



# SHORE EXCURSIONS

**9**  
nights

## STAR CLIPPER Morocco & Canary Islands



<b>Wed</b>	<b>Malaga, Spain</b>
<b>Thu</b>	Gibraltar, Great Britain
<b>Fri</b>	Tangier, Morocco
<b>Sat</b>	At sea
<b>Sun</b>	Casablanca, Morocco
<b>Mon</b>	Safi, Morocco
<b>Tue</b>	At sea
<b>Wed</b>	Arrecife, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain
<b>Thu</b>	Puerto del Rosario, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, Spain
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain</b>

### What you need to know before booking your shore excursion:

- All our tours are offered with English speaking guides.
- The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace.
- The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication. Passengers should be fit and active to join tours which include hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating, or similar activities.

### How you can book your shore excursions:

- You can book shore excursions onboard, using our "sign-up lists" available at the library.
- In order to provide the best service and to avoid disappointments, please book your shore excursions as early as possible: places are limited and there is a booking deadline for each port.
- A minimum number of participants is required for tours; if the required number is not attained, the tour may be cancelled.

### Important notes:

- Departure times of the tour are mentioned on the daily program of each port.
- The Captain reserves the right to alter the itinerary in order to suit wind, weather and local conditions.
- Cancellation and changes are possible until the booking deadline. After the booking deadline, 100 % cancellation fees will be charged.
- All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However, Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions. Last updated tour descriptions are available in a file at the library.

Date of last update : 5<sup>th</sup> of May2023

## GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar is situated on the southernmost tip of the Iberian Peninsula, guarding the gateway to the Mediterranean. Neighbouring countries include Spain to the north, and Morocco (North Africa) to the south, only 15 miles (24km) away across the strait. The Rock consists mainly of Jurassic Limestone some 200 million years old. One of the attractions of Gibraltar is its VAT free status, making it a shopper's paradise. Most of the shops are on and around Main Street.

### History & Heritage Tour

Duration: 02:00 approx.

Price: 55 €

Min 16 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: minibus

Activity level: moderate

With driver-guide

You will board the minibus and head North towards the frontier with Spain. On the way you will cross a World War II runway which was used by General Eisenhower during "Operation Torch", the allied invasion of North Africa. The minibus will then drive to Europa Point, the southernmost point of Gibraltar. On a clear day you can see views of North Africa from across the strait, including Ceuta and the Rif mountains of Morocco. From Europa point the tour proceeds to one of Gibraltar's most popular attractions, the Ape's Den; Barbary Macaques at liberty, the only free roaming apes in Europe. Barbary apes are normally found in North Africa and it is thought that they were imported from Morocco by the first British garrisons. Legend has it that if the apes disappear, the British will be forced to leave Gibraltar. Superstitious nonsense? Maybe, but Winston Churchill wasn't taking any chances; when the ape population dwindled during World War II, he quickly had some more shipped in to make up the numbers.

Next on the agenda is a visit to the Great Siege Tunnels. This impressive defense system inside the Rock, was built during the Great siege of 1783, when France and Spain decided to join forces to wrest Gibraltar from the British.

After the visit you will drive back to the pier.

Please note: There will be driver-guides on the tour. The terrain is by turns flat, hilly, or cobblestoned. It is not recommended for guests with mobility issues as there is a lot of walking through tunnels. The order of the itinerary on this tour may be reversed.

### Gibraltar's Rock tour

Duration: 02:00 approx.

