**MARSEILLES(France)**

MRS02 - AIX-EN-PROVENCE - 55 EURO

Duration: approx. 4 hours

We will leave Marseille port for a 40-minute drive to the lovely town of Aix-en-Provence. The excursion starts with a visit to the famous XII century St. Saviour’s Cathedral and gardens. The Cathedral was built on the site of a Roman Temple and dates from a period that spans the XI and XIII centuries. Fronted by a richly decorated Gothic-style portal with elaborately carved doors, the Cathedral is flanked on the north by an unfinished tower. Enjoy a pleasant walk (1,5 hours) through the historic town centre before reaching the famous Mazarino Quarter, a residential district created by Cardinal Mazarin’s brother in the last half of the XVII century for the gentry of Aix en Provence. Free time for shopping. Please note: this tour includes long periods of walking on uneven ground and is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. Conservative attire recommended for visiting places of religious importance.

MRS03 - CASSIS - 42 EURO

Duration: approx. 4.5 hours

Formerly a quiet fishing village on the southern coastline of France near Marseille, Cassis has grown into a charming small town and popular international tourist resort. The town is particularly famed for its cliffs, calanques – steep-walled inlets – and the local white and rosé wines. On leaving the port of Marseille, your tour begins with a 1-hour coach transfer, followed by a local train to the town. Once there, you will have plenty of time to stroll around Cassis’ charming streets, lined with the brightly coloured homes of the locals, and beautiful port as well as enjoy splendid views afforded from the waterfront. Your tour ends with your return trip back to the ship. Please note: the starting place of the local tourist train may be crowded so please expect some queues. On holidays shops may be closed. The little tourist train is available from 01.05.2017; for any call before this date, guests will walk to the city centre from the coach parking lot (approx. 500 mt.). This tour is available only until middle September.

MRS06 - MARSEILLES CITY TOUR - 52 EURO

Duration: approx. 4.5 hours

Join us on a visit around this important maritime town. We will begin our excursion with a visit to the Basilica of Notre Dame de la Garde which stands majestically on top of a hill. The Cathedral is made up of a lower and an upper church and was built on the site of an ancient chapel. Continue along the “Corniche” (coast road) where we will admire Borely Castle and garden (no inside visit). The excursion includes sightseeing in the centre of Marseilles and photos at Longchamps Palace before enjoying some free time in the “Vieux Port” (old port). Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair due to many steps and uphill path around the Basilica. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.

MRS07 - AVIGNON AND PANORAMIC OF MARSEILLES - 82 EURO

Duration: 7 hours, lunch not included

Our starting point for this day-long tour begins in Marseilles, at the Basilica of Notre Dame de la Garde. This Neo-Byzantine church stands on top of a hill and was designed by the French architect Esperandiu between 1853 and 1864. The site was formerly a XIII century chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Guard and features several votive offerings from safely returned sailors. Stop for an inside visit before continuing on a 1.5-hour coach ride to the medieval city of Avignon. Here we will visit the Palace of the Popes, an ancient fortress rich in galleries and chapels. The frescoes and hand-painted tapestries in the Popes’ bedrooms and private rooms bear witness to the former opulence of this residence. Make the most of your free time to stroll around and have lunch (non-inclusive) in one of the typical French brasserie-restaurants. Return to Marseilles for embarkation.

Please note: walking on uneven ground and steps. This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair due to many steps and uphill path around the Basilica in Marseilles. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. This tour is not available on following calls: 18.04.2017 (MSC Fantasia), 22.10.2017 and 31.10.2017 (MSC Preziosa), for guests on board MSC Splendida and during MSC Armonia calls scheduled from 09.00 to 16.00.

 MRS08 - MONTE CRISTO TOUR - 62 EURO

Duration: approx. 4 hours

A boat transfer will take you to the island of “Château d’If” for a guided visit of this fortified prison built between 1524-28 and which became a state prison in the XVII century. The popular XIX century French author, Alexandre Dumas, brought literary fame to the castle who used it as a setting for his adventure novel, the Count of Monte Cristo. The tour will continue to the “Frioul” island, not far from the historic port, where we will enjoy free time on the beach. Return to the ship. Please note: this tour operates from middle June until middle of September and is subject to weather conditions. This tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair.

