Costa Cruises ‘Slow Cruising’ Redefines What Cruising Can Be

Costa Cruises is changing the definition of cruising with its new “Slow Cruising” style of itineraries, grouped under the *neoCollection* banner. The concept uses smaller, more intimate ships visiting smaller ports while allowing more time in port to explore, delight and enjoy. It’s a more leisurely way to cruise that deepens and enriches the travel experience. In addition to a more intimate and exclusive onboard atmosphere on its two smaller ships, neoRiviera and neoRomantica, Costa’s *neoCollection* focuses on local foods and wines, and custom-developed small-group immersive shore excursions.

As part of the immersive *neoCollection* experience, shore excursions for groups of 25 or fewer guests have been designed to highlight cultural and natural attractions in each destination.

From the time of booking to the actual “slow cruise” experience, quality and service are hallmarks of Costa *neoCollection*. Guests can consult a team of experts and personalize their cruise by booking shore side tours that match their tastes and interests. Once onboard, a concierge assists guests in choosing from an array of shipboard and shore side amenities, such as the newly introduced romantic candlelit gourmet “Dinner Under the Stars.”

**The neoCollection itineraries**

The Costa *neoCollection* will transform Mediterranean cruising when Costa neoRiviera sails a 12-day “Mediterranean Heart” slow-cruise vacation.

The “Mediterranean Heart” itinerary departs from Savona. The cruises call at Toulon, France; Salerno and Livorno, Italy, a port ideally located for excursions to Pisa and Florence; Valletta, Malta; Porto Empedocle, Sicily, with unforgettable tours to the temples of the Valle dei Templi, and an overnight call at Barcelona, Spain.

The “Mediterranean Spirit” itinerary offers the epitome of a Mediterranean summer among the historically evocative islands of the region, as well as Italy’s Amalfi Coast. With Savona as homeport, Costa neoRiviera will call at Toulon; Propriano, Corsica; Olbia, Sardinia; Trapani, Sicily; Valletta; Capri and Salerno, Italy, and Portoferraio, Isle of Elba. The range of tours includes seaside trips to inimitable gems like Costa Smeralda, San Vito lo Capo, Positano, Amalfi, Portofino and the island of Favignana.

The Costa *neoCollection* also features one of the most popular itineraries for scenic cruising — northern Europe. Costa neoRomantica will offer 13- to 15-day summer cruises bound for Baltic cities and the majestic fjords of Norway.

Costa neoRomantica sails from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on a 13-day “Northern Capitals” itinerary. After stopping at Bornholm, Denmark, Costa neoRomantica will call at Helsinki, Finland, and St. Petersburg, Russia, where guests will spend two days and one night exploring the historic imperial city. The ship then calls at Tallin, Estonia; Stockholm and Visby, Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Guests who want to admire the midnight sun can choose the 13-day “Kingdom of Light” itinerary on Costa neoRomantica. The ship visits destinations where fjords and waterfalls dominate the stunning landscape.

Costa neoRomantica departs Amsterdam bound for Hellesylt and Geiranger, Norway, en route to what many consider to be Norway’s most beautiful fjord. The next port is historic Trondheim, Norway, followed by the North Cape, continental Europe’s northernmost point, where from May through July the Land of the Midnight Sun offers its most romantic natural spectacle.

The cruise continues on to Tromso, Norway, the base for many polar expeditions. At the Lofoten Islands, amid peaks overlooking turquoise water and fishing villages, guests will experience the essence of natural Arctic splendor. The last calls are at Olden and Bergen, Norway, with its wooden houses and little shops.

Finally, Costa neoRomantica offers “Beyond North Cape,” an exclusive cruise departing Amsterdam on an extended panoramic voyage off the Norwegian coast, beyond the Arctic Circle to the Svalbard Islands.