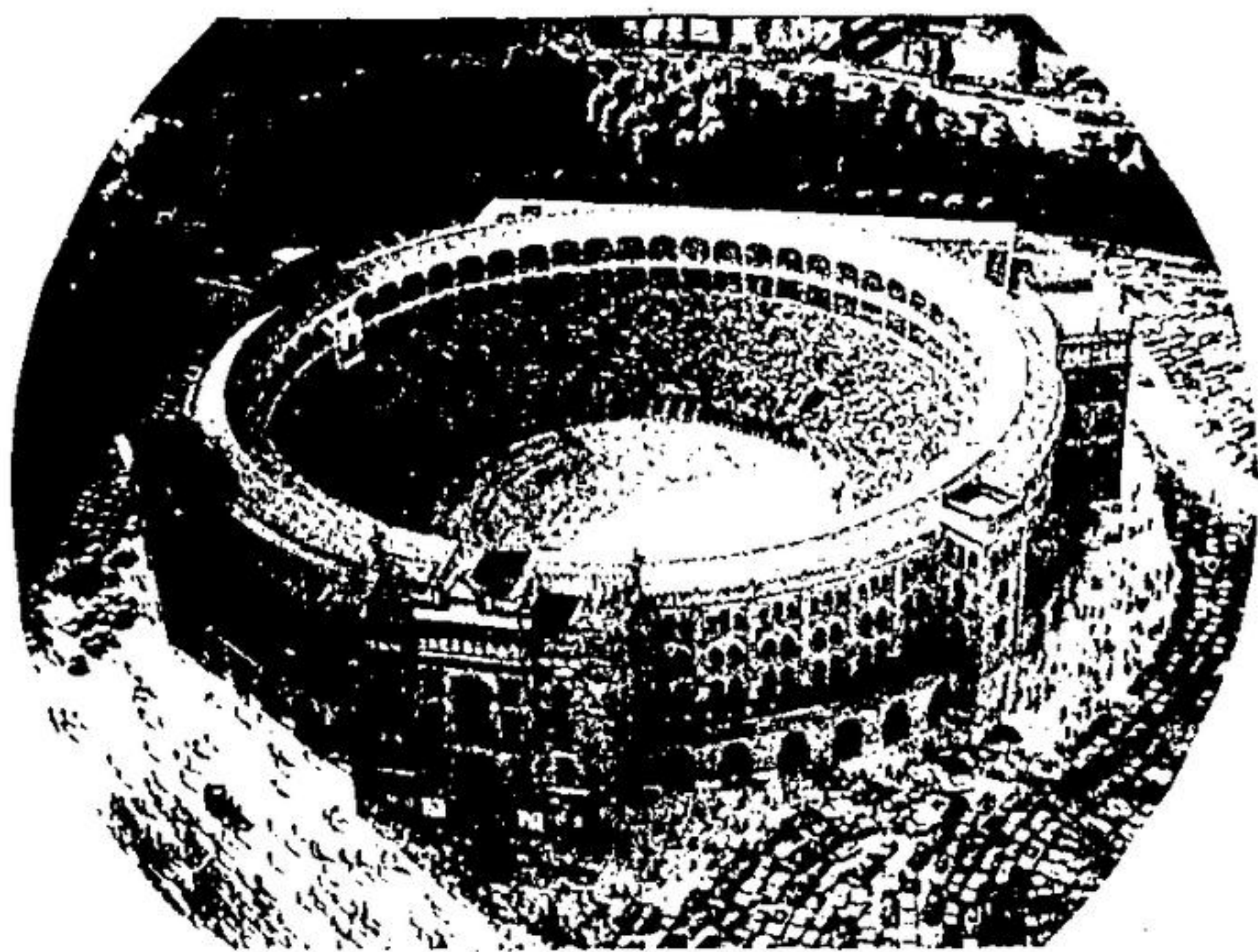


Travel SPAIN



Cruising, according to experts in the travel business, is winning a surprising number of new enthusiasts these days. Sailings in many areas of the world are reported to be well booked, and this has encouraged a number of shipping lines to renovate their better liners. The reason this is surprising is that not many years ago cruising was just about given up as a dead cause: now, it seems, there's still a good deal of life in this form of travel.

