

Spanish Culture & Cuisine

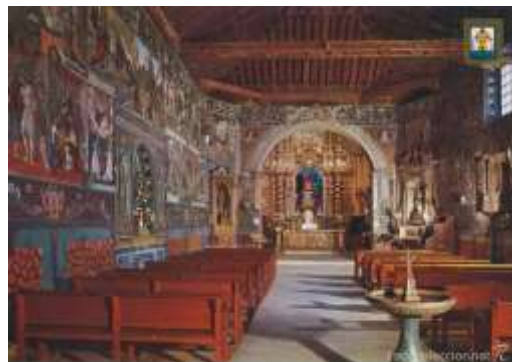
"Andalusia: Tradition, Gastronomy and Flamenco"

Wednesday 25th July to Friday 3rd August 2018

A 10-day trip which will include return coach travel to/from Seville (with hotel accommodation overnight both ways and visits en-route), followed by a unique 7-night river cruise experience on the Guadalquivir river:
Seville - Cadiz - El Puerto De Santa Maria - Isla Minima - Seville

Wednesday 25th July

- 08.30 hrs: Departure from Interiors, Javea port (opposite side of the road). Comfort stop on the motorway.
- 11.30 hrs: Refreshment break at the Monasterio de Santa Eulalia, Totana, located in the beautiful Sierra Espuna regional park; visit the gardens and chapel.



- 13.00 hrs: Re-board our coach and continue to Almeria.

- 15.30 hrs: Check-in to the 4* Hotel Nuevo Torreluz, situated in the heart of Almería's old quarter, located between the town hall, the cathedral and Paseo de Almería. There are several shops, tapas bars and restaurants nearby. The port is a 12-minute walk away, and you can walk to the beach in around 20 minutes.



The rest of the afternoon/evening is free for your own sightseeing or relaxation:



La Alcazaba: Founded by Cordoba caliph Abd ar-Rahman in 995 AD, it is the second largest Moorish fortress in Spain. You'll have sweeping views of the cave quarter of Barrio de la Chanca below. Wednesday 09.00 hrs-15.00 hrs, 19.00 hrs-22.00 hrs.



Almería Cathedral: It looks like a fortress from the outside, but it is a beautiful cathedral inside. The reason for its robust construction was to protect its treasures from Barbary pirate raids. From 10:00 hrs to 18.00 hrs, €5 pp.



Parque Nicolas Salmeron: towards the port.



Almería Museum: one of the most important in the Almerian province and maintains the largest collection of archaeological remains in Almería. Wednesday 09.00 hrs-15.00 hrs, 18.00 hrs-21.30 hrs.

20.00 hrs: Dinner (included) will either be in the hotel restaurant or at a selected restaurant nearby.

Thursday 26th July

08.00 hrs: Breakfast.

09.00 hrs: Check-out from hotel and load suitcases onto coach.

09.15 hrs: Departure to Málaga.

11.45 hrs: Visit to the **Jardín Botánico Histórico La Concepción, Málaga** (entrance included). Free time for refreshments (not included) in the café and to explore the garden. Acknowledged in 1943 as a "garden of historical and artistic interest", it covers a total of 3.5 hectares. Located on the side of a hill, its landscaped layout comprises a series of waterfalls, streams, fountains, flights of steps, greenhouses, large trees and centuries-old palms, the latter constituting one of the finest collections in Europe. Next to the entrance to the garden is a shop where gifts and souvenirs may be purchased. There is also a cafeteria which is famed for its home-made vegetable soups, salads, cakes and sandwiches.



13.45 hrs: Re-board our coach and travel to Seville (comfort stop en-route).

17.00 hrs: Board cruise ship: **MS La Belle de Cadix** - its mooring is 10 minutes' walk from the city's Plaza de España and not much further from the world's largest gothic



cathedral, whose Giralda tower can be seen from the ship's top deck.

Unpack and settle into your cabin. All cabins are equipped with shower and toilet, hair-dryer, satellite TV, radio, safe.

