TOUR CODE

CRPS

ADVENTURESABROAD

PORTUGAL & SPAIN

with Oceania Riviera Cruise

25 days

Updated 14/06/2013

Day 1 ***Arrive Lisbon***

The capital of Portugal since its conquest from the Moors in 1147, Lisbon is a legendary city with over 20 centuries of history. This was the centre of Europe's first and largest overseas empire and, as a result, the city still has a feeling of colonial elegance.

Overnight in Lisbon. Meal plan: Dinner, if required.

Day 2 ***Lisbon Sightseeing***

Lisbon is an enticing tangle of past and present -- funky and old-fashioned, unpretentious and quirky, restored and revitalised, booming with new confidence. With cultural diversity combined with a laid-back ambience and an architectural time-warp, this is one of Europe's most enjoyable cities.

Today's half-day city tour takes us along the banks of the River Tagus and the Belem Tower guarding the mouth of the river. We visit Jeronimo's Monastery with the tomb of Vasco da Gamma. We continue on to see Alcantara, Praca do Comercio, and the House of Pointed Stones.

We also drive along the Avenida da Liberdade, a fashionable tree-lined street through the centre of town. We continue on a walking tour through the oldest quarter Alfama, Baixa, Rossio, Restauradores, and Avenida da Liberdade. Afternoon at leisure.

Overnight in Lisbon. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 3 ***Train to Coimbra***

This morning we travel to the university town of Coimbra, known for its twisting streets and terraced houses. We visit the 12th century Se Velho Cathedral, and 13th-century university with its magnificent library, Manueline doors and chapel. We also visit the charming and elegant 16th century Museu Nacional Machado de Castro, formerly the Bishop's palace and now the depository of some of Portugal's finest sculpture. On display is a mixture of other items including ancient art up to the 20th century.

Overnight in Coimbra. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 4 ***Train to Porto***

We depart today for a picturesque train journey through a landscape speckled with granite houses with wooden or wrought-iron balconies, before entering the Port Wine region, the Douro Valley, a UNESCO protected site. This is port country and was, in fact, the world's first demarcated wine region, established in 1756. Evidence of the port industry

can be seen along the valley with all the famous company names - Cockburns, Taylors, Sandeman and others -- appearing on large placards on the hillsides. En route we will stop for a cellar tour and tasting.

Overnight in Porto. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 5 *Full Day in Porto*

This morning we enjoy a tour of Porto, a World Heritage city. We will see the Church of Sao Francisco which dates to the 13th century. This was originally a Gothic church and has a fine rose window at its entrance. Walls, vaulting, and pillars are generously covered with carved and gilded wood vines, grapes, birds, angels, cherubs; a forest of carved, gilded wood covers the high altar. We will also see the Old Quarter, the modern section of the city, and the low section, fronting the River Douro.

The afternoon is free to explore Porto and soak in the atmosphere of this historic town.

Overnight in Porto. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 6 *Porto, Portugal - Madrid, Spain*

Today we fly to Madrid and transfer to our hotel.

This afternoon we include a tour of the Royal Palace where we see, among other things, its principal staircase, throne, gala dining room, museum of silver, and principal courtyard. This is the official residence of the royal family, but today it is used only state ceremonies. Otherwise known in Spanish as the Palacio Real, the Royal Palace was built during the 18th and 19th centuries, and is a monumental building. It replaced the former medieval Alcazar, which was burnt to the ground in 1794. The present day Royal Palace of Madrid was decorated to the tastes of Charles III, and is extremely lavish inside.

Overnight in Madrid. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 7 *Madrid - Granada*

This morning we transfer to Madrid train station and depart for Granada by fast train (about 3.5 hours). This afternoon is set aside for a walking tour of Granada. Granada is set in the heart of Andalucia with the majestic Sierra Nevada mountains as a backdrop. Conquered by the Moors in AD 711, Granada blossomed into one of Europe's wealthiest and most refined cities. The legacy of Granada's rich history and heritage remain visible throughout the city centre with its cobblestone streets and lovely plazas. In 1992 Granada celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Christian re-conquest by the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella.

Overnight in Granada. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 8 *Granada*

The focus of our sightseeing today is Granada's main attraction, the Alhambra, a mighty fortress that houses an extraordinarily delicate and beautiful Moorish palace begun in the 13th century. This was the palace of the Nasrid Sultans, rulers of the last Spanish Moorish Kingdom. A fantasy of "lace in stone" surrounded by arabesque gardens and fountains, it affords superb views of the Old Quarter and Sacromonte, a mountain occupied by gypsy cave dwellers. In

many ways, the Alhambra represents the Moorish concept of life itself -- something glorious to be ennobled by learning and enlivened by every kind of pleasure.

