

## Shore Excursions

### Viva España

October 9, 2019  
14 nights all-inclusive  
aboard Saga Sapphire



**SAGA**  
keep doing

## Choose from an exciting range of excursions

This booklet details the optional excursions available during your cruise aboard Saga Sapphire. Each has been carefully planned to help you make the most of your time ashore, allowing you to gain a better understanding of the places you are visiting, without the worry or hassle of exploring independently. Wherever possible we have included a choice of excursions to match a variety of tastes and walking abilities. We also ensure that the main sights are always included and balance the itinerary with lunch stops and rest breaks.

*Please note: The route used and the order of sights visited on any excursion may vary on the day.*

## Viva España

### PORT OF CALL

Cueta . . . . .  
Oran, Algeria . . . . .  
Ibiza Town . . . . .  
Barcelona . . . . .  
Valencia . . . . .  
Huelva. . . . .  
La Coruña . . . . .



## How to book

There are three ways to book your excursions, by telephone, online or on board. To avoid disappointment, we strongly recommend that tours are booked prior to sailing as spaces are filled very quickly. Please refer to the shore excursion pricing enclosed. Every excursion available during your cruise will be listed, including those in selected ports where you can enjoy more than one excursion on the same day. When you have decided which excursions you would like to join, you can now book online for immediate confirmation, you no longer need to complete and return a booking form. Simply log in to your holiday account at [travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking](https://travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking) to book, alternatively you can call our cruise consultants FREE on 0800 056 7534 to confirm your choice and make payment.

If you would prefer to book your excursions onboard, then please speak to the Explore Ashore team who will confirm your tour adding the cost to your onboard account. The Explore Ashore desk is located in the ships reception area. Please refer to the Today Programme for the booking deadline for each excursion. You should be aware that all bookings are subject to our excursion booking conditions.

### Also look out for...

#### Something different

Perfect for people who may be visiting a port for the second time, this highlights tours which include something a little out of the ordinary.

#### Limited availability

There is limited space on these excursions, therefore early booking is highly recommended.



A meal, refreshments or alcohol tasting is included where you see these symbols.

## Walking Information

To help you choose the excursions most suitable for you, we have graded each according to the walking involved, as detailed below:



**Panoramic tour:** A slower-paced excursion with the majority of sightseeing taking place from your vehicle. There may be a short walk at the port to join your vehicle and any other walking will be at your own discretion, for example at photo stops.



**Easy activity:** Up to approximately 500 yards on mainly flat terrain, with the possibility of some steps.



**Moderate activity:** Between 500 yards and one mile over mixed terrain, often with steps.



**Strenuous activity:** Considerable walking for distances over a mile, usually over uneven terrain with many steps.

*Gaudi's unusual works, Barcelona*



"Spain's vibrancy is undeniable: from the flavour in Valencia's food to the colourful architecture that adorns Barcelona's streets. What will you find on your Spanish adventure?"

**Michelle McDermott**

**Senior Shore Excursion Executive**

## Your questions answered...

To help make choosing your excursions as easy as possible, we have answered some of your frequently asked questions.

### What should I wear ashore?

First and foremost, we recommend that you wear comfortable, low-heeled shoes for all excursions. Casual clothing is perfectly acceptable, although if your excursion visits churches, mosques or other religious sites we would suggest that you dress conservatively and ensure your arms and legs are covered. For safety we recommend that you leave jewellery and other valuables in the safety deposit box in your cabin or at reception during excursions.

### How will I know what time my excursion begins?

The envisaged departure times of all tours are shown on the shore excursion pricing and can be viewed on the website by logging into 'MyHoliday' at [travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking](http://travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking). Actual departure times will be confirmed in the Today Programme, which will be delivered to your cabin.

### What happens if my chosen excursion is full?

We will offer an alternative tour departure time where possible. Your confirmation letter will list all the tours you have been booked on. For those wishing to book online, please note that the website will only allow you to book those tour departures which still have availability. Should additional capacity become available at a later date, then this will be advertised on board and offered on a first come, first served basis.

### How can I make sure I am on the same excursion vehicle as my friends?

If you wish to travel with your friends please arrive together when joining your excursion and we will do our best to seat you all on the same vehicle.

### I have a disability. Will I have a problem embarking and disembarking the ship?

Please enquire in advance whether we will be able to accommodate your needs on your preferred tours. It is important to keep in mind that shore excursion operators are subject to the laws of their own country with respect to accommodating the needs of guests with disabilities. The decision whether or not to provide mobility assistance to a guest and their mobility assistance device (collapsible wheelchair, walker etc) up or down the ship's gangway is at the sole discretion of the captain, based on his evaluation of guest and crew safety. Please note that scooters are not permitted on the tour vehicles.

*Try traditional paella*







*Visit Huelva*

#### **What type of vehicles are used?**

The shore excursions presented in this booklet require passengers to use a coach or other forms of transport with two or three steps, at least 10 inches high each. Neither Saga nor the local suppliers are able to provide portable steps to access coaches due to insurance implications. Most, but not all, coaches used can accommodate collapsible wheelchairs which may be stored in the luggage compartment under the coach at the discretion of the local coach operator. It should be noted that escorts, guides, drivers and shipboard staff are not obliged to lift guests into vehicles. The onboard facilities are for emergency use only and may only be made available at the discretion of the local coach operator, subject to local regulations.

#### **What does 'land by launch or tender' mean?**

At most ports the ship will berth in a harbour, so you'll walk along the gangway into the main area. At some ports, your ship will anchor offshore. This means you will join a smaller boat and sail to shore. These are known as 'tenders' or 'launches'.

#### **Safe boarding of a tender or launch**

Prior to embarking a tender or launch, all passengers will be required to demonstrate their ability to step unaided across a marked distance of 35cm. This is to ensure safe boarding of the tender or launch.

If for any reason the ship is diverted or moved away from a berth to anchor, the step test will take place.

**Please note:** booking for all excursions closes approximately one week before the departure date. After this time, bookings will need to be made on board.

## Ceuta, Spain

The autonomous city of Ceuta is a tiny Spanish city-enclave on the Moroccan side of the Straits of Gibraltar, separated from the Spanish mainland by just 12 miles. The city's strategic location has ensured it has endured a turbulent history, often being used as a trade and military outpost. Originally an old Carthaginian colony, it has since been held by the Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, and Arabs, and has been known as 'Abyla', 'Septem' and 'Cibta'. It was finally taken over by Spain in 1580 and has remained Spanish since then, with the name 'Ceuta'. Covering an area of just ten square miles, the enclave is dominated by the hill of Monte Hacho, sometimes believed to be the legendary Pillars of Hercules. With a fascinating mix of both Spanish and African influences and surrounded by massive 14th-century city walls, Ceuta has a charm and grandeur all of its own. As an autonomous region of Spain, Ceuta is part of the territory of the EU, but is considered a special low-tax zone. Leather goods, ceramics and embroidery are common purchases from the city.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 75,000 (approximate)

**Language:** Spanish

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Mediterranean, with hot summers and mild winters

**Distance from centre:** Approximately 450 yards

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** There is a department store at the port, and other popular shopping areas include the Grand Bazaar, Paseo del Revellin Mall and Parque Ceuta Shopping Centre. The Calle Real street also has a varied selection of shops

**Shop opening hours:** Shopping centres usually open from 1000-2200. Smaller shops tend to open between 1000-1400 and 1630-2030

**Post office:** There is a Post Office in Plaza España which opens weekdays from 0830-2030 and 0930-1400 on Saturdays

**Banks:** 24-hour ATMs are available throughout the city centre

**Tourist office:** The tourist office is located on Calle Edrissis

**How to phone home:** Dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, but omitting the first zero

**Emergency services:** Police 092, Ambulance 902 222 292, Fire 080

## Tétouan UNESCO World Heritage Site

6 hours



Royal Palace Square in Tetouan

This excursion will take you across the border into Morocco to explore Tétouan, a small and historic city at the foot of the majestic Rif Mountains. To get there, you travel first to the Moroccan border and continue along the coast past several fishing villages. At Martil, you turn inland and drive up the Oued Martil - a valley redolent with the scent of orange trees. Although Tetouan today is part of Morocco, its architecture remains steadfastly Andalusian. On reaching the city, a panoramic drive will show you Primo Square and the Place de Hassan II. Leaving the coach, set off with your guide on a walking tour through the narrow lanes of the Old Town's delightful medina. Stroll past sidewalk cafés and whitewashed buildings to El Melal, the former Jewish Quarter famous for its large number of jewellers' stores. The Berber Zoco is a bazaar in the heart of the town. Here you may browse for souvenirs, gifts, jewellery, leather goods and other local crafts. A restaurant in Tetouan makes for a pleasant setting for a lunch of Moroccan dishes, accompanied by a performance of traditional Rif music and dances, before it is time to re-join your coach for the return journey to Ceuta and your ship.



