



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you



Cruise : **MEDITERRANEAN**
Italy, Greece, Albania, Croatia

Cruise Ship: **MSC LIRICA**

Departing from: **Venice, Italy**

Itineraries: **Bari, Katakolon, Mykonos, Piraeus, Sarande, Dubrovnik**

Departure Date: **13/04/2019**

Duration: **8 Days, 7 Nights**

Bari

Sun 14 April 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.

Katakolon

Mon 15 April 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

OLYMPIA AND SHOPPING STOP - KAT01



From the port of Katakolon, your coach first heads inland through the Greek countryside to Olympia, the archaeological site of the ancient Olympic Games. A team of German experts in the 19th century excavated the area, in the course of which many important artifacts were unearthed. According to legend Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, built Olympia. The tour includes a chance to view the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the gymnasium, the hippodrome and the stadium, which was constructed with a maximum capacity of 40,000 spectators. You will also have some free time to do a spot of shopping before the tour ends with your return to the port and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair and with walking difficulties.

OLYMPIA & MUSEUM - KAT04



Spend a few hours off the ship and follow the trail of ancient Olympians on this fascinating tour to the archaeological remains of Olympia, only a short coach drive from Katakolon. Ancient Olympia is the town that gave rise to, hosted the Olympic Games in classical times, and is still the place where the Olympic torch is lit for our modern-day Summer Olympics, which were reinstated in 1896. Although Ancient Olympia was already re-discovered in 1766, excavation work only began in 1829 and responsibility for the site then passed to the German Archaeological Institute at Athens in 1870. Your trip around this UNESCO World Heritage Site will give you a chance to see the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the gymnasium, the hippodrome and the stadium, which was designed to hold up to 40,000 spectators. The tour also includes a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Olympia, which was opened in 1982 and is home to an astounding collection of artifacts found in the course of excavation work. Among the museums most notable exhibits are particularly fine collections of beautifully detailed sculptures and bronzes as well as numerous terracotta artifacts and mosaics. The complex also includes a book and souvenir shop, which you may also like to visit. Your Olympic tour ends with a scenic return drive to the port and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair and with walking difficulties. Only cameras without a flash allowed inside the Museum.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

OLYMPIA, FOLKLORE SHOW & TASTING - KAT05



Designed to give you a taste of ancient Greece, this tour takes you inland from the port of Katakolon to the site of ancient Olympia, which was excavated by a team of German archaeologists in the 19th century, yielding a wealth of historical artefacts. Greek mythology has it that Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, built Olympia. Your tour around the archaeological site will take you past the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the gymnasium, the hippodrome and the stadium, which held up to 40,000 spectators quite a crowd even by modern-day standards. To round off your Olympic experience, you will also have a snack and watch a typical Greek folklore show in a pleasant restaurant in Olympia. The tour ends with your return to the port of Katakolon and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair and with walking difficulties.

MAGNA GRECIA ESTATE & OLYMPIA - KAT11



The ancient town of Olympia was the site of the very first Olympic Games and this tour gives you an opportunity to discover the archaeological remains of this iconic place. Excavated by a team of German archaeologists in the 19th century, the site offers a unique look at the way these ancient Grecians lived. In line with Greek mythology, the king of the Greek gods, Zeus, constructed the city. Look forward to seeing the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the gymnasium, the hippodrome and the stadium, designed to hold up to 40,000 spectators. Next up is the beautiful Magna Grecia estate, a family-owned farm where wine and olive oil are locally produced. Enjoy a light snack as you watch a typical folk show; then, continue with a visit to the farm before boarding your coach and return to the port. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair and with walking difficulties.

OLYMPIA IN 3D AND MAGNA GRECIA ESTATE - KAT16

 **Duration**
5 h



Board your coach and drive through picturesque villages and unspoiled scenery to Magna Grecia Farm, lying in the heart of a traditional agricultural region. Visit the olive grove and learn the history of the olive tree: you'll see the vineyards and encounter farm animals as well. Immerse yourself in the beauty and charm of this estate and in the delicious flavors of Greek cuisine by sampling a variety of mezes (appetizer dishes) accompanied by local wine. Then, you will move to the archaeological site of Olympia for a visit, a sanctuary even before the stadium was built and the games took place in 776 B.C. Today, only parts of the temple remain at the museum and only ruins remain at the site. The Temple of Zeus no longer exists and its traces have disappeared through the ages. The Temple of Hera, Prytaneion, and Philippeion were monuments standing in the sacred grove. The famous stadium, with a capacity of 40,000 spectators, is entered through a long, tunnel-like passage. Enhance your experience and get to see how Olympia's temples and stadium used to be with the help of a Mobile 3D Reconstruction device. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair and with walking difficulties.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

