



Just Cruising

INFORMATIVE GUIDES BY CRUISERS FOR CRUISERS

FROM THE INTENTIONAL TRAVELERS

@INTEND2TRAVEL.INFO

A Guide To Cruising The **Mediterranean**

INSIDE

1

MEDITERRANEAN ITINERARIES

Itineraries and what to expect in ports of call. Tools to help you plan a Med cruise to best fit your interests.

INSIDE

2

MEDITERRANEAN PORTS OF CALL

Where ships dock, public transportation, attractions and how to make the best of your day in port.

INSIDE

3

SHORE EXCURSIONS

From local culture to beaches, historic sites and more use this guide to plan your perfect day in port.

*Welcome
Aboard*

If you are considering a cruise in the Mediterranean, you are in for a fantastic experience. This copy of JUST CRUISING is a great source of information to help you plan and get the most from your upcoming cruise.

welcome aboard



Mediterranean Itineraries

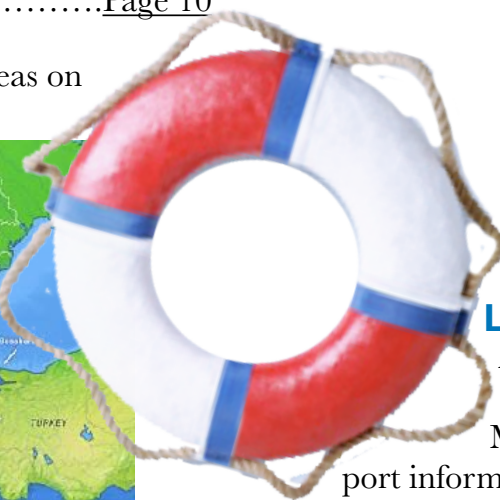
An introduction to the most visited ports of call on seven day and longer cruises. Popular departure ports and how to reach your cruise ship..... [Page 4](#)

Ports of Call

Twenty five of the Mediterranean's favorite cruise ports of call with information on where your ship docks, using public transportation and interesting sights and attractions to visit.....[Page 10](#)

Shore Excursions

A selection of cruise ship excursions along with ideas on going it on your own..[Page 53](#)



A Number Of Useful Reference Links

A number of links to additional Mediterranean cruise port information ([page 4](#)).

CONTENT

Med Itineraries..... [page 4](#)
Links..... [page 4](#)
Getting To Your Cruise Ship..... [page 8](#)

Cruise Ports

The Port of Dubrovnik, Croatia..... [page 10](#)
The Port of Kotor, Montenegro..... [page 12](#)
The Port of Athens..... [page 14](#)
The Island of Mykonos, Greece..... [page 16](#)
The Island of Rhodes, Greece..... [page 18](#)
The Island of Santorini, Greece..... [page 20](#)
The Island of Corfu, Greece [page 22](#)
The Port of Barcelona, Spain..... [page 24](#)
The Port of Cartagena, Spain..... [page 26](#)
The Cruise Ports of Israel..... [page 28](#)
The Port of Gibraltar..... [page 30](#)
The Port of Malaga, Spain..... [page 32](#)
The Island of Malta..... [page 34](#)
The Port of Ravenna, Italy..... [page 36](#)
The Port of Venice, Italy..... [page 38](#)
Civitavecchia, Rome's Port City..... [page 40](#)
Getting Around In Rome..... [page 42](#)
 Transportation options between the airport, Rome
 and the cruise port of Civitavecchia
The Port of Livorno, Italy..... [page 45](#)
The Port of Naples, Italy..... [page 47](#)
The Port of Villefranche, France..... [page 49](#)
The Port of Kusadasi, Turkey..... [Page 51](#)

Shore Excursions

Six Popular Excursions..... [page 53](#)
Tapas in Palma de Mallorca..... [page 54](#)
Seeing Rome in One Day..... [page 55](#)
Barcelona To Montserrat..... [page 59](#)
Visiting Jerusalem [page 60](#)

An introduction to Mediterranean cruise itineraries with outlines of seven day and longer cruises and popular ports of call. Options on getting to your cruise and helpful website links

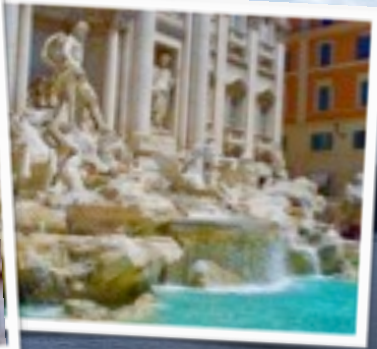


Details on a dozen popular ports of call with information on where your ship will dock, available facilities, public transportation options and local attractions.

Plan your trip and know what to expect before you ship docks at a new port of call



Shore excursions are a major part of the Mediterranean cruise experience. Historic sites, food and wine and lots of beautiful scenery. Here you'll discover a few ideas on what to expect in available land tours.



The Greek Isles, St. Marks in Venice and The Fountain of Trevi in Rome

Cruising The Mediterranean

Mediterranean Cruise Itineraries - Summer is cruising season in the Mediterranean and the major cruise lines are well established in the market and offer a variety of itineraries. There are similarities in most itineraries with the two main embarkation ports being Barcelona and Rome along with Athens, also being popular. Itineraries vary in length with cruises of around seven days usually including four or five ports of call. Those cruises of nine to eleven days make six to eight stops and fourteen day itineraries calling on up to ten ports.

Cruises from Barcelona often stop at a series of ports east along the coast that include Villefranche-sur-Mer on the French Riviera, between Nice and Monte Carlo. Favorite Italian ports include Rome/Civitavecchia, Naples and Venice, with Rome and Venice often being an overnight stay.

Additional popular ports include Livorno, for its proximity to the cities of Pisa and Florence, along with Genoa on the west coast and Ravenna on the east coast.



Most cruises out of Rome/Civitavecchia go south and cruise around the Italian boot passing through the Straights of Messina. Popular destinations on shorter cruises (6 to 8 days) include Naples, Venice*, Dobrovnik, Kotor in Montenegro, the Greek island of Corfu and Malta. Longer cruises will often include Messina, the Greek islands of Mykonos and Santorini, Ephesus in Turkey, Crete and Athens.

If you are reading this on a device with an active internet connection, clicking the buttons below will open more websites in your browser. Generally they are links to official tourist sites for each port or region with some good additional information.

Convenient Travel Site Links

FLORENCE	PISA	LIVORNO	VENICE
ROME	NAPLES	DUBROVNIK	KOTOR
RHODES	CORFU	MYKONOS	SANTORINI
PIRAEUS	BARCELONA	MALAGA	MALTA

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISES

The Mediterranean Is Just Waiting To Be Explored

There are Rome itineraries that sail west and often include Livorno, Villefranche, Provence in France, with possible stops in the Spanish ports of Barcelona, Cartagena, Malaga and Palma de Mallorca and, at times, Gibraltar.

Watch for new cruise ports to be added in the future as the cruise lines are always looking to attract passengers to cruise again.

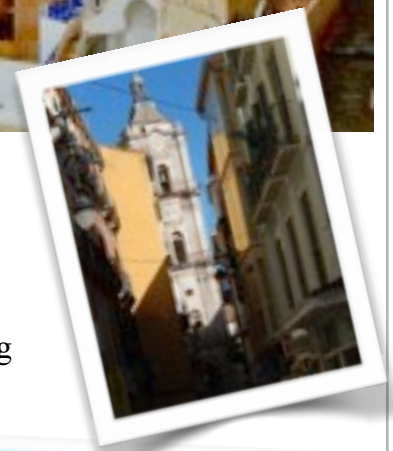
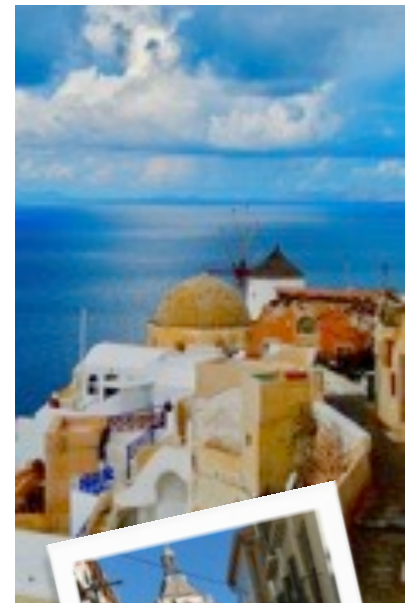


When making your plans there are a few ports to put high on your list to visit in the Mediterranean. Following our suggestions to look for.

Livorno with trips to Pisa and Florence – You can easily take a train from Livorno Centrale to Florence’s Santa Maria Novella station for €6 to €14 per person one way. You do have to get from the pier to the train station but many cruises offer a shuttle service into town center at a reasonable price. In Livorno you can also buy a combination round-trip ticket that includes the train tickets and a bus to the train station that can be purchased at news stands and many convenience shops. From the Florence station you can walk into the historic district in only a few blocks. You can also get to Pisa by the local buses as well as on the same train service but the train trip is only twenty minutes with a moderate walk to the Cathedral and the leaning tower.

Rome - Civitavecchia is the port for Rome. In the city of Civitavecchia the train station is a moderate walk along the waterfront from the port and a train to S. Pietro station (Vatican City) takes about 40 minutes. Fares start at €5 per person one way on the commuter trains and up to €20 round trip using regional trains. There is a manned ticket booth at the Civitavecchia station along with automated vending machines. A round-trip bus booked through the ship will cost over €80 and take about two hours each way depending on traffic.

Barcelona - This city is not only a major cruise port but a destination port of call too. Most cruise ships dock a bit out from the central city but there are regular shuttle buses available (small fee). The city itself is an incredible mix of modern, history, culture and cuisine that invites visitors to return again and again.



Cartagena and Barcelona Spain

Featured Ports of Call

Mykonos, Greece

High on many cruise itineraries, Mykonos is one of the most popular of the Greek islands, famous for windmills, white stucco houses and incredible beaches. The scenery alone is worth a visit.

Malaga, Spain

A modern Spanish city with Moorish forts and castles, ancient Roman ruins, a Picasso museum and great shopping. The city also boasts beautiful beaches right in the city.

Kotor, Montenegro

Bare granite mountains tower above a Venetian era old city nestled up a long arm of the Adriatic. Growing in popularity the city features great restaurants and cafes and some remarkable hiking trails.

Santorini, Greece

Once a thriving outpost of the Minoan civilization the island today is the rim of the extinct volcano that destroyed the Minoans. The island is famous for the colorful towns clinging to the sheer cliffs and the views across the caldera.

Malta

An island sitting between Italy and North Africa it has been for centuries the crossroads of the Mediterranean. It has a unique culture and was a stronghold of the Knights of Malta during the period of the Crusades, history is everywhere on this island.

Palma de Mallorca

Located on the largest of the Spanish Balearic islands this historic city sits in the center of one of the most popular resort areas in the western Mediterranean.

Venice – Large cruise ships have now been blocked from the port so now most ships offer tours from nearby cities into the center of Venice at Piazza San Marco. With a good map or phone app you can navigate through the city into a number of interesting neighborhoods.

More To See Than Any One Cruise Can Ever Cover

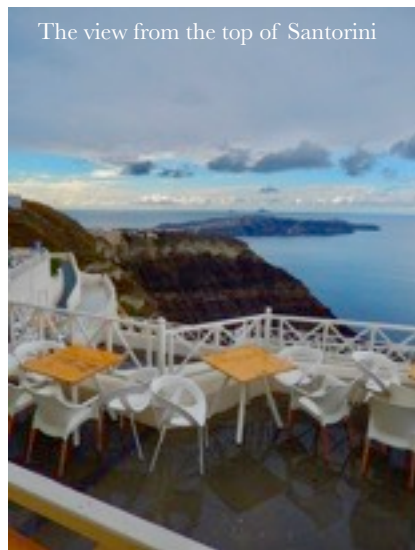


Popular Villefranche-sur-Mer is a quaint seaside town located in the middle of the Riviera with easy train

Naples – This city is near to the ruins of the Roman city of Pompeii which is well worth a visit, but Naples is also not far from the Amalfi coast. There are frequent trains from Naples to Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast. To get from Naples to Salerno, you can take one of Trenitalia's Alta Velocità (AV) trains from Napoli Centrale station. The trip is about 30 miles and there are also InterCity trains serving this route, with over three dozen trains a day costing €5 each way. From the Amalfi Positano station it is a good idea to know where you want to visit and take a taxi but this is still an easy day trip.

Piraeus and Athens - The main attraction is the Acropolis in Athens and it's well worth a day if this is your first visit. If you would like to save some money over the cruise excursions you can use the metro to go from Piraeus to central Athens. A trip to Athens using the metro costs less than €1. Also a free shuttle bus usually operates in the port taking passengers from the ships to the metro station. Visiting the Acropolis has a general admission of €10 and hours vary by season and day of the week. You should also expect a good uphill climb to reach the top but there is an elevator for people with disabilities. See details to our article by clicking [HERE](#).

Villefranche-sur-Mer – Less than a half mile around the waterfront is the train station where you can catch frequent trains to Monte Carlo, Nice or Cannes. They run about every twenty minutes and a trip to Monte Carlo takes only fifteen minutes and costs usually under €7.00. So before you sign up for that expensive tour consider some exploring on your own.



The view from the top of Santorini

Dubrovnik - Cruise ships dock some distance from the old city but shuttle buses are usually provided at little cost or free. The Old City of Dubrovnik is where Game of Thrones was filmed and that has greatly added to the appeal of this already popular tourist destination. A short walk through this town quickly shows why it was selected as a backdrop for this popular series. Scenes from the show take in the Pile and Ploče gates, St. Dominika street, the high city walls along with the Bokar fortress and the Minčeta tower. The sea is crystal clear and the surrounding hills are ruggedly beautiful while the Old City's massive defensive walls and towers add a feeling of being transported back in time centuries.



The Mediterranean is one of the three most popular cruise itineraries. Unlike the other two, Alaska and the Caribbean, the Med is a journey into history. Experience the sites of the ancient Roman Empire, Medieval cities, religious shrines and lost civilizations. The most common complaint after a cruise is people were so busy that they need another vacation to recover.

St. Peters Basilica Vatican City and the Roman Forum.

Rome The Eternal City

Geographically Rome is located near the center of the Mediterranean but it is also central to the Mediterranean's history. If you're planning a cruise that departs from Rome don't miss the opportunity to spend some extra time seeing this great city.

The Roman Forum, Colosseum, Parthenon, Vatican City, The Fountain of Trevi, the list just goes on and on and that doesn't even address world class restaurants, cafes and wine bars.

Civitavecchia is the seaport of Rome with inexpensive train service available to the port.



Getting To Your Mediterranean Cruise

Typically there are a number of ways to get to your cruise ship once you have reached the port city of embarkation. Arriving by air the easiest process is to arrange a transfer through your cruise ship. Typically there will be a representative of the ship holding a sign that will direct you to a bus and collect your luggage. Depending on the port their fees typically range from \$50 to \$100 per person.

If you are planning on spending some time in the city before your cruise or are looking to save some money there are other options you can select.

Boarding a cruise ship is similar to checking in at the airport. In front of the terminal or ship are facilities where you will check in and drop off your luggage. Boarding times are usually noon to 4 pm.



Barcelona Harbor

Barcelona - Arriving by plane at Barcelona El Prat de Llobregat Airport, you can take the blue Aerobús number 46 to Plaça Espanya. At Plaça Espanya, take the subway line L3 green line toward "Trinitat Nova" and get off at the station "Drassanes". From the station "Drassanes" it is a short walk to the Columbus Column. Tickets for the Aerobús can be booked online and with bus 46 you will also receive individual tickets from the driver for the metros. Taxis from Barcelona airport to the cruise ship terminals are €40 (fixed rate) which includes up to 4 people and 4 pieces of luggage.

There are seven piers available for cruise ships in the port of Barcelona. The furthest from city center are the terminals A, B, C and D, which are located on their own pier, the "Moll Adossat" or the "Muelle Adosado". Big cruise ships like Carnival dock there.



Three other quays for passenger ships are the south terminal S, the east terminal E and the north terminal N. These three terminals are grouped around the "World Trade Center" at the Moll Barcelona. This is where smaller cruise ships dock. A striking landmark on the pier is the large steel tower of the cable car station.



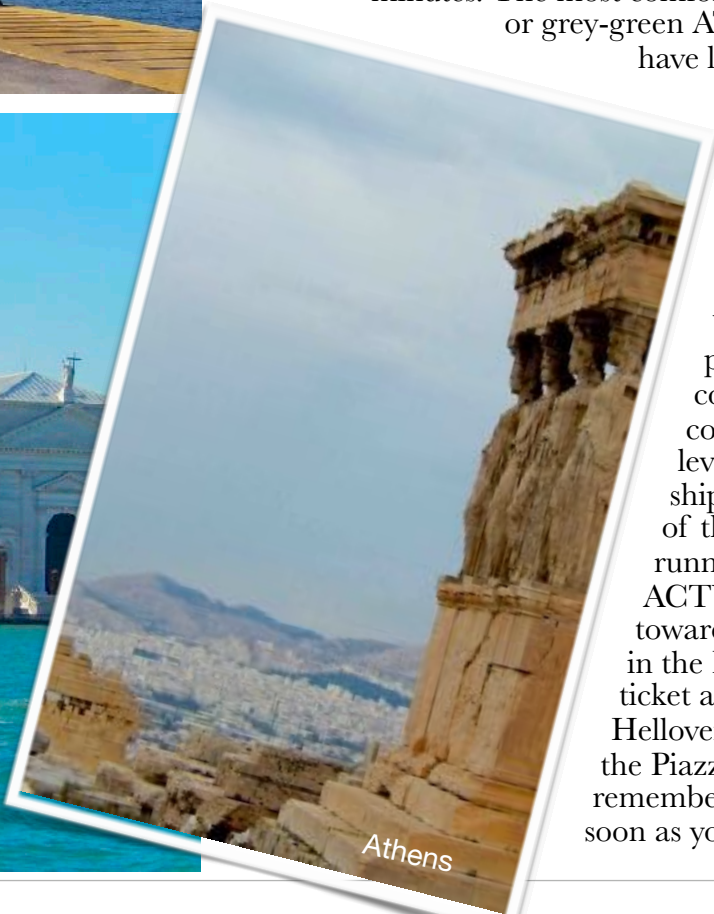
Rome Civitavecchia is a nice city about 62 miles north west of Rome, Italy. Fiumicino Airport is west of Rome on the coast south of Civitavecchia, and by car around an hour's drive. The city is the cruise port servicing Rome. There are several travel options between Civitavecchia and Fiumicino airport. The only need to go into Rome is if you want to do some sightseeing or spend a day or two. There is a whole section on Civitavecchia, Rome and Fiumicino Airport on page 40 & 44.



