



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



**Crossroads of Cultures**  
Canary Islands, Morocco & Iberia  
Aboard *Exploris One*

April 28 – May 10, 2026

# Crossroads of Cultures

## Canary Islands, Morocco & Iberia

### Aboard *Exploris One*

April 28 – May 10, 2026

Set sail on an unforgettable intercontinental sea adventure aboard *Exploris One*, tracing the historic maritime routes from the volcanic Canary Islands through Morocco's imperial cities and the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain's medieval palaces and Portugal's Age of Discovery landmarks.

On this spectacular voyage through diverse lands, experts will show you how these cultures have intertwined through special access to their treasures. Beginning in the Canaries, go behind the scenes of UNESCO-listed 16th- and 17th-century sites that showcase the fusion of colonial and indigenous architectural styles and traverse otherworldly volcanic landscapes with dramatic mountain backdrops.

In Morocco's most intriguing cities such as Marrakesh, Tangier, Casablanca, and Rabat, discover myriad wonders, from a former pasha's palace to Casablanca's majestic, oceanside Hassan II Mosque. Crossing the Strait of Gibraltar, you'll explore Gibraltar's St. Michael's Cave and encounter its famous Barbary macaques, Europe's only wild monkeys, and go behind the scenes of its sprawling subterranean World War II fortress built by the British.

Finally, in Spain and Portugal, witness the legacy of maritime empires in Cádiz and Seville's world-largest Gothic cathedral. In Jerez, you'll sample traditional sherry, while the Algarve towns of Sagres and Lagos will offer insights into Portugal's pioneering role in global exploration and trade. An optional Lisbon postlude is available.

## CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- Join a guided tour of the Canary Islands' UNESCO-designated Teide National Park, home to Spain's tallest peak, for a picnic lunch amidst surreal volcanic landscapes that have shaped these islands for millions of years
- Meet an architectural guide for a tour of the UNESCO-listed historic quarter of La Laguna, founded in 1496, featuring colonial mansions that reflect the Canary Islands' pivotal role in Spanish exploration of the Americas
- Discover artist César Manrique, going behind the scenes of his home and studio in the Canary Island of Lanzarote, and watch a performance in an awe-inspiring cave that Manrique transformed into a beautiful cultural space

- Enjoy a special tour of Marrakesh's rarely visited Dar El Bacha, the former palace of the city's last pasha of Marrakesh, and view its extraordinary painted ceilings, exquisite hand-cut zellige tiles, and art collections
- Gain exclusive guided access to fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent's private Marrakesh retreat and the adjacent YSL Museum, charting his profound influence on global fashion
- Sail through the Pillars of Hercules to arrive at the Rock of Gibraltar, and step ashore to tour the territory's World War II tunnels and view the famous Barbary macaques, Europe's only wild monkeys
- Delight in expert-led tours of the world's largest Gothic cathedral in Seville, Spain, and the Alcázar, Europe's oldest royal palace still in use



Map of the region (above)





Teide National Park, Tenerife, Canary Islands

## TUESDAY, APRIL 28: DEPARTURE

Depart to Tenerife on an overnight flight.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29: TENERIFE, CANARY ISLAND, SPAIN

The **Canary Islands** are a volcanic archipelago off the northwest coast of Africa, known for their diverse landscapes and microclimates. With a rich history dating back to the ancient Guanche people, the islands played a crucial role as a “Gateway to the New World,” a jumping-off point for Spanish exploration of the Americas. Arrive in **Tenerife**, the largest of the islands, and transfer to the Hotel Botánico. Depending on your arrival, you might savor a midday meal.

After settling in, you can wander the nearby **Jardín de Aclimatación de la Orotava** or unwind at the hotel. The vast botanical garden, founded in 1788, nurtures more than 5,000 plant species. Its lush grounds include towering palms, colorful bromeliads, and spiky aloes from five continents. Later, join fellow travelers in the hotel’s garden for a cocktail reception, followed by a welcome dinner. R,D

## THURSDAY, APRIL 30: TENERIFE / TEIDE NATIONAL PARK OR LA OROTAVA / EMBARK EXPLORIS ONE

Rise this morning for a scenic drive to the UNESCO-designated **Teide National Park**. Within this volcanic realm, gaze up at **Mount Teide**, Spain’s tallest peak at 12,200 feet. Savor a picnic lunch amid this surreal landscape of craters and unique rock formations.

