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SUMMER 2025

GPH NEWS

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GPH NEWS SUMMER 2025 ISSUE

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AS GPH, WE'RE CHAMPIONING ALICANTE'S CRUISE TRANSFORMATION.



Can you introduce yourself and share a bit about your journey to becoming the General Manager of Alicante Cruise Port?

With a degree in Economics and Commerce, and later qualifying as a Ships Engineer Officer, my connection to the sea began in the field of marine insurance, working as a surveyor. I then transitioned into the cruise industry, where—after completing a Master's in Environmental Management—I joined MSC Cruises as Environmental Director, leading a team of over sixty professionals.

Following my time at MSC Cruises, I was appointed Operations Manager of the Alicante Cruise Terminal. There, I founded the association Alicante Costa Blanca Turismo y Cruceros, which I continue to serve as President.

Since the pandemic, I've had the opportunity to be part of the Global Ports Holding family. Thanks to the collaborative work at GPH, along with the support of local institutions and the association I lead, Alicante has emerged as one of the most visited cruise destinations in the region—and has recently become a homeport for cruise passengers.

The new terminal at Alicante Cruise Port has been completed last November. Can you tell us about the key features and what this means for the port and the local community?

The new Terminal represents a significant milestone for the Port of Alicante and the local and provincial community. With a total berthing line of 760 metres, the terminal can accommodate up to two large cruise ships simultaneously, facilitating efficient embarkation and disembarkation operations. Its strategic location, just 1 km far from the city centre, allows cruise passengers to easily access the city's tourist attractions, integrating the port with city life.

It is also a spearhead for the Costa Blanca community, as it is an enclave for tourist visits to all the inland and coastal areas of the province. It has state-of-the-art technology: six baggage scanners, three metal detector arches, a baggage scanner and fifteen check-in counters that guarantee fluidity, security and comfort.

Sustainability is a priority for Global Ports Holding. Could you share some of the sustainable practices being implemented at Alicante Cruise Port?

Global Ports Holding has implemented several sustainable initiatives at Alicante Cruise Port, including an investment of over €2.5 million to modernize the terminal with a focus on energy efficiency and emissions reduction. The port is also promoting the use of renewable energy sources to provide shore power to cruise ships during their stay, significantly minimizing environmental impact. A key feature of the terminal's sustainability efforts is the installation of 70 solar panels, reinforcing our commitment to environmental responsibility.

In addition to these green initiatives, the terminal will soon feature a spacious new retail area designed for the enjoyment of cruise passengers and visitors alike.



How do you see Alicante Cruise Port contributing to the long-term sustainability goals of both the port and the city?

Alicante Cruise Port plays a vital role in supporting the sustainability goals of both the port and the city. The implementation of an environmental management system based on the ISO 14001 standard ensures that operations are carried out with a strong commitment to environmental responsibility. Moreover, the port’s integration with the city—through the revitalization of public spaces and the promotion of cultural initiatives—enhances social cohesion and drives sustainable economic growth.

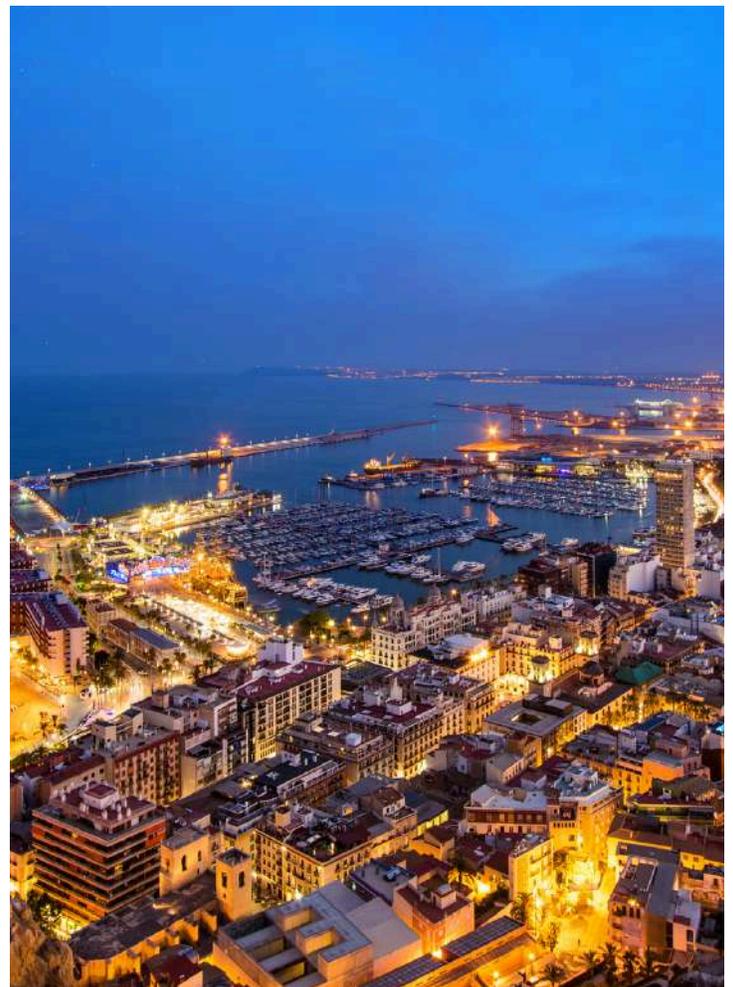
These efforts are closely aligned with the objectives of the Alicante 2030 Urban Agenda, contributing to the development of a healthier, more resilient urban environment and positioning Alicante as a model for sustainable tourism.

What excites you the most about the future of Alicante Cruise Port, and what motivates you in your role as GM?

What excites me most is the immense potential of the port to become a leading homeport—not only in the Mediterranean, but on a global scale. With projections to welcome around 250,000 cruise passengers by 2025 and the arrival of new cruise lines, including luxury operators, we are on a path of steady and strategic growth. As General Manager, I’m driven to lead a team dedicated to operational excellence and innovation, working hand-in-hand with local authorities and the community to ensure the port’s development brings lasting benefits to all.

Lastly, what message would you like to share with the cruise industry stakeholders about Alicante as a destination?

Alicante and the Costa Blanca offer a unique blend of history, culture, gastronomy, and natural beauty. With its strategic location, modern infrastructure, and strong commitment to sustainability, the region stands out as an increasingly attractive destination for both cruise lines and passengers. I invite all industry stakeholders to view Alicante not just as a stopover, but as a premier homeport—one that delivers memorable experiences while actively contributing to the growth and sustainability of cruise tourism in the Mediterranean.