Athens and Piraeus - Getting from Athens airport to Piraeus port, you have three options in transportation to select. A public bus route, a metro line and the standard airport taxi. Taking an Athens airport taxi is the fastest and most convenient transfer option costing between 55-70€. There is also direct service by bus (Bus X96) that provides direct transfers between Athens airport and Piraeus port. This bus line operates 24/7 at intervals between 20 and 40 minutes depending on time, day and season and takes about 50 minutes. The full price of the one way ticket is currently about €6.



Venice - The cruise port is located about 13 miles from Venice Marco Polo Airport and to reach the Venice cruise port by taxi will take about 20 minutes with current fixed price fares of €38. There is also inexpensive bus service connecting Marco Polo Airport to the Piazzale Roma, at the edge of Venice's historic center. Travel time is about 20 minutes. The most comfortable buses are the blue or grey-green ATVO coaches, which have luggage space



underneath. From Piazzale Roma to the Port of Venice the city often runs shuttle buses from disembarkation of the previous cruise's passengers through the boarding of new passengers. These are coaches with luggage compartments at ground level, and the name of the ship is in the front window of the bus. If shuttles aren't running you can catch the ACTV's 6/ public-transit bus toward the port from stop C3 in the Piazzale Roma. Buy your ticket at a newsstand or the Hellovenezia/ACTV office in the Piazzale Roma, and remember to stamp your ticket as soon as you board the bus.



Kotor, Montenegro

The Adriatic Ports of Kotor & Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik, Croatia

The Old City of Dubrovnik is where much of Game of Thrones was filmed and that has greatly added to the appeal of this already popular tourist destination. A short walk through this town quickly shows why it was selected as a backdrop for this popular series. Scenes from the show take in the Pile and Ploče gates, St. Dominika street, the high city walls along with the Bokar fortress and the Minčeta tower.

The sea and surrounding hills are ruggedly beautiful and the Old Cities massive defensive walls and towers add a feeling of being transported back in time centuries.

Where Your Ship Docks

Currently there are docking facilities a short distance down the coast from the old city but there is no terminal or public facilities. Shuttle service to the historic city is usually provided at a nominal fee.

Transportation

The main attraction for day visitors is the old city and there is enough to do and see to last a couple of days. Should you want to go exploring there is a good bus system in Dubrovnik and inexpensive fares can be purchased from the drivers. You will need to exchange some currency beforehand as they only accept cash (HRK). Taxis are available at Taxi Stands and are reasonably priced.

Currency – The official currency is the Croatian Kuna (HRK or K) with an exchange rate of about 1 HRK = to US\$0.15. Credit cards are readily accepted and there are also ATM machines which disburse HRK.

History and Attractions

In the early 1990's, after the break-up of Yugoslavia, Dubrovnik was drawn into a civil war in the region mostly along ethnic and religious divides. Dubrovnik was attacked and besieged by Serbian and Montenegrin soldiers of the Yugoslav People's Army for seven months. The city suffered from repeated artillery shellings along with constant sniper fire. After the new peace and the restoration work in the early 2000s, Dubrovnik has become one of the top tourist destinations in the Adriatic Sea.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✗ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✗ With Terminal
- ✗ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✗ Near Town ✓ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

4 Shuttle Service 2 Taxis 2 Public Transport

3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility

Distance Into Town In Miles 2.5

Average Taxi To Airport \$20 To CBD \$10 (US\$)





The Old Town of Dubrovnik was founded in the 7th Century by refugees from Epidaurus in Greece and is a UNESCO World Heritage site due to its historic importance. As soon as you cross over the drawbridge and enter the Pile Gate you will find yourself entering an ancient city that is brimming with amazing architecture and surrounded by the Adriatic on one side and the interior city walls on the other.

Visitors can take a walk along the walls that surround the old city. It is so large that the walk takes a couple of hours with breathtaking views of the Adriatic Coast as well as beautiful vantage points down on the old city. The walls stretch over 6365 feet and consist of the main wall, sixteen

towers, three forts, six bastions, two corner forts (cantonatas), three pre-walls with several turrets, three moats, two barbicans, two drawbridges and one breakwater.



Dubrovnik's city walls are open all year-round. The busiest period of year is the peak summer months and busiest time of day is from 11am till 3pm. A general admission ticket costs about US\$10.00 and you can buy e-tickets ahead of time.



Lovrijenac Fortress is one of the sights that can be seen from the wall. It is an impressive structure built on an outcropping rock. It is located just outside the Western wall of the Old Town and is often featured in Game of Thrones. Fort Lovrijenac or St. Lawrence Fortress, often called "Dubrovnik's Gibraltar", is a fortress and theater outside the western wall of the city of Dubrovnik, 121 feet above sea level. Famous for its plays and importance in resisting Venetian rule, it overshadows the two entrances to the city, from the sea and by land. There is an admission to Fort Lovrijenac and it can be crowded at times, so it is best to book a tour or buy e-tickets ahead of time.

While the Game Of Thrones is fiction there is a remarkable amount of real history within the city walls.



Republic of Ragusa - After the fall of the old Gothic Kingdom, the city was incorporated into the Byzantine Roman Empire. Because of that even in the medieval period, Dubrovnik still had a large Roman population. After the Crusades, Dubrovnik came under the control of Venice, along with the remaining Dalmatian cities. After the Peace Treaty of Zadar in 1358, Dubrovnik achieved relative independence as a protectorate of the Kingdom of Hungary.

Between the 14th century and 1808, Dubrovnik ruled itself as a free state, although it paid an annual tribute to the Ottoman sultan. The Republic reached its peak in the 15th and 16th centuries, when it rivaled the Republic of Venice and other maritime republics.

The Port of Kotor, Montenegro

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✗ With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✗ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

NA Shuttle Service 2 Taxis NA Public Transport

2 Port Wheelchair Accessibility

Distance Into Town In Miles 0.2



The old port of Kotor is ringed by steep limestone mountains and surrounded by fortifications built from the Roman era to the Venetian period. It is located on the Bay of Kotor deep inland from the Adriatic Sea. The bay is actually a ria, which is a filled-in river canyon. Together with picturesque towns, the nearly sheer limestone cliffs of the mountains of Orjen and Lovćen, Kotor offers an impressive landscape. The current population of Kotor is under 15,000.

In recent years Kotor has seen an explosion in tourists, with a majority coming by cruise ship. The cruising industry has greatly expanded in the Mediterranean recently requiring an expanded offering of port destinations. Kotor is the new beneficiary offering the mild environment of the Gulf of Kotor, the spectacular natural scenery and the history of the old town.

Where Your Ship Docks – There aren't docking facilities that can accommodate large cruise ships so it is mostly a tender port. The tender pier is located just outside the old city with a tourist information office and public facilities.

Transportation – Aside from the old city and the nearby town this is a reasonably isolated area hemmed in by steep mountains with its' back to the bay. There are some tour buses that originate at the pier when ships are in. The old city is very walkable and if you are up for a hike there are trails up the mountain behind the city to the churches and fortifications.

Currency – The currency in Montenegro since 2002 is the Euro. One can exchange currency in banks or in numerous exchange offices and other currencies are not usually accepted in shops. Credit cards are welcome and there are some ATM's.

History - The oldest known building in Montenegro is an early Christian basilica dating from the 6th century. Based on archaeological evidence uncovered under the Church of Our Lady of Remedy.

Kotor is part of the World Heritage Site named the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor. The fortified city of Kotor was also included in UNESCO's World Heritage Site list as part of "the Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th centuries".

The Roman Era

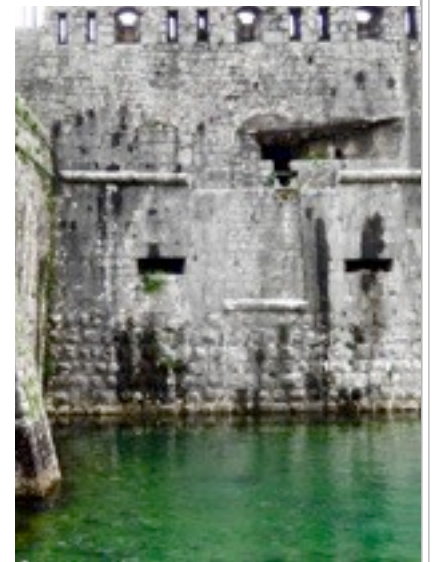
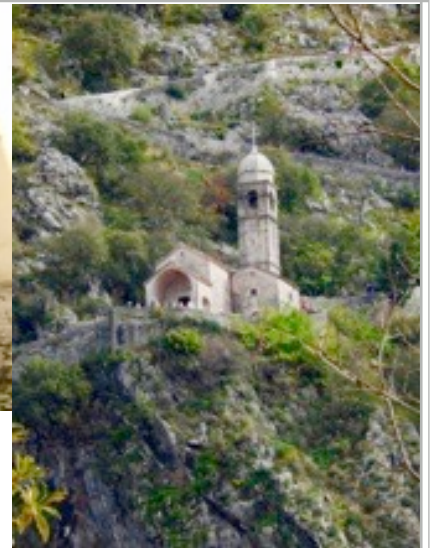
The town was first mentioned in Roman writings around 168 BC, and was known as Acruvium, and was part of the Roman province of Dalmatia.

The town has been fortified since the Middle Ages, when Emperor Justinian erected a fortress above Ascrivium in 535, after expelling the Ostrogoths. Ascrivium was later sacked by the Saracens in 840. It was fortified with walls and a castle near the peak of Saint Ivan by Constantine VII in 10th century. It was one of the more influential Dalmatian city-states throughout the early Middle Ages. The city was part of Byzantine Dalmatia in that period, and the modern name of Kotor probably originated from its Byzantine name.

Located out in the Bay of Kotor, **Our Lady of the Rocks** sits on a manmade islet. According to legend, the islet was made over the centuries by local Croatian seamen who kept an ancient oath after finding the icon of Madonna and Child on the rock in the sea on July 22, 1452. Upon returning from each successful voyage, they laid a rock in the Bay. Over time, the islet gradually emerged from the sea.

Another church sitting far above the old town is the Lady of Remedy, along with the Byzantine Fort St. Ivan and the Chapel of St. John. The Lady of Remedy is a Roman Catholic church belonging to the Catholic Diocese of Kotor and dates from 1518. The church is perched on the steep slope of the St. John Mountain with a commanding view of the Old Town below.

If you are in good shape you should consider taking the hike up the stairs and trail cut into the rock of the mountain. The road (walking path) ascends from behind the Church of St. Mary Collegiate in the back of the old town.





Piraeus The Cruise Port For Athens

Piraeus, the seaport serving the city of Athens, is a major metropolis in its' own right .The commercial district to the southeast between the harbor and the sea has a number of excellent restaurants and attractions as well as a beautiful natural marina. While most passengers visiting this port for the first time will head out toward Athens and the Acropolis, if you have visited Athens before, take the time to explore Piraeus.

Where Your Ship Docks – Most cruise ships will dock along the northwest side of the port but there are facilities all around the harbor. There is a good walking sidewalk around the port and, if you walk north and then continue around the port off to the east, you will reach the central commercial district in less than half a mile. Continuing NE will bring you to the marina.

Transportation - There are a number of ways to go from Piraeus to Athens. If you want to head out on your own, the best bet is the metro but you can also take a bus or taxi. Rental cars are also plentiful.

The metro is the most convenient way to travel from Piraeus to central Athens. A trip to Athens using the metro costs less than €1. There is often a free bus that operates in the port taking passengers from the ships to the nearby metro station.

The metro station is about one mile away from the farthest cruise terminal, or a 15-20 minute walk around the harbor. After that, there is a 20-minute ride on the metro to Athens Acropolis. If the shuttle isn't running you can also take bus number 843 from the cruise port to the metro station. The ride should take no more than 5 mins. The cost of the ticket is 1€.

To get from Piraeus to the Acropolis by metro, take the metro from Piraeus to Thissio (15 mins). At the metro station follow the pedestrian avenue and the walk is another 10 minutes to reach the Acropolis.

Traveling from Piraeus to Athens on a bus will cost roughly €0.80. Due to heavy traffic, the bus can take significantly longer at different times of the day.

Taxis offer more flexibility but can also be delayed by heavy traffic. To get to Athens the fare should run about €15. This will get to either the centre of the city or the Acropolis.

If you are flying in to catch a cruise, taking an Athens airport taxi is the fastest and most convenient transfer option, that will cost 55-70€. There is also direct service by bus (Bus X96) that provides transfers between Athens airport and Piraeus port. This bus line operates 24/7 at intervals between 20 and 40 minutes depending on time, day and season. The full price of the one way ticket is €6.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✗ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✓ With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✓* Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

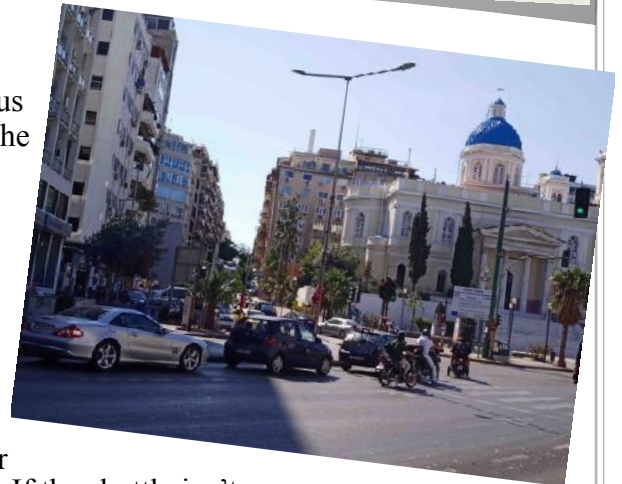
5 Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 5 Public Transport

4 Port Wheelchair Accessibility

Distance Into Town In Miles 0

Average Taxi To Airport \$70 To CBD NA (US\$)

* Shuttle service is usually available to the Metro



Money – Greece uses the Euro and other currencies are not readily accepted. Credit cards are welcome and ATMs are common.

Attractions

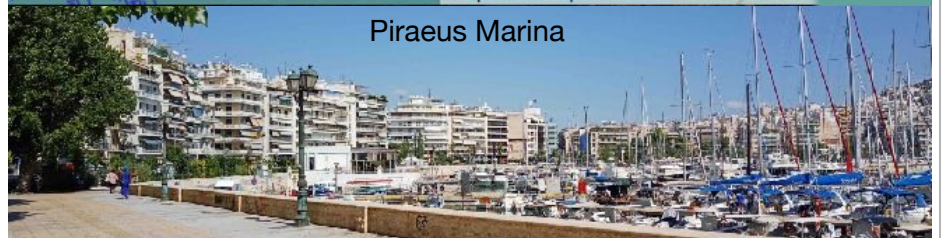
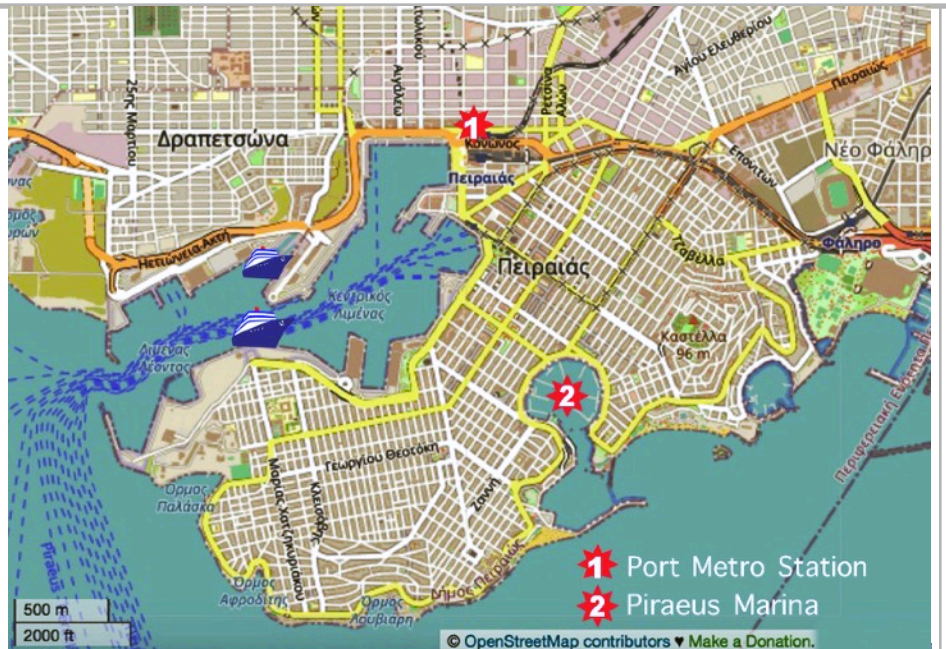
Acropolis -First and foremost there is ancient Athens and the Acropolis and if you haven't visited before, this is not to be missed. It is without question where Western civilization was born. It features a number of surviving temples including the Parthenon is a former temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, whom the people of Athens considered their patron. Construction began in 447 BC when the Athenian Empire was at the peak of its power.

