

**Civitavecchia – Ponza/Palmarola – Sorrento – Giardini  
Naxos – Corfu – Kotor – Dubrovnik – Vis – Krk – Cres –  
Venice**

**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.**

**Walking tours in Croatia can only be guided in one language.**

**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**



### PALMAROLA, ITALY

A ruggedly beautiful island cradled in the Golfo de Gaeta about half-way between Rome and Naples, Palmarola is the perfect stop for a beach day. The water is remarkably clear, and between the islands of Ponza and Palmarola, archeologists have uncovered a number of wrecks of Roman galleys dating from the Republican Period.

### PONZA, ITALY

Located on the site of an extinct volcano which erupted some two million years ago, the island consists mainly of rhyolitic and andesitic rocks whose characteristic gray, yellow and ashy tuft formations combine to create a unique shade of blue. Ventotene and S. Stefano, 39 km to the east of Ponza are rich in acid and basalt rocks. Ponza is one of the treasures of the Tyrrhenian Sea and, according to legend, was the home of the sorceress Circe who seduced Ulysses. One look at the beauties of this enchanted island, and you will understand why Ulysses found it so hard to leave.

The area has many historical associations. The archipelago lying some 20 miles from the coast of Latium, was inhabited during the Neolithic period. The Phoenicians and Greeks inhabited Ponza after colonization by the Aurunci and built a fortified citadel there. Traces of the Cyclopean walls (so called because of the size of the blocks used) remain to this day. In 313 BC the Romans colonized Ponza and in customary fashion set about improving the infrastructure and amenities, building a magnificent aqueduct, still partially used today, as well as a temple devoted to the Dioscuri and another to the Venous Epiponzia. After centuries of naval battles and other tumultuous events, Ponza fell into the hands of the Bourbon family, who rebuilt the port area. A long period of isolation followed the island's unification with the kingdom of Italy, which was intensified during the twenty years of the Fascist regime. It was only after WWII that Ponza gained its reputation as an ideal holiday destination. The beautiful scenery, warm climate and rich history combine to make this island a true paradise on earth.

### SORRENTO

#### Pompeii

By air-conditioned motor-coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 h30

€ 69

Ancient Pompeii was a prosperous provincial center with an estimated population of 20,000. An earthquake destroyed much of the town in 63 AD. Rebuilding was still in process when the volcano erupted again 16 years later. The whole town was buried beneath more than 20 feet of ash and pumice stone.

Many residents were killed by lethal sulphur fumes or struck by lava and pumice stone that rained down upon the city, but others escaped. Abandoned until the 18th century, Pompeii was frozen in time until excavations revealed this amazing archaeological site. Plaster was poured into empty spaces in the lava to make body casts of some of the victims, such as a young man stretched out to protect his mother and the famous twisted body of a dog still tethered by its chain.

The eruption of Vesuvius on August 24, 79 A.D. not only preserved structures but also evidence of the ancient way of life, such as a fully-equipped tavern with the last customer's money still on the counter. Admire the luxurious mansions and fabulous art of wealthy patricians who came to Pompeii to escape the turmoil in Rome. Their houses were designed around an inner garden with few windows on the exteriors, so residents could forget the outside world and get sunlight from their own courtyards. Visit some of the more modest homes, and explore ancient baths, temples, theaters, markets and the huge forum.

Large coaches cannot drive to the pier, so a mini-bus will shuttle tour participants between the pier and a main parking lot in Sorrento. (Same on the way back; a minibus will take you down to the pier)

The drive to Pompeii takes about one hour. We suggest comfortable shoes to walk on cobblestone streets.

Attractions are behind bars and glass windows in Pompeii.

Most of the shops in Italy are closed between 1 and 4 p.m.

At the end of the tour, you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.

The site of Pompeii is very busy; it is important to stay with your guide at all times. The pace of the tour is moderate, as there are many highlights to visit in this vast city.

This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

Timing is subject to traffic on the Sorrentine drive, especially during high season and weekends.



**Pompeii (new programme including the latest discoveries)**

Transport by air-conditioned motor-coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration 4h30

€74

All the areas described were accessible at the time of writing, but could be closed without notice for further restoration work or similar

The ruined city of Pompeii lies at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, the only active volcano on mainland Europe.

In AD 79 a catastrophic eruption rained ash upon the town literally burying it alive in six metres of ash and pumice stone. A mere 16 years before this terrible tragedy the town had been badly damaged by an earthquake, and the townsfolk had not yet finished rebuilding and repairing all the damage.

At the first sign of the eruption, a column of smoke reaching nine miles into the sky, many people fled the city, so when the final flow descended the slopes of Vesuvius and engulfed the city only 2000 people remained.

Since that fateful afternoon on August 24th AD 79, Pompeii has been a sort of ghost town, a sleeping beauty, lying under a blanket of ash.

The first excavations started in the 18th century, and all the findings were taken to a museum in Naples. Since 1911 archaeologists have chosen to leave the artefacts in place which makes the site come alive, giving a vivid picture of everyday life in a Roman town. So far about three fifths of the total area has been explored.

The tour starts by the Porta Anfiteatro dating from 80 BC. This massive amphitheatre, with seating for 12000 spectators, is the oldest surviving Roman amphitheatre; close your eyes for a moment and you can almost hear the roar from the crowds as they watch the gladiators in mortal combat. Next to it lies the Palaestra, or gymnasium with colonnades around three sides and a swimming pool in the centre, a sort of Roman Sports club. Archaeologists have found quite a lot of graffiti in the toilets of the palaestra, much of it obscene, the sort of thing you might come across in public toilets today.

You will also visit the House of Julia Felix, a large Roman property on the Via dell'Abondanza, also known as the praedia (estate) of Julia Felix. This was the residence of one Julia Felix, obviously an astute businesswoman, who converted parts of the house into flats to rent, and public areas after the major earthquake in 62 AD left many people homeless. A notice on the front of the building reads "To let, for the term of five years from the thirteenth day of next August to the thirteenth day of the sixth August thereafter, the Venus bath, fitted up for the best people, shops, rooms over shops and second storey apartments in the property owned by Julia Felix, daughter of Spurius"

The house of Julia is complex of indoor and outdoor areas built around atria and courtyards. The property had enclosed gardens and a private water supply, as well as baths; statues and frescoes indicate that the property was extremely stylish and well equipped and indeed it took up one whole block of the city of Pompeii.

