



# SHORE EXCURSIONS

**7**  
nights

## STAR CLIPPER

### Malta, Balearics & Spain (Málaga to Malta)



<b>Fri</b>	<b>Malaga, Spain</b>
Sat	Almeria, Spain
Sun	Cartagena, Spain
Mon	Ibiza, Balearic Islands, Spain
Tue	Mahon, Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain
Wed	At sea
Thu	Cagliari, Sardinia
Fri	At sea
Sat	Gozo, Malta
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Valletta, Malta</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, kayaking, 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: 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

### ALMERÍA, SPAIN

During the course of its long history many different civilizations chose to settle in Almeria, attracted by the town's strategic location on the Mediterranean. Traces of these lost civilizations can be found in the archaeological remains scattered throughout the province. The Moors founded the current capital in the 10th century using it as a base from which to rule over one of the most important "taifas" or kingdoms in Muslim Spain. There is a strong Arab influence in Spain as the Moorish occupation lasted nearly 8 centuries.

The old town with its narrow streets can only be visited on foot. You could see the impressive Alcazaba Palace, fief of the Moorish kings (caliphs) as well as the cathedral and admire its Gothic architecture and renaissance façades.

The cathedral looks rather like a fortress and indeed it was not only a place of worship but also served as a bastion against marauding Berber pirates.

#### Time at leisure (no tours in program)

### CARTAGENA, SPAIN

The Port of Cartagena is a natural harbor, ideally situated in a deep bay protected by the surrounding mountains.

This strategic location has been a magnet for settlers throughout the ages and has contributed enormously to the city's development and importance.

In the late 3rd century BC the Carthaginians established a trading post here. Fast-forward to the 18th century when the Bourbon King Carlos III picked Cartagena to be one of Spain's main naval bases, a status it still enjoys today.

#### A Tale of two cities: Cartagena and Murcia

Duration: 05:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 65 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 12 / Max 60 participants

The route from Cartagena to the hinterland crosses fertile farmland before wending its way through the mountain pass of the "Mountains of the Chain" to reach Murcia, the charming provincial capital.

There will be a visit to the Old Quarter of the city of Murcia and its beautiful 13th century cathedral (outside only). The façade of the cathedral is considered to be one of the best examples of Baroque architecture to be found anywhere in Spain.

Drive back to Cartagena and discover with a walking tour this charming city with a superb natural harbor.

The tour starts by the Monument to the Heroes of Cavite and the Town Hall, and then continues along the pedestrian main street where you can admire the 18th century doorway of the casino as well as some delightful modern houses. The city has a rich history and Roman excavations can be seen below street level, protected by glass panels. There is also a Roman Theatre, discovered by chance in 1897, with rows of seats built into the hillside. The commemorative inscriptions indicate that it was built in the late 1st century BC at the height of the Roman colony's urban development.

Please note: The order of the visits may change. This excursion involves extensive walking over cobblestone surfaces with some steps and uneven surfaces to negotiate. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Driving time to Murcia takes approx. 1 hour (each way).



## IBIZA, SPAIN

**Discover Ibiza on a 4x4 adventure**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Price: 109 €

Min 12 / Max 24 participants

Transportation: 4x4 vehicle

Activity level: moderate

Driver-guide (no guide onboard)

Discover Ibiza on our « off the beaten track » 4x4 adventure – a fantastic opportunity to discover unusual places, inaccessible by coach.

The excursion starts directly from the pier where you will climb aboard your jeep and be driven inland “off the beaten track” to explore areas of the island untouched by the growing tourist industry, places which have remained unchanged for hundreds of years. The scenic itinerary has been specially designed to showcase all of Ibiza’s original beauty, passing through small country settlements, green valleys and mountain tracks to enable you to see the island from a new perspective, not as a clubber’s paradise, but as a perfectly preserved environment where Nature holds sway.

During the tour you will visit the wonderful beach of Sa Caleta, Es Vedrà viewpoint, a magical site according to locals and round-off your tour at Cala Comte, where you will have some free time to have a drink or go for a swim if you like.

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.

For the stop at the beach, guests who plan to swim are advised to wear a swimsuit under their clothes and to bring a towel from the ship and sunscreen.

## MAHON (MINORCA), SPAIN

**Hiking in S’Albufera nature reserve**

Duration: 03:15 approx.

