



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you



Cruise : **MSC GRAND VOYAGES**

United Arab Emirates, Oman, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, Croatia, Italy

Cruise Ship: **MSC LIRICA**

Departing from: **Dubai, U. Arab Emirates**

Itineraries: **Dubai, Sir Bani Yas Is, Muscat, Eilat, Aqaba, Suez Canal (transit), Limassol, Piraeus, Katakolon, Kotor, Split**

Departure Date: **15/03/2019**

Duration: **21 Days, 20 Nights**

Dubai

Sat 16 March 2019

CITY TOUR

NEW WONDERS OF DUBAI - DXB01

Duration
4 h



This discovery tour begins with a photo stop at the epitome of modern Dubai, the sumptuous Burj Al Arab Hotel, which is the only 7-star hotel in the world. The tour continues with a drive to the Palm Jumeirah, a magnificent man-made archipelago of islands in the shape of a palm tree where the impressive Atlantis Hotel is located. The next stop on the tour is the beautiful Dubai Marina, projected to become the largest man-made marina in the world. Next on the itinerary is a drive along Sheikh Zayed Road, taking you to the Souk Al Bahar where you will have free time to spend in the bazaar. The souk features over 100 shops in an eclectic retail mix that includes restaurants, cafés and lounges that flank the souks extensive waterfront promenade. Literally meaning The Market of the Sailor, Souk Al Bahar derives its name both from its traditional souk architecture - natural stone corridors, high archways and subdued lighting - as well as its unique seaside location on an island in Lake Burj. Please note: embarking guests can take part in the tour in the afternoon. Guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai will take part in the tour in the morning and can combine it with one of the following excursions if available for your cruise: DXB03,DXB06,DXB18,DXB19,DXB36,DXB37,DXB48. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai, this tour is available in the morning on both days. Wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this 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.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

DINNER IN THE DUNES - DXB03

Duration
6 h



Treat yourself to the thrill of a lifetime on our Desert Dune Adventure. An exciting rollercoaster ride over the golden sand dunes of Arabia awaits you - all from the comfort of a modern four-wheel drive vehicle. Look forward to viewing the beautiful desert scenery at sunset from the top of the highest sand dune and taking stunning photos. The highlight of the tour then comes in the form of a delicious barbecue dinner, accompanied by the lithe movements of a belly dancer - all served up in a wildly romantic and relaxing setting. The entertainment programme also includes a henna artist to show the art of painting hands and feet with intricate henna designs, a popular practice in the region to mark special occasions. In addition, to round off this Bedouin experience you can even have a go at riding a camel. To bring this magical evening to a perfect close, you will re-join your vehicle for your return journey to your ship. Please note: the driver will give information in English only. As this tour involves travelling over rough and bumpy terrain, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems, with neck/back problems, for pregnant women and for children aged less than 4 years. This tour is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai, takes place in the afternoon and can be combined with one of the following tours if available during your cruise: DXB01,DXB09,DXB10,DXB12,DXB14. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai and depending on the time of stay on each day, this tour may be available in the afternoon on both days. The duration of the tour also includes two stops (approx. 30 minutes) to inflate/deflate tires.

CITY TOUR
DUBAI CITY TOUR - DXB06


The Dubai city tour highlights the contrasts between the old and the new in this fast growing and exciting city. The city is popularly known as the City of Merchants due to its long history of trade. A photo stop at the Jumeirah Mosque, a magnificent example of neo-Islamic architecture, is on the list. The tour proceeds to the World Trade Centre, one of the city's leading landmarks and one of the regions earliest skyscrapers. Then, in complete contrast, you will continue to the old Al-Bastakia area of Dubai, a perfect spot to admire the old houses with their characteristic wind towers that once cooled the buildings in the days before air conditioning. The tour also includes a visit to the museum at the eighteenth-century Al Fahidi Fort, a creek crossing in a typical Abra boat and a stop at the aromatic spice market. The tour is rounded off by visiting Dubais huge gold souk, a fabulous precious metals market where you can find exquisite gold jewellery at the most attractive prices in the world. Please note: this tour takes place in the afternoon for all guests. Those who do not embark/disembark in Dubai can combine it with one of the following tours if available during your cruise: DXB01,DXB07,DXB09,DXB10,DXB12,DXB14. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai and depending on the time of stay on each day, this tour may be available in the afternoon on both days. Wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this 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 & ADVENTURE
DUNE DRIVE SAFARI - DXB07


Treat yourself to the thrill of a lifetime on our Desert Dune Adventure. An exciting rollercoaster ride over Arabias golden sand dunes awaits you and all from the comfort of a modern four-wheel drive vehicle. The tour culminates in a visit to a secluded desert camp site, decorated in authentic Arabic style. This tranquil spot is not just perfect for relaxing amid majestic sand dunes, but also for having a camel riding. Please note: the driver will give information in English only. As this tour involves travelling over rough and bumpy terrain, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems, with neck/back problems, for pregnant women and for children aged less than 4 years. Embarking guests can take part in the tour in the afternoon. Guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai will take part in the tour in the morning and can combine it with one of the following excursions if available for your cruise: DXB06,DXB18,DXB19,DXB36,DXB37,DXB48. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai, this tour is available in the morning on both days. The duration of the tour also includes two stops (approx. 30 minutes) to inflate/deflate tires.

NATURAL WONDERS
DOLPHIN TOUCH & AQUAVENTURE WATER PARK - DXB09


If you have ever wanted to make friends with a dolphin at close hand, this is the perfect tour for you. On the way to the aptly named Dolphin Bay, a part of the Atlantis Hotel complex, the tour will also take you through the Palm Jumeirah, a magnificent man-made archipelago of islands. Once at Dolphin Bay, you will be escorted by an expert in aquatic mammals and given a short presentation on the life of a dolphin as well as instruction on how to behave towards these creatures in the water. You will then have an opportunity to personally interact with the dolphins in their lagoon (without swimming). The tour continues with a visit to the adjacent Aquaventure water park, which boasts exciting water slides, refreshing swimming pools and unspoiled beaches. Please note: you will not be permitted to wear sunscreen, tanning oil or jewellery since these can harm the dolphins skin. This activity involves wearing a swimming suit or bathing trunks. Children must be at least 4 years old to participate; a parent or a legal guardian must accompany children under the age of 12. This tour takes places in the morning and is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai. If available during your cruise, you can combine it with one of the following excursions: DXB03,DXB06,DXB18,DXB19,DXB36,DXB37,DXB48. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai, this tour is available in the morning on both days.

SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS & AQUAVENTURE WATER PARK - DXB10


This is an exceptional opportunity for anyone who wants to get up close and personal with dolphins and is capable of swimming in deep waters. On the way to the aptly named Dolphin Bay, a part of the Atlantis Hotel complex, the tour will also take you through the Palm Jumeirah, a magnificent man-made archipelago of islands. Once at Dolphin Bay, a specialized trainer will give you a brief talk on dolphins, after which you will be taken to the water where the dolphins await you to swim and play. The tour continues with a visit to the adjacent Aquaventure water park, which boasts exciting water slides, refreshing swimming pools and unspoiled beaches. Please note: you will not be permitted to wear sunscreen, tanning oil or jewellery since these can harm the dolphins skin. Guests with back and/or neck injuries, walking difficulties as well as wheelchair users and pregnant women cannot participate in the tour. Children must be at least 8 years old to participate; a parent or a legal guardian must accompany children under the age of 12. This tour takes places in the morning and is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai. If available during your cruise, you can combine it with one of the following excursions: DXB03,DXB06,DXB18,DXB19,DXB36,DXB37,DXB48. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai, this tour is available in the morning on both days.



