



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you



Cruise : **NORTHERN EUROPE**

**Denmark, Finland, Russian Federation, Estonia, Germany**

Cruise Ship: **MSC MERAVIGLIA**

Departing from: **Copenhagen, Denmark**

Itineraries: **Helsinki, St Petersburg, Tallin, Kiel**

Departure Date: **23/06/2019**

Duration: **8 Days, 7 Nights**

## Helsinki

Tue 25 June 2019

### CITY TOUR

#### INTRODUCTION TO HELSINKI - HSK01

**Duration**  
3 h



Leave the ship and get set to explore Helsinki also known as the White City of the North due to the pale local granite of which numerous buildings are made and enjoy some of its many delights. This tour around town will take you past the open-air marketplace at Market Square, then on to Senate Square in the oldest part of central Helsinki. Check out the views of Helsinki Cathedral in the background and the monument dedicated to the Russian Alexander II, who was known in Finland as the good czar, before moving on to Mannerheim Street, Helsinki's main drag. You will also get to see the parliament buildings, the early 20th-century national museum and the super-modern Finlandia Hall concert venue before you return to the port and your ship. Please note: this tour includes walking on cobbled streets so we recommend wearing comfortable shoes. 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.

### SCENIC ROUTE

#### SAVIJÄRVI MANOR HOUSE & HELSINKI PANORAMA - HSK03

**Duration**  
4 h



Treat yourself to a taste of rural life and a chance to see the main sights of Helsinki on a half-day tour dedicated to presenting some of the best Finland has to offer. Situated only a short drive to the east of Helsinki in the middle of the unspoiled countryside, the Savijärvi Manor House will transport you back to the time of its construction in the late 19th century. Soak up the calming ambience, see how life was lived many moons ago and savour a refreshing cup of coffee or tea. Leaving the tranquillity of Savijärvi behind, your next destination will then be Helsinki itself. Look forward to a panoramic city round-up that includes such iconic landmarks as Mannerheim Street, Helsinki's main thoroughfare, the parliament buildings and the main open-air marketplace at the aptly named Market Square. A short stop will be made at Senate Square in the centre of Helsinki's oldest quarter for you to enjoy views of Helsinki Cathedral in the background and of the popular monument to the Russian czar, Alexander II. Your outing then ends with your return to the pier and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

#### HELSINKI BY BOAT - HSK04

**Duration**  
2:30 h



Considering some 73% of the total surface area covered by the Finnish capital is water interspersed with countless larger and smaller islands it seems fair to say Helsinki is a rather watery city. In addition, this relaxing outing gives you a chance to board a pleasure boat, cruise through the archipelago and simply enjoy all the beautiful views. The route taken around Helsinki's urban islands will take you past amazing waterfront saunas and opulent villas amid stunning natural beauty, all accompanied by a refreshing cup of coffee and an entertaining narrative on Helsinki's history provided by your friendly guide. Once your pleasure cruise has ended, a stop will be made at an open-air market for a chance to stroll through the colourful stalls. Your return to the ship then ends your tour. 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.

**ACTIVE & ADVENTURE**
**HALTIA NATURE CENTRE & HIKING - HSK09**


Fans of the great outdoors will be in their element on this half-day immersion in Finland's majestic natural beauty, with a 45-minute coach drive first taking you to the Finnish Nature Centre Haltia, housed in an eco-friendly building that is heated and cooled using solar power and geo-energy. This innovative and entirely wood-built facility showcases all of Finland's nature-given bounty under one roof in a set of imaginative displays and exhibitions. After the visit, the tour moves on to the Nuukio National Park, where you'll then hike along the easy Maahisenkierros trail in small groups to reach a particularly scenic vantage point. Your hiking guides will provide information on the region as you go, while the viewpoint at the end will reward you with excellent vistas of the national park and Lake Pitkajärvi. You'll also have a break here along with coffee prepared on an open fire, Finnish rolls and sausages hot off the grill – a welcome treat after all the fresh air and exercise. The coach will then return you to the port and your ship. Please note: the hiking trail to the vantage point is on easy, relatively even terrain; sneakers are suitable footwear for this hike. This tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

