

CANARY ISLANDS TO SPAIN: THE CROSS AND THE CRESCENT MOON CRUISE

Welcome to Aurora Expeditions' The Crown and the Crescent Moon Shaped by centuries of conquest and coexistence the Canary Islands, Morocco, and Spain tell a fascinating tale. At the heart of their story lies the dramatic struggle between the Moorish Empire and Iberian Christians, whose battle for religious and territorial dominance forged the soul of two nations. Their legacy lives on in the architecture, music, and traditions that echo throughout these lands, with each destination revealing a new chapter of royal intrigue, imperial ambition, and the vibrant cultures that refuse to fade. From the volcanic beauty of the Canaries to the maze-like medinas of Morocco and the sun-drenched citadels of Spain, this voyage is a sensory feast.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Las Palmas, Spain

Welcome to Las Palmas, the sun-drenched heart of Gran Canaria, where colonial charm meets golden shores and Atlantic breezes. On arrival at Gran Canaria Airport, make your way to the arrivals hall to meet our representative, followed by a transfer to our group hotel. At the hotel, visit our hospitality desk in the lobby to meet our team who will provide you with useful information regarding pre-embarkation procedures and about your time in Las Palmas. You will also receive cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and your cabin number on the ship.

Join us this evening for a Welcome Reception* to celebrate the start of your journey.

Accommodation: Las Palmas Hotel (or similar)



Meals: Welcome Reception - (including drinks and canapes)

Note: to attend our Welcome Reception, please ensure your flight arrives in Las Palmas no later than 2:00pm

Day 2 Embark Las Palmas (Port: Las Palmas – La Luz Port)

Known as the 'miniature continent', Gran Canaria is celebrated for its striking contrasts. The island offers a variety of landscapes, from beaches framed by dunes to peaks covered in Canary Island pine forests, whose greenery stands out against the dark volcanic earth. Las Palmas, the capital, combines historical architecture with modern attractions, featuring bustling markets and urban beaches.

There's time to explore Las Palmas this morning before we set off on a scenic drive that reveals more of Gran Canaria. As we leave Las Palmas, we'll see a blend of heritage and everyday island life, while passing its famous banana plantations giving us a glimpse into the island's most popular crop.

We spend time in Arucas, where volcanic stone buildings and leafy plazas invite you to slow down. You'll have free time to explore at your own pace. Browse local shops, sip coffee, or simply take in the relaxed atmosphere. One unmissable sight is the Church of San Juan Bautista, its towering spire carved from dark volcanic stone, casting a dramatic silhouette over the town. It's a striking landmark in a place that blends history, charm, and everyday island life.

Our route blends the character of the modern Canary Islands with the enduring charm of its past, before circling back to Las Palmas, where we board Douglas Mawson.

This evening, you'll join your fellow travellers for an onboard Welcome Dinner, where your host will introduce you to the voyage ahead and raise a toast to the adventures to come.

Day 3 Arrecife (Port: Arrecife)

While the Canary Islands are famed for their resorts and sun-soaked beaches, they offer much more than typical package holidays. The eight volcanic islands that make up the archipelago, are under Spanish jurisdiction but historically linked to Africa, and have a complex history that includes the early slave trade. Today, the islands stand as a testament to resilience and cultural diversity, blending influences from Spanish settlers and indigenous Guanches.

We explore Lanzarote, the northernmost Canary Island, known as 'Volcano Island,' for its dramatic volcanic terrain. Lanzarote's volcanic landscape includes expansive lava fields and uniquely shaped rocks set against a backdrop of black and red soil that vividly contrasts with traditional whitewashed houses.

Our 'Your Choice' morning experiences offer a chance to discover this diverse landscape, from dramatic mountains and golden beaches to unique palm groves and dunes, highlighting the island's exceptional natural beauty, followed by a chance to explore Arrecife independently. This afternoon, enjoy a complimentary shuttle service between the port and town*, with the Douglas Mawson sailing late afternoon towards Africa. (*dependent on pier allocation)

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice'



experiences.