**S** Something different



**This tour requires walking over one mile. There are also around 60 steps at the medina. Any further walking is at your own discretion. Please be aware that vendors at the medina can be quite persistent and eager to make a sale. For this excursion you will need to carry your passport which will be retained at the border and returned to you when you cross back into Ceuta. The coach journeys between the port and Tétouan normally take around one-and-a-quarter hours each way.**

## Scenic Ceuta

3 ¼ hours



Ceuta Cathedral

Take in the highlights of Ceuta as you begin a panoramic drive past the Royal Walls to the Sidi Embarek Mosque, where you pause for photographs: this traditional style mosque was built in 1940. Continue afterwards to the Isabel II viewpoint, where you can enjoy fine views of Monte Hacho, a low mountain that overlooks the city. During a photo-stop here you can look out over the city of Ceuta, the Straits of Gibraltar and the Desar Mountains. View the border crossing with Morocco, and see if you can pick out the face of a sleeping woman in the contours of the mountainside. Returning to the centre of Ceuta, stop at the Plaza de Africa to view the exterior of the Church of Nuestra Señora de Africa. In the distance, you will also be able to see the Castillo Desnarigado, a tiny fortress that guarded the coast from Barbary pirates and today stands watch over one of the few sandy beaches in Spanish Morocco. Your next stop is at the Hermitage of San Antonio, a small chapel. Local women believe that if they sit at the foot of the altar, turn three times and ask for a husband, their wish will be granted. Your final visit is to the Mediterranean Marine Park, designed by César Manrique. Explore this splendid complex of botanical gardens, waterfalls and lakes, together with a mock 'castle' inspired by Ceuta's fortifications. The gardens have been laid out entirely on land reclaimed from the sea. After free time to explore this beautiful park, return by coach to the ship.



You may expect to walk around 400 yards, but can remain seated on the coach during most of the photo-stops if you prefer. On the other hand, if you wish to explore more during your free time, a grade of 'Moderate' might be more appropriate.

## Ceuta by Land and Sea

3 hours



Take a boat trip around the ramparts of Ceuta

See the very best of Ceuta by land and by sea, exploring inside and outside the city walls and tracing a thousand years of history on this fascinating tour. A short coach transfer from the pier brings you to the Plaza de Africa, where your guide will show you the monument dedicated to those who lost their lives in the African War. You can also see the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Africa and admire the Baroque façade of the Cathedral, built in 1686 to replace a former mosque that had in turn been erected on the site of a sixth-century church. From here, continue on foot to the remains of another ancient church, the Basilica of Tardorromana. One of the earliest Christian churches on the African continent, the remains of this Roman basilica were discovered in 1987. Your guide will tell you about the history of this remarkable place, and then escort you back to the port, where you board your pleasure boat, the 'El Desnarigado'. A scenic 45-minute mini-cruise will show you the Moat of San Felipe, the Royal City Walls, the South Bay, the former women's prison and the 19th-century Desnarigado Fort. Enjoy unforgettable views of the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts before returning to the quayside, where 'El Desnarigado' moors close to your cruise ship.



You will be on your feet for around one hour and 20 minutes during your walk around Ceuta's Old Town, and should expect to cover a distance of about three-quarters-of-a-mile. Some dexterity will be required when getting on and off the boat, and there may be a few steps at the quayside. All seating on the boat is on the open deck. Limited WC facilities are available on board.



*Enjoy a tapas tasting*

## Walking Tapas Tour of Ceuta

3 hours

Situated alongside a bay, the fortified city of Ceuta has watched over the Straits of Gibraltar for centuries. The old quarter of this cosmopolitan Mediterranean city is enclosed by medieval walls, and the nerve centre of this multicultural city is the Plaza de Nuestra Señora de África, situated in the heart of the old town. Ceuta's cuisine reflects the cultural mixture of its inhabitants and its location on the coast. Excellent locally-caught fish and shellfish are fried, marinated and also cooked in seafood stews in the Andalusian way. Meat is dressed with spices in a Moroccan style. In Ceuta you can find both Spanish and Moroccan restaurants, as well as others offering all kinds of dishes. On this tour, join your guide for a short walk into the city centre, stopping to look at the architecture of the local buildings and to see the city's main square. Your guide then takes you to the first of the three bars that you will visit. These will offer you a splendid introduction to the local cuisine, as you will be served samples of different varieties of tapas. The three bars are close together, and each of them will provide two tapas and two drinks. After visiting the last bar, return to the ship.

**uneven ground, with the possibility of occasional steps, kerbs and cobblestones. Six tapas and six drinks per person are included.**



**You will need to walk at least ¾-mile, partly over**



## Oran, Algeria

Please note that due to visa restrictions, you can only go ashore in Oran by taking one of Saga's guided shore excursions or getting a visa from the Algerian Consulate in London. Please note that you do not require a visa if booked on any of our organised shore excursions. Visas are not available on arrival.

Algeria's second city, Oran, is a melting pot of European and North African culture, and is the birthplace of Rai folk music. It is an attractive coastal town that has been compared to Nice on the French Riviera. For a splendid overview of the city, visit Fort Santa Cruz, an Ottoman citadel rebuilt by the Spanish, or wander through neighbourhoods of crumbling French colonial grandeur on a guided walking tour.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 1,166,000

**Language:** Arabic and French

**Currency:** Algerian Dinar

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** A warm Mediterranean climate with hot summers and mild winters.

**Distance from centre:** One mile

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**How to phone home:** To call the UK dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, omitting the first zero.

**Emergency services:** Dial: 034 210115 or 034 214476.

## Walk the Ramparts of Fort Santa Cruz

2 hours



*Santa Cruz Fort*

In the 16th century, Spanish forces took control of Oran. Before their arrival, marauding pirates could pillage at will, however once this was stopped, the region wasn't entirely safe: invasion could come at any moment. The solution came in the form of the Santa Cruz Fort, one of three defensive structures overlooking the city and linked by an intricate network of tunnels. It was defensively powerful and today, appears as a visually-stunning piece of historical architecture. Take a walking tour beneath the ramparts, capturing its magnificence on your camera, and perhaps admire the strong towers which surround a central castle. Your guide may explain the fort's role during warfare, defying invaders and providing a symbol of power over the population below. Learn the story of the chapel which sits on a lower plateau, and its symbolism before returning to the port.



We have marked this excursion as strenuous because the walking distance exceeds one mile, across uneven surfaces and up steep slopes. There may be frequent rough-cut steps to negotiate.



*The power of the 'Fantasia'*

## The Complete Algerian Cultural Experience

7 ½ hours

The Algerian culture is one of sharing, community and celebration. This excursion delves into exactly what that means, driving inland from Oran and viewing the countryside panoramas before arriving at Sidi Belabes. You will be confronted with a modern take on a 'Khaima' – a traditional tent used by nomads in the desert of North Africa. In Saharan society, this word evokes a strong sense of friends and family gathering. Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by your hosts and offered a drink before the main event begins: fantasia! It is the re-enactment of a wartime cavalry charge, celebrating the region's military history and the bond between horses and riders which originated in the 8th century. Admire the power of the charge and enjoy the performance's showmanship! Once the display has come to its climactic conclusion, return to the khaima for some 'Ta'am' – food in Berber. Over a couscous lunch you will have a unique opportunity to speak to the locals, to better understand what their culture means to them. On your return journey to Oran, drive through the city to reflect on the people you have met and the performance you have seen. Stop for a photograph before arriving back at the ship.