**SOMETHING SPECIAL**
**WINTER WONDERLAND EXPERIENCE & HELSINKI - HSK12**


Whatever the season, this half-day tour gives you a chance to visit the amazing, year-round Winter Wonderland Experience in the middle of the Finnish capital city. Only a short coach ride after leaving the ship will see you reach the only igloo hotel to be open throughout the year, complete with a huge ice bar and opportunities for husky sledging, tandem skiing and tobogganing. On arrival, you will be kitted out with thermal over-clothes, after which you will move on to the hotels igloos, have a drink served in a glass made of ice and view the frosty decorations. However, you will also get to have a go at tobogganing, sledging and tandem skiing, to meet the friendly huskies and enjoy a short dog-powered sledge ride. There'll be time for you to look for a Lappish souvenir before you move on to a sightseeing drive around Helsinki. Enjoy a photo stop at Senate Square before returning to the ship. Please note: the visit to Winter Wonderland includes walking on uneven and snowy ground. This tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

**NATURAL WONDERS**
**REINDEER FEEDING & HELSINKI PANORAMIC - HSK16**


Reindeer feeding & Helsinki panoramic

**SOMETHING SPECIAL**
**HELSINKI BY 4D FLY & FINNISH CHOCOLATE EXPERIENCE - HSK17**


If you visit Helsinki, the ultimate 4D flying experience is something you cannot miss! Your half-day outing in Helsinki begins with a coach drive to the Market Square and the theatre located nearby to live this unforgettable 10-minute 4D movie flight over the most beautiful landmarks and historical places of Helsinki. Next, the coach tour continues to the neo-classical Senate Square, surrounded by public buildings built in the old center in the mid-19th century. After a photo stop at the Senate Square, head for the outskirts of Helsinki to reach a Visitor Center of a local chocolate producer, Fazer. Fazer is the best known Finnish chocolate brand. Join to the tour in the Fazer Visitor Center and learn about Fazer as a company, the chocolate making process and about the other products that Fazer is nowadays known of. A tasting of different types of chocolate and sweets that Fazer makes then follows. You will also have time to explore the shop and purchase some sweet gifts to take back home. Before you leave the Visitor Center you'll get a little goodie bag of Fazer specialties for yourself to take with you. Rejoin your coach and take a Panoramic tour back to your ship making a photo stop at the Sibelius Monument on the way. Please note: the tour at Fazer is in English; guests will receive information through headsets. 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.

## ACTIVE &amp; ADVENTURE

**BAT MAT BOAT SAFARI - HSK18** **Duration**  
5 h

On this tour you will have a chance to visit the beautiful island of Emäsalo in Porvoo archipelago and drive a fast Bat Max boat! The tour will begin with a 45-minute bus ride to Emäsalo, an island in Porvoo archipelago. By the islands shore there are two-seated Bat Max boats waiting for you to take you on an unforgettable journey around the beautiful Finnish archipelago. With Finland's 180,000 islands, it has one of the largest archipelagos in the world. As there is no guide to drive the Bat Max boat, you will have a chance to drive the boat yourself! The local and experienced guide will drive the first boat. As a part of this boat safari you will land on a tiny uninhabited island enjoy a light lunch which is served by an open fire place. Legendary stories about the history of this area will be told during the lunch. After the boat safari the bus will take you back to the pier. Please note: water-proofed and walking shoes recommended. Guests must be good swimmers to take part in this tour. Minimum age to participate 12 years in a Bat Max boat with an adult; each Bat Max boat takes 2 people. Age limit to drive the boat is 18 years. Information available only in English. This tour is not suitable for pregnant women, guests with mobility, back/neck problems and for wheelchair users.

## St Petersburg

Wed 26 June 2019

### CITY TOUR

#### CITY TOUR, ST. ISAAC CATHEDRAL & PETRODVORETS - SPT01



**Duration**  
9:30 h

Once you have boarded a modern coach at the pier, the first leg of the outing will take you on a fascinating sightseeing tour of this important Russian town on the River Neva, whose name was changed to Petrograd in 1914, then to Leningrad in 1924 and finally back to St. Petersburg again in 1991. After a whistle-stop look at the city's key attractions, a stop will be made to take photos of the incredible Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, which was built from 1883 to 1907 and is known the world over for its colourful façade and intricately detailed cupolas. You will then continue on to the famous Nevsky Prospekt, St. Petersburg's main avenue, and the 19th-century St. Isaac's Cathedral for an inside visit. The Late Neoclassical building is particularly noted for its superb interior, featuring columns, pilasters, floors and monuments made of multi-coloured granites and marbles. After enjoying a typically Russian lunch, a 1-hour coach ride will take you to Petrodvorets, or Peterhof Palace as it is also known. Considered to be one of the loveliest of the former tsars' summer residences and recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you can look forward to seeing its spacious park, a dazzling array of glittering fountains and manicured gardens. You will also have some time to browse or shop in a souvenir store before you return to the coach for the journey back to St. Petersburg and your ship. Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues; comfortable shoes recommended.

