



LA DEMENCE CRUISE EXCURSIONS

2014





Information



Play in the best golf courses and use your best swing in our destinations.



Includes sightseeing tour by coach.



This excursion includes a trip to the beach; we therefore recommend you bring a swimsuit, sun protection and beach towels, which are provided in your cabin.



If you love shopping, imagine losing yourself in the best bazaars, boutiques or markets.



The excursion includes long walks, so we recommend wearing comfortable shoes.



This excursion is not recommended for people with physical limitations or those who have difficulty walking



This excursion has limited places



Includes visits to religious monuments where entry will be refused to those with bare shoulders and bear knees, particularly women.



Experience other cultures and discover all the charms, customs, smells and tastes.



This excursion requires appropriate physical conditions.

Before booking

If you want to book, change or cancel any tour please go directly to the Shore Excursions office. You will find the office opening hours in your daily on board diary.

The tours have a maximum number of participants. Once completed, it will not be possible to increase the number of seats. Therefore we kindly ask you to book your tours as soon as possible in order to secure your place.

All tours have a minimum number of participants. If any excursion does not reach this minimum we will inform you immediately in case you wish to change for another tour in the same port.

The departure time of the tours will be available in the "Booking form" which you will find in your cabin. However, please check the schedule in your daily on board diary or please pay attention to the announcements made over the PA system prior to the disembarking.

Please check in your Booking Form which is the last day to guarantee your seat on the tours. Once this day is passed bookings will be subject to availability and some of the excursions may have limited places. Once the maximum number of participants is reached we will not accept more reservations still within the limits.

Once we reach the limited day of reservations it will not be possible to cancel the excursions. Please consult which is the last day to cancel your tour. Cancellations will only be accepted with a doctor's note.

It is only possible to change excursions for the same day and the same port. In case there are no places available in the new tour you wish to book you shall keep the same excursion initially booked.

Please pay attention to the departure time. We kindly ask you to be punctual and in case you arrive late to the indicated time you will not be entitled to any reimbursement.

If you have any kind of physical restrictions please consult with our Shore Excursions Office before booking your tour.

The schedule and itinerary of the excursions is subject to possible modifications or changes in case the vessel arrives with delay to the port or in case of major force.

Consult on board possible optional shore excursions

Consult the general conditions in your shore excursions contract

After Booking

Any excursion including water based activities or water transportation is subject to the state of the sea and/or other meteorological phenomena. The itinerary of any excursion may be modified if the person in charge considers there is risk or danger for the passengers.

Please pay attention to recommendations of attire or any other recommendation given for the excursion you chose. Please be aware that for cultural different countries have different customs. As a mark of respect we ask to be especially careful of attire when visiting places of worship. In particular women must have their knees and shoulders covered to access such places.

Admissions included in each excursion are specified in the brochure description.

If you show up late for your excursion you will not be entitled to any reimbursement. If you decide to catch up with your group, all relevant expenses will have to be covered by you.

During the excursion, if you show up late at a meeting point, the rest of the group will continue with the program and any expenses incurred to return to the ship will be borne by you, without being entitled to any compensation.

Tips during excursions are entirely optional.

Lunch is only included when specified as such in the description.

Seats in bus are not numbered and cannot be booked in advance. To simplify organization and avoid conflict passengers shall maintain the same seat from beginning to end of the excursion. People wishing to travel together shall have to present themselves together at the meeting point.

Pullmantur will not take responsibility for any personal belonging lost or forgotten during the tour.

An emergency phone number will be provided for passengers participating in the excursions.



Le cinque terre

After meeting your guide at the tender pier, walk to your boat and commence your picturesque, one-hour coastal cruise to Vernazza. En route, take in the scenic beauty of the Cinque Terre (Five Villages).

