

Your Adventure Starts Onward

SPAIN INTENSIVE



THE
Crochet
CROWD

Stretch with Me!sey

FROM US

Take an onward journey through the prosperous historic cities of the Spanish landscape. We will jump aboard one of the newest ships that Azamara current launched; her name is Onward.

Azamara is a smaller fleet of ships that can reach destinations most larger ships cannot dock. This is the most beautiful reasons we picked Azamara to explore the western Mediterranean on an intensive journey. Walking off this ship with your destination is only a few steps onward. That's right, and your port is not a shipping container yard. With the old cities right in front of you, exploring is as easy as passing through the security gates and onto the streets. No shuttle buses!



We invite you to join us.
We love having friends to crochet and explore the world with us.

10 Night Spain Intensive Voyage

October 27th, 2024 Barcelona, Spain to Lisbon, Portugal

Why join us? Over the years doing the crochet cruises, we have made many friends that love to crochet. We don't sit and gossip - actually, we do :) but we have a riot doing so. Fun and laughs are just a part of the adventure. Going on a vacation to meet new lovers of yarn and seeing old friends is why we love chatting and even having a martini with you.

This beautiful trip along the southern Spanish shores will enchant you with beautiful history, great food and wonderful streets that will take you back to period times. It's intensive! Each day, except for one sea day, is a port day. Some days the ship leaves at 10 pm giving you time to explore the morning, afternoon and evening. No rushing.

Is there time to crochet? What about classroom time? Well, this ship is ideal for gathering together; it's a smaller ship holding only 670 passengers—a far cry from the 3000 or so on more prominent cruise lines. We'll be honest, it doesn't have all the bells and whistles like casinos and electrifying entertainment throughout the day, but your entertainment, in all seriousness, will be ALL the exploring that you will be doing off the ship at each port. Finding crocheters in the library, back deck or lounge is as easy as walking on one deck.

What about the food? Sherry and I had the opportunity to be on board for a test trial, and I will admit the food never disappointed me. Secretly, I love the chicken wings at the pub bar, and Sherry, well, she enjoyed the best-ever French Toast every morning! But, of course, they will accommodate special diets too.

Continue to read the itinerary and the cities we are going to walk through. Information to book is as easy as contacting Sherry, our travel agent, on our last page. She will hook you up!



IN THIS ADVENTURE...

Barcelona.. a cosmopolitan beauty

Valencia... innovated and gothic

Cartagena... city of cultures

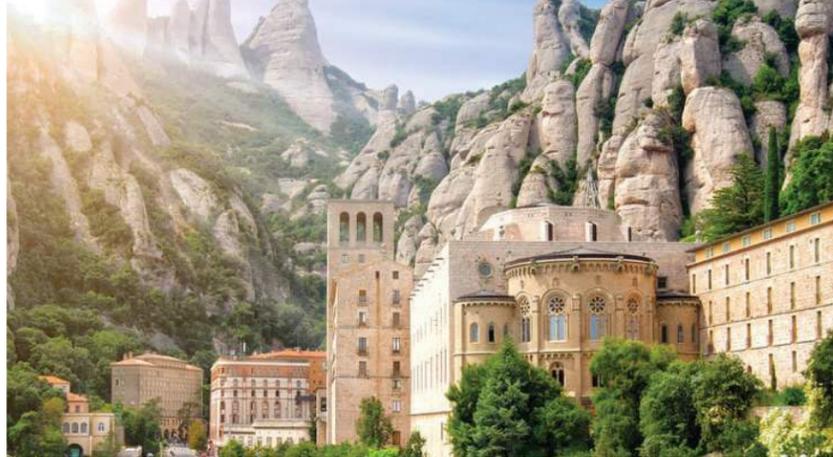
Malaga... an artwork to discover

Gibraltar... a British rock to behold

Seville... abundance riches

Lisbon... stunning history





You should try to adventure outside of the city. Sherry and I had a fabulous time travelling with our tour guide to Mont Serrat. This monastery is high up in the mountains outside of Barcelona. This is where the so-called black Madonna sits high on the altar. What is stunning is the detailed carvings and craftsmanship of this monastery. The drive up through the mountains and views of the Pyrenees mountains in the distance was breathtaking. This is where PuppiDawg's and Saltidawg's ancestors are from.