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SCENIC ROUTE

PANORAMA FROM BURJ AL KHALIFA - DXB12

Duration 4 h [Icons: Clock, Wheelchair, Hand]

The tour begins with a photo stop at the iconic Burj Al Arab, the very epitome of modern Dubai and the only 7-star hotel in the world. The itinerary continues with a drive through the Palm Jumeirah, an awe-inspiring man-made archipelago of islands in the shape of a palm tree. This is also where the impressive Atlantis Hotel is situated. After a drive through Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubais most magnificent boulevard, before finally stopping at the incredible Burj Al Khalifa, which holds the current record for the worlds tallest building at a dizzying height of 828 meters. Visit the observation deck at the 124th floor for a fascinating 360 degree view of Dubai. Please note: this tour is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai, takes places in the morning and can be combined with one of the following excursions if available for during your cruise: DXB03,DXB18,DXB36,DXB37,DXB48. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai, this tour is available in the morning on both days. Wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this 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.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

EXCLUSIVE DUBAI BY HYDROPLANE - DXB15

Duration 2 h [Icons: Clock, Wheelchair, Hand, No Alcohol]

Why not add a special touch to your cruise holiday and treat yourself or a loved one to an excursion with a difference? This exceptional tour includes a 45-minute flight in a hydroplane over the city of Dubai. Enjoy a birds-eye view of some of the citys iconic sights such as the Burj Al Arab Hotel, the appropriately shaped Palm Jumeirah, the Atlantis Hotel and the literally sky-scraping Burj Al Khalifa building. Your flight ends at the port. Please note: the pilot will provide information in English only. Children must be at least 4 years old to participate. You will receive a short briefing before take-off. This tour is subject to weather conditions and may have multiple departures on each day. Please contact the Shore Excursions Desk for information about departure timing. Please bring your passport.

SNAPSHOTS OF DUBAI BY HYDROPLANE - DXB16

Duration 45 m [Icons: Clock, Wheelchair, Hand, No Alcohol]

A luxury limousine (minivan) will pick you up at the port for a short transfer to the dock and the hydroplane. The ensuing 20-minute flight is an amazing opportunity to admire the beauty of Dubai from a completely new perspective and take stunning photos. Have your camera at the ready to ensure you dont miss a thing. Please note: the pilot will provide information in English only. Children must be at least 4 years old to participate. You will receive a short briefing before take-off. This tour is subject to weather conditions and may have multiple departures on each day. Please contact the Shore Excursions Desk for information about departure timing. Please bring your passport.

NIGHT SHOPPING & FOUNTAIN SHOW - DXB18

Duration 4 h [Icon: Clock]

As beautiful as Dubai is by day, it turns into a sparkly jewel of a city when the lights come on at night a visual spectacle this outing seeks to deliver. Youll first head down Sheikh Zayed Road, home to skyscrapers such as the Emirates Tower and the Burj Khalifa, the worlds tallest building and home also to the Dubai Mall, the worlds largest shopping centre. Youll be able to spend some time browsing and buying premium brands in this retail temple to your hearts content. The mall also features a variety of other attractions, including an aquarium and underwater zoo (visit not included). Outside, at the foot of the Burj Khalifa which soars to a staggering total height of 829.8 m/2,722 ft. youll be able to watch the Dubai Fountain Show, a lovely display of dancing water jets. The tour then comes to a close with your return to the ship. Please note: whether or not the Dubai Fountain Show takes place is dependent on the prevailing weather conditions on the day of the visit. This tour is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai, takes place at night and can be combined with one of the following tours if available during your cruise: DXB01, DXB07, DXB09, DXB10, DXB12, DXB14. Approx. departure time of the tour: 20.30. Wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.



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DUBAI AT NIGHT FROM THE BURJ AL KHALIFA - DXB19

Duration
3:30 h

This tour lets you see both the breathtaking beauty of Dubai at night and the Burj Al Khalifa in one go. After leaving the port, you will drive along Sheikh Zayed Road, the most famous street in Dubai, to reach the Burj Al Khalifa building, which is currently credited as being the worlds tallest building at a dizzying height of just over 828 meters. The observation deck on the 124th floor will give you a fascinating 360-degree view of Dubai and the citys glittering lights. The tour then continues on to the Dubai Mall, the worlds largest shopping centre. You will have time to explore premium-brand outlets plus various other mall attractions such as an aquarium and an underwater zoo (admission to attractions not included in the price of the excursion). The excursion also includes the opportunity to watch the unique Dubai Fountain show, a fabulous display of water jets gushing out of a pool at the foot of the Burj Al Khalifa. You will then return to the port. Please note: this tour is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai, takes place at night and can be combined with one of the following tours if available during your cruise: DXB01, DXB07, DXB09, DXB10, DXB14. Approx. departure time of the tour: 20.30.

DISCOVER DUBAI & LUNCH AT THE BURJ AL ARAB - DXB20

Duration
8 h

This enjoyable sightseeing tour of Dubai will give you a chance to discover the contrasts between old and new in this fast-growing and vibrant city, which is popularly known as the "City of Merchants" due to its long history of trade. Your tour will take you to the historical Al Bastakiya district of Dubai, a quarter known for its beautiful old houses along with their characteristic wind towers. These structures were designed to cool the buildings in the days before air conditioning. The tour also includes a visit to the Dubai Museum that is located at the 18th-century Al Fahidi Fort, a river crossing in a typical abra boat and a stop at the aromatic spice market. Finally, you will visit the huge gold souk, which offers exquisite gold jewellery at prices lower than anywhere else in the world. The next stop on your tour is the world-renowned seven-star Burj Al Arab. Built on a man-made island, this luxury hotel is not only a truly fitting monument to a new millennium, but also the iconic location where you will stop for lunch. Once refreshed, you will continue on a coach to the incredible Palm Jumeirah, a man-made island in the shape of a palm tree. You will have a chance to take photos of the Atlantis Hotel where a further tour highlight awaits you: a visit to the Lost Chambers Aquarium. As you make your way through this exciting maze of underground passageways and tunnels, you will feel like you are visiting the ruins of the legendary city of Atlantis. Look forward to a stunning display of marine life, including clownfish, piranhas and colourful live corals. Before returning to the port and your vessel, the final stop on the tour is the Dubai Mall, the worlds largest shopping centre, where you will have time to explore scores of premium-brand shops. Please note: this excursion is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. On 2-day calls and depending on the time of stay in port, this tour is available on both days. You can combine this tour with the night tours with codes DXB18 or DXB19. In Burj Al Arab, guests can take pictures only in public areas.

CITY TOUR

EXCLUSIVE DUBAI: BURJ KHALIFA & LUNCH AT BURJ AL ARAB - DXB25

Duration
9 h

This excursion promises to offer you unique sensations and visits to some of the iconic symbols of Dubai. The first visit on this full day tour promises to prove you why Dubai is often referred as to the City of Merchants; a short coach drive to the Dubai Mall, which is situated at the foot of and forms an integral component of the Burj Dubai building, will give you plenty of time for shopping. Next, get ready to enjoy one of the most fabulous views of Dubai, ascending the incredible Burj Al Khalifa, which holds the current record for the worlds tallest building at a dizzying height of 828 meters. Visit the observation deck at the 124th floor for a fascinating 360 degree view of Dubai before returning back to the ground to reach the world-renowned seven-star Burj Al Arab. Built on a man-made island, this luxury hotel is not only a truly fitting monument to a new millennium, but also the iconic location where you will stop for lunch. Once refreshed, you will continue on a coach to the palm-shaped Palm Jumeirah, a man-made island ending at old Al-Bastakia area of Dubai. This is the perfect spot for a short stop to admire the old houses with their characteristic wind towers that once cooled the buildings in the days before air conditioning. Next on the list is the Dubai Museum, located in the late 18th-century Al Fahidi Fort, which aims to illustrate Dubais traditional way of life. After then crossing the river in a typical abra boat and stopping at a spice market, you will get to browse Dubais huge gold souk the best place to buy gold jewellery at rock-bottom prices. Return to the port. Please note: this excursion is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. On 2-day calls and depending on the time of stay in port, this tour is available on both days. You can combine this tour with the night tours with codes DXB18 or DXB19. In Burj Al Arab, guests can take pictures only in public areas.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

SHOPPING TRANSFER - DXB33

Duration
7 h

If shopping is your bag, this daylong celebration of all things retail is perfect for you. Your first port of call will be the wonderful Souk Madinat Jumeirah, a modern recreation of an old-fashioned bazaar with an ambience to match. After some time to browse this vibrant and colourful marketplace, youll move on to two of the worlds largest shopping emporia: the Mall of the Emirates and the Dubai Mall. The former opened its doors in 2005, is currently being extended and not only boasts more than 700 shopping outlets, but also features the first indoor ski resort and snow park in the Middle East. The Dubai Mall is even larger, offering no less than 1,200 high-end stores, an incredible aquarium, an indoor ice rink and much more besides. It is situated at the base of the BurjKhalifa building, which soars to a vertiginous height of just under 830 m (2,725 ft.) and is currently the worlds tallest man-made structure. Youll then return to the ship, complete with any purchases you might have made. Please note: wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made. On 2-day calls and depending on the time of stay in port, this tour is available on both days. You can combine this tour with the night tours with codes DXB18 or DXB19.