**ALICANTE IS NOW
A LEADING, SUSTAINABLE
MEDITERRANEAN
CRUISE HUB.**

ALICANTE: DISCOVER THE DELIGHTS OF COSTA BLANCA

Alicante is an ideal destination for cruise passengers, as the cruise terminal is located with access to the city and can be done comfortably on foot.

On top of this, and without leaving the city, you can enjoy unforgettable experiences and sightseeing excursions to suit all tastes, preferences and ages.

Here is our curated guide to the must-sees and things to do in Alicante.

Guided Tour of the Santa Bárbara Castle, with wine tasting Alicante Designation of Origin:

Santa Bárbara Castle is one of the most visited monuments in the whole of the Valencian Community and offers spectacular views over the city of Alicante and the coast, as well as the island of Tabarca. Among the activities that are regularly organised in the fortress, we can highlight a wine tasting of Alicante Denomination of Origin wines.



Guided Tour of the Old Town of Alicante and the MACA Museum:

A tour that will allow you to get to know some of the most emblematic religious and civil buildings of the city.

The MACA Museum of Modern Art is located in the oldest civil building standing in the Old Town of Alicante and opposite the Basilica of Santa María. It includes several very interesting permanent art collections and works by artists such as Picasso, Braque, Gargallo, Miró, Dalí, Bacon and Tàpies.

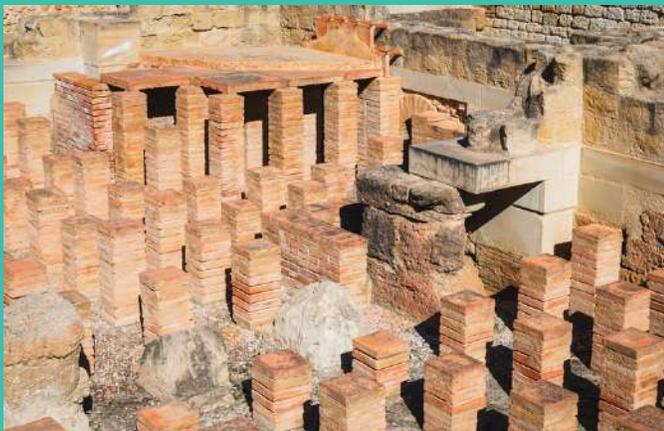


Alicante Gastronomic Experience:

Participating in an exclusive workshop to learn how to cook an Alicante rice dish. Alicante has been recognised as the Spanish Capital of Gastronomy 2025, which highlights the quality and attractiveness of local products and our typical gastronomy.

Tabarca Island & Water Activity:

The island of Tabarca is the only inhabited island in the Valencian Community and can be reached by boat from the port of Alicante, on a journey lasting 1 hour. It is an excursion that will allow you to visit a charming urban centre surrounded by walls, visit the beach and the coastal area, and enjoy the unique opportunity to savour the local gastronomy.



Lucentum Archaeological Site:

Getting to know this Iberian-Roman settlement next to the “Albufereta” beach, which is the origin of the current city of Alicante. In addition, this cultural experience can be completed with a bike ride to the beach of San Juan, one of the most famous beaches in the whole of the Spanish Mediterranean.

Central Market of Alicante:

Undoubtedly the best place to enjoy the experience of seeing and buying all kinds of food products of the highest quality and authentically local and with the possibility of a tapas tour in different places both inside the building itself and in the surrounding area.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN DRIVES SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE, AND ACCESSIBLE TOURISM GROWTH.



Could you introduce yourself and share your role as the Tourism Councillor for Alicante?

As Alicante Tourism Councillor my role is to promote the city as a quality tourist destination. To this end, we have developed a strategic plan based on three pillars: sustainability, innovation and accessibility. Alicante is a tourist city that welcomed two million visitors last year, and we strive to offer the best value to all travelers who choose to visit us so they can experience us as if they were a local.

In your opinion, what makes Alicante an attractive destination for cruise passengers?

Alicante has everything to be a desirable destination. We have incredible beaches, a privileged climate, and we are a comfortable, open, and walkable city. We are Mediterranean in essence; we love being out and about, meeting people, and interacting with them. We offer visitors culture, heritage, and cuisine that captivates anyone who tries it. In fact, this year Alicante is the Spanish Capital of Gastronomy. We have a thousand establishments where you can stop and try everything from the most traditional to the most innovative dishes, with 300 varieties of rice as our signature recipe. In Alicante, you can enjoy unique experiences and also visit some of the most interesting places in our province on excursions.

Are there any specific experiences or hidden gems in Alicante that you would recommend to cruise visitors?

Indeed. I recommend that cruise passengers not miss the port promenade and the Explanada de España, the Old Town with its narrow streets and flower-filled balconies, the Basilica of Santa María, and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA), located just across the street. Of course, a visit to Santa Bárbara Castle is a must, from where you can enjoy the best views of the bay. You can also tour a 16th-century fortress where we always have activities planned, including tastings of typical Alicante products and discover the legend of the Castle. You can also go on a shopping and tapas tour and visit the Central Market. And if you can take an excursion to Tabarca Island, the smallest inhabited island in the Mediterranean, you've already got the perfect plan.

How do you see the new upgraded terminal at Alicante Cruise Port enhancing the visitor experience and boosting tourism in the city?

The new terminal is perfect for welcoming our cruise passengers. It's spacious, bright, and open to the sea, just like our city. It's a clear commitment by Global Ports Holding to Alicante that will allow us to grow in cruise tourism, generating a greater flow of tourists and wealth for Alicante. We're talking about more than 2,500 square meters and an investment of over two million euros. We believe that with this infrastructure, more cruise lines can establish Alicante as a home port, as MSC Cruises has already done. And above all, offer all the services and amenities for passengers disembarking in the city.



In what ways does the cruise business impact local businesses and the economy of Alicante?

Cruise tourism is very positive in two ways. On the one hand, it generates wealth in the city through passenger spending on our hospitality, retail, and tourism products. In fact, we estimate an impact of around 60 million euros this year in Alicante, similar to that recorded in 2024. But above all, cruise passengers are the city's best advocates. Once they experience it for a short stay, they recommend it to their family and friends and, in many cases, decide to return to spend a few days with us.



What message would you like to convey to potential visitors and the wider cruise industry about Alicante as a destination?