The Romans were concerned about cleanliness, hygiene and generally looking good, so it is perhaps no surprise to find 18 laundries in the town. The best preserved site is the Stephanus laundry. Here the scrubbing took place on the ground floor while the upper storey consisted of living quarters and a drying area. Instead of today's notion of "hand washing", in those days clothes were actually washed by foot! Garments were placed in vats of urine and water and trampled on by the laundry workers to get them clean.

The House of the Wounded Bear is another interesting find. It gets its name from a beautiful floor mosaic of a wounded bear with the greeting HAVE, an elegant roman alternative to the modern "Welcome" mat. The villa was re-opened to the public in 2016, after extensive restoration work was done on the mosaics and frescos to bring out the original colours. The house offers some of the finest examples of painting from the mid-1st century A.D and boasts a garden with frescoed walls and a fountain with a mosaic of Venus coming out of a shell.

There were 35 bakeries in Pompeii, which indicates the importance of bread in the Roman diet. The excavated remains of the bakery show that over the centuries bread making equipment has changed very little; wood was used for the ovens, mill stones were used to grind the wheat and produce flour, there was a place for kneading the dough and brick ovens were used to cook the bread.

The Romans were deeply superstitious and liked to have symbols of good luck around them. Outside the bakery belonging to N. Popidius Priscus, they found the following inscription "hic habitat Felicitas", or happiness lives here embellished with a carving of a man's phallus, a popular good luck charm.



Behind the temple dedicated to Jupiter lie the Forum Baths, which were built immediately after the founding of the colony by General Silla (80BC). The Women's and Men's facilities had separate entrances. The men's quarters had an apodyterium or dressing room, a tepidarium for medium hot baths, a frigidarium for cold baths and a caldarium for hot baths. The building was both aesthetically pleasing and practical with elegant decorations, little niches to store belongings, and a great bronze brazier for heating the water, as well as more than 500 lamps used for evening sessions at the baths.

The baths were badly damaged during the earthquake of 62 AD and the women's quarters, which were smaller than the men's facility, were being renovated at the time of the eruption.

One of the most beautiful and luxurious residences in Pompeii, open to the public after three years of excavation, is the House of the Faun, built in the late second century BC. The property has a surface area of 3000 m<sup>2</sup> and took up an entire city block. It belonged to a noble Roman family and was richly decorated with lavish floor mosaics including a mosaic of Alexander the Great defeating the Persians at the Battle of Issus. The residence was named the House of the Faun because of the exquisite bronze statue of a dancing faun placed in the centre of the impluvium (a stone basin used to collect rainwater).

The Forum, lined by rows of columns, was the main square and the centre of business, cultural and religious life in the town.

At the north end stood the Temple of Jupiter and in the right hand corner there was a Macellum or food market. Other buildings surrounding the forum include the Shrine of the Lares, the Temple of Vespasian, a hall for selling wool and the Curia where the town council met.

Nearby stood the Basilica, an important public building which was used as a law court and for business transactions. To the left you can see the Temple of Apollo, surrounded by 48 Ionic columns and in front of the basilica stands the House of Triptolemus, one of the latest houses to be opened to the public. The house dates back to the 2nd century BC and must have belonged to a wealthy and important family because it has two reception halls and two peristyles or courtyards.

The Forum granary on the west side of the forum was once a fruit and vegetable market but is now used to store artefacts from the excavation site, including all the paraphernalia of everyday life: crockery, pots, pans, jugs, bottles and amphorae used throughout the Mediterranean to transport oil, wine and fish sauce. There are also some plaster casts of victims of the eruption including a small dog with a collar writhing on its back.

The granary was built after the earthquake of 62 and might not have been completed at the time of the eruption.

Large coaches cannot access the pier so a minibus will shuttle tour participants between the pier and the parking area. On your return, the minibus will take you back to the pier.

The drive to Pompeii takes about one hour. We recommend comfortable footwear, suitable for walking on cobblestoned streets.

The attractions in Pompeii are behind bars and glass windows.

Most of the shops in Italy are closed between 1 and 4 pm.

At the end of the tour you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.

The walking tour takes about 2h30; it starts from the Porta Anfiteatro and ends at the Porta Marina

The tour includes the highlights of Pompeii and the area newly opened to the public, Julia Felix Domus, the House of the Wounded Bear etc

Pompeii is a very busy site; it is important to stay with your guide at all times. The pace of the tour is moderate, as there are many things to see in this vast city

The tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties

Timing is subject to traffic conditions, especially during high season and weekends.

All areas mentioned are currently open, but could be closed without any notice in case of further renovation or else.



**Ercolano**

By air-conditioned motor-coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 h30

€ 66

Herculaneum was destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius on August 2nd 79 AD. The town was not an important commercial centre like Pompeii, it was smaller, wealthier and more residential. There was no open space or forum, just streets lined with villas and shops and, as is customary in Roman town planning, two very straight main roads crossing in the middle.

Vesuvius destroyed the two ancient towns in different ways. Pompeii was buried under layers of ash, while Herculaneum, much closer to the volcano, drowned under a sea of mud. Over time the mud hardened to a soft stone, preserving the city and nearly everything in it as a sort of fossil, so that the furniture, clothing and even some of the goods in the shops have survived. Excavations began by accident in 1709 when some workers were digging a well - they discovered a wall which was later found to be one of the stages of the ancient theatre. Later, there were many human skeletons uncovered at the ancient shoreline, suggesting that numerous inhabitants attempted to escape but perished when mountains collapsed and volcanic gases were released.

The excavation work since has brought to light sumptuous villas, baths, theatres and even a villa thought to have belonged to the father-in-law of Julius Caesar, called Villa di Pisone (Villa dei Papiri). Much of the town is still buried and excavation work continues today. Many buildings and their contents are in a remarkably good state of preservation.

Large coaches cannot drive to the pier, so a mini-bus will shuttle tour participants between the pier and a main parking lot in Sorrento. (Same on the way back; a minibus will take you down to the pier)

The drive to Ercolano takes about an hour

The tour is not recommended for Guests with walking difficulties.

At the end of the tour, you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.

