

Gascony & Bordeaux

Southwest France, Canal de Garonne



Vineyards of Bordeaux



Cruise the Bordeaux Region

Aboard the 8 passenger Rosa

Rosa is an old Dutch "Clipper" barge that was completely refitted in 2010 to a high specification. Her saloon is particularly welcoming and features attractive wood panelling, comfortable seating and a cosy bar. There are four air-conditioned staterooms, each with full en suite facilities and offering comfortable accommodation for 8 passengers.

Outside there is a spacious sun deck with comfortable furniture. Along with Anjodi, Rosa featured in the hugely successful television series, Rick Stein's French Odyssey.

Gascony

The "Canal des Deux Mers", comprising of the Canal de Garonne and the Canal du Midi, links the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, passing through the region of L'Occitanie – a veritable palette of colours and scents created by orchards and vineyards. On our cruise through Gascony along the Canal de Garonne, we visit medieval fortified 'bastides' such as Valence d'Agen, learn about and taste some of the region's wonderful local products and pass picturesque villages and quaint farms.

Bordeaux

The Bordeaux region, with its special 'terroir', has been producing wine for around 2,000 years and some of the château estates have gained worldwide recognition for their superb and long-lived vintages. On your cruise aboard Rosa, there will be the opportunity to learn more about the complex science of viticulture on tours to such places as Saint-Emilion, including of course a tasting of some fine wines. We will also explore the countryside surrounding the Val de Garonne and see towns such as historic Nérac and elegant Marmande.