I would like to convey to you that Alicante is a safe bet, where cruise passengers enjoy experiences they'll cherish for a lifetime. The best promotion is the experience of the passengers themselves, who particularly value the street safety, mobility, cleanliness, and leisure options that Alicante offers. We are the tenth largest city in Spain and a very attractive place to live, among the three best in the world, according to publications such as Forbes, and also a great place to invest.

What excites you the most about the partnership with Global Ports Holding and the newly upgraded terminal, both personally and professionally?

Boosting cruise tourism in our city is a shared strategy between Global Ports Holding, Alicante City Council, the Port Authority of Alicante, and the Alicante Costa Blanca Association for Cruise Tourism. This alliance is proving very positive and has allowed us to grow exponentially, with around 100 ships and more than 230,000 passengers per year, compared to half that number just ten years ago, after experiencing a pandemic that severely impacted this tourism segment. Our goal is to consolidate our image as an attractive destination for cruise passengers and as a convenient and modern home port, but above all, our goal would be to ensure sustained and sustainable growth over time.





The Pinnacle of Aegean Elegance

Where history meets luxury, Bodrum offers an exclusive escape for cruise travelers. Just steps from the port, explore the iconic Bodrum Castle and the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Wander through whitewashed streets, browse high-end boutiques, and savor exquisite Aegean flavors at elegant seaside cafés. Beyond the port, Bodrum’s world-class resorts, private beach clubs, and sophisticated dining scene set it apart as the ultimate luxury destination on the Aegean. Whether sailing through crystal-clear bays or indulging in vibrant nightlife, every moment in Bodrum is an experience in elegance and discovery.

bodrumcruiseport.com 🔍

SAN JUAN'S SUMMER RENAISSANCE

At a recent Steering Committee meeting, together with the local stakeholders, San Juan Cruise Port reaffirmed its commitment to becoming the Caribbean's premier cruise destination, celebrating infrastructure milestones and the unique energy of the Old San Juan summer season.

One standout achievement shared at the meeting was the completion of repairs at Pier 3 West—now structurally restored after a year of complex renovations. This upgrade not only restores a key docking point in Old San Juan but positions the port to welcome larger ships and higher passenger volumes, ensuring that San Juan is ready to lead when the peak season returns.

From a strategic alliance with the Government of Puerto Rico to a \$42 million investment in its first year, the port's transformation is well underway. Meanwhile, in the quieter summer months, as cobblestone streets host vibrant artisan markets and music drifts from open plazas, San Juan Cruise Port continues to progress with further enhancements.

"During the summer, Old San Juan becomes a living museum," says Miguel Gutiérrez, General Manager of EcoQuest Experiences & Tours. "The music, the crafts, the food—they're not just products, they're expressions of who we are."

In San Juan, port development is more than logistics—it's a cultural movement. Summer brings locals and visitors together in a slower yet spirited atmosphere, where entrepreneurs and artists shape the city's identity. This deep-rooted pride fuels a collaborative vision: to not only welcome ships but to send them off carrying home a piece of Puerto Rico. From hand-rolled cigars and locally made jewelry to 'piraguas' at the plaza and art prints of iconic balconies, Old San Juan offers treasures found nowhere else in the Caribbean.

As San Juan Cruise Port continues its transformation, each investment supports a greater goal: to welcome ships with world-class facilities — and to ensure that every visitor departs with a deeper connection to the island's rich and dynamic spirit.



CATANIA IN SUMMER: A LAND OF CONTRASTS, FLAVORS & WARMTH

Few places offer the variety that Catania serves up in summer—both in landscape and spirit.

“Only in Catania can you find such diverse beaches so close to one another,” says Scionti, shuttle services operator.

“From black volcanic rocks to golden sand to unique stretches of dark sand beaches—there’s something for every traveller.”

For cruise passengers arriving at Catania Cruise Port, the experience begins with easy access to the city’s vibrant coast — but the coast is only part of the story. Towering above Catania is Mount Etna, whose volcanic activity often puts on a spectacular show. And then there’s the food—available at any hour and always unforgettable: arancini, sweet pastries, and of course, refreshing granita, a local delicacy!

“And let’s not forget the people,” Scionti adds. “Sicilians are known for their warmth—we’re always ready to help and make guests feel at home.”

With endless sunshine, natural wonders, and culinary treasures, Catania gives cruise visitors a vivid, flavourful, and heartfelt taste of Sicily—one that lingers long after they’ve set sail.



BODRUM: WHERE MARITIME INSPIRATION SETS SAIL

This summer, Bodrum Cruise Port launched the season with a heartwarming social responsibility project in collaboration with Marella Discovery 2. The port welcomed 15 students from the Yacht Captaincy Department of Bodrum Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School for a full-day maritime immersion.

Students toured the port facilities, learned about piloting, cruise logistics, and ship maneuvering, then stepped aboard Marella Discovery 2 to experience life at sea. From joining crew drills to visiting the engine room and ship’s bridge, the program offered real insight into seafaring careers and cruise operations. The goal was simple: to spark inspiration and bring the world of maritime closer to the next generation.

This initiative aligns beautifully with another proud maritime moment for the region. Türkiye’s first and only sailing school ship, STS Bodrum, has been selected to join the United Nations’ “Ocean Wonders” fleet. As the country’s sole representative, the handcrafted wooden vessel will participate in the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, before setting sail on a month-long route through Corsica and Italian ports, eventually returning to Bodrum.

From training tomorrow’s captains to representing Türkiye on the global maritime stage, Bodrum continues to stand out not just as a cruise destination, but as a center of ocean culture, education, and inspiration.



LA GOULETTE'S CULTURAL REVIVAL BECKONS CRUISE TRAVELERS

La Goulette Cruise Port is quickly becoming one of the Mediterranean's most captivating stops, and 2025 is shaping up to be a record-breaking year. With 139 cruise calls scheduled—up from just 79 last year—and more than 45,000 passengers welcomed so far, the port is making waves in the cruise industry.

Among the latest developments, a scenic touristic train has been launched to offer passengers a unique way to explore the region. This charming train connects La Goulette to the cultural treasures of Carthage, the coastal elegance of La Marsa, and the picturesque village of Sidi Bou Said, making daily excursions designed for immersive discovery.

Mr. Hedi Youssef, local historian, shares tales of Sidi Bou Said's summer magic. "In summer, the village turns into a symphony of blue and white under golden sunlight," he says. "The jasmine-scented alleys echo with Andalusian music, and every terrace offers a view worth a thousand words."

