

**Malaga (Spain) – Gibraltar (UK) - Tangier (Morocco) –
Cadiz (Spain) – Safi (Morocco) – Arrecife (Lanzarote Canary
islands) – Puerto del Rosario (Fuerteventura)- Las Palmas
(Gran Canary, Canary Islands) – La Gomera (Canary
islands) - Philipsburg (St Maarten)**

**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.**

**All information concerning excursions is correct at the time
of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to
make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during
the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions.**



GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar is situated on the southernmost tip of the Iberian Peninsula, guarding the gateway to the Mediterranean. The Rock, as it is called, is one of the two "Pillars of Hercules". Hercules, the "Strong Man" of classical mythology, killed his children in a fit of madness and embarked on a series of 12 tasks or "labours" to expiate his sins. During the course of his adventures he is said to have raised the pillars to mark the western edge of the inhabited world.

Neighbouring countries include Spain to the north, and Morocco (North Africa) to the south, only 15 miles (24km) away across the strait.

The Rock consists mainly of Jurassic Limestone some 200 million years old.

One of the attractions of Gibraltar is its VAT free status, making it a shopper's paradise. Most of the shops are on and around Main street.

History & Heritage Tour

Transport by Minibus

Duration 2 hours

Minimum 16 participants, maximum 22

Euros 49

You will board the minibus and head North towards the frontier with Spain. On the way you will cross a World War II runway which was used by General Eisenhower during "Operation Torch", the allied invasion of North Africa. The minibus will then drive to Europa Point, the southernmost point of Gibraltar. On a clear day you can see views of North Africa from across the strait, including Ceuta and the Rif mountains of Morocco. From Europa point the tour proceeds to one of Gibraltar's most popular attractions, the Ape's Den; Barbary Macaques at liberty, the only free roaming apes in Europe. Barbary apes are normally found in North Africa and it is thought that they were imported from Morocco by the first British garrisons. Legend has it that if the apes disappear, the British will be forced to leave Gibraltar. Superstitious nonsense? Maybe, but Winston Churchill wasn't taking any chances; when the ape population dwindled during World War II, he quickly had some more shipped in to make up the numbers.

Next on the agenda is a visit to the Great Siege Tunnels. This impressive defence system inside the Rock, was built during the Great siege of 1783, when France and Spain decided to join forces to wrest Gibraltar from the British. The Governor of Gibraltar at that time was dismayed to find that the enemy troops were positioned in trenches too close to the Rock for the British army to be able to fire on them; defeat seemed inevitable. However, he decided to offer a reward to anyone who could think of a way of getting guns on to "the Notch", a projection on the northern rock face which would enable the army to fire sideways on to the would-be invaders. Sergeant major Ince, who belonged to what would now be known as the Royal Engineers, took up the challenge and suggested that this might be accomplished by tunnelling. He was given permission to start work and with a team of stalwarts achieved the impossible, using only muscle power and a bit of gunpowder. The tunnelling work made such a lot of dust and smoke that they could hardly breathe. The tunnellers decided to make vents in the rock face to let in some air, and quickly realised that these apertures would make ideal embrasures for guns.

The Great Siege tunnels bear witness to British ingenuity, determination and dogged courage. Sergeant Ince was rewarded with a plot of land on the upper Rock, which still bears the name, "Ince's Farm" and the Duke of Kent, Royal Governor of Gibraltar (Queen Victoria's father) gave him a valuable horse.

After the visit you will drive back to the pier.

There will be driver guides on the tour

The terrain is by turns flat, hilly or cobblestoned. It is not recommended for guests with mobility issues as there is a lot of walking through tunnels.

The order of the itinerary on this tour may be reversed.