Large coaches cannot drive to the pier, so a mini-bus will shuttle tour participants between the pier and a main parking lot in Sorrento. (Same on the way back; a minibus will take you down to the pier)



**Capri on your own**

Transfer by boat to Capri

With an escort – this is not a guided tour

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 40

Duration 6 hours depending on local boat schedule

€ 69

Discover Capri on your own, with the help of some tips from a local guide to ensure you make the most of your visit

Capri is the outpost of Sorrento's peninsula. It is called the jewel of the Bay of Naples because of its unmatched scenery, clear skies and beautiful climate. Geologically, Capri is built on limestone. Dolomite cliffs, which at many points tower out of the sea, have been cut by time into fantastic shapes and marvellous grottoes. There are two main massifs: to the east is Monte Tiberio at 1,095 feet, and to the west Monte Solaro rises 452 feet above sea level. Capri itself is 452 feet high and sits between them. Capri has the Marina Grande to its north and the Marina Piccola on its southern side. The island's second residential centre, Anacapri, lies in a sweep of lush countryside to the west of Monte Solaro. Capri is derived from Greek Kapros, meaning wild boar. Inhabited since the Palaeolithic age, the island was, in classical times, first Greek then Roman. Many emperors lived part-time on Capri, and Roman nobles resided on or visited the island until the 6th century. The island endured Saracenic incursions in the 6th and 7th centuries and thereafter became the dominion of the Lombards, then Spain, then the French and British. Around the beginning of the 19th century, the island faced a more welcome artistic invasion when artists, writers and poets settled here.

Capri's Faraglioni and the Blue Grotto are very famous and beautiful. The Blue Grotto is the most celebrated of all the grottoes of Capri. It was already renowned in ancient times but was rediscovered in 1826 by Augusto Kopisch, a German. Many tourists visit the Grotto each year and never fail to be stunned by its magical atmosphere. The walls and concave ceiling of the grotto are so steeped in blue light that everything has a shimmering silver outline and even swimmers in the water look blue. A delightful climate, brilliant blue skies, lovely scenery and a host of other attractions make the island a perfect holiday resort in any season.

Take the opportunity of discovering Capri on your own! Your local guide will give you some great tips so you can make the most of your time on the island.

The price includes: Escort and the Hydrofoil ticket. Prices are subject to local regulation of entrance tax and maritime transportation monopoly.

The visit in Capri is entirely on your own. No visit is included.



**Every Ash Cloud has a Silver Lining!**

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration 7 hours

Lunch included

€119

This tour is not only for history lovers, but also for those of you who are interested in fine wine and the area's culinary traditions. We aim to show that there is definitely a positive side to living next door to an active volcano.

First of all, a taste of everyday life in a Roman town.

In 79 AD, before that fateful afternoon in August, Pompeii was a prosperous provincial town with an estimated population of 20,000. They were still in the process of repairing buildings that had been damaged by an earthquake sixteen years earlier, but apart from that it was very much "business as usual".

The first sign of the eruption was a towering column of smoke, nine miles high! Then ash and pumice stone rained on the town burying it under more than 20 ft of debris. Some of the citizens fled the city at the first sign of trouble but others were killed either by lethal sulphur fumes, intense heat causing their bodily fluids to boil, or were hit by lava and pumice stone.

Pompeii was left to slumber undisturbed under its ashy blanket until the 18th century when archaeologists started to explore this remarkable time capsule. Plaster was poured into empty spaces in the lava to make body casts of some of the victims caught in suspended animation, like the young man with arms stretched out to protect his mother, and the twisted body of a dog, still tethered by its chain.

This remarkable site is not about Roman ruins, broken columns and temples, it is about the townsfolk, the way they lived and of course the way they died. You will see a fully equipped tavern, with the customer's money still on the counter. Admire the luxurious mansions and fabulous art belonging to wealthy patrician families who came to Pompeii to escape the turmoil in Rome. Their "no expenses spared" houses were designed around an inner garden and had few outside windows, so that the owners could forget the world outside. You will also get to visit more modest dwellings as well as Public baths, temples, theatres, markets and the huge forum.

The volcano certainly brings death and destruction, as we have seen, but new life does spring up from the ashes. Vineyards flourish on the slopes of this sleeping monster, nourished by the incredibly fertile volcanic soil. Those who are brave enough to disregard the ever present danger and work the land, cultivate the same grape varieties as the ancients (as proved by excavated seeds). Some of these varieties can be found in Vesuvius's legendary wine "Lachryma Christi" or the tears of Christ. It is said that Christ wept over Vesuvius and from his tears grape vines blossomed, bearing grapes with a heavenly taste.

Casa Setaro is a winery located on the slopes of Vesuvius, just inside Vesuvius National Park. For generations the Setaro family have cultivated grapes and produced wine in the looming shadow of the volcano. The company is run today by Massimo Setaro, whose work ethic, craftsmanship and passion for wine was handed down to him by his father Don Vincenzo. It is therefore no surprise that his excellent wine "Lacryma Christi Don Vincenzo Riserva" is dedicated to the man who taught him all he knows.

When you visit the Winery you will learn about the production process at Casa Setaro, which respects the environment and the natural characteristics of the grape variety.

The tour continues in the wine cellar which was dug out of the lava flow from the last big eruption. Here they will explain the wine making process from fermentation in steel vats to ageing in Oak barrels.

Afterwards you will be treated to a Neapolitan lunch consisting of five emblematic dishes complemented by 5 different wines.

Large coaches cannot access the pier so a minibus will shuttle tour participants between the pier and the parking area. On your return, the minibus will take you back to the pier.

The drive to Pompeii takes about one hour. We recommend comfortable footwear, suitable for walking on cobblestoned streets.

The attractions in Pompeii are behind bars and glass windows.

Pompeii is a very busy site; it is important to stay with your guide at all times. The pace of the tour is moderate, as there are many things to see in this vast city

The tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties

Timing is subject to traffic conditions, especially during high season and weekends.

At the end of the tour you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.