**approximately one hour. You should expect to walk across surfaces which may be uneven. There may also be steps to negotiate.**



E

New

Something different



Please note, the drive from Oran to Sidi Belabes is



*A view across Oran*

## Highlights of Oran

3 hours

Being just 124 miles from Spain and 279 from Algiers, it is understandable (while no less fascinating) that you will find an abundant blend of Moorish and Spanish architecture. Furthermore, the city's history – in which ownership was juggled from one power to another: Spanish to Turkish, back to Spanish and then into French hands before independence – only adds flavour to Oran's delightful cooking pot of design. This excursion offers a tour of the city's highlights. See La Place d'Armes Square, dominated by a memorial to the Battle of Sidi Brahimi in 1845, in which French forces were defeated by Algerian resistance. Then see the Hassan Pasha Mosque which was built at the end of the 18th century, features a large dome surrounded by several smaller ones and is overlooked by a stunning minaret. Make a visit to the 'Sacred Heart Cathedral' which became a visually-exquisite public library after Algiers declared independence from France. Your tour vehicle then begins to climb up to the top of Mount Murdjadjo to see the Santa Cruz Fort, one of three defensive structures built by the Spaniards and linked by underground tunnels. The walls, towers and central 'kasbah' are all worth a photograph or two, however it is the views across the city that you might find most interesting. Gain a bird's eye perspective on the buildings that you passed before returning to the port.



**While the coach will be the primary transport on this tour, you should expect to walk at least 200 yards, excluding the walk from the ship to the tour vehicle.**

## Ibiza, Spain

The third-largest of the Balearics after Majorca and Minorca, the island of Ibiza offers a landscape of incomparable beauty. It has numerous valleys, and a craggy coastline with numerous coves and bays, as well as fine beaches bordered by pine trees. As the ship docks, the town walls rise dramatically like an extension of the cliffs that protect the port. Historically Ibiza was ruled by the Phoenicians and the Romans prior to its conquest by the Moors in AD990; King Jaime I of Aragon took the island in 1235 and brought numerous Catalan settlers here. The town is divided into two distinct areas: the ancient hilltop settlement of D'Alt Vila and the more modern Eixample district by the seafront. In recent years Ibiza Town has become known for its trendy club scene, attracting top DJs, record producers and thousands of young people between the months of June and October.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 48,500 (approximate)

**Language:** Spanish and Catalan

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters with summer temperatures ranging from 20°C to 35°C.

**Distance from centre:** Between 200 yards and 2 miles depending on berth

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** There are numerous shops in the port area.

**Shop opening hours:** Many shops are open between 1000-1400 on Sundays.

**Post office:** Closed on Sundays. Stamps may be bought from 'Estancos' (tobacconists' kiosks).

**Banks:** Banks are closed on Sundays, but you will find branches with 24-hour ATMs on Avinguda Ignasi Wallis and Avinguda de Espanya.

**Tourist office:** Located at Vara del Rey, 13 Bajo, 07800 Ibiza.

**How to phone home:** For the UK dial 0044 followed by the full STD number, omitting the first zero.

**Emergency services:** Dial 112.

## Exclusive Wine Tasting at Can Mayo Winery

4 hours



*Pass through the vineyard*

Ibiza's wine producing heritage dates back to the 7th century BC when Phoenicians honed their techniques of producing grapes to ferment and export across to the mainland. Four hundred years later and much of the wine consumed on the eastern side of mainland Spain came from Ibiza. During the 18th century, an insect known as 'Phylloxera' plagued French vineyards, destroying whole crops and devastating the country's wine production: as a result, heads turned towards Spain and its wines. Ibiza experienced what wine enthusiasts would describe as a golden age and despite the arrival of this pest on the island, the good times still continue to roll. On this excursion, delve into the island's past to discover why the wines produced at the Can Mayo Winery are so excellent. Take a tour of the vineyard and step down into the cellar to observe the ageing process before a formal tasting of several wines, accompanied by specialities such as local bread, sausage and cheese. After the tasting, you also have the opportunity to visit the small animal farm that the family owns before some free time and a return to the port.



**There will be at least two hours of moderate standing or walking and there may be both steps and uneven surfaces to negotiate.**



## Jeep Adventure

4½ hours



A 4x4 adventure on Ibiza

Discover Ibiza far away from the tourist routes on this half day 4x4 adventure: an unmissable opportunity to discover unusual places inaccessible by coach. Leaving the pier, you drive inland by four-wheel drive vehicle. Driving mostly off-road, see parts of the island far from the recent tourist developments, discovering areas that have remained unchanged for the last 100 years. Over trails and roads, reach every scenic corner that Ibiza has to offer. The route has been designed for you to see the beauty of nature, passing through small country settlements, green valleys and gorges between the mountains and the cliffs. During the tour you stop at a beach, where you have approximately one hour to relax, and, weather permitting, sunbathe or swim and enjoy the crystal-clear waters. If it is too cold for sunbathing and swimming, this stop may be shortened or made elsewhere. A stop for refreshments will also be made during the course of the drive.



**You should bring sunscreen and a towel. Any activities on the beach or in the sea are undertaken at your own risk. Soft-top vehicles are used on this tour, and it is subject to cancellation at short notice in the event of bad weather. The drive is unsuitable for those with neck, back, hip or knee problems and these vehicles have no handrails or space to store wheelchairs. The standard of vehicle may vary by make and model, some having no seat belts and steep access steps: for this reason, we have graded this tour as 'Moderate'.**

## Explore Dalt Vila on Foot

3½ hours



Stroll through Ibiza's Old Town

The old district of Dalt Vila stands on a hill that dominates the city, and is one of the main justifications for Ibiza being designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here is a maze of narrow cobbled streets, tiny alleyways, Gothic churches and other old buildings all enclosed by ancient fortifications. At the centre, towering above everything, are the beautiful 14th-century Cathedral of Santa Maria d'Eivissa and the Renaissance-style castle. Underneath is one of the largest underground cemeteries in the world - the necropolis of Puig des Molins, which dates back to the Phoenician period, several centuries before the Christian era. Your tour coach takes you to the city's highest point for a visit to the cathedral and the Contemporary Art Museum. Located in a traditional 17th-century building in the historic quarter, its exhibits showcase the artistic creativity that emerged on the island in the 1960s. You can see works by artists such as Tàpies and Miralles, and others by natives or residents of the Balearic Islands, in addition to an important collection of engravings. The museum has a lovely garden, and often hosts temporary exhibitions. After visiting the museum, follow your guide back downhill through the narrow lanes back to the port.



**The coach parks near the cathedral, where you will need to walk through a tunnel, climbing about 40 uneven stone steps to reach the cathedral. The tour involves walking nearly two miles over partly uneven surfaces and cobbled streets with numerous steps. Clothes that cover the knees and shoulders should be worn when visiting the cathedral. Admission to the cathedral interior may be restricted in the unlikely event of our tour coinciding with a religious service.**

## Discover Ibiza and Santa Eulalia

3 ½ hours



*Santa Eulalia Beach*

Many visitors feel familiar with the island of Ibiza; however, it is only by stepping off the beaten track that you can truly get to know its many different faces. Winding roads give way to historical villages boasting Moorish architecture and palm-lined promenades flanked by crystal-clear water. Begin with a panoramic tour of Ibiza, seeing Dalt Vila's narrow streets which are enclosed within Renaissance walls and curve their way towards the cathedral-topped summit. Continue to Balafia, a whitewashed village dominated by its church and, due to its height, offers extensive views across the interior of the island. It displays an echo of its previous life as a Moorish settlement: during their occupation, towers were built outside many of the homes to ward off pirates. You then travel to San Carlos for a photo stop in this hippy-haven: due to its popularity with bohemians throughout the 60s and 70s, the village continues to share a chilled-out communal spirit. Finally, enjoy free time in Santa Eulalia, perhaps making a visit to one of the many art galleries or consider sitting in a café to watch the world go by, surrounded by the crystal-clear waters which fill the bay.