Rock & ... Roll

Transport by Minibus

Duration 2 hours

Minimum 16 participants, maximum 22

Euros 49

You will board the minibus and head North towards the frontier with Spain. On the way you will cross a World War II runway which was used by General Eisenhower during "Operation Torch", the allied invasion of North Africa. The minibus will then drive to Europa Point, the southernmost point of Gibraltar. On a clear day you can see views of North Africa from across the strait, including Ceuta and the Rif mountains of Morocco. From Europa point the excursion continues to the upper rock and St Michael's cave. The cave was created by rainwater slowly seeping through the limestone and turning into a carbonic acid solution that dissolved the rock. Over a period of thousands of years tiny crevices grew into long passages and deep caverns with an amazing collection of stalactites and stalagmites. The cave was well known to the Greeks and Romans and was the subject of many legends. It was thought that the Cathedral Cave was a bottomless pit, and the fantastic rock formations made it easy to believe that it was in fact the gateway to the Underworld. These days the cave has lost its sinister reputation and is used to stage live shows, concerts and an annual World Music festival. After visiting the cave we will pay our respects to some of Gibraltar's most popular residents, the famous Barbary Macaques, the only free roaming apes in Europe. Incidentally one legend relates that the apes found their way to Gibraltar from Morocco by following a subterranean passage under the strait which ends up at St Michael's cave. The tour excursion continues to the old town and city centre before returning to the ship.

The terrain is by turns flat, hill and cobblestoned. The ground at St Michael's cave is wet and slippery and there are a lot of steps. There will be driver guides on the tour.

TANGIER, MOROCCO**Transfer by coach to the Kasbah, and then on foot**

Duration 2h30

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30 per group

Euros 34

The coaches will drop you off at the Kasbah, the ancient medina with its narrow streets and bazaars. Accompanied by your guide, you will walk down to the Grand Socco (meaning "Big Square"), which divides the medina from the Ville Nouvelle area of Tangier and pass by the Mendoubia Gardens embellished with a large marble fountain and park benches. The square is particularly active during the evenings when vendors put up their extensive displays and sell a variety of second-hand goods, fruit and spices in the square. The market is particularly colourful, and the country women presiding over the stalls are known for their striped foutas and wide-brimmed straw hats.

The tour continues with a visit to Petit Socco (Little Square) also known as the souk Dakhli. Petit Socco was once one of the greatest souks in all Morocco and people would flock from miles around to buy food and clothes. In the nineteenth century the area became prosperous as trading with Europe increased. By the early 20th century businessmen, diplomats and bankers all had their offices located around the square and a plethora of hotels, cafés and casinos sprang up, attesting to the wealth of the area. However, by the 1950's the centre of commercial activity had shifted to the Ville Nouvelle. Refreshment in the form of mint tea and local pastries will be provided before you visit the Grand Mosque. The mosque was built on the site of a former Portuguese cathedral which in turn replaced a Roman temple dedicated to Hercules. It dates back to the Moulay Ismail period and was expanded in 1815 by Moulay Sliman. Mohammed V visited the mosque on April 11, 1947, before making a historical speech at Mendoubia Gardens.

You will have some time at leisure before you take the coach back to the port, or walk back by yourselves should you so wish.

It is about 1.5 km all downhill

Refreshments consist of Mint tea and a local pastry



Tetuan

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 5 hours

Euros 49

Tetuan has the charm of all small northern Moroccan towns. Set among the giant mountains of the Rif, the town has a unique history. It was a safe haven for many muslim and jewish refugees fleeing from Christian Andalusia and was later occupied by the Spanish for almost two centuries. Tetuan is truly a multicultural melting pot and this is reflected in its architecture which is a wonderful mixture of Spanish and moorish styles. The town is growing fast and there are now 65.000 inhabitants. The people are friendly and the spanish influence is still ever present with the townsfolk speaking both arabic and spanish when they talk amongst themselves.

The 57 km drive to Tetuan will take you through the Rif Mountains. You will then reach Tetuan which is situated on the northern slope of a fertile valley. The sightseeing tour will start with an through narrow streets to explore the medina and the souks.

The drive between Tangier and Tetuan is approx. 1h15 (57km).

The city tour is by foot (approx. 2hours).

CADIZ, SPAIN**A day in Seville**

(Alcazar visit only)

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 25

Duration 8hrs/8h30

Euros 118

Tapas Lunch included

Seville the capital of Andalusia is surely one of the most beautiful and atmospheric of Spanish cities, with countless architectural and artistic treasures to be discovered; it is also famed for its rich cultural heritage and was once a symbol of religious tolerance with Christians, Jews and Muslims co-existing peaceably.

