight away or spend more time in Chora, as locals call the town, until you feel ready to call it a night and make your own way back to the ship by shuttle boat. Please note: the price of the tour includes water and 1 glass of wine during light dinner; no dessert included. As the tour involves a longer period of walking, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair.

Santorini

Thu 2 May 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

OIA VILLAGE - JTR01



Duration
4 h

A short tender ride from the ship will take you to Athinios port where we will board a bus to Oia, a typical Greek village characterized by narrow streets, traditional white churches with blue domes – a picture-postcard vision of the Mediterranean! This village is famous for its hill-top location which offers a breathtaking view over the Gulf of Santorini. Delights of a different kind are in store at a nearby winery; we will sample local delicacies and enjoy a fun wine tasting session. We will end our trip at the village of Fira, near the Metropolis Church, from where our tour guides will instruct passengers on how to take the cable car down the port. Please note: there may be long queues at the cable car station or to pick up the tender boat. This tour includes tender embarkation/disembarkation and walking on cobblestone streets with steps so is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF AKROTIRI - JTR04



Duration
3:30 h

Popular as a tourist destination due to its lovely beaches, relaxed atmosphere and wonderful weather, the beautiful Greek island of Santorini is also known for the ancient city of Akrotiri, which is situated at the southern end of the island and forms the destination of this half-day tour. A tender will first take you on the quick ride from the ship to Athinios port, from where you will continue on an approx. 20-minute coach ride to ancient Akrotiri. Once a thriving settlement during the Minoan Bronze Age, the town was buried by a tremendous volcanic eruption in the middle of the second millennium B.C.. The cloak of lava and ash that descended on the settlement served to preserve the site, which includes pristine frescoes, pottery, furniture, an advanced drainage system and even some three-storey buildings, all of which have been uncovered since excavation work began in 1967. The 1.5-hour stay at this Minoan settlement will give you plenty of time to have a good look around and soak up the special atmosphere of this prehistoric location. The visit will be followed by a little bit of free time to visit the nearby modern village of Akrotiri, after which you will head for the village of Fira where your guide will tell you how to take the cable car down the port to catch the tender back to your ship. Please note: there may be long queues at the cable car station or to pick up the tender boat. This tour includes tender embarkation/disembarkation and walking on cobblestone streets with steps so is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

FAMILY FUN

OIA VILLAGE FAMILY CLUB: FINDING THE DONKEYS ROUTE TO SAFETY - JTRFEC01



Duration
4 h

Once, a long time ago, the island of Santorini had a bit of a pirate problem and the local donkeys were the only ones smart enough to find a place of safety. This family tour teams sightseeing with tracking down the route left by the donkeys. In the company of a Donkey storyteller and with a printed map to help you, the tour begins with a 20-minute transfer by private tender to Athinios Port. By the time you return to dry land, the clue-finding mission will already be in full swing. Moving on by coach, you'll head for the white-and-blue village of Oia. A 1.5-hour walk will reward you with superb coastal views and further clues that will lead you to Fira, the islands capital. Enjoy more amazing vistas from the towns cliff-top location and sightings of donkeys on the way down to the port by cable car. Once at the bottom, you'll have completed the mission and have about 35 minutes to enjoy the scenery on your own. The cable car ride back to the ship brings the tour to a close. Please note: The Family Club is an innovative experience for families with children looking to explore the city in a fun and educational way that engages adults and children alike. Through adventures inspired by the history of the place, the children become the main players in a mission shared by the whole family! Together with an expert guide and a children's entertainer who will take the part of the story's narrator, families will discover the city, not only through historical references, but also through games, riddles and treasure hunts. Most tours leave later in the morning, last no longer than 3 or 4 hours and kids only pay half price!



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Corfù

Fri 3 May 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

ACHILLEION S PALACE - COR01

 **Duration**
4 h



In the days of ancient Greece, Corfu marked the final stage of the legendary trip made by the mythological Greek god, Odysseus, on his journey home to Ithaca. While hardly of epic proportions, this tour will certainly give you a chance to enjoy Corfu's lush landscape as you travel around the island. The excursion includes a visit to Achilleion's Palace, a beautiful white mansion and the former residence of Queen Elizabeth of Austria who was affectionately known as Sissi. The richly decorated palace is set in pretty gardens overlooking the sea and is dedicated to another hero from Greek mythology, Achilles. Before you return to the port and your ship, you will also have a chance to pay Corfu town a brief visit and spend a little free time strolling around. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

