



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you



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

Cruise Ship: **MSC POESIA**

Departing from: **Venice, Italy**

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

Departure Date: **12/08/2017**

Duration: **8 Days, 7 Nights**

## Bari

Sun 13 August 2017

### CITY TOUR

#### CITY TOUR - BAR01

**Duration**  
4 h

This interesting tour of Bari gives you a chance to take a leisurely walk around the historical quarter of Bari Vecchia and its medieval architecture. A visit to the Basilica of St. Nicholas, built in honour of Baris patron saint, is included. Founded towards the end of the 11th century A.D., the basilica has now been an important religious pilgrimage site for nearly a millennium. An exterior viewing of Baris old Norman castle is also on the tour itinerary. You will have some free time to spend as you wish before the tour ends with a quick trip around the city's modern district. The tour ends with your return to the ship. Please note: guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### ALBEROBELLO - BAR02

**Duration**  
4:30 h

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

### NATURAL WONDERS

#### THE CAVES OF CASTELLANA & POLIGNANO A MARE - BAR07

**Duration**  
4 h

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



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## THE SASSI IN MATERA - BAR04



Duration  
4 h



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

SOMETHING SPECIAL

## THE HARBOUR TOWN OF TRANI AND OLIVE OIL TASTING - BAR15



Duration  
4:30 h



About a 1-hour coach drive up the coast from the port of Bari lies the pretty harbour town of Trani, your destination on this enjoyable tour, which combines a sightseeing leg with a chance to sample some of the delicious locally produced olive oil. Trani's long and rich history, which dates back to its 9th-century foundation, is still prominent in the town to this day. As you make your way around the town's history trail, your first stop will be Svevo Castle, an imposing 13th-century fortification of highly rectilinear construction that overlooks the sea. You will have some time to spend at your leisure before you continue on to the 11th-/12th-century Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino. Built in honour of San Nicola the Pilgrim, this magnificent Romanesque-style building is a real treasure, with the stunning stained-glass windows, the remains of a 12th-century mosaic floor and the transversal crypt dedicated to San Nicola particularly worthy of mention. The sightseeing leg of the tour ends with a refreshing walk along the seafront promenade before the coach then takes you to an old oil mill for an informative visit and a chance to tantalise your taste buds with some of the wonderful locally produced olive oil and other typically Puglian delicacies. Your return to the port and your ship ends the tour. Please note: 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.

## Katakolon

Mon 14 August 2017

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### 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. Only cameras without a flash allowed inside the Museum.

#### OLYMPIA AND SHOPPING - 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.

### SEA & SUN

#### TRANSFER TO THE BEACH - KAT03



Spend a few hours in pure relaxation mode and take advantage of this tour to Kouroúta beach, which forms part of the Amaliada municipality and is situated an approx. 30-minute coach ride from the port of Katakolon. The beach is an ideal spot to take in the beautiful views, enjoy the Greek sun, swim, lounge on the sand or go for a gentle walk. Do take some sunscreen, a hat and a bottle of water, although amenities can also be found at the beach. Your tour ends with your return to Katakolon and your ship. Please note: the tour operates from June until the end of September. Sun loungers and parasols are available free of charge for guests ordering food or drink.

### SOMETHING SPECIAL

#### A TASTE OF THE ANCIENT GREECE - 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.



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## MAGNA GRECIA ESTATE & OLYMPIA - KAT11



Duration  
4 h



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.