THE LEGENDS OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY - KAT17

 **Duration**
4 h



Leave the ship for a few hours and get ready to enter the magical world of Greek mythology. A short coach ride will take you to the modern, mythology-themed park in Katakolon, where education meets entertainment and legendary heroes come back to life in 3D. While visiting the park an area covering 1500 square metres, Greek music plays and digital language selection monitors allow anyone to read the brief history of each mythical creature and hero on show: the Minotaur, the Medusa, the Centaur, Cyclops, Cerberus, Sphinx and many more all line up, waiting to be discovered. The tour then continues to the village of Olympia, where you will have some free time to spend as you wish. For example, you may choose to visit the archaeological site or the museum or simply stroll around and do some souvenir shopping. Please note: Entrance to the archeological sites or museum at Olympia is not included. This tour is considered unsuitable for guests using a wheelchair.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

Mykonos

Tue 16 April 2019

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 Ormos. 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.

Piraeus

Wed 17 April 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

PLAKA, ACROPOLIS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - PIR02



Duration
7 h

Situated only a short distance from Athens, the port of Piraeus makes a perfect starting point for a visit to the Greek capital and, of course, the world-famous Acropolis, an ancient citadel that sits atop a rocky hill that rises 150 metres above the city in the Attica Basin. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is not only home to the archaeological remains of several ancient buildings, but also the location of the amazing Parthenon, the symbol of Athens. Built between 447 and 432 B.C., the Parthenon temple was originally dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena, was then converted to a Christian church in honour of the Virgin Mary in the 5th century A.D. and was finally turned into a mosque, for which a minaret was added to the complex, in the 15th century. Today, the Parthenon is widely seen to be an abiding symbol of ancient Greece and as the birthplace of modern democracy. To save your feet, the scenic tour will take you to see all the main attractions of this profoundly historic city from the comfort of a modern coach. You will have time to visit the amazing National Archaeological Museum – an archive of rare artefacts that knows no rival – and the meticulously restored old part of Athens, the so-called Plaka district. The beautiful old buildings in Neoclassical style, narrow lanes and archaeological remains that characterise the district give the place an old-world feel that is sure to capture your imagination. A brief stop will be made at a local souvenir shop before the tour concludes with your return to the ship. Please note: the tour includes a long, sometimes challenging walk on even uneven ground so not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

SCENIC ROUTE

CORINTH CANAL BY BOAT - PIR03



Duration
5:30 h

Leave the port of Piraeus and enjoy a 1.5-hour drive by coach through the Greek countryside to Corinth Canal, where a short stop will be made to observe the boats that will very likely be passing through the narrow waterway. Separating the Peloponnese peninsula from the Greek mainland, the canal is 6.4 km in length, only 21.3 metres in width and was dug at sea level, which removed the need to build additional locks along its course. After swapping your coach for a small boat, you will embark on a leisurely and enjoyable trip along the canal. The steep embankments of the waterway are a testament to the engineering nightmare that building the canal posed. A snack will be served during your boat trip, at the end of which you will begin your return journey to Piraeus and the ship. Please note: guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made. The excursion does not operate from November to March (inclusive).

CULTURE AND HISTORY

ATHENS & ACROPOLIS - PIR04



Duration
5 h

Take some time off the ship and head for Athens for a comprehensive sightseeing tour through the main streets and squares of a city steeped in classical history. Not only is Athens widely regarded as the cradle of western civilisation and the birthplace of modern democracy, it is also a cornucopia of visual delights you will not want to miss. After the city tour, you will continue on to Athens premiere landmark: the imposing Acropolis, a plateau that overlooks the town at a height of 150 metres. Among various other examples of classical Grecian architecture, the site is home to the world-famous Parthenon, a huge temple dedicated to the ancient Greek goddess, Athena, and one of the worlds greatest cultural monuments. A brief stop will be made for some souvenir shopping before the tour concludes with your return to the ship. Please note: the tour includes long walk with some uneven ground so is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

