



ATLANTIC SUNRISE CRUISE

24 April – 6 May 2010

Join Ship Monthly's 50th Cruise Club event

A superb 13-day/12-night cruise sailing from Las Palmas to Palma calling at La Palma, Funchal (Madeira), Cadiz, Almeria, Cagliari (Sardina), Naples, Civitavecchia (Rome), Ajaccio (Corsica) and Barcelona



ABOVE: Ships Monthly's Cruise Club passengers are always assured a warm welcome when they step on board Island Escape. Our latest cruise on this smart, easy going vessel takes in a host of new Spanish and Italian destinations and a special Cruise Club itinerary adds extra value to your cruise.

SHIPS MONTHLY'S FAVOURITE cruise ship, Island Escape, is currently sailing from a base in the Canary Islands and we plan to catch up with the vessel, greatly enjoyed by Cruise Club groups in 2006 and 2007, during a 12-night voyage back to the Mediterranean that departs Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, on Saturday 24 April, and makes a tremendous selection of calls along the way.

Golden anniversary

It's our 50th tour since readers' cruises started in 1986, and Island Cruises will be pulling out all the stops for a golden celebration as Island Escape, the ship renowned for its on board informality and excellent food, visits the islands of La Palma, Madeira before the Spanish ports of Cadiz and Almeria begin a sequence of visits to centres with huge and varied maritime interest and a fascinating selection of shore excursion possibilities.

Next stop is the Sardinian capital of Cagliari before Island Escape continues her Mediterranean cruise to Naples and

Civitavecchia, the port for Rome. Then, with a course set to the west, we have a halt in Ajaccio, Corsica, before another full day highlight in magnificent Barcelona, prior to a final overnight sailing to Palma, Majorca, our disembarkation port.

ISLAND ESCAPE	
TONNAGE	40,132 gross tons
DIMENSIONS	L 185m (607ft) D 6.8m (22.4ft) B 27m (88.59ft)
BUILT	Dubigeon-Normandie S.A., Prairie-au-Duc, Nantes, France 1982
SCREWS/SPEED	Twin/18 knots
DECKS	Ten
LIFTS	Five
CABINS	772
CRUISE PASSENGERS	1,741
CREW AND STAFF	540
REGISTRY	Bahamas
MACHINERY	Two B&W 9L55GFC diesel engines producing 10,700bhp each at 150rpm

In addition to fares offering a big reduction on brochure prices, the extra features of our Cruise Club programme and the opportunity to sail with other ship and ocean travel lovers, we have also been able to arrange a £50 per person on board credit! Supported by a member of the Ships Monthly editorial team, Russell Plummer, who has organised all 49 previous readers' cruises since 1986, will be your guide and there will be a full Cruise Club programme, subject to minimum numbers, including exclusive events aboard Island Escape and at ports of call.

Island Escape offers three restaurants including the recently refurbished and enlarged Beachcomber, open 24 hours a day. Once again we will dine in the Island Restaurant at specially reserved tables, apart from a special end of cruise dinner with

Island Escape's master Captain David Bathgate and senior officers in the Oasis Restaurant. Prices are based on flights to Las Palmas from London Gatwick, returning from Palma, Majorca. Departures are also available from and back to Manchester airport at a supplement of £50 per person.

Standard Cabins

Inside cabins have two single beds, which are either side by side or in an L-shaped configuration. All cabins have wardrobe and drawer space, en suite bathroom with shower and WC and colour TV and are fully air-conditioned. Standard cabin sizes vary between 106-127 square feet. Outside cabins have a port-hole or picture window. Hairdryers are available from Reception for a small, refundable deposit.

Island Escape is a great ship to relax on and her restaurants and cafes serve some of the best food afloat.



Russell Plummer

PRICES PER PERSON FOR CABINS ON DECKS FIVE AND SIX ARE:

Two bed inside cabin:	£979
Two bed outside cabin:	£1,079
Sole use inside cabin:	£1,429
Sole use outside: cabin:	£1,579

(All prices subject to a standard 2.5 per cent credit card charge)

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE: Full board 12-night cruise as per itinerary in cabin of chosen grade; flights London Gatwick-Las Palmas, Palma-Gatwick (Manchester-Las Palmas, Palma-Manchester, available at a supplement of £50pp); airport/ship transfers and vice versa; all on board gratuities, entertainment, sport and leisure facilities; Ships Monthly Cruise Club programme including bridge visit, special presentation and farewell dinner with captain, souvenir itinerary; £50 per person on board credit.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE: Travel to and from UK airports; airport parking; on board drinks and purchases; shore excursions; travel insurance (compulsory - see conditions on back page).

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT: Russell Plummer, Charisma Media and Travel, The Old Police Station, 30 South Street, Stanground, Peterborough, PE2 8ET, Cambs. Tel/fax: 01733-347253, E-mail: r.plummer@ukonline.co.uk



Company image

ABOVE: One of Island Escape's outside double cabins.

ATLANTIC SUNRISE CRUISE: 24 APRIL – 6 MAY 2010

TOUR ITINERARY

SATURDAY 24 APRIL Afternoon flight at 1425 from Gatwick or Manchester at 1355 to Las Palmas, arr respectively at 1840 and 1825 local time, to join Island Escape in time for dinner before departure at 2300

SUNDAY 25 APRIL: Visit to La Palma, the Canaries' best-kept secret with a Welcome Reception in the evening prior dinner in Island Restaurant.

MONDAY 26 APRIL: Island Escape reaches fascinating Madeira for a 14-hour stop in the capital Funchal.

TUESDAY APRIL 27: Day at sea with special Cruise Club on board programme including a bridge visit.