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## Mykonos

Tue 15 August 2017

### MYTHICAL, MAGICAL, MAGNIFICENT: THE ISLAND OF DELOS - MYK04

Duration  
3:30 h



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

#### ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

### JEEP ADVENTURE AND BEACH - MYK09

Duration  
4:30 h



Join us on this excursion combining fun, adventure and Mykonos landscapes enabling you to spend a few hours exploring this lovely island in a completely different way. Board your 4x4 jeep and start your adventure driving through the rugged terrain of the island until reaching the old lighthouse. You'll then drive to Kalo Livadi beach, where you will have one hour stop to get tanned or to jump in the cool, crystalline waters of the Aegean Sea. Next, continue to explore the hidden corners of the island on the way to the island's second-largest settlement, the village of Ano Mera, at whose centre stands the monastery and church of Panagia Tourliani. Probably founded at some time during the 16th century and then remodelled in 1767, the cloister is a major draw for travellers visiting the area. After the visit, a generous helping of warm Greek hospitality then awaits you in a village tavern, giving you a chance to reflect on your day of Mykonian magic as you relax to the aniseed flavour of ouzo and the savoury goodness of typical Greek appetizers. Returning to the port you will have a stop at Agios Ioannis for a distant glimpse of the island of Delos. Please note: as drivers are not included in the tour, guests must be 21 years old and will drive the jeep(s) themselves. An international drivers license is compulsory. Each jeep can accommodate a maximum of 4 guests, incl. the driver. This tour is not suitable for pregnant women, guests with walking difficulties or back/neck problems or using a wheelchair. Vehicles are manual transmission and self-driven. Driver must be experienced with manual transmission and be able to start the vehicle on an incline or off road situation. Guests must sign a waiver before taking part in the tour. There is no narration while driving; your leader/guide will give explanations at the different stops. Umbrellas, sunbeds and water sports available at the beach at extra cost. This tour is available from June throughout September and can be booked only during your cruise.

#### CITY TOUR

### DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF MYKONOS ON FOOT - MYK06

Duration  
2 h



As one of the Cycladic Islands, Mykonos has enjoyed great popularity as a holiday destination since the 1950s, offering travellers traditional Greek hospitality plus a lively nightlife against a backdrop of stunning beaches, whitewashed houses and a scenic interior. Just what makes the island so appealing is revealed in the course of this leisurely walking tour, which is set to showcase the rarely seen corners of town, its hidden gems, narrow winding streets and secluded walled gardens. In addition, if the layout of Mykonos town appears confusing, it is. Specifically designed that way to thwart pirate attacks, the town continues to flummox all but the locals to this day. A trademark feature of the island are its numerous windmills, redolent of a bygone age during which they ground the wheat that made the bread that fed the island. Standing squat, round and proud against the buffeting wind, these portly landmarks make a great photo opportunity. Your exploration of Mykonos then draws to a close with your return to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. Should the ship be berthed in port, participants will reach the old port with a shuttle; the duration of the tour will be 3 hours inclusive of the coach transfer.

## MYKONOS UNCOVERED: VIBRANT, BEAUTIFUL AND UTTERLY GREEK - MYK05

 **Duration**  
4 h



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

### SEA & SUN

## SEA & SUN AT KALO LIVADI BEACH - MYK10

 **Duration**  
4 h



Nestling in a secluded cove on the southern shoreline of Mykonos lies one of the island's longest beaches Kalo Livadi and your destination on this appealing half-day seaside treat. Pop your swimwear on under your clothes, leave the ship and spend a mere 30 minutes on a coach to reach the idyllic setting, perfect for some serious relaxation on pristine sand while lounging on a sunbed. The shallow and crystal-clear Aegean Sea is an open invitation to paddle or swim, whereas the many tavernas that flank the beach make an ideal spot to savour the views with a refreshing drink in hand. You will have about 3 hours to enjoy the beach whichever way you like before the coach then returns you to the ship. Please note: sunbeds and umbrellas will be available for use free of charge at the beach; water sports are also available at extra cost. The tour runs from June to September. Guests are recommended to bring a hat, sunscreen and towels. The tour is not available for guests using a wheelchair.

### SOMETHING SPECIAL

## ISLAND TOUR AND RELAX AT THE BEACH - MYK12

 **Duration**  
6 h



Make the best of your stay in Mykonos and join us on this tour combining an exploration of the island with some time at leisure on a sunny beach. Board a coach and begin your tour with a sightseeing drive across the island, passing by the cosmopolitan beach of Ornos on the way to Agios Ioannis: a good opportunity to see the distant island of Delos. Your destination will be the centre of the island and Mykonos second-largest settlement, the village of Ano Mera. Enjoy a visit to the monastery and church of Panagia Tourliani that was probably founded at some time during the 16th century and then remodelled in 1767. The cloister is a major draw for travellers visiting the area. Next, it's time for a break in a village taverna, tasting typical Greek appetizers and sipping the aniseed ouzo or a soft drink. The second leg of the tour will see you spend approx. 2.5-hour on a sunny island beach at Kalafitis. Take a swim in the crystalline waters of the Aegean sea, relax on the beach, take a walk on the shore or work on your tan. The coach transfer back to the port will end your tour. Please note: sunbeds and umbrellas are not included; guests may rent them at the beach depending on the availability. Guests are recommended to bring a hat, sunscreen, towels and to wear their swimsuit. The tour is not available for guests using a wheelchair.

