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cruising

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A brave new world

Fred. Olsen answers our travel prayers

SHIP SHAPE

A sneak peek at the new vessels on the horizon for 2021

Feast for the senses

Discover the world's culinary hotspots on a foodie river cruise



50

things you wouldn't expect to find on a cruise ship

6 OF THE BEST MEDITERRANEAN CRUISES FROM £899





This year's lockdown, I think we'd all agree, has been much harder than the last. In 2020, at least we had the benefit of a glorious summer (resulting in some of the best UK tans I've ever seen). But now, what with the dismal winter weather, it was a rather bleak start to 2021.

And yet I for one am feeling very positive, for there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel. PM Boris Johnson's plans to end England's Covid restrictions by June has got us all thinking about the future. This, coupled with the vaccine rollout, has given everyone a much-needed boost – not least in the travel industry, which has been greatly impacted by the pandemic. But while this was wonderful news, it does raise a lot of questions for those of us who love to travel – especially since Saga Cruises recently confirmed that it will require every passenger to show proof of vaccination at least 14 days before departure. On page 29 of this issue, we consider the implications for the future of cruising.

Last year saw many cruise ship launches postponed, which means we're in for a real treat over the next few months, with a whole fleet of shiny new ships setting sail for the first time. From Carnival Cruise Line's 5,000-guest Mardi Gras, featuring the world's first roller coaster at sea, to P&O Cruises' new Iona – the biggest ship ever built for the UK market – take a look at pages 22 to 27 for Dave Monk's sneak peek at what's on the horizon.

While we've been living in lockdown, my thoughts have turned not only to travel, but also to food. I suspect I'm not alone in that either – which is why I decided to dedicate this issue to all things culinary.

Arguably the gastronomic capital of South America, Lima has become famed the world over for its innovative culinary scene, and you can read my account of the Peruvian capital's fascinating culture and cuisine on page 50. Meanwhile, on page 74, Angelina Villa-Clarke takes you on a tour of the best *bacari* – bite-sized bars serving sensational Italian-style tapas in the backstreets of Venice.

So cheer up, everyone – the end of lockdown is nigh, spring is here and the future is at last looking bright.

Editor
Olivia Sharpe



ON THE COVER

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' Balmoral in Olden, Norway

CONTRIBUTORS



Dave Monk

The former deputy editor of *Metro*, Dave writes regularly for *World of Cruising*. This month he takes a look at some of the incredible new ships heading our way in 2021.



Angelina Villa-Clarke

Angelina has been a travel journalist for over 20 years, writing for many titles including the *Mail on Sunday*. Passionate about exploring the world, she has lived in Venice and Barbados.



Lauren Ho

Travel journalist Lauren has spent 17 years traversing the globe in search of extraordinary experiences. Post-lockdown, her first trip will be 'somewhere very far away, preferably by cruise ship'.

All prices and information correct at time of going to press.

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From talking tablecloths to walking the plank, you'll find it somewhere in the wonderful world of cruising



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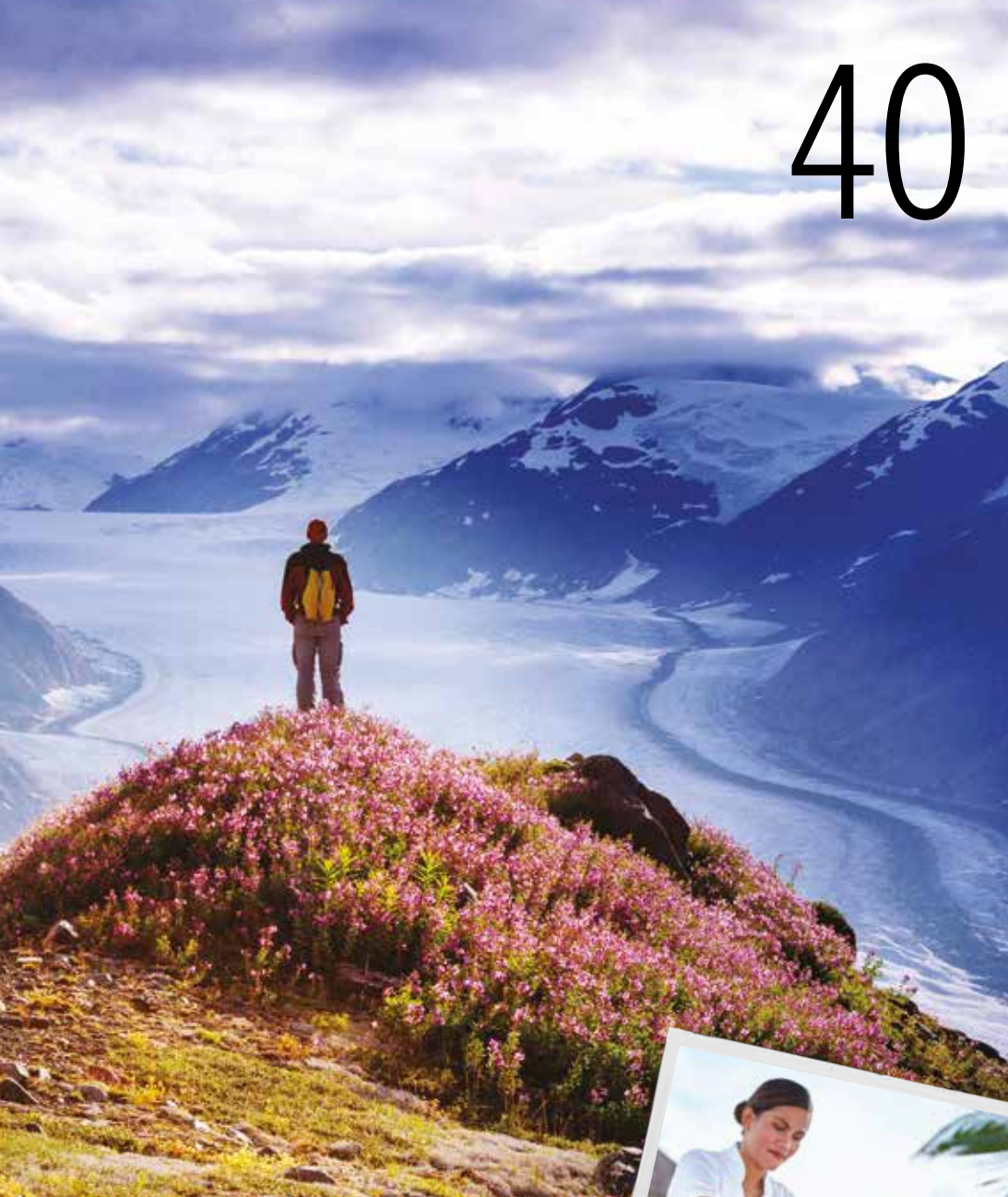
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worldofcruising.co.uk