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### CITY TOUR & HERMITAGE - SPT02



**Duration**  
9 h

Located on the Neva River at the head of the Gulf of Finland on the Baltic Sea, Saint Petersburg is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and well worth a visit. To explore the city on a tailor-made and mainly coach-based tour, simply step off the ship and get set for a day of seeing the best that Saint Petersburg has to offer. The route will take you past the impressive University buildings and Senate Square – the venue of the Decembrists' Uprising in 1825 – as well as the imposing Admiralty building before crossing the Holy Trinity Bridge to reach Peter and Paul Fortress, Saint Petersburg's original citadel that was founded by Peter the Great at the beginning of the 18th century. You will have a chance to explore the fascinating complex, after which the tour continues by coach again for a photo stop at the Russian Orthodox Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, one of Saint Petersburg's most recognisable and iconic landmarks. Next, continue to the famous Nevsky Prospekt for lunch in a typical Russian restaurant. A visit to the world-class Hermitage Museum, home to three million major works of art by renowned Italian, Dutch and French artists, will round off your tour before you return to the pier and your ship. Please note: this tour involves walking on uneven ground and presence of steps so it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties. Wheelchair users can take part but they must be aware that there are 3 steps to enter St. Peter and Paul Fortress. 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. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues; comfortable shoes recommended.

#### CITY TOUR & PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS - SPT03



**Duration**  
3:30 h

This all-round city tour is a great opportunity to see all the main sights of St. Petersburg from the comfort of a modern coach, with a first stop at St. Isaac's Square to see and take some photos of St. Isaac's Cathedral, a building of Late Neoclassical architecture. The tour then moves on to the Peter and Paul Fortress, whose foundation stones were laid by Peter the Great himself in 1703 on Zayachy Island in the Neva River. The occasion was to be of momentous importance for this tiny patch of land, which had previously been little more than an unused swamp. From 1706 to 1740, the resplendent building you can see today was then constructed, which is perhaps better known as the Cathedral of the Saints Peter and Paul and is the traditional burial church of members of the dynastic Romanov family. You will then return to the city centre via the wonderful Nevsky Prospekt, the city's generously dimensioned main avenue, after which you will have some time to spend shopping for souvenirs. Your return to the pier and the ship marks the end of this entertaining sightseeing tour. Please note: this excursion always takes place in the morning and can be combined with the half-day afternoon tour codes SPT06 and SPT22. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Wheelchair users can take part but they must be aware that there are 3 steps to enter St. Peter and Paul Fortress. 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. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues.

## CATHERINES PALACE IN PUSHKIN - SPT04



Take a break from your ship and board a coach for a 1-hour drive to the town of Pushkin and Catherines Palace. Considered to be one of the masterpieces of world architecture, the buildings stunning 300-metre Baroque façade is adorned with a profusion of atlante sculptures, columns, pilasters and ornamental framings. You will be guided through the Palace and visit the room for which it is best known: the (faithful reproduction) of the spectacular Amber Room. The gleaming chamber which is decorated with gold-backed amber panels from top to bottom was originally created in the 18th century, then lost during WWII and finally recreated in 2003. It was once considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. Also be sure to pay the gorgeous park and grounds a visit before re-boarding your coach to return to the ship. Please note: this excursion always takes place in the morning and can be combined with the following half-day afternoon tours: SPT06 or SPT07 or SPT22. As the tour involves walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair but if a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach accompanies wheelchair guests, they can take part. Guests using a wheelchair are advised 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. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues. There are 10 steps to enter Catherine Palace (no ramp available) and 40 steps inside the Palace to enter the gala room. The Palace has an elevator.

### SCENIC ROUTE

## PANORAMIC CITY TOUR - SPT06



A visit to the Baltic port of St. Petersburg, often named The Venice of the North, is always an unforgettable experience and this is the ideal excursion for all those wishing to learn more about this amazing city and see the sights, but do so in a short and stress-free amount of time. The outstanding architectural beauty of St. Petersburg is definitely worth capturing for posterity and photo stops will be made at the city's main attractions. Take St. Isaacs Square, for instance, and the co-located St. Isaacs Cathedral, which boasts the third-highest cupola in the world. Or the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, celebrated for its colourful façades and onion-shaped domes. Time to browse and shop for a memento in a souvenir store will also be included before you head back to your ship. Please note: this excursion always takes place in the afternoon and can be combined with the following half-day morning tours: SPT03 or SPT04 or SPT27. All the sites will be visited from outside. Shopping is guided. 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.

