

Lisbon (Portugal) – Portimao (Portugal) – Tangier (Morocco)– Gibraltar – Motril (Spain) – Malaga (Spain) – Ibiza (Spain) – Palma (Spain) - Mahon (Spain) – Bonifacio (Corsica) – Civitavecchia (Italy)

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



PORTIMAO, ALGARVE COAST, PORTUGAL

Algarve discovery tour

By Jeep Safari with an English speaking driver guide

Duration 3h30/4h

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 80

€ 70

We invite you to discover the real Algarve and the little villages that time forgot.

Join our convoy of four wheel drive jeeps, complete with English speaking drivers/guides, and cross the great Monchique Mountains, admiring breath-taking views along the way. In Monchicao the cork oak flourishes like nowhere else on earth and you will get the opportunity to learn something about its cultivation and the age old traditions of the cork industry. There will be a stop at a typical local shop in Monchique, where you will find some of the best examples of local handicrafts: baskets and items in wood or sisal, and have some time to wonder off by yourselves and experience the unique atmosphere of the village. We will also visit the home of the "Scissor chair", one of the oldest forms of seating. This is the one and only place where these unique wooden chairs are made in the traditional way.

The excursion continues with a visit to a private farm. Here you will see a still and savour the home-made local liqueur "Medronho", brewed on the premises, as well as tasting the owner's freshly gathered honey. The last stop before returning to the ship is Caldas (Southern Sintra) a place redolent with history and traditions; the local people have not forgotten the ways of their forefathers and still bake their bread in traditional wooden ovens. We will also visit the "Source of Love"; this is a natural spring where inhabitants from all over the mountains come to draw fresh water. The name derives from the beauty and romance of the locality, which has always been a favoured spot for young lovers to plight their troth and is now a popular setting for wedding day photos. We hope you enjoy your trip to the Algarve, southernmost province of Portugal, and have a host of pleasant memories to take back on board.

TANGIER, MOROCCO

Secrets of Tangier

Transfer by coach to the Kasbah and on foot

Duration 2h30

Minimum 15 participants, Maximum 30 per group

€ 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 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 became more prosperous and trading with Europe increased. By the early twentieth century, it was frequented by businessmen, diplomats and bankers and the cafes, hotels and casinos located there bore witness to this newfound affluence. However, by the 1950s, the hub of city life had moved to the Ville Nouvelle. You will enjoy mint tea and local pastries before passing by the 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 have the opportunity either to take the coach back to the port or return on foot back at your convenience.

It is about 1,5km all downhill

Mint tea and a local pastry will be offered to you



GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar is situated at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It is recognized historically as the southernmost point of Europe and is also strategically positioned at the western end of the Mediterranean, forming one of the ancient Pillars of Hercules. The nearby countries are Spain to the north and Morocco (North Africa) to the south, on the other side of the strait 24 kilometres (15 miles) away. The Rock is mainly Jurassic Limestone some 200 million years old. Gibraltar is a well-known for its VAT-free shopping. Most of Gibraltar's stores are located in Main Street and the surrounding area.

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

€ 119

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 7 hours

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 Corral 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 119

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)



MALAGA, SPAIN**Mijas & wine museum**

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Duration 4h30

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

€55

This tour ends at the airport.

We will leave the town of Malaga behind us and head west along the coast road to Fuengirola, before driving inland to reach the village of Mijas. Mijas, perched 1500 ft. above sea level is a hill top village with a maze of little white washed streets.

It is beautifully clean and very well organized for tourists. Explore the narrow cobbled streets away from the crowds and enjoy fine views of the surrounding countryside.

Before leaving Mijas we will visit the wine museum and sample a glass of Spanish wine.

You will return to Malaga airport by a different route

The drive to Mijas takes about 1 hour

After a one hour guided tour you will have some time at leisure to explore the village before the transfer to the airport.

IBIZA, Ibiza town

Ibiza has a reputation as a boisterous party town where folk hit the beaches by day and party all night. However this picturesque spot, third largest of the Balearic Islands situated off the coast of Spain, has so much more to offer.