Tall cliffs dropping down into the cobalt-blue sea, intimate beaches at Riomaggiore and Vernazza, and tiny ports like Manarola highlight the harsh, wild landscape of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, the Cinque Terre is also a National Park and protected marine area. Disembark your motor launch in Vernazza, take a guided tour of this noble and elegant village, which is located on a steep cliff and adorned with loggias and refined arcades. Afterwards, some free time is made available to explore Vernazza at your leisure before embarking the boat for the cruise to Monterosso.

The Medieval center of Monterosso has remained perfectly preserved, with its tower-houses and narrow alleys, or 'carrugi'. The old section of Monterosso also remains unchanged, and maintains the same look and feel of the other villages of the Cinque Terre. Boat ride back to Portovenere.

Approximate duration 6 hours and 30 minutes.



Firenze

Depart from the pier in Portovenere by coach and after approximately 2 hours and half drive, you will reach Florence, the city that achieved new heights of glory in art, culture, politics, and economic power.

Upon arrival, beginning of the guided tour by walking to the magnificent complex of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore (outside) with its impressive dome, the Baptistery (outside), and the Giotto bell tower (outside).

We continue with a walk down various streets to the Piazza della Signoria, to see the Gothic Old Palace with its ornate courtyard and artistic treasures. The Loggia dei Lanzi is an open-air museum displaying masterpieces of sculptures! You will also see the Ponte Vecchio, the only bridge in Florence to survive the WWII bombings, and you will arrive at S. Croce Square to admire the wonderful Santa Croce Church (inside), burial place of Michelangelo.

Afterwards you will have some free time for shopping and sightseeing at leisure before meeting your escort to join the coach. Bus ride back to the ship.

Approximate duration 8 hours and 30 minutes.





Lucca

Depart from the pier in Portovenere by coach to Lucca. The historical heart of Lucca is protected and surrounded by strong city walls, which date back to the Renaissance period. Here you will meet your local guide who will accompany you on your discovery of the marvelous old part of the town through streets and monuments rich of history.

You will admire the Piazza Anfiteatro; the central square built on the site of a Roman Amphitheatre from the II Century AD, some of the arches of which are still visible. You will stroll through the streets of the center of Lucca admiring the house of Giacomo Puccini (outside visit) to the beautiful Church of San Michele in Foro (outside visit), which was begun in 1143 and finished in the fourteenth century and represents one of the purest examples of Roman architecture in Pisa-Lucca style.

Your guide will then take you to the San Martino Cathedral, which was commenced in the XII century in Roman style and today stands in Gothic style due to the restoration carried out in the XIV-IV centuries, and to the impressive Church of San Frediano (inside visit). At the end of your artistic itinerary, you will have some free time to take a relaxing walk in the streets of the center or to do a bit of shopping.

Approximate duration 5 hours and 30 minutes.



Pisa

Depart from the pier in Portovenere by coach to Pisa. Once arrived, you will walk from approx. 10 minutes to the Miracle Square where the local guide will accompany you on the visit of Campo dei Miracoli Square. You will enter the Cathedral of the XI century with the best marble works of Giovanni Pisano, the Romanesque and Gothic Baptistery of XII century, the Monumental Cemetery (exterior visit) and the famous bell tower better known as Leaning Tower (exterior visit).

Afterwards you will have some time at leisure to stroll in the open markets among the great number of souvenir shops or simply to take some unique pictures of the Miracles Square. Return to Portovenere.

Approximate duration 6 hours .





Highlights of Bonifacio

Begin your visit by wheel train which will drive you up the oldest part of Bonifacio to give you a quick overview of this charming town, passing the Bosco quarter with the St. Francis convent and the strange, but fascinating cemetery dedicated to the mariners with wonderful mausoleums displaying a jumble of architectural styles. On a clear day you might also enjoy a panoramic view on Corsica's closest neighbour the Italian island of, Sardinia. Then pass the church St Dominique, a rare example of Corsican gothic architecture, built in 1270, most probably by the Templars.