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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CULTURE AND HISTORY

WALKING TOUR OF OLD DUBAI - DXB36

Duration 4 h [Icons: Clock, Hand, Bag]

If you like your sightseeing live and direct, theres no better way to explore Dubais old quarter than on this half-day tour, which will take you on an unhurried stroll through the historical streets. To begin with, a coach drive will see you reach the Al Bastakiya district, with a short photo stop scheduled at the saltwater Dubai Creek on the way. The Al Bastakiya area is particularly famed for its old houses with wind towers, a means of passively cooling a building without the need for electrically powered air conditioning. Youll also pass through the textile souk and the heritage area during your visit. The final highlight of the tour will then be a stop at the Dubai Museum, which forms part of the 18th-century Al Fahidi Fort. Youll have about 1 hour to have a look around on your own before the coach ride back to the ship brings the tour to a leisurely close. Please note: as the tour involves 3 hours of walking and standing (in total), it is considered to be unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. This tour is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai, takes place in the afternoon and can be combined with one of the following tours if available during your cruise: DXB01,DXB07,DXB09,DXB10,DXB12,DXB14. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai and depending on the time of stay on each tour, this tour may be available in the afternoon on both days.

SCENIC ROUTE

DUBAI SIGHTSEEING & MIRACLE GARDEN - DXB37

Duration 4 h [Icons: Clock, Hand, Hand]

This tour of two halves combines a leisurely coach-based sightseeing drive around the City of Merchants with a chance to stretch your legs in the citys colourful Miracle Garden. The drive around Dubai begins with a photo stop at the Burj Al Arab, the worlds only 7-star hotel, and then continues on to the Palm Jumeirah, a man-made island in the shape of a palm tree. Watch out for views of the Atlantic Hotel as you head for the Dubai Marina, the largest man-made facility of its kind in the world. After soaking up these city vistas, youll then have a chance to enjoy outdoor time at the Miracle Garden. Among the plethora of different flowers, youll also find plants that are common in more temperate climates, but count as exotics in these parts, which is why petunias and geraniums also form part of the multi-hued line-up. The topiary section even features displays of blooms fashioned to resemble giant hearts, stars, igloos and pyramids. Take your time to enjoy the natural beauty of the park before the coach returns you to the ship. Please note: wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made. This tour is available only for guests who do not embark/disembark in Dubai, takes place in the afternoon and can be combined with one of the following tours if available during your cruise: DXB01 DXB07 DXB09,DXB10,DXB12,DXB14. If the ship stays 2 days in Dubai and depending on the time of stay on each tour, this tour may be available in the afternoon on both days.

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.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

ARABIAN DESERT NIGHT & ABU DHABI CITY TOUR - DXB38

Duration 21:30 h [Icons: Clock, Hand, Hand, Hand]

Delivering not only a visit to the desert at night, but also a look at Abu Dhabi by day, this extended outing begins with a ride in a 4x4 vehicle until you reach the edge of the desert, where a stop is scheduled to adjust tyre pressure. Once fully prepared, youll head through the desert en route to the luxurious Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa, with a break on the way for you to savour the sunset. Located in an Arabic oasis fort, the resort provides an exclusive setting for you to enjoy an evening of authentic Middle Eastern cuisine, live dancing and music as well as a fascinating camel and equestrian show before turning in for the night. After breakfast the next day, youll spend 2.5 hours on a coach to reach Abu Dhabi, the Manhattan of Arabia. The first highlight will be Sheikh Zayed Mosque a masterpiece of Neo-Islamic architecture with a forecourt featuring around 1,000 marble-clad columns, richly embellished with semi-precious stones followed by the splendid Corniche Road and the city itself, where youll be able to take outside photos of the impressive Emirates Palace Hotel. Please note: this tour is available only for guests embarking in Dubai: departure is in the afternoon. Re-embarkation will then follow the next day in Abu Dhabi. Guests are required to take their passport with them. The tour can only be booked and paid for in advance, but not during your cruise. The driver will give basic information in English only during the jeep leg of the tour. As this tour involves travelling over rough and bumpy terrain, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems, with neck/back problems, for pregnant women. Guests are required to wear conservative attire for visiting places of religious importance: loose-fitting clothes and long trousers. Women are required to take a scarf to cover their head. Please use code DXB38 to book double-room accommodation (2 adults or 1 adult and 1 child, in which case price charged for a child is the same as for an adult), which will be charged to both guests. Please use code DXB38SGL to book single-room accommodation and code DXB38CH should you wish to book a 3rd bed for a child.



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ARABIAN DESERT NIGHT & ABU DHABI CITY TOUR - DXB38CH

Duration
215 h

Delivering not only a visit to the desert at night, but also a look at Abu Dhabi by day, this extended outing begins with a ride in a 4x4 vehicle until you reach the edge of the desert, where a stop is scheduled to adjust tyre pressure. Once fully prepared, you'll head through the desert en route to the luxurious Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa, with a break on the way for you to savour the sunset. Located in an Arabic oasis fort, the resort provides an exclusive setting for you to enjoy an evening of authentic Middle Eastern cuisine, live dancing and music as well as a fascinating camel and equestrian show before turning in for the night. After breakfast the next day, you'll spend 2.5 hours on a coach to reach Abu Dhabi, the Manhattan of Arabia. The first highlight will be Sheikh Zayed Mosque a masterpiece of Neo-Islamic architecture with a forecourt featuring around 1,000 marble-clad columns, richly embellished with semi-precious stones followed by the splendid Corniche Road and the city itself, where you'll be able to take outside photos of the impressive Emirates Palace Hotel. Please note: this tour is available only for guests embarking in Dubai: departure is in the afternoon. Re-embarkation will then follow the next day in Abu Dhabi. Guests are required to take their passport with them. The tour can only be booked and paid for in advance, but not during your cruise. The driver will give basic information in English only during the jeep leg of the tour. As this tour involves travelling over rough and bumpy terrain, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems, with neck/back problems, for pregnant women. Guests are required to wear conservative attire for visiting places of religious importance: loose-fitting clothes and long trousers. Women are required to take a scarf to cover their head. Please use code DXB38 to book double-room accommodation (2 adults or 1 adult and 1 child, in which case price charged for a child is the same as for an adult), which will be charged to both guests. Please use code DXB38SGL to book single-room accommodation and code DXB38CH should you wish to book a 3rd bed for a child.

ARABIAN DESERT NIGHT & ABU DHABI CITY TOUR - DXB38SGL

Duration
215 h

Delivering not only a visit to the desert at night, but also a look at Abu Dhabi by day, this extended outing begins with a ride in a 4x4 vehicle until you reach the edge of the desert, where a stop is scheduled to adjust tyre pressure. Once fully prepared, you'll head through the desert en route to the luxurious Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa, with a break on the way for you to savour the sunset. Located in an Arabic oasis fort, the resort provides an exclusive setting for you to enjoy an evening of authentic Middle Eastern cuisine, live dancing and music as well as a fascinating camel and equestrian show before turning in for the night. After breakfast the next day, you'll spend 2.5 hours on a coach to reach Abu Dhabi, the Manhattan of Arabia. The first highlight will be Sheikh Zayed Mosque a masterpiece of Neo-Islamic architecture with a forecourt featuring around 1,000 marble-clad columns, richly embellished with semi-precious stones followed by the splendid Corniche Road and the city itself, where you'll be able to take outside photos of the impressive Emirates Palace Hotel. Please note: this tour is available only for guests embarking in Dubai: departure is in the afternoon. Re-embarkation will then follow the next day in Abu Dhabi. Guests are required to take their passport with them. The tour can only be booked and paid for in advance, but not during your cruise. The driver will give basic information in English only during the jeep leg of the tour. As this tour involves travelling over rough and bumpy terrain, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems, with neck/back problems, for pregnant women. Guests are required to wear conservative attire for visiting places of religious importance: loose-fitting clothes and long trousers. Women are required to take a scarf to cover their head. Please use code DXB38 to book double-room accommodation (2 adults or 1 adult and 1 child, in which case price charged for a child is the same as for an adult), which will be charged to both guests. Please use code DXB38SGL to book single-room accommodation and code DXB38CH should you wish to book a 3rd bed for a child.