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL: Full day in Cadiz, the Moorish city with an impressive cathedral and the cities of Seville and Jerez close-by. Island Escape passes Gibraltar to enter the Mediterranean during the evening, crossing the paths of a host of Spain-Morocco fast and conventional ferry routes.

THURSDAY 29 APRIL: There's more ferry interest in Almeria, another picture post card town where Granada's Alhambra Palace vies for attention with the Alcazaba Fortress.

FRIDAY 30 APRIL: Time to reflect on the first half of the cruise in a leisurely day at sea as Island Escape heads east.



Russell Plummer

ABOVE: *Island Escape's passenger amenities include three restaurants, six bars, three lounges, a swimming pool, internet café, video arcade, theatre with West End-style shows and a casino.*

SATURDAY MAY 1: It's all things Italian for the next three days, starting at Cagliari, the quaint Sardinian capital with its winding cobbled streets - and a busy ferry port!

SUNDAY 2 MAY: There's an 0800 arrival in Naples with cruise and ferry tonnage and all manner of cargo vessels on view. What is sure to be a memorable day brings endless excursion possibilities including Mount Vesuvius, Pompei, the Amalfi Coast and Isle of Capri.

MONDAY 3 MAY: Next stop is Civitavecchia, another port with massive passenger shipping activity. There's a

treasure trove of shore tour possibilities centred on nearby Rome - or why not go 'off-piste' with Russell Plummer for a trip to the Italian capital using public transport and taking in all the major sights at minimum cost!

TUESDAY 4 MAY: A passage through the Bonifacio Strait is followed by a morning visit to Corsica's capital Ajaccio, rising up from the beautiful gulf. Island Escape leaves a harbour crowded with super yachts and ferries running to French and Italian mainland ports at 1300 and the evening brings one of our tour highlights, dinner in the Oasis Restaurant with Captain David Bathgate and senior officers.

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY: Today, Barcelona, one of the world's most vibrant cities beckons, if you can tear your eyes away from a port with another impressive array of cruise vessels and ferries. Ashore, enjoy Gaudi's stunning architecture, stroll down the Ramblas or even take an unforgettable tour to soccer mecca, the Nou Camp Stadium.

THURSDAY 6 MAY: After an overnight crossing, the cruise reaches Palma for flights home, depart 1045 Gatwick, arrive 1210, depart 2030 for Manchester, arrive 2210.



Iain Wakefield

LEFT: *Part of the exclusive Ships Monthly Cruise Club package includes a VIP bridge visit.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND TOUR CONDITIONS

PASSPORTS AND INSURANCE

All tour participants must be in possession of a passport valid for the duration of the tour and provide details of the passport number and expiry date on the booking form. You are also required to give a signed undertaking that you have, or will arrange, adequate travel insurance for the duration of the itinerary.

BOOKING YOUR CRUISE

To book for this cruise please complete the official Atlantic Sunrise Booking Form and forward to CMT, Atlantic Sunrise, 30 South Street, Stanground, Peterborough, Cambs., PE2 8ET. Preferred payment method is by credit or debit card authorisation direct to Island Cruises using dedicated number 0871-231-4906 and quoting Ships Monthly. A standard 2.5 per cent credit card charge applies to all payments. It is still essential that credit card payments are confirmed on a fully completed booking form. If you wish to pay by cheque, this should be made out in favour of Charisma Agency and sent together with the booking form. Cheque payments are also subject to a 2.5 per cent charge should be added to the total cruise price.

TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Once again this is a tour arranged for the Ships Monthly Cruise Club by Russell Plummer of Charisma Media and Travel, a

independent non-bonded operation existing solely to arrange tours for ship lovers. This cruise is subject to the conditions of Island Cruises and flight provider Thomson Fly.

CONTACTS

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Russell Plummer

ABOVE: Ship lovers will have plenty of time to photograph vessels at ports en route such as SNAV Sardegna (ex-Pride of Le Havre), seen here at Civitavecchia.

INTRODUCING ISLAND ESCAPE

ISLAND CRUISES, ORIGINALLY a joint venture between First Choice Holidays and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, came under the Thomson Cruises banner at the end of 2008, but continues as a separate entity from the mainstream Thomson cruise fleet. Island Escape was introduced on seven-night Western Mediterranean cruises from a base in Palma, Majorca, during 2002, and has gained a huge following from passengers who enjoy the ship's relaxed atmosphere backed by the highest standards for food, entertainment and general upkeep.

Since Ships Monthly's last group sailed the length of the Mediterranean to Istanbul and back in 2007, Island Escape's popular 24-hour Beachcomber Restaurant has been extended the full width of the hull to allow additional tables while the seating area for the Sailaway Bar, one deck above, has been more than doubled in size. The swimming pool's retractable roof has been removed and the surrounding upper deck extended to offer space for additional sun loungers on either side.

Island Escape started life as the passenger and vehicle ferry Scandinavia, introduced by a DFDS subsidiary in 1981 for service from New York to the Bahamas. After a later spell running between Copenhagen and Oslo, the vessel was sold to Sundance Cruises for summer trips from US west coast ports to Alaska, with winter cruises south to Mexico, eventually finding her way into RCCL ownership as Viking Serenade. The car decks were converted to offer additional cabins, and the trademark RCCL lounge and bar surrounding the funnel were added in a refit at San Diego in 1991.



Russell Plummer collection

ABOVE: Barcelona's cathedral.



Russell Plummer

ABOVE: The rugged coast of Sardinia.



Russell Plummer collection

ABOVE: Madeira is one of the ports visited before Island Escape sails into the Mediterranean for a call at the Spanish port of Almeria.