Option 1 Morning experience: A Day at the Beach - Puerto del Carmen

Hop on our shuttle for a 15-minute transfer to the vibrant Puerto del Carmen. Once a small fishing village, Puerto del Carmen is now Lanzarote's top beach resort. At the heart of it all is Playa Grande, a 2-mile stretch of dark sand lining the boulevard-style, Avenida de las Playas. The beach is perfect for a relaxing day in the Canary Islands. Soak up the sun, swim in the clear, tranquil sea or try snorkelling at Playa Chica beach, located between the main beach and the harbour. For your convenience, beach chairs, umbrellas and sports equipment are available for hire. While this is not a guided tour, a local host on the shuttle will be available to answer any questions about the area.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Haria, the Valley of 1,000 Palm Trees

Embark on a panoramic tour beginning at the Mirador de Haria, where sweeping views reveal Lanzarote's dramatic northern landscapes of rugged cliffs, rolling hills, and the lush green contrast of the valley below. From here, descend into the quaint town of Haria, home to around 1,000 residents and known for its whitewashed houses, wooden balconies, and traditional Canarian charm.

Nestled in the Valley of 1,000 Palms, Haria feels like an oasis in the island's otherwise arid terrain. Life here moves at a gentle pace. Locals gather in shaded plazas, tend small gardens, and keep age-old traditions alive. The town's peaceful rhythm and natural beauty have long attracted artists and writers, including Cesar Manrique, whose former home now serves as a museum. For residents, Haria offers a quiet refuge -- surrounded by nature, steeped in culture, and far from the bustle of Lanzarote's tourist hubs.

Option 3 Morning experience: Timanfaya National Park

Our panoramic tour of Timanfaya National Park offers a truly otherworldly experience. The park's stark lava fields and striking craters, shaped by 18th- and 19th-century eruptions, create a dramatic and surreal landscape. At the Timanfaya Visitor's Centre, our guides perform geothermal demonstrations, showcasing the intense heat from beneath the Earth's surface by igniting brushwood and triggering geysers. The park's vibrant colours and unique formations offer a fascinating glimpse into Lanzarote's volcanic history. With its almost extraterrestrial scenery, Timanfaya National Park vividly highlights Lanzarote's exceptional natural beauty and geological significance. Note: Timanfaya National Park is an active volcanic region. Visitors should be aware of its potential risks. Entry is at your discretion.

Day 4 At Sea

Our voyage from Arrecife to the Moroccan coast offers a tranquil interlude, during which our host will introduce you to the fascinating cultures and histories of the destinations ahead through engaging presentations.

A day at sea affords you the opportunity to explore the ship's amenities. Whether you choose to invigorate yourself in the gym, relax in the library, or enjoy panoramic views from the observation lounge, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



Day 5 Disembark Agadir - Overnight Marrakech (Port: Agadir)

This morning marks a change of pace as we bid farewell to the Douglas Mawson and journey inland on a three-hour drive to the vibrant city of Marrakech. Located at the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, Marrakech is an eclectic mix of centuries-old architectural styles. The fabled ochre city was founded over 1,000 years ago during the Almoravid dynasty and still beats an age-old rhythm. Famed for its outstanding artisanship, the city has boomed as one of Africa's key hubs for contemporary art, architecture and design.

We arrive in time to enjoy lunch at a popular local restaurant, before visiting one of its architectural wonders. Built in the late 19th century for Grand Vizier Si Moussa, the Bahia Palace was designed to showcase the finest craftsmanship of the time. Its name, meaning "brilliance," is reflected in the intricate zellij mosaics, carved cedar ceilings, and graceful arches that line its courtyards. Light filters through stained glass windows, casting patterns across tiled floors, while orange trees and fountains lend a sense of calm to the open spaces, making it an ideal introduction to Marrakech.

Check-in to our hotel and enjoy some free time in the afternoon, before we gather for some Moroccan fare this evening.

Accommodation: Marrakech Hotel

Meals: Breakfast (onboard), Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Casablanca (Port: Casablanca)

After breakfast, join your local guides for your chosen 'Your Choice' experience exploring the city's main attractions, followed by a lunch inspired by the vibrant flavours of Marrakech. Afterwards, we transfer by road to Casablanca, where to reboard Douglas Mawson and set sail north to Tangier.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences

Option 1 - Morning experience: Introducing Marrakech

This morning, your local guide will lead you on a brief walking tour of Marrakech's famous medina. Amongst its maze of alleyways, you will find artisan shops brimming with pottery and hand-crafted leather goods, quirky trinkets, and traditional Moroccan souvenirs. The medina is a feast for the senses: fragrant spices fill the air, vibrant stalls spill over with colour, and the rhythm of daily life unfolds in every corner. Even a simple stroll becomes a memorable experience. Designed for those wanting a taste of Marrakech's medina, this limited walking tour offers an insight into its eclectic character with time to browse its craft and artisan shops.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Meet me in the Medina

This extensive walking tour explores Marrakech's medina further while we visit its sites. Sounds and senses include an exterior viewing of the Almohad wonders of the Koutoubia Mosque, and a visit to the geometric zellij (mosaics) and intricate cedarwood of the former Koranic school Ben Youssef Medersa. We delve deeper into the medina, walking through its maze of laneways and covered markets bursting with energy with a possible stop by the Spice Square (time permitting) where everything from herbs, spices, snakeskins and chameleons have been sold for centuries.