In Piraeus there is a beautiful marina circled by a wide and attractive walkway featuring a number of waterside restaurants and cafes. Take the opportunity to sample some Greek gyros and shish kabobs from sidewalk stands in the area.

There are also two very interesting museums both within walking distance of the port.

Greek Nautical Museum is a small museum with great exhibits. The maritime history of Greece is displayed along with collections featuring the Independence War, WWI and WWII and many exhibits reflecting the importance of the Sea for the Greeks.

The Piraeus Archeology Museum contains mainly sculptures discovered in Piraeus and in the area of the Athenian coast going back to the Bronze through Golden Age of Greece to the Roman era.





The famous Mykonos windmills, Mykonos City harbor and a seaside restaurant

The Cruise Port Of Mykonos, Greece

The Greek islands attract people from all over the world and the most popular of these pieces of paradise is Mykonos. It features an exciting nightlife and a cosmopolitan atmosphere that attracts visitors of all ages who come for a number of reasons.

The island is famous for partying, relaxation, picturesque villages and magnificent beaches with golden sands and the crystal clear waters of the Aegean Sea. The weather is usually great, the sky and sea compete to see which is the more spectacular turquoise and everywhere you look are sun bleached white stucco buildings. Spend time strolling through narrow streets and alleys as you shop for art, local crafts and souvenirs. Cafes and restaurants are everywhere with seating that spreads out onto patios and porches each offering incredible views.

While visiting, keep an eye out for the Pelican of Mykonos. Named Petros (Peter) part of the traditions and culture of the island. This mascot of Mykonos strolls leisurely through the city's many streets and alleyways.

Currently Petros the Pelican is a second generation mascot. He and his predecessor have made Mykonos their home since 1954. The original Petros passed away in 1985 and the current Petros quickly took his place. Both of these Pelicans have made their way into the hearts of the people of Mykonos as well as the many visitors to this enchanted island.

Where Your Ship Docks

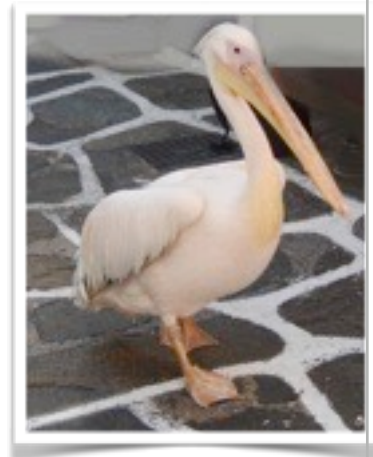
Mykonos has a new cruise ship docking pier about a mile and a half from Mykonos City. Shuttle bus service is usually provided and there are good sidewalks around the waterfront but they can be steep in places.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

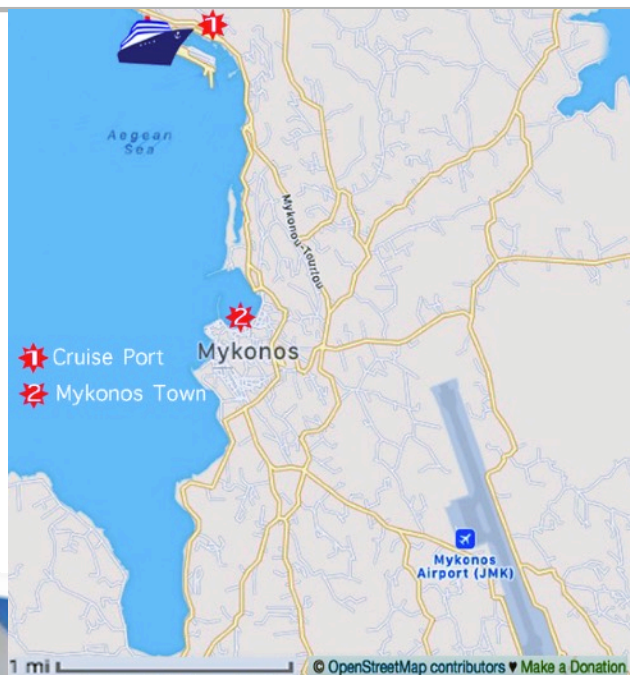
- X Tender Port** ✓ **Docks At Pier** **X With Terminal**
- X Restrooms Near Pier** ✓ **Port Allows Walk Outs**
- X Near Town** ✓ **Shuttle Service Usually Provided**
- ✓ **Near Public Transportation** ✓ **Taxis Available**

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

4 Shuttle Service **3 Taxis** **NA Public Transport**
Port Wheelchair Accessibility **3**
Distance Into Town In Miles **1.5**



The island has a good bus system with routes that connect most towns with the many popular beaches. The Mykonos bus fleet includes 26 buses, some of which are provided especially for the island's tourist visitors. Fares are between €1 and €3, depending on the distance traveled, and you can buy tickets directly from the driver or at the booths at the terminals. Taxis are also readily available.



Money

The local currency is the Euro (€) and ATM's are conveniently located.

Attractions

Mostly the island is popular for the beaches with dozens to pick from. A couple of the most popular include:

Paradise Beach and Super Paradise Beach are 4 miles from Mykonos Town. They are sand beaches very popular with young people that come to play all day and late into the night. It features diving and water sports and plenty of bars and clubs which flow out onto the beach. Paradise beach has a party vibe with good swimming in beautiful water. It's also nudist friendly. You can reach the beach by taxi, boat or bus.

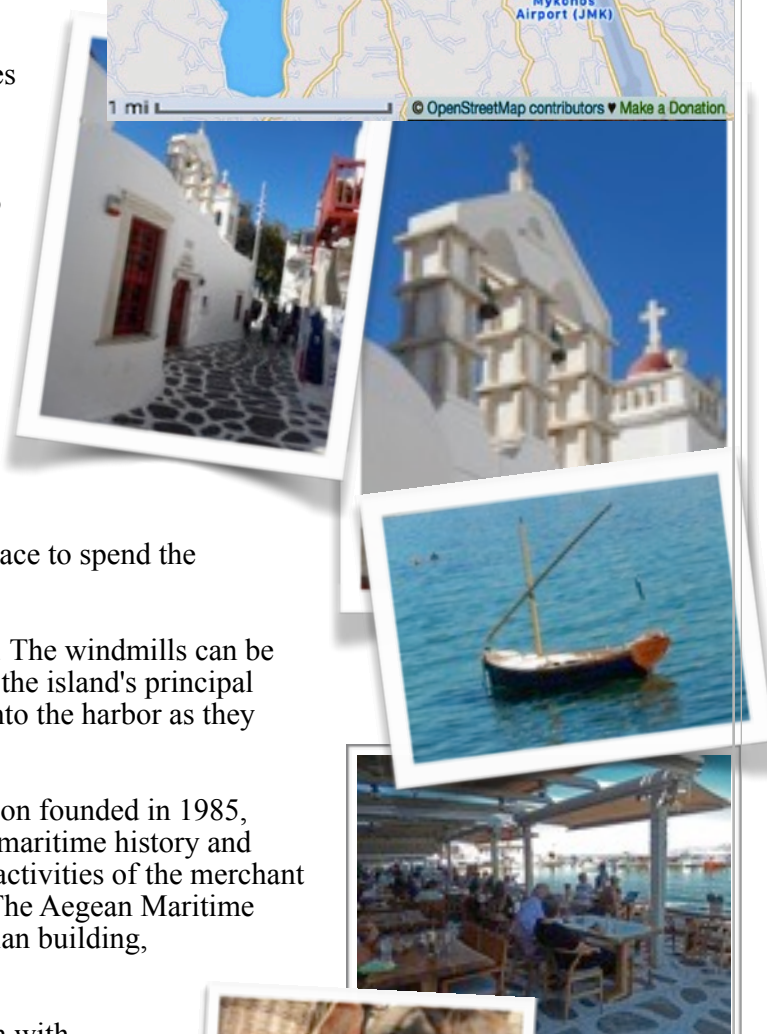
Ornos Beach is well equipped with loungers and umbrellas along with many cafes and restaurants. It is good for windsurfing, diving and water skiing. It's less than 2 miles from Mykonos Town, so it's easy to get to by bus or boat. It's located in a lovely bay with great views. Although it can get crowded, it is more relaxed than other beaches, so it's an enjoyable place to spend the day.

The Mykonos windmills - iconic feature of this island. The windmills can be seen from many points around the village of Mykonos, the island's principal village. They are the first thing you see when coming into the harbor as they stand on a hill overlooking the village.

The Aegean Maritime Museum - a non-profit institution founded in 1985, dedicated to collecting, studying and promoting Greek maritime history and tradition. It has a particular focus on the evolution and activities of the merchant ship, mainly in this historic region of the Aegean Sea. The Aegean Maritime Museum is housed in a traditional 19th century Myconian building, which is located at the centre of the Town of Mykonos.

The Archaeological Museum of Mykonos - a museum with exhibits dating from the Prehistoric to the Hellenistic period. The museum features six rooms that include models and tomb artifacts of Rinia. Also featured are earthenware, Cycladic stoneware and ceramics dated from ninth and eighth century BC. The most popular display is the internment reliefs of the fall of Troy.

Shopping Specialties include olive products like soaps and oils, spices, and local arts and crafts. Keep a look out for good buys in souvenir shops, high label designer clothes and shoes, art galleries and fine jewelry in the Greek design tradition.



Lots of restaurants and cafes (try Greek coffee) with beautiful views of the sea. The iconic Greek donkey available for photos and rides...



Alleys and fortifications, cobblestone streets lined with cafes and shops.

The Cruise Port Of Rhodes Greece

Rhodes (Greek: Ρόδος, romanized: Ródos ['roðos]) is the largest of the Dodecanese islands of Greece and is also the island group's capital.

The island was the site of the Colossus of Rhodes, a statue of the Greek sun-god Helios, erected by Chares of Lindos in 280 BC. It was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, constructed to celebrate Rhodes' victory over the ruler of Cyprus, Antigonus I Monophthalmus. According to most descriptions, the Colossus stood approximately 108 feet high, about the height of the modern Statue of Liberty. It collapsed during the earthquake of 226 BC.

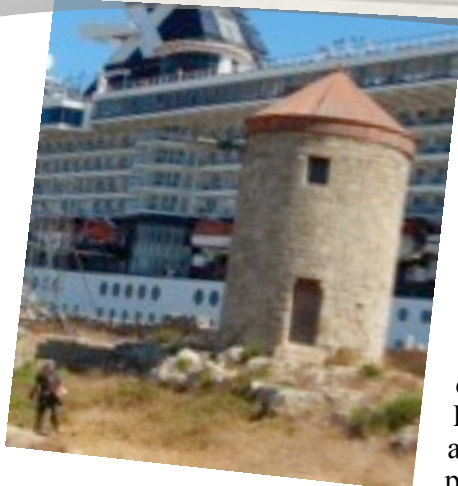
When the knights of Saint-John arrived on the island in 1309, they built this impressive citadel city. The two and a half mile long fortified walls, with a number of strongholds and towers, remain extremely well-preserved.

There are only walking streets inside the walls with an occasional motor bike and scooter. Wander through paved medieval streets and alleys while visiting historical monuments. The winding streets are lined with many taverns, restaurants, galleries and shops.

Where Your Ship Docks

The island of Rhodes is about forty miles in length and cruise ships dock at the far north end only a short walk from the Medieval City of Rhodes. The medieval city is far and away the island's major attraction and became a UNESCO World Heritage site as the largest and best preserved medieval

in Europe! The pier is situated to be convenient to the medieval city with a nice seaside walkway and public facilities just inside



fortified city

a nice seaside walkway and public facilities just inside

Transportation

For a day visit to the Medieval City of Rhodes, a leisurely walk is all that's needed. If you would like to get out and see the island there are a number of rental car agencies right at the pier and there are taxis available also.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- X Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier X With Terminal
- X Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town X Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- X Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

NA Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 3 Public Transport

3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility

Distance Into Town In Miles 0.2

Average Taxi To Airport \$20 To CBD NA (US\$)

Historical Site Of The Colossus Of Rhodes

Currency

Rhodes is part of Greece and the local currency is the Euro. Generally US and Canadian Dollars are not taken but credit cards are widely used and there are numerous ATMs available.

Attractions

The Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes:

one of the first castles built by the knights. Inside, you will discover a museum dedicated to Rhodes' History and the Grand Master's apartment, with its magnificent mosaic floors.

The Street of the Knights: where, each of the languages had its own inn (also called "auberge" or "palatial residence"). You will discover the Inn of the Tongue of France, or the Inn of the Tongue of England for example.

The Archaeological Museum of Rhodes is located in the medieval Hospital of the Knights. There, you will find many ancient objects found in Rhodes and the other Dodecanese Islands.

The Roloï Clock Tower, features beautiful views of the Old City from the top.

The Byzantine Art Museum displays many frescoes and icons from the Byzantine period.

Church of Agia Triada (Holy Trinity) Erected sometime between the late 15th and early 16th centuries, this church is situated on Leonidou Rodiou square. Some of the original frescoes that once decorated its interior have been preserved

Agia Aikaterini. St. Catherine - built in the 14th century, was converted to a Moslem mosque when the Ottomans captured Rhodes in 1522. It's said to be the first Christian church to be converted to a mosque. Süleyman the Magnificent prayed at this mosque after he conquered Rhodes.

The Suleyman Mosque, built during the Turkish occupation of Rhodes.

In the modern city of Rhodes, you will find vestiges of **Rhodes' Acropolis**, located about a mile from the medieval city, on Monte Smith. There, you can see the remains of **the Stadium, the Theatre and the Pythian Temple of Apollo**. This archaeological site is small, but free.





One of the worlds greatest natural harbors and a fantastic town

The Cruise Port Of Santorini, Greece

About 3,500 years ago in the Eastern Mediterranean a great Minoan civilization flourished. It was centered in Crete with towns and cities established on a number of nearby islands. From a number of archeological excavations we know that they built multi-story houses that were decorated with incredible frescoes and had advanced plumbing systems, some with hot and cold running water. One of the richest cities was Akrotiri (not its' ancient name) located in the middle of trade routes connecting Crete, Cyprus, Greece and Egypt. On a day around 1625 BC it all came to an end as one of the largest volcanic eruptions of the last 5,000 years destroyed most of the island under Akrotiri. Shortly after that, tsunamis from the eruption swept across Crete and dozens of other Minoan islands. Over a short period of time an entire civilization vanished.

Welcome to Santorini, Greece! Santorini was named in the thirteenth century after Saint Irene. The old name Thera was revived a century ago as the official name of the island but it is still often referred to as Santorini.

Where Your Ship Docks There are no cruise ship piers on Santorini. Docking space is at a premium and most facilities are used by ferries and cargo ships. Cruise ships anchor out and use tenders to take passengers to the Old Port. Since the island is noted for its' shear 900 foot cliffs rising out of the sea, the first challenge is getting from the limited sea level space up on top of the island.

Transportation – From the Old Port you will find five options to get up to the top of the island and the town of Fira: A mule ride (€8/US\$9), a serious hike up 580 steps on the same path as the mules, a cable car which costs €6 each way and takes 3 to 6 minutes, island bus service or a taxi.

While Santorini has good bus service and a bus route does go to the Old Port, it would probably be more efficient to take the cable car and if you

want to see more of the island catch a bus in Fira or take a taxi. The island towns are very walkable with their unique

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Tender Port X Docks At Pier X With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town X Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

NA Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 5 Public Transport
4 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
 Distance Into Town In Miles 1.5
 Average Taxi To Airport NA To CBD 12 (US\$)





white-washed stucco buildings and bright colored doors and trim being very picturesque.

Bus Service– The island bus service is KTEL with the average fare being under €2. You can see the system website [HERE](#).

Taxis – Taxis are available but catching one at the Old Port can be a challenge. An average trip between towns will cost around €10 to €20. You can also have a taxi take you on a tour around the island but be sure and firm up a price before starting out.

Currency Santorini is a Greek island and the currency is the Euro (€) which is what is accepted in shops and restaurants. Most major credit cards are welcome and there are ATM machines available.

Things To Do First, the island and its' towns are the primary attraction. Your ship will be anchoring in a huge circular caldera with its' shear inner walls forming the coast of several islands. Clinging to the upper sides of these cliffs are a number of iconic towns inviting you to stroll their streets.

Minoan Akrotiri – A major archeological excavation site open to the public is expected to exceed the size of the archeological excavations at Pompeii. It is also a treasure trove of some of the world's oldest frescos, most preserved by the eruption showing remarkable detail and vibrant colors.

Wineries – Santorini is also home to a number of small, good wineries. The wine at the Santo Wines is only exceeded by the fabulous views from the patio. There are a number of wine tours available.





The Cruise Port Of Corfu, Greece

The heart of the Adriatic Sea is the island of Corfu, one of the Ionian Islands. Corfu Town is the biggest town on the island and is famous for its nightlife, cafes and restaurants. Corfu's cosmopolitan character, a near perfect climate and spectacular azure waters attract vacationers from around Europe and the world. In addition to lively bars and clubs scattered around the town, there are many more located in the popular tourist areas of the island.

In addition to its' beaches and nightlife, there is much to explore on the island from historic sites and quaint fishing villages to notable religious structures.

Where Your Ship Docks – The island has a large docking area to accommodate cruise ships and there are usually shuttles into Corfu Town with a walk into town less than a mile.

Transportation – Taxis are available and there are car and scooter rentals near the port. There are two kinds of buses in Corfu. The blue buses run routes near Corfu Town and the green buses go around the island.

The blue buses usually depart from San Rocco Square in Corfu Town and cover the port, Kanoni, Mandouki, Benitses, Achillion, Gouvia and Kontokali.

The green buses station is very near the port of Corfu. The blue buses run routes to Paleokastritsa, Lefkimi, Acharavi, Roda, Messongi, Pelekas and to almost all villages and beaches around the island. Depending on the triplength, bus fares run between €1.50-4.80. You can also get an unlimited day pass for €5 on the blue bus for Corfu Town. Services are reduced on Saturday and Sunday.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✗ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✗ With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✓ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

3 Shuttle Service 2 Taxis 5 Public Transport
3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
 Distance Into Town In Miles 1
 Average Taxi To Airport NA
 To





Money – Currency in Greece is the Euro (€) and credit cards are welcome. There are also international ATMs available.