## SAILING TRIP AROUND MYKONOS FAMOUS BEACHES - MYK11

 **Duration**  
4:30 h



Next to an amazing nightlife, cosmopolitan atmosphere and beautiful landscape, Mykonos is also home to a slew of gorgeous beaches, some of which you will be discovering by boat on this appealing half-day tour. Only a short coach ride from the pier will see you reach Agios Ioannis, from where a local kind of boat known as a caique will take you on a sun-kissed sail around the island's southern coastline. Feel the breeze in your hair and soak up the views as you pass Ornos, Psarou, Platis Gialos, Paranga and Super Paradise beaches some of the best on the island. Depending on the weather, swimming stops are also scheduled in the vicinity of selected beaches, so it's worth having your swimwear on under your clothes. A chance to go ashore at Paradise beach and enjoy the facilities also forms part of the outing, as do delicious cold Greek snacks on board the caique as you make your way home. Please note: the tour runs from June to September. Guests are recommended to wear swimwear under clothes and to bring a hat, sunscreen and towels. The tour is not available for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Beach stops are not scheduled (with the exception of a stop at Paradise beach), but swimming will be possible directly from the caique.

## Piraeus

Wed 16 August 2017

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### ACROPOLIS AUGMENTED REALITY EXPERIENCE & NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM - PIR23



**Duration**  
7 h

This interactive excursion promises you a real journey back to ancient Greece while visiting one of the iconic monuments in the Greek capital city: the Acropolis. Your tour begins with a drive to the Acropolis: prepare yourself to climb to the top of the Acropolis Hill (150 steps) and explore Athens best known landmark. With the aid of a smart device, your visit will be enhanced and you could view and feel how the Parthenon or other symbols such as the Temple of Athena Nike or the Erechtheion were in ancient times. After this sensorial visit, you will continue through the Acropolis pedestrian zone to the new Acropolis Museum. Here we will enjoy plenty of time exploring the museum, where you can admire the statues, sculptures and marbles of the Parthenon with time for souvenir shopping before returning 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.

#### 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.

#### PLAKA, ACROPOLIS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - PIR02



**Duration**  
6 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. Your tour ends with your return to Piraeus and your ship. Please note: the tour includes a long, sometimes challenging walk on even uneven ground so not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

### SCENIC ROUTE

#### BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF ATHENS AND PLAKA - PIR16



**Duration**  
4 h

Spend a few hours on dry land to experience Athens from two very different perspectives: from the lofty heights of Mount Lycabettus, the tallest peak in the vicinity, and then at ground level in the citys sprawling historical quarter, the so-called Plaka District. Your Athenian adventure begins with a round-up of the citys 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.

### CORINTH CANAL BY BOAT - PIR03



**Duration**  
5:30 h

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

### 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.

## SEA & SUN

### BEACH EXPERIENCE IN YABANAKI & ATHENS PANORAMIC - PIR25



**Duration**  
6 h

Beach Experience in Yabanaki & Athens Panoramic

### BEACH FUN AT YABANAKI - PIR22



**Duration**  
6 h

Pack your beach bag, step off the ship and hop on a coach to head south from Piraeus to reach your seaside location: the wonderfully child-friendly Yabanaki Beach in Varkiza. The hours drive will give you a chance to enjoy the picturesque scenery of the Attic Peninsula with its mountainscapes and a craggy coastline dotted with a string of lovely beaches. Once you have reached your destination of Yabanaki Beach, you will have about 4 hours to enjoy the facilities. Apart from shallow waters that are safe for the kids to play in, there is the soft sand to squish between your toes, the hot Greek sun to savour and a slew of water-based activities to take part in. Add to that some typical Greek tavernas to quench your thirst and you have all the ingredients for a perfect day of sun, sea and sand. The coach will be waiting at the appointed time to return you to the port and your ship. Please note: sunbeds and umbrellas will be available for use free of charge at the beach; water sports are also available at extra cost. The tour runs from June to September and is available only for guests on board MSC Magnifica and MSC Orchestra. Guests are recommended to wear swimwear under outer clothes and to bring a hat, sunscreen and towels.