## TAORMINA, SICILY

Giardini Naxos is Taormina's small port. Taormina is the most important resort in Sicily and Southern Italy. It is located on Mount Tauro, between the jagged mountains and the calm Ionian Sea. The town's origins date back to 398 AD. The Romans considered Taormina an ally, but as the city sided with Pompeus against Octavianus, it was reduced to the rank of mere colony. Thanks to its strategic position, it remained important to the various powers that held sway over the island. In 902, after a long siege, it fell to the Muslims. They destroyed it, but the caliph Al Muezz later rebuilt Taormina on a grander and much more beautiful scale. In 1079 it was conquered by the Normans and was chosen as the seat of the Sicilian Parliament for the King's election in 1410. Its most important monument is the theatre, built in the 3rd century BCE by the Greeks and restructured by the Romans. The site is really spectacular. The theatre is situated between looming Mount Etna and the sparkling blue sea. It is one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, a beautiful jewel set amidst the blue sky, aquamarine sea, green valley and white snow-capped peaks of Mount Etna.

**Mount Etna**

(Depending on weather conditions and local authorizations)

By air-conditioned motor-coach

Minimum 18 participants, no maximum

Duration 5 h30

€ 114

Majestic Mount Etna is Europe's largest active volcano, rising some 11.000 ft (3340 m). The slopes of the volcano soar up to over 3296m and its flanks are dotted with cones and craters. From the peaks you can gaze out across the Gulf of Catania and see the woods, orchards and vineyards below.

The main attraction is Etna's crater and the awe-inspiring petrified remains of the lava flows. The tour starts with a drive through the small town of Naxos. The scenic route to Mount Etna is a winding mountain road, passing the town of Giarre and the villages of Santa Venerina and Zafferana. The ever changing scenery is quite delightful : lemon groves, orchards, vineyards, chestnut and pine woods blend with the hardened lava and endless volcanic cones. The Silvestri crater is located about 1950 m above sea level.

Upon arrival you will transfer to 4x4 minibuses or cable car to climb to approximately 2500m and then carry on upwards until you reach the base of the main crater 2950m above sea level. A professional mountain guide will accompany you on a 30-45 minute hike to see the most recent lava flow and walk around the crater (depending on volcanic activity).

We recommend comfortable shoes and a jacket or sweater. It can be cold and windy on Mount Etna, even in summer time

It is a 1h15 drive each way to reach Mount Etna

This tour is only available in summer, weather permitting. You will visit either the North or the South side of the volcano depending on current volcanic activity

You will reach an altitude of approximately 2950m above sea level – if you suffer from high blood pressure or heart disease please check with your doctor about the advisability of going on this excursion

**Transfer to Taormina and guided visit of the Theatre**

By air conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

€54

You will leave the landing pier at Naxos and drive along the coastal road, dotted with lovely villas and gardens in bloom. Once you reach the picturesque city of Taormina, you will leave the coach and start on the walking tour. The town is perched on a terrace overlooking the sea and has a delightful medieval feel. First stop is the famous Palazzo Corvaja, a 15th century palace with typical architecture and classic double windows. Then you will visit the impressive Grecian theatre built in the third century BC; it is renowned for its size and unique acoustic qualities and is still used in summertime for open air performances.

Before returning to the ship you will have time to stroll along the Corso Umberto. Just off this pedestrian street you will find many boutiques selling local handicrafts and cafés where you can savour real Italian coffee and local sweets.

This tour involves a lot of walking

Once you leave the coach in the parking area the excursion is entirely on foot. The path to Taormina city centre involves walking uphill. So please wear comfortable shoes.

Shops are open Monday to Saturday from 9 am – 1 pm and from 4 pm until 8 pm.





## CORFU, GREECE

**Achilléion and the old town**

By air-conditioned motor-coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

€45

Enjoy a pleasant drive through the verdant countryside teeming with orange and lemon trees, cypresses and olive groves, to the village of Gastouri. This typical old village is the site of the marvellous Achilleion, built under the rule of Empress Elisabeth of Austria.

The Empress greatly admired the Greek hero Achilles and named her palace after him. After her assassination the villa was bought by Kaiser Wilhelm II and it was confiscated by the Greeks in 1914.

The building is in the Neo-classical style and boasts large frescoed rooms with traditional motifs, and souvenirs of Elisabeth and Wilhelm II. The Italian style terraced gardens are planted with flowers and trees and adorned with statues including one of the dying Achilles (the work of the German sculptor Herter). William II added a bronze statue of Achilles the Victor which he placed directly opposite.

Inside the palace you will visit the vast impressive rooms and stroll around the magnificent gardens filled with exotic plants and trees and commanding break-taking views of the Ionian Sea.

After leaving the Achilléion, the excursion continues with a panoramic drive to the old town and Spianada square. Explore the old quarter and walk through the narrow cobble-stoned streets known as Kantounia, past the old cricket ground. You will have some free time to stroll through the arcades of the Liston Piazza, once the site of the palace stables and see the old Church of Saint Spyridon with its priceless collection of icons and gifts offered to the patron saint of the island.

The coach will be waiting for you at the entrance to the old fort for the return journey back to the ship.

The use of cameras and video-cameras is free of charge in the Achilleion, but flash photography is forbidden

The Achilleion is a very famous site and can be very crowded (especially in July and August). Sometimes several ships dock at the same time which means that places of interest will be over-crowded. Please be patient, follow instructions and keep close to your guide at all times in order to hear the commentary (microphones etc are prohibited in some areas).

**Corfu by sea**

There is a short walk to reach the local boat

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 30

Duration 4 hours

€88

Your vessel on this Corfu Swimming Trip is a traditional Greek "Kaliki" fishing boat which has been adapted to transport tourists. Have your cameras at the ready, because we will pass by some of the most photogenic tourist attractions in the area, like Pontikonissi (Mouse Island) and Vidos Island.

The ship will sail in front of "Pontikonissi", which houses the Byzantine church of Pantokrator, Christ the Almighty, built in the 11th or 12th century. The church contains memorial tablets to Elizabeth Empress of Austria and Archduke Rodolfo. (stop, only weather permitting, wet landing)

The ship will continue to Vidos island (WET LANDING, you will have to swim 30 meters to the beach). This unspoilt green island is totally uninhabited, even though it is only half a mile's distance from Corfu town. You will see pristine beaches and little wooded paths leading to the old Serbian cemetery. Here you may take a swim in the warm crystal clear waters of the Ionian sea, stroll to the cemetery or just relax at a coffee shop.

On the way back there will be a stop at Espianada square in the old town of Corfu. Explore the old quarter with its fascinating narrow cobble-stoned streets. You will have some time at leisure to stroll through the arcades of the Liston Piazza and admire St Michael and St George's palace, and the old church of Saint Spyridon before returning to port.

