

Cruise: **MEDITERRANEAN**

 Cruise Ship: **MSC SEASIDE**

Palermo (Monreale)

CULTURE AND HISTORY



DELVING INTO PALERMO AND MONREALE'S HISTORIC VENUES (Code: PMO02)


Duration
 5.00 h


Get to know Sicily's vibrant capital and its architecture on this five-hour excursion. After departing from Palermo's port, a 40-minute bus tour of the city begins, passing spots that will include Piazza Politeama (named after the colonnaded theatre within the square), 18th-century Palazzo d'Orleans and Palermo's opera house, Teatro Massimo, which has appeared in movies and TV shows. Next is a drive inland to the hill town of Monreale, perched on the slopes of Monte Caputo. Here begins a 60-minute tour of the highly decorative cathedral, known for its intricate mosaics, with the guide giving information outside the site and with the guests visiting it on their own. Afterwards, another drive brings the excursion to Palermo Cathedral for a 30-minute external visit, providing opportunities to appreciate the detailed carvings and Moorish arches topped by a pale-green dome. A 40-minute visit to Chiesa del Gesù, also known as Casa Professa, then takes place. This is one of Sicily's most important and impressive Baroque churches. The final section of the excursion comprises a guided tour of a historic Palermo market and free time, before a 20-minute return journey to the port.

Please note: you have to walk up some steps to visit the Cathedral in Monreale. The guide will give explanation only outside the sites; guests will visit them individually. If the Cathedrals are closed on public holidays or during special events, the visit will be external. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits. This tour includes periods of walking, at times over uneven surfaces; guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. Guests will be required to return their audio guide equipment to their tour guide in perfect condition at the end of the tour. Guests will be charged for any damage to or loss of audio guide equipment. Participants are informed of the presence of scaffolding inside Monreale Cathedral for restoration work on the Pantocreator, the view of which is therefore obstructed.

Price per person

- Adult: \$67.00
- Child: \$47.00

Minimum number of participants required: 25

CULTURE AND HISTORY



THE COASTAL CITY OF CEFALÙ AND ITS CELEBRATED CATHEDRAL (Code: PMO04)


Duration
 6.00 h


The pale-walled, red-roofed city of Cefalù is a much-loved spot within Sicily. Visit its magnificent cathedral as the first stop of this six-hour excursion, which begins after a one-hour bus journey from Palermo's port. With the start of its construction dating back to the 12th century, the cathedral's completion in 1240 marked the culmination of a remarkable architectural endeavour, and its detailed mosaics are viewed as some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in Sicily and wider Italy. Spend an hour visiting the cathedral before moving to another fascinating - if rather different - attraction nearby, the Lavatoio Medievale. This unique attraction is a medieval wash-house where locals used to do their laundry using water from the River Cefalino. After 20 minutes here, there is a 40-minute guided tour around Cefalù's historic centre, followed by approximately one hour and 45 minutes of free time for further exploration. This could perhaps include purchasing local souvenirs or enjoying a meal at one of the various cafes and restaurants in the area. A one-hour bus journey returns back to the port at Palermo.

Please note: this tour includes walking on uneven ground and is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties. If the Cathedral is closed on public holidays or during special events, the visit will be external. If a religious ceremony is taking place in the cathedrals, the guide will provide information outside and guests will proceed to the visit individually. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits.

Price per person

- Adult: \$71.00
- Child: \$49.00

Minimum number of participants required: 25

SEA & SUN


TRANSFER TO THE CHARMING MONDELLO AND TIME AT THE BEACH (Code: PMO15)


This unguided five-hour excursion offers the chance to soak up the charms of a town on Sicily's northern coast that's much-loved by Palermo locals. A 30-minute drive from the port in Palermo journeys to Mondello's main square, signalling the start of a generous allocation of free time - approximately four hours. Use this time to enjoy the town's celebrated beach, a long stretch of bright sand that lies between two rocky headlands, separated from Palermo by the bulk of Monte Pellegrino. It's a popular spot for swimming, sunbathing and relaxing, all aided by fantastic coastal views. And don't miss the Antico Stabilimento Balneare di Mondello, a handsome, Art Nouveau-style building sitting proudly in the centre of the beach, built in the early 20th century as a bathing house. Beyond the beach, Mondello is a fine place to wander. The lavish, pastel-hued villas that line the streets were built during the Belle Époque era when the town boomed as a popular holiday destination for the aristocracy, and there are numerous restaurants and cafes spread around the town. Afterwards, a 30-minute drive back to the port at Palermo concludes the excursion.

