Civitavecchia - Bonifacio - Mahon - Ibiza - Motril - Safi - Casablanca - Tangier - Cadiz - Lisbon

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and 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.



## **BONIFACIO, CORSICA**

Isolated on the Southern most point of Corsica, majestic Bonifacio's natural surroundings are nothing less than remarkable. Sheer, white limestone cliffs rise out of the sea, forming a perfect natural harbour as well as a picturesque setting for this unique town. The first historical mention of Bonifacio is actually in Homer's Odyssey: "An excellent harbour, closed in on all sides by an unbroken ring of precipitous cliffs, with two bold headlands facing each other at the mouth so as to leave only a narrow channel in between." Homer's was an accurate description of Bonifacio. In Roman times, Bonifacio was only a small village. It began to develop around 828 AD when Count Bonifacio of Tuscany built a castle on the peninsula. Its strategic location was much coveted by European powers, and like other places in Corsica, it was subject to numerous raids and attacks. The predominant forces were the Genoese who held dominion over the territory from the 12th to the 19th century until Corsica was given back to France.

Until the advent of tourism Bonifacio was just a sleepy town whose main activity was fishing. Nowadays, visitors will discover an exciting destination possessed of both old and new-world charm and breathtaking beauty.

## **PORT MAHON, MENORCA - SPAIN**

### **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 breath taking, 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.



# Hiking in S'Albufera Nature park

Transfer by van, then on foot Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18 Duration: 3h30

Euros 54

A short 15 minute drive will take you to a typical Minorcan fishing village, Es Grau, located within the boundaries of the S'Albufera Nature reserve. The park covers the wetlands, a marshy coastal area consisting of a 2km lagoon, enclosed by a system of dunes, and a river which flows into the sea.

You will be taken on an itinerary designed to showcase the flora and fauna of the wetlands. The park is home to a wide variety of bird life; waterfowl such as ducks, common coots, herons and European shags live alongside birds of prey including osprey's, kites and booted eagles, while the torrents and ponds of the wetlands are populated by Iberian green frogs and toads.

The vegetation consists mainly of wild olive trees, holm oak, lentisk shrubs, jasmine box and tree spurge.

The hike will take you on the "Cami de Cavalls", a bridle path which goes right round the island, through woodland, and then along the water reserve which leads to Es Grau beach.

From here you will proceed along a winding path up to the headland overlooking Isla Colom off the north coast. You will continue down to Cala Tamarells before heading back along the beach to Es Grau village.

This excursion is a must for all nature lovers, the wild life is abundant in this protected area and the coastal views are simply stunning.

The tour involves a fair amount of walking over uneven ground (5km)
Please wear good walking shoes and take a bottle of water and some sun screen with you
During the months of July and August this excursion will be scheduled in the late afternoon.



## **IBIZA, SPAIN**

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.

## Jeep tour with driver

No guide on board Minimum 12 participants, limited participation Duration 4h30 Euros 96

Discover Ibiza on our « off the beaten track » 4x4 adventure – a fantastic opportunity to discover unusual places, inaccessible by coach.

The excursion starts directly from the pier where you will climb aboard your jeep and be driven inland "off the beaten track" to explore areas of the island untouched by the growing tourist industry, places which have remained unchanged for hundreds of years. The scenic itinerary has been specially designed to showcase all of Ibiza's original beauty, passing through small country settlements, green valleys and mountain tracks to enable you to see the island from a new perspective, not as a clubber's paradise, but as a perfectly preserved environment where Nature holds sway.

At the end of the tour there will be a one hour stop at Benirras beach. Here you can either take a swim in the crystal clear waters or discover the old pirate tower used to protect Ibiza in bygone days. The tower was manned by two watchmen who would raise the alarm with fire or smoke signals as soon as they saw any pirate ships or other hostile vessel approaching the shore.



**MOTRIL, SPAIN** 

#### Granada and the Alhambra

By air-conditioned motor coach Minimum 15, maximum limited

The number of visitors per day is strictly limited at the Alhambra; as tickets and visiting hours are granted by the authorities up to four months in advance, access to this site may not always be possible

**Duration 7hours** 

Euros 118

Lunch included

Departure is from the port of Motril. The city of Granada, lying at approx. 2.100 feet above sea level, in the shadow of the mighty Sierra Nevada, is the epitome of Moorish culture in Andalusia. The Moors stormed across the Straits of Gibraltar in the 8th century, and held sway in Granada until they were driven out in 1492. During the intervening centuries they impressed southern Spain with their civilisation and culture; Granada, and particularly the Alhambra, represent the zenith of Moorish art and architecture. The coach will take the new road out of Motril, heading north through picturesque countryside. After one hour's drive you will reach the historical city of Granada.

