

**Malaga (Spain)- Almeria (Spain) – Cartagena (Spain) –
Ibiza (Spain) - Mahon (Spain) – Cagliari (Sardinia) – Gozo
(Malta) - Valetta (Malta)**

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.



ALMERIA, SPAIN

During the course of its long history many different civilisations chose to settle in Almeria, attracted by the town's strategic location on the Mediterranean. Traces of these lost civilisations can be found in the archaeological remains scattered throughout the province. The Moors founded the current capital in the 10th century using it as a base from which to rule over one of the most important taifas or kingdoms in muslim Spain. There is a strong Arab influence in Spain as the Moorish occupation lasted nearly 8 centuries. The old town with its narrow streets can only be visited on foot. You could see the impressive Alcazaba Palace, fief of the Moorish kings (caliphs) as well as the cathedral and admire its Gothic architecture and renaissance façades. The cathedral looks rather like a fortress and indeed it was not only a place of worship but also served as a bastion against marauding Berber pirates.

CARTAGENA, SPAIN

A Tale of 2 Cities

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 18 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4h30

Euros 50

The route from Cartagena to the hinterland crosses fertile farmland before wending its way through the mountain pass of the "Mountains of the Chain" to reach Murcia, the charming provincial capital.

There will be a visit to the Old Quarter of the city of Murcia and its beautiful 13th century cathedral. The façade of the cathedral is considered to be one of the best examples of Baroque architecture to be found anywhere in Spain, while the late Gothic Velez Chapel inside delights the eye with its delicate stone tracery. There will also be a visit to the neighbouring San Juan de Dios church.

Upon your return, there will be a walking tour of Cartagena, a charming city with a superb natural harbour. The tour starts by the Monument to the Heroes of Cavite and the Town Hall, and then continues along the pedestrian main street where you can admire the 18th century doorway of the casino as well as some delightful modern houses. The city has a rich history and Roman excavations can be seen below street level, protected by glass panels. There is also a Roman Theatre, discovered by chance in 1897, with rows of seats built into the hillside. The commemorative inscriptions indicate that it was built in the late 1st century BC at the height of the Roman colony's urban development.



Cartagena by Segway

Duration 1h30

Minimum 8 Participants, maximum 12

Euros 99

Discover Cartagena by Segway, a fun and effortless way to explore this fascinating city.

Your guide will be waiting to greet you on the pier and teach you how to use your Segway safely. When everybody is comfortable riding their Segway the tour can begin. The group will leave the port area and follow a route designed to showcase the charms of Cartagena, historical monuments, shopping areas, and all the most interesting sights. The Segway tour is the best way to get a feel for the city in a relatively short period of time. You will enjoy the unique gliding sensation of the Segway as you discover a dynamic modern city with an incredibly rich artistic and historical heritage. Cartagena: the perfect blend of past and present.

After the tour your guide will accompany you back to the pier.

Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes

We advise you to wear a hat and sun glasses and to use UV sunscreen

Participants are welcome to stay behind at the end of the tour, just let the guide know

Minimum weight to ride the Segway 40kg, maximum 120kg. Minimum height 1m40, maximum 2m

Roman Cartagena

Walking tour

Minimum 15 participants Maximum 25

Duration: 3 hours

Euros: 39

The Port of Cartagena is a natural harbour, ideally situated in a deep bay protected by the surrounding mountains.

This strategic location has been a magnet for settlers throughout the ages and has contributed enormously to the city's development and importance. In the late 3rd century BC the Carthaginians established a trading post here. Fast-forward to the 18th century when the Bourbon King Carlos III picked Cartagena to be one of Spain's main naval bases, a status it still enjoys today.

On this guided tour you are literally walking in the footsteps of history. The archaeological site, open to the public since 2012, offers a fascinating insight into everyday life in Roman times. You will see the remains of a thermal spa, and an atrium building used to host ritual banquets in honour of the gods. Fortuna House in particular gives a very clear idea of domestic arrangements in the first century AD. The size and rich decoration of this family home indicate that it belonged to a very wealthy merchant. At this point in history Cartagena was a hive of activity and a real commercial hub exporting lead, silver, fish paste, salt and grain to Rome.

The house has a series of reception rooms including an intimate salon where the master of the house would conduct business and receive those petitioning favours, a magnificent dining room where couches would be pulled up around a central table, and bedrooms. The wall paintings are still bright and vibrant with colour. The Romans were very fond of bright colours and wall paintings and mosaics were status symbols. At Fortuna house traces of the original mosaic floors are still visible; they must have been very expensive and show that clearly no expense was spared to display the owner's wealth.

The last stop on this excursion is the Roman theatre, one of the city's "not to be missed" landmarks. It was built between the fifth and first century BC when Rome was at the height of its power. The theatre could accommodate 6000 spectators, with the best seats being reserved for the local elite, judges and priests.

Home to many different cultures, Cartagena has been a city of major importance for the past 3000 years.



IBIZA, Ibiza town

Ibiza is well known as a Hedonist's paradise where people come to laze on the beach all day and party hard all night, but there is so much more to it than that.

Ibiza town was founded by the Carthaginians around the 6th century BC and was ruled in turn by the Romans, Arabs and Catalans. Traces of their presence can be found in the Old quarter of the town known as Dalt Vila or upper town, which boasts many historical buildings and two interesting museums which give an insight into the town's rich historical, archaeological and ethnological past. The medieval walled city and its Gothic cathedral, dedicated to "Our Lady of the Snows", became a designated UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999.