Option 3 - Morning experience: Yves Saint Laurent and the Majorelle Gardens

At the Berber Museum, the story of North Africa's oldest civilisation - the Berber, offers an insight into the roots of the Moorish Empire. The private collection of Yves Saint Laurent and his companion, Pierre Berge, this museum is the centrepiece of the Majorelle Gardens. Saint Laurent, on whom Morocco had a profound influence, bought a house nine days after arriving in Marrakech and held residences here until his passing. According to Saint Laurent, it was in Morocco that he discovered the colourful palettes that featured in his creative work. Enjoy a moment to view the memorial in the rose garden, marking the spot where the ashes of Saint Laurent were scattered, before visiting the nearby Yves Saint Laurent Museum dedicated to the work of the master couturier, featuring a rich display of haute couture garments, accessories and sketches.

Day 7 Tangier (Port: Tangier)

After a night sailing the Moroccan coast, we arrive at midday at a city located at the crossroads of Africa and Europe -- Tangier. Unique among Moroccan cities, Tangier has a chequered past, offering one of Europe's most tantalising stories. Designated an 'International Zone' in the early 20th century, Tangier harboured no taxes, no banking restrictions, no drug, censorship or morality laws. Attracting a mix of expat residents, it played house to everyone from eccentric British nobility to American authors, Franco's civil army to Nazi spies, while it awaited its inclusion in the post-war nation of Morocco. Stories of illicit affairs, underworld deals, and espionage abound in this city, which remains as colourful as its history suggests.

Our 'Your Choice' experiences highlight Morocco's vibrant artisan revival, with guided visits to the medina in Tangier, or a chance to enjoy the culinary heritage of Tangier.

For a more relaxed alternative, or for those wishing to 'return to town' a complimentary shuttle will take you from the ship to the centre of Tangier, where you can discover a gentler side of the city. Enjoy time at your leisure to sip mint tea in a local cafe, browse traditional craft shops, or take in the atmosphere at your own pace, before we sail north to Spain, in the early evening.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences

Option 1 - Afternoon experience: Tangier Kasbah District and American Legation Museum

We begin our journey at Tangier's fabled Kasbah. Largely unchanged since Roman times, the Kasbah was the traditional residence of the Sultan and his harem and is now one of the most fashionable residential areas of Tangier. During a guided stroll, we discover the Grand Socco. This cafe-filled plaza serves as the gateway to Tangier´s medina and was once the haunt of Paul Bowles, William Burroughs and their Beatnik friends who gathered here to discuss life and literature while mingling among alleged spies and expats during the notorious time of international rule. Our next stop is at the American Legation. The first American public property outside the United States, the American Legation is now a museum that traces the history of the relationship between the US and Morocco. As one of the first

countries to recognise America's independence, Morocco permitted the new United States government to establish a legation in Tangier in 1821. It is the only historical monument to have remained in American possession since the birth of the American nation. Among several displays here is a letter from George Washington to the Sultan Moulay Abdellah.

Option 2 - Afternoon experience: A Taste of Tangier

This 'foodie' tour of Tangier allows you to dive into the city's culinary heritage. Tangier's cuisine reflects a fascinating blend of Moorish and Spanish influences, with each bite telling a story of its past. From the Moorish tradition of intricate spice blends to Spanish elements like rich, savoury stews, and delicious colonial French deserts, the food here is a testament to the city's eclectic past. Stroll through the historic M'sallah and the old town district, where narrow alleyways and traditional architecture set the stage. Taste local delights like caliente, stuffed dates, and bissara, each crafted with time-honoured techniques. As you visit bustling markets and interact with market sellers, your guide will reveal how these diverse cultural influences have shaped Tangier's unique identity, while we snack like a true local.