PANORAMIC CORFU & PALEOKASTRITZA MONASTERY - COR03

 **Duration**
4 h



After leaving the port of Corfu, a short and scenic drive takes you through the island's interior, which is characterised by orange groves, cypress and pine trees, to the west coast and the beautiful bay of Palaiokastritsa just south of Angelokastro. You will have a chance to visit Palaiokastritsas Byzantine Monastery, which is situated high up on a rocky promontory with gorgeous views of the island and the Ionian Sea. While the monastery was originally founded in the early 13th-century, the current complex dates from the 18th century and is still home to a handful of monks even today. The monastery church is ornately painted with icons and frescoes covering the walls and ceilings. On returning to Corfu town, you will have time to explore the vicinity on your own before returning to the ship. Please note: this excursion is not a beach tour but it offers the possibility to do a brief stop on the beach for those guests who will not be interested in the Monastery visit. The beach does not offer any kind of infrastructure. This excursion is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

JEEP SAFARI - COR05

 **Duration**
5 h



Spend a few hours off the ship being acquainted with the beautiful island of Corfu, its wonderful scenery, lovely views and pretty villages in self-drive jeeps. Enjoy some brief photo stops along the way to ensure you can take all the snapshots you need to fill the family album. Before returning to the port, you will have time to gather your strength and relax at a traditional inn. Apart from having a refreshing drink, you will also have a chance to enjoy a typical Corfu folk dance show. Please note: the tour is self-drive only; guests wishing to drive must be in possession of a valid international driving licence, which they must have held for at least two years. Each jeep can accommodate a maximum of 4 guests, incl. the driver. If you travel with your family or friends, we cannot guarantee you will be in the same jeep, depending on the available space as all jeeps must be occupied for its entire capacity. Moreover, only 1 guest per jeep will drive the vehicle. The tour is considered to be unsuitable for pregnant women, guests with back/neck problems or using a wheelchair. Vehicles all feature a manual gearbox; the driver must know how to operate a manual gearbox and be capable of starting the vehicle on an incline or in an off-road situation. Guests must sign a waiver before taking part in the tour. Periods of driving will not be narrated, but information will be given at the various stops by your guide. This tour is not available from June to middle October. All vehicles are fully insured with a Collision Damage Waiver (CDW), excess according to the vehicle rental contracts terms and conditions.

PALEOKASTRITZA & KUM QUAT TASTING - COR07

 **Duration**
4 h



Your Greek island excursion begins with a scenic coach ride of about 30 minutes through the lush olive groves, pine trees and cypresses of the Corfu landscape to reach the Kumquat Factory, your first stop. The informative visit will give you a chance to learn all about how kumquats are harvested and then turned into delicious liqueurs and other fruity treats. Then it is on to the beautiful bay of Palaiokastritsa for some free time to explore the area surrounded by woods and olive trees. The tour then continues up to the mountainside location of Lakones, with more breathtaking views of Palaiokastritsa to enjoy. After a short stop to soak up the atmosphere and perhaps take some photos, it is on to the traditional village of Makrades and the charming Colombos taverna where traditional Greek appetizers so-called meze will be served along with some local wine or ouzo, the famous Greek aniseed-flavoured aperitif. The taverna's interior is decorated with traditional 18th- and 19th-century agricultural tools and an intriguing old olive press, which offer a glimpse into a bygone age. This scenic island tour ends with your return to the port and your ship. Please note: comfortable walking shoes recommended. This tour includes long periods of walking (1.5 km) on uneven ground with some steps so it is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

SCENIC ROUTE
PANORAMIC SIGHTS OF CORFU - COR08

Duration
 4 h


This enjoyable coach tour combines a visit to Corfu town with a leisurely drive through the olive groves, cypresses and pine trees that are so typical of the islands beautiful landscape. The first stop will be at the fabulous bay of Palaiokastritsa, where you will have some time to explore on your own after an initial guided tour of the area. A brief photo stop will be made the village of Lakones at the Golden Fox Café, whose stunning hillside location affords breathtaking views of Palaiokastritsa bay and has earned it the nickname of Gods Balcony among the locals. After a break in the village of Lakones, you will return to Corfu for an enjoyable drive-by sightseeing tour of the town. The route will take you past the Garitsa Bay and the citys 14th-century old Venetian fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tour will also give you a chance to see the Spianada square, once used to drill Napoleons army in the art of marching, the Royal Palace of St. George and St. Michael, the old port with its traditional caique fishing boats, the new Venetian fortress and San Rocco square, the commercial centre of Corfu town. Your return to the port and your ship marks the end of your tour. Please note: outside viewings only of all sights during the drive-by tour of Corfu town.