Attractions – Besides being a popular beach destination, Corfu is famous for its whitewashed houses, Byzantine churches, and the remains of Venetian era fortresses and a few Greek temples. Visit the ancient Roman village of Kassiope or stroll the central Esplanade of Corfu Town.

Saint Spyridon Church - One of the most beautiful churches on the island is the Saint Spyridon Church, constructed in the 1580s. It has the highest bell tower in the Islands, and it is located in the heart of Old Town Corfu.



Mount Pantokrator – Corfu is a rugged island with cliffs rising out of the sea with the highest peak in all of Corfu being Mount Pantokrator. From its' summit you see all of Corfu in one panoramic view, with Albania off in the distance. Famous for hiking, there is also a road to the top. A 17th century church stands near the peak. It was built on the ruins of an ancient temple to the Greek gods, probably in the 11th century.



Old Perithia – if you're interested in history one of the top attractions in Corfu is Old Perithia, the oldest village on Corfu, now almost completely abandoned. Located at the base of Mount Pantokrator, the town's location offers views out to the sea but isn't visible from the coast. The town still boasts eight churches and more than 100 traditional houses.



The northeast section of Corfu is home to **Kassiope**, a scenic coastal resort that is popular with travelers from around the world. In winter, the British flock to the resort's beautiful seaside, fantastic restaurants and laid-back atmosphere. Kassiope is said to date back to the third century BC, and a Byzantine fortress stands on a hill above the town.

One of the most iconic landmarks, and one closely associated with Corfu's history, is the **Vlacherna Monastery** or the woman's monastery located on a small island off the coast. In order to reach the island visitors have to walk along the narrow wharf that leads from the coast to Vlacherna. The sparkling white architecture of the Vlacherna Monastery, built at the end of the 17th century, stands out against the background of the azure waters surrounding it.



The waterfront near the Cruise pier, La Rambla and cruise dock

The Cruise Port Of Barcelona, Spain

Beautiful, Historic, Modern Barcelona

Barcelona is one of the two largest cruise ports in the Mediterranean and is used as an embarkation port as well as a popular port of call. The city is a modern and historic place with a number of iconic neighborhoods and attractions. If you are cruising out of Barcelona do not miss the opportunity to spend a couple of extra days visiting this vibrant city.

Where Your Ship Docks – The entrance to the Barcelona ports is at the foot of La Rambla, which runs through the city centre. Generally there are three major port areas. Most cruise ships are docked at Adossat Quay Terminal which is the farthest out and is serviced by a shuttle to the La Rambla area. This includes terminals A, B, C and D.

Barcelona Harbor

There are also 3 terminals at the World Trade Centre pier called North, South and East terminals and are much closer to the Columbus Monument on the waterfront at La Rambla.

The third terminal is Sant Bertrand, and it is near the World Trade Center (refer to our cruise terminal map). Sant Bertrand is usually used for ferries to the Balearic Islands.

THIS PORTS AT A GLANCE

- ✗ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✓ With Terminal
 - ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
 - ✓ Near Town ✓ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
 - ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available
- Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult*
- \$4. Shuttle Service 4 Taxis 4 Public Transport**
- 4 Port Wheelchair Accessibility**
- Distance Into Town In Miles 0.5 to 1.5**
- Average Taxi To Airport 35 To CBD \$20 (US\$)**





Transportation – The T3 PORTBUS (the “Blue Bus”) runs a circuit from all cruise port terminals to the monument of Christopher Columbus. The tickets for the T3 need to be purchased with cash on the bus itself.

At this writing the tickets cost:

Single ticket: €3.00 With Return ticket: €4.00

Many of the cruise ships also provide a shuttle bus to their passengers for free or a small charge (usually about \$5 to \$8).

Walking – The nearest cruise terminal to La Rambla is about a 15 minute walk away. However the major cruise terminals, which are furthest from La Rambla are about a mile and a quarter (2 Km) from the Columbus Monument. From Christopher Columbus monument to La Rambla is about a 1 minute walk, and the nearest Metro is Drassanes (Green Line, L3), which is another 5 minute walk.

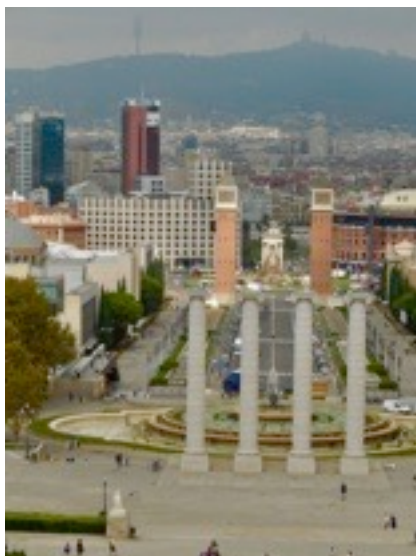


Barcelona Metro – Barcelona has a good transit system that is excellent for getting around the city. The Barcelona Tourist Travel Pass (also known as the HolaBCN card) is a transport pass specifically designed for tourists. Once purchased it enables you to have unlimited journeys on the Barcelona public transport system which includes the TMB buses from Barcelona Airport to the city centre, the Airport metro from both T1 and T2, the Airport train to the city centre, the entire metro underground system in the whole of the city, the TMB buses that run in the city centre and the suburban tram system. Barcelona Card gives you unlimited transport on the Barcelona transport system (metro, bus, tram). It can be purchased in advance of your trip. The Transport Card can be purchased for 2 to 5 days.

Taxi – A taxi from the port to the city centre is normally less than 10 minutes with a fare of about €20.00. A Taxi to Barcelona airport from the cruise port should take about 25 minutes with a fare: of €30.00 – €35.00.

What To See – Barcelona is a city steeped in culture and history and many think it is the city itself that is the main attraction. From great food to an exciting night life, from the old Gothic quarter to the modern shopping districts, this is truly a remarkable city.

Over the years Barcelona has played host to a World Exhibition and the Olympics and remains a major center for the arts and culture.



The Sagrada Familia

Barcelona is famous for the fantastic architecture of Antonio Gaudí, whose buildings can be found scattered around the city. The most famous can be found along Passeig de Gràcia where you will find La Pedrera and Casa Batlló. There is also the Parc Güell which is an incredible park designed by the Gaudí himself. The most notable of Gaudí’s works is the Sagrada Familia, the huge, still unfinished Basilica.

The Gothic Quarter

The Gothic Cathedral in the heart of the Gothic quarter is a must-see as is a walk up Las Ramblas. Make sure to save time to explore the winding side streets with their shops and restaurants.

There are also a number of great museums in the city. **The MACBA** (museum of modern art) and the **CCCB** next door are worth an hour or two. The **Picasso** and the permanent **Dalí** exhibition in the Gothic Quarter are always worth a visit. **The Caixa Forum** is a museum which has different art exhibitions every month. It is just off Plaça Espanya, on Avenida Marques.



The Cruise Port of Cartagena Spain

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- X Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier X With Terminal
 - ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
 - ✓ Near Town X Shuttle Service Usually Provided
 - X Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available
- Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult*
- NA Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 2 Public Transport**
- 3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility**
- Distance Into Town In Miles 0**

The port of call of Cartagena on the Mediterranean's Costa Cálida, has been an active port and trade center since Carthaginian times. Thanks to its' strategic position, it has been an important city to a number of cultures including Carthaginians, Romans, Moors and Spaniards, all having left their mark on this interesting city.

Where Your Ship Docks – Cruise ships dock at a pier connected to the marina and a short walk to downtown. Getting into and seeing a lot of the town is an easy walk from the ship.

Transportation – Other than walking and taking tours, the best way to get around is by taxi. There are a number of taxi services and prices are about average. There currently aren't any ride shares available. There is also a trolley tour of Cartagena that lasts about an hour and a half for \$50.

Money – Spain uses the Euro, credit cards are welcome and there are ATMs readily available.



The City and Its Attractions Near the pier on the waterfront is the National Museum of Underwater Archaeology ARQUA which is the home of the National Centre for Underwater Archaeological Research. Its' displays cover naval construction, trade and navigation since ancient times.

On leaving the marina, take a stroll off to the left along the Muralla del Mar wall on Calle Real to the Calle Mayor, the main thoroughfare through the commercial center, and take in the city's Modernist architecture. Calle Mayor leads off to the Plaza del Ayuntamiento square with the houses of Cervantes and Llagostera by the architect Victor Beltrí. Known for glassed-in balconies and iron work with



CARTAGENA SPAIN

Continued from previous page

bronze reliefs, other representative buildings include the Casino, the Gran Hotel, the railway station, and the houses of Maestre and Dorda.

The Old Cathedral is located on the Camino del Parque Torres, behind the Muralla del Mar wall. This is the oldest church in Cartagena (13th century), and stands upon the remains of a Roman theatre discovered in 1987 that dates back to the first century A.D. It is one of the most important Roman theaters in Spain. The items excavated from the site are displayed in the Museum of the Roman Theatre. More examples from the Roman era are the archaeological sites of El Molinete, the Morería Baja colonnade and the Byzantine Wall, which is actually an early Roman structure. Two additional archaeological sites are the Augusteum and the Decumanus. The Augusteum contains the remains of the old forum, a public building featuring beautiful marble floors. The Decumanus site, adjoining the Roman Forum quarter, contains rooms in the city's Roman baths. The Casa Fortuna, built in the first century B.C. belonged to a wealthy family and shows what daily life was like at the time of the early Roman Empire.

The Concepción Castle stands upon a hill in the city and served as a fortress for Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths, Arabs and Spaniards, and now houses the History and Mediaeval Cartagena Visitor Centre. Nearby is the Refuge – a Spanish Civil War museum, with galleries which were shelters from aerial attack.





The port of Ashdod



Tel Aviv skyscrapers



The fortress at Acre

The Cruise Ports Of Israel

Two Cruise Ports Of Call In Israel, Ashdod and Haifa

There are 116 miles of Mediterranean coast in western Israel stretching from Lebanon in the north to the Gaza Strip in the south. The two major ports of call for cruise ships are Ashdod just north of Gaza and Haifa another 70 miles north. Ashdod is within a short drive of Tel Aviv and usually the port for tours to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and surrounding areas while Haifa is near to Acre the stronghold of the Christian Crusaders.

Due to the conflict and the geo-politics involving Israel and the region, security has to be a concern. Israel works very hard at keeping their cities safe and providing protection to its' visitors and most travel experts strongly recommend traveling in organized tours while visiting.

Where Your Ship Docks – Both of these ports are very similar as far as docking locations and facilities. They are working industrial ports situated some distance from city centers which makes walking out and access to public transportation difficult or just not an option.

Transportation – Because of the distances involved in traveling from a port, it is probably best to consider using the ship's tours. There are often drop-off pick-up tours to places like Tel Aviv where you can explore on your own.

Taxis in Israel are common and a good choice in getting around. Israeli taxis by Western standards are inexpensive and are usually readily available, safe with modern cars and friendly drivers. Within cities, drivers must use the meter unless you agree to a fixed fare while inter-city taxis have fixed fares for specific destinations. Be aware there are surcharges for calling a taxi (5 NIS approx) and for luggage (4.6 NIS each).

THESE PORTS AT A GLANCE

- X Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier X With Terminal
- X Restrooms Near Pier X Port Allows Walk Outs
- X Near Town X Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- X Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

NA Shuttle Service 4 Taxis 1 Public Transport
2 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
Distance Into Town In Miles 3 to 7
Average Taxi To Airport NA To CBD \$35 (US\$)



The beach in Tel Aviv



The streets of Jaffa



Taxi night rates usually have a 25% surcharge, and there is a starting fare of NIS 11 in cities.

Currency

1 US Dollar = 3.42 New Israeli Shekels. You will need to exchange some currency but major bank credit and debit cards are widely welcome.

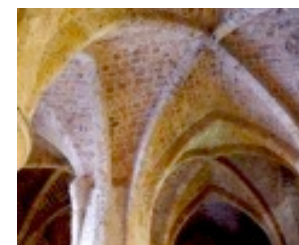
What To See and Do:

Ashdod – This port of call is the most convenient for visiting historic Jerusalem and is usually the primary focus of most passengers. There will usually be dozens of tours available to the historic city and its' surrounding sites like, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, Masada and the Jordon Valley.

Less than twenty miles north of the port are Tel Aviv and Jaffa. If you can fit in the time, a day trip up the coast is well worth the effort to see the real Israel. Tel Aviv is a remarkable, modern city with beautiful beaches and incredible skyscrapers. Its wide avenues are lined with shops and parks and outdoor cafes invite sitting and people watching. Jaffa to the south has the character of a beach resort with a number of nice restaurants, a seaside walk and protected harbor. Above Jaffa is a historic neighborhood with art galleries, a beautiful park and views up the coast of Tel Aviv beaches and skyline.

Haifa – The Baha'i Gardens extend from the summit of Mount Carmel along the northwestern slope of the mountain. In total, the 19 terraces and more than 1,500 steps drop down towards Haifa port. The Bahá'í Faith is a religion teaching the essential worth of all religions and was established by Bahá'u'lláh in 1863 in Persia.

Twelve miles north of the port is Acre, the fortified town and home to the Crusaders fighting to open Jerusalem to Christian pilgrims from the eleventh to sixteenth centuries. The famous Siege of Acre, 1189-91, was the first major battle of the Third Crusade. The siege involved a mixed force of European armies led by Richard the Lionheart of England against the Muslim army of Saladin. It is a remarkable place to visit with its' passageways and halls. Outside the fort are an interesting marketplace and



The fortress at Acre



The Cruise Port Of Gibraltar

Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory located at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula on the northern side of the Straits of Gibraltar. It's relatively small with a total area of 2.6 square miles and is bordered to the north by Spain. The landscape is dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar at the foot of which is a densely populated town area, home to over 32,000 people, primarily Gibraltars. Historically, possession of the "rock" has been important because of its' strategic control over access to the straits.

Where Your Ship Docks –Cruise ships dock at the commercial harbor on the northwest side of the British city of Gibraltar. The city center is located on a strip of land on the west side of the "Rock". Usually there are shuttle buses available to take you to the city gates.

Transportation –The city of Gibraltar is not very large and is easy to walk in once you get to the city entrance. Most visitors are interested in getting up to see the "rock" and the best way up is to book a tour bus or arrange a tour with a local taxi.

Currency - The local currency is the Gibraltar Pound currently equal to \$1.31 US Dollar. Credit cards are welcome and there are ATM machines available.

Attractions

One of the biggest attractions are the famous Gibraltar Apes, the only free-roaming bands of monkeys in Europe.

Originally from the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, they are actually Barbary macaques that somehow got to Gibraltar. Currently, some 300 animals in five troops occupy the Upper Rock area of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

X Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier X With Terminal
 X Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
 ✓ Near Town ✓ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
 X Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

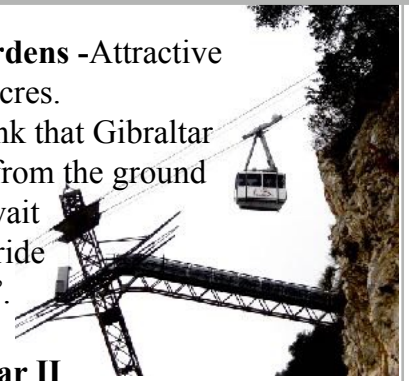
\$5 Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 1 Public Transport
3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
 Distance Into Town In Miles 1
 Average Taxi To Airport \$18 To CBD \$7 (US\$)





Alameda Botanic Gardens - Attractive gardens spanning 15 acres.

Cable Car - If you think that Gibraltar is an impressive sight from the ground or even from the sea, wait until you see it as you ride up to the upper "Rock".



Explore the World War II

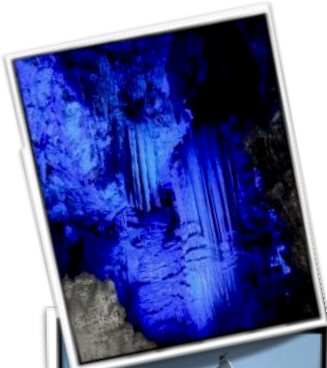
Tunnels - The tunnels accommodated what amounted to an underground city during WW II manning and defending the batteries controlling the straits.

Gorham's Cave Complex - a World Heritage Site. A sea cave complex and one of the last known habitations of the Neanderthals in Europe.

Lower St Michael's Cave - A natural cavern with stalagmite formations and its' own lake.

Spirit of the Rock Distillery - Learn how gin is made.

Includes tastings of various famous Juniper spirits and facts about gin's history on Gibraltar.



The Gibraltar Lighthouse - On a clear day you can see across to North Africa.

Looking down on the city of Gibraltar and the main port.



The Gibraltar Apes



Nobody is really sure how the apes got to Gibraltar. One theory suggests a cave complex runs under the straits that allowed them to travel across. Some time ago the apes were really wild and were famous for stealing hats and cameras from tourists. Recently they seem almost tame and comfortable to just laze around. Apparently they know they are a tourist attraction.





The waterfront near the Cruise pier, Alcazar castle stands above the city and the city Cathedral with its unfinished tower.

The Cruise Port Of Málaga, Spain

Málaga, Spain is a popular cruise destination on the Costa del Sol.

Located east of Gibraltar on the Alboran Sea, Malaga is an autonomous community in Andalusia. It was originally founded by the Phoenicians, but has experienced a number of major transitions. Occupied next by the Romans, it later became a major Muslim city and was then conquered in 1487 by the Christian kings of Europe. Today it is a thriving modern city sitting in the heart of the Spanish Costa del Sol.