Day 8 Cádiz, Spain (Port: Cádiz)

The proud city of Cadiz sits at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River. As the gateway to the Mediterranean, it is touted as the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in Europe, with its dominant families claiming ancestry dating back to Roman times, when the city was called Ceret, and the wine produced was Vinum Ceretensis. From Phoenicians to Iberians, Romans to Moors, Cadiz had its fair share of invaders. It is no wonder its skyline is dotted with 120 watchtowers, including the 150-foot-tall Torre Tavira, used for spotting sails as they appeared on the horizon - often the first sign of the return of long-lost explorers. A Spanish naval base even today, it was off the coast of Cadiz at Cape Trafalgar where the British won the battle of the same name over Napoleon's fleet, with the loss of Horatio Nelson. It was from Cadiz where Christopher Columbus set sail to discover the 'new world'. And it was in Cadiz

harbour where Sir Francis Drake sacked and burned so many ships that he delayed Spain's attempt at invading England's by at least a year and changed the course of world history.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences

Option 1 - Morning experience: The Story of Sherry

It is the fortified wine, known worldwide as sherry, which has dictated the fate of Jerez. Introduced by the Phoenicians in 1100 BCE, this popular wine has brought both wealth and strife, with the greatest haul of sherry wine made in 1587 when Sir Francis Drake attacked the nearby port of Cadiz and carried off 3,000 kegs. The city's bodegas and local wineries remain the world's largest producers of sherry which although considered by some as a wine which has seen better days, is as popular in Spain today as it was in centuries past. In fact, in Europe, 'sherry' has protected designation of origin status, and under Spanish law, all wine labelled as 'sherry' must legally come from the Sherry Triangle, an area in the province of Cadiz. A short walk of the historic centre introduces us to Jerez, where we spend time with a wine expert, who introduces us to the region's



unique wines during a wine tasting.

Option 2 - Midday experience: Historic Cadiz on the Tapas trail

Join us on a tapas tour through the historic heart of Cadiz, where every bite tells a story shaped by sea, trade, and tradition. We weave through the whitewashed lanes of the Casco Antiguo, past sun-dappled plazas, baroque churches, and grand 18th-century merchant houses--reminders of Cadiz's Golden Age, when riches from the Americas poured into its bustling port. Today, the city trades in flavours rather than silver, especially those of the sea. As we hop from tavern to tavern with our local guide, we enjoy delicacies that have fed Cadiz for millennia.

Option 3 - Full-day experience: Andalusia's Heart; Seville

One and a half hours north of Cadiz lies Andalusia's famed city of Seville. Our local guide tells a tale of Seville supported by a host of history's famed conquerors, while Moorish influences join forces with tokens of Gothic, Renaissance, and baroque style added by later Christian kings, all with harmonious charm.

Take in the sights that shape Seville's unique character on an introductory driving tour, before exploring the city further on foot. Drive through the lively neighborhood of Triana, famous for flamenco, colorful houses, historic churches, and traditional pottery workshops, and see parts of the city built for the Universal Expositions of 1929 and 1992, including the striking Alamillo Bridge by Santiago Calatrava and the beautiful Plaza de España, where a short stroll lets you admire its grand pavilions and lush surroundings, before time at your leisure in Seville's historic heart, where you can view its 'walkable' sites at your own pace.

Day 10 Málaga, Spain (Ports: Málaga)

Although very much a modern-day city, the apartment blocks and 'expat' clubs of Malaga and the Costa del Sol hide an undercurrent of ancient traditions. Long before beach bars and resorts, this coastline was part of Al-Andalus, ruled by the Moors for nearly eight centuries. Their legacy runs deep, visible in the arches of the Alcazaba, the layout of the old town, and the way the city seemingly harbours something older beneath its surface, steady and enduring.

Our 'Your Choice' experiences today range from an introduction to Malaga's magical sites, to a visit to the Moorish enclave of Ronda. A complimentary shuttle service* will operate between the ship and the city centre throughout

the day allowing you to explore Malaga at leisure or return to the town after lunch on board. (*dependent on pier allocation.)

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences

Option 1 - Morning experience: Magical Malaga

Discover the layered history and charm of Malaga on this scenic driving tour, complete with photo stops and minimal walking. Founded nearly 3,000 years ago by the Phoenicians, the city reflects a rich tapestry of Roman roads, Moorish fortresses and Christian cathedrals. Drive along elegant, tree-lined boulevards and admire the grand neo-Baroque Town Hall, one of many



architectural highlights. Pause to take in views of the Castillo de Gibralfaro, a 10th-century Moorish fortress that played a pivotal role in the 1487 Reconquista and remains a powerful symbol of the city. Continue past the majestic Catedral de Malaga, affectionately nicknamed La Manquita, "the one-armed lady"--for its famously unfinished second bell tower. Choose to hop off the coach in town and explore independently or return to the ship for lunch with a free afternoon to enjoy Malaga.