We also visit the nearby Generalife Gardens as well as the old Moorish quarter of the Albaicin.

Overnight in Granada. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 9 *Train to Sevilla (Seville)*

Today we take the train past the 'white villages' bound for Sevilla (Seville), the capital of Andalusia and a World Heritage city. We have the afternoon to explore the café lined streets in the heart of historic Seville and walk along the Guadalquivir riverbank andto view historic monuments like the Maestranza Bullring, the Torre del Oro, and the Monument to the Tolerance by Eduardo Chillida.

Overnight in Sevilla. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 10 *Sevilla*

Sevilla, the fourth largest city in Spain, is the picture-perfect image of Andalucia, complete with restored Andalusian architecture, orange groves, flower-filled patios, and castanet-rattling Gypsies.

While in Sevilla we visit the largest cathedral in Spain, built in a Gothic style with lovely stained glass windows, choir, and chapels. We visit the Giralda Tower, with its spectacular views of the city. We will also see the Moorish Alcazar Palace, a 14th century palace, the oldest royal residence in Europe and still in use. King Juan Carlos resides here while in Sevilla, as King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella once did. We finish our tour with a walk through the Old Quarter.

Balance of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Sevilla. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 11 *Train to Barcelona*

Today we take the fast train to Barcelona.

Barcelona, located on the Mediterranean Sea in the very north of the Spanish coast, is certainly the most cosmopolitan and economically active city in this country. Of course, Barcelona has a long history, and there are monuments of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance periods and before, but most characteristic is what has been built during the last 100 years.

Depending on the timing of today's train journey, we may accomplish some sightseeing today upon arrival.

Overnight in Barcelona. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 12 *Barcelona*

This morning we will embark on our Barcelona sightseeing programme (mostly on foot - leisurely pace). Our first stop is Parc Guell, a beautiful place in the morning. We have time to visit the Casa Gaudi with its collection of Gaudi-

designed furniture. We'll walk through the Parc, ending up at the main entrance to visit the terrace and pavilion unit and Doric columns.

We continue by bus to Barcelona's most famous and most photographed attraction -- La Sagrada Familia Cathedral (Cathedral of the Holy Family), an amalgam of fantasy and Gothic impulses, and Gaudi's most unique piece of architecture. Our bus stops on the side of the Nativity facade (north) from where we walk around to the Passion facade. We explore the interior and also visit the cathedral museum during our stop.

Balance of the day is at leisure.

Overnight in Barcelona. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 13 *Barcelona, Spain - Lisbon, Portugal - Cruise Embarkation*

Today we transfer to Barcelona airport and fly to Lisbon. Upon arrival, we will transfer to our luxury accommodation onboard the Oceania Riviera and settle in for the following 12 days of premium cruising.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 14 *Cadiz & Jerez*

Founded 3,000 years ago by the Phoenicians, Cádiz is the oldest city in Western Europe. The different peoples who settled here left an important cultural imprint, whose influence still remains in the character of the city's people. On our bus tour, we will see the yellow tiles of the domed Cathedral. Baroque and Neoclassical in style, its crypt guards the remains of the composer Manuel de Falla. Beside it are the old Roman theatre and the old cathedral.

Built on land reclaimed from the sea, is the Plaza de San Juan de Dios where the Neoclassical structure of Cádiz City Hall stands, looking towards the nearby port. Many lively squares lie nearby. In the Plaza de España, beside the port, stands the palace of the Provincial Government and Monument to the Liberal Cortes (Parliament).

Nearby, the city of Jerez de la Frontera, home of sherry, and its horses and its flamenco, preserving a historic centre that has been declared a national historic artistic site. Jerez de la Frontera's Arab past is clear in its walls, the Fortress and the Mosque. The latter is today the chapel of Santa María la Real. The Almohad origin (12th Century) of the building can be seen in the octagonal towers. Inside, we can admire works by Zurbarán.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 15 *Gibraltar*

We will disembark and start on our walking tour at Casemates Square at the entrance to the Main Street in Gibraltar and then head towards the City Centre. The tour will take us back through time, discovering Gibraltar’s past and its history during the Moorish, Spanish and British periods and we will learn about the development of its people and its culture.