Alternatively, you may join an expert guide to explore the winding streets of **La Orotava**, a charming town famous for its exquisitely preserved 17th-century heritage buildings. Highlights on your tour include **Casa de los Balcones**, a 1632 mansion with intricate wooden balconies, and the **Iglesia de La Concepción**, with its ornate Baroque façade, imposing dome, stained-glass windows, and lavish interior. Enjoy lunch in the town.

This afternoon, both groups will reconvene for an expert-led tour through Tenerife’s UNESCO-listed historic quarter of **La Laguna**. Founded in 1496, this stunning neighborhood features colonial mansions with wooden balconies and picturesque courtyards. Stop to see the **Santa Iglesia Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Laguna**, built from 1904 to 1915, with its mix of Neoclassical and Neo-Gothic architecture and medieval-style interior with marble pulpits and 17th-century altarpieces.

Before boarding the awaiting *Exploris One*, enjoy an inside look at the **Auditorio de Tenerife**, a strikingly modern opera house designed by revered Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava and finished in 2003. With an arched roof that seems to defy gravity, the opera house’s white exterior, made of broken tile mosaics, resembles a wave or wing. B,L,D

## FRIDAY, MAY 1: LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

Devote the day to the capital city of **Las Palmas de Gran Canaria**, Columbus’s last stop before leaving for the Americas. On an architectural tour of the **Old Town**, take a private visit to the **Teatro Pérez Galdós**, an exceptionally beautiful Neoclassical concert hall built in 1890 with an horseshoe-shaped auditorium and dazzling gilded décor.

Continue for a guided look at the **Christopher Columbus Church and House Museum (Casa de Colón)**, a 16th-century colonial building where Columbus stayed in 1492. Inside, models of *La Niña*, *La Pinta*, and *Santa María* stand alongside ancient maps, Pre-Columbian artifacts, South American pottery, and paintings from the 16th to 19th centuries that illustrate connections between the Canary Islands and the Americas.

Stop at the 19th-century **Town Hall**, with its columned façade, standing proud in **Plaza de Santa Ana**, and the majestic Gothic-Renaissance **Catedral de Santa Ana**, constructed over nearly 500 years starting in 1485, with its soaring twin towers said to replace ancient palm trees, museum with sacred art, and a 16th-century music archive.



Old Town, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands



After welcome remarks from a town official, enjoy refreshments and lunch amid the opulence of **Gabinete Literario**, a 19th-century neoclassical building. Later, aboard *Exploris One*, gather for the captain's welcome reception and dinner this evening. B,L,R,D

### SATURDAY, MAY 2: ARECCIFE

On the Canary Island of **Lanzarote**, step ashore in **Arrecife** to explore an otherworldly landscape shaped by volcanic forces. You will be immersed in the imaginative world of legendary artist and activist César Manrique (1919–1992), who transformed Lanzarote's landscapes into his own living canvas.

First, enjoy an expert-led visit to the **César Manrique Foundation**, built atop a lava flow in 1968. Here, marvel at how Manrique's innovative designs blend seamlessly with volcanic caves. Next, attend a musical performance at the Manrique-designed **Los Jameos del Agua**, a series of lava caves transformed into a 550-seat auditorium boasting extraordinary natural acoustics, with the volcanic rock amplifying sound.

Then watch a different kind of spectacle for lunch: At **El Diablo Restaurant** in Timanfaya National Park, observe skilled chefs harnessing geothermal heat from a dormant volcano to grill meats and fish on a nine-layer rock stove powered entirely by nature. Savor local specialties like Canarian potatoes with *mojo* sauce while gazing at the Fire Mountains through the restaurant's floor-to-ceiling windows.

In the afternoon, take a guided adventure through **Timanfaya's** surreal terrain, formed by over 100 volcanoes between 1730 and 1736. This UNESCO Biosphere Reserve hosts 180 plant species adapted to the challenging environment. Return to the ship and cruise to the port of Safi. B,L,D

### SUNDAY, MAY 3: DAY AT SEA

Enjoy a **relaxing day at sea** as *Exploris One* sails to reach the coast of Morocco. Engage in a variety of onboard activities designed to enrich your experience, including lectures.