Feel free to dive into the locals' favourite foods in Spain. Yes, snails were delicious, but there is so much more to their culinary explosion of flavours if snails differ from your thing.

Come early for a few days and discover the richness behind this city in the Catalonia region.

BARCELONA

Barcelona is a cosmopolitan beauty, a city rich in art with artists such as Gaudi and architecture that transports you to creative imagination. With medieval and Gothic buildings still standing in the old town, you can see human abilities that will astound you and marvel at modern influences seen all over the city. The block layout of the city buildings is lined with 100-year-old London Plane trees making the city feel relaxed and so walkable. Venture off to the waterfront with a view of the bay, shops and luxury yachts and then work your way up and stroll up the shady, tree-lined Las Ramblas boulevard and discover some of the city's best shopping and bustling cafes. A MUST stop is Sagrada Familia, a church that is so close in finishing that has taken over 100 years to build. It is Stunning!

Michael and I have been to this city before and fell in love. The layout, the architecture and the food are incredible. You should come early to get over the common jetlag and truly discover this city. I don't know how much gelato I ate, but it was ALL GOOD! You can ask Sherry to help find tours for you, like Sherry and I did as we took 'locals know best'.





CARTAGENA

The seat of ancient Carthage, this Spanish port city is steeped in over 2,000 years of history. Encircled by protective hills, this natural harbour is an open museum once ruled by the Romans and fought many battles. The layers of history today can be seen walking through the streets.

Start at the Naval Museum to learn more about the “City of Cultures,” then explore everything from Roman ruins to modern creations inspired by Gaudi.

Take the steps of the Ancient roman amphitheatre or see the underwater archaeology museum.

There is no shortage of Tapas Bars. Oh, and anchovies are a specialty here. They are unlike the ones you open and twist a tin can. They don't taste like the salty versions.

Up for a coffee-taste adventure? Try their local Cafe, Asiatico. Some say it's an acquired taste.

We are here from 11 am to 6 pm.



VALENCIA

If Barcelona had a sibling, Valencia would be that under-look beauty. This Spanish city is home to many avant-garde buildings, including the breathtaking City of Arts and Sciences cultural complex. In addition, palaces and mansions constructed in the 15th century dot the cityscape.

You can eat through Mercado Central, one of Europe's biggest and best food markets or go inside the beautiful and detailed stain-glass and stone pillars of the Old Silk exchange La Lonja de la Seda. The Silk Exchange resembles a medieval fortress housing many mysterious carvings. Afterwards, just 2 minutes away, walk along the Moorish streets of El Carmen for photos of history.

We are here from 7:30 am to 10:00 pm. That is a FULL day of exploring. So get comfortable shoes because there is so much to see and learn!



MALAGA

Málaga, Costa Del Sol (‘the sunshine coast’) is beautiful work of art—the birthplace of Picasso. You'll find a museum commemorating his birth here, a must-visit destination for art fans. Elsewhere, spend some time in the city's Alcazaba, an 11th-century citadel home to three palaces, beautiful gardens, and opulent fountains. Finally, explore Catedral De La Encarnacion De Malaga, a cathedral with Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque influences.

Since we are here from 7:30 pm to 11 pm, indulge yourself in Andalusian Flavours.