### SOMETHING SPECIAL

## CANAL CRUISE & PETER & PAUL FORTRESS - SPT07



Situated at the eastern tip of the Baltic Sea and the River Neva, Saint Petersburg is celebrated the world over for its incredible civic beauty and large historical centre, interwoven with numerous canals. It is in these canals that your tour begins, giving you a chance simply to relax and take in the views of the many lovely old houses and palaces along the river bank. Your next stop is Peter and Paul Fortress, which is located on the small Hare Island in the delta of the River Neva, for an inside viewing of the impressive complex. The 18th-century Peter and Paul Cathedral is topped by a gilded cupola and is also the final resting place of the Romanov dynasty. Please note: this excursion always takes place in the afternoon and can be combined with the following half-day morning tour: SPT04 or SPT27. As this tour involves walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair: There are 3 steps to enter St. Peter and Paul Fortress and 5/10 steps to enter the boat on a narrow passage. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

## ST. PETERSBURGS GEMS: PETRODVORETS & HERMITAGE - SPT13



The tour begins with a drive west to Petrodvorets also known as Peterhof the former summer home of Peter the Great. Built in the early XVIII century by the Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli, Petrodvorets is considered to be the most dazzling of all the Russian tzars summer residence. After visiting the magnificent Palace, we will follow our dedicated guide to the Lower Park where we will admire the beautiful fountains. Set in 300 acres of parkland, the fountains are a key feature of these world-class gardens. After lunch, the day continues with more superlative sights as we visit the famous Hermitage Museum, home to three million works of art by Italian, Dutch and Spanish artists and where we will look around the grand reception rooms of the Russian royalty. Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues.

## GRAND TOUR OF ST. PETERSBURG: CATHERINE PALACE, HERMITAGE & NEVA CRUISE - SPT14



This tour of St. Petersburg actually begins with a visit to Catherine Palace, which is located about a 1-hour drive away in Pushkin and is generally considered to be an architectural masterpiece. You will have time to explore the opulent Palace and especially its famous Amber Room – once hailed as the eighth wonder of the world due to its amber panels backed with gold leaf and mirrors – as well as the generously dimensioned palatial park and grounds. Once back in St. Petersburg, a visit to St. Isaacs Cathedral is next. When it was completed in 1858, it was the largest church in the Russian Empire. After a typically Russian lunch, you will also visit the Hermitage Museum as well as the 18th-century Peter and Paul Fortress. The tour is rounded off by a 1-hour boat cruise down the River Neva, during which Russian sparkling wine will be served. Do take your camera with you to capture the many breathtaking sights of this beautiful Baltic city. Please note: as this tour involves walking on uneven ground it is not suitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues.

## BEST OF ST. PETERSBURG: ST. ISAAC CATHEDRAL, CATHERINE PALACE, HERMITAGE - SPT19



This is certainly a day when you should have your camera at the ready as we will set off for an unforgettable trip around one of the most beautiful cities in the Baltic. Our first stop will be in Pushkin, a town founded in the 18th century as summer residence of the Russian tsars. Here we will visit Catherines Palace, which dates back to 1717 when Catherine I of Russia asked the German architect Braunstein to build a summer palace. Over the years, the plans for the Palace were expanded and then, founded to be outdated by Empress Elizabeth, were replaced by a much grander edifice in a lavish Rococo style. We will spend time visiting this sumptuous residence, the Amber room and its glorious park. More sights are in store in St. Petersburg as we visit St. Isaacs Cathedral, which, when it was built in 1818-1858 was the largest church in the Russian Empire. Break from sightseeing with a delicious typical Russian lunch. Art lovers will be in their element during the afternoon, which includes nearly 1,5 hours in some of the halls of the world-class Hermitage Museum, home to three million works of art. Round off the day with a little time for shopping before returning to the ship. Please note: as it involves walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues; comfortable shoes recommended.

### SCENIC ROUTE

## CATHERINES PALACE, NEVA RIVER CRUISE & CITY SIGHTSEEING - SPT20



A visit to St. Petersburg is always an unforgettable experience and this is certainly a day when you should have your camera at the ready. Leave the port and drive to Pushkin for an interesting visit to Catherines Palace, one of the masterpieces of world architecture. The stunning 300 metres long baroque façade is adorned with a profusion of Atlantes sculptures, columns, pilasters and ornamental framings. Enjoy plenty of time to visit the Palace and marvel at the famous Amber Room which was once considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. Enjoy a short visit to the park and ground before reaching a restaurant for a delicious typical Russian lunch. Your afternoon will begin with a fascinating cruise along Neva River: a good opportunity to take photographs of some of the main tourist sites such as the Spit of the Basil Island and Peter & Paul Fortress as closely as possible. Back on the ground enjoy a bus sightseeing tour around one of the most beautiful cities in the Baltic with views of St. Isaacs Square and of the Spilled Blood Cathedral. A short stop in a souvenir shop will conclude your day out in St. Petersburg. Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. There are 10 steps to enter Catherine Palace (no ramp available) and 40 steps inside the Palace to enter the gala room. The Palace has an elevator. There are 5/10 steps to enter the boat on a narrow passage. Comfortable shoes recommended.