The drive from the port of Cadiz to Seville will take you along the highway through cotton fields and olive groves. The excursion includes an inside visit of the Alcazar a marvelous Moorish style fortress built in the 14th century by the Christian King, Peter the Cruel also known as Peter the Just. You will be dazzled by the wonderful architecture, intricate decorations, fragrant gardens and sparkling fountains. You will pass by the cathedral which has been listed as a UNESCO world heritage site since 1987. It is the third largest church in Europe and the largest Gothic structure on the continent, built to showcase Seville's wealth. The bell tower of the cathedral stands 343ft (105m) high and is called the Giralda; it started life as a minaret adorning the mosque that once stood on the site of the cathedral.

At the heart of the city lies the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the old Jewish quarter, a labyrinth of narrow streets, white washed buildings with wrought iron grilles on the windows and tiled patios.

The excursion will end with a panoramic tour of Plaza de America, Plaza de Espana and Maria Luisa Park; your guide will point out other interesting sights on the way.

The drive from Cadiz to Seville takes approximately 1h30 each way

Inside visit included: the Alcazar

The tour involves a lot of walking

The time schedule of the tour may be altered to suit requirements on the spot

The Alcazar is a royal residence. This means it may, for official reasons, be closed to the public without prior notice. In such case an alternative visit will be made to the "Casa de Pilatos".

Tapas Lunch consists of several dishes to be shared between 4 guests. It includes mineral water, red wine (1 bottle for 4) and coffee



The white villages of Andalusia

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Duration 4h30

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 40

Euros 39

A motor coach will be waiting on Cadiz pier, ready to take you in air-conditioned comfort to Vejer de la Frontera, an authentic “pueblo blanco” or white village, perched on a hill top above the steep gorge of the Barbate river.

The village was declared a national monument in 1978 and apart from being extremely picturesque and unspoiled, gives visitors a good idea of what Andalusian towns looked like during the five centuries of Moorish occupation. On our guided walking tour you will discover a labyrinth of narrow cobblestoned streets and explore secret nooks and crannies, stumbling upon hidden patios and enchanting houses. You will also stroll through Plaza Espana, voted one of the prettiest squares in Spain, which boasts a wonderful tiled fountain with little ceramic frogs spouting water. Plaza Espana is the vibrant heart of Vejer de la Frontera and you will have some time at leisure to look round by yourself.

The excursion continues with a scenic drive through the countryside and “La Brena” national park with its beautiful pine forest. Look out for Cape Trafalgar where a lighthouse marks the bleak headland where the Battle of Trafalgar was fought in 1805. It was here that Nelson’s tactical genius routed the combined French and Spanish forces, despite their superior numbers. In the course of this historic encounter 22 French and Spanish ships were lost; the British lost no ships but paid dearly for victory nonetheless as Nelson himself was shot by a French musketeer and died just before the battle ended.

The last stop on this tour is at Conil de la Frontera, a traditional fishing town with dazzling white buildings, a picturesque old quarter with a 15th century tower, cobbled streets and a host of friendly tapas bars and shops. You will have some leisure time to enjoy Conil on your own; relax and watch the world go by at one of the tapas bars, browse around the shops, or simply go for a stroll on the beautiful sandy beach.

Segway Sauntering

Duration 2h30

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 8

Euros 60

Active tour

Discover the exciting multi-faceted city of Cadiz on our original Segway Sauntering tour and see all the city highlights. There is a short walk to the departure point of the Segway tour, but on your return you will be picked up and brought back to the ship. Learning to ride a Segway is very easy and you will soon feel relaxed and confident. The sense of freedom and comfort as you glide along on your Segway is incomparable and it is a great way to explore all the sites.

Cadiz is said to be the oldest inhabited city in Western Europe and some parts are almost 1.000 years old, so that’s a lot of atmosphere and history to experience (just as well you’ve got your Segway!). Old world charm abounds in Cadiz; narrow winding roads and alleys, inner courtyards, churches, monuments and picturesque squares serve as a back drop for the buzzing vitality of the locals going about their everyday life.

Enjoy the ride and admire the sights including the 12th century Arco des Populo, the medieval gateway to the sea, the Central Market of Abastos, Spain’s oldest covered market, the Carlos III promenade and much, much more.