We will visit the summer palace and country estate of the Moorish rulers of Granada, the Generalife. The name means "the Architect's garden" and indeed the most attractive part of the site is the garden. There is a long avenue of stately cypress trees, and trim flower-beds, box hedges, myrtle bushes and, above all, fountains delight the eyes and refresh the jaded spirit. The mountains of the Sierra Nevada provide a spectacular backdrop and the view down to the Darro Valley, across to the old quarter of Albaicin and the gypsy haunts of Sacromonte, and the Alhambra itself, is absolutely breathtaking.

The Alhambra has been damaged and restored many times over the centuries, but it is not difficult to picture the place as it was in all its glory 600 years ago. The decorations have to be seen to be believed; from floor to ceiling, every inch seems to be covered with some kind of pattern; geometric, floral or Arabic script. The ceilings drip with stalactites in stucco, and each room seems more richly decorated than the previous one. Perhaps the gems of this oriental jewel box are the Hall of the Ambassadors and the Court of the Lions.

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

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, so please make sure you wear comfortable flat shoes A late lunch will be served at the restaurant Cueva 1900 or similar (2 drinks included)

If the Alhambra cannot be visited an alternative itinerary will be offered including: a visit to the Albaycin quarter, which is also a Unesco heritage site, the Palace of Dar al-Horra which is a mini Alhambra, the Cartuja Monastery with spectacular decorations and a walk to the San Nicolas square.



## **Alpujarras Mountains and Andalusian villages**

By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30
Duration 7hours
Euros 90
Lunch included

The tour departs from the port of Motril to 'Las Alpujarras', one of Spain's most spectacular regions, where ancient villages cling to mountainsides on the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. The Alpujarra is famous throughout Spain because of its unique mini-ecosystem. Its terraced farmlands are constantly watered by the melting snow from above, making a high-altitude oasis of greenery standing in dramatic contrast to the arid foothills below. The cultural interest of the region lies in its fifty-odd villages, which were the last stronghold of Spanish Muslims, or Moors.

Before arriving at Pampaneira, which lies approximately 1,500 meters (5,000 feet) above sea level, we will make a photo stop at 'Presa de Rules' (a huge dam) and pass by the village of Orgiva. This unique village has retained its traditional Berber Architecture – terraced clusters of grey-white box-shaped houses with flat clay roofs – still commonly found in the Rif and Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

Then we will drive to the village of Capileira, situated at the top of the valley. The name is an Arabic derivation of the Latin word for 'head' or 'top'. Here you will see the rocky streets, overhanging passageways and sagging stone houses, which have not been remodelled or prettified for contemporary living. We will then enjoy the drive back to the ship in Motril.

This tour involves a lot of driving on winding mountain roads

You will visit the Andalusian villages of Pampaneira and Capileira

Lunch will be served at a local hotel in Mecina. The hotel is amazingly integrated into the lovely rural landscape of the Alpujarra

### **Secrets of Granada**

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30 Duration 7h Euros 119 Tapas lunch included

After the Christian conquest, Granada became the hub of a new dynamic age in all the arts, the focal point of the latest fashions and innovations, all of which resulted in the creation of the richest and most complete group of monuments ever conceived during the period from the Renaissance to the Baroque. The Alhambra alone assures Granada a place among the most beautiful cities in the world, but its rich artistic heritage includes many other treasures, often neglected by visitors to the city.

After a panoramic drive of less than 1 hour along the new Sierra Nevada highway, we will arrive in Granada to discover some of the city's architectural gems. We will see the Royal Chapel, (Burial Place of the famous Catholic Monarchs, Isabel and Fernando), the Cathedral of the Incarnation (a wonder of the Spanish Renaissance), and the Madraza (medieval koranic school). We will walk through the Alcaicería, (the old Arab silk market), and see the coral del Carbon, (the XIV century caravanserai; a medieval hotel for merchants and their precious wares). The tour continues with a visit to the old Arab district, Albaicin, enclosing within its medieval walls churches, convents, cisterns, palaces... and last but not least the St Nicholas balcony with its famous views of the Alhambra and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Albaicin has been recently designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

Lunch includes wine and water

This is a strenuous excursion as there is a lot of walking involved.