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Everyone should eat more greens – so we asked four celebrity cruise chefs to share their favourite plant-based recipes

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WISH YOU WERE HERE

Lisbon

Portugal's capital is the name on everyone's lips. No doubt helped by social media images of its sea views, pastel-coloured buildings, glossy tiled facades and bougainvillea-clad squares, the popularity of this hilly coastal city is soaring. And no wonder. Lisbon is a wonderful melting pot of old and new, with countless cultural attractions alongside a thriving nightlife and world-class cuisine (you cannot visit Lisbon without sampling the famed *pastéis de nata* – moreish pastry treats that have become a Portuguese icon). After satisfying your sweet tooth, take in some of Lisbon's historic sites, from the 12th-century castle that dominates the skyline to the 16th-century Manueline monastery of Jerónimos.

Get on board

P&O Cruises 14-night 'Spain and Portugal' cruise aboard Iona, round trip from Southampton via Vigo, Gibraltar, Barcelona, Cádiz and Lisbon, departing 5 March 2022, from £899

[pocruises.com](https://www.pocruises.com)





A brave new WORLD

Whether you're looking to stay closer to home with a British Isles cruise or venture further afield, Fred. Olsen has the cruise for you in 2022



A big part of travel for 2022 will be making the most of our beautiful British Isles with cruises closer to home

landmarks that can best be enjoyed from the water. In addition, each cruise has been handcrafted to showcase some wonderful scenic cruising as well, which is considered just as important as the destinations themselves.

On northerly sailings, witness the towering columns of Fingal's Cave and Duart Castle. Visit Skara Brae, the home to Neolithic structures pre-dating Egypt's pyramids, in calls to Kirkwall, and be on the lookout for puffins, ponies and fulmars in Lerwick. Or venture south to delight in views of the Fal Estuary and the Lizard Peninsula; explore the famous Eden Project and 16th-century Pendennis Castle in sailings to Devon and Cornwall, and walk the Isles of Scilly's magnificent sandy beaches.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is renowned for offering enriching and immersive itineraries, and the line has just unveiled a brand new programme of cruising for 2022 and beyond. The launch of the new schedule is always a cause for celebration for cruise lovers, but this year it feels even more so, as people dream of their holidays for the next year and what they will look like.

The programme includes closer to home excursions around the British Isles and shorter, five-night breaks for those wanting to dip their toes back into the cruising world. Of course, there are also many sailings for those looking to venture further afield, including an 'Around the World in 80 Days' circumnavigation for true adventurers.

Cruises closer to home

A big part of travel for 2022 will be making the most of our beautiful British Isles and Fred. Olsen is celebrating the very best landscapes, coastlines and

Shorter discoveries

For those looking to set sail on a shorter cruise, there are plenty on offer, each with the opportunity to experience all that is great about cruising, from time ashore to sea days packed with entertainment on board, and scenic cruising aplenty.

Of course, the smaller size of Fred. Olsen's ships really comes into their own in the Norwegian fjords, and the northerly departure ports of Newcastle and Rosyth in Edinburgh are ideally placed to showcase them at their best in just five nights. Aboard these small ships you will sail size-restricted waters, away from the well-sailed route, right into the heart of the fjordlands.

But the shorter escapes are not just bound to Norway, with sailings to Belgium, France, Denmark and Spain available in six nights or less right across the fleet.

Reconnect with the world

Those looking to venture further afield can revel in the autumnal beauty of America and Canada, with Balmoral to depart on a 34-night adventure in September 2023.

Clockwise from main picture:

The smaller size of Fred. Olsen's ships makes them perfect for discovering the beauty of the Norwegian fjords; the ruggedly picturesque British Isles await you; Artist's impression of Fred. Olsen's livery on new ship Borealis

Explorations of the Adriatic's many treasures await on a 27-night sailing aboard Braemar next October, with opportunities to walk inside the walled cities of Split and Dubrovnik in Croatia and witness many natural and man-made marvels, from the Skradinski Buk waterfall to the canals of Venice and Chioggia.

Or for a truly remote sailing, join Balmoral for a 15-night journey to Spitsbergen in June 2022 to sail along Norway's west coast, past glaciers and rugged mountains and into narrow fjords on a cruise specially timed to take in the eerie midnight sun.

Around the world in 80 days

For the true adventurers, there is the opportunity to follow the example of Phileas Fogg, setting sail on new ship Borealis for an 'Around the World in 80 Days' adventure in February 2023, with departures from Southampton or Liverpool.

The sailing, timed to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the novel, will call into several ports visited by Fogg, including Mumbai, Hong Kong, Shanghai and San Francisco. There will also be opportunities for tales of new adventures to be made, with a visit into Safaga coinciding with the 100-year anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun; chances to explore the bustling metropolises of Singapore and San Diego; opportunities to visit the Taj Mahal and calls into Japan timed specially to capture the beautiful cherry blossom in bloom. It will also include a maiden call into Hakata, Japan.



This will be the first full season to be sailed with new arrivals Bolette and Borealis among the fleet

New ports

Fred. Olsen prides itself in adding more and more destinations to its handcrafted programme every year, and 2022/23 is certainly no exception.

Borealis' 'Rugged and Rural Canada' sailing in August 2022 will call into Louisbourg for the first time; with maiden sailings to Bandol in France, Neum in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Progreso in Mexico, Liepaja in Latvia, and Kalvåg and Lyngdal in Norway also on offer.