Following the orientation by mini-tram, continue your visit of Bonifacio on foot through tiny, narrow streets bordered with high houses. Pass the church of St. Marie Majeure, with its mixture of Romanesque and Baroque styles dated from 14th century.

The excursion takes you through the heart of the historical part of town to the Two Emperors street where Napoleon Bonaparte and Charles V spend a few days, the Place des Armes, the Jardins des Vestiges and then to the old market where there is a viewpoint over the 110 mts. cliffs on top of which Bonifacio has been built! Go through the Porte de Gênes, former only entrance to the citadel, reach the Chapel of St. Roc built on the spot where the last plague victim died in 1528. Return to the ship with your guide or continue to explore the town on your own.

At the end of the walking tour in the upper town, passengers will take the wheel train to the car park and walk 800m to board boats for a view of the sea side of the location. Leaving the yacht marina on the motor boat, you will sail pass the commercial port while your guide will point out the war memorial carved by Roman slaves before the Christian era, then the Tower St Dominique and the Madonetta (Little Madona) which indicates the entrance of the Port.

Catch a glimpse of the clearness of the water and then (weather condition permitting) enter the magnificent Grotte Sdragonatu the largest of the three caves with an opening which resembles the shape of Corsica. Inside you will discover the beautiful colours of amethyst, indigo and gold, the clear water and the rock walls with stalactites and arches. Continue your visit, passing St Antoine and St Barthelemy Caves, the staircase of the King of Aragon carved in the limestone cliffs. Looking south you will even have the opportunity to see Corsica's closest neighbour, the Italian island Sardinia, which is located about 14 kilometres way. Return to the marina and individual return to the ship.

Approximate duration 3 hours and 30 minutes.



Lavezzi Island

Board a local boat for an unforgettable trip along the extraordinary coastline of Bonifacio. Discover the dramatic sight of the citadel and the upper town; you will get a best perspective of its buildings overhanging the magnificent chalky cliffs which look like they are about to topple into the sea.

On board the private motor boat sail out through the narrow harbour entrance called the Goulet; pass the deep rocky inlets with their clear aquamarine waters and the magical Grotte du Sdragonatu which is entered through a narrow and low passage. The cave with its gloriously coloured seabed is a single huge chamber with a hole in the roof shaped like a map of Corsica.

Further along; reach the Lavezzi Island from which the whole archipelago gets its name and which is formed by a group of small barren uninhabited granite islands located 10km southeast of Bonifacio. Two hours will be allocated to enjoy its beautiful shell sands beaches and azure coloured sea and to linger this island which is classified nature reserve since 1982. The island is home to several rare species of wild flower such as yellow-horned poppy and white sea daffodil.

On the way back pass close to the Cavallo Island, pass the Pointe de Sperone and come back through the calanque and the cliffs before reaching the attractive and lively marina in Bonifacio.

Approximate duration 4 hours.

The island has no infrastructure, it is necessary to come equipped with sunscreen, towels, hat and drinking water.





Walk in the Corsican Nature

The nature walk will give the opportunity to get a closer look to the rich endemic flora sculpted by the wind and maybe have the chance to spot some birds & butterflies, living in peace on this part of the island and reproducing on the nearby Lavezzi Islands.

Starting at the port of Bonifacio, go by foot along the marina and up the Montée Rostello to reach St Roch Chapel which rises over the port. Your tour will head east to reach the cliffs. The path carries on the protected nature site, along the deeply scored limestone cliffs southeast of Bonifacio which culminate in the wide headland of Capo Pertusato.

On the way pass the Semaphore, a naval observation tower which regulates the heavy shipping traffic of the Straits. Incredible views come to your eyes, embracing Sardinia (9 km away), the Lavezzi and Cavallo islands, and the citadel of Bonifacio perched on the cliffs. At the end is the lighthouse, the southern point of the island Corsica. Return the same way.