IMG WORLDS EXPERIENCE - DXB49

Duration
8 h

This exciting and fun-filled day for the whole family begins with a 45-minute coach drive to Dubai's first mega themed entertainment destination. Divided into four sections, the IMG Worlds of Adventure theme park brings the MARVEL Super Heroes and characters from the Cartoon Network to life, along with the Lost Valley Dinosaur Adventure. The action-packed MARVEL zone has exciting rides and attractions featuring the MARVEL Super Heroes: Spider-Man, Hulk, The Avengers, Iron Man and Thor. In the Cartoon Network zone, rides and attractions featuring The Powerpuff Girls, Lazy Town and Ben 10 are great fun for all ages. At the Lost Valley Dinosaur Adventure zone, you can enjoy a prehistoric experience with adrenaline-filled fun. Its up to you what to visit first, but you can be sure that at the end of the day, you will return to the ship thrilled and satisfied. Please note: this excursion is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. On 2-day calls and depending on the time of stay in port, this tour is available on both days. You can combine this tour with the night tours with codes DXB18 or DXB19.

DUBAI PARK & RESORT - DXB50

Duration
8 h

This fun-packed excursion offers you a day at the Dubai Park and Resort, the largest integrated resort destination in the Middle East, with access to more than 100 incredible indoor and outdoor rides and attractions. Venture through Motiongate Dubai, a Hollywood-inspired theme park that brings the movies to life. Be mesmerised as classics from The Smurfs to Shrek, How to Train a Dragon and The Hunger Games are reimagined as roller coasters, immersive attractions and more. Experience the atmosphere of the magical Bollywood section, packed with action, dance and romance. Or explore Legoland Dubai, the ultimate theme park for families with children ages 2-12, where your imagination will run free with over 40 Lego-themed rides, shows and building experiences for the whole family to enjoy. Whatever you choose to visit, fun is guaranteed. Please note: wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made. On 2-day calls and depending on the time of stay in port, this tour is available on both days. You can combine this tour with the night tours with codes DXB18 or DXB19.

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.

Sir Bani Yas Is

Sun 17 March 2019

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

JEEP SAFARI ADVENTURE - SBY05

 **Duration**
1:30 h



After leaving the ship, your first encounter with the island will be a small stretch of beach from where, crossing a bridge with your Land Cruiser, you set off on an adventure outing through the beautiful nature reserve that occupies a little more than half of Sir Bani Yas island. By decree of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, hunting is prohibited on Sir Bani Yas and all development work on the island has been carried out with a view to conserving its fragile ecosystem. The late Sheikh was a man both with a vision and on a mission, namely to provide endangered and other animals both local and foreign with a safe haven to roam free and grow their numbers. Enjoy the tour with some photo stops during the itinerary which concludes at the small stretch of beach where you can opt to stay on the island or return to the ship with full memories of a modern-day Noah's Ark full of wonderful creatures you may otherwise never see in such a natural setting. Please note: the driver will provide some basic information in English; this tour is not available to guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Minimum age to take part in this tour: 4. Sighting of animals cannot be guaranteed all the time. This tour may have multiple departures on each day. Please contact the Shore Excursions Desk for information about departure timing.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

MINI ISLAND TOUR - SBY09

 **Duration**
1:30 h



One of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Al Nahyan's visionary achievements was to turn Sir Bani Yas island into a wildlife sanctuary, where hunting is banned, that offers both endangered and other species of local and foreign origin a home to roam free. Part of this Greening of the Desert programme was also aimed at making the desert environment more hospitable for human habitation. This appealing look at the island intends to showcase the legacy left by Sheikh Zayed, which includes a development policy whose top priority is to promote harmony between nature and culture. Next to an ancient archaeological site, the island provides a safe habitat for numerous free-roaming animals as well as myriad trees and other vegetation. Your sightseeing ride around Sir Bani Yas will include stops at the archaeological site, providing interesting facts on the places visited. Please note: guests will receive audio guides in several languages. This tour is not available to guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Guests are recommended to wear sport shoes high-factor sunscreen. Minimum age to take part in this tour: 4. Sighting of animals cannot be guaranteed all the time; the tour follows a circular itinerary around the island without approaching the reserve too much for safety reasons. This tour may have multiple departures during the day. Please contact the Shore Excursions Desk for information about departure timing.

NATURAL WONDERS

MANGROVE KAYAKING - SBY10

 **Duration**
45 m



Sir Bani Yas claims the title of the largest natural island within the United Arab Emirates, is home to the Arabian Wildlife Park and boasts a landscape that even includes mangrove regions with their typical swampland plant and animal life. This is an enjoyable opportunity to explore the island from the waterside perspective afforded by a kayak. You'll first be briefed on how to handle your either two- or one-person kayak, then you'll be able to paddle away along quiet waterways that will let you appreciate the true beauty of the island. Your enchanting kayak adventure ends with your return to the ship. Please note: kayak instructor will provide only basic information in English only. This tour is not available to guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Guests wishing to book a two-person kayak should book code SBY10 for both participants and the code shall be added on 1 guest only as the price is per kayak; guests wishing to book a one-person kayak should book SBY10SIN. This tour may have multiple departures during the day. Please contact the Shore Excursions Desk for information about departure timing.

MANGROVE KAYAKING - SBY10SIN

 **Duration**
45 m



Sir Bani Yas claims the title of the largest natural island within the United Arab Emirates, is home to the Arabian Wildlife Park and boasts a landscape that even includes mangrove regions with their typical swampland plant and animal life. This is an enjoyable opportunity to explore the island from the waterside perspective afforded by a kayak. You'll first be briefed on how to handle your either two- or one-person kayak, then you'll be able to paddle away along quiet waterways that will let you appreciate the true beauty of the island. Your enchanting kayak adventure ends with your return to the ship. Please note: kayak instructor will provide only basic information in English only. This tour is not available to guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Guests wishing to book a two-person kayak should book code SBY10 for both participants and the code shall be added on 1 guest only as the price is per kayak; guests wishing to book a one-person kayak should book SBY10SIN. This tour may have multiple departures during the day. Please contact the Shore Excursions Desk for information about departure timing.



MSC

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SNORKELLING - SBY11

 Duration
8 h



Teeming with fascinating marine wildlife, the calm waters of Sir Bani Yas Bay are up for exploration on this sweet snorkelling excursion. Once you've geared up, you will have all the time to explore and spot marine wildlife including sea urchins, groupers known as hammours in these parts and other colourful fish. The tour is suitable for the entire family and offers a gentle, yet exhilarating activity that will leave you with marvellous memories of an underwater world. Your return to the ship brings your tour to a close. Please note: the snorkelling instructor will provide only basic information in English. This tour is not available to guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Guests are recommended to wear sport shoes and high-factor sunscreen. Guests must be at least 8 years of age to take part.

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

PADDLEBOARDING - SBY12

 Duration
1 h



It's as close as you'll ever get to actually walking on water, it's great fun and it's a good way to improve core strength and balance: the sport in question is stand-up paddle boarding and you'll be doing it in the calm offshore waters of Sir Bani Yas Island. Once you've got your equipment, you'll be free to paddle around the shoreline enjoying glorious views, the sunshine and the cool sea breeze. This activity outing is suitable for guests of average to good fitness levels and ends with your return to the ship. Please note: the paddle boarding instructor speaks only in English and is not available to guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Guests are recommended to wear sport shoes and high-factor sunscreen. Guests must be at least 8 years of age to take part. This tour may have multiple departures during the day. Please contact the Shore Excursions Desk for information about departure timing.

SEA & SUN

FLOATING MATS - SBY13

 Duration
8 h



Fancy some unfettered me time floating around the calm waters off Sir Bani Yas Island? Then this is the perfect outing for you! Once you've been kitted out with your personal floating mat, you can take to the water and relax to your hearts content. The mat is a simple and safe multi-purpose water toy that you can use both as a floating dock on which to sunbathe or as an aid for teaching or learning water sports. After your time on the water and handing back the mat, the tour wraps up with your return to the ship. Please note: the lifeguard speaks only in English; this tour is not available to guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Guests are recommended to wear high-factor sunscreen. Guests must be at least 8 years of age to take part.