MRS14 – DELUXE VISIT TO PROVENCE: AVIGNON & AIX-EN-PROVENCE - 82 EURO

Duration: approx. 7 hours, lunch not included

While the sun-kissed shores of southern France make ideal holiday destinations, the delightful towns lying inland are equally worth a visit. Designed to let you savour two such jewels, the outing begins with a 40-minute drive to Aix-en-Provence, where you will visit the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour. Sitting on the site of a former Roman forum and amalgamating a variety of architectural styles from the 5th to the 17th centuries, the Cathedral boasts a richly decorated Gothic façade with elaborately carved doors, and to the north of the building an unfinished tower. You will then walk through the historical district to reach the lovely Mazarin quarter, a residential area built for the town’s gentry in the second half of the 17th century. A chance to relax then follows on the 90-minute drive up to Avignon, after which you’ll have some time for lunch in one of the town’s many brasseries before moving on to the monumental Papal Palace, the seat of Christianity in the 14th century and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Rich in galleries and chapels as well as frescoes and hand-painted wall-hangings in the private papal suite, the palace still bears testament to its former opulence. The pleasant return drive to Marseille and your ship then brings the tour to an unhurried close. Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground and using stairs, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. The cost of lunch (optional) is not included in the price of the tour. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. This tour is not available on following calls: 18.04.2017 (MSC Fantasia), 22.10.2017 and 31.10.2017 (MSC Preziosa), for guests on board MSC Splendida and during MSC Armonia calls scheduled from 09.00 to 16.00.

MRS15 – BEST OF TWO CITIES: AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND MARSEILLE - 82 EURO

Duration: 8 hours, lunch not included

An all-day tour of two cities awaits that will take you to see both Aix-en-Provence and Marseille, two of the most popular destinations in the south of France. Initially remaining in Marseille, a coach will take you down the coastal Kennedy Corniche for views of the near-shore islands called “Les Îles”, before continuing on to the hilltop location of the Neo-Byzantine Basilica of Notre Dame de la Garde, where more superb vistas are a snapshot waiting to happen. Moving on down Marseille’s Palais Longchamps, you will head for the Vieux Port for some free time to explore. The many cafés and restaurants are perfect for coffee or a bite to eat (not included in the price of the tour) and the nearby Centre Bourse is ideal for all who love to shop. A 40-minute coach journey will then take you up to the beautiful university and spa town of Aix-en-Provence. A walk through the historical district will take you from the tree-lined Cours Mirabeau boulevard to the 17th-century residential Mazarin quarter, built to house the town’s gentry, en route to Place des Quatre Dauphins, its ornate “Four Dolphins” fountain and the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour, a blend of various architectural styles from the 5th to the 17th centuries. You will have some time to spend on your own at this lovely spot before the coach returns you to your ship. Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven ground and using stairs, it is unsuitable for guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. The cost of lunch (optional) is not included in the price of the tour. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. This tour is not available for guests on MSC Fantasia (call on 18.04.2017) for guests on board MSC Preziosa, MSC Meraviglia, MSC Splendida and during MSC Armonia calls scheduled from 09.00 to 16.00.

MRS19 ― CHARMING ARLES - 52 EURO

Duration: about 5 hours

Board a comfortable modern coach for an enjoyable 1.5-hour drive to the historical city of Arles located in the Camargue region in the south of France. The city was once the main Roman colony of ancient Gallia Narbonensis. UNESCO listed the city’s Roman and Romanesque monuments as World Heritage Sites in 1981. The Dutch post-impressionist painter, Vincent van Gogh, lived in Arles for a year between 1888 and 1889, during which time he produced more than 300 paintings and drawings. Your panoramic walking tour includes the main sights such as the Church of St. Trophime, which once held cathedral status, the “Place du Forum” that inspired van Gogh’s famous painting and the Roman amphitheatre, whose 120 arches date back to the 1st century. The amphitheatre was capable of seating more than 20,000 spectators and was built for providing entertainment for the masses in the form of chariot races and gladiators engaged in bloody hand-to-hand combat. You will have time to explore on your own before returning to the ship. Please note: as the tour involves walking on uneven and rough ground, it is not suitable guests with mobility problems or using a wheelchair. Comfortable shoes and a hat (in summer months) recommended as well as conservative attire for visiting places of religious importance.