The excursion includes an inside visit of the cathedral and of the Royal Chapel.

The drive to Granada takes about one hour



# **Granada and Albaicin Palace (world heritage site)**

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30 Duration 7h Euros 118 Lunch included

Departure is from the port of Motril. The city of Granada, lying at approx. 2.100 feet above sea level in the shadow of the mighty Sierra Nevada, represents the very best of Moorish Andalucía. The Moors stormed across the Straits of Gibraltar in the 8th century, and they were not driven out of Granada until 1492. During the intervening centuries they stamped their civilisation and culture on Southern Spain and Granada represents the zenith of Moorish art and architecture. The coach will take the new road out of Motril heading north, driving through picturesque countryside. After one hour's drive you will reach your destination.

The Albayzin area is one of the oldest districts in the city and contains the Alhambra, the Realejo Jewish quarter and the part of the city formerly enclosed by the city wall. We will visit the opposite side of the Alhambra, perched on a hill offering amazing views. The Albayzin was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO, and there are many places of interest, some of which will be visited during the excursion. The district is a maze of small cobblestoned streets, humble dwellings and noble houses with amazing gardens.

First stop is the Cartuja Monastery. While the outside view of the monastery is not particularly impressive, the elaborately decorated interior is quite spectacular. The most striking features include the tabernacle, the church and the famous sacristy. The charterhouse also boasts an extensive collection of paintings.

There will be another short bus drive to San Cristobal belvedere for a fine view of the city. From here we will set off to explore the Albayzin quarter. Next we will visit Dar al-Horra Palace, the home of Sultanaka, mother of Sultan Boabdil who was defeated by Queen Isabel in 1492. The palace is built around a central courtyard. On one side there is a lookout tower. The beautiful plasterwork on the upper floor with inscriptions from the Nasrid period is in a fine state of conservation, and it is easy to see why local people call it the "little Alhambra". We will walk past Santa Isabel Monastery before getting to San Nicolas square, famous for its view of the Alhambra. We will visit the mosque gardens before walking back to San Cristobal and driving to a restaurant to enjoy lunch.

Entrance to monastery and Dar al-Horra Palace - Tapas lunch with two drinks

This excursion involves walking over cobblestone and steps, which can be slippery when wet. Sturdy shoes are recommended

Guests must be able to walk approximately 2 miles (approximately 2 hours)



## SAFI, MOROCCO

## Marrakech

By air-conditioned motor coach Minimum 20 participants, no maximum Approx. duration 11hours Euros 114 Lunch included

The Pearl of the South, also known as the "Pink City" for the ochre colour of its walls, Marrakech has long been host to international personalities and jet-setters. 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, Yussef 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 aristocratic Bahia Palace with its magic Moorish gardens surrounding its buildings with their remarkable finely wrought ceilings. You will continue toward the ancient Medina, guarded by its numerous battlements, there to admire the famous Koutoubia minaret, a gem of Islamic architecture, which is practically visible anywhere in Marrakech. After a typical Moroccan lunch with traditional folklore, you will continue to Marrakech's main attraction, the famed Djamaa el Fna Square with its snake charmers, tooth-extractors, story tellers and acrobats who perform daily around sunset. The cool, shaded medina houses dozens of handicrafts guilds from wool dyers to copper smiths and spice vendors. From Djamaa El Fna, there are several entries to the souks. You will enjoy some time at leisure at the 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 as Moroccan salads, tagine of chicken with lemon, couscous of meat with seven vegetables, fruits, 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 11hours Euros 119 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 3hours, 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 (including wine, mineral water and tea).

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 glamourous 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 morrocan Zellije, traditional hand crafted mosaic tiles in 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 steam 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 specialties as
Moroccan salads, tagine of chicken with lemon, couscous of meat with seven vegetables, fruits, 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. 8h/8h30, Euros 99 Lunch Included

Essaouira is one of Morocco's most enjoyable and attractive towns on the coast. It's charm is undeniable with its white washed and blue shuttered houses, art galleries, wood workshops, fishermen and colourful 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 tranquility 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 its charming mix of Portuguese, Berber and French architecture, and its beautiful setting, it is this unique sense of tolerance, coupled with a laid-back atmosphere, which makes Essaouira so appealing.

