

Ensemble Experience

MAHON, MENORCA

Ship/Sailing:	Seabourn Legend	October 10, 2009
Tour Date:	October 14, 2009	
Ship Time in Port:	8:00 am -	6:00 pm
Tour Name:	<i>Beautiful Menorca and its Ancient Heritage</i>	
Full Day Tour:	Depart: 9:00 am	Return: 5:00 pm

Today explore beautiful little Menorca, an island of steep coastal cliffs harboring small, stunning coves and long sandy beaches, lovely villages and mysterious ancient stone structures. Your tour begins at the far western end of the island in Ciutadella, the old capital. And, this lovely port city's historic quarter, called Es Born, is surrounded by medieval streets filled with palaces, churches and fortresses.

After seeing Ciutadella, drive to Ferreries, a city surrounded by green hills whose center is carved through by narrow and charming streets that surround the Sant Bartolomeu Church and the España Square. Then enjoy an informal tapas lunch at Binisues Restaurant, located in a tastefully refurbished English-style manor house that dates back to the 18th and 19th centuries. It has large well-tended gardens and a museum filled with rural curiosities.

This afternoon visit the village of es Mercadel, located in the center of Menorca at the base of the island's highest mountain, Monte Toro. Enjoy the town's whitewashed houses, quiet streets, the San Martín Renaissance Church, the 18th century well, and the Cap de Cavallería Eco-Museum, with its open-air exhibits and beautiful views. Then visit the Virgen del Toro Sanctuary, home of Menorca's patron saint.

Next you will stop at Trépuco to see the amazing and mysterious megalithic stone monuments created by the island's talayotic settlers. Some of the most important ancient structures in Europe, they seem to have been built by giants. Each building is totally integrated in the natural surroundings. Observe the splendor and size of these taules, which sanctuaries. They are formed by two large rock slabs resembling a T and get their name from taula, which means table in the Menorcan dialect. The tallest is the one here at Trepucó which measures 4.20 meters.

If time allows, there will be a brief stop at Binibeca, a charming little fishing village not far from Mahon filled with typical whitewashed fishermen's houses. As you drive along admire the medieval defensive towers, old rural farmsteads and windmills, and more remains of prehistoric talaiot constructions at Es Pujol. Back in Mahon take a stroll through the old quarter and savor the Mediterranean atmosphere of its churches, palaces and other lovely buildings as you walk downhill to the pier.

Ensemble *Experience* shore excursions are capacity controlled, subject to change without notice and require a minimum number of participants. All times are approximate. Your Ensemble Traveler host onboard will advise final details.