## Sarande

Thu 17 August 2017

### CITY TOUR

#### SARANDA CITY TOUR - SAR01



**Duration**  
4 h

The tour will start with a panoramic drive of the town of Saranda, stopping in the city centre to pay a pleasant visit to the Byzantine Church and the Synagogue, both dating back to the 5th Century A.D.. Saranda town was founded in the 6th Century B.C. and its current name comes from the name of the Byzantine monastery of Agioi Saranta literally meaning Forty Saints in Greek, after the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. You will stroll through the town until the Museum, rich of mosaics and archaeological findings coming from the whole region around Saranda. After the visit to the Museum, you'll continue your tour with a panoramic coach drive along the main avenues of the town. The itinerary includes the most important buildings of the centre, the Secondary School Hasan Tahsini, the University Branch of Tirana, to mention only a few. Before going back to the pier, a photo stop will be paid on the hill of Lekuresi, overlooking the town: during the clear days, you will be able to get wonderful views of Corfu in front of the coast. The excursion will also give you chance to have enough free time for independent exploration. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.

#### VISIT GJIROKASTËR, THE STONE CITY - SAR04



**Duration**  
6 h

Described as a rare example of well-preserved Ottoman town, built by farmers of large estate, Gjirokaštër's old town is World Heritage Site and will be the destination of this pleasant day off the ship. Located at 62 Km north of Saranda, you will reach the town after a 1-5-hour coach drive with a stop en route. Upon your arrival, you will be enchanted by this lovely city with paved streets with chunky limestone and shale, slate roofed houses and views over the Drina Valley. The city appears in historical records in 1336 as part of the Byzantine Empire before falling under Ottoman domination for 5 years in a row. After a short period as the capital of the short-lived Autonomous Republic of Northern Epirus, Gjirokaštër was finally part of Albania in 1921. You will visit Gjirokaštër Fortress which you will reach after boarding some minivans. Located at a height of 336 metres, the fortress dominates the town and had a strategical position along the river valley. The site includes five towers and houses, a clock tower, a church, a prison, the cistern and the Museum. Enjoy a visit to the Museum housing captured artillery and memorabilia of the Communist resistance against German occupation as well as a captured US Air Force plane. Enjoy a guided visit of the town before boarding the coach and return to the port. Please note: the visit to the Fortress includes walking on uphill/downhill paths with some stairs and is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair or with walking difficulties.

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### THE ANCIENT RUINS OF BUTRINTI - SAR03



**Duration**  
5 h

The tour will start with a panoramic drive from the port of Saranda towards the ancient site of Butrinti, located 19 km southwards. Along the way, the guide will give you samples of local history and culture of Albania. Inhabited since prehistoric times, the area of Butrinti saw the advent of many civilizations: it has been a Greek colony, a Roman city, it grew a period of prosperity under the Byzantines and also a brief domination by the Venetians. You will visit the archaeological site, a collection of ruins representing each period in the city's development. The excavations started before World War II; an Italian archaeological group headed by Luigi Ugolini made there excavations in the period 1928-1939. After World War II, the Albanian Institute of Archaeology has undertaken the excavations and the site has now been certified a UNESCO World Heritage. The tour will bring you through the city of Butrinti to admire monuments of the many different civilizations, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Venetians. On a guided walking inside the site, you will reach the Acropolis overlooking the area and will pay a short visit to the Museum, refurbished and reopened in 2005. At the end of the visit, board the coach and drive back to Sarande and to your cruiseship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair or with walking difficulties. Guests may join the group and visit the lower part of the archaeological site.

### NATURAL WONDERS

#### BLUE EYE SPRING - SAR02



**Duration**  
4:30 h

The first stop of your tour will be Lekuresi Hilltop, where you will have a photo stop on this panoramic point overlooking the town of Saranda, Vurgu, the Lake of Butrint and also Corfu Island on clear days. Lekuresi is a fortified monastery built in the 16th Century to defend the road to Saranda and Butrint; the name is an ancient Greek word that can be translated as illuminated area. A 40-minute drive will lead you to the Blue Eye Albania's small treasure a spring of river Bistritsa, known in Albanian as Syri Kaltër, located on the road between the cities of Saranda, on the Ionian Sea, and Gjirokaštër, situated further inland. Nobody knows how deep it is: divers who tried to reach the bottom because of the pressure of the water have managed to go only 45 m deep. You can try to throw a stone into the centre of this spring, and after a while, you will see the same stone coming up again on the surface of the water! The water in the inner part of the spring appears very dark blue, like the pupil of an eye, and a lighter colour of blue as an outer ring the iris, which gives the impression of a blue eye. In this area wildlife is rich and varied too including the fox, the fowl, the reptiles and the marten. After the visit, you will be back to Sarande for spending some free time on your own before returning to the port and your cruise ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair.