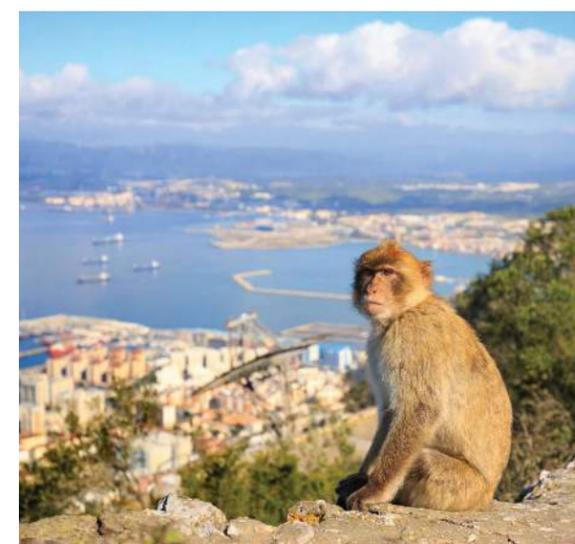
GIBRALTAR

Known as the 'Rock of GIB,' with Panoramic views, the Rock of Gibraltar is a sight to behold. Overlooking the mouth of the Mediterranean from a height of 1,400 feet, it's a natural fortress and a gateway to the Mediterranean. The strait of Gibraltar separates the coast of Spain and Africa. You can take a cable car to the overlook point and marvel at the magnificent views.

It's also home to huge caves and troupes of Barbary macaques that have taken up residence on The Rock's upper reaches. Legend has it that if the monkeys ever leave, so will the British.

A British overseas territory, and for some time, has been a revival conflict between the British and the Spaniards. On the streets below, you can explore dozens of British stores and pubs and marvel that you're a stone's throw away from Spain. Fish and Chips, anyone?

See the Pillars of Hercules, visit the Moorish castle, or enjoy some shopping time. We are here from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.



SEVILLE



We have two nights in this lovely and pretty city. Seville is the Capital of Andalucia, a region in the south of Spain. This city will take your five senses on an exploration adventure. Known for its Orange Blossoms, opera, flamenco, and of course, tapas

Seville is where the invention of tapas was created. The locals gaze from bar to bar, making an entire meal out of the experience.

The city also has a rich history, evident in its landmarks. The Alcazar, the main palace, is exquisitely decorated in Moorish style, with themed gardens laid out in terraces. All in all, riches are abundant for all who come to call.

It's good that we are here for a few days because there is so much to see, including the Golden Tower, the Jewish quarter, Maria Luisa Park, and the Cathedral of Seville. I love that we can discover this magnificent city for a few days.

As we travel up the Guadalquivir River, we pass through the Seville lock, the only one in Spain and a narrow opening bridge. We dock next to the Plaza de Espana. Very few ships of this size can make this trip to the heart of the Andalucia region.

We are here from 1 pm Nov 1 to 1 pm Nov 3. WOW!



LISBON

After a day at Sea, we arrive at one of the oldest cities in the world; Lisbon oozes rich architecture and is crisscrossed by monument-studded grand boulevards. Everywhere you turn, there is a castle or a world heritage site. After your cruise, you want to spend a few extra days here.

The city is nestled behind hills but, for the most part, easy walking. For the steep areas, you can take the tram. Looks like something from San Fransico. Eh?

Must-sees include the church of Igreja de Sao Vicente de Fora, which dates back to the 12th century; Musee Calouste Gulbenkian, one of Europe's leading fine arts museums; and Torre de Belém, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most famous monuments in Portugal.

Make sure you mention to Sherry that you wish to explore the city, and she can set you up with a hotel that is perfect for the location.



LIFE ON BOARD

As we mentioned, Azamara doesn't have all the 'wow' decor or mass entertainment that most cruise lines have, but it does give you relaxation, comfort and a heck of a lot of ease. The food is excellent, the cabins are fit for two, and the destinations are genuinely the true experience.

Suppose you have never been to Europe before. In that case, this intensive voyage requires a lot of walking on cobble streets, hills and busy side streets: comfortable shoes and the ability to walk to your heart's content a highly recommended frames of mind. PLUS, there are so many others ways to explore besides walking.

Azamara does have tours, and many are fantastic. Tours with Azamara have a limit to ensure comfort and passenger ease. You are on an exploration by Azamara.