Please note: this tour operates from June until the end of October, depending on weather conditions. We warn participants that there may be algae in the sea and/or on the beach, which is very popular and crowded, especially in the summer months. This could create a lot of crowds on the beach and limit space.

Price per person

- Adult: \$28.00
- Child: \$28.00

Minimum number of participants required: 25

SOMETHING SPECIAL


SIGHTSEEING IN PALERMO AND BEACH TIME AT MONDELLO (Code: PMO19)


Gain an insight into the history and culture of Sicily's capital city on a five-hour excursion that also includes free time at a nearby coastal escape. After departing from Palermo's port, begin a 40-minute coach tour of the city, uncovering some of its most significant buildings. These include Teatro Politeama (a splendid, 19th-century theatre), the world-renowned Teatro Massimo opera house and Palazzo D'Orleans, a presidential palace dating back to the 18th century. After the city tour and 45 minutes free time, a drive moves the excursion to the pretty seaside town of Mondello, north of Palermo. On the way there will be a 15-minute photo-stop at Palazzina Cinese (the Chinese Palace, a decorative building from the early 19th century), before arriving in Mondello for approximately two hours of free time. The town boasts a superb, white-sanded beach that's perfect for swimming and sunbathing, and Mondello itself is an atmospheric destination to explore at leisure. A 30-minute drive afterwards returns to the ship.

Please note: this tour operates from May until the end of September only and is subject to weather conditions. We warn participants that there may be algae in the sea and/or on the beach, which is very popular and crowded, especially in the summer months. This could create a lot of crowds on the beach and limit space.

Price per person

- Adult: \$57.00
- Child: \$40.00

Minimum number of participants required: 25

MSC PROTECTOURS


PROTECTOURS: A WALKING TOUR OF PALERMO'S SIGHTS AND MARKETS (Code: PMO20)


This informative excursion around Palermo lasting three and a half hours is a fascinating journey through the architecture and culture of a charismatic Sicilian city. Starting at the port of Palermo, begin a guided walking tour, the first section of which covers Via Emerico Amari, one of Palermo's main streets. Here, there will be an external viewing of Teatro Politeama, a 19th-century theatre. The tour then moves to Via Ruggiero Settimo, a lively street lined with shops and boutiques. Another external viewing will take place, this time of Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house, fronted by a spectacular flight of steps. A 40-minute section of the tour then leads to Quattro Canti, a smart, public square showcasing the city's Baroque architecture. There will also be an external viewing of Palermo's historic cathedral, before approximately 45 minutes of free time. Finally, visit two markets, Ballarò (one of the city's oldest street markets) and the sprawling La Vucciria. Both are filled with fresh, colorful produce and offer a buzzing atmosphere. The return to the ship takes around 15 minutes.

Please note: This tour includes approximately 1.5 hours of moderate walking, at times over uneven surfaces. Guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. The visit to the Ballarò market will be replaced with a visit to the Capo market during the afternoon calls.

Price per person

- Adult: \$45.00
- Child: \$30.00

Minimum number of participants required: 15

CULTURE AND HISTORY


PALERMO'S SIGHTS, CUISINE, AND A VISIT TO TEATRO MASSIMO (Code: PMO48)


Explore unmissable city attractions and sample a range of Sicilian foods on this four-and-a-half-hour excursion, which uncovers the soul of Palermo. A 30-minute bus ride from Palermo's port ascends Monte Pellegrino (Pilgrim's Mountain), arriving at a spot known for its panoramic views over the city's domes and spires. There'll be a chance to capture this vista on a short photo-stop. A 60-minute bus journey then moves the excursion to Palermo's historical centre. On route there'll be a short photo-stop at the opulent, Neo-Classical Palazzina Cinese (Chinese Palace). Once back in Palermo, enjoy a one-hour visit inside Teatro Massimo, the city's renowned opera house (sections of the final scene in The Godfather Part III were filmed here). Afterwards, spend an hour on a walking tour that passes essential sights, including Quattro Canti (a grand intersection lined with Baroque buildings) and the city's cathedral, dating back to the 12th century and showcasing a mix of Moorish, Baroque and Norman architecture. Afterwards, the final 40-minute session begins, comprising a tasting of Sicilian specialities in front of the Cathedral and free time. The tasting features samples of arancini (risotto balls fried in breadcrumbs), cannoli (fried pastry shells filled with sweet ricotta) and passito wine. A short bus drive (10-minutes) returns to the ship.