Price: 55 €

Min 16 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: minibus

Activity level: moderate

With driver-guide

You will board the minibus and head North towards the frontier with Spain. On the way you will cross a World War II runway which was used by General Eisenhower during "Operation Torch", the allied invasion of North Africa. The minibus will then drive to Europa Point, the southernmost point of Gibraltar. On a clear day you can see views of North Africa from across the strait, including Ceuta and the Rif mountains of Morocco. From Europa point the excursion continues to the upper rock and St Michael's cave. The cave was created by rainwater slowly seeping through the limestone and turning into a carbonic acid solution that dissolved the rock. Over a period of thousands of years tiny crevices grew into long passages and deep caverns with an amazing collection of stalactites and stalagmites. The cave was well known to the Greeks and Romans and was the subject of many legends. It was thought that the Cathedral Cave was a bottomless pit, and the fantastic rock formations made it easy to believe that it was in fact the gateway to the Underworld. These days the cave has lost its sinister reputation and is used to stage live shows, concerts and an annual World Music festival. After visiting the cave we will pay our respects to some of Gibraltar's most popular residents, the famous Barbary Macaques, the only free roaming apes in Europe. Incidentally one legend relates that the apes found their way to Gibraltar from Morocco by following a subterranean passage under the strait which ends up at St Michael's cave. The tour excursion continues to the old town and city centre before returning to the ship.

Please note: the terrain is by turns flat, hill and cobblestoned. The ground at St Michael's cave is wet and slippery and there are a lot of steps. There will be driver-guides on the tour.



## TANGIER

**Tetouan**

Duration: 06:00 approx.

Price: 85 €

Min 15 / Max 30 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Lunch included

Tetouan, set amidst the Rif Mountains, has the charm of all small Moroccan towns in the north, as well as a rich historical heritage. It was founded in 1307 as a military stronghold to defend the country against the Portuguese who had conquered Ceuta and welcomed many of the Muslims who were expelled from Andalusia.

Tetouan itself used to be a part of Spain and its architecture is a wonderful blend of Spanish and Arab influences.

The town currently has 65000 inhabitants and is growing rapidly.

You will drive along the Mediterranean coast towards Cape Malabata and continue towards the Rif mountains before reaching Tetouan. The sightseeing will take you on a walk through characteristic narrow streets as you explore the Medina and the souks. Enjoy a traditional Moroccan lunch before you return to Tangier.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking over cobblestone surfaces with some steps and uneven surfaces to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The drive between Tangier and Tetouan takes approx. 1:15 (each way).

**Asilah and Tangier**

Duration: 08:00 approx.

Price: 85 €

Min 15 / Max 35 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Lunch included

Asilah, a beautiful, relaxed city on Morocco's North Atlantic coast, is well worth a visit. You will find a well-preserved Medina and whitewashed houses, accentuated by a touch of blue on the doors and walls.

Asilah has a thriving artistic community, and as you stroll around town you will see examples of their work adorning the walls of some of the houses.

Drive back to Tangiers with a photo stop at Cap Spartel. You will stop at a local restaurant to enjoy a traditional Moroccan lunch before you start the visit of the old town.

Visit the Kasbah with its Moorish architecture, traditionally decorated doors and narrow alleys.

Enjoy a walk through the Medina and its colorful souks. You will have some free time for shopping before you come back to the port.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking over cobblestone surfaces with some steps and uneven surfaces to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

The drive from Tangiers to Asilah takes approx. 1h15min each way.



**Tangier and cooking class**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Price: 109 €

Min 4 / Max 11 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Lunch included

Tangier, the gateway to Morocco, stands at the cross-roads of Europe, Africa, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Until independence in 1956 Tangier was an international zone and there is still an air of cosmopolitan mystery about the city. Drive to the Kasbah, with its Moorish architecture, traditionally decorated doors, and its narrow winding alleyways. Explore the Medina and visit its souk and the spice shop, before you reach "Blue Door Cuisine", where your cooking class will take place. After an overview of classic Moroccan dishes and cooking techniques, learn how to make local recipes and prepare traditional dishes of Moroccan gastronomy. You will spend a couple of hours in the kitchen preparing a tagine before you enjoy the lunch. At the end of the lunch, some tea will be served with selected Moroccan pastries.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking over cobblestone surfaces with some steps and uneven surfaces to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

Guests will assist and prepare themselves a Tagine with explanation from the head chef and translation will be secured by the guide.