A gentle voyage through mellow landscapes

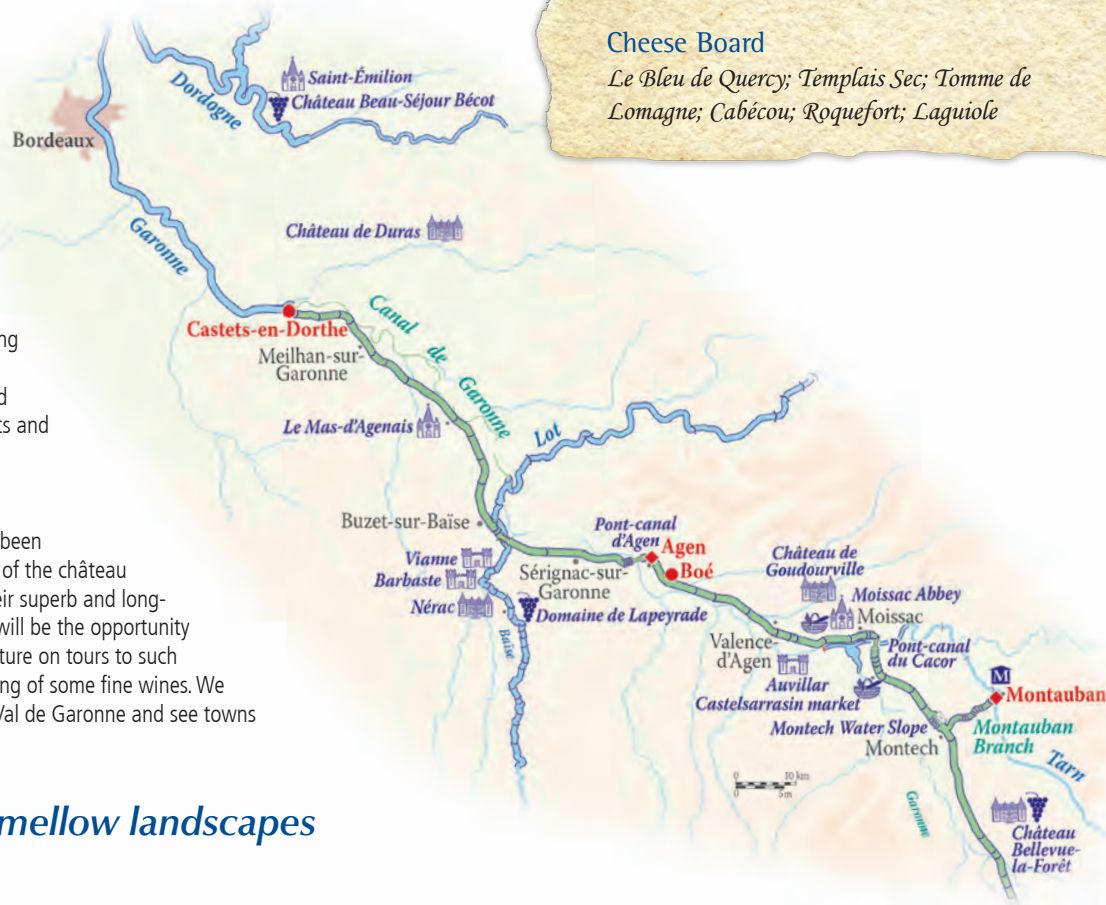
Typical Cuisine Aboard

Regional Specialities

Entrecôte de Bazas à la Bordelaise; Confit de Canard et Son Jus au Thym; Foie Gras Poêlé Déglacé au Vin de Figues; Filet de Truite au Beurre Blanc; Gâteau Basque; Pruneaux à l'Armagnac

Cheese Board

Le Bleu de Quercy; Templais Sec; Tomme de Lomagne; Cabécou; Roquefort; Laguiole



Canal de Garonne Rosa

ITINERARY*

GASCONY - Spring/Summer

Day 1 Montauban

Guests are met in Toulouse, then given a Champagne Welcome aboard Rosa, moored in Montauban, before a brief tour of the town and the first gourmet dinner on board.

Day 2 Montauban to Montech

This morning Rosa climbs a ten-lock flight en route to Montech. An afternoon visit to Château Bellevue la Forêt for a tour and tasting of their cuvée 'Optimum'. Dinner on board.

Day 3 Montech to Castelsarrasin

First, a guided tour of the remarkable inclined Water Plane, an amazing feat of engineering, then we cruise to Castelsarrasin. After lunch, a tour of Ferme des Jauberts to taste Eric Couderc's foie gras, accompanied by some local wine. Dinner on board.

Day 4 Castelsarrasin to Moissac

We cruise via the 1,000 foot long Pont Canal du Cacor to moor for lunch on the River Tarn by an old watermill. Then we visit Moissac's UNESCO-classified 7th century Abbaye St-Pierre and explore the many arts and crafts workshops. Dinner ashore at a fine restaurant in front of the abbaye.

Day 5 Moissac to Valence d'Agen

Today, Rosa rises up from the River Tarn to cruise past the Quercy massif to moor at Pommevic, before a visit to Château de Goudourville and a tour of Auvillar, a beautiful village perched high above the River Garonne. Afternoon cruise to the Bastide town of Valence d'Agen. Dinner on board.

Day 6 Valence d'Agen to Agen

A morning cruise to the historic town of Agen. Then a tour and tasting at Armagnac producer Domaine de Lapeyrade, before seeing the medieval town and castle of Nérac, once home to Henry IV of France. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

Day 7 Agen

After breakfast, disembark Rosa and transfer to the designated drop off point in Toulouse.

BORDEAUX - Summer/Autumn

Day 1 Castet-en-Dorthe

Guests are met in Bordeaux, then given a Champagne Welcome by the crew aboard Rosa, moored in Castet-en-Dorthe, before the first gourmet dinner on board.

Day 2 Castet-en-Dorthe to Meilhan

Morning cruise to Meilhan-sur-Garonne. Afternoon tour of Saint Emilion, centre of the best known Bordeaux appellations, then on to Château Bausejour-Bescot, producer of premier and grand crus wines for tasting. Dinner on board.

Day 3 Meilhan to Le Mas d'Agenais

A morning cruise to the charming village of Le Mas d'Agenais, then an afternoon visit to the impressive 14th century Château de Duras. Dinner on board.

Day 4 Le Mas d'Agenais to Buzet-sur-Baïse

We enjoy Marmande's colourful market, before cruising to pretty Damazan. After lunch we visit Le Mas d'Agenais with its ancient church housing an original Rembrandt, then visit a local cheese workshop for a tour and tasting. Dinner ashore at a local auberge.

Day 5 Buzet-sur-Baïse to Serignac-sur-Garonne

We visit the traditional cooperage of St. Martin, before heading to the Bastide village of Vianne and on to ancient Barbaste with its fortified mill and four square towers. Then an afternoon cruise to Serignac-sur-Garonne. Dinner on board.