Ibiza is a great place to explore with a host of trendy boutiques and interesting restaurants and a growing number of luxury hotels and spas around its beautiful harbour. The island also boasts 56 sandy beaches along its coast line, making it the perfect place to just chill out and relax.

Time at leisure

MINORCA, BALEARIC ISLANDS, PORT MAHON

Magic of Minorca

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3 hours

Euros 48

The first stop on the tour is Monte Toro; at 357m above sea level it is the highest point of the island and the views are absolutely breathtaking, on a clear day you can even see Mallorca to the south-east. The site is considered to be the spiritual centre of Minorca and has been a place of pilgrimage since the 13th century. The remains of an old Augustinian monastery are still visible and there is a little church with a carved wooden image of the Virgen del Toro, patron saint of Minorca. Legend has it that Monte Toro, takes its name from a bull (el toro) which led a group of monks to a statue of the Virgin Mary carved in the rock face.

The excursion continues to Taula de Torralba, a prehistoric talaiotic settlement dating from 2000 – 1000 BC. The Taula consists of two slabs of rock, one placed on the other to form a "T". The monument is more sophisticated than many other prehistoric constructions, and is generally considered to have been used as a sanctuary. The Taula is exclusive to Minorca and despite their shared Talayotic heritage, there is nothing comparable in Mallorca.

Thereafter the tour bus returns to Mahon and participants will leave the coach and walk through the 18th century town (mostly downhill) before returning to the ship. After exploring the city centre you can chose to either walk back (this involves steps) or return by coach.

The tour involves a fair amount of walking over uneven ground (5km)



CAGLIARI, SARDINIA, ITALY

Nora

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30/3h45

€ 60

After departing the pier by coach with your local guide, you will be offered an orientation tour of Cagliari with photo stops in front of Basilica of Bonaria and at Monte Urpino (Panoramic point) then along the south-western coast. You will proceed along the same itinerary that, every year, thousands of pilgrims cover walking while following St. Eufisio cart, a Roman soldier and a Christian Martyr.

After passing St. Gilla's lagoon and the homonymous saline, you will arrive at Nora. Founded by the Phoenicians Nora enjoys a scenic location on the sea front, between two hills and dominated by the Spanish Tower.

The city had two harbours, one sheltered from the west winds and the other from the Mistral.

First a Carthaginian and then a Roman town, Nora declined and disappeared around the third century A.D., apparently as a result of an earthquake that caused the town to sink into the surrounding sea.

Today the most easily visible are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse as well as the Roman ruins: beautiful mosaics, temples, patrician villas, the baths and a theatre, almost completely intact, dating from the time of the Empire.

Following your guided visit, re-board your coach to return to your ship.

45 minute drive to the archaeological site

5 minute walk from the parking to the entrance of the site (1h30 guided visit)

The visit includes a lot of walking on uneven surfaces



GOZO, MALTA

Highlights of Gozo

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

Euros 40

The Ggantija Temples are two prehistoric temples on Gozo, the second largest island in Malta. One of them is considered to be the oldest stone structure in the world, predating the Giant Pyramids and Stonehenge by several hundred years. The temples are dedicated to the Great Earth Mother, and the round curved architecture symbolises the body of a powerful full figured Mother goddess. Local legend recounts that a female giant built the temple walls in one day and a night, while nursing a baby at the same time, and indeed the name Ggantija is Maltese for Giant's grotto. The temples were a place of pilgrimage and sacrifice for the ancient peoples of Malta. Take a walk around this fascinating site before heading off to Victoria the capital of Gozo. Victoria (so named in honour of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee celebrations in 1887) nestles beneath a powerful old citadel. The walled castle dominates the town and its fortifications afford superb panoramic views of the whole island. Inside the citadel you can admire the fine baroque cathedral, built on the site of a Roman temple dedicated to Juno.

After leaving Victoria, you will drive to the Basillica of Ta Pinu, which became a centre of pilgrimage in 1883 after a local woman heard the voice of Our Lady while praying in the small chapel which once occupied the site. The monumental shrine which stands there now was built between 1920 and 1931. You can explore the church and enjoy the sweeping coastal views.

The next stop takes you to Fungus Rock known as the Dwejra Seascape. Admire this unique rock formation before continuing across the east coast to capture the coastal views of Ramla l-Hamara (The Red Beach). On the drive back to the pier there will be a photo stop to take pictures of the wonderful view across to Comino Island, also a location used for the movies "Troy" and the "Count of Montecristo".

VALETTA, MALTA

Malta's Capitals: Mdina & Valetta

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Excursion ends at the airport or the port : minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4h30

Euros: 49

Take the scenic route to Malta's old capital, Mdina – one of the world's finest examples of a living medieval city. Stroll through the city's streets and listen to your guide's presentation of the city and its history. Enjoy the sweeping views from the bastions, over the valley and the surrounding areas. After the walking tour there will be free time to see the cathedral, do some souvenir shopping, or just relax at one of the pavement cafés and watch the world go by.

Next the coach will take you to the present day capital, Valletta. Here you will see St John's Cathedral, one of the finest examples of high Baroque architecture in Europe, richly decorated with ornate altar pieces, elaborate inlaid marble tombstones, and artistic masterpieces. You will view the Grand Master's Palace from the outside; originally the seat of the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaliers of St John, it is now houses the Parliament and President's Office. Your last stop will be at the Barracca Gardens located on the highest point of the 16th century bastion walls, built by the Knights of St John to protect the city. From this vantage point you can enjoy splendid views of the Three Cities and Fort Ricasoli.

St John's cathedral is closed on Saturday afternoon, Sundays and Public holidays