This alternative Cadiz discovery tour is a great way to combine culture and fun.



SAFI, MOROCCO

Marrakech

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Approx. duration 11 hours

Euros 117

Lunch included

Known as "The Pearl of the South", or the "Red City" because of the colour of the city walls, Marrakech has long been host to international personalities and jetsetters. Since time immemorial, Marrakech has been an important crossroad of Arabic, Berber and Sudanese civilizations. The city itself was founded by a mysterious warrior from the Sahara, Yusef ben Tachfine over 900 years ago. Its wonderful dry climate and its unequalled setting, in the midst of a 3,500-acre palm grove at the foot of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains, make it one of Morocco's most popular travel destinations.

The excursion starts with a visit to the exquisitely beautiful Bahia Palace with its finely wrought ceilings and enchanting Moorish gardens. You will continue towards the ancient Medina with its medieval ramparts. The cool shaded Medina is home to dozens of craft guilds including wool dyers, coppersmiths and spice merchants. Admire the Koutoubia mosque, a real gem of Islamic architecture whose minaret is visible from almost everywhere in Marrakech. After a typical Moroccan lunch with some traditional folklore, you will continue to Marrakech's main attraction, the famed Djamaa el Fna Square with its snake charmers, henna artists, tooth-extractors, story tellers and acrobats who perform daily around sunset. From Djamaa El Fna square you can access the souks with their tempting array of merchandise, leather goods, lanterns, jewellery, slippers and heaps of fragrant spices. There will be some free time at end of the tour.

This tour includes a long drive: 3 hours between Safi and Marrakech

Lunch is included and will be served at a local restaurant. You will have the opportunity to taste delicious specialities like Moroccan salads, chicken & lemon tajine, meat couscous with seven vegetables, fruit, and mint tea with pastries.

¼ wine, ¼ mineral water and tea are included during lunch



Marrakech & Majorelle gardens

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Approx. Duration 11 hours

Euros 121

Lunch included

Marrakesh, the Red City, is the most important of the four Imperial Cities and indeed from medieval times until around the beginning of the 20th century, the entire country of Morocco was known as the "Kingdom of Marrakesh".

The city boasts a long and eventful history spanning some one thousand years. Powerful monarchs have fought over the territory, which has seen the rise and fall of successive dynasties each leaving its mark in the form of magnificent palaces straight out of the "Arabian Nights", fabulous gardens, mosques and koranic schools. Home to intellectuals and writers as well as talented craftsmen, this bustling trading centre is an exotic blend of Arab, Berber and sub-Saharan influences and is the undisputed capital of Southern Morocco.

The drive to Marrakesh takes approximately 3 hours, but there will be a 10-minute comfort stop on the way.

Upon arrival you will discover the glorious Majorelle Gardens, created by the French painter Jacques Majorelle over a forty-year period. Majorelle, who was an avid plant collector, assembled specimens from the five continents, using his artistic sensibility to compose and colour his garden like a painting. The garden walls, fountains and villa itself are painted a very intense shade of blue which is known as Majorelle blue, inspired by the decorative tiles often seen on Moroccan buildings. The villa and gardens were bought by Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent in 1980 and lovingly restored. The building used by Majorelle as an artist's studio now houses a magnificent collection of Islamic art belonging to Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent and when Saint Laurent died in 2008 his ashes were scattered over the rose garden.

Next you will see the Koutoubia Mosque, the largest mosque in Marrakesh. This landmark building can be seen from almost everywhere in the city. Its iconic minaret, topped by four copper spheres, is as much a symbol of Marrakesh as the Eiffel tower is of Paris. Legend has it that the spheres were originally three in number and made of gold. The fourth sphere was added by the wife of the ruler Moulay Yacoub who melted down all her jewellery as a penance for breaking her fast during Ramadan. Non-Muslims are not allowed to enter the mosque, but you will be able to visit the surrounding gardens.

You will then take a break to enjoy a typical Moroccan lunch.