2hours 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



# CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

#### Rabat

By air-conditioned motor coach Minimum 15 participants, no maximum Duration approx. 5hours Euros 49

Rabat is the fourth of the Imperial cities. It is a mix of a long past and a highly modernised present. The city's glory days were in the 12th century, when the then Sultan used the Kasbah as a base for campaigns against the Spanish. It was during this time that the city's most famous landmarks sprang up. A haven for Muslims driven out of Spain in the early of 17th century and a capital city only since the days of French occupation, Rabat's ambiance comes from Islam and Europe in fairly equal proportions.

The city most famous site is the Tour Hassan, 44 meters high, although originally intended to reach 80 meters. Majestic but never finished, the tower was the brainchild of Sultan Yacoub El Mansour whose ambition was to build the biggest mosque in the Muslim world. Alongside but separated by many centuries, stands the Mohamed V Mausoleum, the construction of which began in 1962. This sultan led Morocco to the independence and the country built a sumptuous monument to him to express its gratitude. The exterior comprises a magnificent white marble pavilion surmounted by a roof of green tiles. Inside, the exquisitely crafted burial chamber contains the white onyx tomb, which stands on a slab of mirror. Built in the 14th century by the Merinids, the Chellah Necropolis stands on the site of the Roman city of Sala.

Rising up out of the bushes, a minaret with brightly coloured tile mosaics stands guard over this magic spot. The Kasbah des Oudayas, overlooking the ocean was named after the Oudaya tribe who were send to Rabat by Sultan Moulay Ismail to defend the city against the invincible Andalusian pirates. It also witnessed the exploits of Yacoub El Mansour and Abd El Moumen who, in around 1150 built Jamaa El Atiq, the oldest mosque in Rabat. You will then return to Casablanca.

The drive to Rabat is about 1h15 each way.

Inside visits: Mausoleum of Mohamed V and Hassan Tower, Kasbah of the Oudayas

Outside visit: the Mechouar (surroundings of the Royal Palace), panoramic view of the Chellah Kasbah.

The Royal Palace and the Mausoleum can be closed without any prior notice if the King or a member of his family is in Rabat or when there is an official visit.



## Panoramic tour of Casablanca and visit of HASSAN II Mosque

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot
Minimum 15 participants, no maximum
Duration 4hours
Euros 42

Of all the cities in the world, Hollywood chose this one to immortalize as the classic exotic colonial outpost. Casablanca is Morocco's largest city and industrial center. This port city was deep in decline until the French decided to remodel it with wide boulevards, public parks and imposing Moorish civic buildings. The port of Anfa has been spoken of by historians since the 12th century as the axis of its neighbouring regions Chaouia, Rehamnas and Tadla. It was their connection to Europe, enabling export of cereals, wool, beeswax and oil. These days although memories of the past still remain with bazaars, souks, ramparts around the old Medina, mosques and marabout, Casablanca shows the face of a nation making rapid progress into the modern world.

In Casablanca even the souks have benefited of progress. And how magnificently! Built at the beginning of the century, the Habous district seems as if it has been throbbing with activity since the drawn of time, attractive small shaded squares, narrow streets lined with arcades leads from one souk to another. Here the copper smiths shape teapots, cauldrons, candlesticks, vases and trays. The bazaar bursts with all kind of merchandise in all imaginable colours, the curious and fragrant olive souk, antique shops, and fruit stalls. The Corniche skirting the shores of the Atlantic is the place for those who need a thirst quencher, a dip in the sea, or an evening of music. The Mohamed V Square is the heart of the city, standing between the two contrasting sides of the Metropolis, the medina and the elegant and modern section with its large boulevards. You will find the country's most impressive examples of Moresque architecture. The Hassan II Mosque is the most recent adornment to the Kingdom's most modern city, towering majestically from sea to sky. Built right on the sea, a laser beam visible up to 22 miles away, shines at the top of the minaret and shows the direction of Mecca. 3300 craftsmen from all over the kingdom have been working to build the world's tallest minaret (200 meters high), the retractable roof which in 3 minutes can change the prayer hall into a magnificent patio, sculpt 10000 square meters of decorations, 67000 square meters of plaster, 53000 square meters of wood. A nave of incomparable beauty, with a prayer room large enough to hold 25000 worshippers and an esplanade for a further 80000. The mosque is a gem of religious architecture, subtly mixing Moroccan tradition with a state of the art technology.