César Manrique Foundation, Arrecife, Canary Islands



Villa Oasis, Marrakesh, Morocco

For those seeking tranquility, unwind in the ship's spa, indulging in soothing treatments and enjoying the serene atmosphere as you sail through the open waters. B,L,D

### MONDAY, MAY 4: SAFI, MOROCCO / MARRAKESH

From Safi, travel east to Marrakesh. Beginning in the medina, the old walled section of town, gaze up at the 12th-century **Koutoubia Mosque** and its soaring minaret. Next, take a special tour of the rarely visited **Dar El Bacha**, an early 20th-century grand *riad* residence transformed into a museum.

Previously home to an influential *pasha* (high-ranked Ottoman official), Dar El Bacha's symmetrical split-level layout is a classic display of Moroccan domestic architecture and a snapshot of aristocratic lifestyles from a century ago.

Later, follow in the footsteps of the late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent, who adopted Marrakesh as his home, with guided tours of **Villa Oasis**, his cherished, cobalt-blue retreat, and the lush **Jardin Majorelle**, his botanical sanctuary. You will also have a guided exploration of the adjacent **YSL Museum**, which charts more than four decades of Saint Laurent's contributions to women's fashion.

Then watch the bustle at Marrakesh's famous **Djemaa el F'na Square**, an ancient meeting place filled with dancers, storytellers, and snake charmers. Later, return to *Exploris One* as it sails for Casablanca. B,L,D

### TUESDAY, MAY 5: CASABLANCA / RABAT

Arrive this morning in **Casablanca** and transfer for a guided look at the magnificent **Hassan II Mosque**, an architecturally distinguished worship space built partially over the Atlantic Ocean outside Casablanca. Inside one of Africa's largest and most ornately decorated mosques, our private tour will reveal masterful Moroccan artistry lavished across hand-carved wood, marble, and granite surfaces under a retractable roof letting in ocean breezes.





*Kasbah Museum, Tangier, Morocco*

Drive to Rabat for a visit to the **Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art**, which celebrates works by Morocco's leading artists of today. Your expert guide will later take you for a stroll through Rabat's oldest area, the 12th-century **Kasbah des Oudaïas**, which features the city's oldest mosque, gardens, and sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean and the river Bou Regreg. Return to the ship this evening. B,L,D

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6: TANGIER**

Step ashore in glamorous **Tangier** on the Strait of Gibraltar, just 17 miles from Spain. You will explore two centuries of U.S.-Morocco ties at the **Tangier American Legation Museum**, the only U.S. National Historic Landmark outside our national borders. The sultan offered this 1821 mansion as a gift to the U.S., making Morocco the first country to formally recognize American independence.

Then embark on a guided tour of the **Kasbah Museum**, a former sultan's palace displaying antiquities ranging from Paleolithic tools and detailed Roman floor mosaics to intricate Spanish-Moorish ceilings.

Afterwards, stop at **St. Andrews Church**, its 1894 Anglican interior featuring the Arabic Lord's Prayer and carved Quranic script behind the altar, or the 19th-century **Nahon Synagogue**, its Andalusian-inspired prayer room elaborately decorated in floral motifs with a gallery preserving Jewish artifacts. This evening, prepare for an adventure across the Strait of Gibraltar. B,L,D

### **THURSDAY, MAY 7: GIBRALTAR, UNITED KINGDOM**

As the ship navigates the **Strait of Gibraltar**, stand on deck to see this maritime marvel where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean. This narrow passage, once known as the Pillars of Hercules, has shaped human history for over 125,000 years. Today, it remains a vital artery for global trade, with 300 ships traversing daily.

Upon reaching Gibraltar, ascend to **Saint Michael's Cave** within the Upper Rock Nature Reserve. This ancient limestone cavern, adorned with stalactites and stalagmites, harbors legends of secret passages used by Gibraltar's famous **Barbary macaques**, Europe's only wild monkey population.

Delve deeper into the Rock to explore the **World War II tunnels**, an extraordinary 34-mile network carved by British Royal Engineers. This subterranean fortress once housed 16,000 troops, complete with a hospital, power plant, and water distillation facilities. As you emerge from the tunnels, pause at Jock's Balcony for breathtaking views of the Spanish coast before setting sail for Spain. B,L,D

### **FRIDAY, MAY 8: CADIZ, SPAIN / JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA OR SEVILLE**

Make your way to **Cádiz**, one of Western Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities with a 3,000-year history. You may opt to remain here to explore the 18th-century cathedral and marvel at **Francisco Goya's frescoes in the Oratorio de la Santa Cueva**.

These masterpieces, completed in 1796, include *The Last Supper*, *The Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes*, and *The Adoration of the Shepherds*. The oratorio also boasts a connection to Joseph Haydn, who composed *The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross* specifically for this site.