### CITY TOUR

## WALKING TOUR & VISIT TO THE SPILLED BLOOD CATHEDRAL - SPT22



After a short drive to Senate Square and the Bronze Horseman, a much-celebrated monument to the founder of St. Petersburg, Peter the Great, you will continue on foot along the embankment of the River Neva, with sights such as the Academy of Arts and the Twelve Collegia to enjoy. Have your camera ready as you approach Palace Square for snapshots of the magnificent ensemble. Considered to be the city's main square, it presents an elaborate blend of different styles with the 18th-century Baroque Winter Palace on the northern and the building of the former Imperial Army General Staff on the southern side. Back on the coach, the tour then heads for the marvellous Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood with its colourful façade and onion-shaped roof. Continue on foot again to one of the city's key cultural centres, the Square of Arts and its monument to Alexander Pushkin. A short sightseeing tour by coach concludes your tour. Please note: this excursion always takes place in the afternoon and can be combined with the following half-day morning tours: SPT03 or SPT04 or SPT27. This tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting the Spilled Blood Cathedral.



MSC

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CULTURE AND HISTORY

ST. PETERSBURG FOR CONNOISSEUR: SPILLED BLOOD CHURCH & GOLD ROOM - SPT25

Duration 8 h



Spend a day casting a connoisseurs eye over the State Hermitage Museum and enjoying a panoramic city tour, including a visit to the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood. The first photo stop will be at St. Isaacs Square and the domed 19th-century St. Isaacs Cathedral. After then crossing the River Neva to snap photos of the 18th-century Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Petersburgs original citadel, it will be time for the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood. This ornately decorated onion-domed masterpiece, completed in 1907, marks the site where Alexander II was assassinated in 1881 and is almost entirely covered in intricate mosaics of biblical scenes on the inside. After lunch at a local restaurant, the State Hermitage Museum is next. Founded by Catherine the Great in 1764, the museum showcases a vast collection of artefacts and paintings, spread over several superb buildings. You will be visiting the Winter Palace, symbolic of the 1917 Russian Revolution, the Small Hermitage and the Hermitage Gold Room. Prepare to be wowed by countless pieces of gem-studded jewellery, made by some of the worlds best craftsmen, alongside snuffboxes and many other fabulous items before you return to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues. Conservative attire for visiting sites of religious importance.

HERMITAGE & GOLD ROOM - SPT26

Duration 4 h



Lovers of art, history and culture will be in their element on this half-day tour dedicated to visiting the State Hermitage Museum, founded by Catherine the Great in 1764. It then opened to select members of the public in 1852 and finally for everyone after the revolution in 1917. You will enter the beautiful Winter Palace via the grand Jordan staircase, after which youll spend a few hours exploring the 3,000-million-piece collection. The palace tour includes a look at the gorgeously decorated staterooms, the Small Hermitage and the truly resplendent Gold Room, whose walls feature generous quantities of gold leaf. Throughout your visit, youll be laying eyes on some of the worlds finest pieces of antique, gem-studded jewellery, numerous other beautiful items, countless crystal chandeliers as well as fabulous snuffboxes, once all the rage among Russian aristocrats. The Small Hermitage is also home to the famous Peacock Clock, an owl in a cage and a rooster, to mention but a few of its attractions. Your return to the ship then brings the tour to an end. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues. This excursion always takes place in the morning.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

ST. PETERSBURG METRO & KUZNECHNY RYNOK MARKET - SPT27

Duration 4 h



St. Petersburgs metro goes to prove that it really is possible to deliver clean, efficient and affordable public transportation while ensuring the infrastructure is a thing of beauty too. Inaugurated in 1955, the citys metro is the worlds deepest, with some stations located more than 100 m (328 ft.) underground. The oldest of these are opulent in design, featuring materials like polished granite, coloured marble, stainless steel, decorated ceilings, mosaics, bas-reliefs, columns and sculptures, while latterly added stations are sleeker, more modern in design. A drive to one of these underground stations begins your metro exploration, ending at one of the central stations near the Kuznechny Rynok food market. Your guide will lead you through the colourful market and its broad array of fresh produce, some of which you may wish to sample. On leaving the market, a short sightseeing drive around the city forms the final tour highlight before you return to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair or with walking difficulties. This excursion always takes place in the morning and can be combined with the following half-day afternoon tours: SPT06 or SPT07 or SPT22.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