Option 2 - Half Day experience: The Moorish Enclave of Ronda

Venture an hour inland to Andalusia's favourite 'whitewashed town' - Ronda. This famed city excites visitors with a fascinating story of early guerilla warfare and its part in the eventual demise of the Moorish Empire. Straddling the El Tajo gorge, Ronda was once an Islamic stronghold. Here, we visit La Mina de Agua, the former gateway to the city and located at the bottom of the gorge. As Ronda was an Islamic city, all those who entered were obliged to wash and pray beforehand. In 1485, Ronda was besieged by Christian armies, which cut off the city's water supply, and within 10 days, Ronda fell. In less than a decade, the Spanish decreed that all Muslims must leave the peninsula or convert to Christianity.

Day 9 Granada & Alpujarra (Port: Motril)

The port of Motril offers us access to the ultimate Moorish city of Granada and the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada; the Alpujarra's. We immerse ourselves in the past, with a choice to spend time with the descendants of those who have lived here for generations or to walk among the greatest architectural achievements of the Moorish Empire and Christian monarchal periods.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Half-day experience - Getting to know Granada

Once a flourishing Moorish stronghold, Granada later became the final chapter in the Christian Reconquista, a turning point that reshaped Spain's destiny. This morning, we explore the heart of Granada with our local guide, along with a visit to the Capilla Real within the elaborate Granada Cathedral complex. A striking Renaissance landmark the Capilla Real holds the tombs of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, the Catholic Monarchs who united Spain and launched its age of global exploration. After your visit, explore Granada's vibrant streets at your own pace, browsing local shops, or relaxing in one of its charming squares, where the city's Moorish heritage is still felt in its architecture, atmosphere, and rhythm. Your time in Granada concludes with lunch overlooking the Alhambra, its

towers rising above the city like a silent witness to centuries of history. This iconic fortress palace offers a stunning backdrop as enjoy lunch, before returning to the ship mid-afternoon.

Option 2 - Full-day experience: Moorish Granada

More than any former Moorish stronghold, Granada affords visitors an insight into the sophisticated society assembled by the Moors, and the determination of the Christian monarchy to establish their dominance by forcing them out of the Iberian Peninsula. Scattered throughout the city are monuments to the



days when each empire ruled the peninsula, the wealth and power they wielded and the expansion of their influence worldwide.

Crested by the famed Alhambra, the city revels in the wake of its past. Unable to recreate Allah's physical features due to their religious beliefs, the scholars and craftsmen of the Moorish Empire worked verses and poems of praise from the Qur'an into their art, architecture and gardens, the best examples of which are the wonders that are the Alhambra and the geometric gardens of the Generalife. Without the filigree masonry work of Alhambra, Spain would not be Spain. Exquisite handcrafted wooden calligraphy fills the arches, ceilings and corners of this former palace while intricately patterned ceramic tiles hint at religious fervour. Capped off by clever engineering disguised in the form of water features and fountains, Alhambra is a story unto itself. Even its 15th-century addition represents the conquest and reconquest of La Reconquista, with Charles V, who was considered at the time to be the most powerful man in the world, building his palace directly on top of the original ramparts.

Option 3 - Full-day experience: The Alpujarra

Strewn with almond trees and whitewashed towns, the Alpujarra is the food basket of Andalusia. Cuisine is high on the list here with speciality pastries and cakes made from recipes dating back to the time of the Moors, and techniques used to cure meat coming straight from early Christian cookbooks. During the early days of the Arab invasion, the Alpujarra was a nucleus of Christian resistance, but it was the Muslim domination of Al-Andalus that allowed the Alpujarra to thrive. When the region fell to the Catholic monarchs, all Muslims were forced to be baptised or emigrate; those who chose the first option were known as Moriscos. Languages were suppressed and customs lost. In recent times, the people of the Alpujarra have supported a resurgence of former traditions. Villages, such as Pampaneira and Trevelez, are returning to their roots. We visit an Andalusian village to learn about the past and present before enjoying lunch at a typical Alqueria de Morayma - a small farm and farmhouse - to meet some of the Moriscos' descendants and hear their story.

Day 11 At sea

Enjoy sailing the Spanish coast today, with an inspired day at sea. Your host will entertain you with tales of Spain's famous explorers, and coastal conquests, while the Douglas Mawson sails to the gentle rhythm of the Mediterranean, north to Valencia.