SHEIKH BEACH BEDS - SBY14

 Duration
8 h



Make like an oriental monarch and treat yourself to a day of royal treatment on a private, two-person Sheikh Bed, the ideal place to bask in the sun. Your all-day outing begins with a priority transfer to the shores of Sir Bani Yas Island, where your personal Sheikh Bed will then be ready and waiting for you to occupy. You'll find it comes complete with bottled water, a selection of fresh fruit and crisps to nibble, all to ensure you can simply stretch out and savour the splendid surroundings. And best of all, you can take your time doing it since the Sheikh Bed will be at your disposal for the entire day. Whenever you're ready to leave, the tender transfer to the ship will bring your day of beachy goodness to a perfect close. Please note: guests will have use of the Sheikh Bed with space for up to 2 people for the entire day. The listed price is per Sheikh Bed (not per person); only one person needs to book, with tour payment chargeable to one account only. The price cannot be charged to multiple accounts. The names of other guest sharing the Sheikh bed with the paying guest must be registered at the Excursions Desk on board the ship following embarkation. Guests with limited mobility will not be able to access the water from the Sheikh Bed.

Muscat

Tue 19 March 2019

SCENIC ROUTE

PANORAMIC TOUR OF MUSCAT & NAKHL - MCT01



This panoramic tour begins with a visit to the Grand Mosque, which was built over a period of 6 years from 1995 to 2001. The Mosque is surrounded by 5 minarets, each of which symbolizes the five holy vows taken by every devout Muslim to reinforce his faith in the Almighty. From the Mosque, the tour continues on to the Fort at Nakhl, which stands proudly on the top of a hillock as one of the highest forts in Oman. You then continue on to the Al Thowara Oasis, the source of the natural springs. After lunch return to Muscat by afternoon time and you will have a chance to see from outside Al Alam Palace, the Sultans Palace, which is flanked by Forts Mirani and Jalali, two keeps that were built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Before going back to the ship you will stop in the Muttrah souk a traditional Omani market. The souk offers a wide range of goods, especially typical Omani souvenirs. Please note: guides for languages other than English are limited. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. Conservative attire recommended for visiting places of religious importance: loose-fitting clothes and long trousers. Ladies will require a headscarf to cover their head. If the call falls on a day of religious celebrations, the visit to the mosque will be around the exterior only. Guests are requested to take off their shoes to enter the Mosque and not to touch the Holy Quran (Holy Book) or any other architectural features inside the mosque. Children under the age of 10 not allowed entering the Grand Mosque. This tour is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair; there are steps inside Nakhl Fort.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

FASCINATING FORTS: NIZWA AND JABRIN CASTLE - MCT03



This fascinating tour will take you on a 2-hour drive through the beautiful interior of Oman to the town of Nizwa, which once was the Omani capital during medieval times. The first stop is Nizwa Fort, one of Omans most impressive round-tower forts that was built in the 17th century. Constructed on a solid base of rock, the huge tower was designed to withstand the vibrations of 24 cannons. From the top, visitors can enjoy a superb panoramic view of Nizwa and the surrounding plains a sure delight for all avid photographers. From here, the tour proceeds to Jabrin Castle (45 km from Nizwa), the finest of Omans fortifications and built in the late 17th century. The castle later became a seat of Omani education and learning. The castle features beautifully painted ceilings and intricate wood carvings. On the way back to Nizwa, the tour also includes a photo stop at Bahla Fort, the oldest and first Omani fort to be built in the Islamic style. After lunch at Falaj Daris Hotel in Nizwa, you return to the ship. Please note: guides for languages other than English are limited. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair: there are steps inside Nizwa Fort and Jabrin Castle. Light comfortable clothing and flat shoes recommended.

MYSTICAL MUSCAT - MCT05



This tour of Omans capital city, Muscat, begins with a visit to the Grand Mosque, which was built over a period of 6 years from 1995 to 2001. The Mosque is surrounded by 5 minarets, each of which symbolizes the five holy vows taken by every devout Muslim to reinforce his faith in the Almighty. From the Mosque, the tour continues to the old part of Muscat city, the Muttrah Souk. As a traditional Omani market, the souk offers a wide range of goods, especially typical Omani souvenirs. Next on the itinerary is a stop at the Bait Al Zubair Museum, a small townhouse that has been converted to display archaeological remains found at the site as well as Omani traditions such as national dress and jewellery. The tour will also include a chance to see from outside Al Alam Palace, the Sultans Palace, which is flanked by Forts Mirani and Jalali, two keeps that were built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Please note: Visitors are requested not to touch the Holy Quran (Holy Book) or any other architectural features inside the mosque. Children under the age of 10 not allowed entering the Grand Mosque. Guests are advised that conservative attire is appropriate for visiting places of religious importance: loose-fitting clothes, long trousers and no transparent garments. This tour is unsuitable for guests using a wheelchair; there are steps inside the Souq and at the Mosque. Guests will have an external view of the Mosque on 19.04.2019.

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

JEEP ADVENTURE TO WADI ARBAYEEN - MCT11



Join us on a tour of many contrasts that will allow you to experience the different landscapes of Muscat area. Board a jeep and leave the port to reach the fishing village of Quriyat through the stark mountain terrain. After a short photo stop, continue along the picturesque waterfront on an adventurous route cutting through the mountains. At the end of the drive, Wadi Arbayeen awaits you with its deep pools of water set among the date palms. Enjoy a swim with picnic lunch here. Drive back via Wadi Dayqah for photo stop of dam before returning back to your ship. Please note: please wear comfortable walking shoes. Guests must be in good physical health. This tour is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems, with back/neck problems and for pregnant women. This tour involves a bumpy, five-hour ride in a jeep. The driver will provide some basic information in English. This activity possibly involves wearing a swimming suit or bathing trunks. Children must be at least 4 years old to participate. If you wish to swim in Wadi Arbayeen, keeping in view of local culture, guests are advised not to wear exposed swimwear. Ladies must wear one-piece swim suit with boxer shorts on it and men must wear boxer short while swimming.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

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SEA & SUN

BEACH RELAXATION AT GRAND HYATT HOTEL - MCT12

Duration 6 h [Icons: wheelchair, hand, fork, glass, swimmer]

Prepare to spend the day soaking up the sun and enjoying the warm waters of the Gulf of Oman at Muscats 5-star Grand Hyatt Hotel, only a 30-minute coach ride from the port. On arrival at the luxury resort, you'll be served a welcoming drink, after which you can choose where and how to spend your time. Sun loungers are available poolside, the perfect spot to get comfortable and relax. But there's also a nearby public beach where you can swim, stroll or explore the surroundings should the desire take you. Your time at the luxury resort also includes a delicious buffet lunch, served at the hotel's elegant Mokha Café restaurant. The return drive to your ship finally brings the excursion to a close. Please note: 1 sunbed/pax & sun umbrella on sharing basis included. This tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair. English assistant only. Drinks are not included; no beachwear during lunch. If you wish to swim on the public beach, keeping in view of local culture, guests are advised not to wear exposed swimwear. Ladies must wear one-piece swim suit with boxer shorts on it and men must wear boxer short while swimming.

BEACH FUN AT GRAND HYATT HOTEL - MCT13

Duration 4 h [Icons: wheelchair, hand, glass, swimmer]

If sun, sea and sand in a luxury 5-star setting sound like a plan, join this tour and first enjoy a 30-minute coach ride to reach Muscats Grand Hyatt Hotel. You'll be met with a welcoming drink, after which the rest of your half-day outing is yours to savour whichever way you prefer. Sun loungers are simply made for soaking up the rays, the pool an open invitation to jump in and the nearby public beach just the place to get your fill of sand and sea. At the appointed time, the coach will be waiting to return you to the port and your ship. Please note: 1 sunbed/pax & sun umbrella on sharing basis included. This tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair. English assistant only. If you wish to swim on the public beach, keeping in view of local culture, guests are advised not to wear exposed swimwear. Ladies must wear one-piece swim suit with boxer shorts on it and men must wear boxer short while swimming.