With its vibrant cultural offerings, growing popularity, and enhanced infrastructure, La Goulette Cruise Port is more than a stop—it's an unforgettable chapter in any Mediterranean itinerary.

CREATING REASONS TO RETURN: PRINCE RUPERT'S SHORE EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

Under the misty charm of the Great Bear Rainforest, over 550 guests from the Ruby Princess recently disembarked at Prince Rupert Cruise Port to explore its rich natural and cultural offerings. The destination continues to distinguish itself with curated shore excursions featuring local flavours, immersive storytelling, and authentic adventure—from vintage trolley tours and whale watching to rainforest hikes, scenic rail journeys, kayaking, and more.

Among the standout experiences is the Mezze Excursion at Arabisk, a locally owned dining venue that has become a powerful case study in destination loyalty. A pair of cruise guests, first introduced to Arabisk while sailing aboard the Carnival Miracle, were so moved by the warmth of the service and the home-style cuisine that they rebooked a future cruise solely to return—now visiting for the third consecutive year aboard the Ruby Princess.

Their story, shared at the Arabisk long table, underscores how meaningful shore experiences can foster emotional connections that drive repeat visitation. For cruise operators and destination partners alike, Prince Rupert offers a clear example of how authentic, locally rooted offerings don't just enhance guest satisfaction—they become reasons to travel.

In an increasingly competitive landscape, this is what long-term value looks like.



LAS PALMAS: BETWEEN SKY, SAND AND SPIRIT



Gran Canaria stands out for its exceptional diversity, offering golden beaches, dramatic dunes, lush mountains, and charming historic towns.

For cruise passengers arriving at Las Palmas Cruise Port, the island offers a seamless gateway to discovery — where every moment can be shaped to personal taste. heritage, the island combines relaxation, adventure, and authenticity in one unique destination.



Begin your day with a visit to the impressive Caldera de Bandama. This one offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, and even the coastline. You can walk along the rim for different perspectives or even descend into the caldera for a unique perspective (allow extra time for the descent and ascent). It's a fantastic way to immerse yourself in Gran Canaria's volcanic origins and enjoy breathtaking scenery.

Head to a "bochinche" that is a traditional canarian restaurant and enjoy typical food made from local people. Try "papas arrugadas con mojo" (wrinkled potatoes with sauce), grilled meat or fish, and local cheese. This offers a genuine taste of the island's culinary heritage away from the main tourist strips.



Later in the day, chill out and have fun at Las Canteras Beach in Las Palmas. It's a really nice city beach with yellow sand and a cool natural wall in the sea ("La Barra") that makes the water calm for swimming and snorkeling. You can walk along the path next to the beach, lie in the sun, or go for a swim in the ocean. It's a lively place and feels like the real Gran Canaria.

As the sun sets, immerse yourself in the lively nightlife scene of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The area around the Santa Catalina Park and Mesa y López Avenue offers a variety of bars, pubs, and clubs catering to different tastes. Enjoy some drinks, soak in the local atmosphere, and perhaps find a spot with live music or a DJ to experience the island's vibrant evening energy.



SAIL FROM THE *Sounds of* LEGENDS

Whether you're beginning your journey or making a memorable stop, **Liverpool Cruise Port** offers exceptional service, iconic landmarks, and a seamless cruise experience. Start or continue your adventure here, in the 'birthplace of passenger shipping'.

Choose from world class museums, iconic galleries, areas of outstanding natural beauty, ferry trips, stadium tours and shopping malls. A pioneering city of cultural diversity, a **UNESCO** city of music and city that leaves a lasting impression.



liverpoolcruiseport.com



30 YEARS OF PORTAVENTURA WORLD: A LEGACY OF JOY



“When cruise guests arrive in Tarragona, they often don’t realize that just minutes away, there’s a place where they can explore six different worlds in one day,” says Fernando Aldecoa, General Manager at PortAventura World, who has been part of PortAventura World’s team since 1995. “This season is very special, as the park is celebrating its 30th anniversary with exclusive festivities, including a brand-new parade, a spectacular FiestAventura show featuring drones, original dishes at the restaurants, vintage merchandise, and many more surprises throughout the visit.”

For Aldecoa, everything lies in the emotions: “I love seeing families and friends come together. Kids laughing in SésamoAventura, thrill-seekers riding Shambhala, or visitors just soaking up the sun at our Caribbean-style water park. Our purpose is clear: to create unforgettable experiences that generate a positive impact on people, while taking care of our surroundings and the planet.”

He concludes that PortAventura World is more than a theme park: “Whether you’re seeking thrills, relaxation, or unforgettable shows, PortAventura World transforms your cruise stop into a unique celebration of fun and excitement—this year more than ever.”



SUMMER IN
HA LONG BAY

MIST, MYTHS AND MOONLIGHT

Cruising through Halong Bay in summer is like uncovering a secret of the world. The sun makes the emerald waters shimmer, and the towering karsts rise like ancient guardians of the bay. For cruise guests arriving at Ha Long Cruise Port, the journey begins with these iconic vistas — an invitation to explore a landscape where legends and nature intertwine.

Guests paddle through quiet lagoons or explore hidden caves like Hang Luon and Sung Sot, where stalactites sparkle in the summer heat. I often share the legend of the dragon that carved this bay to protect us, and I see wonder light up in their eyes. Sure, a sudden rain or stormy day might change the course—but that only deepens the mystery. Sailing through the mist feels like drifting through a dream. And at night, when you dine on fresh prawns under a sky painted gold by the setting sun, Halong truly feels like paradise.

Halong City in summer tells a living story. The bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has shaped our culture for centuries. In the warmer months, the karsts are blanketed in lush green, and visitors wander to places like Long Tien Pagoda, where incense drifts through the humid air. At Vung Vieng Fishing Village, floating homes reveal a life built in harmony with the sea. I share tales of ancient fishermen and traders who once navigated these waters, and in doing so, keep their memory alive.

The heat can be intense, but it reflects the spirit of Halong’s people—resilient, passionate, and proud. Summer reveals the soul of the bay, connecting its storied past with its vibrant present.



TARANTO: WHERE SUMMER MEETS TIMELESS BEAUTY

As cruise guests disembark at the Taranto Cruise Port, they're greeted not only by the scent of the sea and the flavours of southern Italian cuisine—but also by a unique cultural treasure.

“Taranto offers sea and great food, of course,” says Paola Iacovazzo, Chief Archaeologist and Technical Director of Museion. “But its real richness lies in the uniqueness of the old city—an island between two seas that holds an extraordinary heritage of art and history.”

