



Press Release

Mini Cruise to the Most Visited Construction Site in the World

With Grimaldi Lines from Rome to Barcelona to attend the Pontifical Consecration of the Sagrada Família

Naples, XX/07/2010 – The Grimaldi operated route Rome/Civitavecchia – Barcelona is tailor-made for cruise lovers and city break fans. It takes passengers via one the most beautiful sea routes of the Mediterranean to these two exciting metropolises. Those interested in arts, culture and churches should book their mini cruise between 5th and 8th of November 2011: On 7th of November, Pope Benedict XVI will consecrate the Gaudi designed basilica Sagrada Família during a solemn service. This unfinished architectural highlight attracts more than two million visitors per year. The Grimaldi Lines package is available from 154 - EUR and includes a return ticket in an quadruple internal cabin as well as two nights bed & breakfast in Barcelona. Starting at many German airports, the journey to Rome will be organized individually. For further information please call +39 081 496 573 or visit www.grimaldi-lines.com.

Following a construction period of more than 120 years, the Catalans are now looking forward to the first service in the Sagrada Família, the construction of which is completely funded by donations. The foundation stone of this cathedral was already laid in 1822. One year later, Antoni Gaudi was appointed the project architect. Due to insufficient funds, the construction period had to be extended over and over again. Counting over two million visitors per year, the Sagrada Família is one of the most visited construction sites in the world. Despite Gaudi's death in 1926, his plans continue to be the basis of construction works on the cathedral.

The Grimaldi Lines ferries Cruise Roma and Cruise Barcelona were commissioned in 2008 by order of the Italian shipping company. Due to high quality furnishings on board, the crossing between the Mediterranean metropolises will already become a great pleasure. Passengers will indulge in service and comfort comparable to those of a cruise, e.g. in the spa area including a relax and fitness centre, a 400-square-meter sauna, Turkish bath, solarium, massages and a fitness centre. For those looking for entertainment, there is a large casino and a discotheque with a crystal dome. Three restaurants will satisfy a wide range of different culinary wishes. Altogether, passengers will enjoy all advantages of a luxury hotel on the high seas during the 21 hours crossing time.

Next to the mini cruises on the link Civitavecchia – Barcelona, Grimaldi Lines also proposes packages on the routes Porto Torres (Sardinia) – Barcelona and Livorno – Barcelona.

The Italian shipping company Grimaldi Lines was founded in 1945 in Naples. In terms of ferry services it operates 13 routes in the Western Mediterranean with five vessels. Civitavecchia, the port of Rome, and Livorno are connected to Barcelona. Additional crossings connect Rome/Civitavecchia to Porto Torres on Sardinia, Catania and Trapani on Sicily, Tunis in Tunisia and Malta. Further connections exist between Salerno - Tunis, Palermo - Tunis, Trapani – Tunis and Salerno - Palermo. The Grimaldi Group is specialized in RoRo and RoPax vessels, car carrier vessels and ferries. The company's area of activity extends from the Northern Atlantic to the Eastern Mediterranean. The shipping company holds the majority of shares in Finnlines and it is the principal shareholder of Minoan Lines. Currently the whole group has 7,000 employees.

The Grimaldi Group operates a fleet of more than 100 ships and is a world leading operator in the transport of cars and ro/ro cargo. Established in 1947, the Group is headquartered in Naples and has 8,000 employees. In 2010, it registered a turnover of € 2.2 billion and transported about 2.8 million cars, 1.4 million trailers and TEUs and more than 2.7 million passengers. In the passenger sector, the Group controls Finnlines, leader in ro/ro transport in the Baltic Sea and Minoan Lines, the Greek ferry operator leader in the Adriatic Sea and on the route between Piraeus and Crete