**CADIZ, SPAIN****Cádiz walking tour and flamenco show**

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Price: 55 €

Min 10 / Max 30 participants

Transportation: walking tour

Activity level: moderate

Founded in 1100 BC by the Phoenicians, Cadiz is the oldest existing city in Western Europe and has remained one of Spain's principal ports for nearly a thousand years. The walking tour starts from the pier and the first stop will be Plaza San Juan de Dios, from where you will access the historic old quarter of the city.

As you navigate your way through the narrow streets, you will see many historic buildings such as the majestic 18th century baroque cathedral and the elegant 19th century palaces that line Calle Ancha all the way to the Plaza de la Mina.

Your next stop will be at the *tablaó* Flamenco Marquez de Cadiz, where you will be treated to an exciting performance of Spanish dancing, powerful, energetic, electrifying and hypnotic, there is nothing quite like Flamenco.

Rhythmically tapping heels, clicking castanets, guitar and the emotionally charged voices of the singers blend to create a truly mesmerizing experience.

During the entertainment you will get the opportunity to taste some delicious tapas.

Afterwards, your guide will accompany you back to pier, passing by Plaza España with its famous monument celebrating the 1812 constitution, set against a backdrop of lush gardens.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking over cobblestone surfaces with some steps and uneven surfaces to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.



**Seville on your own**

Duration: 08:00 approx.

Price: 55 €

Min 15 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

With an escort (no guided tour) - Lunch not included (free time)

Escape to a sprawling panorama of the Andalusian countryside with Sherry wine groves and wheat fields during the journey to the city of Seville aboard an air-conditioned motor coach. Once there, receive a map of Seville from your excursion escort and then explore the magnificent city of Seville at your very own pace. You may discover the 14th-century, Royal Palace of Alcazar and visit the resting place of Christopher Columbus before marveling at the luminous Capilla Mayor altar at the age-old Cathedral. Or you may enjoy a refreshment at a local "Tapas Restaurant" before making your way to the exclusive shopping boulevards "Calle Sierpes" and "Calle Tetuan". Withdraw to the hustle and bustle of the quaint Santa Cruz Quarter and lose yourself in a maze of winding streets and whitewashed houses. After approximately 4 hours of independent sightseeing and exploration, return to your meeting point and embark on a relaxing trip back to your ship.

Please note: This tour does not include a tour guide. The visit in Seville is entirely on your own (free time), no visit is included, no lunch included, no entrance fees included. This tour includes return trip from Cádiz to Seville, assistance service (English-speaking escort), and a map of Seville.

Walking is at guests' discretion but is required for full enjoyment of the tour. Much of the area is covered in cobblestones. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts are allowed). The drive between Cádiz and Seville takes approx. 01:30 (each way).

**CASABLANCA****Panoramic Casablanca and Hassan II mosque**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Price: 45 €

Min 10 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Thanks to the iconic Hollywood movie, Casablanca is forever immortalized in the collective psyche as the classical colonial outpost, oozing romance, glamour, and intrigue.

It is Morocco's largest city and industrial center and was remodeled by the French who designed wide boulevards, public parks, and imposing Moorish civic buildings. The port of Anfa (the old name for Casablanca) has a long history and is a strategic axis for the neighboring regions of Chaouia, Rehamnas and Tadra. It also served as the main link with Europe, facilitating the export of cereals, wool, beeswax, and oil.

While Casablanca's rich heritage can still be seen in the bazaars, souks, Medina and mosques, it is also a dynamic forward looking industrial center, making its way in the modern world with confidence and pride.

The Habous district reflects the harmony between old and new, European and Moroccan influences which typifies Casablanca. The district was created by the French in the 1930's but is so well integrated into the fabric of local life that it seems to have been there forever. You will discover pleasant shady squares and narrow streets lined with arcades leading from one souk to another. Coppersmiths shape teapots, cauldrons, vases, trays and candlesticks, and the bazaar is bursting with color and scents. Visit the fragrant olive souk, the fruit stalls and the vendors of spices and oils and admire the antique shops.