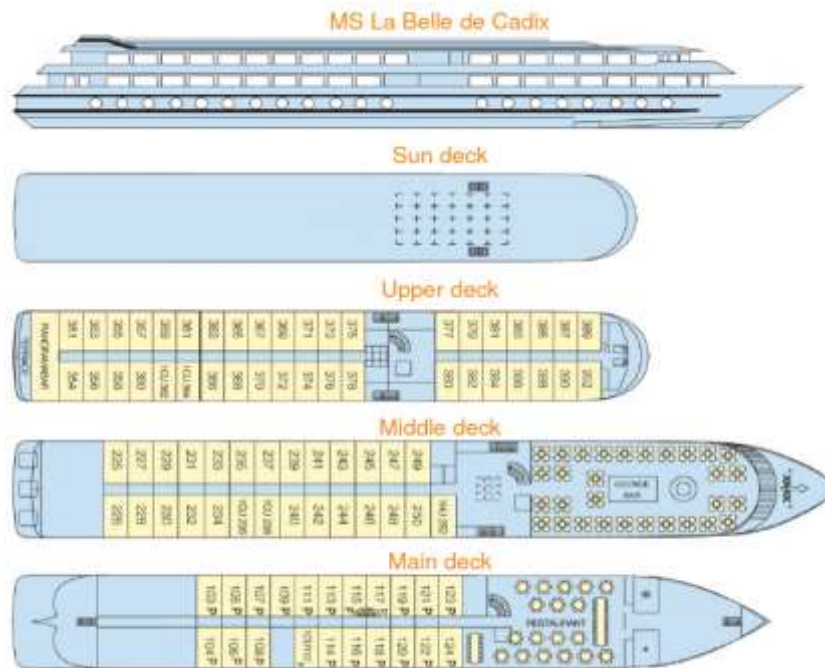
Evening: Presentation of the crew and welcome cocktail. Dinner on board.



The cruise will include all meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8; drinks included are water, wine, beer, fruit juices during the meal and coffee after both lunch and dinner for meals eaten on the ship; drinks from the bar (except Champagne and wine from a special list), double-occupancy cabin with shower in bathroom; excursions listed in the programme - evening of flamenco and on-board entertainment; assistance from an on-board multi-lingual host/hostess;

farewell gala dinner; travel assistance and repatriation insurance; all port fees.

Not included: drinks ordered during excursions or transfers, cancellation and baggage insurance, personal expenses. A supplement is payable for cabins on the middle and upper decks.



Technical Data	
Built	2005, refurbished 2010.
Length	110 m long
Width	11.4 m wide
Cabins	89 cabins
Passengers	178
Facilities	lounge-bar with a dance floor, bar, dining room, large sundeck with deckchairs, swimming pool, elevator, gift shop, air conditioning, free wi-fi.

Dress Code: Casual and comfortable during the day. More elegant clothing may be worn in the evening.



Friday 27th July: SEVILLE - CADIZ

Full board on board.



Guided visit of Seville on foot. The Cathedral, Alcázar and *Archivo de Indias* together form a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Return on board for lunch and the beginning of the cruise.

After negotiating the river's only set of locks on the city's outskirts, the ship will sail south through an area of Spain that is little known, passing the Doñana National Park, designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve, and the city of Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Our next port of call, Cádiz, is a short distance south-east of the river Guadalquivir's estuary.

A tour of Cádiz by night. Dinner on board.

Saturday 28th July: CADIZ - EL PUERTO DE SANTA MARIA

Full board on board.



Guided walking tour of Cádiz to see its cultural and historic richness.



Cruise to El Puerto de Santa Maria: Excursion to Jerez and visit of a "ganadería" (a property where bulls are raised) and the chance to learn about this living symbol of Spanish culture.

Return to the ship for a Spanish-themed dinner and evening of entertainment.

Sunday 29th July: EL PUERTO DE SANTA MARIA - ISLA MINIMA

Full board on board.



Tour of the Osborne cellar and tasting of local wines.

In the afternoon, cruise to Isla Minima, passing through the Doñana National Park. Tour of a genuine Andalusian hacienda located on the banks of the Guadalquivir followed by an equestrian show.

Monday 30th July: ISLA MINIMA - SEVILLE

Full board on board.



Departure by coach for a guided tour of the *Monastery of La Rabida*, where Christopher Columbus was received by Brother Perez before leaving for America. This monastery was one of two or three places in the world where navigation based on the stars was studied.



Then visit **El Parque de las Carabelas** where you can admire the reproductions of La Niña, La Pinta and La Santa María which were built in 1992 to celebrate the 5th Centenary of the Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. Besides the replicas of the boats, the **Muelle de las Carabelas Museum** has a visitor centre, the medieval quarter (recreated around the dock) and the Island of Encuentro, which attempts to recreate the indigenous culture of the island of Guanahani, the first island where Christopher Columbus disembarked on the 12th of October 1492, and which he named San Salvador.