Even more regional departure ports

With the addition of Tilbury and Belfast, following on from the introduction of Portsmouth this year,

there will be even more departure ports to choose from for 2022 and 2023.

This means sailings will be available from eight UK ports, with Newcastle, Liverpool, Rosyth in Edinburgh, Southampton and Dover also on the cards.

These new additions mean guests are always within a few hours reach of a port, meaning they never have far to travel to their next Fred. Olsen cruise.

New ships

This will be the first full season to be sailed with new arrivals Bolette and Borealis among the fleet. The new ships, purchased by Fred. Olsen in July 2020, bring a number of new and exciting facilities, including an all-weather pool with a retractable roof; grand, two-tier theatres; culinary demonstration theatres and wine tasting venues; additional dining venues and more space throughout the ships, meaning more space per guest while on board.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' Oceans members will have a sneak peek of its 2022/23 programme from 10 March 2021, ahead of its general release on 15 March 2021.

Plus, those who book one of the new cruises will be able to enjoy a choice between a free all inclusive drinks package or credit to spend on board.

For added reassurance, Fred. Olsen has evolved its Plain Sailing Guarantee, giving flexibility to transfer any deposits paid to another cruise at any time before the final payment is made. 📞

For more information, visit

fredolsencruises.com



PATIENCE. PATIENCE. PATIENCE. PARADISE.



After putting adventure on hold for so long, we think it's time you had something to look forward to. We're talking about a sun-soaked Caribbean voyage of joy from Barbados and beyond. Set your sights on some winter sun to end 2021 or begin 2022. This is a holiday worth waiting for.

We have some great offers available on our Barbados sailings. Contact your travel agent or visit our website.



TRAVEL NOTES

Your monthly cruise planner

NO SHOW, NO GO

Passengers on all Saga cruises will now need to provide documentary proof of vaccination or they will not be allowed to board. The first cruise line to make this stipulation, Saga insists that all guests must show they have received both doses of the Covid vaccine, at least 14 days before departure. Those who fail to do so will be offered a later cruise date or a full refund. Announcing the news in January, Saga also postponed its restart dates to allow customers more time to receive their vaccine. For more on this story and the implications of the vaccine for the future of cruising, see page 29 of this issue.



Not had your jabs? You won't be allowed to board a Saga ship

My travel heaven...

‘When I was 15, I went to a small town outside Talavera de la Reina in Spain, and I had the most wonderful experience. It really changed my life.’

GWYNETH PALTROW



INTERVIEW

Taking the helm

When Holland America Line's impressive new flagship enters service this summer, **Captain Werner Timmers** will be on the bridge – and he couldn't be more optimistic about the future of cruising...

Last month, Holland America Line named Werner Timmers, a captain of nearly 40 years' sailing experience, as master of its newest cruise ship.

Entering service this July, Rotterdam will be the third of the line's Pinnacle-class vessels, carrying 2,668 guests and sharing the widely acclaimed features of her sister ships, including the 270-degree surround-screen World Stage, Rudi's Sel de Mer restaurant and the Grand Dutch Café.

Captain Timmers joined Holland America Line as an intern in 1984 and has worked on all classes of ship within the brand, most recently as master of Koningsdam. Here he shares a glimpse of what guests can look forward to aboard the new ship – and what cruising will feel like, post-Covid.

As captain, how will the new health and safety protocols change your job? In the maritime world, the rules change constantly. The situation with



'In the maritime world, rules change constantly. The situation with Covid is not much different'

Covid is not much different in that respect. We will adapt and make changes as appropriate to comply with the new legislation and latest science, and we will continue to work with the Centers for Disease Control in the USA and local health authorities in Europe on our eventual return to cruise operations. As we coordinate these efforts, our top priorities are compliance, environmental protection, and the health, safety and wellbeing of our guests, crew, shoreside employees, and the communities we visit.

Have you been busy during lockdown?

I spent about half of 2020 on board Koningsdam. At the beginning of the pandemic we were just about to depart for a 48-day cruise around South America. We ended up leaving with no guests and sailing through the Panama Canal to San Diego. After arriving, we took on about 1,300 colleagues from 10 different ships and served as a hotel while we worked out how to repatriate everyone. Then, after spending a few months' leave with my family in Florida, I rejoined Koningsdam in Panama and started a return-to-service programme to bring the ship back to the USA.

How has lockdown affected the daily routine on board?

Our routine during the operational pause has been quite different, since there are no guests on board, but the onboard team has not been sitting still. There is the normal maintenance and tests to be performed, and various

Featuring opulent decor (opposite), Rotterdam joins the fleet this summer





be with a symphony orchestra. The concert hall may be fabulous, but if the orchestra doesn't play well together, the music isn't going to be uplifting. On the other hand, if you have a great orchestra the music can still sound fabulous, regardless of the concert hall.

Of all the destinations you have sailed to, which has been your favourite?

We cruise to many beautiful places, but I really enjoy the nature in

Alaska, where you can see a bear walking on the beach or spot a breaching whale in the ocean. For history, I like the Mediterranean as it offers so many things to see in each port.

Where in the world would you still like to cruise to, and why?

I missed out on South America last spring so I'd like to have another try at that, and maybe include Antarctica.

What can guests look forward to on your new ship when sailings resume?

Rotterdam will spend the first season in Northern Europe, sailing out of Amsterdam. There are some really nice itineraries to Norway, Iceland and the Baltic Sea, which are all beautiful areas to sail in.

Get on board

7-night 'Premiere Voyage' aboard Rotterdam, from Trieste to Civitavecchia (Rome) via Zadar, Kotor, Corfu and Naples, departing 1 August 2021, from €1,069

👉 [hollandamerica.com](https://www.hollandamerica.com)

projects that need to be done around the ship. Just keeping the ship clean with such a small team is a big undertaking, but returning to service will bring us back to normal strength so all those tasks will become easier. Speaking for myself, while there's been less opportunity to do formal exercise, I have found I've been walking a lot, which is great.

What will be the best thing about returning to the sea?