Just steps from the port, visitors can explore a remarkable concentration of archaeological and ethnographic museums that tell the layered story of a city once known as the ‘Sparta of the West.’ From Greek ceramics to medieval alleys, every corner of Taranto reveals something unexpected.

“It’s not just about what you see,” Iacovazzo explains, “but what you feel when you walk through streets shaped by thousands of years. Taranto in summer offers light and warmth, but also depth—something truly rare.”

As the cruise terminal connects modern travellers to this ancient land, Taranto proves to be more than a destination—it’s a portal to the past, waiting to be rediscovered.



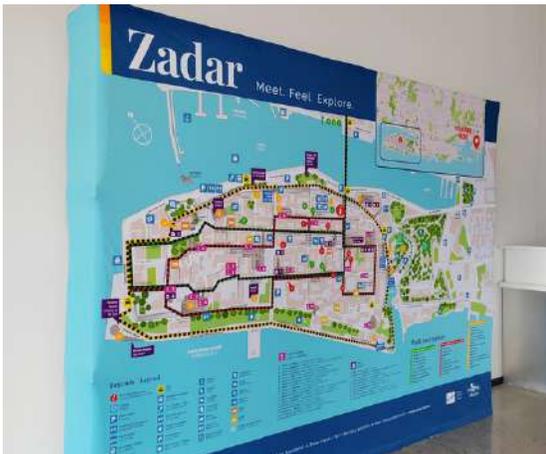
ANOTHER RECORD BREAKING CRUISE SEASON AT ZADAR CRUISE PORT

With 37 different ships from 22 prestigious cruise lines scheduled to call at Zadar Cruise Port in 2025, the port continues to strengthen its reputation as a premier destination on the Adriatic Coast. This year, Zadar Cruise Port is expected to welcome approximately 270,000 passengers and over 100,000 crew members - a 27% increase in passenger traffic and a 12% rise in cruise calls compared to the previous season.

This remarkable growth is a testament not only to the port’s location appeal but also to its ongoing commitment to providing outstanding customer service and enhancing the overall guest experience.

A recent addition to the terminal includes two impressive, life-size city map installations. These maps are courtesy of Zadar Tourist Board and they are designed to help guests make the most of their visit by highlighting key monuments, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and top-rated local restaurants and bars. Several mindfully curated walking routes are the main feature of the map. The walking routes are tailored to various interests and walking capacities, ensuring visitors can explore Zadar’s historic old town in a way that suits them best.

Continuous efforts to enhance the terminal experience and provide meaningful ways for guests to explore the magical city of Zadar are clearly reflected in the port’s consistent growth. All signs point to 2025 being yet another record-breaking year.



PACIFIC WORLD CRUISE MADE MAIDEN CALL TO HA LONG

The Pacific World, flagship of Japan-based NGO Peace Boat, made its maiden call to Ha Long Cruise Port on April 30, 2025 – a symbolic date, coinciding with Vietnam’s Reunification Day. The visit was part of Peace Boat’s 120th Global Voyage, which promotes peace, human rights, and sustainability around the world.

The call marked the first-ever Peace Boat voyage to Ha Long Bay, bringing approximately 1,700 passengers – 85% of whom were Japanese – aboard the Pacific World, the largest ship ever operated by Peace Boat, with nine passenger decks offering a spacious onboard experience.

During the port call, the delegation explored Ha Long’s cultural and natural heritage, sampled local cuisine, and participated in the Continuing Story of Peace Exchange Programme. This special event brought together Vietnamese and international representatives to foster dialogue on global peace and security and strengthen people-to-people cooperation.

For Ha Long Cruise Port, the visit underscored its growing appeal as a destination for culturally focused and sustainability-driven voyages – reinforcing its position as a gateway to Vietnam’s iconic Ha Long Bay.



THE VALLETTA WATERFRONT JAZZ SERIES THROUGH THE WORDS OF COMPOSER & JAZZ PIANIST DOMINIC GALEA

Valletta has a rich history associated with jazz. The city was a melting pot of culture and a hub for live jazz music during the 20th century, thanks to the presence of Allied troops. American and British military personnel mingled with locals, creating a unique and energetic nightlife in the streets of Valletta.

Valletta Cruise Port operators of the Valletta Waterfront destination have teamed up with composer and jazz pianist Dominic Galea for jazz concerts happening on select Thursdays from June to November, taking the audience on a journey through the golden eras of jazz and popular music. Set within the historic Sagrestia Vault, located harbourside, these evening concerts will feature the acclaimed Dominic Galea trio comprised of Dominic Galea on piano, Noel Grech on drums and Mario Aquilina on bass, along with renowned guest singers, Nadine Axisa and Mariele Zammit paying tribute to iconic composers whose timeless works shaped generations.

“These intimate concerts feature popular works from Broadway musicals and movies penned by world renowned and influential composers of the genre - George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rogers, Jerome Kern and Duke Ellington to mention a few,” highlighted Galea.

This series of concerts is aimed at introducing the Great American Songbook, the canon of the most influential American popular songs and jazz standards from the early 20th century, with a jazz adaptation of cultural phenomenon 'The Beatles' thrown in for good measure. The series invites audiences to experience soulful music within an evocative, historically-rich setting.



YOUR *Caribbean Adventure* BEGINS IN SAN JUAN



San Juan Cruise Port is transforming to serve you better!

With over \$42 million in recent upgrades, we're making major improvements to San Juan Cruise Port to make your visit to Puerto Rico even more amazing—from faster boarding and disembarkation, to easier wayfinding, and a more seamless flow through the port.

As we revitalize this historic gateway, we're focused on one thing: **making your journey smooth and enjoyable from the very start.** Enjoy your Caribbean cruise adventure!

Scan to learn more and stay connected!



Cruising *Together* into the future



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ZADAR: ANCIENT SOUL, MODERN PULSE BY IVA BENCUN

“As the director of the Zadar Tourist Board, I often say that Zadar doesn’t need to be discovered—it needs to be felt. In summer, the city reveals its full spirit: a vibrant blend of ancient history and youthful energy.

Walk through the Roman forum at sunset, and you’ll hear the echoes of millennia beneath your feet. Then follow the sound of the Sea Organ, a modern masterpiece played by the Adriatic itself. This harmony of old and new is what makes Zadar truly special.