Day 12 Valencia (Port: Valencia)

Early morning, we reach the sun-drenched city of Valencia. Valencia's Islamic legacy extends beyond its architectural wonders. It remains entrenched in the soul of the city and its inhabitants. It is reflected in how Valencians live; in the jargon they use and in place names scattered throughout the region. The city's story is one of conquest upon conquest. The home of the mythical El Cid, Valencia was a Moorish town having capitulated without bloodshed, but with the arrival of the Christian armies, its story changed, and it was heavily involved in La Reconqui

Renowned for its abundant sunshine, delicious oranges, and Spain's iconic dish, paella, Valencia offers a broad range of adventures. Our 'Your Choice' morning experiences return us to



the Douglas Mawson, where we enjoy lunch on board the ship, while our half-day experience permits us to explore Spain's scientific wonders.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Panoramic Valencia and Spain's favourite collectables

Experience the heart of Spanish artistry and heritage on this fascinating journey through Valencia and the nearby town of Tavernes Blanques, birthplace of the world-renowned Lladro porcelain. A short, scenic drive takes you to the Lladro workshop, where the legacy of three visionary brothers lives on. In Spain, Lladro isn't just a brand--it's a cultural treasure, adored for its elegance, craftsmanship, and emotional depth. Discover how each delicate piece is brought to life, from concept to kiln, and enjoy time to admire or shop their intricate creations. Returning to Valencia we enjoy a panoramic drive through Valencia's historic centre, passing landmarks such as the grand Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Mercado Central, and the impressive Torres de Serranos, once part of the city's ancient walls. The tour ends with a photo stop at the spectacular City of Arts and Sciences, Santiago Calatrava's futuristic architectural complex that showcases Valencia's bold modern side.

Option 2 - Morning experience: The Story of Valencia

Join our walking tour of central Valencia to explore the city's heart. This tour highlights the city's eclectic history, with an emphasis on the 500 years of Islamic rule, and La Reconquista - which ended it all. We visit the one of the city's central piazza's where we gain an insight into the political and social life of Valencia, before passing through Portal de Valldigna, an entrance to the former Moorish quarter, where we step back in time. It was here that Islamic textiles forged the foundation of a prosperous trade, which became the cornerstone of the Christian city in the 15th century. We visit La Lonja de la Seda de Valencia (The Silk Exchange), which boasts UNESCO World Heritage status. Built between 1482 and 1533, this group of buildings was originally used for trading in silk. They are a masterpiece of late-Gothic architecture, illustrating the power and wealth of Valencia's Christian merchants whose wealth funded the city's most famous landmark - the Valencia Cathedral. Filled with treasures, the cathedral houses a chalice believed to be the Holy Grail.

Option 3 - Half-day experience: Valencia's scientific wonder

Dominating Valencia's skyline for over 25 years, Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (The city of Arts and Sciences), is a spectacular two-kilometre-long complex celebrating science, nature, and creativity. Divided into distinct experience zones, the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias is a must-visit for any scientifically curious traveller.

To enhance your visit and enable you to explore at your own pace, you'll receive a ticket for a screening of Postcards from Other Worlds at the Hemisferic. This stunning 30-minute concave screen planetarium show takes you on a journey through the Solar System, showcasing real images captured by space probes. From the lava fields of Io to the icy plains of Europa, you'll explore breathtaking alien landscapes with



immersive visuals and narration available in multiple languages. A must for anyone curious about space and science. You'll also receive entry to the City of Arts and Sciences' renowned Science Museum, a vibrant, hands-on space

where science comes to life. Dive into interactive exhibits on physics, space, biology, and technology. Whether you're curious about the cosmos or how the human body works, this museum brings science alive with people travelling from throughout Europe to experience its wonderous world. (Note: general entrance included.)

Day 13 Mallorca, Balearic Islands (Port: Palma de Mallorca)

An autonomous region of Spain, the Balearic Islands have seen in recent years an influx of tourists, and Europeans seeking an 'expat' lifestyle on a budget. But there is more to these islands than a suntan and a smile. Their history paints a portrait of brave islanders defending their lands from the threat of sizeable empires. The Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, British and Spanish have all left their mark, gifting this eclectic archipelago a story waiting to be told. Palma's unique blend of cosmopolitan flair and Spanish island charm creates the perfect backdrop for a relaxed stroll. Sample locally produced wine at a cosy wine bar, browse the bustling port filled with fishing boats and yachts, take a refreshing swim at a nearby beach, or hunt for souvenirs.