The next stop will be the Dar El Bacha Confluences museum. This newly opened museum, dedicated to Islamic art, is a work of art in itself. The fabulous building was once home to Thami el Glaoui, named Pasha of Marrakech by Sultan Moulay Youssef in 1912. El Glaoui, also known as Lord of the Atlas, was at one point the most powerful and influential figure in Morocco, as well as being one of the world's richest men. He enjoyed a very glamorous lifestyle and entertained lavishly playing host to many of the world best known personalities: Winston Churchill, General De Gaulle, Charlie Chaplin and Jacques Majorelle among others. Naturally his palace was in keeping with his status. Built at the start of the 20th century is it one of the most beautiful palaces in the Red City featuring exquisite cedar wood panelling and coffered ceilings, painted walls and the famous Moroccan Zellige, traditional hand-crafted mosaic tiles with geometric and floral motifs. Feast your eyes on the opulent décor and imagine the magnificent receptions, sumptuous banquets and extravagant celebrations that once took place here; the walls echoing with laughter and brilliant conversation as the cream of international society enjoyed the pasha's generous hospitality.

After a visit to the old town and the many different souks selling carpets, metal work, clothing, spices and leather goods, you will walk to Djammaa El Fna Square, which is the heart of Marrakesh. In 1050 the square was the scene for many public executions and the name Djammaa El Fna, translates as "Assembly of the dead". These days however the square could not be more alive and is teeming with snake charmers, water sellers, fortune tellers, acrobats, musicians, henna artists and story tellers as well as a constant stream of locals and tourists. You will have one hour at leisure to soak up the amazing atmosphere before the journey back to the ship.

This tour includes a long drive: 3 hours between Safi and Marrakech

Lunch is included and will be served in a local restaurant. You will have the opportunity to taste delicious specialities like Moroccan salads, chicken tagine with lemon, meat couscous with seven vegetables, fruit, and mint tea with pastries.

¼ wine, ¼ mineral water and tea are included during lunch



Essaouira

By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30
Duration approx. 7 hours
Euros 107
Seafood lunch included

Essaouira is one of Morocco's most enjoyable and attractive coastal towns. It is charmingly picturesque with whitewashed, blue shuttered houses, art galleries, wood workshops, and a harbour filled with bright blue fishing boats- all enclosed by ancient red walls. The town faces a group of rocky islands and is surrounded by an expanse of empty sandy beaches and dunes. Everything in the small centre is within walking distance and the beaches are quite clean.

The tranquillity and traditional aspect of Essaouira belie its rich history and the many international influences that have surged through this ancient trading and fishing port at one time or another. Apart from the charming mix of Portuguese, Berber and French architecture and the beautiful scenery, it is the laid-back atmosphere and unique sense of tolerance, which makes Essaouira so appealing.

2 hour drive each way!
You will visit Bab Marrakech square, La Scala, the Old town and "le Vieux Port"
You will have some time at leisure after the guided tour
Lunch is served in a Sea Food Restaurant
Time at leisure after lunch

ARRECIFE, LANZAROTE**Mountain of fire**

By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 20 participants, no maximum
Duration 3h30
Euros 44

The coach will be waiting at the pier and we will set off for the southern part of the island, passing picturesque villages and crossing streams of black lava before we get to the south west coast and the site of « Los Hervideros » or the « Boiling pots » . Here the sea appears to bubble and boil, a natural phenomenon caused by the sheer force of the waves surging through a series of underground volcanic caves.

We will then proceed to Timanfaya National Park which extends over a unique volcanic landscape created between 1730 and 1736 when more than 100 volcanoes covering 50 km devastated this part of the island, destroying several villages in the process. The last eruptions were in 1824 but because of the very low rainfall on the island and lack of erosion the site has remained intact and appears much as it did just after the eruptions, a natural museum. On Isote de Hilario hill you will see that the thermal power of the volcanoes is still very much in evidence. Park workers will show you how dry weeds thrown on the ground catch fire instantly , while water poured into a hole produces steam like a mini geyser. Food can even be cooked as the heat from the earth's core serves as a natural grill.

On the « Lunar Route » to the heart of the national park we will learn about the history of the volcanoes and see rare plants which illustrate how Life will slowly conquer even the most inhospitable environment.

Guests are advised to take a jacket with them, as it may be windy up on Fire Mountain.
This tour travels along some winding mountain roads.