Where Your Ship Docks

Cruise ships dock at the terminal at Paseo de la Farola marina. The pier is right downtown and includes a number of shops, cafes and free public facilities. Getting into the main shopping district is less than five or ten blocks and the old city is just a bit further.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

Tender Port
 Docks At Pier
 With Terminal
 Restrooms Near Pier
 Port Allows Walk Outs
 Near Town
 Shuttle Service Usually Provided
 Near Public Transportation
 Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

NA Shuttle Service
 3 Taxis
 3 Public Transport
5 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
 Distance Into Town In Miles 3
 Average Taxi To Airport \$25 To CBD \$7 (US\$)

Transportation

The Old City of Málaga

While the city has good public transportation, within the city centre you can see practically all the main sites on foot, as most major attractions are inside the historic district. Within the major urban area and in the nearby suburbs, Malaga’s city buses, commuter trains and the city-bicycle hire service will take you anywhere you want to go. Malaga is also currently testing a rapid transit system which should be open to the public soon.

Taking Advantage Of Its' Position On The Costa del Sol This City Has Much To Offer

Attractions

Monte de Málaga Gibralfaro

A beautiful hiking trail surrounded by pines leads up to the Castillo de Málaga Gibralfaro which stands atop Mount Gibralfaro opposite the Alcazaba (Citadel). Beautiful views of the bay and city are offered from this high vantage point.

The Alcazaba Fortress of Málaga This fortress palace, whose name in Arabic means citadel, is one of the city's principal historic sites and is not only beautiful but holds commanding views of the city and harbor. Built by the Muslim Hammudid dynasty in the early 11th century, it is the best-preserved Alcazaba (Citadel) in Spain.

Malaga Roman Theatre (Teatro Romano de

Málaga) A surprising vestige of ancient Malaga. Constructed in the first century AD, during Augustus' reign, this beautiful theatre stands approximately 16 meters high in the middle of the old section below Alcazaba.



The Cathedral The Cathedral of Málaga is a Roman Catholic Church constructed between 1528 and 1782 in the Renaissance architectural tradition.

The cathedral is located within the limits defined by a now missing portion of the medieval Moorish walls, the remains of which still surround nearby Alcazaba and the Castle of Gibralfaro. There is a local story that the second tower was never finished because the money, intended for construction, was sent by the local citizenry to America to support their revolution. (Not sure if it is true).

The Museo Picasso Málaga A museum in Málaga, the city where artist Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born. It opened in 2003 in the Buenavista Palace, and has 285 works by the artist.





Medieval fortifications stand over the harbor as cruise ships dock at numerous locations. The fishing village of Marsaxlokk.

The Sovereign Cruise Port Of Malta

Malta sits in the middle of the crossroads of the Mediterranean being mid-way between Sicily and North Africa. It has played host to numerous civilizations which gives this island a unique culture. It is a blend of Arab, Byzantine and European cultures with even its' own unique language. The island is blessed with one of the Mediterranean's largest natural harbors at the capital city of Valletta. The port is ringed by a number of massive fortifications with some dating back to the eleventh century.

Where Your Ship Docks – There are almost a dozen docking areas around Valletta harbor with cruise ship docking areas being miles apart. Generally there isn't anything you would call a cruise terminal but inside the security area at the docks there often are shops and public facilities. All docking areas allow walking out.

Transportation - Driving in the city is problematic, especially when it comes to negotiating tight corners, one-way streets and horrific rush hours. Parking is also limited, because, in addition to the resident population, many Maltese drive into the city for business.

Buses are frequent with extensive routes. Fare is 2€ per trip but there is a "12 Single Day Journey" card for 15€ that can be shared by several people. While there is an unlimited tourist pass, unfortunately, the shortest length is 7 days. There is also a circular bus route around the central city and harbor that serves all the docks. Look for buses with Kalkara Progress – Valletta markings. Tickets can be purchased from the driver on all our buses. These cash tickets are single journey tickets that can be used to get to any destination within two hours, including interchanging. Rates vary between Summer and Winter months. Multi-day cards can be purchased at Sales and Information Offices and other leading outlets, and can be used immediately.

Currency – Malta uses the Euro and generally other currencies are not accepted. Most major credit cards are accepted and there are numerous ATM machines.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

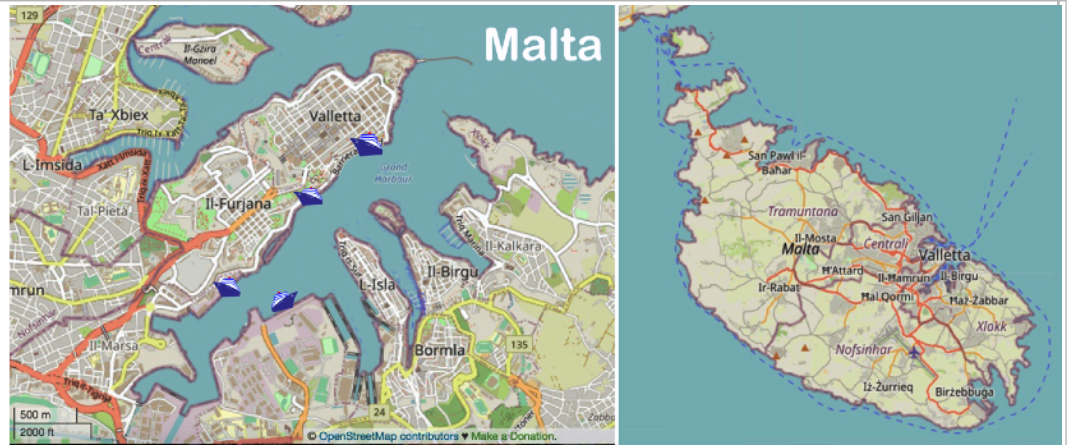
- ✗ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✗ With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✗ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

NA Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 4 Public Transport
3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
 Distance Into Town In Miles 0
 Average Taxi To Airport \$20 To CBD NA (US\$)

MALTA

History - Malta has been occupied for about 5,000 years but became a pawn of numerous empires in the Middle Ages when it was a crossroads in the Byzantine-Arab Wars. Invaded by the Arabs who introduced new agricultural methods to the island they also introduced the Siculo-Arabic language. The language is the basis of current-day Maltese.



The Normans took control of Malta around 1091, and were welcomed by the Christian population. At that time the Maltese islands became part of the Kingdom of Sicily, which encompassed half of Italy.

In 1530, the Order of Knights of St John or the Knights of Malta expanded to the island and ruled until 1798, building the present-day capital city Valletta.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, commonly referred to as the Knights of Malta, is a Catholic religious order, known for their military, chivalric and noble creed.

The Knights changed the face of the island building hospitals, increasing trade and erecting massive fortifications. During the period of the Knights they defended Malta and held out for months during terrible fighting and huge assaults by the Ottoman army, in what is known as The Great Siege of 1565.

In 1798 Napoleon conquered the island, removing the Knights from power. In the six days after the victory a civil code was created for Malta. Slavery was abolished, Turkish slaves were freed and Napoleon himself created a primary and secondary education system.

The British Throne took over Malta after Napoleon and ruled the islands for the next 160 years.

Attractions - **The Museum of Archaeology** in Valletta houses an exceptional collection of prehistoric artifacts. **The War Museum** at Fort St. Elmo is home to a Sunday military parade in period costumes and the capital is home to the impressive **Knights of Malta Grand Master's Palace** and **St. John's Cathedral**.

With 7,000 years of history, there is much to see from megalithic sites, underground catacombs, churches and forts. Interactive walkthrough and multimedia attractions offer an overview of Malta's history in under an hour. They're interesting and a great way to learn the significance of what visitors will later be looking at.

The picturesque southern fishing village of Marsaxlokk and neighboring resort town of Marsascula are also very popular and worthy of a visit.



The Old Town



Port of Call Ravenna, Italy

On the northeast coast of Italy is the city of Ravenna. It is more a beach resort than a port city but there is a pier capable of docking cruise ships. Not well known as a tourist destination when compared to its' neighbors Venice, Rome and Florence, it is home to some remarkable attractions. Ravenna was once one of the most important cities in Italy. Its' port was a base of the Roman Adriatic fleet, and gained even greater importance when Emperor Honorius moved his court there in 402 AD, making Ravenna the capital of the Western Roman Empire. Emperor Honorius and his sister, Galla Placidia, started a building program to make the city a Christian center and brought in the world's greatest mosaic artists. The mosaics embellished their new churches and even today they are considered the finest collection of Byzantine mosaic works in the world. It remained a seat of power through the sixth-century with the Ostrogoth king Theodoric the Great and later the seat of the region's Byzantine governor.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- X Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier X With Terminal
- X Restrooms Near Pier ? Port Allows Walk Outs
- X Near Town ✓ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- X Near Public Transportation X Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

- 5 Shuttle Service 2 Taxis 2 Public Transport
- 2 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
- Distance Into Town In Miles 6

Where Your Ship Docks

Cruise ships dock at a pier to the south of a channel that leads to a series of canals and a lagoon that was once the docking harbor for a fifth century Roman fleet. Today the area is mostly a small boat marina and a beach resort.

The city is about six miles inland and there are usually shuttle buses available. Other than the beach area there is little of interest near the pier. From the pier into Ravenna you will pass numerous fishing cabins with elaborate nets common in the region.

Transportation

For a day in Ravenna the best choice is to take the shuttle bus which is usually provided to get into the city. The historic city center has a lot to see in a reasonably compact area and is easy to walk.

Currency

The local currency is the Euro and major credit cards are widely accepted. Currency exchanges are hard to find but there are a number of ATM machines available. The historic city is a shopping district with a number of good cafes and restaurants.





Attractions

Today Ravenna draws tourists because of the magnificent mosaics along with a number of fifth century religious buildings in the city.



The Basilica of San Vitale is a major church and one of the most important examples of early Christian Byzantine art and architecture in Europe. It is of extreme importance in Byzantine art, as it is the only major surviving church from the period of the Emperor Justinian I. It was built in 526 AD and survives virtually intact to the present day. It was the prototype for the Hagia Sophia, a cathedral built at Constantinople under the direction of emperor Justinian I. It is considered to be the most important Byzantine structure in the world and one of the world's great monuments.

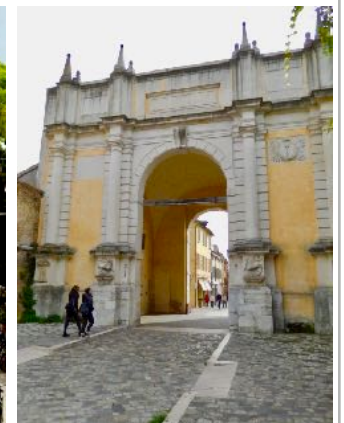


Mausoleum of Galla Placidia - The UNESCO citation calls this "the earliest and best preserved of all mosaic monuments, and at the same time one of the most artistically perfect."

Ravenna is home to the world's largest and best preserved collection of Byzantine mosaic works. Over fifteen-hundred years old they appear today just as if they were when created yesterday.

Basilica di San Francesco - In its' churchyard, is the large tomb of Dante, the great Italian writer.

Museo Nazionale – The museum is housed in the cloisters of the former Benedictine Monastery and has excellent collections of carved ivories, textiles from the Coptic to Renaissance periods, icons, and ancient weapons.





Marano Island, gondolas on the Grand Canal & a Venetian glass shop

The Cruise Port Of Venice, Italy

Once one of the most popular ports of call on Mediterranean cruises, Venice is now off limits to cruise ships. Cruise itineraries listing Venice will normally stop in cities from 70 to 90 miles away. Venice is an island city criss-crossed with a number of canals and is home to the iconic gondola.

Where Your Ship Docks

The cruise ships now visit either Ravenna (Royal Caribbean & Celebrity) or Trieste (Holland & Princess) and provide tours to Venice. Smaller ships tie up in Venice at the San Basilio pier and Santa Marta pier. The piers are located just to the southwest of the northern entrance to The Grand Canal and to the west of Piazzale Roma.

Transportation

The main city island is cut in half by The Grand Canal which acts as a sort of waterway main street. The heart of the city is centered around St. Marks Square (Piazza San Marco) which is the most popular first destination for visitors.

Most cruise ships usually take passengers to St. Marks Square in front of the Doge's Palace. Cost. Some cruise ships also provide a bus to Piazza Roma where you catch a water bus (vaporetto) on either Line 1 or Line 2 along the length of the Grand Canal to St Mark's.

Venice is very walkable and, while the streets seem to zigzag throughout the city, it is isn't difficult to keep your bearings. Numerous directional signs will point the way to the Rialto Bridge, which is one of two bridges across the The Grand Canal with additional markers pointing to St. Mark's Square. The other bridge across The Grand Canal is a footbridge called the Ponte dell'Accademia located farther south from the Rialto.

Currency

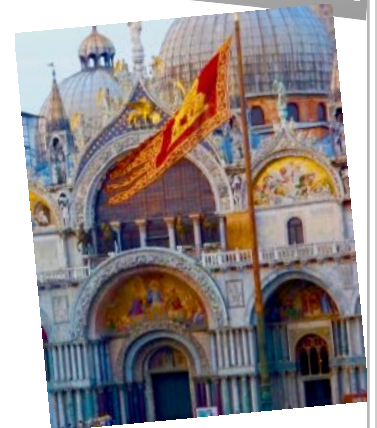
Italy uses the Euro and US Dollars are not readily accepted but most major credit cards are. You will also see a number of ATMs.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✗ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✓ With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✓ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

\$5 Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 3 Public Transport
4 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
 Distance Into Town In Miles 0.25
 Average Taxi To Airport \$40 To CBD NA (US\$)





Attractions

Just strolling through this remarkable city is the main attraction with its' interesting neighborhoods, historic architecture, famous upscale shopping streets, open-air marketplaces and an endless assortment of restaurants and cafes. Venice is noted for art and architecture, the canals separating the 118 small islands on which it was built in the 5th century, its' mask making shops, art glass , and of course Carnival each year in early February.



A few of the more notable mask shops are **Atelier Marega**, Calle del Scaleter, 2940/B, **Tragicomica**, Calle dei Nomboli, 2800, **Carta Alta Venetian Masks**, Sestiere Giudecca, 796, **Venice Masks by Alberto Sarria**, San Polo 777, and **Atelier Flavia**, Sestiere Castello, 6010. The glass factories of Venice of which the most famous is **Murano Glass Works** are located on Murano Island. This is actually a series of islands linked by bridges in the Venetian Lagoon which can be reached by ferries.

Sample Tours

Guided 2 Hour **Walking Tour of Venice** \$20. Don't waste time getting lost amid bridges and crowds but instead explore with a guide to discover the highlights and history in minimal time. Includes the Rialto Bridge , St. Marks Square and the Basilica of Santi Giovanni e Paolo.

Murano, Burano and Torcello Half-Day Sightseeing Tour \$25. This sightseeing tour allows you to see three islands in the Venetian Lagoon in half a day. Visitors often visit Murano—well-known for its glass-blowing.

Skip the Line and Venice Walking Tour with **St Mark's Basilica** \$30. Discover the awe-inspiring St. Mark's Basilica in Venice without the headache of long lines. Head to the front of the queue with your expert guide.

Classic 30-Minute **Gondola Ride** \$40. Take a classic guided gondola ride along the Grand Canal and watch the sights of this incredible city glide by.





Images around the Civitavecchia port

Rome's Cruise Port Of Civitavecchia

Introduction - The Cruise Port of Civitavecchia is a seaside city and the port city for Rome. The city is served by frequent train service from and to Rome along with regular service to other Italian destinations. The Cruise port entrance is only a short five or six block walk from the train station along the waterfront on Via Aurelia. Once at the port, there are usually free shuttles to the cruise ships. From where and how the shuttles run seems to change regularly.

The main gate to the port is next to Forte Michelangelo. It is nearest to the train station and across the street from the McDonalds. Recently, the cruise shuttles are being organized nearer the Roman Dock entrance about 5 blocks farther north up Via Dalmazia from the main gate.

Rome Cruise Port Civitavecchia is both a cruise ship embarkation port as well as a popular port of call and for that reason it can have a large number of ships in port at times. In one day as many as seven large cruise ships can be tied up along the sea wall and piers. Because it is a large working port the authorities normally require a shuttle to get out of the port exit/entrance and to the ships.



Where Your Ship Docks - The seaport stretches along the waterfront in downtown Civitavecchia and there are no cruise terminals or public facilities. Walking out is normally not permitted because it is a large working port but usually there are free shuttle buses to one of two gates. The city near the port has a nice stretch along the sea toward the train station featuring a number of outdoor cafes. There are nice shops in the colonnade strip behind the port and a walking mall just two blocks up from the McDonalds at the seaport.

Transportation - When you are cruising out of Rome, Italy the distance to the port requires you to do some planning. If you are arriving at Fiumicino, Leonardo da Vinci airport specifically to get to your cruise ship you can save a lot of money by taking a train. The airport train station is inside the airport and a ticket to Civitavecchia is around



Forte Michelangelo

€5 (* see note below). It does require taking a local train and switching trains at Trastevere station which is much easier than it sounds. Taking a taxi to the port can be an expensive trip with fares running from €150 to €300. If you're not inclined to go the train option, most cruise lines will offer transfer services to and from Rome airport at an additional fee (recent prices are about \$55 per person). When booking a cruise, usually purchasing transfers are an option.

Continued on the next page

While most cruises offer tours into Rome, with some being nothing more than round trip bus service, the fare runs about \$80 or more per person. If your cruise is ending in Civitavecchia or if it is a stop on your cruise itinerary the best way to get into Rome is to take a train. It's only a short six to ten block walk up Via Aurelia to the train station. Trains run as frequently as every 20 to 30 minutes. From Civitavecchia a typical trip to S. Pietro (Vatican City station) takes 40 minutes, Trastevere 50 minutes, Ostiense 55 minutes and finally Termini (the central train station) 70 minutes. Fare starts at €5 one way on the commuter trains but can cost up to €25 round trip if using regional trains depending on ticket class. There is a manned ticket booth at the station along with vending machines. Getting a metro train map ahead of time and planning your route before getting to Italy is a good idea, however, don't buy tickets online. Purchasing them locally provides more flexibility and most times will also save money.