Participants should bring swimsuits and towels

The tour is dependent on weather conditions and may be modified or cancelled at the last minute as per the Captain's decision

Passenger safety is our priority, and changes to the programme will be made for security reasons only.

Refreshments will be served on board

Itinerary may be reversed



**All you ever wanted to know about Olive Oil**

(but were afraid to ask!)

Transport by air-conditioned vehicle

Duration 4h30

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 18

€60

Take a trip to the heart of Olive Oil country with a visit to a mill producing award winning olive oil. The mill is located in a protected Natura 2000 region which boasts not only centuries old olive trees but also the remains of a Medieval castle, Castle Gardiki dating from the 13th century.

The Dafnis family, who own the Governor oil mill, will welcome you to their world and take you back in time for the ultimate Olive oil immersion experience! You will hear about the history of Olive oil production and the Dafnis family, as well as learning about the facts and myths surrounding olive oil.

Taste olive oil with one of the highest levels of phenolic compounds (anti-oxidants and free radical scavengers) in the world.

The tour starts with a personally guided walk through the olive groves in the grounds of Gardiki castle. The authentic island atmosphere is unmistakable; you will meet our resident olive oil expert and hear about the world's oldest variety of olive.

When you arrive at the oil mill you will experience our "taste like a pro" programme and learn how olive oil is produced.

You will find out how to recognise high quality olive oil and tell the difference between top quality and non extra virgin oil.

You will also hear about the amazing therapeutic and health benefits of this "Natural Healer".

During your time at the mill you will sample olive oil with bread, tomatoes, feta cheese and a homemade cracker as well as enjoying a glass of wine.

The drive to the oil mill is 22km each way.

**Panagias Monastery and panoramic transfer to Paleokastritsa**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 Participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

€44

Enjoy a pleasant drive to the holiday resort of Paleokastritsa, driving through verdant countryside teeming with orange and lemon trees, cypresses and olive groves.

This outstandingly beautiful extended village on the mid-west coast of Corfu is one of the most visited places on the island. The village is set against a high cliff covered with millions of olive trees and other greenery. Admire the five pine clad promontories and small bays of yellow sand or white pebbles bathed by crystal clear water.

You will visit a thirteenth century Byzantine monastery, with its church, Byzantine icon museum and original stone olive oil press. After the visit you will have some free time to go swimming or have a drink at one of the beach front cafés.

Next there will be a short stop at Bella Vista, a famous view point to get a bird's eye view of beautiful Paleokastritsa.

After leaving Bella Vista, you will be driven back to the port of Corfu.

The use of cameras is free of charge in the monastery of the blessed Virgin Mary, but flash photography is forbidden inside the church

If you wish to swim, don't forget your bathing costume and beach towel (there are changing facilities and a shower at the beach)

Depending on timing and the ship's schedule, you may be dropped off in Corfu city to return to port at your own convenience.



## KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

**Perast & Kotor**

By bus and boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 120

Duration 4 hours

€50

Upon disembarkation you will drive through the beautiful bay of Kotor to Perast, a small baroque village hidden behind the islet of the Lady of the Rocks. The most outstanding buildings here are from the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a tranquil place which abounds in sacred monuments such as the Church of St Nicholas, built between the 15th and 17th centuries. You will also get to visit the Maritime Museum.

Afterwards there will be some free time so you can explore Perast on your own before we take a boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela or Lady of the Rocks, and its church of the same name.

Gospa od Skrpjela is a baroque church situated on one of the two islets in the Bay of Kotor, just opposite Perast. Legend has it that the island was made over the centuries by devout mariners who, after finding an icon of the Madonna and child on a rock in the sea on July 22nd 1452, swore that they would drop a rock at the site after every successful sea voyage. Thus as time went by, the islet gradually emerged from the sea. The custom remains to this day, and on July 22nd every year at sunset the locals take part in the "fascinada" a tradition whereby they take out their boats and throw rocks into the sea. The church contains 68 magnificent paintings by Tripo Kokolja a famous 17th century artist from Perast. His masterpiece is without doubt a 10m long painting depicting the Death of the Virgin. After visiting the island you will take the boat back to Perast and board the coach for the drive from Perast to Kotor, a charming medieval town lying beside a beautiful fjord.

This UNESCO heritage site is the old maritime centre of Montenegro; it abounds in monuments, shops, cafés and restaurants. The 12th century Cathedral of St Tripun and the orthodox church of St Luka will be viewed from the outside.

Lightweight clothes and sturdy shoes are recommended on this tour

The drive to Perast takes 20 minutes

You will visit the maritime museum in Perast and Gospa od Skrpjela church

Transfer by boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela

**Blue cave speed boat adventure**

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 18

Duration 3h30

€ 80

The Blue Cave is undoubtedly the jewel in the crown of the Lustica peninsula which separates the Bay of Kotor from the Adriatic Sea. This stunning natural phenomenon is caused by the sun's rays reflecting on the blue water inside the cave and creating a shimmering iridescent blue light.

Enjoy a scenic speed boat ride along the Montenegrin coast, passing villages and picturesque countryside, before you reach the Blue Cave situated just outside the bay.

Enter another world as you penetrate this impressive natural hall with its 9 metre high vault, sculpted from the rock. You will be spellbound by the play of light on crystal clear water so transparent you can gaze right down to the sea bed 13 metres below. If you want to you can go for a swim and make this a truly unforgettable « total immersion » experience.

Afterwards there will be a stop at Zanjice beach. This pebble beach with its mountain views and sheltered swimming was a favourite of Tito, the first President of Yugoslavia.

There will be time for a swim and some rest and relaxation before you board the speed boat for the return trip to Kotor.

This is a high activity level excursion

Participants should bring along comfortable shoes, swimsuits, towel, sunscreen and sun hat

You must be prepared to get wet on this tour; we recommend you don't take any valuables with you

The speed boat ride to the Blue Cave takes about 45 minutes and you will have approximately one hour's free time at Zanjice beach

Please note that because the entrance to the sea cave is so narrow, the boat will be unable to access the grotto in rough seas. The visit could be cancelled without warning and there will be no reimbursement.