CITY TOUR, SPILLED BLOOD CHURCH & HERMITAGE - SPT32

Duration 8 h



This enjoyable all-day tour delivers a chance to see some of St. Petersburgs best locations and visit two of its most iconic landmarks, the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood and the State Hermitage Museum. A drive around the city begins your outing keep your camera at hand to capture the views and a first photo stop is planned at the Spit of Vasilyevsky Island, a spot that affords splendid views of Peter and Paul Fortress as well as the State Hermitage Museum complex. Next up is a coach transfer to the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, completed in 1907 after 24 years of construction and known around the world for its ornate façade and characteristic Russian onion domes. After some time to look around the site, youll move on for a taste of Russian cuisine over lunch. The afternoon will then be given over to visiting the State Hermitage Museum, home to more than 3 million works of art by Italian, Dutch and Spanish masters. During the 2.5 hours spent at the museum, youll also visit the opulent staterooms of the Winter Palace. Your outing then ends with your return to the ship by coach. Please note: this tour includes considerable amount of walking; all sites have ramps or elevator (Hermitage Museum has ramp at the entrance and 5 more steps). Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Please expect crowded sites and possible queues; comfortable shoes recommended. 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.

## Tallin

Thu 27 June 2019

### TALLIN & OPEN AIR MUSEUM - TAL01



**Duration**  
6 h

Join us on a fun day out of sightseeing by coach and on foot. Begin with a walking tour around Tallinn old town. Starting in the Upper town you can note the impressive Toompea Castle, presently the seat of the Parliament; visit the Russian Orthodox Church of Alexander Nevsky and the Gothic Dome Church. Enjoy magnificent views of the Lower town with its gabled roofs. Descend to the Lower town where you will continue your tour passing by highlights such as the Town hall, the XV century pharmacy, the Great Guild, the Blackheads Brotherhood House and many homes of medieval merchants. After a typical Estonian lunch, enjoy free time for shopping in an Estonian arts and crafts store. Continue to Rocca al Mare, the Open Air Museum for a scenic hike through the forest and to see authentic examples of the local XVIII and XIX century rural architecture. Return to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair as long walking on uneven ground is involved; there are some 12 steps and no ramp at the Orthodox Cathedral. Only 1 drink of choice included in the lunch. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Only cameras without a flash allowed inside Dome Church.

#### CITY TOUR

### TALLINN HIGHLIGHT - TAL02



**Duration**  
3:30 h

Start with a drive through the cultural centre of Tallinn and then along the medieval city wall that encompasses the Old Town. Walk up to the Nevsky Cathedral to admire the panorama of the Kiek in de K ok Tower, Neitsitorn before walking downtown. Enjoy a free time shopping for souvenirs or relaxing in the Town Hall square. Then you will board a bus and drive along the main thoroughfare to the central park of Kadriog. We will stop to take photographs at the Song Festival Grounds and continue with a drive through a beautiful residential area to reach the Pirita Marina which hosts splendid international regattas every year and was the site for the yachting Olympics. External visit of St. Birgits Convent before heading back to the port. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Wheelchair users can take part, as all sites are wheelchair-accessible with the exception of Nevsky Cathedral (about 12 steps). 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

### THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF TALLINN - TAL03



**Duration**  
3:30 h

Leave the port and drive through the cultural centre of Tallinn. Proceed to the old town to admire the skyline of the Cathedral Hill before walking up to the Palace Square to view Toompea Castle, now home to the Estonian Parliament, and visit Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, inaugurated in 1900 and filled with an array of superb religious icons. You can enjoy a panoramic view of Tallinn Lower town from the viewing terrace. Back on the ground, we will board the coaches and drive to the exquisite Kadriog Palace for an interesting visit. Continue to the Song Festival Grounds and on to the Olympic Pirita Marina where splendid international regattas are hosted each year. On your way back to the port, you will pass the famous Estonian mermaid monument, Russalka, and the summer residence of Count Orlov. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. All sites are wheelchair-accessible with the exception of Nevsky Cathedral (about 12 steps) and of the third floor of Kadriog Palace. 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.

