



## **COSTA CRUISES ENHANCES ITS CRUISE HOLIDAYS IN THE EMIRATES WITH THE ADVENT OF THE COSTA neoRIVIERA**

*From November 24, 2013, the new itinerary “The Emirates in style” on the Costa neoRiviera will offer departures every Sunday from Dubai.*

*A one-week cruise featuring longer port calls so as to make the most of each destination.*

Genoa – October 1st, 2013 – **This winter 2013/2014, Costa Cruises is enhancing its range of cruises** thanks to the arrival in the fleet of the **Costa neoRiviera** (48,200 gross tonnage and 624 cabins).

Starting November 24, 2013, the Costa neoRiviera will be offering a brand new **one-week itinerary called “The Emirates in style”**, with longer stopovers at each port of call, thus allowing Guests to enjoy a relaxing stay while exploring each destination en route. The itinerary starts every Sunday from **Dubai** and includes calls at **Muscat**, the capital of Oman, **Abu Dhabi** in the United Arab Emirates and then back again in **Dubai**. **At each port the ship stops overnight and the next day**, effectively introducing a **new type of cruise experience**.

**“The Emirates in style”** is a cruise with a unique ambience, **marked by a leisurely pace** that lets you linger longer, find out more about places and traditions, and revel in the magical **“Thousand and One Nights”** atmosphere in this exotic part of the world. Guests on the Costa neoRiviera will be able to go **in small groups on exclusive excursions specially devised for this cruise**. The range of alternatives is diverse and extremely alluring: a day at the beach at the **private Al Maya Island Resort**, the perfect getaway spot located offshore of Abu Dhabi; the **unforgettable experience of a night under the desert sky**, with an incredible dawn spectacle and breakfast at an Arabian village; a tour of Oman proper with a visit to **Nizwa Fort, dune bashing in Wahiba Sands** and **an overnight stay in a Bedouin tented camp**; in **Dubai** the opportunity to admire the **royal stables and a traditional Arabian horse show**.

### **“The Emirates in style” – itinerary and excursions**

Guests on the Costa neoRiviera will be able to see the best of the Emirates and Oman on fabulous, unhurried **tours** in groups of no more than twenty-five. In **Dubai**, in addition to checking out the city that claims to be the shopping center of the world, you can also visit the **Burj Khalifa**, the world’s tallest skyscraper, see the billowing sail design of the 7-star Hotel **Burj Al Arab** and wonder at the **Palma Jumeirah**, the world’s largest manmade island shaped in the form of a palm tree. Plus exclusive excursions such as the visit to **Sharjah**, its **Archeological Museum** and the **royal stables** where you can see a traditional Arabian horse show. Another attraction on offer is “the ship of the desert” with a visit to the camel museum and a camel dairy fare equipped with cutting-edge technology. Also on the tour is the **camel racing track**; camel racing has been around for thousands of years and is deeply rooted in the Emirati soul, though nowadays they use “robot jockeys”.

In more traditional **Oman**, cruise Guests can discover the local culture, admire the architecture in the capital **Muscat**, visit the famous **Muttarah souk**, where ancient crafts sit side-by-side with state-of-the-art technological gadgetry, tour **Mirani Fort** and head for the **Wahiba Sands** desert. The scenic drive by jeep stops at **Nizwa**, with its **17<sup>th</sup> century fort** and **lively souk**, en route to the village of **Al Hamra**, famous for its date plantations and the traditional Omani dwelling at **Bait Al Safah**, a 500-year-old classic style-mud house with twenty rooms that has been turned into the local museum showing visitors traditional techniques and clothing.



In the afternoon, after crossing the dunes at Wahiba Sands, you come to the camp where you spend the night. The following morning on the way back to Muscat there is a stop to visit a traditional Bedouin house.

Last but not least, Abu Dhabi also offers all sorts of interesting excursion options. A highlight is the **Al Maya private island resort**, with a mega-sized heated pool overlooking the Arabian Gulf; Guests traveling on the Costa neoRiviera will be able to spend a whole day in this corner of paradise. The more adventurous will not want to miss out on the excursion **featuring a night in the desert** with the spectacular views at daybreak followed by breakfast in the perfectly reconstructed Arabian heritage village: this unique experience combines the profound silence and timeless, endless beauty of the desert with the traditions of the people who live there. During the port call at **Abu Dhabi** you can of course also **visit this incredible city** with its skyline and the futuristic “**Abu Dhabi 2030**” urban structure framework plan, featuring the cultural district with the Guggenheim, Louvre and other large-scale museum projects. The many local tourist attractions include the great “**White Mosque**” and “**Ferrari World**”, the world’s first Ferrari theme park.

Costa Cruises’ program for the winter 2013/2014 season in the Emirates is completed by the **Costa Fortuna**, deployed **from December 20, 2013 through March 21, 2014 on one-week cruises**, with homeport **Dubai** and stopovers at Muscat, this being an overnight stay, **Rashab** in Oman, **Abu Dhabi** and then back to **Dubai**.

### **Costa neoRiviera – the ship**

The **Costa NeoRiviera** (48,200 gross tonnage and 624 cabins) was previously operated as the Grand Mistral as a member of the fleet belonging to Iberocruceros, the Spanish brand owned by the Costa Crociere S.p.A. Group. Totally refurbished in 2005 and further enhanced with the addition of new suites and cabins in 2007, the ship has three restaurants (including one buffet), six bars, two shopping arcades, three swimming pools (including a splash pool for kids), jacuzzis, a beauty & wellness center, hydrotherapy and massages, fitness center, show lounge and disco. Entering service as the Costa neoRiviera, she is being revamped with renovations to her open-air decks and the Guest areas inside, thus adding to the charming atmosphere reminiscent of the Italian and French Rivas.





**INFORMATION ABOUT "THE EMIRATES IN STYLE" CRUISES ON THE COSTA neoRIVIERA**

*Dubai, Emirates and Oman*

**Departures:** every Sunday from November 24, 2013 through February 2, 2014

**Duration:** 9 days/8 nights

**Details and fares:** ask your Travel Agent or visit our *Webbiste*

*For 65 years the ships of Costa Cruises ([www.costacruise.com](http://www.costacruise.com)) have plied the seas of the world, offering the best in Italian style, hospitality and cuisine and providing dream holidays with the utmost in terms of fun and relaxation. Its fleet, the largest in Europe, has a total of 14 ships in service, flying the Italian flag, and 1 new ship to be delivered in October 2014. Costa Cruises has been certified by RINA (Italian Shipping Register) with the BEST4, an integrated system of voluntary certification for social accountability (SA 8000, issued in 2008), environment (UNI EN ISO 14001, 2004), safety (OHSAS 18001, 2007) and quality (UNI EN ISO 9001, 2008). All the ships in the Costa fleet have been assigned RINA's Green Star notation certifying that they are operated in compliance with the highest environmental protection standards.*