Return to ship. Dinner on board.

Tuesday 31st July: SEVILLE

Full board.



Guided visit of Granada (UNESCO World Heritage Site). This grandiose and verdant site owes its prestige to its Moorish monuments, especially the Alhambra: a palace straight out of the 1001 nights. Discover the Generalife, a pleasure palace with attached romantic gardens. Free time and return to Seville.

Flamenco presentation on board and dinner.

Wednesday 1st August: SEVILLE - CORDOBA

Full board.



Day devoted to an excursion to Córdoba (UNESCO World Heritage Site), once part of the Caliphate of Cordoba. Enjoy a "tapas" lunch in a local restaurant. Return to Seville. Free time.

Gala evening.

Thursday 2nd August: SEVILLE

Buffet breakfast on board.

09.00 hrs: Disembark and load cases onto our coach

10.45 hrs: Refreshment break at Estepa (not included).



11.30 hrs: Guided tour (included) of "**Chocomundo, Museo de Chocolate**", the largest chocolate museum in Spain and considered as one of the best in the world.

13.00 hrs: Re-board our coach and travel to Antequera.



14.00 hrs: Short visit to the **Dolmens of Antequera** (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Because of the size, volume and weight of the stone blocks used, they are considered "one of the most important engineering and architectural works of European pre-history". The oldest two dolmens (Menga and Viera) date from the 3rd millennium BC and were made for rituals and funerary purposes



At the visitors' centre, there is a video explaining the site; then it is a 5/10 mins walk to see the Menga Dolmen, one of the largest megaliths overall in the world (the largest upright stone weighs 180 tonnes - by way of comparison, the heaviest stone at **Stonehenge**, in Wiltshire, weighs 40 tonnes). Optional or you can remain in the visitors' centre.



14.45 hrs: Re-board our coach for the short journey to our hotel for the night.

15.00 hrs: Check-in to the 4* *Hotel Finca Eslava*, a converted 18th-century manor house which has retained an authentic Spanish atmosphere. The hotel's restaurant serves traditional Andalusian food and there is also a bar where you can get a snack or a drink (not included).



Free time to enjoy the facilities of the hotel.

20.00 hrs: Dinner (included).

Friday 3rd August

08.00 hrs: Breakfast.

09.00 hrs: Check-out and load cases onto coach.

11.00 hrs: Guided visit (included) to *Quesos de Leyva*, a family business dedicated to the manufacturing of Artisan Cheese, produced in the *Finca El Castañuelo of Guadix*.



12.15 hrs: Re-board our coach and travel to Alhama de Murcia.

14.30 hrs: Light lunch (included) at the *Restaurante Venta Don Jamón*, Alhama de Murcia.



16.00 hrs: Re-board our coach for the return journey to Jávea.

18.00 hrs: Approx. arrival at Interiors, Jávea port.

The itinerary for the river cruise is organised by Croisi-Europe therefore any changes to the programme are out of our control. The itinerary to/from Seville is provisional until all the elements have been confirmed and may be subject to amendment.

COST DEPENDS ON STATEROOM CHOSEN

Upper deck @ €1284 pp

French Balcony rooms (with slide opening floor-ceiling windows).

Middle deck @ €1220 pp

with a large picture window.

Main deck @ €1040 pp

Riverview Staterooms with non-opening Porthole window views.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE: there will be the cost of the journey to/from Seville (no more than €300 pp in total) which includes coach travel, half-board accommodation in 4* hotels, excursions and entry fees as detailed in the itinerary, gratuities, and a light lunch included on the final day in a typical Spanish restaurant.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. Initial deposit of €100 pp on booking (+ additional deposit for single accommodation requested).
2. Further payment of €500 euros pp (€700 for singles) due on or before the general meeting in the Parador on Wednesday 27th September.
3. Further payment of €500 euros pp (€700 for singles) due on or before the general meeting in the Parador on Wednesday 28th February 2018)
4. Final balance (calculated according to cabin chosen) due on or before the general meeting in the Parador on Wednesday 30th May 2018.

Please note that deposits have been paid to Croisi-Europe and interim payments are required; also, both hotels require a substantial deposit; refunds are therefore only possible if cancelled places are sold on.

If you prefer to make your payment by bank transfer, please use the bank transfer code: River Cruise, and include your name. Please send us a copy of the bank transfer payment. See the SC&C page on the website for details of how to make a bank transfer.



Group Leaders: Angela Chantry & Tony Dearie