Spend the morning on a 'Your Choice' experience or explore the city at your own pace with a complimentary town to ship-shuttle available. We sail west to the Spanish coast mid-afternoon.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Panoramic Palma

Discover the highlights of Palma de Mallorca on this locally guided tour. Begin your journey by ascending to Castell de Bellver, a unique 14th-century circular fortress perched high on a hilltop, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the city and bay. From there, continue along the scenic coastal road to Cala Major, where you'll pause for a photo stop near Marivent Palace, the summer residence of the Spanish royal family. Next, head into the heart of Palma for a short, guided stroll through the city's charming historic centre. Afterward, enjoy some free time to explore at your own pace before returning to the ship for lunch, or choose to linger longer and soak in the vibrant atmosphere of the capital.

Option 2 - Morning experience: The Moors of Mallorca

Explore Palma's majestic Moorish royal precinct on foot with a locally guided tour. Begin with an exterior viewing of the Palacio Real de la Almudaina, a stunning blend of Moorish, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture. Originally a Moorish fortress, it became the residence of Catholic Monarchs like Ferdinand and Isabella. Today, it serves as a royal residence when the Spanish royal family visits. Next, head next door to the magnificent Cathedral of La Seu, an iconic Gothic masterpiece overlooking the sea. Enhanced by Antoni Gaudi, it stands as a symbol of Mallorcan pride. After the guided introduction, enjoy free time to explore the cathedral* and the surrounding area. Return to the ship for lunch or linger longer in Palma's vibrant capital, and board our shuttle to return to the ship. (*this site may have



limited viewing due to Sunday Mass)

Option 3 - Morning experience: Mallorca's Liquid Gold

Olive oil, a cornerstone of Spanish cuisine, is produced with exceptional quality on the island of Mallorca. Revered as "liquid gold" by early traders, Mallorca's organic olive oil has recently become a hallmark of the island. This morning,

we delve into the rich history and modern importance of this essential ingredient, exploring its impact on Mallorcan traditions, lifestyle, and economy. At a local olive oil farm, our host will guide us through the production process, sharing the fascinating story of this prized fruit. We'll gain insights into every aspect of olive oil before savouring its exquisite flavours firsthand.

Day 14 Disembark Barcelona (Port: Tarragona)

Socially, culturally and industrially, Barcelona shines as a beacon of difference in Spain. Proudly Catalonian first and Spanish second, its people are free-spirited, liberal thinkers with a passion for their freedom. In the last 30 years, Barcelonans have sculpted their city into one of Europe's most venerated travel destinations. Its boulevard-style main street, Las Ramblas, is the name on every traveller's lips, and Barcelona's vibrant is as sought after as it was during the Spanish Empire's monarchal peak. A palatial stronghold of the 15th century power couple, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, Barcelona greeted a jubilant Christopher Columbus upon his return to Spain and the rest as they say, is history. The city has never looked back.

Our locally guided panorama tour celebrates the artists and authors who have long revered Barcelona as a living masterpiece. Renowned for its vibrant arts scene, the city wears its creativity proudly, with works scattered across plazas and woven into its very architecture. Miro, Picasso, Vidal, and Montaner all called Barcelona home, but it's the visionary Antoni Gaudi who continues to draw art lovers from around the world.

Among the highlights is a viewing of La Sagrada Familia, Gaudi's breathtaking fusion of imagination and faith, where we'll hear tales of the cathedral's rich history, intricate symbolism, and the story behind its ongoing construction. We'll also take in sweeping views and cultural landmarks at Barcelona's hilltop lookout of Montjuic and pass through iconic areas such as Plaza de España and the elegant Gran Via. Before arriving at the hotel, there's time to stroll Barcelona's charming streets, whether you choose to browse local boutiques, linger at a cafe, or simply soak in the atmosphere of this captivating city. Late afternoon, we transfer to the hotel where we enjoy a farewell drink this evening at our Farewell Reception.

Accommodation: Hilton Diagonal Mar Barcelona (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Reception (drinks and canapes)

Day 15 Depart Barcelona

After breakfast, check-out and transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: DOUGLAS MAWSON