P

New

**There will be at least 60 yards of essential walking, however most of the activity on this excursion is at your discretion.**

## North Island Tour

4 hours



*Enjoy views of the north of the island*

Journey to San Juan, which boasts some of the island's most unspoilt countryside. In the centre of the town you can visit a church built in typically Ibizan style. The next stop is at Cala San Vicente, a beautiful cove, which is now a tourist centre with modern hotels with villas climbing steeply up the hillside from the sea. You pass San Carlos and some of Ibiza's most beautiful beaches, before arriving at Santa Eulalia, a long-time favourite haunt of painters and writers. Once a trading post for the rich farms of the north-eastern part of the island, it has now become the main tourist resort on Ibiza's east coast. The old white church on the hilltop is surrounded by cube-shaped houses, which are typical of Ibizan architecture. The village attracts artists as it looks different from each direction, and changes hue at different times of the day. A stop will be made for refreshments before you return to the ship.



**This tour involves walking approximately 650 yards, with about 20 steps.**

## Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona is a stylish and dynamic city with spectacular Mediterranean scenery and an infectious party atmosphere, best experienced in the mosaic-paved Ramblas area, the city's social hub, filled with open-air cafes, street entertainers and flower displays. During the summer months the city is abuzz with festivities, and the sunshine can be enjoyed virtually throughout the whole year. Awash with culture and art, Barcelona has been home to many famous artists including Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró and the eccentric architect Antoni Gaudí, whose surprising and striking work can be seen throughout the city. Look out for his beautifully-coloured and detailed buildings, which seem to grow organically out of the ground. Please note that recent changes to traffic regulations mean that tourist coaches are banned from the streets around the Sagrada Família, and we cannot therefore stop for photographs of the basilica.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 1.7 million (approximate)

**Language:** Spanish and Catalan

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Warm, dry summers and winters with balanced temperatures

**Ship berths at:** Moll Adossat or Moll de Barcelona (World Trade Centre)

**Distance from centre:** Two miles from Moll Adossat or half-a-mile from Moll de Barcelona.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** The main shopping area is Catalunya Square.

**Shop opening hours:** Most are open Monday to Saturday between 1000-1400 and 1630-2000.

**Post office:** Stamps can be purchased from tobacconists.

**Banks:** Open weekdays only from 0830-1400. 24-hour ATMs are widely available.

**Tourist office:** Located in the south east corner of Catalunya Square, marked by a big red 'i' sign.

**How to phone home:** For the UK dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, but omitting the first zero.

**Emergency services:** Dial 112

## Three Faces of Barcelona

5 hours



Las Ramblas

It is a modern city with a constant vibrant energy which seems to follow you wherever you go. Whether new to Barcelona or completely familiar, one question you must answer when visiting is 'where to start?' Furthermore, how do you decide what to see. This tour allows you to explore the three most well-known areas. Each one offers something new. Enjoy an introduction to the three 'faces' before heading to whichever sights you'd most like to see. Start at La Rambla (known to locals as 'Las Ramblas'), considered to be the most famous street in Barcelona. This district is punctuated by colourful flower sellers and the energetic sounds of professional street performers. La Rambla marks the edge of the Gothic quarter and the beginning of El Raval, home to Barcelona's cathedral. Enjoy free time before continuing along the wide, leafy Passeig de Gràcia to Eixample, featuring the tall spires of Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Família. You will notice the sudden grid layout, evidence of careful modernist planning. Enjoy free time to perhaps visit the minor basilica or explore the extensive shopping options. Your final district for exploration is Poblenou, an old industrial district which has experienced a lengthy regeneration. Return to the port, your exploration of Barcelona's contrasting neighbourhoods complete.



**Walking on this tour is largely at your discretion, however you should expect to walk at least 800 yards across terrain which you may find to be uneven.**



*Perhaps step inside the sublime Sagrada Família*

## Gaudí's Park Güell and Sagrada Família

5 hours

Barcelona's cityscape has been influenced by numerous architects and planners, but none have left their mark in quite the same way as Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926). This guided tour will show you his main masterpieces in the city, starting with a drive to Park Güell. Every detail of the park, including the colourful benches, mosaics and pavilions, expresses Gaudí's desire to integrate architecture into the natural surroundings. Continue next to the Sagrada Família, Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, which is one of Barcelona's most popular tourist attractions and greatest landmarks. Work on this monumental church started on 19 March 1882. At the end of 1883, Gaudí was commissioned to continue the work, a task which he did not abandon until his death in 1926. Gaudí himself said: "The expiatory church of La Sagrada Família is made by the people and is mirrored in them." Already designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and a Minor Basilica by Pope Benedict XVI, it is hoped that the church will be completed by 2026.



**This tour involves walking a distance of about one mile, with some cobblestones and uneven ground. You should expect to remain standing for long periods while your guide gives a commentary. This**

**tour must be booked prior to departure, as tickets for Park Güell and La Sagrada Família must be purchased 14 days in advance. Once tickets are purchased this tour is non-refundable.**





Montserrat Monastery

## Mountain Top Monastery of Montserrat with Rack Train

6 hours

Visit the sacred mountain of Monserrat or 'Sawtooth Mountain', where you can admire spectacular views over the mountain ridge. Although relatively small by Spanish standards - less than six miles long and 4,280 feet high - this mountain is very distinctive, and the barren peaks of this unique and isolated crag resemble fingers reaching into the sky, as if in prayer. Your coach takes you north from Barcelona along the Llobregat Valley to the railway station at Monistrol, where you join the train. After the 15-minute ascent on this modern rack-and-pinion railway, reach the famous monastery, which was founded to commemorate the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the mountain. Although it was largely rebuilt in the 19th century, the abbey still houses the much-venerated statue of the Black Madonna, said to have been found by shepherds in a cave in the 9th century. Once at the top of the mountain you will be issued with a ticket that allows you entry to the Montserrat Audio-Visual Exhibition. You can also taste the local Aromas de Montserrat liquor, and, if you wish, walk up to the Sanctuary for a close view of the statue. Finally, after visiting the basilica, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning down the mountain by coach to Barcelona, where you re-join your ship.



M

Limited availability



**You will need to walk approximately 750 yards, with about five steps. If you wish to walk up to the Sanctuary of the Black Madonna, where the statue is located, you will need to negotiate a flight of 60 steps. The journey to Montserrat should take around 1½ hours each way.**

## Barcelona City Tour

3 ½ hours



*The Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia*

Relax as your guide shows you the city's highlights from the comfort of a coach, making brief stops at some of the main sights of interest so you can take photographs if you wish. Leaving the port, head first to Montjuïc Hill, site of the great International Exhibition of 1929. A stop will be made at the Mirador del Alcalde viewpoint, a belvedere overlooking the sea that offers spectacular panoramic views over the city. The Mirador was laid out in 1969 and features a sculpture by Josep Cañas showing Catalan dancers performing the popular Sardana folk dance. You next visit the Gothic Quarter, the oldest part of the city. Your coach stops at the Plaça de Catalunya, where your guide will take you for a walk to the impressive medieval cathedral, dedicated to the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia. Leaving the Gothic Quarter, re-join your coach and continue to the Olympic Village, built for the 1992 Olympic Games. In the years immediately after the Olympics, this district lacked the feel of a real neighbourhood, as many shops were still vacant. Now it has developed into a proper 'barri', as the quarters of Barcelona are known.



**You will need to walk approximately 1,400 yards on this excursion, most of which is along level paths and pavements in the city centre. Admission to the cathedral is not included. The dress code to enter the cathedral is strictly enforced: if you wish to go inside, please make sure that you dress respectfully with your shoulders and knees covered. This tour does not pass the Basilica of La Sagrada Familia.**

## Snapshot of Barcelona

2 hours



*See Montjuïc, home to the Olympic Park*

It's a city of stunning landmarks and extensive, rocky vistas, seemingly asking to be captured on camera. On this tour, see the many sights of Barcelona from the comfort of your tour vehicle, with several photo stops. Start by travelling to the colourful city centre, where the building's regimented structures will be vastly contrasted by your first photo stop – La Sagrada Familia. Your guide will explain why the minor basilica's construction began in 1882 and continues today. It is one of Antoni Gaudí's most famous pieces of architecture, popular for its breaking of all established rules, and one of Barcelona's most instantly-recognisable structures. Continue towards Montjuïc, past the forum area and the Olympic Park – used in the 1992 games where the 'Unified Team' (representing several former Soviet countries) topped the medal table. Enjoy a photo stop at Mirador del Alcalde, perhaps the most suitable spot to capture the city's wonderful skyline. Located high above the city, Mirador del Alcalde is an ideal location to play a game of 'I Spy' with Barcelona's famous landmarks. Continue back to the port, reflecting on a city filled with so much architectural splendour.