In Civitavecchia taxis are available but are famous for overcharging with the short ride from the port to the train station (6 to 10 blocks) quoted as high as €10 or €15. Taking a taxi into Rome or to the airport can be an expensive trip with fares running from €150 to over €200. There are also shuttle services to the airport with an average price starting at €25 per person. In this case it is recommended that reservations be made ahead of time as schedules can vary a lot.

Currency - The local currency is the Euro and the U.S. Dollar is generally not accepted. Most major credit cards are accepted and an easy way to exchange money is to use an ATM machine if you have a debit card.

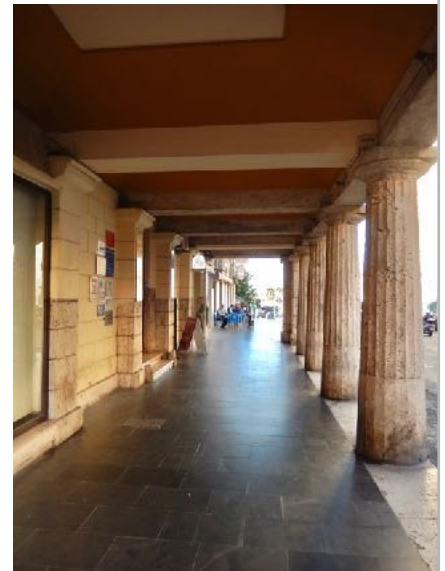
Civitavecchia is a lovely city for an overnight stay. It has a number of nice hotels and restaurants within walking distance of the port. Local eateries feature pizza, gourmet coffees, homemade gelato and other Italian specialties. The main business district is next to the port and there are a number of nice shops in the area as well as a pedestrian mall. Via Aurelia runs along the waterfront from the train station to the port's main entrance and a number of the restaurants offer outdoor dining. There is also a nice park along the water which is a popular place for locals to stroll in the evening. A recently opened small grocery store provides a source for local items.

What To See

Forte Michelangelo is a historic monument erected as a fortress in the 16th century that runs along the waterfront behind the port. In the day time there is a central courtyard open to the public and on the street side it features a colonnade and also offers panoramic port and ocean views.

Terme Taurine, also known as the Taurine Baths, is an archaeological site of a Roman bathhouse complex outside of Civitavecchia. The site features ruins dating to the Republican and Imperial eras with the oldest structures dating to the first century BC.

The National Archaeological Museum Of Civitavecchia, also known as City Museum, is located inside the eighteenth-century building commissioned by Pope Clement XIII in the eighteenth century, a block away from Fort Michelangelo. It features exhibits from the dawn of civilization, through the whole Roman era, up to the Middle Ages.



GETTING AROUND IN ROME

Getting Into Rome From The Airport

Traveling “like a native” between Rome, the airport, the cruise ports and other Italian cities by train can be both fun and challenging. Here is some basic information on travel centered on Rome, as well as some tips on things to watch out for.

To increase your holiday experience, it is fun to try public transportation and, in most instances, it is significantly less expensive than other options. It also is an opportunity to mix with local Italians giving you a feeling about who they are and, with the exception of getting packed in during rush hour, you’ll find they are likely to be very helpful.



Buses between Fiumicino (FCO) airport and central Rome

First, buying bus tickets online before a trip is a bad idea. It decreases your flexibility and, in many instances, costs you more. At Fiumicino airport there are a number of bus ticket counters near the baggage area and pricing is generally much lower than what you see online. Tickets on an express bus to Termini average about €8 each. The bus departure points are outside of Terminal 3, to the right. Buses take about 45 minutes to get to Rome Termini station from Fiumicino, traffic permitting.

If you are looking to go from Rome to the airport, the locations are less centralized and it is best to inquire at your hotel. Some buses can pick you up there and the front desk can offer advice on traffic time issues.

There is also the Roma Airport Bus T.A.M. for €5 per person (Nov 2018). These buses run between 08:00 am and 11:30 pm between Fiumicino (Terminal 3) and Termini Station. The return tickets cost €8.00 per person and run from Termini Station between 4:30 am and 8:30 pm.

Trains (Commuter, Express and Regional)

First, a word of caution. From Fiumicino airport there are a number of options for taking a train into central Rome but be careful when using the Suburban trains during rush hour if you are carrying luggage. Unfortunately if you are flying in from the U.S. you are usually arriving early in the morning and that means rush hour on the trains. Seating is at a premium on these trains and the aisles are standing room only. The locals do not take kindly to you taking up seats with your bags or blocking aisles and they won’t hesitate telling you about it.

Suburban train fares run €8 per person to Termini. This service (FL1) has a number of stops including Trastevere, Ostiense, and Tiburtina stations. This is usually the best train to take if you're going to Trastevere, Piazza Navona, or the Pantheon neighborhood. The trains start at about 6:00 am and run till after 10:00 pm. The trains run 10 to 25 minutes apart depending on the time of day. At Ostiense station, this service connects with metro line B to Termini,

ARRIVING IN ROME



Piazza de Republica

and also with high-speed Italo trains to Florence and points north. At Tiburtina station, the FL1 connects with Metro line B and also to Italo and Trenitalia trains. At Trastevere station, you can connect to FL5 for service to Civitavecchia. You can also catch trains to Florence at Tiburtina station as well as Civitavecchia.

The Leonardo Express train (€14 per person) is a fast service between Fiumicino and Rome Termini. Trains leave every half hour and take 32 min. It is the most popular service to central Rome but can be very busy.

Rome Termini is the central station in the city with access to the metro and bus routes to other areas and train service to other parts of Italy. In the main terminal hall there are information/ticketing counters but be careful and don't just walk up to them. You need to get a ticket and watch the board for your number to be called and to identify the window to use. Also, while most situations in Rome and Italy allow you to get by very well speaking only English, train ticket offices are often an unfortunate exception. Be prepared by writing down information about where you're going.

Note that tickets for many trains are not for reserved seats. You can use them at any time within the next several months, but the ticket **MUST** be validated right before use. You must, before boarding the train, punch the ticket in one of the little green and white machines around the platform area.

Taxi

The fare for a taxi from Fiumicino to central Rome for one to four people and luggage is €48. The trip takes approximately 45 minutes to most parts of this central area. If your hotel is outside this area, you will have to pay the meter. Note that the fixed price from the airport to central Rome applies only to taxis licensed by the City of Rome. For a group of four, taxis are an economical option over buses and trains.

Other Options

In addition to buses and trains there are limousine services and, at last check, Uber is operating in the Rome area as well. An



ARRIVING IN ROME

online search should provide additional current information.

Getting To Rome's Cruise Port

For those that are spending time in Rome to do some sightseeing before taking a cruise there are a number of nice hotels just a few blocks from the Termini (Central Train Station). Within an easy walk there are a few good local restaurants and wine bars that offered good snacks and light fare. That makes it convenient to get over to the station and catch a train to Civitavecchia.

There are trains leaving the Termini (Rome Central Station) for Civitavecchia about twice an hour throughout the day. In the main terminal hall are manned windows for ticketing but, be careful, and don't just walk up to them. You need to get a number and watch the board for it to call your number and to identify which window to use. Also, while most situations in Rome and Italy allow you to get by very well speaking only English, train ticket offices are often an exception (especially the smaller stations). Be prepared with written information about where you're going.

Trains to Civitavecchia originate at the main Termini in Rome with most stopping at Tuscolana, Ostiense, Trastevere, and San Pietro. Many are double-deck regional commuters with room to set luggage but make sure you keep an eye on it. Fares are about \$8 to \$10 per person one way. There are a few faster InterCity trains between Roma Termini and Civitavecchia costing under \$12 each.

Train schedules that are easy to understand are posted throughout the stations. Make note of the track number and follow the signs to the platform. Note that tickets for many trains are not for reserved seats. You can use them any time within the next several months, but the ticket **MUST** be validated for use. Validate before boarding the train, punch the ticket in one of the little green and white machines around the platform area. There can be serious fines for being on a train and not validating a ticket.





Livorno station



Livorno canals



Port of Call Livorno, Italy

Livorno is a popular cruise port of call, primarily for its' location only a short distance from both Pisa and Florence. Pisa is only 17 miles away and Florence is a little over 75 miles and both can be reached on the same train service.

The port of Livorno is one of the busiest ports in Italy. It stretches from the marina at the Livorno Aquarium, to the opening of the canal that joins the river Arno. Cruise ships docking in this port provide an opportunity to see a major working port up close.

Where Your Ship Docks – There is a Livorno cruise terminal, Alto Fondale, mainly used by ferry passengers and cruise ships embarking and disembarking in Livorno. Cruise ships making a port call often dock away from the cruise terminal and are provided shuttle buses into the city.

Transportation – If your are making a port call to Livorno, there is often shuttle bus service provided into the central city. If you are planning on visiting Pisa or Florence on your own there are a couple of options. Take a taxi to the Stazione Livorno Centrale and catch a train that runs every 30 to 45 minutes. If you are interested only in visiting Pisa there is regular bus service, Monday through Saturday, from the Livorno Stazione Marittima (port bus stop) that takes you to both Pisa Airport (the regional airport) and to Pisa Central Train Station. One-way fare is €2.30 (Euros), or €3.50 if purchased on the bus.

From Stazione Livorno Centrale to Florence train tickets cost €10 to €12 one-way for a Standard Class with over 30 trains per day. The trip takes from 1 hour to an hour and a half depending on the specific train. An eight person taxi to the station from Livorno port is about €25 or about €4 each which is less expensive than most ship shuttles to the city centre. Take a local bus from there to the station.

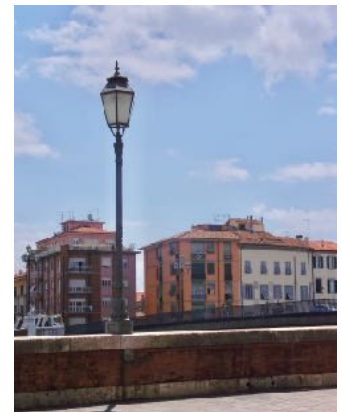
NOTE: There are a number of docks and if your cruise ship doesn't dock near the Stazione Marittima, you'll need to take a taxi to the Livorno train station. The Moby Lines and the Corsica Lines ferries (both to Sardinia and Corsica) dock at the Stazione Marittima.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

X Tender Port ✓ **Docks At Pier** **X** ✓ **With Terminal**
 ✓ **Restrooms Near Pier** ✓ **Port Allows Walk Outs**
 ✓ **Near Town** ✓ **Shuttle Service Usually Provided**
 ✓ **Near Public Transportation** ✓ **Taxis Available**

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

\$6 Shuttle Service **3 Taxis** **4 Public Transport**
3 Port Wheelchair Accessibility
Distance Into Town In Miles **0.5-1.5**





Pisa can be reached from Livorno by local bus or train



Florence

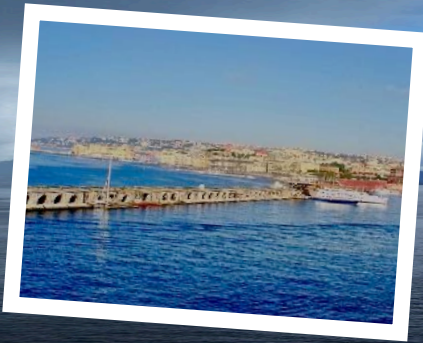
Currency – Italy uses the Euro (€) and other currencies are not usually accepted. Most major credit cards are welcome and there are numerous ATMs.

Attractions – The Nuova Venezia area surrounds the Fortezza Nuova and is known as New Venice because of the canals that weave between the streets. Beginning at the Scali delle Ancore, walk around the central canal and across the bridge on Via della Venezia past waterways and small sailing boats lining the canals.

Go visit the Scali del Reugio and the beautiful Chiesa di Santa Caterina before heading on to the Fortezza Nuova.

Fortezza Nuova, constructed in the 1500's, is the New Fort and was a second fortification intended to improve the cities defenses with the old fort. Featuring a pentagonal design with a series of gun batteries, the fort is an impressive structure surrounded on all sides by a canal.





The Cruise Port Of Naples, Italy

Naples is a major metropolitan area with a number of historical sites and several incredible nearby destinations of special interest. First is Pompeii, the ancient Roman city that was buried by an eruption from Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD. Another popular side trip is Sorrento. It is one of several beautiful Southern Italian seaside towns on the Amalfi coast and well worth the trip.

Where the Ship Docks – Cruise ships dock at a pier in Naples harbor right in the central city. There is a terminal and an easy walk out from the port area.

Transportation – Since the port is right in Naples CBD there are a number of sites and destinations within walking distance. To get out to the archeological sites or the southern coast it is best to take a regional train or a bus tour.

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✗ Tender Port ✓ Docks At Pier ✓ With Terminal
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✗ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

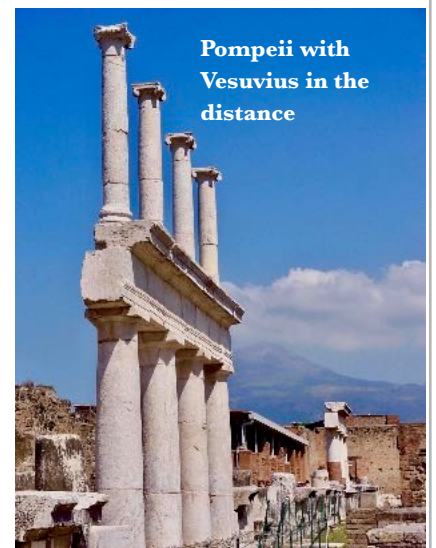
NA Shuttle Service 3 **Taxis** 4 **Public Transport**
4 **Port Wheelchair Accessibility**
Distance Into Town In Miles 0
Average Taxi To Airport \$35 **To CBD** NA (US\$)

There is regular and convenient train service to Pompeii from Naples at the Porta Nolana Circumvesuviana station only a few blocks from the port entrance. Circumvesuviana is the regional Naples train system around Mount Vesuvius with stops at Herculaneum, Pompeii and Sorrento. Go to the Circumvesuviana train ticket window and get tickets for Pompeii Scavi. The cost should be about €7 round trip. Once at Pompeii Scavi, exit the train station, turn to your right, and walk about 50 meters to the entrance to the Pompeii ruins.

The train to Pompeii continues on to Sorrento as the Capolinea, meaning the train service ends and starts in Sorrento from or to Naples. The trip takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. The trains run every 30 minutes approximately. There are 2 types of trains. Diretto which stops at every station and Direttissimo which is faster (by 10 to 20 minutes). The Direttissimo is marked as DD on the schedule.

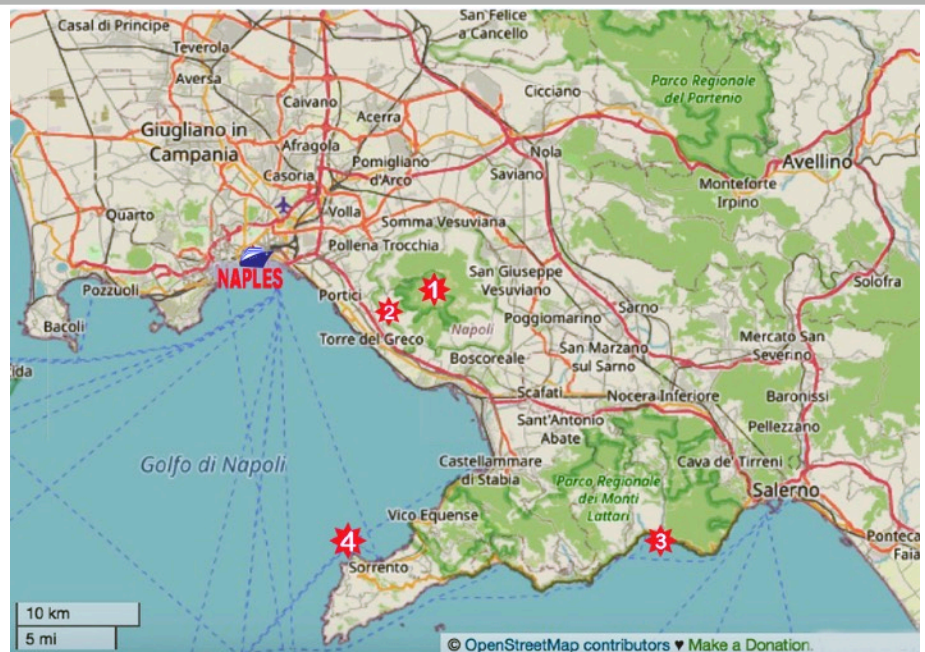
Pompeii – This ancient Roman city was buried under 13 to 20 feet of volcanic ash and pumice in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Largely preserved under the ash, the now excavated city offers a unique snapshot of Roman life, frozen at the moment it was buried and remained undisturbed until modern times. It is an extraordinarily detailed insight into the everyday life of its inhabitants. It was a large town, home to many fine public buildings and luxurious private houses with lavish decorations, furnishings and works of art which are the main focus of tours.

Herculaneum - Like nearby Pompeii, it is famous as one of the few ancient cities to be preserved more or less intact, with no encroaching development or modifications. After the eruption, a thick layer of ash blanketed the town and protected it against looting and the elements.



Pompeii with Vesuvius in the distance

NAPLES, ITALY



Unlike Pompeii, the mainly pyroclastic material that covered Herculaneum carbonized and preserved more wood in objects such as roofs, beds, and doors, as well as other organic-based materials such as food and papyrus.

Sorrento - A town overlooking the Bay of Naples in Southern Italy is a popular tourist destination, located on the northern end of the picturesque Amalfi Coast. Known for its' sea cliffs, the town's steep slopes look out over the sea to Ischia, Capri and the Bay of Naples. It is the birthplace of Limoncello liqueur and offers deep sea fishing, boat cruises and great restaurants. The town is widely known for its' small ceramics, lacework and woodworking shops.