Please note: This tour includes approximately 1 hour of moderate walking, at times over uneven surfaces. Guests of limited mobility are requested to evaluate their personal level of stamina and ability before taking part. Guests with any type of food intolerance are required to communicate it to the Shore Excursions Office at least two days before the call.

Price per person

- Adult: \$72.00
- Child: \$50.00

Minimum number of participants required: 25

SEA & SUN


BEACH RELAX IN MONDELLO (Code: PMO49)


A stop in Palermo is a unique opportunity for all those who love the sea, tanning and sweet farniente. Is this not the true essence of a summer holiday? And if you are travelling with children, this excursion to the Lido Valdesi will meet all your needs. Leaving the port of Palermo, a coach transfer of about 30 minutes passing through the Parco della Favorita will take you to Mondello. Situated in an enchanting bay, Mondello has been transformed over the years from a fishing village to a renowned tourist destination and Palermo's beach par excellence. Once at the Lido Valdesi, grab a deckchair and relax in the sun. Take a dip in the crystal, blue Sicilian sea or simply enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of one of Palermo's landmarks. You will have about 4 hours to sunbathe, play with your children, or take a walk on the beach. At the fixed time, you will board the coach to return to your ship.

Please note: this tour operates from June until the end of September only and is subject to weather conditions. Guests must be aware that seaweeds may be present in the sea or on the beach shore. 1 parasol and 2 sunbeds included each two guests are included. We recommend bringing a towel, sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen.

Price per person

- Adult: \$70.00
- Child: \$49.00

Minimum number of participants required: 25

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE



PALERMO AND MONDELLO BY BIKE (Code: PMOBK1)

 **Duration**
4.50 h



Fresh air, the best of Palermo, glorious coastal views, and time to spend in the seaside town of Mondello await you on this gentle, half-day biking tour. To begin with, you'll pedal through Palermo to check out the city's must-sees such as the originally late 12th-century Palermo Cathedral, the 9th-century Palace of the Normans and the late 19th-century Teatro Massimo, which is the largest in Italy and boasts perfect acoustics. Several photo stops will be made on the way so you can capture the stunning scenery. Leaving Palermo, you'll then head along a 10-km coastal route in the shadows of Monte Pellegrino to reach the fishing village of Mondello. You'll have time to explore the picturesque resort and take a moment to try some of the local cuisine before you cycle back to the ship. Please note: Children who are at least 155 cm tall are welcome to take part in this tour with the parent's/guardian's written consent.

Price per person

- Adult: \$68.00
- Child: \$51.00

Minimum number of participants required: 0

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE



CYCLING IN PALERMO & SURROUNDS (Code: PMOBK2)

 **Duration**
5.50 h



Joining this outing is sure to give you a thorough workout as you pedal around Palermo's hinterland on an approx. 40-km route with a 600-m gain in elevation. After leaving the confines of the city, you'll first cycle through the village of Arenella to reach the foothills of Monte Pellegrino, Palermo's neighbourhood mountain. Then you'll climb 500 m on a 7km uphill trail to reach the Santa Rosalia pilgrimage site, dedicated to the patron saint of Palermo. Take a break and browse the souvenir stalls at the site before continuing onwards and upwards to reach one of Monte Pellegrino's nearby viewpoints - perfect for taking photos. Further photo-worthy vistas follow on the way down before you reach the Bay of Mondello, where a white sand beach and turquoise water await you. Time to relax or go for a refreshing swim will be yours at the beach, which is also served by numerous small cafés if you prefer to chill out with a drink. The final leg will give you one last chance to soak up gorgeous coastal views before you return to the ship.

Please note: the tour involves arduous and in part uphill cycling along an approx. 40-km route and is suitable only for guests with a high level of physical fitness. Children who are at least 155 cm tall are welcome to take part in this tour with the parent's/guardian's written consent.