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Douglas Mawson was launched in 2025. Named after the legendary Australian geologist and explorer, this new small ship embodies Mawson's pioneering spirit and is designed for global discovery. Featuring the revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW® and purpose-built with enhanced sustainability features, it takes a maximum 154 adventurers to the world's wildest places in smooth, quiet comfort. It boasts our most extensive range of cabins yet, including a range of single cabins. The Douglas Mawson features a host of amenities to help you connect with like-minded travellers and elevate your time onboard this floating base camp for adventure. After a long day of exploring, head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor swimming pool, find a sun bed to read on, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis. Work up a sweat in the gym before unwinding in the sauna, resolve to learn something new in the Citizen Science Centre, then enjoy a delicious meal with new and old friends in one of two restaurants. Or, with multiple observation areas throughout the ship, simply relax in comfort while you keep watch for wildlife or incredible landscapes unfold before you. While enjoying the luxurious amenities onboard, you can rest assured that the aim is to get you off the ship to explore the natural environment as much as possible to enjoy some unique activities remains unchanged. Newest Ulstein X-BOW ® The Douglas Mawson features the newest streamlined Ulstein X-BOW®, designed for global discovery. The revolutionary design cuts through the swell, offering unrivalled stability on ocean crossings and helping to reduce fuel consumption. It's just one of the many sustainability features that helps make travel more responsible. Heated Pool, Jacuzzis & Sauna In between landings, enjoy access to the onboard gym or unwind in the sauna. Or head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor pool, enjoy a drink at the pool bar, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis, watching the world go by. Leading Technology The Douglas Mawson is at the cutting edge of nautical technology, fitted with industry-leading technology including world-class return-to-port equipment. The ship also features a medical clinic designed for use in remote areas. Built for Adventure The Douglas Mawson features Zodiac access points and an activities platform, making boarding the Zodiacs as quick, efficient and safe as possible, minimising wait times and getting you closer to the action for longer. In our mudroom you will have access to lockers to store gear & boots and rapid drying areas for clothing. More Cabin Choices The Douglas Mawson features 11 different types of cabins, including a range of spacious single berth cabins - all adorned with elegant Nordic interior design features. Multiple Observation Areas As you explore the ship you will find indoor lounge areas with floor-to ceiling windows, and multiple open decks with expansive 270-360 degree views. The Glass Atrium Lounge inside the bow is a fantastic place to sit and watch for wildlife - with a drink in hand. There is no shortage of



spaces to take in the majesty of the incredible world outside! Lecture Theatre On all expeditions you will meet naturalists and local specialists, who offer presentations on their area of expertise to enhance your appreciation of the destination you are exploring. Join the team in the lecture theatre for presentations covering a broad range of topics to suit every interest, from history and culture to biology and climate change. Regardless of the topic, they all have one thing in common: they all aim to engage, educate, entertain and turn you into an ambassador for the planet. Citizen Science Center & Lounge Learn more about the world and the unique destinations Aurora visits by visiting the onboard naturalist and Expedition Team in the world-class Citizen Science Center. You will be rewarded for your thirst for knowledge with one of the best views on the ship. Library With floor-to-ceiling windows, the library is a peaceful sanctuary where you can find non-fiction books to read up on the day's destinations, use a public laptop to organise your photos or play board games with newfound friends. Choose from our range of informative non-fiction titles, wildlife guidebooks, travel journals, novels and a selection of children's books and board games. Wildlife guides, books and binoculars can also be found on the observation lounge on Deck 7. Mudroom No need to take your wet expedition gear back to your cabin to dry. Keep your cabin warm and cosy by leaving your outer jackets and pants in the mudroom. The mudroom is your launchpad for all shore excursions and activities. Here, you will have access to a locker when you can hang your gear up to dry, and store your boots between excursions. Swimming Pool & Jacuzzis There are two Jacuzzis on the top outside deck which offer amazing views of the world outside, a heated outdoor pool surrounded by sun beds you can relax on after a long day of exploring, and a pool bar. Gym & Sauna During your voyage, enjoy complimentary access to the gym or visit our sauna, which we highly recommend after the Polar Plunge! Restaurants One of the most important parts of any expedition is the food! Whatever adventures the day holds, you will be fuelled-up with hearty meals and delicious morning/afternoon teas cooked by our onboard chefs. Meals are a great time to soak up the expedition camaraderie in our open seating dining area. Share stories with your fellow travellers and ask our expedition team questions that may have come up during the day. Tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day, and our chefs offer different menu options and courses for each meal. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild. We also invite you to join your captain and expedition team for informal Captain's Farewell drinks, with complimentary beverages and cocktail appetisers, followed by a 3 course meal. Bars & Lounges Communal meeting areas have always played a major role in fostering the warm camaraderie on board our ships. They are the heart of the expedition, where people meet to share tales from the day, swap photos, keep an eye out for wildlife and watch the sun go down. The bars and lounges on board are refined yet inviting places to gather, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering stunning views, and of course friendly bartenders to shoot the





breeze with.

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Balcony Stateroom Category B



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Balcony Stateroom Superior



Captain's Suite



Junior Suite





PRICING

20-Apr-2027 to 04-May-2027

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