La Corniche, Casablanca's waterfront boulevard, is a great place to relax with a drink, take a dip in the sea or enjoy an evening of music.

Mohamed V square is the heart of the city and stands between the two contrasting sides of the metropolis: the medina and the elegant modern section with its wide boulevards.

Casablanca boasts some of the most outstanding examples of Moorish architecture in the land. The Hassan II Mosque is the most recent jewel in the city's crown. It towers majestically skyward and a laser beam visible up to 22 miles away shines at the top of the minaret and shows the direction of Mecca. 3300 craftsmen from all over the kingdom worked on the project, creating the world's tallest minaret (200m high) and a retractable roof which can transform the prayer hall into a magnificent



patio in just three minutes. The building of the mosque necessitated 10000 m of intricate sculpted decorations, 67000 m of plaster and 53000 m of wood. The nave is breathtaking, with a prayer room large enough to hold 25000 worshippers and an esplanade for a further 80000. It is a gem of religious architecture, subtly combining Moroccan tradition with state-of-the-art technology.

Please note: The order of the visits may vary. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Modest clothing is required for visiting the mosque.

### Rabat

Duration: 05:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 49 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 / Max 40 participants

Rabat is the fourth of the Imperial cities. It combines an illustrious past with a highly modernized present. The city's glory days were in the 12th century, when the then Sultan used the Kasbah as a base for campaigns against the Spanish. It was during this time that the city's most famous landmarks were built. A haven for Muslims driven out of Spain in the early 17th century and a capital city since French colonial times, Rabat's cultural influences are both Arab and European in equal measure.

The city's most famous site is the Tour Hassan, which stands 44m high, although it was originally intended to reach 80m. This majestic, unfinished architectural masterpiece was the brainchild of Sultan Yacoub El Mansour, whose ambition was to build the biggest mosque in the Muslim world. Alongside it, but separated by many centuries, stands the Mohamed V Mausoleum, the construction of which began in 1962. Mohamed V led Morocco to independence and this sumptuous monument expresses the nation's gratitude. The exterior comprises a magnificent white marble pavilion surmounted by a roof of green tiles and inside the exquisitely crafted burial chamber lies a tomb of white onyx.

You will also see the Chellah Necropolis built in the 14th century by the Merinids, a Berber dynasty, on the site of the ancient Roman city of Sala. An elegant stone and tile minaret, now topped by a stork's nest, stands guard over the tombs; it is all that is left of a once impressive mosque. Behind the mosque there is the ruined tomb of Abu al-Hasan and his wife and the tombs of various saints. There is also a pool teeming with eels, the Bassin aux Anguilles. According to local lore, feeding boiled eggs to these creatures brings fertility and easy childbirth. Chellah is a truly enchanting site which seems to be bathed in an aura of tranquility. The ruined tombs, vestiges of past glory, and luxuriant vegetation make a lasting impression on the visitor.

The last site on the excursion is the Kasbah des Oudayas, overlooking the ocean. This veritable city within a city was named after the Oudaya tribe, who were sent to Rabat by Sultan Moulay Ismail to defend the city against the invincible Andalusian pirates. The western ramparts were added by Sultan Yacouba al Mansour who built the oldest mosque in Rabat, Jamaa El Atiq, in about 1150. Stroll down the narrow streets and admire the pristine blue and white houses while you soak up the atmosphere of this historical site. You will then drive back to Casablanca.

Please note: The order of the visits may vary. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

Inside visits include: Mausoleum of Mohamed V and Hassan Tower, Kasbah of the Oudayas

Outside visits: the Mechouar (surroundings of the Royal Palace), panoramic view of the Chellah Kasbah

The Royal Palace and the Mausoleum can be closed without any prior notice if the King or a member of his family is in Rabat or when there is an official visit.

The drive to Rabat takes about 1h15 each way.