I'm looking forward to welcoming our guests back on board to resume a somewhat normal schedule with the new protocols. And when I return it will be aboard the brand new Rotterdam. This ship will be state-of-the-art and we are very optimistic that we will be able to start cruising with guests right away.

What are the qualities that make a great cruise-ship captain?

Cruise captains come in many guises, and during my early career I looked at all my captains to try and see what I liked and disliked. When I became

'As a cruise-ship captain you must always have a plan A, B, C and sometimes even D to avoid surprises'

a captain myself I took all those good attributes and tried to live up to them. What are those qualities? Well, I think it's really important that you listen to those around you, whether they are guests or team members. You must always have a plan A, B, C and sometimes even D to avoid surprises. And once you know the plan, you need to share it with the team. You also have to be patient – sometimes really patient – and lastly you should never go faster than you can stop.

And what about a great ship?

A great ship – now there is a subject that could fill many pages. All the amenities and services help, but in the end it is the team that makes the ship work. If the different departments don't cooperate, it doesn't matter what you offer. A good comparison might



EDWINA LONSDALE

Messing about on the river

Saga's announcement that it will require proof of Covid vaccination before boarding has provoked the inevitable outrage on social media, where critics deem it a 'violation of human rights' – as if a Saga cruise were a basic entitlement (hmm... maybe it should be).

Whether or not other lines follow Saga's lead – and only a couple of US domestic operators have done so at the time of writing – the cruise industry has been working incredibly hard for many months on developing new protocols to keep passengers safe. These include testing, both before and during each cruise; bubbling, social distancing, fresh air on board, regular fogging and cleaning, reduced guest capacities, enhanced medical facilities and more.

The protocols have been submitted to the UK government for review, further strengthening the case in favour of a staged return for an industry that employs 88,000 people and is worth £10bn a year to the British economy.

Indeed, we have to wonder why a blanket 'no cruise' advisory should still be placed on the one sector of the travel industry that has truly grasped the bull by the horns and, at its own expense, employed whole panels of experts to help it create the safest possible environment for potential passengers.

What we can say with confidence is that as soon as that ban is lifted, the pent-up demand will be huge.

Edwina Lonsdale is MD of Mundy Cruising, specialists in luxury travel

Anne Diamond looks forward to joining Viking Venus as godmother



VIKING

Northern delight

The Scandi line's new arrival gets a godmother

Popular TV journalist Anne Diamond has been announced as the godmother of Viking's seventh ocean ship, Viking Venus, scheduled to launch this spring. Over a four-decade career, Anne has documented historic events from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer

– not to mention pioneering daytime television in the 1980s. Aside from her TV work, she has also been an inspirational campaigner, having pioneered the 1991 UK cot death campaign following the loss of her baby son. The campaign is estimated to have saved more than 20,000 lives.

P&O CRUISES

Work begins on Arvia

The steel-cutting ceremony was recently held for the line's second Excel-class ship

P&O Cruises' Arvia, the 184,700-tonne sister ship to Iona, is being built at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany. The company's second LNG-powered Excel-class ship will join the P&O Cruises fleet in December 2022. In a speech at the virtual ceremony, president Paul Ludlow said:

'The steel cutting marks an extraordinary milestone for the future of P&O Cruises. It is a future which will include two of the most environmentally innovative ships in the world today.' He continued: 'Whilst Arvia may have a different look and feel to Iona, being built to sail in the sun, the inherent DNA is the same.'

Pacific Princess joins the Azamara fleet this summer



AZAMARA CRUISES

Rebirth of a Princess

Azamara recently signed a deal to buy Pacific Princess from Princess Cruises, making four ships in its fleet. The much-loved Pacific Princess, which first entered service in 1999, will undergo an

extensive refurbishment before joining Azamara Journey, Azamara Quest and Azamara Pursuit. The ship is scheduled to sail its inaugural European season in 2022 on a host of exciting itineraries.

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

Take a break

Now that we're all daring to dream of a return to the waves, the big operators will be bidding for our business. Designed to encourage potential guests to look beyond lockdown to the people and places they've missed the most, Norwegian Cruise Line's new

'Break Free' campaign – with a little help from rock legends Queen – is said to be the line's 'most significant investment in the UK market to date'. TV adverts will run on ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky in early March, reappearing later in the year.

PRINCESS CRUISES

You wanna bet?

If you enjoy a flutter, you'll be pleased to hear about Ocean Sportsbook, Princess Cruises' new sports betting service for all MedallionClass ships. Available through the cruise line's MedallionClass app, the new Ocean Sportsbook betting feature will allow cruisers to place bets before and during major sporting events while their ship is sailing.



Ocean Sportsbook will be an odds-on favourite

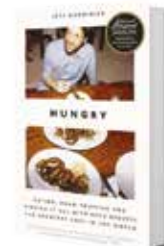


BOOKS

3 OF THE BEST

Foodie travel reads

Irresistible books for travellers with an appetite



Hungry

Jeff Gordinier, £16.99, hardback, Waterstones
It was a fortuitous moment when *New York Times* food writer Jeff Gordinier met René Redzepi, the Danish chef whose restaurant, Noma, has been repeatedly voted the best in the world. This is the story of their four-year culinary adventure.



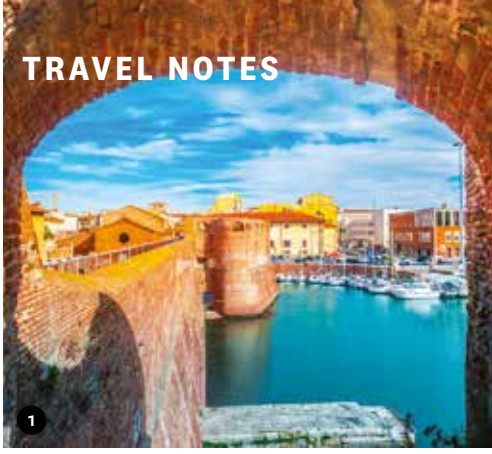
My Last Supper

Jay Rayner, £9.99, paperback, Waterstones
If you're a fan of Jay Rayner's restaurant critiques, this is the book for you. Here he attempts to answer a question that has long troubled him: 'What would be your death-row dinner?' in a witty trip down food memory lane.