SCENIC ROUTE
PANORAMIC TOUR OF ATHENS - PIR08

Duration
 3:30 h

This excursion is ideal for those unable to climb the steps to the Acropolis but who wish to gain an overall impression of Greece's capital city. We will meet our guide at the port and board the bus for an excursion that covers the key attractions. As we drive from Piraeus to Athens, our guide will point out the main ancient and modern sites including Hadrian's arch, the statue of Lord Byron, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Constitution Square and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our tour will continue past the National Gardens, the Panathinon Stadium, the Academy, the University and the National Library. You will be able to see the Acropolis from a distance and we will break to take photographs before proceeding to Plaka. You will have some time for free exploration or for shopping; your guide will help you finding the perfect souvenir to bring home. Please note: exterior visits only of the sites. Guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.

 *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.

CULTURE AND HISTORY
A VOYAGE TO ANCIENT GREECE - PIR09

Duration
 6:30 h

Meet your guide at the port and board the bus for a sightseeing tour through the main streets and squares of this historically important city. After reaching Athens city centre, we will arrive at the famous Acropolis that towers imposingly 150 metres above the city; for thousands of years the Acropolis has been symbol of Athens and our tour will enable you to view the other masterpieces from Greece's Golden Age. Prepare yourself to climb to the top of the Acropolis Hill (150 steps) to view the Erechtheum, the Temple of Wingless Victory and the symbol of the Greek nation: the Parthenon. The temple is dedicated to the patron goddess of Athens, Athena, and is the largest and most impressive temple of all Greece. We will continue the tour through the Acropolis pedestrian zone to the new Acropolis Museum. Here we will enjoy a full 1.5-hour in the museum, where you can admire the statues, sculptures and marbles of the Parthenon. A brief stop will be made at a local souvenir shop before the tour concludes with your return to the ship. Please note: the tour includes a long walk on uneven ground and is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

SCENIC ROUTE
VIEWS OF ATHENS BY FUNICULAR AND PLAKA - PIR16

Duration
 4 h

Spend a few hours on dry land to experience Athens from two very different perspectives: from the lofty heights of Mount Lycabettus, the tallest peak in the vicinity, and then at ground level in the city's sprawling historical quarter, the so-called Plaka District. Your Athenian adventure begins with a round-up of the city's main sights by coach, after which you will head out to the foothills of Mount Lycabettus. The Lycabettus Funicular Railway will then be responsible for aiding your ascent up the mountain - a spine-tingling experience in itself. At the top, you will be rewarded with spectacular, 360° views of Athens and the surrounding area. Some free time for you to take photos and enjoy the unique mountain atmosphere is then scheduled before you head back to the city and the Plaka historical quarter. This fully pedestrianized part of town is characterised by a maze of narrow lanes, stunningly beautiful Neoclassical architecture and close proximity to the Acropolis, for which reason it is also called The Neighbourhood of the Gods. You will have plenty of time to spend enjoying these exceptional surroundings at your own pace before your journey begins back to Piraeus and your ship. Please note: depending on where the coach stops, there will be a total of 157/167 steps to negotiate on a terrain that is sometimes flat and sometimes with steps. The total duration of the climbing to the hill is 10/15 minutes. This tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

CULTURE AND HISTORY
DELUXE VISIT TO THE ACROPOLIS AND THE CORINTH CANAL - PIR18

Duration
 7 h

Take some time out to visit two of the most famous places in Greece on a tour devoted to delivering maximum entertainment and insight into the chosen locations: the perfectly proportioned Parthenon and the thoroughly impressive Corinth Canal. After covering the short distance from Piraeus to Athens upper city, you will pass through the Propylaea Gateway to reach the monument that embodies classical Greece: the Parthenon atop the Acropolis. Dating back to 432 B.C., the imposing Parthenon overlooks and affords gorgeous views of the no less beautiful Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and Athens old town. Next up is the colossal structure of the Corinth Canal. Separating the Peloponnesian peninsula from mainland Greece, the narrow canal was carved out of solid rock and completed in 1893, but only after many and varied obstacles had been overcome. After boarding a local boat in the village of Isthmia, prepare to be awe-struck as you cruise down the canal with perpendicular walls rising steeply to either side. Once back on terra firma, you will also have a chance to take some photos from the lofty height of a bridge spanning the canal. Your tour will then draw to a leisurely close with your return drive to Piraeus and your ship. Please note: the tour includes a long walk on uneven ground and is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