Strict clothes are required to visit the mosque.



## **TANGIER, MOROCCO**

#### Tetuan

By air-conditioned motor coach Minimum 20 participants, no maximum Duration 5hours Euros 44

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. Tetouan 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).

## **Secrets of Tangier**

Transfer by coach to the Kasbah and on foot Duration 2h30 Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30 Euros 34

The coaches will drop you 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 its large marble fountain and park benches. The square is particularly active during the evenings when vendors put up there extensive displays and sell a diversity of second-hand goods and fruits 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 to the Petit Socco (meaning "Little Square"), also known as the "Souk Dakhli". Petit Socco was once one of the greatest souks in all of Morocco and people would flock from miles around to buy food and clothes. In the nineteenth century the area grew wealthier and trading between Europe accelerated. By the early twentieth century, businessmen, diplomats and bankers had their offices located around the square and cafes, hotels and casinos were testament to the wealth of the area. However, by the 1950s, the hub of city life had moved to the Ville Nouvelle. We will offer you some refreshment consisting of mint tea and local pastries before passing by Tangier Grand Mosque, built on the site of a former Portuguese cathedral which in turn stood on a Roman temple dedicated to Hercules. The mosque dates back to the Moulay Ismail period and was expanded in 1815 by Moulay Sliman. Mohammed V visited the mosque on April 11, 1947, going on to make a historic speech at Mendoubia Gardens. After some time at leisure you will either have the opportunity to take the coach back to the port or walk back at your convenience.

It is about 1,5km all downhill

Mint tea and a local pastry will be offered to you



### **CADIZ, SPAIN**

# A day in Seville

By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 15 participants, maximum limited & fixed by the Alcazar's administration
Duration 8h30/9hours
Euros 120
Tapas Lunch included

Seville, the capital of Andalusia is a unique, compact and relaxing city with a rich cultural heritage, and has always been seen as a symbol of tolerance between Roman, Arabic, Jewish and Christian cultures. Visitors will be enchanted by the sights and sounds of this atmospheric city: the mysterious, patios, the sound of church bells calling the faithful to prayer, the sleepy plazas and of course the multitude of artistic treasures.

The drive from the port of Cadiz to Seville will take you along the highway through vineyards, cotton fields and olive groves. You will visit the Alcazar, a 14th century fortress palace built in the Moorish style by the Christian King, Peter the Cruel in the Moorish style. The marvellous architecture, intricate decorations, fragrant gardens and sparkling fountains will long be engraved in your memory. There will also be an inside visit of the city's cathedral. Built in the 15th century the Cathedral of Seville is reputed to be the 3rd largest in the world. The imposing 322 ft bell tower, known as La Giralda, was once the minaret of a mosque located on the site in former times. You will also walk through the old Jewish quarter in the neighbourhood of Santa Cruz with its labyrinth of narrow streets, wrought-iron-grilled windows, white washed buildings and tiled patios.

The tour will end with a panoramic tour of Plaza de America, Plaza de España and Maria Luisa Park. Before leaving Seville the guide will point out some other interesting sights.

The drive between Cadiz and Seville takes about 1h30 each way

You will spend approx 3 hours in Seville.

Inside visits: cathedral (approx 45 minutes), the Alcazar (approx one hour).

Modest clothing is required for the cathedral visit

This tour involves a lot of walking.

The time schedule of this tour may be altered according to meet on the spot requirements

Please note that the Alcazar is a royal residence - the building maybe closed to public without prior notice for official reasons – In such case the visit will be replaced by 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



## Jerez – Sherry & Royal Horse Performance

By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 15 participants, maximum limited
Duration 5hours
Euros 69
"How the Andalusian Horses dance" performance included
Late return onboard for lunch

Jerez de la Frontera has the distinction of being internationally famous for both sherry and fine horses. The Muslims called the town Scheris, from which the spanish name Jerez and the english word Sherry are derived. Centuries of sherry and brandy production by venerable English and Spanish companies have created a landed aristocracy whose large ranches, flanked by vast vineyards, provide lush areas for horse breeding. With a winemaking tradition spanning more than two millennia, the most famous wine in southern Spain is Sherry, made from grapes grown in the area's chalky soil. The region surrounding Jerez benefits from a microclimate which favours grape cultivation. The coach will leave Cadiz for a 20 mile drive heading north to the town of Jerez. Upon arrival in Jerez you will visit one of the leading wine cellars, where you will be introduced to the mysteries of the blending process, a crucial step in the making of fine sherry as well as the different kinds of ageing process called "soleras and criaderas".