Local artisans craft stories into glass, lace, and olive oil. Our guides don’t just tell tales—they carry them with passion and pride. And as the sun sets behind the Greeting to the Sun installation, you’ll understand why Alfred Hitchcock once called it the most beautiful sunset in the world.

Zadar in summer is not just a destination. It’s an experience woven from centuries of heritage and everyday magic.

Our motto says it all - Meet, Feel, Explore. I would add - Repeat”



THE SUMMER EXPLOSION OF LIFE IN BARCELONA



Barcelona is a city that never rests — and in summer, its energy reaches new heights. For cruise guests arriving at Barcelona Cruise Port, the city offers an endless array of experiences, with life spilling into the streets from morning until late into the night.

Jordi Caparrós, a trusted agent with years of experience at the Guest Information Center, shares his perspective:

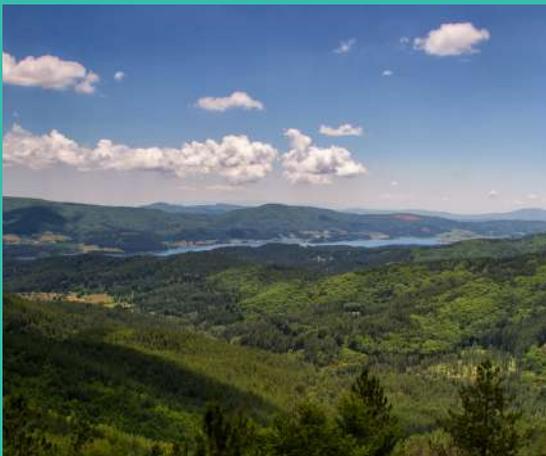
“Barcelona is a city that never rests. At any point in the day, any day of the week, you can always find something you want to do. However, during the summer this seems to explode to a level I have not seen anywhere else. Once the warm weather returns and the daytime lasts into the night, everyone in the city, locals or foreigners, seem to be overflowing with energy and they really need an outlet for it. They are either meeting their friends for drinks and tapas, sitting outside, hosting an art exhibition, running protests, dancing to music, swimming on the beach, teaming up in football, or creating a completely unique experience. Whatever it is, the summer seems to motivate everyone to do everything they want to do and share it with everyone as well, it is the coolest place to be at this time.”

He has captured the essence of summer in Barcelona perfectly, all that is left is for you to come and see it for yourself.



CROTONE: A QUIET DISCOVERY ON THE IONIAN COAST

In summer, Crotona offers something rare—a sense of calm, authenticity, and quiet beauty that’s hard to find in more crowded destinations.



“Guests often arrive with little information and thus an open mind,” says the team at the Guest Information Center (GIC) at Crotona Cruise Port. “Once they see the coastline, the ancient castle rising from the sea, and the color of the water of the largest marine protected area in Italy, they’re instantly charmed.”

For cruise visitors arriving at Crotona Cruise Port, the experience begins with iconic sights such as Le Castella — an ancient fortress surrounded by turquoise sea — but the discovery doesn’t end there. Crotona’s beaches are easily accessible and well organized, perfect for a relaxing day by the Ionian coast.

The nearby Aquarium of Isola di Capo Rizzuto introduces visitors to the rich marine life of the local protected area, offering an engaging and family-friendly stop.



For those seeking cooler air and greenery, the Sila mountains provide forest trails, lakes, and quiet escapes from the heat with up to 10 degrees less compared to the seaside. Either way, local cuisine completes the experience: spicy ‘nduja, handmade pasta, and full-bodied Calabrian wines.

“And above all,” the GIC adds, “it’s the people. Here, hospitality comes naturally.” In Crotona, summer is truly southern: relaxed, warm, and memorable. A place that stays with you, even after you’ve sailed away.





TARRAGONA: A CITY CARVED IN STONE AND SUNLIGHT

Paco Tovar, award-winning tour guide and co-founder of Argos Tarragona, invites us to rediscover his hometown. With a mix of history and passion, he shows how Tarragona holds the soul of Rome in its alleys, ancient stones, and Mediterranean views.



Tarragona could look like any city on the Mediterranean shore. Which it is, by the way. Nice beaches, heritage, healthy Mediterranean diet, yummy rice and seafood recipes and more.

But...close your eyes and open them in any spot of our streets in the old city. Narrow streets, houses with the washing hanging on the balconies. And a yellowish colour everywhere from the sandstone blocks which shaped our Roman past and fills our present: is it Italy? Naples? Any charming "viccolo" in Rome? At the end, in Rome that colour is called "giallo antico", literally old yellow.

Because indeed we're in Rome. Tarragona is the oldest Roman settlement outside Italy, we were chosen by Emperor Augustus to stay two years, so technically we've been the capital city of the Empire during his stay, and honoured as capital city of the Hispania Citerior Tarraconensis province for almost 400 years. Roman remains everywhere, as in Rome. Even behind our Medieval jewel, the Gothic (and impressive) cathedral. And hidden for centuries, I'll never forget that lady in her splendid late eighties laughing while she was looking at the Roman circus and its seats: "I was born there, and at last I understand why there was a bench attached to my dining room".

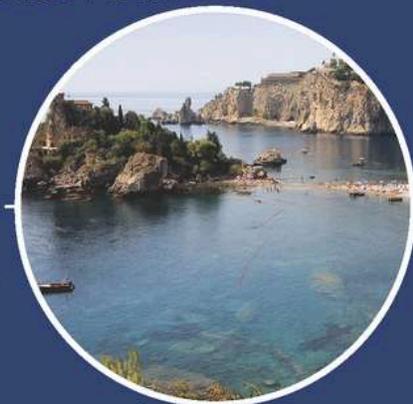
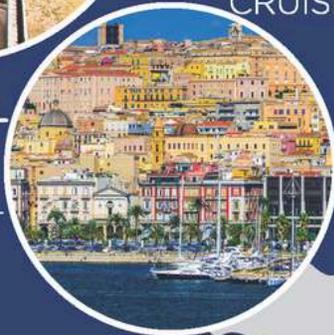
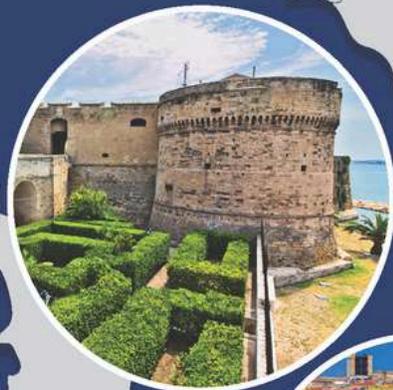


History around. And stories within: if not, try to have a walk around la Rambla Nova, our main avenue, and order a nice ice-cream and eat it while looking at the sea in the Mediterranean Balcony. No need to be during our feast days in summer: at that moment perhaps you'd realize Tarragona is a feast all year long.