**While most sightseeing is undertaken from your tour vehicle, there will be at least 150 yards of walking on this tour.**



FC Barcelona's Camp Nou

## The Camp Nou Experience

3 hours

For football fans everywhere, Camp Nou, FC Barcelona's ground, is often considered to be a centre of pilgrimage. From Johan Cruyff to Lionel Messi, Ronald Koeman to Josep Guardiola, it is a stadium that has, simply put, seen legends pass through its doors. On this tour, you too will pass through the stadium's illustrious corridors, see the dressing rooms where the players prepare and climb up to the press box, located high above the pitch. Begin with a visit to the museum: discover how the club's story began with an advert in the local newspaper and how it survived a turbulent 20th century – through civil war and world war. Afterwards, you will be guided around Camp Nou's most important areas (closed to the public when a match is on), including the press room, where players and managers are interviewed, the tunnel leading to the pitch itself and the 'Messi Area' – offering an opportunity to marvel at Lionel Messi's five Ballon d'Or trophies. After your tour, take some free time to browse the gift shop for sporting souvenirs before returning to the ship.



**There will be at least 800 yards of walking on this tour. Furthermore, there will be steps to negotiate to reach areas such as the press box.**

## Valencia, Spain

Spain's third-largest city, Valencia, lies on the Mediterranean coast. Gastronomically, the region is home to Paella, Spain's most famous dish. Historically, it is believed that the Holy Grail resides in Valencia's cathedral and it was here that El Cid fought the Moors. The city has a wealth of fascinating buildings and museums, including the modern Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències, situated in the former bed of the river Túria, which was diverted to a new course following a tragic flood in 1957. In 2007 and 2010 Valencia was the venue of the America's Cup sailing yacht competition, the only European city to have hosted this event. Please note that public conveniences in Valencia are few and far between, and they normally impose a charge of 50 cents or one euro.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 809,000 (approximate)

**Language:** Spanish

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Hot, dry summers and mild, humid winters, with autumn temperatures ranging from 20°C to 30°C.

**Distance from centre:** 2½ miles

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** The main shopping streets are Calle Jorge Juan, Calle Colón and Calle Don Juan Austria.

**Shop opening hours:** Shops are open on weekdays between 1000-1400 and 1700-2030. Closed on Sundays.

**Post office:** There are post offices on the Plaza del Ayuntamiento and at Calle Doctor Juan José Dòmine 13. Closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays but stamps may be purchased from tobacconists' kiosks.

**Banks:** There are banks with 24-hour ATMs throughout the city.

**Tourist office:** The tourist office is on Calle Poeta Querol, 46002 Valencia.

**How to phone home:** To call the UK dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, but omitting the first zero.

**Emergency services:** Dial 112

## Valencia on Foot

5 hours



*Valencia Cathedral*

Your excursion starts with a panoramic tour by coach taking in the futuristic City of Arts and Sciences, designed by Santiago Calatrava, it is an entertainment-based cultural and architectural complex. Continuing past the Gothic, Baroque and Arabian architecture for which Valencia is famous, your coach will arrive close to the main square where the rest of your excursion will continue on foot. Your first stop will be at one of the oldest and largest food markets in Europe, housed in a beautiful Art Nouveau building, where you can see a great variety of local produce. Continue to La Lonja, Valencia's Silk Market, today a UNESCO World Heritage site. Completed in 1498 its original function was as a trading exchange for oil but over time it developed into a maritime trading centre and silk exchange. The next part of your walking tour takes you to Saint Mary's Cathedral and the old quarter, where you have some free time for independent exploration before returning to the ship.



**This excursion is mainly on foot and will include approximately one mile of walking, with about ten steps at La Lonja. There will be no opportunities to stop to take photographs during the coach touring part of this excursion. Entrance to the cathedral is not included. No refreshments are included, but you will have the opportunity to purchase food and drink during your free time if you wish.**



## Spectacular Xátiva Castle

5 hours



Xátiva Castle

'Whomsoever in Xátiva wishes to enter will have to vanquish its defenders.' These were the words written in the Chronicles of Jaume I of Aragon about Xátiva Castle, and it is easy to see why. The natural landscape upon which it is built is unforgiving. Its walls, which largely date to its Moorish occupation, are tall and flanked by defensive watchtowers. It was at the centre of Hannibal's campaign against the Romans and proved an important fortification during the Spanish War of Independence: today, Xátiva Castle is yours to explore. Take the trolley train from the base of Xátiva to the castle and begin your guided tour. Upon arrival, your guide may explain how the castle is split: El Castell Menor is the oldest part, which bore witness to the strategic warfare waged by Hannibal, and El Castell Major is perhaps the best-preserved section, largely dating from the medieval period. See the chapel which houses the remains of James the Unfortunate, who in 1410 refused to accept the rule of King Ferdinand of Spain. Finally, learn about the castle's role as a prison for illustrious inmates before refreshments in Xátiva followed by a return to the port.



Please note, cobbled surfaces will be uneven and may prove slippery after rainfall. You should expect to walk at least 2,000 yards on this excursion.

## On Lake Albufera

4 hours



Enjoy the tranquillity of Lake Albufera

Join your coach and guide and head to the Albufera Natural Park for a pleasant boat trip. This is the location of the largest lake in Spain and one of the most important wetland areas in the Iberian Peninsula. It is home to numerous species of wading birds and a rich variety of wildlife. Your mini-cruise enables you to appreciate a way of life that has remained almost unchanged for 750 years. Look out for the typical old houses known as 'Barracas' that are a good example of 'sustainable' architecture. After your boat trip, enjoy a coach tour of Valencia, the third-largest city in Spain after Madrid and Barcelona. Originally founded by the Romans and later occupied by the Moors, this now busy and lively cultural and industrial centre has twice hosted the America's Cup Yacht race in recent years. In the heart of the city, see the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, an attractive square with palm trees and fountains, where Valencia's city hall is located. Before returning to the ship, make a short stop at the impressive City of Arts and Sciences. This modern, multi-purpose leisure complex was built in 1998 in the former bed of the River Turia, which was diverted to the south of the city after a serious flood in 1957.



Walking at the City of Arts and Sciences complex is on level ground and at your discretion. However, you may expect to walk approximately 500 yards over uneven surfaces at Lake Albufera. There may be lengthy periods of standing while your guide gives a commentary. Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed.

## Lladró's Porcelain Masterpieces

3 ½ hours



Admire amazing creations by Lladró

Explore the City of Porcelain - Lladró Art Centre. Upon arrival, enjoy a multi-media presentation of Lladró's history before being taken on a leisurely stroll through the production facilities to see the pouring of the moulds, the immense kilns used for firing, and the artisans' delicate work of hand-painting each piece. Enjoy free time in the factory store before rejoining your coach and continuing to the northern outskirts of Valencia, where you stop to visit the Falles Museum. Formerly the convent of St Vincent de Paul's, Falles Museum is home to a vast collection of 'pardoned ninots' (puppets or dolls). You will also find festivity posters and historical badges from the Falles committees in Valencia. Following your visit, return to your coach for the short journey back to the ship.



Limited availability

### Something different

**Participants will be seated during the multi-media presentation at the Lladró Art Centre, but should expect to walk approximately 550 yards throughout the tour, over mainly flat ground. There are at least eight steps to negotiate at the museum.**

## Valencia City Tour

2 ½ hours



Valencia's Central Market

Enjoy a coach tour of Valencia, the third-largest city in Spain after Madrid and Barcelona. Founded by the Romans, the city was later occupied by the Moors, who were defeated by El Cid in 1094. Valencia passed between Christians and Moors several times before it was finally taken in 1238 by King James I of Aragon. It has grown into a busy and lively cultural and industrial centre and in recent years has twice hosted the America's Cup yacht race. The first photo stop will be at the impressive City of Arts and Sciences. The complex includes an aquarium, planetarium, opera house, museums, concert halls, an IMAX cinema and gardens. Continuing to the heart of the city, your tour takes you to the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, an attractive square with fountains and palm trees, where Valencia's city hall is located. Here you leave your coach for a short walk into the historic centre, to see Valencia's oldest and most important historical buildings. View the Gothic cathedral, the Miguelete Tower, the modernist Central Market and the old Silk Exchange Building, known as La Llotja de la Seda, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After your tour of the city centre, you head to the seafront and enjoy a drive along the promenade as you head back to the pier.