## SAFI, MOROCCO

**Marrakech**

Duration: 11:00/11:30 approx.

Transportation: motorcoach

Price: 115 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 / Max 35 participants

Lunch included

The Pearl of the South, also known as the «Rose City » because of its pink tinged walls and buildings, Marrakesh has long been hosting to international personalities and jetsetters. The city was founded over 900 years ago by a mysterious warrior hailing from the Sahara, Yusef ben Tachfine, and since time immemorial it has been an important crossroads of Arabic, Berber and Sudanese civilizations.

Its wonderful dry climate and incomparably beautiful location in the midst of a 3500-acre palm grove at the foot of the snowcapped Atlas Mountains make it one of Morocco's most popular travel destinations.

The excursion will start with a visit to the magnificent Bahia Palace where enchanting Moorish gardens surround beautiful buildings with finely wrought sculpted ceilings. You will then proceed to the Medina, the ancient, fortified city guarded by battlements. Here you will see the famous Koutoubia minaret, a landmark which is visible from practically anywhere in Marrakesh. After enjoying a typical Moroccan lunch and a performance of traditional folklore, you will be ready to explore the heart of Marrakesh, the famed Djema El Fna Square with its snake charmers, tooth-extractors, story tellers and acrobats who perform daily around sunset. The pleasantly cool and shady medina houses dozens of handicraft guilds from wool dyers to copper smiths and spice vendors. From Jemaa El Fna square there are several entries to the different souks, and you will have some leisure time for browsing at the end of the tour.

Please note: The order of the visits may vary. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

Lunch is included and will be served at a local restaurant. You will get to taste some delicious Moroccan specialties.

This tour involves a long drive: 3 hours between Safi and Marrakesh (each way).

**Marrakech and the gardens of Majorelle**

Duration: 11:00/11:30 approx.

Transportation: motorcoach

Price: 115 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 / Max 35 participants

Lunch included

Marrakesh, the Red City, is the most important of the four Imperial Cities and indeed from medieval times until around the beginning of the 20th century, the entire country of Morocco was known as the "Kingdom of Marrakesh".

The city boasts a long and eventful history spanning some one thousand years. Powerful monarchs have fought over the territory, which has seen the rise and fall of successive dynasties each leaving its mark in the form of magnificent palaces straight out of the "Arabian Nights", fabulous gardens, mosques, and koranic schools. Home to intellectuals and writers as well as talented craftsmen, this bustling trading center is an exotic blend of Arab, Berber and sub-Saharan influences and is the undisputed capital of Southern Morocco.

The drive to Marrakesh takes approximately 3 hours, but there will be a 10-minute comfort stop on the way.

Upon arrival you will discover the glorious Majorelle Gardens, created by the French painter Jacques Majorelle over a forty-year period. Majorelle, who was an avid plant collector, assembled specimens from the five continents, using his artistic sensibility to compose and color his garden like a painting. The villa and gardens were bought by Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent in 1980 and lovingly restored. The building used by Majorelle as an artist's studio now houses a magnificent collection of Islamic art belonging to Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent and when Saint Laurent died in 2008 his ashes were scattered over the rose garden.

Next you will see the Koutoubia Mosque, the largest mosque in Marrakesh. This landmark building can be seen from almost everywhere in the city. Its iconic minaret, topped by four copper spheres, is as much a symbol of Marrakesh as the Eiffel tower is of Paris. Legend has it that the spheres were originally three in number and made of gold. The fourth sphere was added by the wife of the ruler Moulay Yacoub who melted down all her jewelry as a penance for breaking her fast during Ramadan. Non-



Muslims are not allowed to enter the mosque, but you will be able to visit the surrounding gardens.

You will then take a break to enjoy a typical Moroccan lunch (including wine, mineral water and tea).

Next stop is the Ben Youssef Madrasa. Founded in the Fourteenth century, it was once the biggest koranic school in North Africa welcoming 900 pupils who all lived on site, sleeping in dormitories built around a central courtyard. It functioned as a school up until the 1960's but is now a historical monument, delighting visitors with its mosaics and intricately carved interior decoration.