Day 6 Serignac-sur-Garonne to Boé

We visit the medieval town and castle of Nérac in the footsteps of King Henry IV, before a tour and tasting at Armagnac producer Domaine de Lapeyrade. Our final cruise towards Boé crosses one of France's longest aqueducts over the River Garonne. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

Day 7 Boé

After breakfast, disembark Rosa and transfer to the designated drop off point in Bordeaux.

**These are abridged sample itineraries and are subject to change. On alternate weeks in the relevant period each cruise is in the reverse direction. Please see our website for full details.*

Rosa is operated by Rives du Sud sarl.



Cruise Highlights

Gascony

- Visit the renowned Château Bellevue la Forêt for a winery tour and tasting
- Cruise across the 1,000 foot long Pont Canal du Cacor
- Visit to Château de Goudourville
- Tour the medieval town and castle of Nérac
- Guided tour and private tasting at a renowned local Armagnac producer
- Visit Moissac and its UNESCO-classified abbey

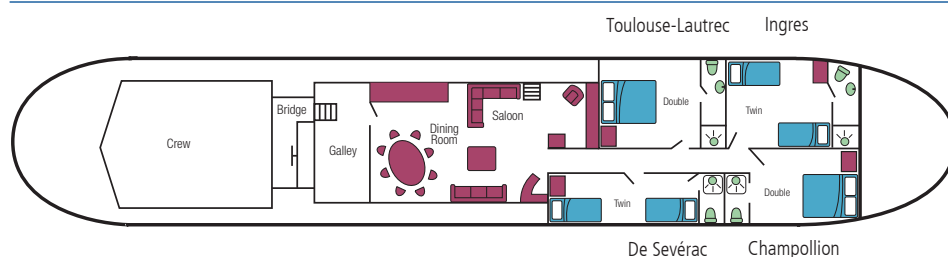
Bordeaux

- Tour of the famous Saint Emilion
- Visit the impressive Château de Duras
- Visit to the Bastide village of Vianne and ancient Barbaste
- Cruise across the 1,900 foot long Pont Canal d'Agen
- Wine, cheese and Armagnac tastings
- Visits to the village of Le Mas d'Agenais and the colourful market of Marmande

A Small Selection of the Wines Served Aboard

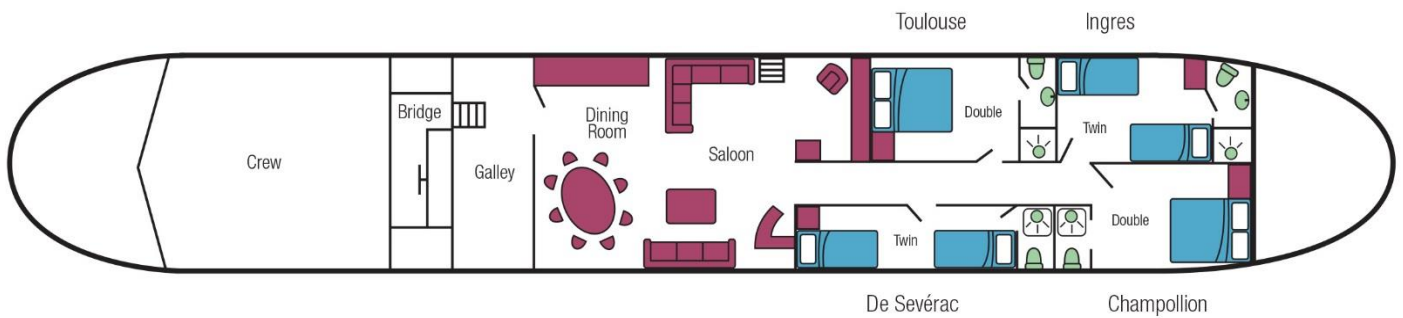
- Vignoble Dourthe, Château Pey La Tour, Bordeaux Superieur
- Domaine Lussac, Château Lyonnat, Lussac-Saint Emilion
- Château Larrivau, Vicomtesse de Carheil, Haut Médoc
- Château Bellevue la Foret, Côtes du Frontonnais, Cuvée Optimum
- Baron d'Ardeuil, Buzet
- Château Roquetaillade Le Bernet, Graves
- Château D'Arcins, Haut-Médoc Cru bourgeois
- Château Cheval Noir, Saint Emilion Grand Cru