**The walk to see the Lonja de la Seda and the historic city centre involves walking approximately 1,000 yards along level paved streets, with a few kerbs to negotiate. No entrances are included.**

## Exclusive Paella Cooking Experience

4 ½ hours



*Learn how to make Spain's national dish*

It is said that 'there are as many paella variations as there are cooks.' Originally a dish created for farm labourer's lunches, paella continues to play a vital role in the cultural makeup of Spain. Furthermore, Valencia offers an ideal opportunity to learn how to make the perfect paella: afterall, the dish originates from this region! Begin with a panoramic tour of the city centre before journeying out into L'Horta – Valencia's surrounding countryside – to collect the freshest ingredients. You will then meet your bilingual chef who will prepare from scratch the many ingredients involved in the creation of paella and cook the dish on a wood-fired furnace. While the dish is simmering away, your chef will host a sangria-making workshop, allowing you to mix your own fresh and fruity jugs of the Spanish refreshment. Having existed since the Romans marched the lands, sangria (coming from the Spanish word for blood – 'sangre') was internationally popularised after the 1964 World Fair in New York. This sweet drink is the perfect accompaniment for your paella meal, but you won't be returning to the ship empty-handed: you will have a special recipe, complete with cooking tips, to wow your friends upon your return home.



E

New

Something different



For those who do not eat seafood, an alternative main meal is cooked by the chef and served alongside the paella.

## Vall D'Uxo and San José Caves

4 hours



*See the San José Caves by boat*

This excursion takes you to the Vall de Uxó district and the San José Caves. Here you will be able to experience the tranquillity of the longest navigable underground river in Europe. Inside the cavern you can contemplate the dramatic shapes of the rocks that the water has moulded over the passage of thousands of years, and stalactites and stalagmites that grow at the rate of one inch every century. Listen to the sound of silence in a place where it is possible to discern the murmur of the water and to hear the echo of a drop of water falling into an underground lagoon: discover a beautiful landscape that nature keeps hidden from the light. Your trip on an open rowing-boat take you through unusually named caves such as the Bat Cave, the Dog Kennel and Diana's Lake. At one point you break your journey and take a short walk through a section of the caves, re-joining the boat in an especially large and beautiful cavern before drifting gently back to the entrance via a different series of tunnels. After this relaxing experience, return by coach to your ship.



E

**There is approximately 400 yards' walking on this excursion, with a few steps to negotiate. Each boat holds about 14 passengers. There is no commentary during the boat ride, but your guide will give an explanatory talk before you board. Photography is not permitted inside the caves.**

## Huelva, Spain

Huelva is a busy port in the extreme south-west corner of Spain, at the mouth of the River Odiel. Evidence of Phoenician, Greek and Roman occupation has been found here, but few buildings today predate the mid-18th century, as the city was wrecked by the 1755 earthquake that destroyed Lisbon. Huelva became prosperous in the 1800s with the exploitation of mineral deposits at nearby Rio Tinto: large English-style houses were built in the suburbs for mining engineers and managers. In 1943, Huelva was the location for 'Operation Mincemeat', when the corpse of Glyndwr Michael, who had died in a London hospital, was dressed as a major in the Royal Marines and dropped in the sea off-shore, carrying fake documents stating that the Allies were planning an imminent invasion of Greece, rather than Sicily, their actual target. The Spanish authorities passed the papers to the German High Command, who diverted many of their troops away from Sicily, facilitating the Allied invasion of the island. The fictitious 'Major Martin' was buried with full military honours in a Huelva cemetery: Glyndwr Michael's name was added to the gravestone in 1998.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 149,410 (approximate)

**Language:** Spanish

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Hot dry summers and mild winters

**Distance from centre:** 10 miles

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** The main shopping area is between Avenida Italia and Avenida Martín Alonso Pinzón

**Shop opening hours:** Most shops are open from 0930-1330 and 1730-2030 on weekdays and 0930-1330 on Saturdays

**Post office:** The main post office is at 10, Avenida Italia

**Banks:** There are numerous banks in the city, open from 0800-1400 on weekdays - most have 24-hour ATMs

**Tourist office:** The tourist office is located at Plaza de las Monjas

**How to phone home:** Dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, but omitting the first zero

**Emergency services:** Dial 112

## Doñana National Park

5 hours



Doñana National Park

Of the many protected areas in the province of Huelva, Doñana National Park is by far the most interesting. Situated to the south-east of the city, it covers an area of over 209 square miles between the Atlantic Ocean and the mouth of the Guadalquivir River. This gives it a very special climate, which makes it a rest stop for vast numbers of European and African migratory birds. Doñana is not only a National Park, it is also listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Your tour takes you in specially authorised vehicles along a nature trail through the northern part of the park, starting with a drive through El Rocío, a popular pilgrimage destination. Every year this small village's population swells to more than 1,300,000 - equal to Spain's third-largest city - during the Rocío Whitsun Festival. Leaving El Rocío, you follow one of the roads taken by the pilgrims, which leads into the National Park. Your guide will tell you about the park's various eco-systems and will make various stops to view places and objects of particular interest. You will also stop at an area of wetland where you will be able to observe the local birdlife. On the return journey, you stop again in El Rocío to visit the Hermitage and to see the statue of Nuestra Señora del Rocío.



### Something different

**This tour involves about 500 yards' unavoidable walking, over uneven ground in the park and with a few steps at the Hermitage. Full-size touring coaches are not permitted to enter the National Park, so you will need to transfer to a specially authorised minibus for the section of the tour inside the park. This part of the journey is over very bumpy, partly unsurfaced roads, and those with back or neck problems may find it uncomfortable. The cost of this excursion reflects the charges made by the National Park for their own vehicles and guides, and includes admission to the park.**





See the Plaza de España

## A Day in Seville

7 ½ hours

Seville, the capital of Andalusia is a unique, compact and relaxing city with a rich culture heritage, and has been a symbol of tolerance between Arabic, Jewish and Christian cultures. Enjoy a comprehensive city tour taking in the main sights in the company of an expert guide, with lunch included. After transferring to the city centre visit the ornate Alcázar, Seville's most treasured building. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was originally a Moorish fort, and over the centuries subsequent monarchs have added their own extensions, creating the expansive and highly decorated royal palace which stands today. Moving on, visit the Santa Cruz quarter, the heart of Seville. This charming district is a maze of lime-washed houses and pretty squares, and in the Middle Ages was the city's Jewish quarter. After admiring the vast Gothic cathedral here, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in the city centre. Afterwards, your tour concludes with a panoramic drive through the streets of Seville where your guide will point out other sights of interest including Palm Tree Avenue and Maria Luisa Park. The largest town in Southern Spain and the fourth-largest city in Spain, Seville is the home town of Carmen, Don Juan and Figaro, and is also where Spanish Baroque artist Bartolomé Esteban Murillo was born. Although best known for his religious works, Murillo also produced a

considerable number of paintings of contemporary women and children, his work being exhibited in Europe and America.

**SMALL GROUP TOUR:** You can also choose to take this tour as part of a small group with no more than 29 participants. The tour content remains the same. This tour will not be escorted by a member of the ship's staff. Please see the price list for further details.



We recommend that you wear suitable walking shoes. Participants should expect to walk approximately one mile over flat surfaces and cobblestones during this tour. The journey to Seville takes about 1½ hours each way, depending on traffic. There is a flight of 16 steps at the restaurant.

## The Columbus Route

4 hours



Replica of Columbus's ship

Take a journey back in time to discover the places visited by Christopher Columbus between 1485 and 1492. Your first stop is at the confluence of the Tinto and Odiel rivers, where you visit the Monument to the Discoverers. Completed in 1929, it stands 140 feet high and incorporates in its pedestal a small chapel with statues of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand. Afterwards you head to the nearby village of La Rábida, where you view the Columbus Monument, and enjoy a walking tour of the Monastery of La Rábida. Considered to be the 'Cradle of the Discovery of America', the monastery was constructed at the beginning of the 15th century, incorporating part of an old Moorish fort or 'rapita', traces of which can still be seen. Your tour takes you through the rooms where Columbus spent most of his time, including the church, cloisters and reception rooms. Afterwards, you head to the wharf known as Muelle de las Carabelas, where you can see life-size replicas of the three ships that took part in Columbus's expedition. You have free time here before returning to Huelva.