The town was founded by the Carthaginians around the sixth century B.C. and ruled in turn by the Romans, Arabs and Catalans. The Dalt Vila, or old town, bears witness to the passage of history and boasts many ancient buildings, relics and two notable museums. The medieval walled city and its Gothic cathedral became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999. During the day, Ibiza is an ideal place to explore with trendy shops, interesting restaurants and a growing number of luxury hotels and spas around its beautiful harbour. Moreover, the island boasts 56 sandy beaches, making it the perfect place for some rest and relaxation.

Time at leisure.



PALMA, BALEARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN

Valldemosa & Palma cathedral

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 18 participants, no maximum.

Duration 4h30

Euros 54

The excursion starts from the port where you will board the coach and drive along the famous sea front road Paseo Marítimo with luxury hotels on one side and glamorous yachts on the other. First stop will be to Spain's second largest Gothic Cathedral, built more than 500 years ago. Its tall, slender columns and graceful interior arches soaring heavenward make a lasting impression. You will also get to see the small Treasure Museum, which houses ancient manuscripts, paintings and religious items. There are 80 steps up to the Cathedral.

After this visit, we'll drive to Valldemossa, one of the most beautiful and typical villages on the island, nestled in a valley in the northern mountain range. Enjoy the scenic beauty of Majorca: mountains, pine forests almond and olive groves and rugged coastline. There will be a guided visit of the Carthusian Monastery. You will see the small neo-classical church, known for its lovely frescoes painted by Goya's brother-in-law, intricately carved choir stall and rich tapestries. The 18th century pharmacy, established by the monks in 1723 is virtually unchanged. The town owes much of its fame to the fact that the famous musician and composer, Frederic Chopin, and his lover, writer George Sand, leading exponents of the Romantic Movement, spent their winter of discontent here in 1838. During the visit to the Carthusian Monastery you will see Chopin's piano, and enjoy the views from the beautiful garden.

Afterwards, you will have some leisure time to browse around the souvenir shops.

Palma by bike

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 16

Duration 3h30/4h

Euros 69

Indulge your senses with the fresh air, great outdoors and scenic beauty of Palma during this memorable bicycle tour through the historic Old Town.

Once ashore, meet your guide, receive your safety briefing, bicycle and helmet, then follow the dedicated bicycle lane along the bay and into the city. Your route proceeds for approximately 100 yards (about 91 metres) on top of the old city wall before entering the small and shady alleyways of the Old Town.

En route, discover churches, small monasteries and old aristocrat's mansions featuring cosy patios and enchanting small plazas. Along the way, your guide offers interesting commentary about your surroundings, and points out interesting sights. Halfway through the ride, a refreshment stop is made at a local tavern before continuing on your bicycle tour, which concludes back at the pier.

The total route travelled is six-eight miles (10-12 kilometres) over mostly flat surfaces.

This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility

All equipment is provided.



MINORCA, PORT MAHON

The island of Menorca received the official title of Biosphere Reserve (Man and Biosphere project – MAB, UNESCO) in 1993. The MAB Program, which means Man and Biosphere, was created in 1971. It is a scientific program for problems related to the use and preservation of natural resources in all kinds of biological and geographical situations. One of the main objectives of this program is to preserve natural places and their genetic material.

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.

Mountain bike tour

Transfer by van, then by bike

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 15

Duration 3h30

Euros 75

Cycling and mountain bike riding have long been enjoyed on Minorca and are now becoming popular with visitors of all ages and abilities. The island's quiet roads, rolling hills and many kilometres of unpaved trails are ideally suited to the activity and our mountain bike tour is a great way to explore the hidden nooks and crannies of this unspoiled island.

New well signposted cycle routes have been created along some of the oldest trails on the island, dating back to the first human settlement. These ancient paths, bordered by dry stone walls, run past meadows and pastures which are covered by a carpet of wild flowers in the springtime and early summer. The newly opened "Cami de Cavalls" is a bridle path which rings the entire island and is the perfect way for experienced mountain bikers to explore the coastal areas.

The tour involves a lot of physical activity and requires stamina; participants should be in good condition

The total distance covered by the tour is approximately 12 km

Participants may at times have to pick up their bikes and walk for short distances

Please remember to wear suitable shoes and take sun screen

During July and August the tour will be scheduled for the late afternoon



BONIFACIO, CORSICA

Isolated on the Southernmost 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.

Time at leisure.