AUGMENTED REALITY ACROPOLIS VISIT & ACROPOLIS MUSEUM - PIR23

 **Duration**
7 h



When near Athens, visit the Acropolis – arguably the city's most prominent landmark – but this time with an augmented reality twist. The all-day outing begins with a short coach drive to Athens, the capital of Greece, and the famous location. You'll then have to climb some 150 steps to reach the ancient complex at the top of Acropolis Hill. Once you've been kitted out with a smart device, you'll then get to enjoy an augmented visit and see images of how the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike or the Erechtheion would have looked in their heyday. At the end of your AR visit, you'll continue on foot through the Acropolis pedestrian zone to reach the New Acropolis Museum. Plenty of time will be yours at the museum to see its many exhibits, which include statues, sculptures and marbles from the Parthenon. You'll also be able to visit the gift shop to browse for a souvenir before re-boarding the coach for the journey back to Piraeus. Please note: the tour includes a long walk on uneven ground and is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

Sarande

Thu 18 April 2019

THE ANCIENT RUINS OF BUTRINTI - SAR03



Duration
5 h

Take yourself off the ship and prepare to peel back the layers of time on a visit to the ancient site of Butrint, situated a short narrated coach ride southwards of Saranda. First settled in prehistoric times, Butrint went on to spend eras under Greek, Roman, Byzantine and even Venetian rule, all adding up to a fascinating trip through the history of the city illustrated by ruins left by each successive civilisation. You'll be taken on a guided walk through the site, including a visit to the Acropolis that overlooks the area and the museum, which reopened in 2005 following refurbishment. The site was first excavated by an Italian-led team from 1928 until 1939, then continued after WWII under the Albanian Institute of Archaeology and was ultimately added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1992. This look back in time ends with your return journey to Saranda and your ship. Please note: this tour is considered to be unsuitable for guests using a wheelchair or of limited mobility. Guests may join the group and visit the lower part of the archaeological site.

CITY TOUR

SARANDA CITY TOUR AND BLUE EYE SPRING - SAR09

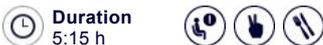


Duration
5 h

Situated on the Albania Riviera near the border to Greece in the south of the country, the town of Saranda is your destination on this appealing half-day outing. The tour begins with a scenic coach ride to the city centre to first visit the Byzantine Church and the Synagogue, both of which date back to the 5th century. You'll then continue through town on foot to reach the museum, where a rich collection of mosaics and archaeological artefacts found in the region await inspection. A photo stop is scheduled on Lëkurës Hill, which affords superb views of Saranda, Vurgu i Ri, Lake Butrint and even Corfu on clear days. A 50-minute drive inland then follows to the so-called Blue Eye Spring, the source of the River Bistricë and one of the most beautiful natural phenomena in Albania. With its midnight blue core surrounded by a corona of paler blue, the spring is indeed worthy of its name! However, the depth of this karstic spring is still unknown - divers got as far down as about 50 m, but were nowhere near the bottom. While at the pool, also look out for local wildlife such as foxes, birds, martens and even reptiles. Once back in Saranda, you'll head back to the pier and your ship. Please note: this tour is considered to be unsuitable for guests using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting places of religious importance.

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

JEEP SAFARI - SAR10



Duration
5:15 h

This amazing Jeep Safari starts with a 15 minute drive to the castle of Lekursi. Lekursi Castle was built in 1537 by the Ottoman Empire in a commanding position above the city of Saranda from where it could protect the whole region around. For modern day visitors this also has the strategic advantage of making it a breathtaking spot for photos, including great views of Corfu and Ksamil islands, and making it a must see on your visit to Saranda. Concerts are held during the summer here and you will also find a restaurant and a bar. Next up, it's a 40 minute drive to the astonishing Blue Eye national park, where after a short five minute walk you will reach the crystal clear Blue Eye spring. No one knows its hidden depths, but 90 cubic meters of water a minute gushes out to feed the Bistricë river that then makes its sparkling way 25 kilometres to the Ionian Sea. Thoroughly enchanted, it's now time to drive back on the Butrinti road, from where you will be able to catch sight of Butrinti Lake, the beautiful seaside, small bays and a part of Butrinti Park, that is one of the richest archaeological sites in the country, with its mixture of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman influences. Now arriving back in Saranda we drive towards Santa Quaranta, one of the most glamorous resorts of the region, where you will have two and a half hours to relax by the beach, lounging on a sunbed and enjoying a snack or a drink from the bar, before driving back to port after a wonderful long day. Please note: this excursion is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties, with back/neck problems, for pregnant women or wheelchair-users.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