After a visit to the old town and the many different souks selling carpets, metal work, clothing, spices, and leather goods, you will walk to Djamma El Fna Square, which is the heart of Marrakesh. These days however the square is teeming with snake charmers, water sellers, fortune tellers, acrobats, musicians, henna artists, and story tellers as well as a constant stream of locals and tourists. You will have approx. one hour at leisure to soak up the amazing atmosphere before the journey back to the ship.

Please note: The order of the visits may vary. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

Lunch is included. You will have the opportunity to taste delicious Moroccan specialties.

This tour includes a long drive: 3 hours between Safi and Marrakech (each way).

### Essaouira

Duration: 07:00/07:30 approx.

Transportation: motorcoach

Price: 125 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 / Max 35 participants

Lunch included

Set within ancient red colored walls, Essaouira is undoubtedly one of Morocco's most enjoyable and attractive coastal towns. You will be charmed by the gleaming whitewashed houses with blue shutters, the art galleries, wood workshops, and the fishermen with their colorful boats. The town faces a group of rocky islands and is surrounded by an expanse of empty sandy beaches and dunes. Everything is within walking distance and the beaches are quite clean.

The tranquility of present day Essaouira contrasts with its rich and turbulent history. The Portuguese built a fortress here in 1506, Castelo Real of Mogador (the former name for Essaouira), and throughout the sixteenth century foreign powers such as England, France, Spain and the Netherlands tried to conquer the locality. Indeed, this ancient trading and fishing port has been shaped by many different foreign influences over the years, giving the town not only a charming mixture of Portuguese, Berber, and French architecture, but above all a unique sense of tolerance and the laid-back atmosphere which makes Essaouira so appealing.

Please note: The order of the visits may vary. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Lunch is served in a sea food restaurant; you will have some free time after the lunch.

You will visit Bab Marrakech square, La Scala, the Old town and "le Vieux port".

This tour involves a long drive: 2 hours between Safi and Essaouira (each way)





**ARRECIFE (LANZAROTE), SPAIN****Timanfaya National Park and La Geria vineyards**

Duration: 03:30 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 55 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 / Max 80 participants

On this tour you will board your coach and set off to the southern part of the island, passing the picturesque villages of Macher and Uga and crossing streams of black lava before we get to the southwest coast and the site called El Golfo for a photo stop (green lake).

We will then proceed to Timanfaya National Park which extends over a unique volcanic landscape created between 1730 and 1736 when more than 100 volcanoes covering 50 km devastated this part of the island, destroying several villages in the process. The last eruptions were in 1824 but because of the very low rainfall on the island and lack of erosion the site has remained intact and appears much as it did just after the eruptions, a natural museum.

On Isote de Hilaro hill you will see that the thermal power of the volcanoes is still visible. Park workers will show you how dry weeds thrown on the ground catch fire instantly, while water poured into a hole produces steam like a mini geyser. Food can even be cooked as the heat from the earth's core serves as a natural grill.

On the « Lunar Route » to the heart of the national park we will learn about the history of the volcanoes and see rare plants which illustrate how life can slowly conquer even the most inhospitable environment.

The excursion continues with a visit to the La Geria wine growing area where locals have learned over the centuries to adapt wine growing techniques to this unique landscape and produce the famous Malvasia wines.

You will be amazed to see vine plants being grown in the black pitted holes left by volcanoes, and there you will visit a local wine cellar so you can sample the wine before returning to the ship.

Please note: This tour includes a long panoramic drive on mountain winding roads, so this is not the ideal tour for guests suffering from motion sickness.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

**PUERTO DEL ROSARIO (FUERTEVENTURA), SPAIN****Flavours of Fuerteventura**

Duration: 04:30

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 55 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 / Max 80 participants

The excursion starts from the port of Puerto del Rosario where you will board your motor coach and drive in comfort along the eastern coast road. You will then head north to Tefia, and the "La Alkogida" Ecomuseum.