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SUMMER IN SAINT LUCIA: A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND JOY

In the heart of the Caribbean, Saint Lucia experiences one of nature's rare blessings - year-round summer. Especially in July, is when the island truly comes alive with its much-anticipated Carnival season, a vibrant celebration of culture, music and community.

Saint Lucia's Carnival is a dazzling spectacle, a kaleidoscope of colorful feathers, sparkling gems, the sounds of sweet steel pan music, the social commentary of the witty calypso songs, all set against an atmosphere of pure euphoria.

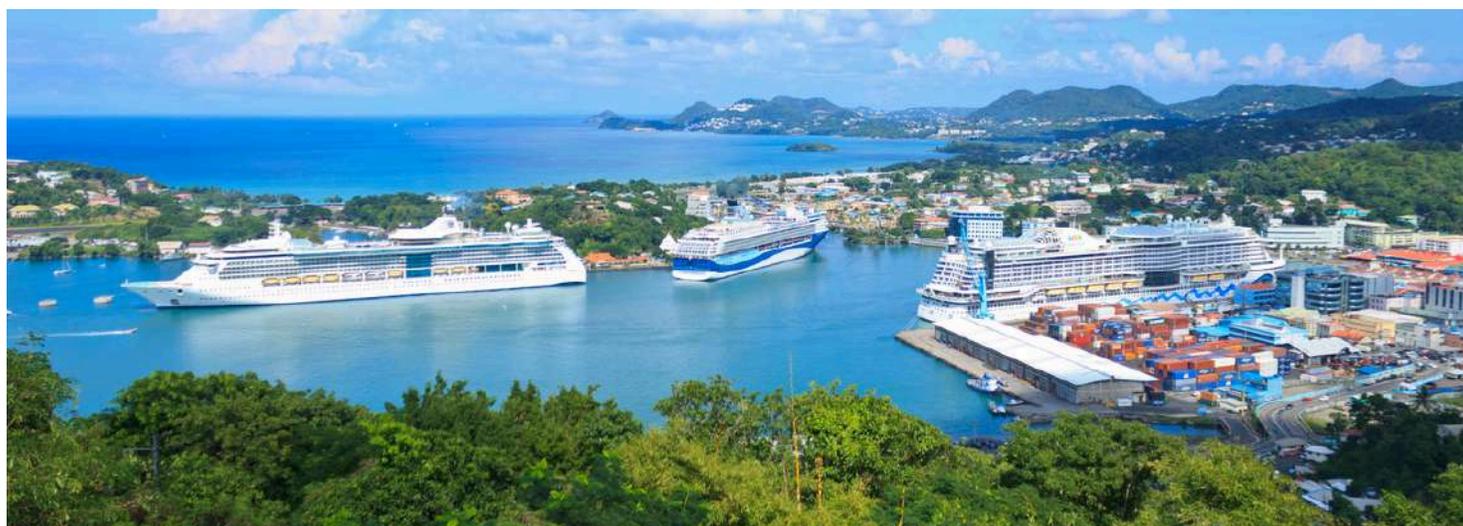
As the season unfolds, the island's streets and communities burst into life as locals proudly showcase Saint Lucian culture and energy in full display. The curious visitors have a wealth of options to immerse themselves in. They can join the various themed events hosted by the different Carnival bands or private entities or experience the glamor of the National Carnival Queen show competition, a highlight that celebrates beauty, talent and cultural pride. For those seeking creativity at its finest, the National King and Queen of the band competition offers a display of creativity from our local artisans.

It culminates with the two-day Parade of the Bands where men and women, called revelers, adorned in vibrant costumes dance in the streets to pulsating soca music embodying the spirit of joy, freedom, and celebration. In the words of one of Saint Lucia's soca artists Sly's hit song Break Away, "When we crowd up in the city, vibing in unity, everybody wants to be part."

Saint Lucia during the summer is more than a season, it is an unforgettable experience.

Photographs 1&2 credit: Just4Fun Carnival Band

Photograph 3 credit: 2025 Soca Monarch Competition captured by Sharefil Gillaird



THE ISLAND WHERE THE WIND TELLS STORIES

Fuerteventura is known for its wide open spaces, golden dunes, turquoise waters, and relaxed atmosphere. With constant sunshine, a laid-back vibe, and unspoiled landscapes, the island is perfect for disconnecting, exploring nature, and enjoying the simple beauty of the Canary Islands. For cruise guests arriving at Fuerteventura Cruise Port, the experience is less about city life and more about exploring raw landscapes and authentic coastal villages.

Start your day with a trip to the Ajuy Caves, located on the rugged west coast of the island. These ancient sea caves are surrounded by dramatic cliffs and black sand beaches. Take a short walk along the cliffside path to learn about the island's volcanic past and enjoy powerful ocean views. It's a raw and stunning place to begin your adventure.

For lunch, head to the charming coastal village of El Cotillo. It's known for its relaxed vibe, small natural lagoons, and great seafood. Later in the afternoon, relax at Playa de Sotavento, one of Fuerteventura's most iconic beaches. Its long, shallow lagoons and soft sand make it ideal for walking, swimming, or just lying back in the sun. It's also one of the best spots on the island for windsurfing and kitesurfing, thanks to the steady breeze and wide open space.

As the day winds down, enjoy a calm evening in Morro Jable, a charming coastal town in the south. Walk along the promenade, grab some tapas by the sea, and enjoy the sunset over the Atlantic. It's the perfect way to end a day filled with nature, local flavor, and the peaceful spirit of Fuerteventura.



THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF TALL SHIPS IN BREMERHAVEN

Bremerhaven Cruise Port successfully kicked off its 2025 summer season with its first double call on May 12th, welcoming Phoenix Reisen's MS Amadea and MS Deutschland. Both vessels conducted full turnarounds under bright sunshine—an auspicious start to a season filled with unforgettable moments.

One of the year's highlights is fast approaching: SAiL Bremerhaven, the international festival of tall ships, returns August 13–17. Held every five years, this extraordinary event will welcome 250 ships from around the globe—from windjammers to barges, four-masters to modern cruise ships. Festivities begin with an entry parade on August 13, setting the tone for a diverse program of musical performances and maritime traditions, both onshore and at sea.