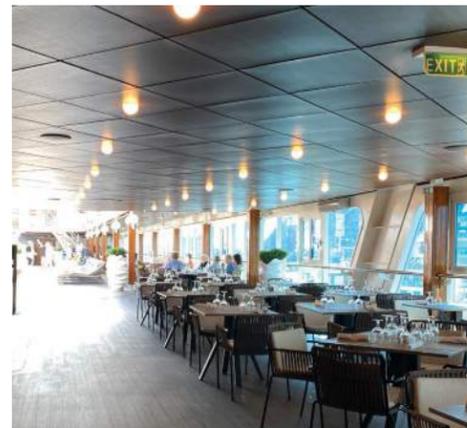
Azarmara Onward has parties for all its passengers to enjoy. Be sure to bring your white clothing as they transform their entire outdoor pool deck into a fabulous event featuring a fantastic feast of food, and it's fabulous! There will be dancing with live entertainment and time with the staff and chiefs in charge to make your trip fun and enjoyable.

They also have the 'AzAmazing destination' event. This could be on the ship or in the city at a historical theatre, immersing you into the culture of your voyage. Flamenco dance, anyone?

If you have food requirements, Azamara will do what it takes to make your meals delicious and fit for your needs.

Did you know that you can do your own laundry on the ship for FREE! They have a laundry facility with washers, dryers and de-gegent for you to use at no cost. So you can packed light and shop more!

We hope you can join us on this cruise to the south shores of Spain. Discovery of the richness of beauty that will leave you in awe.



WHAT ABOUT THE CROCHET?

Are there Crochet plans for the group?

We are working on a planned night out together at a restaurant during our adventure on this voyage. So you can join us for a night out in the streets with the crochet gang. Details will come closer as we get updates on the ship's itinerary details.

We will gather in the evenings to crochet, and I am confident we will take up the chairs somewhere on the ship after a good day of tours and walking the streets. We encourage you to bring your yarn and patterns.

There are no formal classroom events except for our first evening on board, and we find that even after a day of touring and discovering, we want to sit back, crochet and gossip for the time we are together. No more racing to get to class but come in with your project, a drink in hand and join in with the conversations. **Honestly, have you indeed looked at the itinerary?** There is only a little spare time to arrange for sponsored classroom time.

Need help with a pattern? Mikey and a bunch of us will be by your side to give you the enjoyment of finishing your project. Want to learn new stitches and projects? Your teacher, along with Mikey, is right beside you. Just ask, and we can help. One-on-one is always the best way to learn.

If you are joining us, our private Facebook group page will keep you informed of all the crochet group happenings.





HOTELS, FLIGHTS, ETC

As we get closer to time, Sherry will have hotel arrangements for us in Barcelona and Lisbon. You can choose how many extra days you would like to explore these beautiful cities based on your budget. That will be posted on the Facebook Page

Air travel can be arranged with Sherry. If doing this yourself, pay attention to the extra day required when coming into Europe for most flights. For example, you may leave on a Tuesday but arrive on a Wednesday.

Please note that we advise getting Travel insurance. Trust us, after all the years of the crochet cruises; travel insurance has come in handy.

What About COVID? It is your responsibility to be an adult. Sickness can happen, and we expect you to protect yourself and others by washing your hands, wearing a mask IF needed and for the love of GOD, thinking about the safety of others first and staying in your room if you do feel ill, even if it is not COVID. Sherry will have the current vaccine requirements of the country's enforcement. That information will change regularly.

We have trusted Sherry Leybovich to be our girl to help us arrange and set up your travel plans. She has been instrumental over the years with the Crochet Cruises, and she will be honest with you to let you know if this trip is for you. She is one hell of an organizer and keeps updates current. As mentioned, we have a Facebook page dedicated to our intensive Spain voyage, and all updated information will be posted there. From there, it's your responsibility to stay current with the news. You don't want to miss out on fantastic tours, gatherings, events etc. After all, it's a vacation.

WE CAN'T WAIT!

Click on this link to be directed to Sherry's landing page of Cruise planner for more information and pricing

[Spain Intensive](#)

or you can contact her directly

Sherry Leybovich is our Cruise Planner on behalf of Cruise Planners. She has made these cruises possible by being our cruise consultant, booking agent, live event coordinator & so much more. Over the years, Sherry and ourselves have built a great personal and professional relationship and understanding that fits our goals. Based out of Florida, Sherry specializes in personal, corporate and group vacation planning. She was also voted as Top 25 Travel Agent in the United States, by a national publication "Travel Agent" magazine.

You can book any land or sea vacation through Sherry.

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