California: Living + Eating

Eleanor Maidment, £22, hardback, Waterstones
In a tribute to Californian cuisine, Eleanor Maidment looks at the history of the state's food via its varied landscape – from Sonoma's vineyards to the deserts of Palm Springs, via the foodie hotspots of San Francisco and LA.



6 OF THE BEST Mediterranean cruises in 2021/22

1. Autumn in the Med

Summer is the most popular season, but autumn is wonderful in the Med, with fewer crowds and a warm (but not stifling) climate. P&O offers the option to relax and unwind or go off and explore, visiting vibrant cities or the quiet countryside.

- **P&O Cruises** 13-night 'Mediterranean' cruise aboard Britannia, round trip from Southampton via Cádiz, Barcelona, Toulon, Livorno, Cartagena and Gibraltar, departing 9 October 2021, from £899

👉 pocruises.com

2. Small but mighty

On a smaller cruise ship, you can visit and experience lesser-known ports. Variety Cruises' voyage sails into the islands of Delos – mythological birthplace of Apollo – and Paros, home to pristine beaches.

- **Variety Cruises** 7-night 'Jewels of the Cyclades' cruise aboard Galileo, round trip from Athens via Polyáigos, Santorini, Antiparos, Delos and Kythnos, departing 10 September 2021, POA

👉 varietycruises.com

3. Mediterranean feast

Foodies will relish Princess Cruises' culinary voyage in the Adriatic. Guests will arrive in Athens to explore the original Olympic stadium, then sail to the black-sand beaches of Santorini before feasting on the gastronomic delights of Italy.

- **Princess Cruises** 7-night 'Mediterranean & Adriatic' cruise aboard Regal Princess, from Athens to Barcelona via Santorini, Kotor, Sicily and Naples, departing 9 April 2022, from £949

👉 princess.com

4. Ready for your close-up

Why not focus on just a couple of places – but in serious depth – on your next Med cruise? Celebrity offers total immersion in Spain and Portugal, including key ports Barcelona, Valencia and Lisbon.

- **Celebrity Cruises** 10-night 'Best of Spain & Portugal Cruise' aboard Celebrity Infinity, from Barcelona to Lisbon via Valencia, Málaga, Gibraltar, Seville and Porto, departing 9 September 2021, from £1,349

👉 celebritycruises.com

5. Greece is the word

Soak up the magic of the Greek islands on this idyllic voyage with Celestyal Cruises. Sailing from Athens, you'll see Kusadasi, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini, Milos and Mykonos in the perfect week-long island-hopping experience.

- **Celestyal Cruises** 7-night 'Idyllic Aegean' cruise aboard Celestyal Experience, round trip from Athens via Kusadasi, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini, Milos and Mykonos, departing 2 October 2021, from £979

👉 celestyal.com

6. Hidden treasures

From amphitheatres to preserved relics, Croatia can certainly give Rome and Athens a run for their money when it comes to ancient sites. Join Unforgettable Croatia on its cultural cruise of the Dalmatian Coast, which is steeped in history and culture.

- **Unforgettable Croatia** 7-night 'Signature Dubrovnik to Split Cruise', departing 25 June 2022, from £1,395

👉 unforgettablecroatia.co.uk

Travel with ROL Cruise and the world is yours to explore – from the dazzling Canadian Rockies (left) to the timeless temples of Japan (below)



Enjoy two days aboard the famous Rocky Mountaineer train, plus a tour over this incredible landscape

MS Roald Amundsen, sailing to Chile and the port cities of Valparaíso and Santiago, where you will enjoy a two-night stay in a four-star hotel before flying back to London.

Alternatively, for those of you looking to go off the beaten track in a post-Covid world, there's Cunard's 16-night 'Canadian Rockies & Alaska Launch' cruise. Departing on 9 June 2022, guests will get to enjoy a five-night 'First Passage to the West' Canadian Rockies tour, which includes two days on board the famous Rocky Mountaineer train; five nights' accommodation, in Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Kamloops and Vancouver, and 10 nights' cruising aboard Cunard's iconic Queen Elizabeth. Other highlights include a half-day tour of the Yoho National Park to view some of its natural wonders, and a visit to the awe-inspiring Hubbard Glacier.

But perhaps you've always longed to see the cherry blossom in Japan. If so, why not make your dream come true with Celebrity Cruises' 'Exclusive 2022 Immersive Japan' voyage? Departing on 4 April 2022 for 21 nights, guests will get to experience the wonders of Tokyo before boarding the recently transformed Celebrity Solstice for a 14-night cruise of Japan, visiting fascinating ports including Kobe, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The choice is yours – but whichever of these amazing packages you select, remember they're only available to book with ROL Cruise, and each one is fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. ●

Cruises to ignite your wanderlust

ROL Cruise, the UK's number-one independent cruise specialist, has put together some exclusive inspirational journeys for your wish list in 2022

As we all wait patiently for lockdown to end, many of us are spending our days dreaming about the cruise destinations we'll be ready to visit when it's safe to escape.

Our holiday wish list for the first half of 2021 may have been sadly torn up, but ROL Cruise – the UK's number-one independent cruise specialist – has looked ahead to 2022 with some truly amazing voyages to the far corners of the earth.

For more than 25 years, ROL Cruise has been working with leading cruise lines to ensure its loyal customers enjoy the best cruise experiences the world

has to offer. If you're looking to book a once-in-a-lifetime voyage, discover exciting new itineraries or simply get some impartial travel advice, the company's friendly and knowledgeable experts are there to help with your every need, looking after your holiday as if it were their own.

With this in mind, ROL Cruise has put together three of its top recommended cruise trips for 2022 to inspire you for when life returns to normality.

The first itinerary, Hurtigruten's 'Expedition to South America & Machu Picchu', is designed for travellers in search of an unforgettable adventure. The 14-night voyage commences in Peru's capital, Lima, where you will spend two nights soaking up the culture and enjoying the amazing local gastronomy.