**DUBROVNIK, CROATIA****Taste and Flavours of Dubrovnik**

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration 4 hours

€60

The tour starts with a pleasant drive along the Adriatic road to the town of Mali Ston, the “oyster capital” of Croatia. This little town is often described as Dubrovnik in miniature. It boasts impressive 5km long city walls, among the longest defensive walls in the world. Construction of the walls started in 1317 and was finally completed in the 16th century. You will also see the ancient salt pans that were in use during the Dubrovnik Republic; salt is still produced there to this day.

However, Ston is mainly famed for its oysters, and there are oyster farms dotted all around. Upon your arrival in Mali Ston, you will board a local boat which will take you to the oyster and mussel beds. Your guide will tell you about oyster and mussel production in the area and you will get to taste some of the freshest sea food you have ever eaten, including some Mussel Bouzara, a local dish consisting of mussels cooked in wine, olive oil and garlic.

After the visit you will return to your motor coach in Mali Ston and drive back to Dubrovnik.

There will be a short guided tour of Dubrovnik Old Town, and then you will be free to do some exploring on your own.

**Dubrovnik Sea Kayaking**

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 24

Duration 3h30

€44

The Dubrovnik Kayak tour is an unusual and original way to take in all the city highlights.

You will start the tour by rowing between the forts of Bokar and Lovrijenac. Bokar fort is one of the oldest of its kind and was built to protect Pile Gate and City Bridge. It was also used as a prison. Lovrijenac guards the west entrance and, unlike the other city forts which form part of the city wall fortifications, it stands alone perched high on a rock, earning it the name of “the Gibraltar of Dubrovnik”. These days it is used as a venue for Dubrovnik’s summer festival, as well as for staging Shakespeare plays, so its thick walls resound to the words of the Bard rather than the thud of cannon balls.

Next on the agenda is Lokrum island. Legend has it that Richard the Lionheart was cast ashore here after being shipwrecked in 1192, luckily you will be spared a similar fate. After steering a course around the island you will reach Betina cave, a hidden gem accessible only by sea. Here we will stop for a snack and you will have some leisure time to go swimming in the crystal-clear Adriatic before rowing back to the departure point and returning to port.

2 participants per kayak

We recommend you bring swimsuits, towels, sun hat and sun screen

There is a 15-minute walk to the kayak base

**Legends & Curiosities**

Off the usual tourist radar

Duration 1h30

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18

€25

Discover the everyday life of the folk who live within the walls of Dubrovnik’s Old Town. A stroll through a maze of narrow streets and little squares will conjure up the shades of the past. Visit the oldest parts of the town off the tourist radar; discover hidden treasures around every street corner, local churches and places not mentioned in any guide books. During your guided tour you will be regaled by stories and legends of Dubrovnik’s old town and the history of the Republic of Ragusa.



**The Great Dubrovnik Treasure hunt: Five hundred years of Fine Art**

On foot

Duration 3 hours

Minimum 10 participants, Maximum 18

€40

Take a leisurely guided stroll through this medieval town and learn all about the history of the Dubrovnic Republic and its rich artistic and architectural heritage. The tour includes visits to a choice selection of museums.

The Rector's palace, now the town's cultural history museum, is one of Dubrovnik's priceless treasures; an outstanding secular monument which combines gothic and renaissance architecture. The rector was elected for a period of one month, and during that time not only was he forbidden to bring his family to live with him, he could not leave the palace himself without asking the permission of the senate. Here you will see rooms restored to their former glory and furnished in period style, portraits, coats of arms and coins.

The Sponza palace which now houses all Dubrovnik's historical archives is another fine mix of gothic and renaissance styles. Since it was first built in the XVIth century it has served as a customs house, mint, treasury and armoury as well as being home to Dubrovnik's first literary institution founded by a group of poets at the end of the XVIth century. It holds the distinction of being one of the very few buildings in the Old Town to have emerged unscathed from the terrible earthquake of 1667.

The Church of St Blaise was not so lucky; the original construction dating from 1368 was severely damaged in the quake and was replaced in 1715 by the baroque style building you now see. Saint Blaise is the patron saint of Dubrovnik who averted a catastrophe in 971 by forewarning the City Elders that a surprise attack by the Venetians was imminent. The marble altars in the church are particularly impressive and on the main altar there is a gothic statue of St Blaise himself, dating from the fifteenth century. This gold-plated silver statue shows St Blaise holding the town of Dubrovnik (as it was before the earthquake) in his hands. The fact that this statue survived the earthquake which destroyed the original church and a subsequent fire is considered to be something of a miracle.

The Roman Baroque Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin is another « new » building, completed in 1713 after the earlier construction was destroyed by the earthquake. It is a veritable treasure trove and houses some 138 gold and silver reliquaries fashioned by local goldsmiths from the 11th to the 17th century. The reliquaries contain relics of St Blaise and a fragment of the Holy Cross. There is also a polyptych (panelled painting) of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary from Titian's studio and a painting attributed to Raphael.

However, the best artwork is to be found at the Dominican Monastery Museum. The building dates from the fourteenth century (about the same time as the city walls) and looks more like a fortress than a religious building: all the better to protect the incredible collection of paintings from the fifteenth and sixteenth century. You can admire work by the Dubrovnik school of painters, the Venetian school, Titian's painting of St Blaise, Flemish paintings, relics, jewellery, manuscripts and incunabula.

The tour continues with a visit to the Franciscan Monastery with the church, one of the finest Roman Gothic buildings in Croatia, the pharmacy dates from 1317, the third oldest still functioning pharmacy in the world, the museum library with an exhibition of liturgical artifacts, some paintings of old masters such as "Ecce Homo" by Francesco Raibolini (15th century), a 14th century head relic of St Ursula and the painting of Vlaho Bukovac the founder and chief representative of the Croatian modern art.

The excursion price includes entry to the treasury of the Dubrovnik cathedral, the Dominican Monastery Museum, the Franciscan monastery Museum and Pharmacy.



## VIS, CROATIA

Vis is not only a charming island with beautiful beaches, old stone houses and narrow streets, it is a geopolitical monument reflecting the conflicts and divisions of the twentieth century.

During World War II Vis was an air base for allied forces and in November 1943 the former Yugoslavian leader Tito, then head of one of the two rival Resistance movements, chose Vis as his operational headquarters. He hid from Nazi soldiers in a cave on the island for several months while he worked with the Allies to liberate the coast and islands of Croatia.