The museum comprises several houses and one main building. You will get an idea of what life was like in the island before modern civilization came to Fuerteventura and how the "Majoreros" lived in the past. You will also see the animals that shared this hard and frugal life, goats, donkeys, and camels. There are authentic bread ovens and mills, and artisans give live demonstrations of crafts such as embroidery, basket weaving, pottery, cheese making and forging. Visitors can buy the local "gofio" or bread made on site, or purchase handicrafts such as pottery, brass work, baskets, embroidery and objects made from wood or palms.

Next you will be taken to one of the Aloe Vera plantations in Fuerteventura. The Aloe Vera plant is indigenous to the Canary Islands, and you will learn all about its cultivation and the way it is used in cosmetics and in the medical industry.

After the presentation you have the possibility to purchase some aloe vera products. Finally, we will stop at the Cheese Museum in Antigua, where you will discover the island through its rich cheese making tradition. During the visit you will have a chance to sample some of the goat's cheese yourself. The museum has various areas to discover. Find out about the island's volcanic origins, its flora fauna and the Majorera goats and their famous cheese, all organized around a central patio. The



museum is also home to the original Antigua Windmill, found in perfect working condition. Don't miss the chance to enjoy the cactus garden, a green treasure with species which only grow on this island as well as other species from all over the world.

Please note: Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The order of the visits may change.

The drive between the port to La Algogida takes approx. 40 minutes.

The drive between the Cheese Museum and the pier takes approx. 30 minutes.

#### **4x4 adventure in Fuerteventura**

Duration: 04:00

Price: 75 €

Min 6 / Max 18 participants

Transportation: 4x4 vehicle

Activity level: moderate

Driver-guide (no guide onboard)

You will leave the pier in Puerto del Rosario and head towards La Oliva a town and municipality in the northern part of the island. We will stop at the town where you will be given all the necessary information about the jeep tour as well as safety guidelines.

The excursion continues in a north westerly direction until we reach Playa Aguilla, so called because it stretches out like an eagle's wings. Enjoy breathtaking cliff top views of the west coast extending towards El Cotillo, which will be your next stop. El Cotillo is a small fishing village which boasts beautiful beaches and pristine lagoons, and you will have ample time to relax and admire the beach.

On the return journey we will drive off the beaten track to the famous Dunes of Corralejo, 2600 ha of fine white sand, an amazingly unspoiled desert landscape. Don't forget to take your cameras as there will be time for a photo stop before returning to the ship.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with limited mobility, pregnant women or anyone suffering from conditions (back, neck or other) which may be affected by bumpy roads.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Each vehicle can accommodate 6 passengers.

#### **Aloe Vera workshop**

Duration: 03:30

Price: 42 €

Min 15 / Max 24 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: easy

The Aloe Vera plant is renowned for its healing properties – anaesthetic, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory. It has recently become popular again and can be found in almost as many household products as in medicinal items.

Just three of the 300 Aloe Vera species have these healing properties and one of the best, 'Barbadenzus Miller' is grown in Fuerteventura.

After your transfer from the pier to the village of Tiscamanita you will be taken to the Aloe Vera fields to see them growing and find out how they get their nutrients from the land. This is followed by a closer look at the plant, considering its arid environment; you may be surprised to learn that the plant has a very moist jelly-like consistency. This is the part of the plant that is so rich in nutrients and is wonderful to rub directly onto your skin.

A walk around the processing plant then brings you to the workshop. The workshop is a fun lesson in making your own totally natural face mask, incorporating the fresh Aloe Vera, citrus and avocado – you'll be able to take the mask you made away with you. Not only is Aloe good for your skin, but promotes healthy digestion, so you'll have the opportunity to try it in thirst quenching juice cocktails before returning to the pier.

Please note: The drive between the port and the Aloe Vera Plantation takes approx. 30 minutes (each way).