A DAY IN CORFU - SAR11



Duration
5 h

A Day in Corfu

Dubrovnik

Fri 19 April 2019

CITY TOUR

CITY TOUR - DUB01



Duration
3 h

Enjoy Dubrovnik in all its historic splendour with this excursion that takes you through the narrow streets and along the ramparts of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk through the city and admire the Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary a masterpiece of stone with an interior adorned with Venetian paintings. The town was given its original name Dubrava, meaning grove of the oak, by the Slavs. You will admire the Rectors Palace, seat of the government and residence of the Prince (Rector) of the Dubrovnik republic. Onofrio de la Cava, an architect from Naples who also built the waterworks and the two public fountains in Dubrovnik, constructed the building in the late Gothic style. Continue with a visit to the Monastery of St. Francis, which boasts a magnificent cloister; the Monastery also houses the oldest pharmacy in Europe, which opened in 1317. At the end of the walking tour, you will have free time to explore the old city at your leisure before returning to the port. Please note: there may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. As this tour includes long periods of walkings, it is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Guests will visit the Dominican Monastery at the place of Rectors Palace for all calls falling until middle June.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

HISTORIC DUBROVNIK & MUSEUMS - DUB05



Duration
3 h

Your tour of historical Dubrovnik begins at the old gates of the city and will take you on a journey back in time, giving you a chance to learn about the history of ancient Dubrava and admire the impressive architecture of Dubrovniks old town, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. After enjoying some breathtaking views of the old town, the nearby island of Lokrum and the Adriatic Sea as you walk on a small part of the city ramparts, you will then head for the Stradun, Dubrovniks main street. Your walking tour into the heart of Dubrovnik will enable you to visit some of the citys key sights, including the Rectors Palace, the Maritime Museum and the Rupe Ethnographic Museum, housed in a now-restored former granary dating back to the late 16th century. At the end of the guided tour, you will opt to stay in town for some free time or take the coach returning to the port. Please note: there may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. This tour is not recommended for guests using a wheelchair or with walking difficulties. Guests will visit the Natural History Museum at the place of Rectors Palace for all calls falling until middle June.

CITY TOUR

DUBROVNIK AND ITS OLD CITY WALLS - DUB09



Duration
3:30 h

Start the tour with a coach transfer to the magnificent historical centre of Dubrovnik, the Pearl of the Adriatic and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the famous city walls, a series of towers, bastions and fortifications surrounding the entire historical centre and port. Built in the 12th century to defend the city against invaders and then modified in the 13th and 14th centuries, Dubrovniks 1,940m of walls are considered some of the most beautiful and best preserved in Europe. You will have some free time to do as you please following a short guided visit to other parts of the historical centre. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Comfortable shoes, hats and sun protection (for summer calls) recommended. You may find some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

CROATIAN COUNTRYSIDE, WINE TASTING & BIKE RIDE - DUB11



Duration
4:30 h

Leave the port and reach the hill overlooking Dubrovniks old town where a first short stop is scheduled for picture-taking. Next, board your coach and enjoy a 1-hour drive to Gornja Dubravka where you will pick up your bike and start your exploration of the Croatian countryside through the Konavle region with its cypress trees, vineyards, olive groves and traditional villages. Throughout centuries, Konavle has managed to maintain a traditional country-type of living along with many chapels, cloisters, and summer houses that once hosted the Dubrovnik's high-class lairds. Brajkovic venue, located in Zastolje, on a knoll surrounded by cypress and vineyards, will be the perfect location for a wine session including cheese, Dalmatian dry-cured ham and local wine. Suitably fortified, you will return to Dubrovnik by coach and to your cruise ship. Please note: please wear comfortable trousers, a short-sleeved shirt, sports shoes and sunscreen (for summer calls), and take water with you. The itinerary may change to suit the group, weather or similar. Adjustable tour bikes of different sizes will be provided. The bike route is downhill and uphill on proper roads. Minimum age to take part to this tour: 7 years old.