Later, on our Gibraltar sightseeing tour, we will see the 100 Ton Gun, O’Hara’s Battery at the highest peak, the famous barbary apes, and entrance into the famous Second World War Tunnels.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 16 *Tangier*

The Tangier medina has always fascinated artists. Eugène Delacroix, Henri Matisse, Paul Bowles, Tennessee Williams, Jean Genet… the list can be continued. All have fallen for the charm of Petit Socco Square and its cafés, especially the famous Tingis, despite the nefarious reputation acquired during the period when casinos and dance halls abounded.

Our Tangier tour begins with a scenic drive to the mountain-top location of Cap Spartel, passing some beautiful villas, the Governor's residence and the King's Summer Palace along the way. Arriving at the summit, we will find a dominating stone lighthouse and be treated to some magnificent views of the rocky coastline and sapphire waters of the Strait of Gibraltar. After a brief photo stop, we continue on to the fascinating Hercules caves for a visit. The cave openings face the Atlantic and when the water rushes in at high tide, it creates a spectacular sight as it surges through the massive holes and hillside openings. Even at low tide, the scene as you look outward from the caves to the vivid blue sea is quite stunning. Legend has it that it is upon this very spot that the mythological hero Hercules rested before carrying out his 12 labours which granted him immortality.

Leaving the caves behind, we travel to Tangier for the visit of the Kasbah and its square. Continue by foot to the medina, a network of tiny streets lined with fabric shops, to the animated colourful Souks. We will be given free time for shopping at the Grand Socco before driving back to the harbour.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 17 *Malaga*

Departing from the port for the old town, we drive to the cathedral where we start our guided walking tour, passing in front of the Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art, which is housed in the former Episcopal Palace. Diaz Palacio and Ortiz de Vargas successively constructed the cathedral between the 16th and the 18th- centuries. The choir is of particular interest. Recently, a new museum has been opened inside the cathedral (Museo Catedralicio).
From the cathedral, we head for the Gibralfaro Castle and to the Alcazaba, which houses the Archeological Museum. The Gibralfaro Castle is a fortress of Phoenician origin that was later reconstructed by the Moors. From the ancient walls, there is a great view of the city, bay and surrounding countryside. The Alcazaba is a fortress and palace built between the 10th and 16th-centuries. The Malaga castle and the Alcazaba are two of the most interesting Islamic works of architecture on the Iberian Peninsula. At the foot of te Alcazaba is the interesting Roman Theater and the house (right in front of Plaza de la Merced) where the famous painter Pablo Picasso was born. During our walking tour, you'll stop at a local bodega where you can enjoy a glass of wine.

From here, we will return to our ship.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 18 *Cartagena*

The port of Cartagena, in the Mediterranean's Costa Cálida, has been prized since Carthaginian times. Thanks to its strategic position on the Murcia coast, it has been inhabited by several cultures which have left their mark on its artistic heritage. A tour of the place and its museums will draw us into the history of a city closely tied to the sea.

The Torres park is the site of the Concepción castle. Standing atop a hill, it served as a fortress to Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths, Arabs and Castilians, and now houses the History and Mediaeval Cartagena Visitor Centre.

We move to the Roman Theatre and Museum. The Theatre was only discovered in 1988 and since then, a huge excavation project has taken place in order to open the site to visitors and allow everyone to share in this amazing discovery. The Museum explains the evolution of the site and through its displays you will be able to see how the Theater looked in Roman times. Many of the remains that have been discovered during the excavations are on display here, but the highlight of your visit will surely be when you get to enter the theater itself and experience the enormity of the site, which during its heyday had a capacity for 6,000 people.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 19 *At Sea*

Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 20 *Tarragona*

Delve into Tarragona's past by visiting its ancient Roman ruins, including sites where thousands of spectators watched chariot races and gladiator fights.

Depart from the pier for a leisurely drive through the lovely hillside city of Tarragona. One of the most impressive aspects of this UNESCO World Heritage Site is its reverence for history and preservation of its ancient Roman and medieval architecture. During the drive, you'll pass the Mediterranean Balcony, a lookout point offering excellent views of the port, beach and, of course, Mediterranean Sea.