SCENIC ROUTE

MUSCAT SIGHTSEEING - MCT15

Duration 4 h [Icons: wheelchair, hand, glass, swimmer]

Treat yourself to half a day of exploring Muscat, the capital of Oman, on a tour that includes numerous photo opportunities and begins with a coach ride to Muscat's old quarter for an external look at Al Alam Palace, the ceremonial residence of Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Busaidi. The palace is flanked by two Portuguese-built forts, of which you'll also have a chance to take photos. The tour then moves on to the Muttrah district and its appealing souk, one of the oldest in Oman with a history dating back around 200 years. A huge array of products can be found at the souk from household goods, apparel and shoes to frankincense, perfumed oils, fresh jasmine, various spices and much more. Next up is a drive through Muscat's newer areas for a photo stop at the very lovely Royal Opera House, a sign of the importance attached to culture by the Sultan. The final stop on the tour will then be at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, the country's largest and most beautiful. The tour draws to a close with your return to the ship. Please note: the number of guides for languages other than English is limited. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. All visits are external only. Wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

MUSCAT CULTURAL TOUR - MCT16

Duration 5 h [Icons: wheelchair, hand, camera, bag]

Aiming to acquaint you with Oman's rich cultural heritage, this half-day tour begins in Muscat's upscale Shatti Al-Qurm district, home to the sublimely beautiful Royal Opera House Muscat. As a leading venue for musical arts, the Opera House seeks to inspire audiences and nurture creativity with innovative programming, both regional and global. The contemporary Omani architecture of the Opera House reflects the vision of Sultan Qaboos, at whose order it was built. Next up is the Amouage Factory & Visitors Centre, a creator of luxury perfumes founded in 1983, followed by a visit to the Bait Adam Museum. Housed on the ground floor of a private home, the museum showcases a unique collection of currency, paintings, photos and firearms, while also providing a rare opportunity to chat to the museum's owner. You'll be welcomed with Arabic coffee and sweet dates, after which you'll be introduced to Omani lifestyle from past to present. Then you'll move on to Muttrah Souq, a colourful old market selling a wide array of goods, followed by a photo stop at Al Alam Palace, the ceremonial residence of Sultan Qaboos, and its protective Forts of al-Mirani and al-Jalali. Please note: the number of guides for languages other than English is limited. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. Wheelchair users must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach; wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Wheelchair users wishing to take part in this 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.

Eilat

Mon 25 March 2019

SEA & SUN

THE DEAD SEA DE-STRESSING TOUR - ETH03



Leave the port and enjoy a 3-hour coach drive along the Arava Valley to the Dead Sea. This de-stressing tour of the Dead Sea, which was formed more than two million years ago in a hollow 412 metres below sea level, will give you an opportunity to experience the deeply relaxing and therapeutic effect of floating in its high-saline waters. The Dead Sea is the lowest place on earth and the only place in the world where water is heavier than your body; water has 35% salt and mineral and that's what makes this place the best place in the world for skin problems. You may also like to experience the beneficial effects of a clay-mud bath, anecdotally alleged to revitalize the system due to its high concentrations of minerals such as silicates and carbonates. Your Dead Sea tour is rounded off by a delicious buffet lunch and time to go shopping. Please note: the salt concentration of the Dead Sea water can cause swimwear colors to fade. We recommend a maximum time of 20 minutes for bathing in the Dead Sea and for direct exposure to the sun. The tour is unsuitable for guests who suffer from low blood pressure or heart problems. Children aged less than 16 years old cannot bathe in the pools inside the resort.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

DRIVE AND FLY TO JERUSALEM - ETH04



This unforgettable tour to Jerusalem begins with an approx. 4-hour coach drive north along Arava valley and the Dead Sea, the lowest place on Earth, with some comfort stops on the way. You will reach Jerusalem, your first introduction to the Holy City will be at the Mount of Olives (or Mount Scopus) for a stop to catch superb views of the city in this unique place. Before starting your sightseeing tour, you will stop for a reviving lunch in a leading hotel and recover strength. Next, Jerusalem is all yours to be explored on an extensive tour taking you to Zion Gate, first, and then, on a pleasant walk along a section of the Via Dolorosa. Further highlights of your excursion will include the Last Supper Church, the Armenian and Jewish Quarters, the Western Wall and to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (without entering the tomb). After soaking up Jerusalem's unique atmosphere, you will board a coach for an hour drive to Tel Aviv to catch a flight to Eilat. After 1 hour flight, you will land in Eilat airport and will be transferred to the port and your cruise ship. Please note: comfortable shoes, a jacket and clothing suitable for the places of worship are recommended (please cover shoulders and knees). Expect crowded sites. The estimated time for airport procedure and the flight is approx. 2 hours. This tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair as 2.5-hour walking on uneven ground with some steps is involved. Drinks are not included in lunch; only water. As this tour involves long coach transfers, one or two comfort stops may be foreseen.

MASSADA & THE DEAD SEA - ETH05



If you are in need of relaxation and revival, you will not want to miss this great day out in the historic fortress of Massada with the chance to bathe in the relaxing mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea. A coach drive will take you to Massada, heading towards one of Israel's historic spots where scenes of battle, power and revolt played out with tragic results. Herod the Great had a fortress and a palace built on the Massada Plateau between 37 and 31 BC as a personal refuge in case of revolt. The plateau, situated 442 metres above the Dead Sea, was also the last point of resistance by the Jewish Zealots against the Romans, where 960 Zealots committed mass suicide by in 73 BC rather than surrender to the Romans. It is partly for these reasons that Massada is the most visited site in Israel after Jerusalem. As Massada is located high on this rocky plain we will need to ascend the mountain via cable car and once at the top, we will visit one of the oldest synagogues in the world. From these lofty heights, we will descend to the lowest point on earth - the Dead Sea, located 400 metres below sea level. Because of the high salt content of the water, the Dead Sea is undrinkable and cannot support life; hence its name. However, the salts have rich health benefits, therapeutic qualities, and the very high levels of saline help bathers to float! Lunch will be in a local restaurant before returning to the port. Please note: guests have to walk 1 km on uneven, cobblestone terrain with some steps. Comfortable shoes, towels, swimsuit and sun protection recommended. The salt concentration of the Dead Sea water can cause swimwear colors to fade. We recommend a maximum time of 20 minutes for bathing in the Dead Sea and for direct exposure to the sun. The tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties, for those who use a wheelchair or suffer from low blood pressure or heart problems. Children aged less than 16 years old cannot bathe in the pools inside the resort.

JERUSALEM - ETH06



Enjoy a day out to one of the most inspiring cities in the world and renowned for its historical significance, spiritual symbolism and visual splendour. Leave the port for a 4/4.5-hour coach drive along the Arava Valley to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and the biblical land of Lot and his family, on the way to Qomaran. A stop will be in Qomaran before continuing to Jerusalem and for a view at Mount of Olives. Your guide will give you plenty of information about the site before reaching to a leading hotel for a lunch break. In the afternoon your excursion will continue to Kidron Valley to reach Zion Gate. Our tour of Jerusalem will include the visit of the Last Supper Church, a visit to the Western Wall and to the Holy Sepulchre (without entering the tomb), following the Stations of the Cross inside the Church and along the Via Dolorosa. You will also walk through the Armenian Quarter, the Jewish Quarter and Cardo, the main Roman-Bizantine period street in the city. Return to the port. Please note: guests have to walk 2.5 km on uneven, cobblestone terrain with some steps and inclines. Comfortable shoes are recommended; wear conservative attire when visiting religious sites (please cover shoulders and knees). Expect crowded sites. This tour includes approx. 8 hours roundtrip transfers. Drinks are not included in lunch; only water.

KING SOLOMONS COPPER MINES & KIBBUTZ TOUR - ETH07



After leaving your ship, a fascinating tour awaits you that begins with a 30 minutes coach drive to the scenic Timna Valley and the co-located national park. Rich in both nature and history, the area is not only home to an Egyptian temple, but also to one of the oldest copper mines on record, the so-called King Solomons Mines, which date back to the Chalcolithic era 6,000 years ago. A walk will take you from your coach to the mines, after which you will enter and make your way through the narrow tunnels in time-honoured fashion: by crawling. Your copper mining experience will be followed by a visit to the incredible King Solomons Pillars, natural sandstone structures created by water erosion. Up next is a stop at Lake Timna where you can enjoy a cup of herbal tea while filling a bottle with coloured sand to keep as a memento. The final leg will take you to a typical Israeli kibbutz for a taste of communal living. Your guided kibbutz tour will include the agricultural fields, the Medjool date plantations, stables, the border between Israel and Jordan as well as the dairy for a chance to savour a deliciously cold chocolate drink. Your tour ends with your return to the port and your ship. Please note: as this tour includes walking on uneven ground and a number of steps, it is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or for those who suffer from claustrophobia. Comfortable shoes recommended.;;;;;