CULTURE AND HISTORY
BEST OF CORFU - COR12

Duration
 4 h


Immortalised in print to great comedic effect as a place of childhood adventure by the British novelist Gerald Durrell, the island of Corfu remains a blast to discover to this day. Spending half a day checking out some of its appealing sights is therefore time well spent, especially since this comprehensive tour covers all bases: culture, history and abundant natural beauty. Leaving the pier by coach, you will first head to the village of Palaiokastritsa to visit the Byzantine Monastery of the Virgin, which is still home to a community of monks. You will also have a chance to browse through the Byzantine icons and religious relics in the attached museum and take some photos of the coastline from the lovely gardens. A short coach ride will then take you to the village of Gastouri and the amazing 19th-century Achilleion Palace. Built at the behest of the Austrian Empress Elisabeth or Sisi between 1889 and 1892 and later owned by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, the palace is a cornucopia of courtly artefacts that provides some insight into the life of the Sad Empress, a moniker Sisi gained following the tragic death of her son. The gardens are stupendous, not only boasting a profusion of flowers, but also statues of figures taken from Greek mythology and amazing vistas of Corfu town and the sea beyond. A narrated drive around Corfu towns main sights adds a final highlight on your way back to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

Bari

Sat 4 May 2019

CITY TOUR

CITY TOUR - BAR01



Duration
3 h

After a short shuttle transfer from the pier to the port gates, you will embark on a very comfortable little train to discover the town. This guided tour of Bari gives you a chance to take a leisurely walk around the historical quarter of Bari Vecchia and its medieval architecture. A visit to the Basilica of St. Nicholas, built in honour of Bari's patron saint, is included. Founded towards the end of the 11th century A.D., the basilica has now been an important religious pilgrimage site for nearly a millennium. An exterior viewing of Bari's old Norman castle is also on the tour itinerary. You will break for a delicious tasting of local products accompanied by a glass of wine before enjoying a guided walking tour. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Guests may choose to return to the port soon after the guided tour or to remain in Bari's city centre to have free time and come back to the port by shuttle bus later.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

ALBEROBELLO - BAR02



Duration
4:30 h

Leave the port of Bari for a scenic 1-hour coach ride through the Italian countryside to Alberobello, a town in the Apulia region that forms the top of the heel of the boot of Italy. Thanks to its distinctive mortarless round stone houses with conical roofs, known as trulli, the town was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1996. Your tour includes a guided walk through the delightful streets of this most unusual village plus a visit to St. Antonio, the only trullo church in the world. Many of these trullo houses are topped by a so-called pinnacolo – a sort of white cap or sphere – and all of them have curious symbols, possibly good-luck charms, painted on the roofs. If there is time, you will also go on a short sightseeing tour of Bari by coach before you return to the port and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

NATURAL WONDERS

THE SASSI IN MATERA - BAR04



Duration
5 h

Enjoy a 1-hour drive to Matera, the city of the weird and wonderful Sassi, caves and the first town in the world to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Your journey will be enhanced by some information you will receive by an assistant before reaching this amazing location. These caves were inhabited from the Neolithic times right up until 1952. Perhaps because of its unique and tangible history, the atmosphere here is extraordinary and the place exudes a mystic air. We will either visit a furnished Sassi cave museum house and one rocky church that are symbol of the local culture. Many film directors have chosen to set films in Matera, as it is such an evocative place and Mel Gibson's controversial film, *The Passion of the Christ*, was shot here. Please note: guests will meet guides in Matera; the bus drive is unguided. This tour is not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair; long periods of walking.

THE CAVES OF CASTELLANA & POLIGNANO A MARE - BAR07



Duration
4 h

Leave the port for an hours drive to the Caves of Castellana where we will meet our guide for a fantastic subterranean journey through the cave complex. The caves were first explored in 1938, although their existence had been known since the XVIII century. At 60 metres deep, marvel at the cave chambers and the myriad of alabaster stalagmites and stalactites encrusted with calcite crystals. Back above ground we will travel on to Polignano a Mare, a lovely town perched high on a rock with wonderful views over the sea. You may choose a guided tour of the village or to explore the whitewashed streets on your own, meandering under the flowered arches and enjoying the hillside terrace that overlook the sea. Please note: excursion not recommended for guests who are claustrophobic or with walking difficulties. The itinerary inside the caves is on uneven, slippery path.