What is it that is bringing travellers back to the sea? Certainly not speed in this age of the supersonic Concorde. And it isn't economy, when you can zip across the Atlantic and back for just over \$300 these days.

MAITE HOTEL

Situated directly across the road from one of the best beaches on the Costa del Sol, and just 1 1/2 miles from Torremolinos, this hotel complex of three buildings has 540 rooms. The Sunlight wing—Maite III—has 252 rooms and is fully air-conditioned throughout.

All rooms feature a private 3-piece bathroom, radio and a balcony overlooking the sea and mountains.

Swimming, water sports and sunbathing are well taken care of. There are four freshwater swimming pools, including a kiddie's pool, set amidst an extensive tropical garden. The beach is an easy stroll away, and tennis is available nearby.

Dining varies from the casual to the semi-casual, and dress is usually informal.

There's a good restaurant, a snack bar and four lounge bars, one decorated with an African setting and surrounded by the swimming-pool area.

The hotel has a swinging discotheque and fun entertainment and shopping is available close by or a short trip away in Torremolinos.

No, the appeal of cruising is, and always has been, that you can travel and take your comfortable "world" with you. The ports change and you are moving through time and space, but you remain surrounded by hotel-like luxury where everything is familiar and as orderly as you want it.

Cruising has to be the most relaxed way of getting about the world's most pleasant waters. Warm sunshine is practically a guaranteed daily event. Passengers can choose their own shipboard pace, from complete indifference to a frenzied schedule. Days are punctuated by ambitious mealtimes, where the choice usually runs from substantial familiar fare to the more exotic dishes. After-dinner dancing in a nightclub atmosphere contrasts with the soft moonlit sea outside. And inevitably, people meet people.

There are certainly worse ways of shuffling off the effects of future shock, the frenetic whirl of business, and the problems of living—for those who need it. And it can be a suspended existence—half the time is between ports—for those trying to get themselves together.

Of course, there's more to cruising than its real or imagined therapeutic advantages. The emphasis is obviously still on the travel element because the passenger does have the opportunity to explore exciting—exciting because they've grown up beside the sea over the centuries, and have participated in much of the action of history. Even for the passenger who remains on board, though, the harbour area is a fascinating focal point of commerce.

Even though it will never be cheap, cruising has recently become good value for the middle-income mass market, whereas formerly it was inclined to be the preserve of the wealthy.

For example, American Express, which has always featured some cruise voyages in its programs of



travel packages, is currently promoting a fifteen-day cruise of Greece, the Greek islands, and touching at Alexandria or Istanbul, for \$83 a day, including airfare from Toronto. In a day when a non-floating hotel room in a major city can get close to that figure, shipboard life begins to look attractively priced.

This particular cruise begins with a seven-day land tour of Greece, then offers a choice of two sea routes, one to Istanbul, the other to Alexandria; both include the principal Aegean ports at the rate of about one a day. At Alexandria, a tour to Cairo and the Pyramids is a feature. Price per person, double occupancy for inside cabin starts at \$1,250, increases to \$1,370 for mid-summer sailings (return airfare from Toronto included). As might be expected, the more far-ranging a cruise is, the more economical it becomes. Another American Express tour, similar to the Greek tour but extending the cruise to Italy and including eight days of Italian touring, costs only \$73 a day, or 24 days from \$1,735 per person, double occupancy in inside cabin (return airfare from Toronto included).

Both these tours are a

combination of land touring and cruising: an opportunity to sample one of the world's most enchanting seas—the Aegean—and to visit the greatness of Greece. The longer cruise-tour adds Italy.