**This tour involves about 200 yards' unavoidable walking, with a few steps at the monastery.**

## Rio Tinto Mines

5 hours



Ride along the former mine railway

Arising out of the midst of the surrounding greenery, about 45 miles from Huelva, the giant opencast mines of Rio Tinto have created a surreal, almost lunar landscape. Rio Tinto is, however, more than an isolated cavity on the earth's surface. Over the centuries it has displaced mountains, valleys and entire villages, whose populations had to be resettled in specially built towns nearby. Named after the river which flows through the region, Rio Tinto has become a landscape within a landscape. The river's water is discoloured by the minerals, and is not unusual to see bright orange or green rivulets trickling past. Enjoy a tour of the village of Minas de Riotinto, built by the Rio Tinto mining company in the early 20th century to house the mine workers. Inside the former company hospital, you visit the Mining Museum, which tells the story of the British company that exploited the mines from 1873 to 1954. Here you can see the reconstruction of a Roman mine, and various items of machinery such as the narrow-gauge steam locomotives that operated the mine railway, and a luxurious carriage used by King Alfonso XIII when he visited Rio Tinto. Your visit concludes with a 1½-hour train ride along the mine railway that formerly took the iron ore all the way to the harbour at Huelva.



**Something different**

**This tour involves about 500 yards of unavoidable walking. There is also a flight of 59 steps to the platform where you board the train. Participants are advised to bring a packed lunch and a bottle of water from the ship. The rail journey is on an authentic former industrial railway and the ride is somewhat rough when compared with a modern train.**



*Enjoy a tasting of dry cured ham*

## Iberian Tastes and Flavours

6 ½ hours

Iberian cured ham is one of the most delicious and emblematic culinary products of Spain. Its roots go back hundreds of years to the days before refrigeration as a means of preservation, however the landscape's natural history ventures even further back than that. On this excursion, learn everything there is to know about Iberian cured ham – from carving, to curing to tasting – before taking a trip underground to marvel at the rising stalagmites and falling stalactites which have formed over thousands of years. Begin in Jabugo, a town surrounded by greenery in the heart of Huelva. Here you will find the Cinco Jotas Winery. Your guide will explain how the 'jamón' is produced and take you into the cellar to see the many hams hung up for curing – a process which can take up to three years! Then, it's time to sit down for a ham tasting – 100% acorn-fed and produced in the local areas – accompanied by a glass of wine. Your final destination is the 'Grotto of Wonders' – La Gruta de las Maravillas. Having opened to the public in 1914, the caves were the first in Spain to do so. A network of limestone caverns extends before you, beneath a hill crowned by a medieval castle. Learn all about the process of 'karstification' – the slow erosion of limestone, dissolved by carbonic acid – before returning to the ship.



**The floor inside the grotto is uneven and wheelchairs are not permitted. The grotto visit will take approximately 60 minutes. There will be at least 1,200 yards of walking and at least 120 steps to negotiate.**

## La Coruña, Spain

The busy port of La Coruña is the capital of the rugged region of Galicia. Boasting a rich maritime heritage, the city is famous for being the departure point for Felipe II's doomed Armada in 1588. British military historians also know it as the location of the Battle of Corunna that took place in 1809, when Napoleon's troops attacked a division of the British Army. La Coruña is also famous for the Tower of Hercules, Europe's oldest functioning lighthouse, which dates back to Roman times and is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The town itself is well worth exploring, with its handsome squares, Romanesque churches and interesting archaeological museum. It is particularly noted for its long seafront promenade lined with elegant apartment buildings with fully-glazed balconies: these have given La Coruña the nickname of 'The Crystal City'.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 280,000 (approximate)

**Language:** Spanish

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Warm, dry summers and mild winters

**Distance from centre:** Approximately 330 yards

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** There are some shops located 500 yards from the port area. There is also a shopping centre at El Corte Ingles, Cuatro Caminos.

**Shop opening hours:** Shopping centres usually open from 1000-2200, while smaller shops tend to open between 1000-1400 and 1630-2030.

**Post office:** The main post office is on Calle del Alcalde Manuel Casas and is open Monday to Friday from 0830-2030, and on Saturdays from 0930-1300. Stamps for postcards are also sold at 'Estancos' (tobacconists' kiosks).

**Banks:** There are numerous banks in the city centre, open from 0900-1400 on weekdays. 24-hour ATMs are widespread.

**Tourist office:** Opposite the pier, open daily between 1000-1400 and 1630-2000.

**How to phone home:** For the UK dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, omitting the first zero.

**Emergency services:** Dial 112.

## Pazo de Rubianes by Train

7 hours



*The garden of Pazo de Rubianes*

Travelling by coach provides an excellent opportunity to travel from A to B, however, on this excursion it's all aboard the public train from La Coruña, which flies through the landscape south of Galicia, offering unobstructed views across the region. Your destination is the Pazo de Rubianes, a palace built during the 15th century and surrounded by glorious gardens, accompanied by historical vineyards. Upon arrival, receive a welcome introduction to the villa, discovering the many stages of its development – including the extensive renovations during the 18th century and the addition of a chapel in 1958. After your tour through the luxuriously-decorated rooms, step out into the gardens, which boast over 800 varieties of camellias and is filled with a maze of hedges. Geometrical flowerbeds curve around cork trees, oaks and ashes: some of the trees are several hundreds of years old! You then have an opportunity to see the vineyard, to learn the meaning of the words often attributed to the villa's neighbours: 'the vineyard of the marquis gets the sun, even in the night' – and taste the wine produced on the site. Accompanying the wine is a selection of tasty tapas, a culinary conclusion to this villa and gardens exploration.



**You should expect to walk at least one mile on this excursion. Surfaces may be uneven and slippery after rainfall. Please note, the train will not be exclusive to Saga guests.**





*The holy city of Santiago de Compostela*

## Santiago de Compostela with Tapas Lunch

6 ½ hours

Your stop in La Coruña gives you a wonderful opportunity to visit Santiago. Leaving the port, your guide will prepare you for the sights that await you. Walking to Obradoiro Square, your guide will point out the cathedral, the city hall and the College of San Jerónimo. Santiago's cathedral has become the most popular site of Christian pilgrimage after Jerusalem and Rome, and you will see both the beautiful Jubilee Door and the traditional tomb of St James. After your visit to the cathedral, you have some free time to explore the historic city centre before heading to the Parador de los Reyes Católicos for a tapas-style lunch. Originally built in 1499 as a hostel for pilgrims, this elegant hotel is a magnificent piece of architecture. Suitably refreshed, your guide will lead you back to the coach for your return drive to La Coruña.



**This excursion requires extensive walking of at least 2½ miles. Coaches are unable to access the cathedral area – there is a walk of approximately 800 yards to reach it. Large bags and backpacks should not be taken inside the cathedral, and guiding inside the cathedral is not permitted: your guide will describe its history from the outside. Access to the interior may be restricted if a religious service is taking place. Modest dress should be worn inside the**

**cathedral.**

## Transfer to Santiago

6 ½ hours



*Cathedral of St James, Santiago de Compostela*

Explore Santiago at your own pace on this day transfer. Depart your ship by coach to visit the pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela with its charming old quarter and beautiful cathedral which dominates Obradoiro Square. The cathedral has become the most popular site of Christian pilgrimage after Jerusalem and Rome, and, on your visit, you can see the traditional tomb of St James and the 12th-century 'Pórtico da Gloria', considered one of the world's most important medieval sculptures.