Money – Like most of Europe, Italy uses the Euro (€) and credit cards are widely accepted.

Naples Attractions

Ovo Castle – Only a short walk from the port entrance is an imposing fortress and former royal residence, with two towers offering great views of the city.

Napoli Sotterranea - Underground system of ancient catacombs, tunnels, caverns, cisterns & hideouts accessible only by tours.



Castel Nuovo - Medieval fortress near the port with five towers and a Renaissance triumphal arch, plus an art museum & chapel.

Anton Dohrn Zoological Station - Interesting 19th-century aquarium featuring local marine life including sea horses, squids & sea turtles.

Cameo Factory de Paola – Naples is famous for its cameos and there are great buys in this factory only blocks from the port.



The Port Of Villefranche-sur-Mer, France

THIS PORT AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Tender Port ✗ Docks At Pier ✓ Visitors Center
- ✓ Restrooms Near Pier ✓ Port Allows Walk Outs
- ✓ Near Town ✗ Shuttle Service Usually Provided
- ✓ Near Public Transportation ✓ Taxis Available

Relative Values with 5 Good and 1 Expensive or Difficult

NA Shuttle Service 3 Taxis 5 Public Transport

2 Port Wheelchair Accessibility

Distance Into Town In Miles 0

Average Taxi To Airport NA To CBD NA (US\$)

Villefranche is a small picturesque town on the French Riviera popular on many cruise itineraries. The town itself is between Monte Carlo and Nice with Cannes only a little farther (27 miles) away. The quaint waterfront is lined with cafes and restaurants and stretches from the marina, where the tenders tie up, around a natural harbor past a number of beautiful beaches. Its nearness to Monte Carlo and Nice is probably one of its' biggest attractions for the cruise lines as it affords them a number of tour opportunities. But even if you book a tour, don't pass up spending some time

at a cafe or restaurant on this remarkable waterfront.

Where Your Ship Docks

While Villefranche has one of the best protected harbors on the Riviera, it has no major docking facilities and cannot accommodate cruise ships. This is a tender port where they let you land at the visitors' center right in town. The visitor center offers maps, advice on getting around and has good public facilities.

Transportation

Villefranche is an easy town to walk around in with plenty of shopping opportunities and good restaurants, but the streets do climb steeply up from the waterfront. Less than a half mile around the waterfront is the station where you can catch frequent trains to Monte Carlo, Nice or Cannes. They run about every twenty minutes and a trip to Monte Carlo takes only fifteen minutes and usually costs under €7.00. So before you sign up for that expensive tour, consider exploring some on your own.

Currency

The French currency is the Euro and you should not expect them to accept Dollars or Pounds in Villefranche. Credit cards are widely accepted and there are ATM machines available as well.





Attractions

The biggest attraction is the Riviera itself. Famous beaches, casinos, yachts at anchor and of course French cuisine. With Cannes and Nice to the west and Monaco only seven miles to the east a train trip is a fast and inexpensive way to see the glamour of the Riviera up close.

There are also a number of reasons to simply stay in Villefranche:

Just as you exit the visitor center to the left is **Citadelle Saint-Elme** a thirteenth century fortification which also now houses art exhibits.

Chapelle de Saint-Pierre des Pecheurs – Beautiful chapel right on the harbour with an interior decorated by Jean Cocteau.

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild – A villa, museum and fantastic gardens located on the opposite side of the harbor. Admission is about €15 but well worth it.

Fort du Mont Alban – If you are into hiking, walk up Mt. Alban which stands over 600 feet above the harbor, and offers views that are well worth the climb. The fort itself, built in the 16th century, is not open to the public, but is still impressive from the outside.



Port of Call Kusadasi, Turkey

Kusadasi is a beach resort town and a favorite cruise ship destination. It is only 12 miles from the ancient city of Ephesus which is a major attraction in this Turkish port. Summer temperatures during the day are usually in the mid to high 90s. The city is sunny for 300 days a year, making it a popular winter vacation destination.

Where Your Ship Docks – Cruise ships tie up at a pier near the waterfront of the city and Pigeon Island. Kusadasi is a small resort town that offers extensive shopping, nice beaches and easy access to some of the most impressive ruins in the world.



Transportation – from where the ship docks you can walk to Scala Nuova Village and a shopping bazaar in a couple of minutes. It's only 5 minutes to the nearest grocer and pharmacy, 10 minutes to Hand of Peace Statue and 15 minutes to Pigeon Island with its' Güvercinada Fortress and picturesque harbor. The most popular destinations from the port around Ephesus and a tour is highly recommended.

Money – The currency is the Turkish Lira with an exchange rate of around 1 Lira equals US\$0.15. Credit cards are welcome at most businesses and there are ATM machines and exchange offices near the port.

Attractions – Kusadasi offers some excellent shopping bargains like Persian rugs but it is more famous for its' location near some of the most significant archaeological sites in the world. It is also popular for its' beautiful beaches, lively nightlife and the hospitality of its' people.



The area was once the gateway to Asia from Europe and boasted one of the most prosperous cities in the region. The Greek/Roman city of Ephesus was visited by St. Paul and St. John and during visits apostles christianized the city. It was also where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent the last years of her life.

Ephesus - was an ancient Greek city on the coast. It was built in the 10th century BC by Ionian Greek colonists. The legend says that Androclos, when he searched for a new Greek settlement site, turned to the Delphi oracles for guidance. During the Classical Greek era it was one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League. The city came under the control of the Roman Republic in 129 BC.



Ancient Ephesus main thoroughfare



House of the Virgin Mary - The house was discovered in the 19th century from the descriptions in the visions of Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, a Roman Catholic nun and visionary. The Catholic Church has never taken a position on the authenticity of the house, it still attracts a steady flow of pilgrims. Anne Catherine Emmerich was sainted by Pope John Paul II.

The Temple of Artemis was also called Artemesium, temple at Ephesus, and was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The massive temple was built by Croesus, king of Lydia, about 550 BC.

The Cave of the Seven Sleepers - In Christian and Islamic tradition, the

Seven Sleepers is a story of a group of youths who hid inside the cave near the city of Ephesus around 250 AD to escape a religious persecution. They emerged some 300 years later looking just as they had when they entered.



Didyma Priene and Miletus -

The major ruins of Didyma are located a short distance to the northwest. They sit on what in antiquity formed the Milesian Peninsula. Didyma is the most significant site in the territory of the great ancient city of Miletus. Historically, the connection between Miletus and Didyma was by ship, but sediments from the Meander River silted up and closed the harbor of Miletus.



Shopping in the Kusadasi Bazaar and looking over the wares of a major rug merchant.



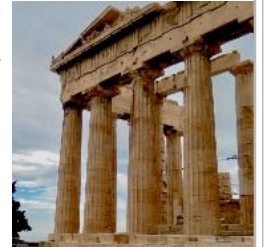
Hierapolis – Pamukkale - "Holy City" is about 50 miles west of Kusadasi and was an ancient Greek city sited on hot springs in classical Phrygia. Its ruins are adjacent to modern Pamukkale in Turkey and currently comprise an archaeological museum designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Popular Mediterranean Shore Excursions

The Mediterranean is unquestionably the cradle of Western civilization from the Greek city states to the Roman Empire, and the Renaissance, representing over two thousand years of history. A cruise will give you the opportunity to explore ancient cities, religious centers and historic sites. Add to that visits to museums housing the works of Greek and Roman sculptors, artists like Michelangelo, Picasso and dozens more along with world famous cuisines and vineyards. The biggest problem will be finding the

The Athenian Acropolis - Dating back 2,500 years, this birthplace of Democracy sits on a rocky hill standing up in the middle of the Athen's metropolis. Inspiring in its' grandeur, this site speaks volumes about the power of free people working together. A short drive from cruise ships docked in Athen's port of Piraeus, it is easily reached by Metro service.



Florence Italy - A little over an hour from the cruise port of Livorno, this city was the focus of the Renaissance and was home to the likes of Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Dante, and the Medici family.



Florence's centerpiece, the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Flower, is better known as the Duomo di Firenze and its' famous dome is one of the largest in the world. Visit the Uffizi, one of the world's finest collections of Renaissance art. Walk and shop the Ponte Vecchio, Florence's iconic symbol and the most famous bridges in the world with the list of sites going on and on.

Minoan Archaeological Sites of Crete - The Minoan civilization was one of the most advanced in the Mediterranean until 3,600 years ago when a massive volcanic eruption destroyed the island of Santorini marking the beginning of the end of their culture. On Crete, Knossos was the capital of the Minoan Empire. It is a fantastic complex and more extensive than any of the other palaces known to exist, It is located about twenty minutes south of the modern port town of Iraklio.



The Roman City of Pompeii - While in the port of Naples be sure and take a trip out to the ruins of Pompeii. Buried in the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD the city is remarkably preserved. You can stroll past the ruins of Roman businesses and homes, or check out the acoustics in Pompeii's Anfiteatro — the oldest-known Roman amphitheater. Farther down towards the sea is Herculaneum, another city also buried by the eruption and more recently discovered. It is even better preserved.

Venice and Its' Canals - The best part of visiting Venice is touring by water. Travel through the city on the vaporetto, or water buses or use a small water taxi with a dozen or so people. Glide along past historic districts and the city's famous landmarks like Cannaregio, Misericordia, Marco Polo's house, the Teatro La Fenice opera house, and the iconic Rialto Bridge. For a Euro or two, you can also cross the Grand Canal on your own on a traghetto, or public gondola. The gondola's stops are marked by a gondola on a yellow street signs.



Food and Wine - Mediterranean countries are renowned for their cuisines and wines and culinary excursions are popular in almost every port. From tapas in Barcelona and Palma, Spain to Greek food on Greece's many islands to wine tasting in Tuscany and Montenegro there's a world of tastes to discover.



Shore Excursions

Sampling Tapas in Palma de Mallorca



While Barcelona may be the gastronomic heart of the Spanish Mediterranean, its' soul can be found in the Balearic Islands, centered on Palma de Majorca. Nowhere is tapas practiced with more imagination and flare. In 18th-century Spain, tapas were served at guest quarters, taverns and bodegas, that provided meals for travelers. Since few people could read or write, inns offered guests a small serving on a "tapa" (Spanish for pot cover) as a sample. The tradition survives in the popular tapas bars of modern Spain.

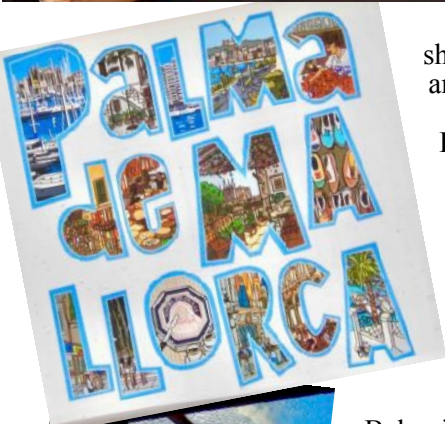
If your cruise offers you the opportunity to spend some time in Palma, tapas should be put near the top of your list. Four of the city's more famous offerings are:

Forn de Sant Joan is the place to go in Palma for inventive tapas. This family-run venue is also one of the city's best and most popular restaurants. Located in an old bakery building in an older neighborhood, the restaurant features bread ovens and classic tiles. It has four floors and an open kitchen that prepares tapas with a hint of Asian fusion. An extensive wine list and neighborhood feel adds to the appeal. Located at Calle Sant Joan 4, Palma de Mallorca.

Wineing Bar is a great modern wine & tapas bar located in a great setting in the heart of the Marina. Featuring over 48 different wines from the Balearic Islands and Spain by the glass, and a good selection of tapas. Located at Calle Apuntadors 24, Palma Marina, Palma de Majorca.

Bar Día has the reputation as the best tapas bars in Palma. Not noted for a fancy atmosphere but rather its' homey, casual atmosphere and traditional tapas like tortilla and garlic prawns. Its' popularity is founded on quality, large portions and great value. In the evening expect some wait time as this popular tapas bar attracts locals and tourists alike. Located at Carrer dels Apuntadors, 18, Palma de Majorca.

Located in Palma's historic quarter near the cathedral, **Taberna de la Boveda** offers authentic tapas like escargot, bread and olive oil and mini chorizos. Featuring a tavern atmosphere with big wine barrels and heavy wood tables with an attractive outdoor





Rome In Just One Day

Rome On Your Own

Mediterranean cruises that don't sail from Rome will often make a port of call in Civitavecchia the port servicing Rome. With the trip to Rome an hour or more each way that leaves about eight hours to actually see the city.

Rome is one of the world's great cities. It is packed full of thousands of years of historic and religious sites. It is home to one of the world's major religions. In addition, it has some of the best food and shopping in Europe plus concerts and opera. While you can't see it all in one day, be sure to throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain so you will be sure and return another time.

The challenge is what to do with less than 8 hours in Rome? Since this day is focused on a first time visitor, the focus is on iconic and historical highlights. Eight hours in Rome starts and finishes at Vatican City where the cruise tour bus usually stops if you select to see Rome on your own..

If you are looking to save time and money you can decide to take the train. The Civitavecchia station is just a few blocks from the port and the Roma San Pietro train station is only a block or two from where the cruise tours stop. The trip by train is much faster and much less expensive but you must allow extra time for the trip back to the ship from Rome.

The tour starts with a taxi ride to the Pantheon as it's a bit of a walk and buses are a bit complicated. At the Spanish Steps or Piazza di Spagna purchase B.I.G. Passes and use the Rome Metro to get around. From Termini Station you can change lines and take the Metro to the Forum. Afterwards, take the Metro Orange line back to the Ottaviano Metro Station - San Pietro to get back to Civitavecchia by bus or train.

Buying A Metropolitan Transit Pass - The B.I.G. (one-day ticket) Biglietto giornaliero costs 6 Euro (Jan 2020). It is valid 1 day (until midnight of the day stamped) on any means of transport. It must be stamped only once when starting travel. To use the metro, the ticket must be exhibited to the controller at the entrance. Sold in vending machines in any metro station (major credit cards accepted and English is a language option), also at convenience stores or



SHORE EXCURSIONS



newsagents. The B.I.G. Pass covers the metro, buses, trams, Cotral bus services (within Rome), urban trains: Rome–Lido, Rome–Viterbo and Rome–Pantano and Trenitalia Regional trains (second class seating) trains.

The Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel – direct purchase tickets through the Vatican are 17 Euros but it will still require a fair amount of time in line. You can get skip-the-line tickets to the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel through an agency for about 30 Euros but it requires doing this in advance. Without being aware of this, Vatican Museums & the Sistine Chapel are out.



St. Peter's Basilica - Getting into St. Peter's is free but the lines can take up to an hour or more because visitors must go through a security checkpoint.

The Pantheon - From Vatican City you can take a taxi over to the Pantheon, which is the oldest intact domed structure in the world and really deserves a look. Unfortunately, even the Pantheon now requires admission tickets, instituted primarily to better control the crowds.



The Fountain of Trevi - For the next stop it is important to have a really good sense of direction and a map or the use of the GPS on your smart phone because the next stop is only a modest walk away. Everyone has to put in an appearance at the Fountain of Trevi. Remember Anita Ekberg's famous Trevi Fountain bathing scene from "La Dolce Vita," and the tradition of throwing coins into the Trevi from "Three Coins in the Fountain"? Stand with your back to the fountain and throw a coin over your right shoulder and you will always return to Rome. Throwing coins in Trevi may present the first time hurdle you will have to deal with in visiting the major sites in Rome, particularly in the summer. As hard as it is to believe, even the outdoor Fountain of Trevi, in the summer, has huge crowds you need to navigate through. Many of the other sites often need tickets and can require hours waiting in line or both to get in.



The Spanish Steps - From Trevi, still walking, head for the Spanish Steps another must do site. While there, walk up the steps, sit and listen to street music and take that selfie that proves you were there.

Via Veneto - From the Steps, another fifteen or twenty minutes walking will get you to the Via Veneto where, if you're not into shopping, at least sit at a café, have lunch or drink an espresso and watch the people.

Another option from the Steps is to head off in the opposite direction thru the Piazza Spagna. This is also a great area for

SHORE EXCURSIONS



strolling and lunch or perhaps a

cappuccino as you take in the sights around the piazza.

If you are on the Via Veneto and enjoy walking, you can walk the dozen blocks over to the Piazza Repubblica and head down the Via Nazionale toward the Roman Forum. You can also catch the Metro at the nearby Barberini Metro Station and exit at the Piazza Repubblica or transfer to the Blue Line at the Termini station.

Piazza Repubblica - if you are at the Piazza Spanga you can walk to the Roman Forum in about a half hour or catch a metro at the Spanga/Trevi station and take the A line and get off at the Piazza Repubblica station. From there, walk or take a

bus down the Via Nazionale to the area of the Roman Forum and the Coliseum.

The Roman Forum - Once in the area of the Roman Forum you can walk through the Forum, visit the Colosseum and Palatine Hill. The Colosseum requires admission tickets and you can expect the line to take up to an hour or more in season.

Of course you can take taxis between the various locations. You should expect to pay 15 to 20 Euros per ride between the various locations.

Getting from the area of the Forum back to Vatican City by walking or by bus will take about an hour so this is where a taxi works better (about 20 minutes and \$25) or reverse your trip on the Metro (B line to A line) getting off at Ottaviano Metro Station to San Pietro station.



Highlights Starting at St. Peter's Basilica

Vatican Museum- A collection amassed by Popes throughout the centuries including some of the most renowned classical sculptures and most important masterpieces of Renaissance art.

Sistine Chapel - A large papal chapel built within the Vatican between 1477 and 1480 by Pope Sixtus IV, for whom the chapel is named. The ceiling, along with a large fresco The Last Judgment on the sanctuary wall, were painted by Michelangelo between 1508 and 1512.

St. Peter's Basilica - An Italian Renaissance church in

Vatican City and the papal enclave within the city of Rome. It was designed principally by Donato Bramante, Michelangelo, Carlo Maderno and Gian Lorenzo Bernini. St. Peter's is the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture and the largest Christian church in the world.