Deck Plan



- 100 Feet Long
- 8 Passengers
- 4 Crew
- Air-Conditioned
- 2 Double Staterooms (104 – 110 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Wi-Fi (Subject to Local Reception)
- 2 Twin Staterooms (92 – 107 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Centrally Heated
- Sun Deck
- 8 Touring Bikes
- Air-Conditioned Minibus

Rosa - Fact Sheet



Barge Specifics



Former purpose:	Clipper, built in the Netherlands, formerly sailed the Dutch Seas
Year of construction:	1907
Dimensions:	98ft long x 16ft 4" wide (29.5m x 5m)
Generators:	2 x 220 volts generators 9 Kw/h and 17 Kw/h
Main Engine:	Deutz SA6M512 120HP
Maximum Speed:	4.3 Knots
Water & fuel capacity:	5 tons of water and 3 tons of fuel

Your crew on board

Crew of 4:	Captain, Guide, Chef & Housekeeper
Nationality of Crew:	The crew are mostly British and speak both English and French.

Accommodation on board

4 Staterooms: 2 twin bedded & 2 double bedded.

Bathrooms: Each stateroom has a stylish en-suite bathroom with shower, wash basin and WC. All are supplied with washing gel, hand soap, shampoo, towels, and hair dryer.

Cabin Sizes

Jean-Francois Champollion (Bow):	8ft x 13ft (2.5m x 4m)
Jean-Dominique Ingres (Bow):	8ft x 11ft 5" (2.5m x 3.5m)
Deodat de Severac (Stern):	6ft 5" x 16ft 5" (2m x 5m)
Henri Toulouse-Lautrec (Stern):	10ft x 11ft 5" (3m x 3.5m)

All bathrooms are en-suite and the measurements are included in the stateroom sizes detailed above.

All cabin sizes are approximate.

Size of the beds:

Jean-Francois Champollion & Henri Toulouse-Lautrec each have a double bed 4ft 6" wide x 6ft 5" long (1.4m x 2m).

Jean-Dominique Ingres & Deodat de Severac each have 2 single beds. Each bed is 2ft 9" wide x 6ft 5" long (84cm x 2m)

Ceiling Height:

The maximum height in Severac & Lautrec is 7ft 4" (2.25m)
The maximum height in Ingres & Champollion is 8ft 2" (2.5m)

Climate Control

Each stateroom has individually controlled Air Conditioning and Central Heating.

Computer and Telephone

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available on board for guests bringing their own appliances. Connectivity can be limited in remote locations.

There is no passenger telephone on Rosa.

Currency

The local currency in France is the Euro.
We are unable to accept credit or debit cards on board.

Cycling & Walking

You are welcome to walk or cycle using the on board bicycles as often as you wish. Most guests choose to disembark the barge at a lock and visit local villages, returning to the canal and meeting the barge a little further along. The barge travels at a slow speed therefore catching up is not a problem.

There are 8 Touring (mountain) bikes with on board. Children's bikes, helmets & child bike seats can be arranged if required. Please contact our Reservations team at least 8 weeks prior to your departure.

Dining Room & Saloon

The tastefully furnished & airy saloon is 13ft x 26ft (3.9m x 7.8m) and the height is 7ft 4" (2.25m).

There are 2 sofas, one on either side of the barge, with a coffee table in-between. A fully stocked bar and fridge caters to all your beverage needs and the décor is enhanced with varnished wood and brass fittings. The dining table seats all 8 passengers at one sitting.

There are 3 steps from the saloon down to the cabin level.

Electricity

Rosa is equipped with both French 2-pin plugs and English 3-pin plugs and is wired for 220 and 240 volts (The bathrooms have 110v plugs for shaving). We suggest you bring adapters for your particular appliance, which correspond with English 3-pin plugs.

If you wish to use an electrical appliance on board, please ask one of the crew when you arrive on board to ensure that it is suitable to the barge's electrical system.

European Waterways cannot be held responsible for unforeseen voltage fluctuations which sometimes occur when swapping from one voltage system to another.

Excursions

The Rosa barge has a 9-seater (including driver) long wheelbase minivan which is air-conditioned and used for transfers and excursions.

For charter bookings, the itinerary can be adapted to suit your group's particular needs. If a destination or excursion is within a reasonable distance of the barge, we will do everything we can to arrange it. Please speak with our Reservations team in advance of your cruise and we can pre-arrange with the Captain.