Passengers are requested to wear comfortable & weather-suitable clothing (comfy shoes, Kway, hat, sun cream and water). This 3h00 hike with a change in altitude of about 100 metres is fairly easy; just remember to keep away from the cliff edges! Depending on the weather, different nature walks are available from Bonifacio and this itinerary chosen might defer from the one above, and a different itinerary will be proposed by the qualified Mountain Guide.

Please note that in France, unlike other European countries, any walk/trekking/hike in a group has to be, by law, supervised by a Qualified Mountain Guide. Therefore the rate above include an English Speaking guide as well as a Mountain Guide.

Approximate duration 3 hours.

Nature and landscapes, footwear, sunscreen, water and hat.



Bavella and Sartène

Leave the port and drive along the western coastline. The excursion continues toward the interior of the island to the town of Sartène which is built on a promontory with some of its houses built into the rocks.

Sartène has been the scene of vendettas, pirate attacks, and battles against the Genoese occupiers in the Middle Ages and therefore is known as the "most Corsican of Corsican towns". The citizens there also have a unique way to observe Good Friday.

Pass through small villages such as St. Lucie de Tallano, Levie, to Zonza. A three courses lunch will take place in a local restaurant. Following lunch, the tour carries on into the interior of Corsica toward Bavella peaks and its surrounding mountain.

The journey winds back down through the Ospedale region renowned for enormous granite boulders in the middle of the deep green landscape of wild Corsica. Your tour will then take you toward the east coast with wonderful views of the gulf of Porto Vecchio before returning to your ship.

Approximate duration 8 hours.

Lunch included.



Sartène

This excursion will take you to the most Corsican of the Corsican villages, Sartène. Begin your tour with a scenic drive along the rugged west coast of Corsica while discovering along the way both sides of the island the coastline with its crystal clear waters and the mountains with the deep macchia, the local vegetation, and the huge granite boulders.

You will pass the famous Lion de Roccapina, the silhouette of a lion carved in the red granite rock on the top of a mountain overlooking a little beach at Roccapina-Murtoli. The excursion carries on toward the interior of the island to the town of Sartène which is built on a promontory with some of its houses built into the rocks. Sartène has been the scene of vendettas, pirate attacks, and battles against the Genoese occupiers in the Middle Ages and therefore is known as the "most Corsican of Corsican towns".

Visit the Church of St. Maria which houses the hood, chain and cross used in the Good Friday Procession by one of the local sinners. Enjoy free time here before returning to your ship.

Approximate duration 4 hours.





Historic Palma

Palma de Mallorca, the capital of the Balearic Islands, is surrounded by a bay stretching for approximately 20 km situated in the south-east region of the island and currently has a population of over 375,000. The city combines a perfectly preserved historic centre including noble palaces and monuments that bear witness to the arrival of different civilizations, with a modern zone offering excellent services.

As we leave the port, we head off along the Paseo Marítimo, to Bellver Castle perched on a hilltop 140 meters above the city. The castle is a perfect example of Gothic military architecture. Surrounded by a beautiful pine forest, this fortress provides spectacular views of the entire Bay of Palma. We then continue our journey to the Gothic centre, where we can see the cathedral that presides over the city to create the perfect back-drop. Built between the 13th and 14th century, it is one of Europe's finest examples of Gothic architecture.

The cathedral is divided into a nave and two parallel walkways separated by an octagonal column standing almost 20 metres high. After visiting the cathedral we will have some free time to explore the historic quarter where the mansions and stately homes with their charming terraces and vestibules act as reminders of the golden age of Mallorcan Nobility. We then make our way back to the ship.

Approximate duration 4 hours.



Valdemossa et la Cartuja

Our tour will begin at the port as we head off towards the island's north coast, where we pay a visit to Valldemossa, an old village located in the Sierra de Tramuntana region.