The island later became a valuable naval and military base because of its strategic position. In the Cold War era up until 1989, the island was a heavily guarded military zone with a "shoot on sight" policy which kept foreigners and outsiders at a distance.

There were as many as 30 army bases on the island and many installations still remain: underground passages, rooms, bunkers, and barracks bear witness to its military past, there is even a submarine tunnel accessible by boat.

Kept in a state of splendid isolation, cut off from the rest of the world for more than forty years, Vis has remained totally unspoilt with no purpose built tourist infrastructure to mar its authenticity.

**Komiza** is a picturesque little town with a proud fishing tradition located on a deep bay on the western coast of the island. It nestles at the foot of Mount Hum the highest point of the island (600m above sea level) with spectacular views of the Adriatic all the way to Velebit, Peljesac, Lastovo, Jabuka and Kornati. The town boasts a collection of beautiful stone houses dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, a lovely waterfront and numerous beaches.



**Speed Boat tour of Vis island**

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 20

Duration: 6 hrs,

Light lunch included

€ 110

You will board the speed boat at Komiza and head out towards Stiniva Bay, a Croatian natural monument and nature reserve since 1967. Towering cliffs keep the bay hidden from view conferring an air of mystery, and the long narrow sea entrance formed by the rock face opens out on to a perfect little bay.

Next stop is a famous cave on the islet of Ravnik. The so-called Green cave gets its name from the eerily beautiful green light which illuminates the whole of the interior. This natural phenomenon is due to a hole in the cave's roof which lets a beam of light play on the clear transparent water, reflecting the green algae on the seabed. You can swim right into the grotto and immerse yourself in the shimmering green otherworldly atmosphere.

Afterwards we will proceed to the town of Vis, which has been inhabited since the Neolithic period. In the fourth century BC Dionysius the Tyrant of Syracuse arrived here and founded Issa, an independent state which minted its own money and founded colonies. Vis has always been a meeting point for navigational routes and has thus attracted people of many different origins and cultures. The Greeks, Romans, Slavs, Venetians, Austrians, French and British have by turns brought their influence to bear on the town. At the beginning of the 19th century 12,000 people lived here coming from all over Europe, so it is no surprise to learn that the local dialect which is Venetian in origin (until 1797 Vis was ruled by the Republic of Venice) contains some English, French, German and even Hungarian words.

The port of Vis continues to provide a safe haven for fishermen, lost adventurers and seafaring folk from all over the world to this very day.

Last on the agenda is the submarine tunnel carved out of the rock in Parja Bay. The tunnel was built in the early 1980's, so is part of the Cold War military legacy. 100m long and 10m wide it was built to hide submarines and other military vessels.

The speedboat will then return to Komiza.

Entrance to the Green cave and submarine tunnel are included on the tour

The light lunch consists of traditional island delicacies such as Viska Pogaca, a focaccia like savoury pastry, filled with salt fish and tomatoes, anchovies in lemon sauce, fish pâté and homemade bread with a glass of wine and water.

Participants need to be prepared for strenuous activity: please wear sensible shoes and comfortable clothing

There will be an opportunity to go swimming

This tour is not recommended for people with mobility issues or back problems as it would be impossible for them to get in and out of the sea.

There are no changing facilities on board.

The speedboat has toilets

The tour includes strenuous walking mostly over gravel and paved stone and there are steps to be negotiated.

The Captain may decide to adapt the itinerary depending on wind and weather conditions.



**On Your Bike!**

Transfer by van and then by bike

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 20

Duration 3h30/ 4 hrs, depending on the group's pace.

€ 69

A bike tour is the ideal way to appreciate the ever changing scenery, discover some remarkable historical landmarks and fill your lungs with fresh air. There will be a minivan transfer from Komiza to the town of Vis. Here you will pick up your bikes and, after a short safety briefing, start cycling through history! On your way you will pass the Hellenistic cemetery, the remains of Roman baths, Prilovo peninsula, where there was once a Roman theatre and carry on to Stonac bay and Fort George a fortress built by the British Navy in 1813. You will see the famous "Lobster" submarine tunnel built by Tito during the Cold War years, before heading back to Vis via Samogor which was once the largest military base on the island with about 1000 troops stationed there, ready for action. Once back in Vis the excursion continues with a ride through the centre of town, along the waterfront to the village of Kut, the Czech Villa and Grandovac. Grandovac is a 60 m pebble beach in a beautiful natural environment shaded by pine and tamarisk trees where you will get the opportunity to go swimming. At the end of the excursion a minivan will be waiting to take you back to Komiza.

Congratulations! You have just pedalled your way through over 2000 years of history!!

You will be given water and some fresh fruit as a snack

Activity level on this excursion: moderate to strenuous

Guests should wear comfortable clothing and shoes

The tour involves walking and biking, mostly over gravel and paved surfaces with some stairs

There is a 15 minute drive to Vis where you will pick up the bikes and have a safety briefing

There is about 3 hours of cycling

**Military Mission**

Transport by Nissan Patroller Jeeps

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 24

Duration 3h30

€ 90

There are over thirty different military installations scattered over the island ranging from tunnels, underground hospitals, strategic command bases, army barracks etc and most of them are completely abandoned.

Our tour of Inspection leaves from Komiza village and after a 20 minute drive we will arrive at our first objective: Cape Stupisce, site of a huge rocket base for land-sea missiles and an impressive tunnel and bunker complex.

Explore a labyrinth of underground tunnels and check out the abandoned warehouses and cannons. After the rocket base at Stupisce we will proceed to the next military tunnel ARK (Atomic War Command) Vela Glave. There will be a tour of the tunnel followed by a drive to the top of Mount Hum (587m) the highest point of the island, ideal for surveillance purposes with views of the archipelago and the village of Komiza. We will also visit the small church of Saint Spirit before heading back to base.

On the way back we will make a short reconnaissance tour of Tito's Cave: two small caves with a partially walled entrance used for several months by Josip Broz, aka Tito, and other partisan leaders as a secret HQ and hideaway during the Second World War.