Price: 59 €

Min 15 / Max 50 participants

Transportation: transfer by air-conditioned minibus

Activity level: moderate

A short 15-minute drive will take you to a typical Minorcan fishing village, Es Grau, located within the boundaries of the S’Albufera nature reserve. The park covers the wetlands, a marshy coastal area consisting of a 2km lagoon, enclosed by a system of dunes, and a river which flows into the sea.

You will be taken on an itinerary designed to showcase the flora and fauna of the wetlands. The park is home to a wide variety of bird life; waterfowl such as ducks, common coots, herons, and European shags live alongside birds of prey including osprey’s, kites and booted eagles, while the torrents and ponds of the wetlands are populated by Iberian green frogs and toads.

The vegetation consists mainly of wild olive trees, holm oak, lentisk shrubs, jasmine box and tree spurge.

The hike will take you on the “Cami de Cavalls”, a bridle path which goes right round the island, through woodland, and then along the water reserve which leads to Es Grau beach.

From here you will proceed along a winding path up to the headland overlooking Isla Colom off the north coast.

You will continue down to Cala Tamarells before heading back along the beach to Es Grau village.

This excursion is a must for all nature lovers, the wildlife is abundant in this protected area and the coastal views are simply stunning.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over uneven surfaces (approx. 5 km walk).

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



**CAGLIARI (SARDINIA), ITALY**

Cagliari is the capital city of the Italian island of Sardinia. It's known for its hilltop Castello, a medieval walled quarter situated high above the rest of the town. It has a rich and varied heritage reflected in its buildings that includes Baroque churches, Medieval towers, Italian Art Nouveau as well as Roman stonework. Sardinia's fabled beaches are also accessible and as you would expect the restaurants in and around the town are excellent to.

**Su Nuraxi Barumini and tasting**

Duration: 05:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 89 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 / Max 22 participants

Visit the Barumini Unesco world heritage site with our guide and learn about the prehistoric culture that built the "Nuraghi", a special type of defensive structure for which no parallel exists anywhere else in the world.

These severe and imposing megalithic buildings from the Bronze Age are one of the most characteristic aspects of the Sardinian landscape.

Our tour starts with an approx. one-hour drive through the Campidano plane, the largest plain in the region and once considered the granary of the Roman Empire.

Barumini's "nuraghe" is the largest "nuraghe" in Sardinia, and it is also the most famous and important archaeological sites in the island due to its state of conservation and its imposing architecture.

The building was intended for a single family but subsequently, following the political and social evolution of the island, the main tower was incorporated into a structure composed of other four towers and, over time, the "nuraghe" became a fortified village, a small urban settlement inhabited by families of soldiers and craftsmen.

After discovering this ancient culture, enjoy a tasting of Sardinian products (wine, cheese, cold cuts, special bread), before returning back to the port.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking /standing (approx. 2 km walk) over cobblestone and uneven surfaces with many steps to negotiate at the archeological site.

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 Cagliari and Barumini takes approx. 01:10 (each way).

**Ancient Nora**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 59 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 / Max 35 participants

After departing the pier by coach with your local guide, you will be offered an orientation tour of Cagliari with photo stops in front of Basilica of Bonaria and at Monte Uripino (Panoramic point) then along the south-western coast. You will proceed along the same itinerary that, every year, thousands of pilgrims cover walking while following St. Eufisio cart, a Roman soldier and a Christian Martyr.

After passing St. Gilla's lagoon and the homonymous saline, you will arrive at Nora. Founded by the Phoenicians Nora enjoys a scenic location on the sea front, between two hills and dominated by the Spanish Tower.

The city had two harbors, one sheltered from the west winds and the other from the Mistral.

First a Carthaginian and then a Roman town, Nora declined and disappeared around the third century A.D., apparently as a result of an earthquake that caused the town to sink into the surrounding sea. Today the most easily visible are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse as well as the Roman ruins: beautiful mosaics, temples, patrician villas, the baths and a theatre, almost completely intact, dating from the time of the Empire.

Following your guided visit, re-board your coach to return to your ship.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves an extensive walk on uneven surfaces and standing (approx. 1:30 inside the site).

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 Cagliari and Nora takes approx. 45-minutes (each way).