Later, travelers who remained in **Cádiz** will venture to **Jerez de la Frontera**. Sample this town's native sherry and meet the Marquis at the 13th-century **Palacio del Virrey Laserna**, a neoclassical gem associated with General José de la Serna, the last Viceroy of Peru.



*Barbary macaque Gibraltar, United Kingdom*



As an alternative to exploring Cádiz and Jerez, venture to **Seville** to visit its **UNESCO-recognized Gothic cathedral**—the world’s largest—and ascend the 342-foot **Giralda Tower**, originally a 12th-century minaret. Take an expert-led tour of the **Alcázar**, Europe’s oldest royal palace still in use, admiring its blend of Islamic, Gothic, Renaissance, and Mudéjar styles.

Stroll through the adjacent **Murillo Garden** before a special visit to **La Casa de Pilatos**, a 15th-century palace boasting 150 unique designs of *azulejo* (Iberian tilework). This National Monument, declared in 1931, blends Mudéjar, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture. All travelers will meet in Seville to sail to Portugal. B,L,D

### **SATURDAY, MAY 9: PORTIMÃO, PORTUGAL / SAGRES / LAGOS**

Disembark in **Portimão** and drive to **Sagres**, home of Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460). Here, at the southwestern tip of Portugal, Henry established his influential school of navigation, which laid the groundwork for the Age of Discoveries. Stop to view the 16th-century **Sagres Fortress** and its enigmatic compass rose, believed to have been used for astronomical observations.

Following lunch, continue to **Lagos**, the final launching point for the *caravels* (small sailing ships) that shaped world history. Visit the **Igreja de Santo António**, a Baroque masterpiece built in 1707 and restored in 1769. Marvel at its shimmering gilded woodwork, vivid paintings, and stunning azulejos. Next, visit the **Mercado de Escravos**, one of Europe’s first markets for enslaved people, which now serves as an educational museum.



*Igreja de Santo António, Lagos, Portugal*

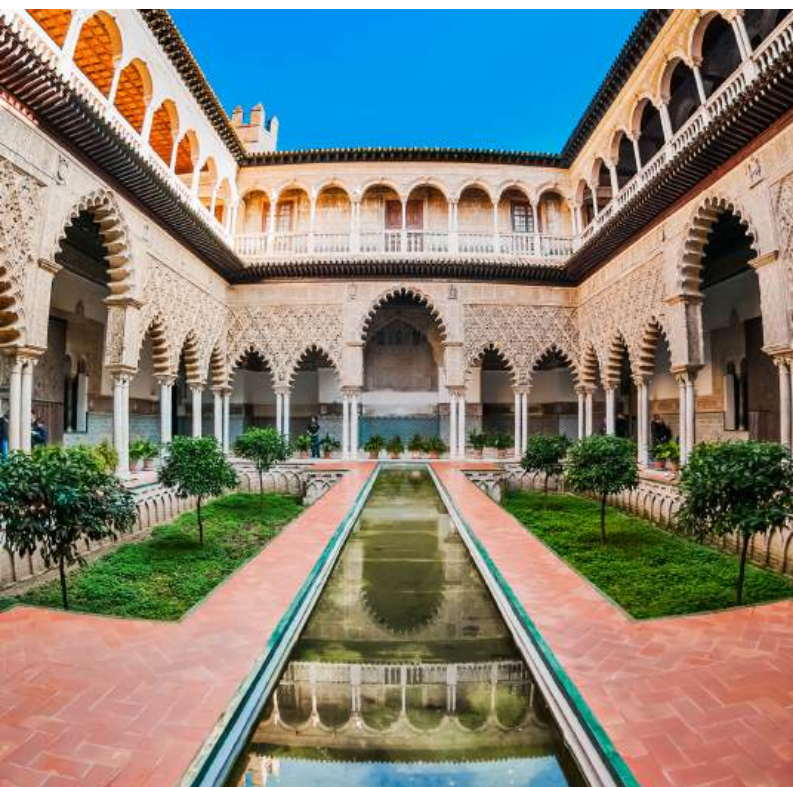
Before returning to the ship in Portimão, discover more about the local culture in an intriguing way. Go behind the scenes at the award-winning **Museu de Portimão**, housed in the São Francisco sardine canning factory that operated until 1985.