Any guests not wishing to participate in an excursion are welcome to stay on the barge.

Facilities on board

- 8 Bicycles (See Cycling & Walking)
- A small library of books and maps
- A collection of board games
- Hi-Fi system with CD player with selection of CD's. Guests are welcome to bring their favourite CD's from home.
- Docking station to connect Guest iPods and iPhones to the Hi-Fi system
- Binoculars

Food & Drink

All meals on board are prepared fresh by your chef and most meals are a set-menu (there is no choice available).

We are able to arrange special meals, e.g. vegetarian / no fish / vegan etc, and we are able to cater for any preferences or allergies. However it is most important that we are notified of any specific requirements at least 8 weeks prior to your departure date. Failure to notify European Waterways in advance of your cruise may result in disappointment on board.

There is no assigned seating for meals and the dining table on board Rosa accommodates all guests at a single sitting.

Breakfast: Your day on Rosa starts with a wholesome and balanced variety of breakfast foods, along with oven-warm breads & pastries, freshly-squeezed orange juice and hot beverages.

Lunch is usually a selection of colourful salads, pates and cold meats accompanied by hot soup or entrée, delectable desserts and a different selection of regional cheeses accompanied by quality wines selected by the chef.

Dinner is a candlelit four-course gourmet experience where our chef showcases his repertoire of dining delights. Harmonizing food and wine is essential to the dining experience and our sommelier chooses only the best of locally produced wines to compliment chef's exquisite cuisine.

Captain's farewell dinner is held on the last night of your cruise. Guests may choose to dress slightly formal.

Drinks included in the cruise price: Non-alcoholic beverages and regular or decaffeinated tea and coffee, whole or low fat milk, are offered with all meals. The well-stocked bar is open 24 hours, which includes wines, spirits, beers & soft drinks. All wines are provided with meals and there is a Champagne welcome on arrival.

Drinks not included in the cruise price: Some Champagne (with the exception of the Captain's reception) and special vintage wines, however these can be purchased in advance of your cruise at cost price, please speak to our Reservation team. We do not recommend specific beverage orders unless you are chartering the whole barge.

Hot Air Ballooning

Once on board, the Captain can arrange this directly with the hot air balloon company. Flights last about 1 hour and are weather dependent. The cost is approximately 230 Euros per person and this should be paid directly to the balloon company on the day of the flight (they do accept credit cards).

Kindly advise our Reservations team in advance if you are interested in ballooning.

The operating company is France Montgolfieres and their website is www.franceballoons.com

Laundry

We recommend you bring sufficient clean clothing for your cruise. There are no laundry facilities on board and we generally cruise through rural areas where laundrettes are few and far between.

Luggage / What to pack

Space is limited on board so please try and fit everything for your cruise into one medium sized suitcase per person. Soft bags are preferable. There is only enough space on the barge for up to 8 suitcases and 8 pieces of hand luggage.

Practical comfort and relaxed is the norm aboard Rosa and for most excursions. The dress code for dinner is relaxed and informal, however for the Farewell Dinner on the last evening, guests usually opt to dress up a little.

The weather in Gascony is generally warm. June, July, and August is the warmest often being in the mid 30's.

Suggested things to pack:

- Light clothing including shorts and T-shirts. A sweater or lightweight jacket is recommended for evenings and the air-conditioned interiors.
- During spring and autumn, you may need medium weight clothing. A lightweight raincoat for showery times would be advisable.
- In summer, a sun hat can be useful.
- Comfortable walking shoes with textured non-slip soles are recommended.

Medical

Please let us know in advance of your cruise if you require frequent or ongoing medical attention.

The crew are unable to administer medicines but can accompany you to a chemist for you to purchase any necessary medicines. Due to your cruise often being in a rural location, we recommend you bring all necessary medication with you.

Doctors are usually not far away for an urgent consultation and the Emergency Services can be called if required.

Problem during your Cruise

If you have a problem during your holiday, please give us the immediate opportunity to make things right. Please bring any concern to the private attention of your Captain who will often be able to solve any issue immediately.

Restricted Mobility

Please let us know in advance of your cruise if you have a physical disability and require any assistance.

Rosa is accessed via a gangplank with rope handrails on each side. There are 3 steps between the gangplank and deck.