You will visit the main Andalusian courtyard and some of the bodega's antiques before entering the "Gran Bodega". This is one of the biggest wine cellars in the area and houses a fine private collection of Contemporary Art including 100 Picasso prints, paintings of Dali, Tapiés, Chillida, Miró and many more. The visit ends with a wine tasting; enjoy the unique atmosphere of the Bodega as you savour the different types of sherry. On the way to the Royal Andalusian Horse riding School, the guide will take you for a short panoramic drive around Jerez de la Frontera. The prestigious Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art was established in the 1970's in the grounds of a splendid 19th century palace, and ever since the magical 'dressage and dance' performances executed by the horses have enthralled audiences. For a truly memorable experience, take the opportunity to see the Spanish-Andalusian horses perform their spectacular show. These beautiful, pure bred creatures have incredible grace, speed and stamina and their experienced riders display wonderful skills of horsemanship.

The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art Foundation in Jerez de la Frontera is known all over the world thanks to its show entitled "How the Andalusian Horses Dance", a unique exhibition of horsemanship which both exhibits and summarises the work which the institution has carried out since its establishment.

The show (duration 1h30) is scheduled at noon Late return and late lunch onboard It is 45 minute drive to Jerez



## A taste of Andalucia "Adventure in tapas"

By air conditioned motor coach Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30 Duration 4hours Euros 94 Lunch included

Leaving the Port of Cadiz, you will be taken to Jerez de la Frontera, the home of sherry making in Andalusia. Here you will be invited to visit a typical 19th century wine-producer's house. The visit is a unique experience which will take you back to the golden years of sherry producing. Your host will be a historical character from this era who will give you a tour of this beautiful house, showing you the courtyards, the grain store, the sacristy and the bodega, where you will be invited to a glass of sherry.

After the visit you will have the opportunity within these lovely surroundings to participate in the preparation of two typical Spanish specialities: Paella & sangria. You will be shown the exact ingredients and spices that are used to make delicious paella and just to round off a perfect Spanish meal; you will be let into the secret of how to mix refreshing sangria. And, of course, enjoy both afterwards! A delightful excursion where you will be able to re-live a small part of the history of sherry making, and also enjoy the traditional cuisine of this beautiful country.

45 minute drive to Jerez and back!

## LISBON, PORTUGAL

## **Panoramic Lisbon**

By air conditioned motor coach The tour ends at the airport Duration 4hrs Minimum 15 participants, maximum 38 Euros 60

A hilly city paved with cobblestones. Nearby the berth you will see the lavishly decorated Belen Tower, where Portuguese explorers were given a rousing send-off and the Monument of Discoveries, built to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Prince Henry's death, the mastermind navigator. Then you will enjoy the visit to the Church of Jeronimos Monastery, a 16th century architectural masterpiece designed in the Gothic-Manueline. The tour continues towards Rossio Square considered the Piccadilly Circus of Lisbon, leading to a mile-long Avenida da Liberdade on is the Marquis of Pombal statue, who rebuilt the city after the 1755 earth quake .Stop at the top of Park Eduardo VII Belvedere with its magnificent view over the harbour and continues passing by the monumental Moorish-style bullring Built in 1892 in a Moorish style with small cupolas atop its four main towers, Campo Pequeno's bullring (Praça de Touros do Campo Pequeno) which accommodates up to 9,000 spectators. Bullfights take place on Thursdays in summer season. During the rest of the year it is occasionally used for concerts and other shows, such as the circus.

The coach ride will take you through the main avenues, the top of Eduardo VII Belvedere, You will visit Jeronimos' monastery – on Mondays the visit of the church is replaced by the visit of Palacio da Ajuda When visiting religious sites, please dress respectfully; no bare shoulders or shorts allowed. Guests continuing the cruise to Barbados can take part of this tour; remain in the city after the tour and go back to the ship at their own convenience. A taxi from Praça do Comercio back to the ship will cost approx €17.