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## SCENIC ROUTE

### ALBANIAN RIVIERA & ITS VILLAGES - SAR05

 **Duration**  
6 h



With unspoiled landscapes, wonderful beaches, friendly people, Albania is truly a fascinating destination. Leave the ship, board a coach and prepare to explore some traditional villages nestled in secluded bays along Albanias rugged coastline. Your first stop will be at Borsh; despite its significant community and busy olive-oil production industry, tourism has barely touched this village that you will explore along with its waterfalls. Next, you will proceed to Porto Palermo whose bay is the only safe harbour between Saranda and Vlora and was used since ancient times for its strategical importance. You will visit the castle, built by Ali Pasha on a lovely peninsula surrounded by crystal-clear waters. Legends say that Ali Pasha had all workers who built the castle executed not to reveal the many treasures the fortress contained. The fortress has a rectangular shape with four bastions and loopholes for cannons along parapets. The inner part includes halls, stores and stone stairs leading to the terrace. After the visit, you will reach Himmara, your last destination on this pleasant outing. Enjoy some free time in this small village whose population is mainly of Greek origin. Please note: the visit to the Fortress includes walking on some stairs and is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair or with walking difficulties.

## SEA & SUN

### FUN AT KSAMIL BEACH - SAR06

 **Duration**  
6 h



Located 15 km south of Saranda, Ksamil area is the destination for your 5-hour time of pure relax in an enchanting setting. Described as one of the only sand beaches in the area, Ksamil beach is the perfect location to spend some time in the sun, to explore the area and take a swim in the crystal water. The three small islands in its turquoise bay are within swim-reach and offers a nice scenery for some pictures. You will enjoy plenty of time at Harta Bay, one of the nicest beaches in the area before returning to the port. Please note: this tour runs from June to September; sunbeds included.

## Dubrovnik

Fri 18 August 2017

### ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

#### EXPLORING DUBROVNIK BY SEGWAY - DUB16



**Duration**  
2:30 h

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

### CITY TOUR

#### CITY TOUR - DUB01



**Duration**  
3 h

Enjoy Dubrovnik in all its historic splendour with this excursion that takes you through the narrow streets and along the ramparts of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk through the city and admire the Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary a masterpiece of stone with an interior adorned with Venetian paintings. The town was given its original name Dubraca, meaning grove of the oak, by the Slavs. You will admire the Rectors Palace, seat of the government and residence of the Prince (Rector) of the Dubrovnik republic. Onofrio de la Cava, an architect from Naples who also built the waterworks and the two public fountains in Dubrovnik, constructed the building in the late Gothic style. Continue with a visit to the Monastery of St. Francis, which boasts a magnificent cloister; the Monastery also houses the oldest pharmacy in Europe, which opened in 1317. At the end of the walking tour, you will have free time to explore the old city at your leisure before returning to the port. Please note: there may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. For all calls before 01.06.2016, the visit to Rectors Palace will be replaced with a visit to the Dominican Monastery.

#### DUBROVNIK AND ITS OLD CITY WALLS - DUB09



**Duration**  
3:30 h

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

### CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### HISTORIC DUBROVNIK - DUB05



**Duration**  
3 h

Your tour of historical Dubrovnik begins at the old gates of the city and will take you on a journey back in time, giving you a chance to learn about the history of ancient Dubraca and admire the impressive architecture of Dubrovniks old town, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. After enjoying some breathtaking views of the old town, the nearby island of Lokrum and the Adriatic Sea as you walk around the city ramparts, you will then head for the Stradun, Dubrovniks main street. Your walking tour into the heart of Dubrovnik will enable you to see some of the citys key sights, including the Rectors Palace, the Maritime Museum and the Rupe Ethnographic Museum, housed in a now-restored former granary dating back to the late 16th century. Please note: there may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. For all calls before 01.06.2016, the visit to Rectors Palace will be replaced with a visit to the Natural History Museum.

**SEA & SUN**
**SPORTS ON ELAFITE ISLANDS - DUB06**


Board a motorboat, cruise the peninsula of Lapad, and sail past the old city walls. Admire Dubrovnik old town from the water and take this opportunity to snap some great pictures. Continue to the outer side of Kolocep Island for snorkelling in the Modra Spilja Cave. The excursion will continue to the other side of the island of Kolocep, to Donje Celو, which has a beautiful and very popular sandy beach. You will enjoy free time to relax in the sun, to swim and to ride on tuba through the beautiful bay of Donje Celو. You will enjoy a light lunch and a drink at the Vila Rose restaurant before returning to Gruz port. Please note: the excursion operates from June until the end of September. Children from 7 years of age allowed to participate in the excursion; not recommended for guests with physical problems. Snorkelling gear provided. Boat owner acting as skipper, guide and snorkelling instructor in English. We recommend bringing swimming suit, towels and a bottle of water.