Bremerhaven Cruise Port will be at the heart of the action, with its terminal bustling throughout the week. On August 15, the port will make history with its first-ever quadruple call as the Phoenix Reisen fleet arrives—MS Amadea, MS Artania, MS Amera, and MS Deutschland. The next day, AIDA Sol takes over MS Amera's berth, creating a stunning backdrop as ships line up along the city's dike, illuminated by traditional fireworks in the evening sky. The grand finale on Sunday, August 17 features a special visit from TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 2, joining MS Artania to close the SAiL celebration.

Cruise guests, maritime enthusiasts, and visitors are invited to experience this spectacular celebration of sailing and seafaring in Bremerhaven.

THE PLACE TO BE: A VIBRANT SUMMER IN NASSAU

Nassau Cruise Port is proud to announce its nomination for Caribbean's Leading Cruise Port 2025 by the World Travel Awards. This recognition reflects the port's ongoing commitment to excellence in the cruise industry, our special place in the Caribbean, and world-class experience.

Visitors arriving at Nassau Cruise Port are immediately welcomed by the warmth of Bahamian hospitality and a sunny climate. When May begins, Nassau is decorated with vibrant flowers, lined with palm trees, and brimming with cultural experiences. From the colorful rhythms of Junkanoo to the crystal-clear turquoise waters and white sand beaches, summer excursions ranging from snorkeling adventures to rich history tours, local art tours, and island food tours, Nassau in the summertime is a sensory celebration.

Eldena Cartwright, straw bag artisan and owner of Exclusive Bahamian Craft, expressed her pride in sharing her talents with our visitors, "As a proud Bahamian, I am delighted to pass down our tradition of straw craft because it's a part of our culture and DNA."

This nomination comes on the heels of a historic milestone for Nassau Cruise Port. On April 8, 2025, the port welcomed a record-breaking 31,011 passengers in a single day, a testament to its growing appeal, operational strength, and strive to make Nassau the leading destination in the Caribbean and cruise industry.



SUMMER VIBES IN HERITAGE QUAY: A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL CULTURE, CREATIVE ARTS AND COMMERCE

Heritage Quay at Antigua Cruise Port is more than a historic duty-free shopping plaza – it's a lively hub where culture, community, and creativity meet.

This summer, the plaza transforms into a vibrant stage for local artisans, with engaging pop-up events, sip & paint sessions, and spirited domino matches – all celebrating the best of Antiguan and Barbudan talent.

Meanwhile, construction continues on the new Antigua Cruise Port upland development. Set to feature a modern cruise terminal, stylish day club with cabanas and pool, along with an expanded shopping village that will welcome over 800,000 guests annually to a reimagined island experience.

So, whether you're admiring Gormie the Artist's live portraits or exploring handcrafted jewelry by Macra Miche, every visit promises unique local treasures and unforgettable moments.

The vibrant spirit of this twin-island paradise comes alive at Heritage Quay - Come for the Shopping, Stay for the Vibes!



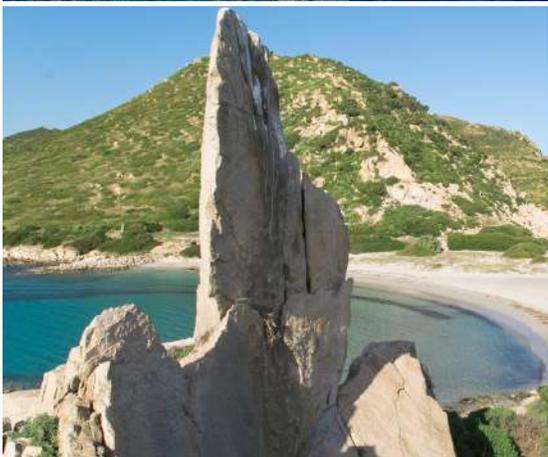
WHERE FIRE MEETS ART

Lanzarote is known for its otherworldly volcanic landscapes, artistic heritage, and peaceful beaches. With its black lava fields, whitewashed villages, and deep connection to nature, the island offers a unique mix of beauty, creativity, and calm—perfect for a full day of exploration and inspiration.

For cruise guests arriving at Lanzarote Cruise Port, the island reveals itself as a living canvas — where geology, art, and culture are beautifully intertwined. Start your day with a visit to the Cueva de los Verdes, a spectacular lava tunnel formed by volcanic eruptions thousands of years ago. Guided tours take you through a series of illuminated underground chambers, where the rock formations and acoustics create a mysterious and unforgettable experience. The cave also hides a fascinating optical illusion that surprises most visitors—a perfect way to begin the day with wonder.

In the afternoon, make your way to the Mirador del Río, a clifftop viewpoint designed by César Manrique. From here, you'll enjoy breathtaking views over La Graciosa Island and the surrounding marine reserve. The viewpoint blends into the rock, creating a peaceful space to take in the vastness of Lanzarote's northern coast.

As the day winds down, take a relaxing walk through Tegüise, the island's historic former capital. Its cobbled streets, colonial buildings, and artisan shops offer a glimpse into Lanzarote's cultural roots. Find a quiet café or tapas bar in the old town, enjoy the evening breeze, and reflect on a day filled with natural beauty, art, and island charm.



BETWEEN CRYSTAL WATERS AND COOL DISCOVERIES IN CAGLIARI

Cagliari reveals its most charming side in summer, where the sun meets the sea—and the island's secrets offer cool surprises.

“During the warmer months, many of our guests ask to visit seaside destinations and the city's Botanical Garden to escape the heat,” shares Easy Holiday Sardinia, a tourism service company. “They're often already familiar with Poetto Beach but also ask about places like Chia and Villasimius—they know exactly what to look for.”

For cruise passengers arriving at Cagliari Cruise Port, summer offers an ideal balance between coastal relaxation and cultural discovery. Beyond the well-known beaches, visitors can explore the hidden side of Cagliari — from underground tours to ancient caves and breathtaking mining trails perched above the sea, all just an hour from the port.

“Very popular are also sea-based excursions - such as electric boats, dinghies, and sailing trips that let guests experience the coastline close up from the water,” they add.

Summer makes Cagliari unforgettable—not only for the beauty of its beaches, but also for the refreshing escapes tucked into nature. “Places like Porto Flavia stay around 20°C year-round,” they note, “and offer a truly unique kind of summer break.” Cagliari invites visitors to leave with memories that last long after sailing away.



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