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**SOMETHING SPECIAL**
**RETRACING TALLINNS HISTORY: SEAPLANE HARBOUR & CITY SIGHTS - TAL08**

**Duration**  
 4 h

A short coach drive from the port will take you to the Seaplane Harbour, a treasure trove of maritime history made up of the sort of incredible stories that only life can tell. The fascinating museum includes rare examples of Estonian navigational history such as the Lembit submarine. Constructed in 1937, the Lembit sub was the worlds oldest submarine still afloat until 2011. You will also have a chance to see the icebreaker Suur Tõll, which dates back to 1914, and the Maasilinn shipwreck which dates back to the mid-16th century. After another coach transfer to the Upper Town, a walk will take you to Nevsky Cathedral for an internal visit of the late 15th-century Kiek in de Kõk artillery tower. Then its on to the Lower Town on a route that includes highlights such as the town hall, the 15th-century pharmacy and elegant Great Guild building, the Renaissance-style Blackheads Brotherhood House and many former homes of medieval merchants. You will then have some time to explore the St. Catherines Arts and Crafts Centre before you return you to your ship. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. All sites are wheelchair-accessible with the exception of Nevsky Cathedral (about 12 steps). 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.

**CULTURE AND HISTORY**
**THE GOTHIC TREASURES OF TALLINN - TAL14**

**Duration**  
 3 h

The Gothic Treasures of Tallinn

**ACTIVE & ADVENTURE**
**TALLINN MUST-SEES BY BIKE - TALBK1**

**Duration**  
 4 h

Designed to serve up only the best of Tallinns lovely cityscape, this easy guided bike tour will first see you cycling alongside the old city walls to reach the upper part of the historical quarter, Toompea. Apart from being home to the parliament building, the old palace and the Russian-style Nevsky Cathedral, Toompea also commands superb city views from its elevated location. A short stop at the quarters main square will give you a chance to discover some of the citys oldest structures, after which youll leave the confines of the city to ride to the leafy grounds of the 18th-century Kadriorg Palace, built for Catherine I of Russia. Last up, youll pedal past the Tallinn Lauluväljak Song Festival Grounds, venue of a 5-yearly event, and the Soviet war memorial before taking a cycle path back to the ship alongside the Baltic coastline. Please note: the distance covered on this biking tour totals approx. 22 km. Children are allowed to take part in this tour provided their height is 155 cm. A declaration of agreement must be signed by an adult with parental authority for children before authorisation can be given for such guests to take part.

**TALLINN HIGHLIGHTS, THE PEDELEC WAY - TALBK2**

**Duration**  
 4 h

The easy way to bike your way through the Estonian capital of Tallinn is to take a pedelec an electrically assisted bicycle and spare a considerable amount of legwork, while still enjoying some gentle exercise at the same time. Youll first find yourself cycling alongside the old city walls to reach Toompea, the upper part of Tallinns historical core. Enjoy views of the parliament building, the old palace, the Russian-style Nevsky Cathedral and of Tallinn itself as you pedal your way to the quarters main square. A short stop will give you a chance to check out some of the citys oldest buildings, after which youll pedal on to the landscaped park surrounding the 18th-century Kadriorg Palace, built by order of Peter the Great for Catherine I of Russia. Next up, youll ride past the Tallinn Lauluväljak Song Festival Grounds venue of a 5-yearly music festival and the Soviet war memorial while heading for the shade of some local woods en route to the Olympia Terminal. Youll take a cycle path that flanks the Baltic Sea on your way back to the ship. Please note: the distance covered on this biking tour totals approx. 34 km. Children are allowed to take part in this tour provided their height is 155 cm. A declaration of agreement must be signed by an adult with parental authority for children before authorisation can be given for such guests to take part.

## FAMILY FUN

**TALLINN FAMILY CLUB: THE QUEST TO FIND VANA TOOMAS - TALFEC01** **Duration**  
4:30 h

Many moons ago, a young lad who lived near Tallinn was so good at firing a crossbow that it earned him a life-long job as the towns guard. The man was called Vana Toomas and he is remembered in Tallinn to the present day. Your familys mission on this mystery-solving tour will be to take a walk through Tallinns appealing historical quarter while collecting clues that lead to his location. In the company of Vana Toomas as your storyteller and aided by a very useful map, youll travel by coach to Toompea Hill, the location of Tallinns upper old town. Youll then collect clues along the route, which will deliver views of Alexander Nevsky Church, the 9th-century Toompea Castle and the 13th-century St. Marys Cathedral. All of these will provide pointers in the direction of Vana Toomas. Once you have found him, youll then have some time to spend by yourself before the coach returns you to the ship. 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 childrens entertainer who will take the part of the storys 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!