SOMETHING SPECIAL
THE HARBOUR TOWN OF TRANI AND OLIVE OIL TASTING - BAR15

Duration
 4:30 h


About a 1-hour coach drive up the coast from the port of Bari lies the pretty harbour town of Trani, your destination on this enjoyable tour, which combines a sightseeing leg with a chance to sample some of the delicious locally produced olive oil. Trani's long and rich history, which dates back to its 9th-century foundation, is still prominent in the town to this day. As you make your way around the town's history trail, your first stop will be Svevo Castle, an imposing 13th-century fortification of highly rectilinear construction that overlooks the sea. You will have some time to spend at your leisure before you continue on to the 11th-/12th-century Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino. Built in honour of San Nicola the Pilgrim, this magnificent Romanesque-style building is a real treasure, with the stunning stained-glass windows, the remains of a 12th-century mosaic floor and the transversal crypt dedicated to San Nicola particularly worthy of mention. The sightseeing leg of the tour ends with a refreshing walk along the seafront promenade before the coach then takes you to an old oil mill for an informative visit and a chance to tantalise your taste buds with some of the wonderful locally produced olive oil and other typically Puglian delicacies. Your return to the port and your ship ends the tour. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

 *Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour* Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as the coach is not provided with ramps or lifts. Once onboard, please contact Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE
DISCOVER BARI BY BIKE - BAR19

Duration
 4 h


Get off the ship, meet your guide, hear a short briefing on how to ride your bike, wear your helmet and begin your adventure to discover Bari Vecchia. This pleasant excursion will take you around Bari's historical quarter with chances to have views of the marvellous medieval architecture as you cycle by. Pass by the magnificent Bari's old Norman castle for an external viewing on your way to the Basilica of St. Nicholas. Built in honour of Bari's patron saint and founded towards the end of the 11th century A.D., the Basilica is an important religious pilgrimage site. After a break to visit the site, you will continue the excursion biking through Strada del Carmine and passing St. Sabino Cathedral on the way to Svevo Castle for a panoramic view. At the end of the tour, you will have some free time to spend as you wish before returning to the port. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting places of religious importance.



MSC

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KEY TO SYMBOLS

Possibility of swimming	Long route by bus	Best seller	DIFFICULTY LEVEL
Tasting included	Shooting videos and/or taking pictures is not allowed or subject to fee	New	
Lunch or dinner included	Shopping	Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour As guests in wheelchairs must be accompanied by their own helper, please inform Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements	
Drink included	Mini Tours		
Snack included	Limited seat		
No guide available			
			Easy May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing
			Moderate May involve inclines, steps, uneven surfaces and/or extended periods of standing
			Strenuous Active excursions recommended only for guests in good physical health

OUR EXCURSIONS CATEGORIES

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE	Head ashore in search of adventure! Opportunities for sport and fun range from trekking and snorkelling to kayak tours and 4x4 vehicle adventures. The active choice.
CITY TOUR	Explore the city centre with a guided tour and soak up the local scenery with a comfortable coach ride. The easy way to get to know your destination.
CULTURE AND HISTORY	Learn all about the history and culture of your destination, with visits to must-see locations and guided tours of key sites. The ideal route to local knowledge.
FAMILY FUN	Take your children on a journey of discovery, with a special programme for kids. The perfect family trip.
NATURAL WONDERS	Immerse yourself in spectacular scenery and discover the fascinating flora and fauna of your destination. Your passport to the wonders of the natural world.
SCENIC ROUTE	Admire your destination in total comfort, with a scenic coach tour taking in the best views and the main places of interest. The relaxing road to discovery.
SOMETHING SPECIAL	Pursue your interests in new places! From gastronomic tours and guided shopping trips to religious visits, there's a world of pastimes and passions to explore.

The excursions in the programme are intended to provide MSC Guests with an idea of the different tours that can be arranged in each port of call; this programme is merely a guide and confirmation of each excursion and its description and prices will be made during your cruise.

Shore excursions programs and itineraries may vary depending on local conditions and/or any unforeseen events in relation to the timing on the day of the tour.

Some excursions are very popular and therefore availability cannot always be guaranteed, it is advisable to book in advance to avoid disappointment.

ALL AREAS

The tour can be provided in 5 languages (ENG-DEU-FRA-ESP-ITA) and it depends on the availability of guides. The final language will be confirmed on board during your cruise

ONLY SOA

The tour can be provided in 6 languages (ENG-DEU-FRA-ESP-ITA-POR) and it depends on the availability of guides. The final language will be confirmed on board during your cruise



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you