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

SUNSET JEEP TOUR - ETH08



Team the romance of a desert sunset with all the fun of off-roading as you board a modern jeep and set off for adventure in the dunes. After a chance to enjoy the ever-changing colours and geological formations of the Yedidya Pass, you will head for the eponymous Red Sand Dune, then continue through the starkly beautiful Shechoret Canyon and finally pass through the cliff-lined Amram Valley. You will then have a chance to leave the vehicle and walk to a group of peculiar natural pillars that the wind and the water have sculpted out of the curiously pink sandstone. A drive to Yocheved Hill then follows, where you will be served a special blend of herbal tea and biscuits while you enjoy the picturesque view of Mount Amir in the distance. To best capture that special moment when day turns to sudden night, your final stop will be on a hill overlooking Eilat, the Granite Mountains and the Red Sea a spectacular sight in anyones book. Your sunset tour comes to a leisurely close with your return to the port and your ship. Please note: This excursion is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties, with back/neck problems, for pregnant women or wheelchair-users. A wind jacket and comfortable shoes ecommended. The safari leader will provide you with information only in English during the stops.;;;;;



MSC

Aqaba

Tue 26 March 2019

WADI RUM - AQA02



Leave the port for a 1-hour 15-minute drive to Wadi Rum and feel the romance of the Arabian Desert. In this timeless and beautiful valley rises Wadi Rum, amidst sand dunes that shimmer across the rose-red desert sand. The Wadi Rum area has been inhabited since prehistoric periods and geologists have found slabs of rock with inscriptions in early Tahamudic writings throughout the valley. After your arrival at Wadi Rum, you will board some 4wd vehicles for a two-hour drive through magnificent desert scenery. Your next stop will be a desert camp where you will enjoy Arabic tea in a traditional Bedouin tent. Return to the port. Please note: we recommend wearing comfortable, closed walking shoes, a hat, and a light jacket. This excursion is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties, with back/neck problems, for pregnant women or wheelchair-users. The 4x4 WD vehicles are open-backed; guests climb in the back and sit on benches facing each other.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

PETRA - AQA03



If its rose-red in colour, situated in the middle of the Jordanian desert and reputed to be half as old as time itself, the destination of this all-day excursion can only be the amazing ancient city of Petra. Having laid hidden for centuries, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, a Swiss explorer rediscovered this jewel of early engineering in 1812 and then unveiled it to the rest of the world. Situated about a 2-hour coach ride to the north of Aqaba, the city was hewn out of the solid rock by Nabatean Arabs more than 2,000 years ago and served as their capital city. These clever Arab architects even succeeded in bringing fresh water to their town using a sophisticated water conduit system, which turned the city into an artificial oasis. Your exploration of this UNESCO World Heritage Site begins with a walk through the narrow siq, a stunning natural canyon that winds its way through towering rocks. As you emerge from the canyon, the bright daylight will reveal Petra in all its rose-hued glory. Carved into the cliff and rising several storeys high, the surprisingly well-preserved colonnaded structures have more than stood the test of time. The guided tour of the site will also include the large amphitheatre and the royal tombs. To cap off your incredible sightseeing tour of this ancient city, a delicious lunch is included in the excursion. The scenic return journey in the comfort of your air-conditioned coach will bring this fabulous outing to a leisurely close. Please note: tour involves approx. 7/8 km of walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests with mobility problems. Guides will stay with the guests during the walk into the siq to reach the site and at the site; the return from the site through the siq will be unguided. We recommend wearing comfortable, closed walking shoes, a sunhat, sunscreen as well as a light, long-sleeved shirt. This tour is not recommended for guests with respiratory problems.

PETRA - AQA04



Located some way to the north of Aqaba in the middle of the Jordanian desert lies one of the most spectacular sights this world has to offer, the ancient city of Petra. Considered to be one of the most precious properties of mans cultural heritage by the UNESCO council and declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985, the city is famed particularly for the rose-red hue of the rock out of which it was hewn by ancient Nabatean Arabs c. 312 B.C.. After leaving your ship and boarding an air-conditioned coach, the first leg of tour will take you on a roughly 2-hour drive through the scenic Jordanian landscape to reach the ancient city. A walk through the narrow Siq, a shadowy ravine that carves its way through sheer walls of rock, then follows to reach Petra itself. Prepare for the big reveal as you come out of the ravine, when the sudden sunshine will illuminate the palatial pink city rising majestically out of the rock face. Incredibly, the sizeable ancient city, which once served as the capital of the Nabatean Arabs and even boasted a conduit system that gave the town potable water, lay hidden from the world for more than 1,000 years until it was finally rediscovered by a Swiss explorer in 1812. Your guided tour of the extremely well preserved site will also include visits to the Nabatean Theatre, temples, the royal tombs and time to enjoy your packed lunch. Please note: tour involves approx. 7/8 km of walking on uneven ground, it is not suitable for guests with mobility problems. Guides will stay with the guests during the walk into the siq to reach the site and at the site; the return from the site through the siq will be unguided. We recommend wearing comfortable, closed walking shoes and a light jacket. This tour is not recommended for guests with respiratory problems.

SEA & SUN

RELAX ON THE BEACH - AQA05



Situated on the shores of the Red Sea in the south of the country, the bustling resort of Aqaba is Jordans only seaport. A short 15-minute drive by coach will take you further south to a beach resort for some leisurely time off the ship. A drink will be served to welcome you at the club, after which a few hours will be yours to do whatever you please. Enjoy the resort amenities as you relax or swim in the pool or go for a refreshing dip in the Red Sea. This day of sun, sea and sand comes to a pleasant close with your return journey to the port and your ship. Please note: high-factor sunscreen recommended. This tour is subject to weather conditions.

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.

Limassol

Fri 29 March 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

PAPHOS - LIM01



Duration
4 h

Paphos is an ancient town located on the southern coast of Cyprus, 1 hour far from Limassol. We will visit the house of Dionisios to admire the beautiful mosaics that date back to the 3rd century before continuing to St. Neofytos to visit the 12th century Egkleistra, an enclosure carved out of the mountain by the hermit Neofytos. The enclosure contains fine examples of 12th to the 15th centuries Byzantine frescoes. The Monastery contains an interesting Ecclesiastical Museum. You will have free time to stroll around this picturesque port. Short photo stop at Aphrodites Rock, birthplace of the Greek goddess of love. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. This tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

OMODOS, CURIUM AND APOLLO S TEMPLE - LIM02



Duration
4 h

A short drive by coach takes you to the remains of the ancient town of Kourion, which survived from antiquity until the early middle ages. During your exploration of the archaeological site, you will visit the fully restored Greco-Roman theatre and the House of Eustolio with its beautiful mosaics. A stop at the sanctuary of Apollo is next, the place and altar at which the ancient cult of this Greek god was celebrated from the 8th century B.C. to the 4th century A.D.. The tour then continues on to Omodos, a picturesque small town located inland and well known for the wine that is produced in the surrounding area. After a wine-tasting session and trying a local snack, you will have time to stroll around and explore on your own. The tour ends with your return to the ship. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. This tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

APOLLO'S TEMPLE, KOLOSSI CASTLE & WINE MUSEUM - LIM03



Duration
3:30 h

This excursion may well take in the sights of Apollo but we will also be paying homage to the Greek god Bacchus as we learn also about islands history of wine! Our first stop is at the Temple of Apollo, the largest and most important religious centre on the island and which was in continuous use from the VIII century BC to the IV century AD. We will continue to the nearby village of Kolossi to visit the castle, left over from the time of the Crusaders in Cyprus. The XIII century Kolossi Castle is linked to the history of wine production on the island, in particular to the manufacture of the local Commandaria wine. Our tour includes a visit to the Cyprus wine museum to learn about the 7500-year tradition of winemaking in Cyprus. Naturally, we will have time to sample a glass of Cyprus wine before returning to the port. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

CITY TOUR

LARNACA & LEFKARA - LIM04



Duration
4 h

This excursion is ideal for those who prefer to explore on their own, but will still like a short introduction on the way. We will drive to Larnaka, the oldest living city in Cyprus and originally known as Kition, the birthplace of the Stoic philosopher Zeno. Linked to early Christian times, Larnaca is a special place for Christians as the towns bishop was St. Lazaros (Lazarus) who chose to spend his second life here after Jesus raised him from the dead. A church built in his name exists on the spot where his remains were said to be found. When we reach Larnaca, you will have free time to explore on your own. We will then return to Limassol via Lefkara, a village famous for its traditional style of lace embroidery, known as the Lefkaritika. Also here there will be given free time to explore the village by yourself, before returning to the port. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.

