

A TALE OF TWO CITIES ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE



ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE *Complimentary Shore Event in Cartagena*

- Travel through the foothills of the Sierra Carrascoy to Murcia
- Enjoy a panoramic view of the Murcian orchards
- Visit the famed Cathedral in the Square
- Savor the sites of Cartagena on a walking tour
- Relish a selection of tapas and wine at a popular restaurant

Arriving at Cartagena you'll realize why the harbor and surrounding hills made it the most important port in the western Mediterranean. From before the age of the Roman Empire through the invasion of the Moors, different civilizations have secured and defended this coveted harbor.

Nearby Murcia, with its own Roman and Moorish backstory, is called Europe's orchard due to its fruit, vegetable and flower production. On this *Ensemble Experience* you'll **see each city through its neighbor's eyes for a fuller understanding of both.**

You'll begin by coach on a **journey through the Sierra Carrascoy foothills to the city of Murcia.** While the city's name has Roman roots, it was founded by the Moors in the 9th century. They built the canals channelling the waters of the Segura River, thus establishing Murcia as an agricultural region.

After being conquered by the Christians in the 13th century, this bustling city continued

to flourish, today **offering an array of architectural delights.** You'll first stop at the Monastery of the Virgin of Fuensanta (the Patroness of Murcia) to **enjoy a panoramic view of the fertile Murcian farmland.**

Next, you'll **visit the Cathedral in the Square,** where you'll see three different architectural styles: Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. Next door is the Episcopal Palace. **The nearby Royal Casino of Murcia is one of the most historic buildings,** dating from 1847. Situated in the heart of the city, it was declared a National historic building in 1983.

Then it's back to **Cartagena for a walking tour.** You'll stroll past the monument to the Heroes of Cavite and the Town Hall to admire the 18th century doorway of the Casino and the delightful modernist houses.

Before returning to the ship you'll **enjoy a fantastic selection of typical Spanish tapas and wine** in one of the most popular tapas restaurants in Cartagena.