Participants must be kitted out with appropriate gear (comfortable shoes and clothing) and be prepared for strenuous activity

The approach to Tito's cave is tough going: 275 steps to negotiate





### The Blue Cave on Bisevo Island

By speed boat

Minimum 12 participants, maximum 24

Duration 1h45

€ 60

Set off from picturesque Komiza Bay and enjoy a scenic speed boat ride to Mazporat bay on Bisevo Island. Bisevo is a very small island with only 12 inhabitants, located five nautical miles from Komiza. The main attraction on the island is the Blue Cave, a sea cave accessible only by boat. The cave is 24m long and 12 m wide with a very narrow entrance. In the summer months the sun's rays penetrate deep into the heart of the cave through a crack in the ceiling and reflect the sandy sea bottom bathing everything in a bewitchingly beautiful silver blue light. When you arrive at Bisevo you will swap the speed boat for a small wooden craft which will take you into the cave. Access is not very easy, and at some points you will have to crouch down in the boat while the skipper manoeuvres the craft through the cave entrance. Once inside it is as if you have crossed the threshold into a magical parallel universe; time stands still as you gaze on the mesmerising blue light. After this glimpse into another world, it is back to reality as you rejoin your speed boat for the ride back to Komiza.

### KRK, CROATIA

Krk is the largest island in Croatia and is located on Kvarner Bay.

Truly blessed by nature, in ancient times the island was called "The Golden Island", because of its mild Mediterranean climate, good geographical location and natural beauty. It is also sometimes referred to as "the Cradle of Croatian culture" because of its rich cultural heritage.

### Krk and Vrbnik Village

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 90

Duration 3h30

€ 58

The medieval village of Vrbnik is situated on a cliff top 50m above the Adriatic Sea. It is one of the oldest settlements on the island and was first mentioned in 1100. The inhabitants were mainly farmers and seafaring folk. Vrbnik is famed for its Glagolitic heritage. Glagolitic is an ancient Slavic script created in the 9th century by Saint Cyril to spread Christianity among western Slavs (although some attribute its invention to Saint Jerome, who was born on the border of Dalmatia and Panonia). There is also a well-known popular song about the island called "Vrbnice nad Morem" or Vrbnik above the sea.

It is the only large village on the east coast of the island of Krk.

Nowadays Vrbnik is chiefly known for producing Zlahtina a golden yellow wine which comes exclusively from the vineyards on the island. The name of the grape variety Zlahtina comes from the Slovene word zlahten which means "noble" and Zlahtina is indeed a quality white wine. In former days the vines grew at the edges of fields planted with cereal crops, but gradually the increase in demand from the wine market led to the vineyards being extended.

After Vrbnik, the motor coach will take you back to Krk for a guided walking tour of the town. Your guide will take you to the old part of town and lead you through a labyrinth of narrow streets. You will see the remains of a former Roman settlement with parts of the ancient walls and gates still clearly visible. Other highlights include the grand Romanesque cathedral dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and the medieval castle built by the aristocratic Frankopan family, one of the most famous noble families in Croatia.

There will be a wine tasting at Vrbnik, accompanied by cheese, olives and prosciutto ham

The tour includes moderately strenuous walking over cobblestoned surfaces and there are some steps

The drive to Vrbnik village takes 30 minutes



**KRK Panoramic tour and Olive oil tasting**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 80

Duration 4h00

€ 60

You will be driven in air-conditioned comfort to the town of Punat, where you will board a taxi boat to take you to the tiny island of Kosljun which lies directly opposite. The island is 300m in diameter with a surface area of 6.5 hectares; its only inhabitants are monks from a community of Franciscan friars, and on the jetty you are welcomed by a statue of St Francis, founder of the order, with a wolf at his feet.

This spiritual oasis is covered in rich vegetation; there are almost 500 species of plants on the island and the monastery is sheltered by a forest of evergreen oaks.

The whole island is a museum.

The earliest known habitation on Kosljun was a roman "Villa Rustica" or country house belonging to a landowner from the Roman settlement on Krk.

Thereafter a document dating from 1186, implies that a Benedictine Monastery was built on the site.

The Benedictines remained on the island until 1447 and then abandoned the monastery. A pair of Franciscan monks, seeing that the monastery was lying empty, successfully petitioned the Pope and were granted the Island of Kosljun where a community remains to this day. The existing church was built by the Franciscans in 1480. The archives and monastery library contain over 20.000 volumes, some of which are of inestimable value.

There is also an ethnographic museum containing folk costumes and other items of local interest, as well as a natural history and numismatic collection and a permanent exhibition of religious art.

After the visiting the islet you will take the boat back to Punat and board the motorcoach to visit an olive oil estate.

Olive oil is Krk island's most precious treasure and is one of the reasons why it is known as the Golden Island. The oil is made exclusively from local varieties of olive and despite the strong winds (Bura the north wind and Jugo the wind coming from the south) the climate seems to be ideally suited to growing olives; the olives themselves are succulent and oil from the island has been awarded PDO or Protected Designation of Origin status.

Olive growing has been a tradition on the island for centuries and all the families used to cultivate olives.

You will learn about the different stages of production from planting to picking, pressing to processing and finally filling and packing the bottles of olive oil. You will also get the chance to sample a few varieties of the island's liquid gold.

On the way back to Krk, you will have some time to stroll through the narrow streets of the Old quarter, with your guide and see the remains of a Roman settlement with parts of the ancient walls and gates clearly visible. You will also see the Grand Romanesque cathedral and the Frankopan castle, built in the 12th century by one of the most famous noble families in Croatia.

There will also be some time at leisure for you to explore the town by yourselves or simply relax on the seafront promenade before going back to the ship at your own convenience.

The drive to Punat takes 15 minutes

The boat trip from Punat to Kosljun takes 15 minutes

Entrance fee to the Franciscan monastery and the olive oil tasting are included

Guests need to be prepared to do a moderate amount of walking and should wear comfortable shoes



**CRES, CROATIA**

The best way to experience the city is to stroll through the Old Town. Here you will find a typically Medieval atmosphere with tall narrow buildings huddling together and a maze of winding streets. Emblems on the house fronts and doors indicate the trades of their former inhabitants – farm labourer, blacksmith, fisherman etc. The hub of the city is the 15th century Municipal Loggia where official announcements used to be made. These days it is the site of a bustling market. Olive growing and sheep farming are the island's main activities and there is a special symbiosis between the two. Sheep graze freely all around the island and thus clear the ground and fertilize the olive groves. Extra virgin Olive oil from Cres has an excellent reputation thanks to the quality of the olives.