Price per person

- Adult: \$87.00
- Child: \$64.00

Minimum number of participants required: 0



EASY & ACCESSIBLE: PALERMO & MONREALE (Code: PMOEA)

Duration
4.50 h

To book this excursion, please get in touch with your region's Contact Center to check availability. Delight in a four-and-a-half-hour accessible excursion that unveils the treasures, landscapes, and architectural splendour of one of Sicily's most breathtaking regions. After disembarking from the ship, you'll meet your guide and board your specially equipped van to begin your journey of discovery through Palermo's medieval quarter. Your guide will lead you on an itinerary through the heart of Palermo, where you'll have the chance to admire from the outside the city's magnificent Cathedral, the Palatine Chapel, and some of the finest examples of Byzantine architecture and artwork in Europe. From Palermo, you'll embark on a scenic drive along the slopes of the Conca d'Oro Valley, renowned for its picturesque landscape dotted with orange, olive, and almond trees, offering a perfect opportunity to soak in the natural beauty of Sicily. Your next destination takes you to the slopes of Monte Caputo, where the charming town of Monreale awaits. Upon arrival, you'll follow your guide on a leisurely stroll to explore the town's most impressive sights. The highlight of Monreale is undoubtedly its Norman-Byzantine Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built between 1170 and 1189, this cathedral is celebrated as one of the most magnificent churches in the world.

Please note: This tour is designed to be accessible for all guests. This tour uses wheelchair-accessible routes wherever possible. It includes step-free routes, shorter distances, and no stairs along the tour route. Accessible restrooms with wide doors for wheelchairs are present along the tour route. The vehicle used on this excursion is fitted with an access ramp (or lift where available) to accommodate a limited number of wheelchairs and/or mobility scooters: 5 guests (4 able-bodied + 1 wheelchair user). 2 foldable wheelchairs can be stored in the back. Guides are not allowed to push wheelchairs. Guests needing special assistance must be accompanied by an able-bodied companion. The number of accessible vehicles is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to make their accessible shore excursion reservations as far in advance as possible. Guests wishing to use a wheelchair (manual or electric) or scooter on this excursion must provide its total dimensions (height, length, and width) and weight to MSC at the time of booking. If you decide to cancel the excursion after booking it, please contact MSC immediately. Vehicle capacity: Combined weight (guest seated on mobility device): Max weight: 340 kg. Max width: 145 cm. Max length: 100 cm. Max height inside vehicle: 180 cm. Mobility scooter users must transfer to a seat during the drive. This excursion is a private service.

Minimum number of participants required: 1

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Key to symbols

	Possibility of swimming		No guide available
	Tasting included		Shooting videos and/or taking pictures is not allowed or subject to fee
	Lunch or dinner included		Shopping
	Drink included		Limited seats
	Snack included		Best seller
	Multilanguage tour		English Only Tour

NEW New

Wheelchair and disabledfriendly tour

Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as coaches do not have ramps or lifts. Once on board, please contact the MSC Excursions desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Easy
May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing.

Moderate
May involve inclines, steps, uneven surfaces and/or extended periods of standing.

Strenuous
Active excursions recommended only for guests in good physical health.

Please check your ticket for meeting time and location. There will be no announcements to remind you of departure times or meeting points.

OUR EXCURSION CATEGORIES

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE	Thrill seekers can find adventures for sports and fun. Trekking, snorkeling kayak tours and 4x4 vehicles.
CITY TOUR	The easiest way to explore the city center and local scenery. A guided tour with a comfortable coach ride.
CULTURE AND HISTORY	Learn the destinations history and culture with visits to must-see locations and guided tours.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

NATURAL WONDERS

Immerse yourself in spectacular scenery and discover the fascinating flora and fauna of your destination.

SCENIC ROUTE

Take in the destinations best views and main points of interest in total comfort, with a scenic coach tour.

SEA & SUN

Treat yourself to pure relaxation, on a beautiful beach or enjoying the stunning views on a scenic boat ride.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Unique experiences from gastronomic tours and guided shopping trips to religious visits. Explore your passion.

FAMILY FUN

Take your children on a journey of discovery designed for families and kids.

PROTECTOURS

Experience the world in a sustainable way to preserve its beauty for generations to come.

MSC BIKE ADVENTURES

Explore from the unique vantage point of an MSC Bicycle. A truly immersive guided tour of the destination.

Some excursions are very popular and therefore availability cannot always be guaranteed. We recommend booking in advance the tours you are interested in.

The availability of language guides (ENG-ITA-GER-FRE-SPA-POR) varies depending on the destination. At the time of booking, you will be able to select your preferred language from the available options. The language in which each excursion will be conducted will be confirmed on board during the cruise.