After flying to the mountain city of Cuzco you will visit the fascinating Inca archaeological site at Ollantaytambo before boarding the luxurious Belmond Hiram Bingham train to the fabled ancient settlement of Machu Picchu.

The second part of the trip includes a full-board voyage aboard Hurtigruten's



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For more information or to enquire, please visit rolcruise.co.uk or call free on 0808 102 7685. The phone lines are open seven days a week from 8.30am to 8pm.

Competition

WIN

A seven-night cruise for two to Southern Spain and Morocco worth £3,300 with Luxury Cruise & More and Tradewind Voyages

The long British winter, coupled with lockdown, has got us all pining for escape to sunny and exotic climes. Fortunately, Luxury Cruise & More is here to answer our travel prayers, having partnered with Tradewind Voyages to offer the prize of a seven-night cruise for two to Spain and Morocco – all the while experiencing the magic of life under sail.

Luxury Cruise & More was established last year by Scott Anderson and Manish Suchde. Award-winning cruise industry veterans, the pair spotted a gap in the market for a luxury tailor-made cruise specialist that worked to enhance clients' experience with pre- and post-cruise land extensions.

Working only with smaller ships and more luxurious cruise lines, the company has access to some of the most exclusive services in the world of travel, including private jets and yachts for charter. And the team – which collectively has more than 60 years' experience in travel and cruise – has first-hand experience of most of the ships and brands within its portfolio.

Now Luxury Cruise & More has teamed up with one of those partners, Tradewind Voyages, to offer an amazing

cruise experience, exploring the beautiful coastlines of Iberia and North Africa aboard a stunning modern tall ship, Golden Horizon.

Spain & Morocco Explorer

Departing this September, the lucky winner and guest will begin their journey in Lisbon, Portugal's coastal capital and home to Unesco-listed sites including the stunning Belém Tower and the Jerónimos monastery. While here, you must check out the city's wonderful culinary scene, which you'll find at its authentic best in the bohemian Bairro Alto district.

Next up is Cádiz, thought to be the oldest inhabited city in Europe. Home to the Spanish navy, Cádiz has more than 100 watchtowers – head up Torre Tavira for incredible views. There's also the opportunity to see the 18th-century Cádiz Cathedral, take a trip to Jerez de la Frontera – the sherry capital of Andalusia – and learn the art of flamenco dancing.

Once you've drunk your fill of Spanish culture, your ship will sail on to Tangier. This lively Moroccan port has been transformed in recent years, and today is a wonderful melting pot of old and new. Take a stroll through the souks, packed with traditional wares including handmade rugs and leather slippers. Popular tourist sites include the Caves of Hercules, where the classical hero is said to have rested during his legendary



Your ship combines timeless elegance with modern luxury

WORTH
£3,300



Explore the beautiful and historic city of Cádiz



Sail aboard Golden Horizon – the world's largest square-rigger

Throughout your voyage, the onboard cruise team will work tirelessly to offer a full programme of activities, ranging from wine-tasting and cooking demonstrations to upper-deck games, movies under the stars and quizzes.

The ship will also play host to distinguished experts who can teach you all about maritime history, astronomy and geography. And there's a resident destination speaker to offer engaging insights, specifically related to each port of call, so you'll feel fully immersed in the cultures and traditions of the many and varied destinations along your route.

What you could win

Departing on 7 September 2021, the prize includes a full-board cruise for two people sharing a Marina Aft stateroom on Tradewind Voyages' Golden Horizon. The winner and guest will get full access to the gym, marina and all the other facilities aboard the ship, along with exciting entertainment, wi-fi, all meals including selected beer/wine with lunch and dinner in the main restaurant, soft drinks, gratuities and service charges. 🍷

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luxurycruise&more

Labours, and further afield, the 'blue city' of Chefchaouen.

Returning to Spain, the ship will then make stops in Almería – dominated by the Alcazaba fortress – and Mahón, the capital of Menorca, where you can explore the fortress of La Mola, sample artisan gin at the Xoriguer distillery and pick up a pair of fashionable *menorquina* sandals at a local market. Finally your sun-soaked adventure comes to an end in beautiful Palma de Mallorca, with its spectacular harbourside gothic cathedral.

Life under sail

As you journey to exciting Iberian and Moroccan ports, you will also get the opportunity to enjoy the luxurious

delights of a unique cruise ship, your home from home for seven nights.

Tradewind Voyages' debut vessel, Golden Horizon, is the largest square-rigged sailing ship in the world. While traditional in design, the ship is equipped with five-star facilities including a two-tier restaurant, five bars, three pools, a watersports platform and a pampering spa.

Relax as you enjoy dinner in the elegant dining room, listening to the pianist and singer; or head up on deck for a more casual meal watching the sunset. Then bring your perfect day to an end with a nightcap at Debeljak's, a premium onboard bar serving some of the world's finest gins and whiskys.

To enter, visit [worldofcruising.co.uk/cruise-news/cruise-comp](https://www.worldofcruising.co.uk/cruise-news/cruise-comp)

SHIP OF THE MONTH

Given the year we've just had, we're all in need of a serious injection of fun. And you can be sure that Carnival Cruise Line's new ship, Mardi Gras, will deliver just that. Originally planned to launch in August 2020, the much-awaited, 5,282-passenger, £1 billion cruise liner is now due to set sail this spring. Among the standout features are exciting innovations such as the first roller coaster at sea, a water park, dining and entertainment venues spread across six zones, and much more. Powered by environmentally friendly LNG gas, Carnival's latest vessel will sail week-long Caribbean sailings from Port Canaveral.

FAST FACTS

18

PASSENGER DECKS

2,641

CABINS

5

POOLS

5,282

PASSENGERS

1,745

CREW

MARDI GRAS



Restaurants

The dining venues have been spread across six zones, with highlights including Emeril's Bistro 1396 (above) in the French Quarter, backed by US celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse; New England-inspired Seafood Shack, and a second-in-fleet Big Chicken by Shaquille O'Neal.