## Kiel

Sat 29 June 2019

### CITY TOUR

#### HAMBURG - KIE15D



**Duration**  
6:30 h

Spend a few hours off the ship and discover the elegant city of Hamburg, Germany's second-largest metropolis. After leaving the port, an enjoyable 1.5-hour coach ride will take you to see the most important sights. As you explore the city and learn more about its past, you will get to see the city hall, visit the impressive St. Michaels Church and amble through the narrow street of the 17th-century Krameramts-gasse, a real journey back in time. Your scenic tour of Hamburg will also take you past the man-made Alster lakes and the Speicherstadt, the old warehouse district, with its picturesque canals. Some free time to have lunch at your leisure (not included in the price of the tour) will be followed by saying goodbye to your city guide and returning to Kiel and your ship. Please note: this tour ends at the port for transit guests and at the airport for guests who are disembarking and booked on flights after 17:00 hours (when the ship is in port at 08.00) and on flights after 19.00 (when the ship is in port at 10.00). The duration of the tour also includes the time for transfer to the airport. To book and prepay this tour before your cruise, please use code KIE15T if you will be in transit in Kiel or code KIE15D if you will be disembarking in Kiel. 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. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Only cameras without a flash allowed inside churches.

 **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.

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### SCENIC ROUTE

#### PANORAMIC KIEL AND SURROUNDINGS - KIE20T



**Duration**  
2 h

This panoramic tour will give you an excellent overview of Kiel, your port of call, as well as the surrounding countryside. Thanks to its advantageous coastal location on the Baltic Sea, the beautiful city of Kiel the capital of the state of Schleswig-Holstein is characterised by a rich maritime and naval tradition that it still maintains to this day. Kiel enjoys an international reputation as the venue of several important sailing events, including the annual Kiel Week the world's biggest sailing competition. In fact, the first-class conditions at sea and meticulous organisation on land have lent Kiel the title of the world's unofficial sailing capital, especially since the city hosted the Olympic sailing competitions in 1936 and 1972. One of these was held in the Kiel suburb of Schilksee, which is naturally on the itinerary. The many little sailing boats and the unique architecture of Schilksee are a living testament to the colourful event. The tour of the city will also take you to see the famous early 20th-century town hall, the majestic Kiel Fjord, an inlet of the Baltic Sea, and the impressive Kiel Canal, which both connects the North and Baltic Seas and is the world's busiest artificial waterway. Your return to the pier and your ship marks the end of this scenic excursion. Please note: this tour is only for guests in transit in the port of Kiel. 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.

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EXCURSIONS

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## CULTURE AND HISTORY

### CASTLES, LAKES & ROSES - KIE22T

 **Duration**  
6:30 h



Leave the port and drive through the beautiful Schleswig-Holstein countryside to reach Ploen and its landmark historic castle set on a hill, overlooking a broad lake. We will embark on a delightful boat ride across five interconnecting lakes to reach Malente. These waterways of this region are a popular tourist destination thanks to their winning combination of crystal clear waters, the medieval villages that line the shores and the huge shady forests that contribute to the magical, fairytale atmosphere. We will continue to Eutin, City of Roses, where you can explore the gardens of Eutin Castle on a guided walk and stroll the narrow streets around the lovely market place during your free time. Return to Kiel. Please note: this tour is only for guests in transit in the port of Kiel. As this tour includes long periods of walking on cobblestone surfaces (approx. 2.5 km) and the passage on a narrow gangway to enter the boat, it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

### MARITIME KIEL FOR DEBARK GUESTS - KIE24D

 **Duration**  
4 h



Maritime Kiel for debark guests

### MARITIME KIEL FOR TRANSIT GUESTS - KIE24T

 **Duration**  
4 h



Maritime Kiel for transit guests

## CITY TOUR

### LUBECK - KIE25T

 **Duration**  
6:30 h



Lubeck



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### KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

### OUR EXCURSIONS CATEGORIES

<b>ACTIVE &amp; ADVENTURE</b>	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.
<b>CITY TOUR</b>	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.
<b>CULTURE AND HISTORY</b>	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.
<b>FAMILY FUN</b>	Take your children on a journey of discovery, with a special programme for kids. The perfect family trip.
<b>NATURAL WONDERS</b>	Immerse yourself in spectacular scenery and discover the fascinating flora and fauna of your destination. Your passport to the wonders of the natural world.
<b>SCENIC ROUTE</b>	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.
<b>SOMETHING SPECIAL</b>	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



**EXCURSIONS**  
Discoveries designed for you