LARNACA, ANCIENT KITION - LIM05



Duration
4 h

Drive towards Larnaca, 1 hour far from Limassol, and known in ancient times as Kition and home of the Stoic philosopher Zeno. We will visit one of the oldest churches in Cyprus - the church of Saint Lazarus - built on the sepulchre of the Saint and a fine example of Byzantine architecture. You will have free time for shopping before travelling along the salt lake of Larnaca to reach Hala Sultan Tekesi, or the mosque of Umm Haram, built in 1816 over the tomb of Umm Haram, a relative of Prophet Mohamed. Visit the mosque and return to the port. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. This tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

JEEP SAFARI TO AGROS VILLAGE & MILLOMERI WATERFALLS - LIM06



Duration
4 h



The beautiful Mediterranean island of Cyprus is known for its splendid beaches, an interesting and eventful history dating right back to the 10th millennium B.C., a whole host of archaeological remains as well as wonderfully varied scenery and unbroken summer sunshine. The itinerary of this entertaining tour first takes you up through a number of small villages to the north of Limassol, passing the fertile southern slopes of the Troodos Mountains with its vineyards and other plantations on your way up to the village of Agros, the centre of Pitsilia district. Here you will learn more about local traditional products. In one of the local houses we learn more about how they prepare marmalade and candied fruit. Agros and the roses are close connected. In the house of the roses we can learn more about how they distil the rosewater from wild rose leaves, how they make candles with rose aroma, rose liqueur and the rose brandy. Your tour then continues by jeep again for a drive through the dense pine forest of the Troodos Mountains en route to one of the island's nature wonders, the beautiful Millomeri Waterfalls, which you will reach after a short walk. Do take your camera to take some photos of this special place to add to your album at home. A relaxing return drive to Limassol port and your ship then brings your tour to a perfect close. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair, pregnant women or for guest with neck/back problems. The driver will provide you with information only in English during the trip. On calls falling on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays guests will not have the opportunity to see the production of local products.

Piraeus

Sun 31 March 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.

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 Panathinion 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

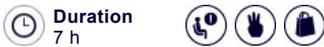


Duration
6:30 h

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


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
AUGMENTED REALITY ACROPOLIS VISIT & ACROPOLIS MUSEUM - PIR23


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.

Katakolon

Mon 1 April 2019

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



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.

Kotor

Tue 2 April 2019

CULTURE AND HISTORY

KOTOR & THE MARITIME TRADITION OF PERAST - KTR01



Duration
4 h

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

SCENIC ROUTE

MONTENEGRO COASTAL TOUR - KTR02



Duration
5 h

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

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

BIKE TOUR - KTR09



Duration
4 h

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

SOMETHING SPECIAL

PORTO MONTENEGRO SIGHTSEEING & NAVAL MUSEUM - KTR10



Duration
3 h

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



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

BOAT TRIP ALONG THE BAY OF KOTOR - KTR12

 **Duration**
4 h



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

CULTURE AND HISTORY

KOTOR & MONTENEGRO LANDSCAPES - KTR13

 **Duration**
4 h



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

Split

Wed 3 April 2019

CITY TOUR

SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF SPLIT - SPL01



Duration
4 h

Split is one of the oldest cities along the Adriatic Coast, generally considered to be around 1700 years-old, although some claim it dates back even further and is the descendant city of an ancient Greek colony. Your excursion will begin with a panoramic drive through the town before reaching Split's oldest district, which is home to the magnificent Diocletian's Palace. Built at the turn of the 4th century AD, the Roman Emperor Diocletian built this imposing fortress in preparation for his retirement. Much of the old town of Split is built either on or around the Palace and the buildings remains have been a recognised UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979. A visit to the Cathedral of St. Dujé, the patron saint of the city, is also planned as part of your tour. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

EXPLORE THE ANCIENT CITIES OF TROGIR AND SOLIN - SPL02



Duration
4 h

Solin, formerly the ancient city of Salona, seems to stand still in time. Situated on a small island connected to the mainland by a bridge, Solin reached the pinnacle of prosperity in the 3rd and 4th centuries, and was the birthplace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian who later built his imposing Palace in the neighbouring city of Split. The excursion includes a visit to the city's archaeological excavations before driving along the Split Riviera to Trogir, also under UNESCO's protection, which was founded in the 3rd century BC. Take in the stunning monuments of Trogir, which include the Cathedral of St. Lawrence. This building dates back to the 8th century and is probably the finest example of sacral architecture in Croatia. Enjoy some leisure time in Trogir before returning to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

CITY TOUR

WALKING TOUR OF SPLIT - SPL03



Duration
4 h

This walking tour will take you to visit the beautiful historical quarter of Split, including the awe-inspiring limestone-and-marble Diocletian's Palace. Built by the Roman Emperor Diocletian at the turn of the 4th century A.D. in preparation for his retirement, the palace lies in a bay on the southern side of a short peninsula running out from the Dalmatian coast. The palace remains were declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1979. The old town of Split grew around the palace and boasts many architecturally pleasing buildings so have your camera ready as you stroll. As part of the tour, you will also have a chance to visit the famous Cathedral of Saint Domnius, named after the city's patron saint of St. Dujé, a martyred 3rd-century Catholic bishop. The cathedral complex itself actually consists of a church that is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and a Romanesque bell tower that commemorates St. Dujé. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

SPLIT & OMIS - SPL04



Duration
4 h

A short drive will take you south-east of Split and along the scenic Adriatic coast to Omiš, a pretty little town situated at the point where the River Cetina flows into the Adriatic Sea. Continuing your journey down the lovely canyon of the River Cetina, you will soon arrive at the Radmanovce Mlinice restaurant and picnic site. Idyllically located close to the river in verdant surroundings, this popular excursion destination is not just the perfect place to enjoy a local snack of smoked ham and cheese with a glass of local wine, but also to take some photos. Your tour then heads back to Split, where you can explore the town's attractions on foot. As you stroll through the open-air market or sit on sun-warmed stones, the relaxed atmosphere makes it easy to forget the bustling, modern port that exists only a stone's throw away. This juxtaposition of the old and the new is all part of Split's unmistakable charm. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

SOMETHING SPECIAL

MEDJUGORJE - SPL06



Duration
8 h



The small and formerly quiet town of Medjugorje, which is situated in the Herzegovina region near the Croatian border, suddenly acquired global popularity as a religious pilgrimage site in 1981 after news broke that the Virgin Mary had appeared to six local Catholics. A 2.5-hour drive along the lovely Adriatic coastline will take you to view Medjugorje's key attractions such as Apparition Hill, St. James Church and the statue of St. Leopold. You will have a chance to stick with your guide, pray at this important religious site or explore the location at your leisure. The path up to Apparition Hill is adorned with a set of impressive bronze plaques that illustrate the various Mysteries of the Rosary as a recollection of the life of Christ. If you prefer, you can alternatively stay near the church and visit the outside altar, the statue of our Blessed Lady and the confessionals. The tour concludes with your return to port and your ship. Please note: guests must bring their identity documents (ID or passport) for this excursion; please contact the shore excursion office for further detailed information about the identity documents needed, which will depend on your respective nationality. Children also require their own passport. For children travelling with one parent only, the local authorities require verified written consent from the other parent. Masses are celebrated in only one language at fixed times. A local tourist escort may accompany your guide in Medjugorje.

NATURAL WONDERS

KRKA NATIONAL PARK WALKING TOUR - SPL08



Duration
5 h



Croatia certainly has more than its fair share of natural beauty and one such example, the sizeable Krka National Park, forms your scenic destination on this enjoyable half-day tour. Stunning views of Ibenik-Knin county will keep you entertained during the 1.5-hour coach transfer to the park. Once you have arrived, you'll first head for one of the park's most popular attractions, the beautiful natural pool and waterfall called Skradinski buk. The River Krka runs through the area and feeds the Skradinski waterfall, one of three cascades in the park. Do keep your camera at hand as you set off on a guided walk through the greenery, revealing not only views of the river and gushing cascades, but also including a visit to an old mill with an ethnographic exhibition. There will also be time for you to explore the natural setting at your leisure before the coach ride back to the port, with more lovely vistas to savour on the way, wraps up the tour. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

OUR EXCURSIONS CATEGORIES

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 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. |
| SEA & SUN | Treat yourself to some pure relaxation, basking on a beautiful beach or enjoying the stunning views on a scenic boat trip. A winner for sea and sun lovers. |
| 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



EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you