Bars

For casual drinks, try RedFrog Tiki Bar (above), a South Pacific-themed poolside venue spanning two decks and serving up rum-soaked cocktails. Meanwhile, beer lovers should head to Guy's Pig & Anchor Smokehouse/Brewhouse, Carnival's third craft brewery at sea.



Spa/gym

Carnival's signature Cloud 9 Spa (above) will offer a range of pampering treatments. The spa is also home to a fitness centre and studio, offering classes such as yoga, Pilates and cycling, as well as a hair salon, two saunas, thermal suites and a thalassotherapy pool.

Entertainment

The star attraction is BOLT – the world's first oceangoing roller coaster, where thrill-seeking guests can reach speeds of 40mph. Naturally Mardi Gras also has a Broadway-style theatre featuring shows for all ages, as well as late-night bars with live music for adults.

Cabins

More than 70 per cent of staterooms aboard Mardi Gras will have either an ocean view or a balcony. Suite guests will get to enjoy Loft 19, a luxurious open-air enclave perched atop the ship with Carnival Excel suites (above), plus an exclusive bar, pool and cabanas.

Pools

Mardi Gras is certain to make quite a splash with its choice of pools. There are five on board, along with a massive water park – the biggest in Carnival's fleet – featuring three different slides including 'Blue Lightning', which has 312 feet of twists and turns.

Wave of *the* future

With some amazing new ships on the way and others postponed from last year, 2021 is going to change the face of cruising. Here's a sneak peek at what's on the horizon...

Words by **DAVE MONK**

From roller coasters to helicopters, new cruise ships will show off a host of exciting features this year, no doubt making up for lost time as they finally take to the water post-pandemic. Oceangoing giants such as Carnival's Mardi Gras and Iona from P&O Cruises will be joined by tall ships Golden Horizon and Sea Cloud Spirit, luxury yachts Evrima and World Navigator, and polar explorers including Crystal Endeavor and Minerva.

Some were built last year but have not yet carried passengers because of the Covid situation. While it is possible that further delays could still ensue, the industry is looking forward to these launches with optimism and enthusiasm. So let's take a look at the cruise-ship launches you can look forward to in 2021...

SHIP IONA
LINE P&O CRUISES
PASSENGERS 5,200

The biggest ship ever built for the British-based line will offer 30 bars and restaurants, an onboard gin distillery, new menus by Marco Pierre White and what's claimed to be the 'best burger at sea'. The two-deck glass-topped SkyDome will be a pool area by day and a dining and entertainment venue at night, featuring aerial acrobatics shows.

SHIP MARDI GRAS
LINE CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE
PASSENGERS 5,282

Daredevils will be able to enjoy the first roller coaster at sea, hurtling around an 800ft track at up to 40mph, when Mardi Gras makes its debut in Florida. The Ultimate Playground, one of the ship's six themed zones, will also have a large aqua park and three heart-racing water slides.

SHIP ODYSSEY OF THE SEAS
LINE ROYAL CARIBBEAN
PASSENGERS 4,180

A bigger version of the existing Quantum-class ships, Odyssey will have the familiar North Star viewing pod, bumper cars and skydiving simulator. The ship's 14 restaurants include the novel Wonderland, and among its nine bars is a traditional English pub.

SHIP CELEBRITY APEX
LINE CELEBRITY CRUISES
PASSENGERS 2,910

Apex is a new sister for Celebrity Edge, the ship that pioneered Magic Carpet – the innovative cantilevered platform that moves up and down between decks, acting as everything from a restaurant to a boarding platform for tender boats. Also provided are Celebrity's 'infinite balconies' as well as 29 restaurants and bars, including a new craft beer venue.

SHIP SCARLET LADY
LINE VIRGIN VOYAGES
PASSENGERS 2,800

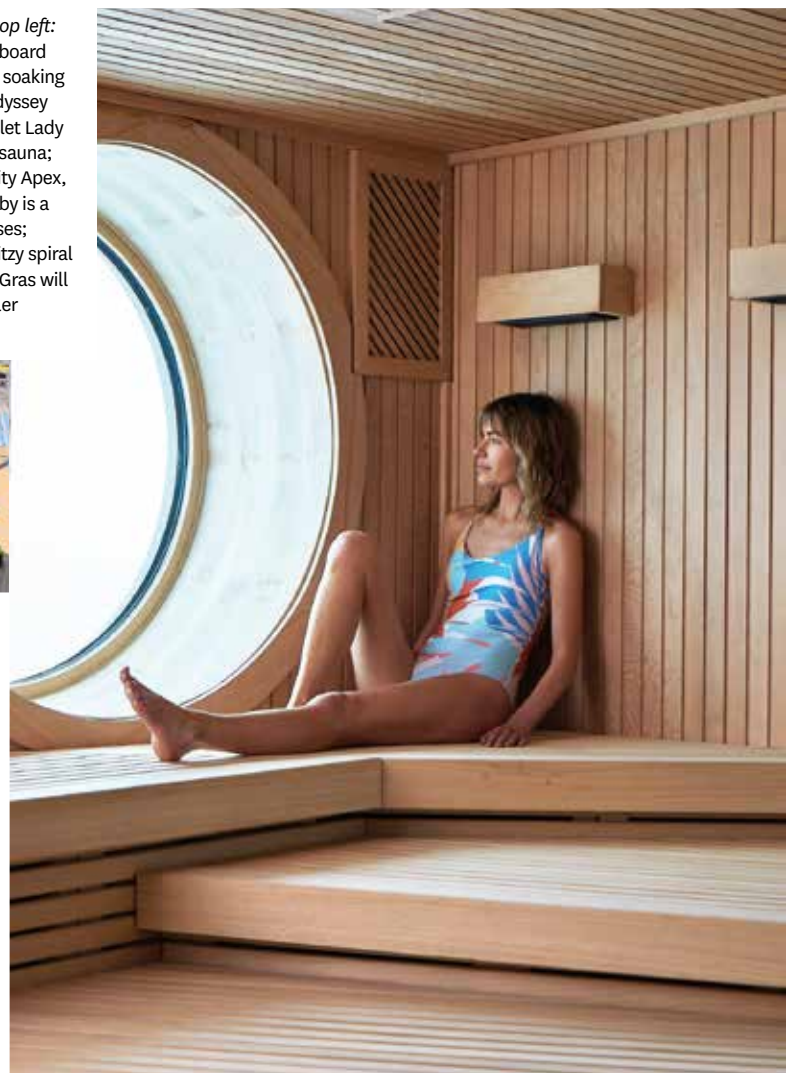
Sir Richard Branson's dream of setting up an adults-only cruise line is about to come true with the arrival of not one but two ships, when Scarlet Lady is joined in Miami by sister Valiant Lady. Both feature slick interiors, tattoo parlours, 'Rock Star' quarters (one has an outdoor table big enough to dance on) and amazing entertainment, from club nights to drag-artist performances.