This innovative museum features an interactive recreation of the sardine canning process and a unique viewing center in the former rainwater cistern, offering animated images of underwater life in the Arade River and Atlantic Ocean. Gather this evening aboard *Exploris One* for the festive farewell dinner. B,L,D

### **SUNDAY, MAY 10: LISBON / DISEMBARK / RETURN**

After breakfast, disembark *Exploris One* and transfer to the Lisbon airport for your flight back home. B

**Extend the adventure with an optional Lisbon postlude with dates, pricing, and itinerary details to come.**



*Alcázar, Cádiz, Spain*



*Exploris One*

**DISCLAIMER:** This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).

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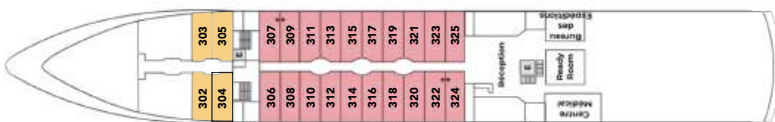
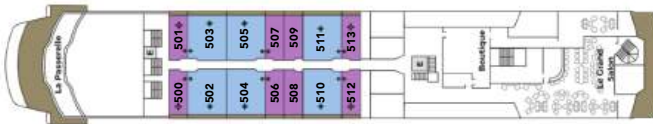
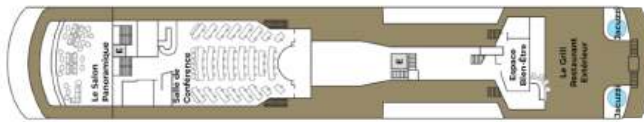
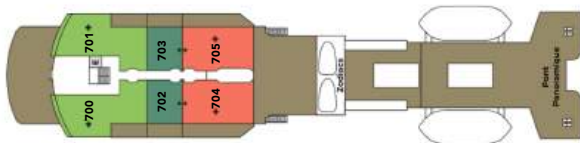
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Cover photo: Cádiz, Spain



## CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
302-305 Premium staterooms (160 sq ft, two portholes)	Deck 3	\$9,999	\$12,499
306-325 Ocean Staterooms (192 sq ft, small picture window)	Deck 3	\$11,999	\$14,499
400-405, 407, 409 Superior Staterooms (185 sq ft, small picture window)	Deck 4	\$12,999	\$17,499
406, 408, 410-425, 427, 429 Deluxe Staterooms (192 sq ft, large picture window)	Deck 4	\$13,999	\$20,299
500, 501, 506-509, 512, 513 Balcony Staterooms (210 sq ft, French balcony)	Deck 5	\$16,999	Inquire
702 & 703 Navigator Suites (400 sq ft, private balcony)	Deck 7	\$21,999	Inquire
502-505, 510, 511 Discovery Suites (422 sq ft, two French balconies)	Deck 5	\$22,999	Inquire
700 & 701 Grand Suites (618 sq ft, private balcony)	Deck 7	\$24,999	Inquire
704 & 705 Owners Suites (728 sq ft, large private balcony)	Deck 7	\$26,999	Inquire



Grand Restaurant, Exploris One

## EXPLORIS ONE

The recently renovated *Exploris One* (formerly Silversea Cruise Line's *Silver Explorer*) was specially designed to sail the world's most demanding waters. Equipped with a reinforced hull, *Exploris One* is a global benchmark for exploring glacial regions in a completely safe environment. Enjoy an exceptional level of comfort, along with personalized service. The ship features 60 cabins and 12 suites, among the most spacious available on expedition ships. Enjoy a fitness and well-being area, panoramic decks and lounges, and outdoor Jacuzzis for a moment of relaxation with a view.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Hotel Botánico

Nestled in lush subtropical gardens, this five-star haven boasts elegantly appointed rooms with stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean or the volcanic landscape of Mount Teide. Guests can indulge in dining at its diverse restaurants, unwind in the spa with its extensive wellness treatments, or relax by the expansive outdoor pool surrounded by manicured gardens. The hotel also features a state-of-the-art fitness center, a golf course, and exclusive shopping boutiques, ensuring a comprehensive and sophisticated experience for all visitors.

## RATES INCLUDE

- One night accommodations at the Hotel Botánico in Tenerife
- Ten nights cabin accommodations aboard the exclusively chartered and renovated *Exploris One*
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wine and beer with all onboard lunches and dinners; complimentary open bar aboard *Exploris One* throughout the cruise (including all standard spirits)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; optional Lisbon postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.