



- FAQ -

SAUDI ARABIA & RED SEA CRUISES – WINTER 2021/2022

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our brand-new Saudi Arabia and Red Sea seasonal itinerary promises to be the very best way to discover this fascinating part of the Middle East. Guests will find the MSC Cruises' world-class entertainment, fine international dining, award-winning family programs and a rich offer of excursions to discover the authentic beauties of this region. It will be also enriched with extra features to welcome and accommodate local guests in respect of local culture and values.

PRECRUISE INFORMATION

How will MSC Magnifica guests obtain travel visas for Saudi Arabia, as well as for Egypt and Jordan?

Guests who purchase our fly & cruise package will have a visa for Saudi Arabia valued at €30 per person included in the overall cost. For guests who opt to buy a cruise only they will be responsible to obtain their visa. All guests from countries within the Gulf Cooperation Council countries will not require visas.

Visas to visit Jordan and Egypt on one of our shore excursions will be included in the guest's holiday package, whether it be fly & cruise or cruise only.

ONBOARD EXPERIENCE

Beverages

With MSC Magnifica itinerary set to call three ports in Saudi Arabia, will you serve alcohol on board?

Yes, alcohol will be available for our guests on board MSC Magnifica during her winter season in the Red Sea as it is similarly on our cruise ships that have in the past operated in the Gulf and will do so also in winter 2021/22.

Will you serve alcohol only when MSC Magnifica is at sea or will it be available when MSC Magnifica is at berth at a Saudi port?

In respect to the Saudi Law, alcoholic drinks will not be served during the stays in Saudi Arabian ports. Our long list of non-alcoholic drinks will be enriched to offer even more tastier drinking choices when the ship stays in Saudi Arabian ports.

Dress Code

Is there a specific dress code for guests onboard the ship? Or When relaxing by the pool?

We have a dress code for all of our cruises - not just the one proposed for the Red Sea - and all of our guests are asked to dress appropriately as they would in their normal day-to-day lives. The same applies when guests are relaxing by the pool.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Which is the list of shore excursions for these Red Sea cruises?

A spectacular shore excursions program will be finalized in mid-June and bookable on our channels.

Is there a specific dress code for shore excursions in Saudi Arabia?

All our guests – male and female - will have to respect local customs and traditions, something that we and our guests are used to with our sailings in the Gulf region where clothing needs to be modest and appropriate. Local customs in Saudi Arabia require men and women to dress modestly, with their shoulders and knees covered in public areas, and they should avoid wearing tight-fitting clothing or clothes with profane language or images.

During shore excursions beach visits in Saudi Arabia, will women be allowed to wear bathing costumes?

The guest profile for *MSC Magnifica's* sailings will be 50 per cent international and 50 per cent from Saudi Arabia. Mixed beaches and female-only beaches will be available which is common throughout the whole Middle East and non-Saudi women will be allowed to wear bathing costumes, again something that is widespread in the region.

Will there be restrictions during the excursions to destinations in Saudi Arabia?

There are no general restrictions currently but some local restrictions may apply for some mosques or areas of religious worship, according to the Saudi Arabian authorities. It is forbidden to photograph Saudi residents ashore without their permission.

ADDITIONAL ONBOARD PRODUCT FEATURES

Food on board

Will you serve halal food on board?

Yes, halal food will be served in all dining outlets throughout the ship.

Onboard Languages

Which languages will be spoken onboard MSC Magnifica on her Red Sea itinerary?

Similarly as onboard all our ships, public announcements and printed materials onboard MSC Magnifica will be available in our regular six international languages (English, Italian, German, French, Spanish and Portuguese).

In addition and in order to also address the best service and experience to our local guests, Arabic will also be used for public announcements and we will have a number of Arabic-speaking staff on board all of MSC Magnifica's sailings throughout the season.

Prayer Rooms

Will there be an area on board set aside for Islamic prayer?

Yes, separate male and female prayer rooms will be available as is common throughout the Middle East in places such as shopping malls and airports.

Mixed venues and women-only venues

Will you make some venues available exclusively for women?

Both mixed venues and women-only venues will be available within the ship's public areas, in order to accommodate our local guests in respect of their culture and practices.