PUERTO DEL ROSARIO, FUERTEVENTURA

Island flavours

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

Euros 42

The excursion starts from the port of Puerto del Rosario where you will board your motor coach and drive in comfort along the eastern coast road. Your destination is Betancuria, once the capital of the Kingdom of the Canary Islands. The town was named after Jean de Bethancourt a French explorer who led an expedition to the Canary Islands in 1402 and founded the town in 1404. Our first stop will be the Casa Santa Maria a perfectly restored 17th century house in the traditional Canary style. Here you will see a widescreen audiovisual presentation about Fuerteventura and get to know something of the island's history. Afterwards, you will get to sample some Canary island specialities such as Cactus marmalade and Mojo, a garlic sauce which the locals eat with bread or the famous wrinkled potatoes.

Next you will be taken to one of the Aloe Vera plantations in Fuerteventura. The Aloe Vera plant is indigenous to the Canary Islands and you will learn all about its cultivation and the way it is used in cosmetics and the medical industry. After the presentation you may, if you wish, purchase some aloe vera products.

Finally we will stop at the Cheese Museum in Antigua, where you will discover the island through its rich cheese making tradition. During the visit you will have a chance to sample some of the goats cheese yourself. The museum has various areas to discover. Find out about the islands volcanic origins, its flora & fauna and the Majorera goats and their famous cheese, all organized around a central patio. The museum is also home to the original Antigua Windmill, found in perfect working condition. Don't miss the chance to enjoy the cactus garden, a green treasure with species which only grow on this island as well as other species from all over the world.

Jeep tour

Duration 4h15

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 100

Euros 60

You will leave the pier in Puerto del Rosario and head towards La Oliva a town and municipality in the northern part of the island. We will stop at the town where you will be given all the necessary information about the jeep tour as well as safety guidelines.

The excursion continues in a north westerly direction until we reach Playa Aguilla, so called because it stretches out like an eagle's wings. Enjoy breathtaking cliff top views of the west coast extending towards El Cotillo, which will be your next stop. El Cotillo is a small fishing village which boasts beautiful beaches and pristine lagoons, and you will have ample time to relax and swim in the crystal clear waters.

On the return journey we will drive off the beaten track to the famous Dunes of Corralejo, 2600 ha of fine white sand, an amazingly unspoilt desert landscape. Don't forget to take your cameras as there will be time for a photo stop before returning to the ship.



LAS PALMAS, GRAN CANARIA

Scenic tour of Las Palmas and the Bandama Crater

(in-transit passengers only)

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h00

Euros 50

The tour starts with a panoramic drive along Las Canteras beach, a 3 mile stretch of golden sand on the way to Doramas Park. The park is named after the last Guanche king of Eastern Gran Canaria (Guanches were the original Berber inhabitants of the Canary Islands). In 1481 on Mount Arucas, Doramas challenged the Spaniards to single combat; he slew his rival with a javelin throw, but was himself mortally wounded. The Spanish and Guanche forces then joined in battle, but without their leader the fight was soon over. This was the final act of armed resistance against the Spaniards. Many of Doramas's followers hurled themselves off the cliffs rather than submit to the invader, and this episode is commemorated by a bronze sculpture in the gardens of the Hotel Santa Catalina at the park's centre. You will have a short guided walk in the park which possesses a good collection of native plants and numerous palm trees and dragon trees as well as water features such as waterfalls, fountains and a pond full of huge Koi carp.

The tour continues with a visit to the historic old quarter of Las Palmas, known as Vegueta, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1990. The walled Old Town is a charming mixture of winding cobble stoned streets and secluded shady squares contrasting with the hustle and bustle of the town's oldest market and its colourful displays of local produce.

Next you will pass by the famous Plaza Santa Ana. This impressive square is guarded by bronze canine statues in honour of the original wild dogs which roamed the island and inspired its Latin name of "Canariae insulae" (Island of dogs). Later on the islands gave their name to the yellow song birds we know as Canaries. Santa Ana Cathedral with its soaring 19th century neoclassical columns faces the Plaza and behind it lies Pilar Nuevo square and one of the most beautifully decorated buildings in the city: the Casa Colon, where Christopher Columbus stayed during his first voyage to the Americas. The house is now a fine museum and art gallery and you will enjoy browsing through its fascinating collection of archive documents commemorating the discovery of the Americas, and the history of Las Palmas (inside visit).