**Walking on this excursion is at your own discretion. Your guide will travel with you on the coach only, and on arrival you have all your time at leisure to explore independently. Since coaches are unable to access the cathedral area, there is a walk of approximately 800 yards to reach it. The journey to Santiago de Compostela should take around one hour, 15 minutes each way, depending on traffic. Large bags and backpacks are not permitted inside the cathedral. Access to the interior may occasionally be restricted if a religious service is taking place. Modest dress should be worn if going inside the cathedral: off-the-shoulder dresses, and shorts or skirts above the knee are inappropriate.**

## Gardens of Galician Mansions with Lunch

5 ¼ hours



*Pazo de Oca manor house and gardens*

Leaving La Coruña, drive first to Pazo de Oca, an attractive manor dating back to the 17th century. The façade of the main house forms a splendid stately home. This beautiful country house is noted for its wisteria, and through its grounds runs a canal formed by diverting a local brook. The outbuildings include a watermill and laundry, and swans, ducks and geese enjoy the water. The formal, French-style gardens are noted for their box hedges, which include topiary in the form of a Santiago cross: boxwood is popular in Galicia for making bagpipes. From Pazo de Oca, head to the nearby gardens at Pazo de Ribadulla, which are completely different in character, being predominantly English in style. There is a small pond at the entrance, with a Virginia tulip tree. The gardens are rich in camellias and have tall Washington palms and citrus trees. A pleasant feature of Pazo de Ribadulla is a waterfall in the middle of a forest glade. Stop for a tapas-style snack lunch before heading back to La Coruña. Often eaten while standing, tapas are small appetisers that emphasise local ingredients, flavours and specialties: the result is a fresh, seasonal, mouth-watering snack!



**Limited availability**



**You should expect to walk a distance of at least one mile, over ground that may be uneven in places.**

## La Coruña City Tour

2 ½ hours



*The Torre de Hercules - the world's oldest working lighthouse*

The tour starts with a panoramic coach tour of the city of La Coruña. On leaving the port, you head first to the promenade that runs along the coast. Along the way, see the large numbers of houses with glazed balconies that give La Coruña the nickname of 'The Crystal City'. On the seaside promenade, which is the longest in Europe, you pass the Castle of San Anton, which stands on an island and is connected to the shore by a causeway. You next arrive at the Torre de Hercules. This lighthouse was originally built by the Romans and is believed to be the only one from this period that is still in use. The most distinctive monument of La Coruña, it appears on the city's coat-of-arms, together with a skull and crossbones: the latter does not refer to piracy, but represents the bones of Gerión, a giant killed by Hercules who is said to be buried under the lighthouse. Leaving the Torre de Hercules, follow the coastal road to the foot of Mount San Pedro, where you stop for photos of a different view of the city. The coach will drop you near the Town Hall, from where you continue your tour on foot, visiting Maria Pita Square. You have free time to explore the city centre, with its shops, bars and market, before re-joining your coach by the Town Hall and returning to the ship.



**You should expect to walk around 500 yards. The walking tour of the town centre lasts about 20 minutes, and is optional.**

## Scenic Estuaries with Wine and Tapas

3 hours



*Charming Puentedeume*

Experience the scenic surroundings of Galicia on this tour, which begins with a panoramic sightseeing tour of La Coruña from the comfort of your coach. Drive along the famous seafront promenade lined with houses and their many windows, which have given the city its informal title of the 'Crystal City'. You then pass the island fortress of San Antón, before pausing for photos at the famous Tower of Hercules. Built by the Romans, this is the only lighthouse of its kind still in use today, and since 2009 it has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Leaving La Coruña, you travel to the old fishing village of Puentedeume to view its most prominent landmark, the 14th-century Tower of Andrade. Formerly part of a larger fortress, the tower is 38 feet high and has walls over 6 feet thick. On the façade is a magnificent coat-of-arms showing the 18 flags that Count Fernán Pérez de Andrade won from the French in the Battle of Seminara in 1503. After pausing for a photo stop just outside the village, you conclude your tour with a visit to a local restaurant, where you will enjoy tapas and wine before returning to your ship in La Coruña.



**On this tour you will be required to walk approximately 550 yards, sometimes over cobblestones. There are also five steps at Puentedeume and three at the restaurant.**

## Optional excursions booking conditions

**Book in advance:** For added convenience and to save queuing on board, you can book your shore excursions in advance by visiting [saga.co.uk/managemybooking](http://saga.co.uk/managemybooking) for immediate confirmation, alternatively you can call our cruise consultants FREE on 0800 056 7534 to confirm your choice and make payment.

When booked in advance tickets will be delivered to your cabin when you join your ship.

**Cancellations:** All excursions may be cancelled without charge at any time before the Explore Ashore Desk closes sales for a particular excursion. Please check the ship's Today Programme for closing time of sales, which is normally 48 hours before arrival in the relevant port unless stated otherwise on the booking form, online and/or in the Today Programme. If you cancel after sales close, a cancellation fee of 75% is payable. This cancellation fee is waived for those passengers holding Saga's optional insurance and additional cancellations rights if the cancellation is due to illness certified by the ship's doctor. All refunds will be credited to your on-board account. We reserve the right to cancel excursions or to substitute one excursion for another at any time in the interests of the passengers or of the ship, or if there are not sufficient bookings. If we cancel an excursion we will refund your payment.

Please note for certain tours we may incur costs for cancelling the arrangements and therefore a cancellation charge will be applicable. Where appropriate this will be highlighted under the individual tour description.

**Clothing:** For all shore excursions it is advisable that you wear comfortable, low-heeled walking shoes with non-slip soles and a waterproof and windproof jacket. In anticipation of a variety of temperatures, your wardrobe should be versatile. We recommend wearing layers of clothes which can be shed or added to depending on the weather. A daily weather forecast will be issued to allow passengers to judge the appropriate clothing for that day. Do not forget a camera, film and binoculars. Staff on board will be pleased to offer further advice.

**Suitability of excursions:** If you have walking difficulties or a disability please refer to the excursion details to see if it is suitable. Staff at the Explore Ashore Desk, during shore excursion talks and at the port talks, can also advise you about those excursions which you may find more suitable. Please note that the suitability of individual excursions does vary and while we give you advice and guidance, the decision on whether or not the excursion is suitable is essentially for you to make, save where Saga believes the proper operation of the excursion will be prevented or where safety concerns exist.

**Disembarkation:** Disembarkation takes place as soon as possible after the ship's arrival in port. For safety reasons, please wait in the recommended areas until an announcement is made by staff calling you to disembark for your chosen excursion.

**Times and schedules:** Durations given for excursions are approximate and should be taken as a guide only. Please check the ship's Today Programme for confirmed departure times.

*Discover Gaudi's artwork in Barcelona*







Visit Seville

**Itineraries:** Some excursions may operate in reverse. Please ensure that you do not book excursions which run at the same time. Please refer to the enclosed price list which explains which excursions can or cannot be taken together.

**Transport:** In some places you may travel on under-developed roads and transportation may not be of British or European standards. However, we do use the best transport available.

**Bathroom stops:** Wherever possible, regular bathroom stops have been planned into your itinerary at the best facilities available.

**Smoking:** Saga operates a worldwide policy of no smoking on all excursion vehicles.

**Conduct:** If, by your conduct, you prejudice the enjoyment of an excursion by others, we reserve the right to exclude you from that or any future excursions. No refund of the excursion cost will be available in these circumstances.

**If you become lost:** Should you become separated from your group during an excursion, please locate a taxi and return to the ship immediately, notifying the Reception Desk on arrival. If you have no local currency to pay the driver, the Reception Desk will assist you and charge the amount to your on-board account.

**Included in the price:** Admission charges to attractions as stated • A guide or driver guide (unless otherwise stated) • A Saga Representative from the ship to accompany the excursion (not as guide or lecturer) • Meals and refreshments as detailed.

**Maximum and minimum numbers:** All excursions are subject to maximum and minimum numbers. We recommend that you book in advance to secure the excursions of your choice. If there are insufficient bookings, we may have to cancel tours.

**Liability:** Except for death or personal injury (caused by our negligence) our liability for any loss or damage (including, but not limited to, loss of property) you may suffer during, or in relation to, an excursion is limited to twice the price of the excursion which you pay. These conditions are subject to English law and both parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

**Please note:** Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the shore excursion leaflet, all details are subject to change. We cannot accept any responsibility for such alteration but will notify you of any known change, if possible, prior to or during the cruise.

**Payment options:** You can pay by debit or credit card. There is no charge for payments made by debit card.







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