**ST. JACOBS BEACH - DUB04**


Spend a day off the ship at one of Dubrovnik's most popular beaches. Your excursion will begin with a sailing trip along the old town of Dubrovnik followed by a 45-minute walk alongside the city walls. You can admire the prettiest corners of this Croatian town before boarding the boat for St. Jacob beach with free time to relax in the sun or to swim. Sun umbrella, beach chairs, welcome drink and one additional beverage is included. Please note: the excursion operates from June until the end of September. Water-sports may be available on request. Bar and restaurant available at the beach.

**SOMETHING SPECIAL**
**CROATIAN COUNTRYSIDE, WINE TASTING & BIKE RIDE - DUB11**


Leave the port and reach the hill overlooking Dubrovnik's old town where a first short stop is scheduled for picture-taking. Next, board your coach and enjoy a 1-hour drive to Gornja Dubravka where you will pick up your bike and start your exploration of the Croatian countryside through the Konavle region with its cypress trees, vineyards, olive groves and traditional villages. Your first stop will be at an old mill in apro where you can feast on dry figs, cheese, Dalmatian dry-cured ham, fresh fruit juice, coffee and cake as well as have a chance to sample the olive oil made at the mill. Suitably fortified, the next bike leg takes you to Brajkovic for a wine-tasting session. The tour concludes with your return to Dubrovnik by coach and to your cruise ship. Please note: please wear comfortable trousers, a short-sleeved shirt, sports shoes and sunscreen (for summer calls), and take water with you. The itinerary may change to suit the group, weather or similar. Adjustable tour bikes of different sizes will be provided. The bike route is downhill and uphill on proper roads. Minimum age to take part to this tour: 7 years old.

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


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

**DISCOVER THE PLACES OF GAME OF THRONES - DUB19**


The fictitious city Kings Lading and Dubrovnik have certainly something in common; both were in fiction or reality capital cities of a kingdom. Dubrovnik Old Town is so stunning that it comes to no surprise when creators of the addictive TV series Game of Thrones decided to choose it for the setting of capital city of Westeros. After a coach drive to the Old Town, begin your adventure with an expertise guide to some of the sites where memorable scenes were filmed. Take your camera ready and be a director yourself while filming some places including the Jesuit Complex, the Pile Gate where King Joffrey was faced with a citizens riot and pelted with dung, or Lovrinenac Castle, where the Battle of Blackwater the unsuccessful attack on Kings Landing took place. Your guide will introduce into this fictional world and you will feel like moving in the TV series; moreover, all of the filming locations and commentary from the guide will be supported by large, A4-size photos that show the screenshots from the appropriate episode and what took place. Do not miss to visit the shop where a reproduction of the throne has been built: a good opportunity for a nice picture. The tour will also include some time for free exploration before taking the coach for an unguided return to the port. Please note: this tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair as it involves long walking and stairs to negotiate. There may be some queues at the parking area when returning from the old town to the ship. Guests needs to be 16 years old to take part in this tour.

## THE TRADITIONS OF KONAVLE & DUBROVNIK - DUB02

 **Duration**  
4:30 h



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



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### KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Possibility of swimming		Long route by bus		Best seller	<b>DIFFICULTY LEVEL</b>
	Tasting included		Shooting videos and/or taking pictures is not allowed or subject to fee		New	
	Lunch or dinner included		Shopping		<b>Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour</b> As guests in wheelchairs must be accompanied by their own helper, please inform Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements	
	Drink included		Mini Tours			
	Snack included		Limited seat			
	No guide available					

  

	<b>Easy</b> May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing
	<b>Moderate</b> May involve inclines, steps, uneven surfaces and/or extended periods of standing
	<b>Strenuous</b> Active excursions recommended only for guests in good physical health

### OUR EXCURSIONS CATEGORIES

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

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

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

Some excursions are very popular and therefore availability cannot always be guaranteed, it is advisable to book in advance to avoid disappointment. The guides are guaranteed in English. Only for South America cruises, the guides are guaranteed in Brazilian Portuguese. Narration in other languages depends on the availability of guides. Please note that the final language of the tour will be confirmed on board during the cruise.