The tour ends with a ride up to the vast volcanic crater of Bandama, an extinct volcano rising nearly 1.900ft above sea level. Be sure to have your cameras at the ready as the panoramic view of the island and Spain's first golf course provide a perfect photo opportunity.

This tour involves some walking on cobblestoned streets.



SAN SEBASTIAN, LA GOMERA, CANARY ISLANDS

Scenic Gomera

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30

Euros 44

The island of La Gomera, which forms an almost perfect circle, is the second smallest of the Canary Islands. San Sebastian, the capital of the island (approximately 6.000 inhabitants), is a picturesque village and harbour. It was here that Columbus loaded his ships with food supplies and water before setting sail for America. Before the voyage he and his crew attended mass at the little church of La Asuncion, still in use, to pray for a safe passage.

During the course of this leisurely excursion you will discover the scenic north side of the island and the beautiful National Park where you will learn about the local flora and fauna. Your guide will accompany you on a short and easy walk through one of the oldest laurel forests in the world; a green mass of pre-historic vegetation which has survived to this day thanks to the extraordinarily temperate climate. The area was classed as a national park in 1981, and a UNESCO world cultural heritage site in 1986.

You will then board your coach once again and drive to Hermigua a beautiful green valley known for its mild climate, water filled ravines, and banana plantations. Here you will get a chance to visit a handicraft centre with displays of local pottery, utensils and looms which give a good idea of how the inhabitants used to live.

The tour continues with a panoramic drive to Agulo for a visit to the Juego de Bolas (Parque Nacional del Garajonay Visitor Centre). Here you will find a wealth of information concerning the geology, climate, flora and fauna of the park. At the "House of Memory" you will learn about traditional culture with exhibits including the interior of a rural house, agricultural equipment, a cellar and traditional ceramics. Before returning to the pier you will get the opportunity to visit the church of La Asuncion (if there is no religious service taking place).



SAINT MAARTEN

Scenic transfer to the airport

By air-conditioned vehicle

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Duration approx 3h30

Euros 54

Saint Maarten is one of the most unique destinations in the Caribbean. Since 1648 the island has been divided between the French and the Dutch with both sides maintaining their very distinct personality and heritage. The French side, Saint Martin is quiet and refined with gorgeous white beaches, French cuisine and sophisticated resorts.

The Dutch side of Sint Maarten has a more obvious Caribbean flavour with its brightly coloured buildings and tropical flair. St Maarten's capital is Philipsburg which bustles with duty free shopping, quality dining and an active nightlife. Practically, the whole island's economy is based on tourism with around 70% of the population working in the tourist sector. The island is also duty-free, which of course enhances its attractiveness for tourists. Both the French and the Dutch sides of the island benefit from the sandy beaches and coves which create an ideal environment for swimming, snorkelling and water sports.

Departing the Harbor at 9am, you will be dropped off in nearby Philipsburg for a one-hour browsing and shopping on famous Front Street (shops open at 9 am) or for a leisurely stroll along the boardwalk to enjoy the turquoise waters of Great Bay. After enjoying the Dutch Capital, you will be driven past the salt ponds, once the main source of revenue for the island to Oyster Pond, where you will cross the border to the French side .

Following the road to the charming village of Oyster Pond you will arrive at Coralita lookout point. Here kite surfers can often be photographed catching the waves, while in the distance the island of St Barth can be seen. After a short stop the journey continues to Orient bay, the Saint Tropez of the Caribbean, well-known for its clothing optional beach.

The drive continues further through the picturesque countryside of French St Martin past the village of Grand Case, the gourmet Capital of the Caribbean with its many restaurants, alive with creole culture and a local community vibe.

Entering Marigot, the capital of the French side of St. Martin, the tour will stop for a 1 hour break giving guests the time for some more souvenir hunting, duty free shopping and/or time to enjoy a coffee in a typical French café.

Leaving the charming French capital of Marigot you will be driven through Bellevue on the way to the border where you will cross back the dutch side of the island. Then you will cross the Simpson Bay causeway, the newest and longest bridge on the island. Following along airport road and the runway you will arrive at 12h30 at Juliana International airport.