There are a further 3 steps between the deck and saloon and 3 steps between the saloon and the cabin level. There are handrails inside the barge and the crew offer assistance if required.

Wheelchairs cannot be used on-board and can only be used to assist on excursions, however many visits encounter cobbled streets or rough ground which may hinder wheelchair access.

If you would like to hire a wheelchair to be available for your arrival, please notify our Reservations team at least 8 weeks before departure. The small hire charge should be paid directly to the barge Captain on arrival and is approximately 100 Euros.

Safety and Security

Once on board, your Captain will talk you through the Cruise Safety Procedures. Safety Instructions are detailed on the last page of this document.

Please note that European Waterways cannot be responsible for any valuables that you bring on board. We strongly recommend that you do not bring valuables with you unless required and that you ensure that all valuables are covered by your travel insurance.

Safes are provided in each cabin on board Rosa but cabin doors are not usually locked, for safety reasons.

Smoking

We have a strict non-smoking policy for safety reasons and for the comfort of your fellow passengers.

If you would like to smoke we request that you do so outside or on the deck away from other passengers.

Sundeck

The sundeck is 13ft x 26ft (3.9m x 7.8m) with a table and chairs for al fresco dining along with loungers. There are 4 large parasols measuring 3x2 m each offering complete shade when required.

The deck table extends to seat more guests when required

Themed Cruises

Wine Appreciation, Cycling, Walking and Family cruise itineraries are available for charter groups, please contact our Reservations team for more details. Special interest cruises often have a supplement and further details can be found at

Tipping

Gratuities are not included in the cruise fare. Tipping is entirely discretionary but is greatly appreciated by the crew if you are fully satisfied with the level of service on board.

As a guidance our passengers on average tip approximately 5% of the full cruise fare. All tips should be given to the Captain and are shared between the whole crew on board. Please note gratuities can only be made on board by cash payment.

Transfers

For details of the Rosa vehicle, please see "Excursions". The approximate transfer duration on all cruises is between 1 / 1.5 hours depending on the cruise route.

Water

Tap water in France and on board Rosa is potable and bottled water is available.

Safety Instructions on Rosa

On arrival, the Captain will talk you through the Cruise Safety Procedures on board.

In addition, it is important that all passengers are familiar with the safety instructions detailed below.

- Please follow the instructions of the Captain and crew at all times.
- Remember that decks can be slippery. Please wear non-slip shoes and do not run or jump whilst on board.
- Do not walk on the side or rear decks or outside the guard rails.
- Passengers are not permitted in the engine rooms, technical areas or crew accommodation at any time, or in the galley or wheelhouse unless accompanied by a crew member.
- Do not embark or disembark the barge unless the gangplank and handrail are in place or the crew have advised that it is safe to do so. Never do so when the barge is moving.
- Be careful when the vessel is being moored up with the barge ropes. In particular do not step into a loop in the rope or try to release the mooring rope from a bollard.
- Keep clear of any overhead obstructions and remain seated if on deck whilst the barge passes under bridges with restricted headroom.
- Do not attempt to touch the sides of any lock or bridge.
- Do not open lower deck portholes whilst the barge is moving.
- Life jacket preservers are located in designated lockers in your cabin or in designated deck lockers. Once on board, please take the time to identify their location and read the instructions.
- For fire safety reasons, smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the barge.
- The barge's equipment such as bicycles must only be used following preparation by the crew. Use of the bicycles is at your own risk.
- There is an open bar policy on board. However, excessive alcohol consumption can be dangerous, particularly in a warm climate and in proximity to deep water and the Captain has the discretion to withhold alcohol if safety to passengers or crew is at risk.

In an emergency

- Keep calm. Do not return to your cabin to recover your possessions.
- If you discover a fire on board, sound the fire alarm and notify a crew member immediately. If possible, close doors behind you to confine the fire. Please take the time to identify the location of fire alarms and fire extinguishers.
- If the alarm sounds or you hear repeated continuous blasts on the barge horn, you must, if possible, assemble on the sundeck for further instructions.
- If you discover water below deck, notify a crew member immediately and go to the sundeck to await further instructions.
- If you are in your cabin and the way to the sundeck is obstructed, follow the signs to the alternative fire exit. Please take the time to identify all fire exits.
- The emergency number for fire, police or medical assistance on all public phone networks is 112.

Please ask a member of the crew on board if you require any further safety advice