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE
EXPLORING DUBROVNIK BY SEGWAY - DUB16

Duration
 2:30 h

Take a break from the ship for a few hours and give yourself a chance to explore the fabulous walled city of Dubrovnik – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – by Segway. As one of the greenest and most enjoyable ways to get up close and personal with a city, your Segway tour of this gorgeous Croatian resort promises plenty of fun in the sun while seeing the sights. Your outing begins with a short drive to a leading hotel for a thorough safety briefing on how to ride your Segway, after which you can relax, glide and savour city views, parks and beaches. Led by your guide, you will effortlessly climb a hill for the wonderful views of the old city walls from above, and then make your way down to the old city. This is where you will leave your Segway and continue on foot during some free time that will then be at your disposal. Return to the port. Please note: there may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. Guests must sign a waiver before taking part in the tour. Children must be at least 15 years of age to take part in the tour. The tour is unsuitable for pregnant women, for guests weighing less than 45 kg or more than 118 kg and for guests with mobility problems. This tour is subject to weather conditions.

SOMETHING SPECIAL
DELUXE VISIT TO DUBROVNIK: CITY WALLS & CABLE CAR - DUB18

Duration
 4 h

Rising up behind the beautiful walled city of Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979, is Sr?j Mountain, your first stop on this tour of extraordinary views and mediaeval fortifications. A cable car ride – an experience in itself – will take you to the top, where you can then look forward to a stunning panorama of Dubrovnik, the archipelago, the town of Cavtat and, on clear days, even Italy in the distance. To add to your enjoyment of these breathtaking vistas, a drink will be served in a mountainside bar. Leaving Sr?j behind and taking the cable car back down, you will move on to Dubrovnik's world-famous city walls. Totalling nearly 2 km in length, an unbroken chain of fortresses, towers and bastions securely girdles the city, preventing the ingress of enemies in times gone by. Starting at the main street of the old town, you will first go on an orientation walk before some time will be yours to spend as you please in this special place. A shuttle bus ride back to your ship then ends your tour. Please note: at the discretion of the cable car operators, the service may be suspended entirely in the event of strong winds for reasons of safety. Guests are recommended to wear light clothing, sunscreen and a hat as well as to take a bottle of water during the summer months. There may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship and at the cable. This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair; long periods of walking involved.

GAME OF THRONES ON LOCATION - DUB19

Duration
 3 h

Undoubtedly one of the jewels in Croatia's crown, Dubrovnik's beautiful old town is so atmospheric that the makers of the hugely successful Game of Thrones TV franchise made it as the setting of the capital of the fictional continent of Westeros. A coach will first transfer you to Dubrovnik's old town – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – from where your expert guide will then take you to see various places where memorable scenes were shot, including Fort Lovrijenac – the site of the Battle of Blackwater. Do remember to take your camera along to direct your own documentary as you make your way around this live set. Your guide provides you with information on the fictional Game of Thrones world and support the facts with A4-sized photos of the respective scenes. To wrap up, you'll visit a shop where a reproduction of the throne itself provides a great photo opportunity. After that, you'll still have some time to explore on your own before you re-join your coach for the unguided return transfer to the ship. Please note: as the tour involves longer periods of walking and a need to negotiate stairs, it is considered to be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility or using a wheelchair. Guests are advised that there may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. Guests must be at least 16 years of age to take part.

THE TRADITIONS OF KONAVLE VALLEY & DUBROVNIK - DUB21

Duration
 4:30 h

Scenic bus drive to the Konavle Valley around Dubrovnik where you can enjoy great views of the Adriatic Sea and the beauty of the traditional villages. We will visit the village house of the Novakovic family that houses a small regional ethnological collection. From here, you can set off for short walks in the surrounding countryside, pet the animals or pick fruits directly from the orchard – a wonderful day of relaxation and a chance to immerse yourself in the simple pleasures of nature. Afterwards we will enjoy a live performance of local Dalmatian music and song, accompanied by folk dancers in traditional Dalmatian dress. We will sample the local liqueurs and wine before enjoying a typical meal of smoked ham, homemade bread and cheese. Return to Dubrovnik where a short guided walking tour of the old town will conclude the excursion. Please note: you may find some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. Guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.

 *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.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

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	Easy May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing	
No guide available		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.
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