Later, we do a walking tour of the walled Old City, entering through the Portal del Roser gate. Inside the walls, you will stroll through the popular Plaza de La Font and viewTarragona Cathedral, a magnificent blend of 12th and 13th-century Gothic and Romanesque architecture. To help you visualize the layout of Tarragona during its Roman occupation, you can study a detailed model of the city in the second century A.D. It provides a great background for what lies ahead, including the remains of the Roman Circus, an ancient hippodrome where horse and chariot races took place. As you visit inside this marvelous site, you can only imagine what it was like with up to 30,000 spectators gathered to watch the races.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 21 *Marseille*

Located in southeastern France, Marseille has evolved over the course of its 2,500-year history to become France's second-largest city with a population exceeding 1.2 million people. As the leading commercial port on the Mediterranean, Marseille’s economy is anchored by trade. Even with its rich history dating back to the days of ancient Greece, Marseille is a modern, cosmopolitan city that offers fabulous restaurants, a variety of theaters, an international soccer stadium, and more than 20 museums. The heart of the city is Vieux Port, where visitors get glimpse the bustling activity along streets such as La Canebière. We will also visit the ancient district of Le Panier, Palais de Longchamp, Cathédrale de la Major, Jardin des Vestiges, and the 19th-century Notre-Dame de la Garde.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 22 *Livorno-Lucca - Pisa*

Full day drive tour of Lucca in Tuscany and a visit to Pisa.

Our tour begins with a picturesque drive northeast of Livorno toward the wonderful medieval town of Lucca. As you journey along, you'll pass several quaint medieval villages that seem to be caught in a time warp. The enchanting view outside your windows as you travel past the golden vines of the vineyards, silvery green olives waiting to be harvested, and elegant dark green cypress trees, makes it easy to see why this region has long been praised by poets and artisans for its charm and beauty.

Lucca is an easy-to-walk town with many attractions, including the Romanesque-style Cathedral of San Martino, the remains of an ancient Roman amphitheatre in Piazza Anfiteatro, and the lovely Church of San Frediano, founded in the 6th century.

Our next stop is Pisa, where we will spend most of our time concentrating on the town's principal monuments -- the Duomo, the Baptistery, and the most famous structure in Pisa, the gravity-defying "Leaning Tower." We will take ample time to view and photograph the tower from the outside (to climb the tower requires advance reservations and a considerable amount of time to queue for entry; time constraints make this impractical for our tour).

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 23 *Rome*

Full day excursion including city tour of Rome including a visit of St Peter’s Basilica, and Colosseum.

We begin our guided tour* of Rome at the 2,000 year old colosseum. Built to seat 55,000 spectators, this arena staged Rome's most brutal gladitorial combats. Next we walk through the Roman Forum where we will see the Curia, the Rostra, the Temple of Vesta, the Basilica of Constantine, and the Arch of Titus. Continuing onwards and upwards we reach the Campidoglio (Capitoline Hill), seat of the Roman Senate since the 12th century and the original citadel of the city. This beautiful square was redesigned by Michelangelo in the 16th century.

Our visit to Vatican City is with a guided tour into the cavernous interior of St. Peter's Basilica, we can appreciate it's many treasures, including Michelangelo's Pieta. At the end of the tour we visit the elegantly symmetrical Piazza St. Pietro.

We arrive at Piazza Navona where we take a break at one of the many restaurants and cafes on the square. In the square itself we can admire the impressive Fountain of the Four Rivers, with detailed figures representing the Nile, Ganges, Danube and Palata rivers.

We continue to the famous Trevi Fountain, designed by Nicholas Salvi in 1732. It's water was supplied by one of Rome's earliest aquaducts. Throwing a coin into the fountain is said to ensure your safe return to Rome. We also visit the temple-turned church called the Pantheon, and have the opportunity to admire its perfect proportions on our way to the Spanish steps, where we finish our day's tour. Balance of the day at leisure.

·NOTE: Due to traffic problems and the fact that today's sites are reasonably close to each other, we may choose to do much of today's tour will occur on foot and with Rome's efficient public transit system (cost of tickets included).

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 24 *Monte Carlo*

Although small, Monte Carlo packs in a lot of tourist attractions within its relatively compact area. From the historic Monaco Ville district - where the grand Prince's Palace impressively guards over the city, to the hedonistic haven of the Grand Casino - where chips and money pass hands in an electrifying atmosphere, Monte Carlo epitomises wealth and luxury.

If all the million-dollar yachts and sleek sports cars go to your head, seek respite in the tranquil attractions of either the Jardin Exotique, or the Japanese Garden designed by Yasuo Beppu. There is also plenty of relaxed strolling for us to enjoy in Monte Carlo, especially along Avenue Saint Martin, home to famous Monaco Cathedral, where the once glamorous Princess Grace is buried.

Overnight onboard the Oceania Riviera. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 25 *Disembarkation & Departure*

We transfer to the airport for our flight home.

BON VOYAGE! Meal plan: Breakfast.