For those whose idea of cruising is lots of time at sea, there's a voyage, also by American Express, from Genoa to such selected ports as Alexandria, Port Said, Haifa, Izmir, Istanbul, and Athens, with calls at Capri and Naples. Apart from a few days of sightseeing around Nice and Monte Carlo, the entire 24-day trip is aboard ship, and mostly at sea. Cost averages out at \$76 a day. Or a total of \$1,839 (increasing to \$1,950 at mid-summer) which includes return airfare Toronto to Milan.

If cruising appeals to you, there are a few tips you can take from the experts to ensure that your investment in a vacation voyage lives up to your expectations. First of all, get the facts about the cruise from a reliable travel agent who has the information at his fingertips. Know what you're getting and getting into. See exactly where your shipboard accommodation will be on a deck-by-deck chart of the ship, and compare it with whatever else is available. Most ships are air-conditioned (that make sure) in warm-weather areas these days, so some of the old-fashioned preference for an outside cabin no longer applies; but you don't get a view from an inside cabin, which makes them less expensive.



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DON PABLO HOTEL

This attractive 12-storey, 400-room hotel commands a great position on the Torremolinos seafront, and great views all around. It's one of the newer complexes on the beach. Handsomely decorated throughout, the layout includes a unique Moorish lobby of brick arches and polished marble. Clean and fresh, its staff is friendly and courteous.

Air-conditioned rooms have twin beds, a modern bathroom, telephone, channel TV-radio and a sea-view terrace.

There are two heated swimming pools and extensive sundecks overlooking the sea. There's a tennis court and game rooms; two gymnasiums and saunas and a massage room. Riding, gold and beach sports are all available.

Dine in Spanish or International style in the impressive dining room. There are also a coffee lounge, a poolside cafeteria and luxurious Spanish lounges.

There's nightly dancing in the panoramic roof grille and bar, and lots of action all around the area.

For shopping, you'll find an arcade in the hotel and many fascinating shops nearby.



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Triple room reduction (each of 3)	20	30
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WHAT TO DO FOR A WEEK IN SPAIN

Sunday-Monday: Jet to Spain. Come visit Torremolinos for the first perfect week at the Hotel Don Pablo. Then step back into time to the days of the Moors and discover Andalusia. Magical places like Granada, Cordoba and Seville—an enchanting land of history and romance, of flamenco and feria.

Monday: Drive to Seville. You're off along the coast past Gibraltar. Then north for a panoramic visit of Cadiz and lunch. On to Jerez de la Frontera, home of the sherry trade. . . visit a well-known bodega and enjoy a tasting; then on to Seville. Hotel Fleming or Don Pabro.

Tues.-Wed: City of Orange and Opera. Two days to discover its quaint narrow streets and magnificent parks. Gaze at the mighty Giralda Tower. And then there's the beautiful Alcazar with its extraordinary Moorish palace and charming Santa Cruz quarter. Two days will find you completely enchanted.

Thurs.-Fri: Captivating Cordoba. A leisurely drive takes you to Cordoba with two days to seek out your pleasure. Visit the famous Mezquita, formerly a mosque built in the eighth century, the cathedral and Jewish quarter. Hotel Maimonides, Califia or Zahira.

Saturday-Sunday: The grandeur of Granada. An exotic city where the Moorish influence can be seen at every turn. Visit the Alhambra Palace with its intricate stonework, the Generalife Gardens and Royal Chapel. Ample time to explore the narrow streets of secret Moorish houses with closed balconies and shuttered windows. Hotel Los Angeles or Victoria.

Monday-Jet back to Canada. Down to the coast again to Malaga where your jet is waiting to whisk you home.

- Air transportation by Nordair private jet charter or Iberia scheduled jet service.
- Inflight meals. Bar service on Nordair charter only.
- Transportation and baggage transfer between airport and hotels. Tipping and handling for one piece of baggage throughout.
- Accommodation in room with private bath or shower.
- Continental breakfast daily in Torremolinos. Three meals daily while on tour.
- Escorted private motor coach tour of Andalusia.
- Sightseeing in Seville, Cordoba and Granada.
- Welcome sangrai party.
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Representative service in Torremolinos.

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