Pantheon – Meaning “temple of every god”, is a former Roman temple, now a church, on a site of an earlier temple commissioned by Marcus Agrippa during the reign of Augustus (27 BC –14 AD). The present building was completed by the emperor Hadrian in 126 AD. Almost two thousand years after it was built, the Pantheon's dome is still the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome and one of the world's oldest complete structures.

Fountain of Trevi – A fountain in the Trevi district, commissioned in 1629 by Pope Urban VIII. Designed by Italian architect Nicola Salvi and completed by Pietro Bracci, it is the largest Baroque fountain in the city and one of the most famous fountains in the world.

Spanish Steps – This monumental staircase of 135 steps was built with 20,000 scudi bequeathed by French diplomat Étienne Gueffier in 1723–1725. It links the Bourbon Spanish Embassy and the Trinità dei Monti

SHORE EXCURSIONS



church which was under the patronage of the Bourbon kings of France to the Holy See in Palazzo Monaldeschi.

Piazza Spanga - One of the most famous squares in Rome, it owes its name to the Palazzo di Spagna, seat of the Embassy of Spain to the Holy See. Nearby is the famed Column of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

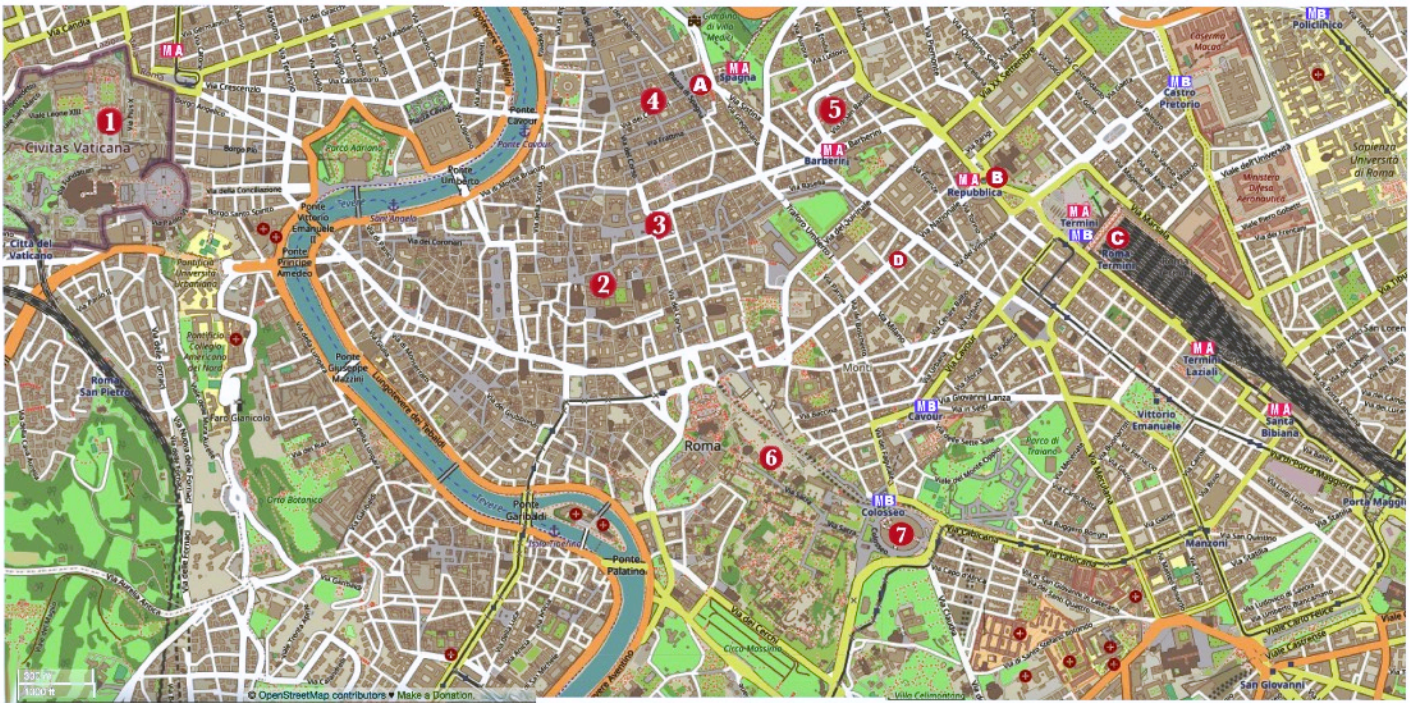
Via Veneto - One of the most famous, elegant, and expensive shopping streets in Rome.

The Roman Forum - A rectangular plaza containing the ruins of several important ancient government buildings. Originally a

marketplace, the Forum became the center of the Roman Republics' government and was the heart of ancient Rome.

The Arch of Titus Dedicated in AD 82 near The Forum it was commissioned by the Emperor Domitian in honor of his brother Titus and his victory in putting down the rebellion in Jerusalem.

Colosseum – Originally known as the Flavian Amphitheater it is an oval amphitheater in the centre of the city. Built of travertine and brick-faced concrete, it is the largest amphitheater ever built. commissioned in A.D. 71 by Emperor Vespasian as a gift to the Roman people. In A.D 80, Vespasian's son Titus officially opened the



ROME

Seeing Historic Rome In 8 Hours

M Metro Stations **A** Metro A Line **B** Metro B Line
Transfer Metro lines at the Termini Station

- 1. The Vatican
- 4. Spanish Steps
- 7. The Colosseum
- 2. The Pantheon
- 5. Via Veneto
- A. Piazza di Spagna
- C. Termini (Central Station)
- 3. Trevi Fountain
- 6. The Roman Forum
- B. Piazza di Repubblica
- D. Via Nazionale

[Download Map](#)



A Day Trip From Barcelona

Montserrat Mountain

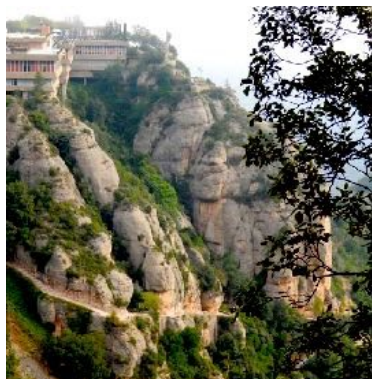
A short trip out of Barcelona, Spain is Montserrat. It is a mountain famous for rock climbing, great hiking trails, grand vistas and is a religious site with a Basilica, monastery, convents, restaurants and two hotels.



From Barcelona it is not difficult to plan a trip for a day on your own. Start at the Plaza Espanya train station in Barcelona. The train station is in the same building as a metro station so it's easy to get to from anywhere in the city. Follow signs for the R5 train which runs about every fifty minutes. The train will take you to stations at the foot of the mountain but, before buying tickets, you will need to decide whether you would like to travel up Montserrat Mountain by Cable Car or by the Rack Railway. There are agents selling combination tickets who can help you decide, so ask for advice. You will also need to confirm which station to exit based on your choice.

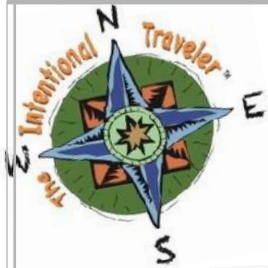


The mountain of Montserrat would be worth a visit if it was only a geological spectacle and that alone draws hikers and rock climbers from all around the world. It has also been a religious site from the days of the Roman Empire with a temple to Venus having been built there more than two thousand years ago. Since 888 AD there has been the Christian sanctuary of the Virgin Mary of Montserrat and, in 1025, Oliba, Bishop of Vic, founded a larger monastery at the hermitage of Santa Maria de Montserrat. The monastery soon began receiving pilgrims and visitors who contributed to the spread of stories of miracles and wonders performed by the Virgin. In 1409 the monastery of Montserrat became an abbey and from 1493 to 1835, the monastery underwent numerous improvements, expanding and increasing in splendor.



During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Monastery of Montserrat became a cultural centre with The Montserrat Music School producing a number of significant composers. From the early nineteenth century on, the Monastery was abandoned, rebuilt and restored a number of times because of the French War and the Spanish Civil War. Today, Montserrat is again a cultural and religious center playing host to pilgrims and tourists alike.

Jerusalem, An Absolute Must



Oh Jerusalem

A tour of Jerusalem is an absolute must if you take any cruise that puts into a port of call in Israel.

Considering the hour plus drive and the limit of only a day in port, this is where the ship's shore excursion is probably the best choice. Other days in Israeli ports could be used to visit Bethlehem, Galilea and other sites..

Gethsemane, a garden across the Kidron Valley on the Mount of Olives, is a mile-long ridge paralleling eastern Jerusalem. It is where Jesus is said to have prayed on the night of his arrest, before his crucifixion. Though the exact location of Gethsemane cannot be confirmed, Armenian, Greek, Latin, and Russian churches have accepted an olive grove on the western slope of the **Mount of Olives** as the authentic site, which was so regarded by the empress Helena, mother of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, early 4th century AD.

Walking the solemn path Jesus took to his crucifixion along The Way of the Cross - **Via Dolorosa** - is a pilgrimage which religious pilgrims and tourists alike follow. The path twists and turns its way through narrow stone alleys lined with shops, with plaques marking the nine stations of the cross.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is also called the Church of the Resurrection or Church of the Anastasis by Eastern Christians. It is a church in the



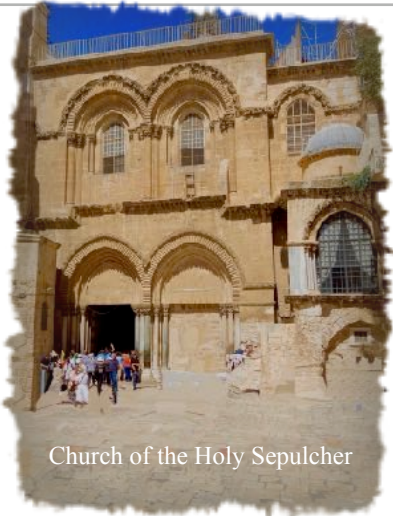
An olive tree in the Garden of Gethsemane. Some of trees are thought to date back to the time of Christ.



Mosaic in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher



Jerusalem Calls To The Faithful, Jew, Christian and Muslim Alike



Church of the Holy Sepulcher



The Room of the Last Supper



The Church of All Nations stands at the Mount of Olives.

Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. The church contains, according to traditions dating back to at least the fourth century, the two holiest sites in Christianity. On the hill

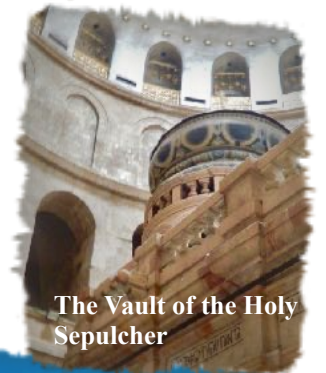
in the upper level of the church is the site where Jesus was crucified, at a place known as **Calvary** or **Golgotha**. Below is Jesus's empty tomb, where he is said to have been buried and resurrected. The tomb is enclosed by a 19th-century shrine called the Aedicula. The Status Quo, an understanding between several religious communities dating to 1757, applies to the site.

One of the more significant rooms in the religious world is located in the southern part of the Old City of Jerusalem up on Mount Zion. History and tradition claim that it was within this room where Jesus had the Last Supper. Later it was here that the risen Jesus made visible his wounds to see and touch by the disciples, and the room where Thomas accepted Jesus as divine.

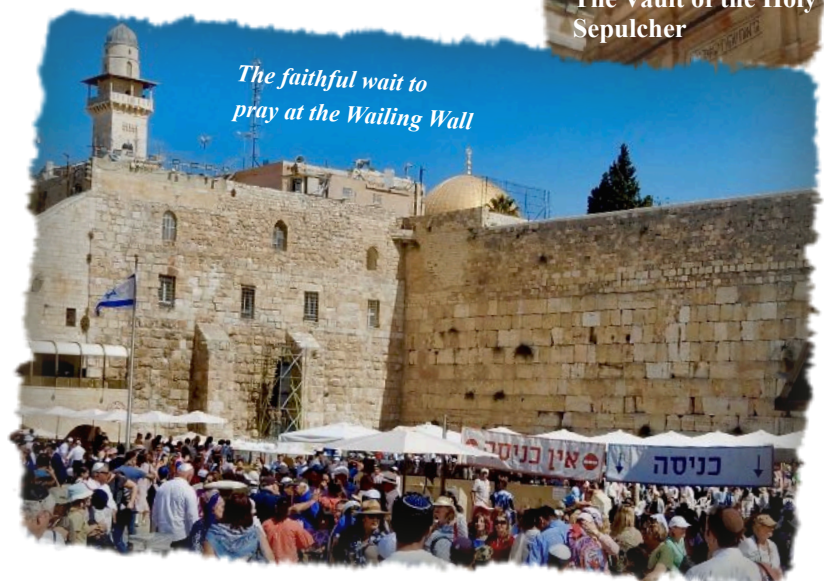
The Upper Room, also known as the Cenacle in its' current structure, dates approximately from the fourteenth century. It is adorned with Gothic-era columns and a golden olive tree statue representing the tree of life. Muslims consider it to be a mosque and the Israelis consider the lower level of this structure to be the **Tomb of King David**. On special occasions, Christians are permitted to celebrate Mass in the Upper Room, but it is not common, and is done only with permission.

Regardless if you are religious or not, the history of this city is almost overwhelming and if this isn't on your list of must visit places - it should be.

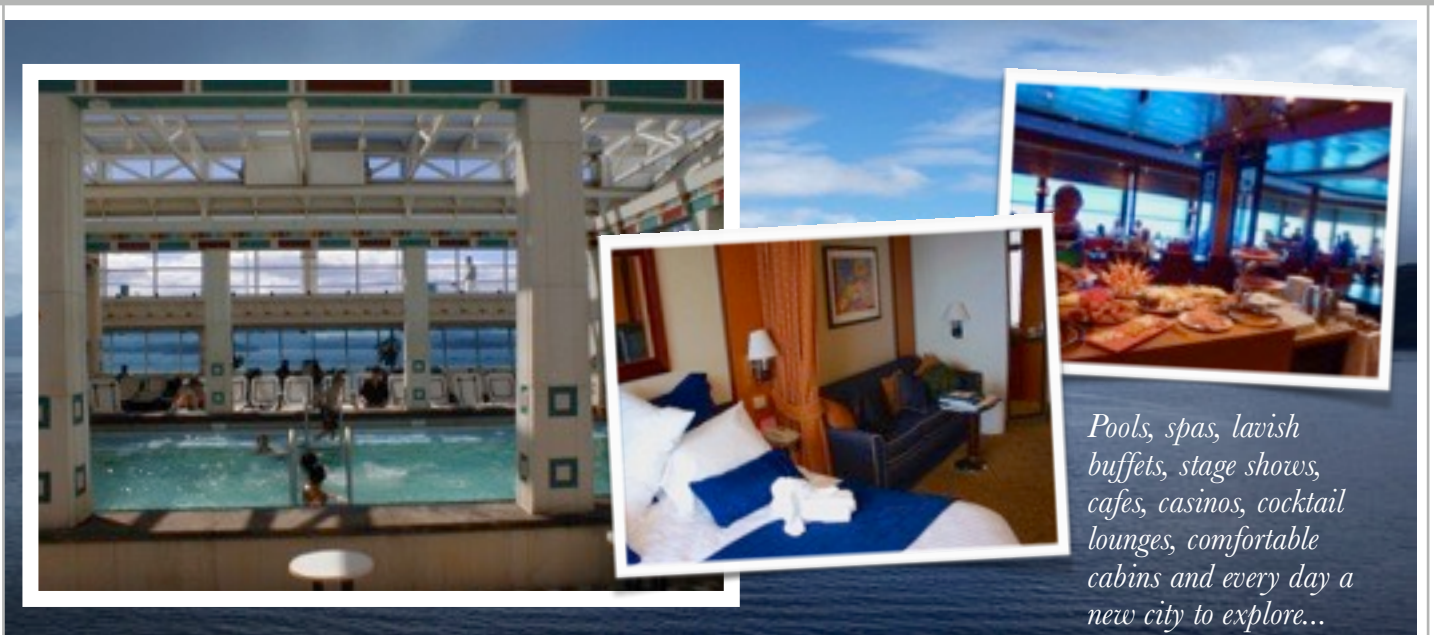
The **Dome of the Rock** stands above Old Jerusalem's walls



The Vault of the Holy Sepulcher



The faithful wait to pray at the Wailing Wall



Pools, spas, lavish buffets, stage shows, cafes, casinos, cocktail lounges, comfortable cabins and every day a new city to explore...

Incredible Floating Resorts



As the travel industry entered the twenty-first century, an amazing thing happened. The popularity of cruising was growing rapidly and cruise line companies reacted by launching a whole new generation of mega-ships. To attract passengers, they added amusement parks, dozens of gourmet restaurants, water features, nightclubs, sports facilities, spas and more. They are marvels of engineering and have become actual floating cities.

In the last century the aircraft carrier was the unchallenged behemoth of the seas but now, in comparison, they are shorter and while still wider, the new class of cruise ships have significantly more length, mass, and total displacement.

Not only are these wonders a totally inclusive resort experience, they put most land based resorts to shame. They also take their guests on an adventure, visiting countries and wonders all around the world. No other vacation experience comes close.

Not sure what cruise lines to explore and ships to consider? Here is the most complete list of current cruise ships anywhere. Each ship listing includes date launched, size, number of passengers and most recent refurbishment. Each ship listing is also a link to its' cruise line description page for additional information. The plan is to add to and update this list every three to four months.

Convenient Cruise Site Links

[CARNIVAL](#)

[HOLLAND AMERICA](#)

[ROYAL CARIBBEAN](#)

[CELEBRITY](#)

[PRINCESS CRUISES](#)

[DISNEY](#)