Our guide will then take us on a guided walking tour around the village's narrow streets surrounded by charming stone houses. Along the way we will see the Real Cartuja de Jesús de Nazaret, also known as "La Cartuja". This beautiful monastery owes its current level of fame to novelist George Sand, who lived there for four months together with her companion the composer Frederic Chopin.

During the visit we can see most of the complex of ancient monuments, including the church; the apothecary; the priory cell with several rooms containing objects of art and documents written by the Carthusian monks; cells 2 and 4, which contain items relating to the time when F. Chopin and G. Sand stayed at the monastery; the cloisters; the municipal museum containing the work of modern artists such as Miró, Picasso, Tàpies, Juli Ramis, Coll Bardolet etc.; a room dedicated to Archduke Luis Salvador; and finally, the Palace of King Sanç, where we will not only be able to tour the premises but we can also hear some beautiful piano music. We will have some free time to explore Valldemossa for ourselves.

Approximate duration 4 hours.

Lunch not included.



Drach Caves

This excursion takes us through the eastern region of the island to see its major tourist attractions. As we travel along the Paseo Marítimo we can catch a glimpse of the luxurious yachts and hotels, and see the cathedral before we head inland. Some of the main features of this rich landscape are the hundreds of windmills and thousands of almond trees.

We continue our journey through the villages of Algaida and Villafranca to arrive in Manacor. Once there, we will stop at the pearl factory where we can browse the souvenir shop and admire pearls of all shapes and sizes. The cave's cathedral-like hall is perfectly lit to highlight the stalagmites and stalactites of every possible shape that have formed over centuries.

In the depths of the caves, you will be amazed as we find the world's longest underwater lake in one of the caverns, where we can sit down and enjoy a short concert performed by musicians in rowing boats.

Approximate duration 5 hours and 30 minutes.

Lunch not included.





Ciudadella

You'll leave the port of Mahon to reach Ciudadella, the seat of the Bishop of Baleares, and traditional capital of the island until the English moved it to Mahon in the 16th century. It still is a very traditional city, preserving the island's traditions.

We will visit the historic downtown on foot admiring the numerous churches, palaces as well as the City Hall, the Cathedral, the "lonja" (Guild of Merchants) et the famous covered street "ses Voltes". Here you will have a short time on your own before returning to the ship.

Approximate duration 4 hours.



Fornells, Mont Toro & Binibeca

Discover Fornells, on the secluded North coast of the island. It's a peaceful village; the beauty of its setting draws many tourists to its narrow streets. You'll have some time on your own for a leisurely stroll, before continuing to Mount Toro. The name comes from the Arabic language meaning "Higher Mountain" and it is in fact the highest point of the island of Menorca. You will enjoy here the fantastic views and a short visit to the local monastery.

Before heading back to the ship you will visit the small coastal village of Binibeca, with many Arab style perfectly preserved villas.

Approximate duration 4 hours.



Son Bou Beach

Menorca has been declared a protected biosphere area by UNESCO in 1993. In the south of the island lay the famous white beaches and you can find the protected azure waters of the marine protection area. A picturesque walk will take you to the most famous spot of the island: the beach at Son Bou, beautifully ensconced in a pine tree forest.

Approximate duration 4 hours.

It is necessary to come equipped with sunscreen, towels, hat and drinking water.



Culture of Minorca

Departure towards Fornells: a fishing village over a natural harbor. In the village oldest areas you will appreciate the whitewashes houses and the Saint Anthony church, built in 1650 as well as the Defense Tower that arks back to the time of the Sarasin pirates. The town is famous for its gastronomy, in particular the lobster soup called caldereta.

After the mandatory visit of Monte Toro, spiritual center of the island with its community of Franciscan nuns, you will proceed to Sant Patrici, another small village where you will be treated to a sampling of local products and cheese, as well a short walk through the vineyards and a visit of the Ethnologic Museum.

On the way back to the port, a last visit will allow us to discover the typically menorcan architecture of Torralba d' en Salord.

Approximate duration 4 hours and 30 minutes.