## GOZO, MALTA

The charm of Malta's sister island Gozo is immediately apparent. Steeped in myth, Gozo is thought to be the legendary Calypso's isle of Homer's *Odyssey*. It's green, rural and calm, relying on fishing and agriculture as well as tourism. It is one of the Mediterranean's top diving destinations with an incredible range of shore and boat dives including reefs, caves and wrecks. There are also Knight's watchtowers, tiny chapels and beautiful peaceful beaches to explore.

**Highlights of Gozo**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Price: 65 €

Min 15 / Max 70 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

The Ggantija Temples are two prehistoric temples on Gozo, the second largest island in Malta. One of them is considered to be the oldest stone structure in the world, predating the Giant Pyramids and Stonehenge by several hundred years.

The temples are dedicated to the Great Earth Mother, and the round curved architecture symbolizes the body of a powerful full figured Mother goddess.

Local legend recounts that a female giant built the temple walls in one day and a night, while nursing a baby at the same time, and indeed the name Ggantija is Maltese for Giant's grotto.

The temples were a place of pilgrimage and sacrifice for the ancient peoples of Malta. Take a walk around this fascinating site before heading off to Victoria the capital of Gozo. Victoria (so named in honor of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee celebrations in 1887) nestles beneath a powerful old citadel. The walled castle dominates the town, and its fortifications afford superb panoramic views of the whole island. Inside the citadel you can admire the fine baroque cathedral, built on the site of a Roman temple dedicated to Juno.

After leaving Victoria, you will drive to the Basilica of Ta Pinu, which became a center of pilgrimage in 1883 after a local woman heard the voice of Our Lady while praying in the small chapel which once occupied the site. The monumental shrine which stands there now was built between 1920 and 1931. You can explore the church and enjoy the sweeping coastal views.

The next stop takes you to Fungus Rock known as the Dwejra Seascape. Admire this unique rock formation before continuing across the east coast to capture the coastal views of Ramla l-Hamara (The Red Beach). On the drive back to the pier there will be a photo stop to take pictures of the wonderful view across to Comino Island, also a location used for the movies "Troy" and the "Count of Montecristo".

Please note: The order of the visits may vary. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking 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. Proper attire is required to visit the Cathedral.

Driving time to Ggantija Temples takes approx. 45 minutes. The guided hike to the temples of Ggantija takes about 45 minutes. In Victoria, you will visit the Citadel (approx. 45 minutes walk), you will visit the Basilica of Ta Pinu (approx. 30 minutes). You will have some free time in Dwejra.



## VALLETTA (MALTA)

**Malta's Capitals: Mdina & Valetta (ending at the airport)**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 65 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 / Max 30 participants

Take the scenic route to Malta's old capital, Mdina – one of the world's finest examples of a living medieval city. Stroll through the city's streets and listen to your guide's presentation of the city and its history. Enjoy the sweeping views from the bastions, over the valley and the surrounding areas.

After the walking tour there will be free time to see the Cathedral, do some souvenir shopping, or just relax at one of the pavement cafés and watch the world go by.

Next the coach will take you to the present-day capital, Valletta. Here you will see St John's Cathedral, one of the finest examples of high Baroque architecture in Europe, richly decorated with ornate altar pieces, elaborate inlaid marble tombstones, and artistic masterpieces. You will view the Grand Master's Palace from the outside; originally the seat of the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaliers of St John, it is now housing the Parliament and President's Office.

Your last stop will be at the Barracca Gardens located on the highest point of the 16th century bastion walls, built by the Knights of St John to protect the city. From this vantage point you can enjoy splendid views of the Three Cities and Fort Ricasoli.

Please note: The tour ends at the Malta International airport at around 13:15, and it is suitable for guests whose flight departure is after 15:30.

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. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites.

St John's Cathedral is closed on Saturday afternoon, Sundays and Public holidays. In case it is closed, there will be just an external visit.

**Star Clippers offers also the following transfer services (optional, upon reservation):**✓ **Shared transfer to Malta International Airport (MLA)**

Guests who have purchased a shared transfer cannot choose their pickup time. There will be one fixed departure from the port at about 09:00am, the arrival at the airport will be around 9:30 am.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 11:30 am.

✓ **Private transfers to Malta International Airport (MLA) / to hotels.**

Latest pick-up time from the pier will be at 10:00 am.