From roller coasters to helicopters, new cruise ships will show off a host of exciting features this year





Clockwise from top left: Big is beautiful aboard P&O's new Iona; soaking up the sun on Odyssey of the Seas; Scarlet Lady offers a seaview sauna; on board Celebrity Apex, even the spa lobby is a treat for the senses; Scarlet Lady's glitzy spiral staircase; Mardi Gras will have the first roller coaster at sea



SHIP MSC SEASHORE
LINE MSC CRUISES
PASSENGERS 4,540

MSC's new arrival will offer even more than its forerunners Seaside and Seaview. With 52ft of extra length there's room for a double-deck show lounge and enlarged water park, and families will be able to book into 'cluster cabins' of linked rooms that sleep up to 10. Also due in 2021 is MSC Virtuosa, which it's claimed will offer the largest shopping area at sea.



SHIP SILVER MOON
LINE SILVERSEA
PASSENGERS 596

A sister to the luxurious Silver Muse, Silver Moon could be joined by a third in the family, Silver Dawn, by the end of the year. These triplets will be the first to introduce Silversea's SALT ('Sea and Land Taste') programme, offering destination-inspired food and wine. Eight restaurants will allow guests to choose between French, Asian, Italian and Japanese cuisine.



SHIP ENCHANTED PRINCESS
LINE PRINCESS CRUISES
PASSENGERS 3,660

Packed with lounges, restaurants and pools, Enchanted Princess will also have OceanMedallion technology, offering touchless cabin entry and the ability to order drinks and food for delivery anywhere on board. The ship also boasts luxurious Sky Suites, featuring the largest continuous balcony in the fleet, at 1,000 square feet.

SHIP ROTTERDAM
LINE HOLLAND AMERICA LINE
PASSENGERS 2,668

Rotterdam was the name of Holland America's first ship, launched in 1872. This latest incarnation – the seventh – has entertainment venues including BB King's Blues Club, the Rolling Stone Rock Room and Lincoln Center Stage, as well as 11 places to eat and 12 to drink.

SHIP VIKING VENUS
LINE VIKING
PASSENGERS 930

The seventh in a line of nearly identical ocean ships from Viking exudes the same calming ambience and Nordic style as her sisters, with al fresco dining, a retractable pool roof and an infinity pool at the stern. Viking Venus is set to spend her maiden season in the waters of Scandinavia and Northern Europe, sailing popular itineraries including 'British Isles Explorer', 'In Search of the Northern Lights', 'Viking Homelands' and 'Into the Midnight Sun'.

SHIP SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE
LINE SAGA CRUISES
PASSENGERS 999

The second new ship in the Saga fleet will have the same elegant and modern feel as her sister, Spirit of Discovery, with art deco restaurants and bars, a Playhouse theatre and all-balcony cabins, plus a few unique features including two new speciality restaurants. These are offered at no extra charge, so as well as the main dining room and alfresco option The Grill, guests can enjoy Khukuri House – the first Nepalese restaurant at sea – plus Italian at Amalfi, and steak and live music at Supper Club.

SHIP WORLD NAVIGATOR
LINE ATLAS OCEAN VOYAGES
PASSENGERS 196

New cruise line Atlas Ocean Voyages is aiming to launch five identical luxury expedition ships before the end of 2023. First up is World Navigator, with 98 suites and staterooms, all offering step-out balconies. The line's all-inclusive fares cover flights, drinks and gratuities – as well as a selection of shore excursions.





Clockwise from top left: Silver Moon raises the bar for cruise-ship cuisine; Spirit of Adventure's elegant Britannia lounge and stylish cabins; Viking Venus comes with a trademark infinity pool; World Navigator is Atlas Ocean Voyages' debut expedition vessel; MSC's Seashore offers family cabins for up to 10; kick back and relax aboard Enchanted Princess; HAL's Rotterdam is a new face for a famous name





SHIP EVRIMA
LINE THE RITZ-CARLTON YACHT
COLLECTION
PASSENGERS 298

The Ritz-Carlton hotel group is dipping its toe into cruising with the launch of Evrima, the first of three yachts that aim to bring land-based levels of luxury to the ocean. Guests will be able to dine in a restaurant created by Michelin-starred German chef Sven Elverfeld.

SHIP GOLDEN HORIZON
LINE TRADEWIND VOYAGES
PASSENGERS 272

Britain will welcome the billowing sails of the world's biggest square-rigger for its first season. Golden Horizon, which will sail from Harwich and Glasgow, has three pools, five bars and a spa. Many of the 140 cabins have their own balcony, and the ice-class ship also has a marina for kayaking, swimming and snorkelling.

SHIP SEA CLOUD SPIRIT
LINE SEA CLOUD
PASSENGERS 136

Sea Cloud Spirit will have some illustrious company when she joins the German line's fleet, sailing alongside the 90-year-old four-masted Sea Cloud barque and the windjammer Sea Cloud II. The new three-masted ship with 28 sails will offer balcony cabins and a fitness centre with sea view, as well as a fine-dining restaurant and bistro.

SHIP LE COMMANDANT
CHARCOT
LINE PONANT
PASSENGERS 270

French line Ponant is launching its biggest ship yet. Le Commandant Charcot, a polar exploration vessel powered by a hybrid electric and liquefied natural gas system, will be able to sail almost silently in sensitive environments without producing any emissions. The ship will also be fitted with science labs.

SHIP CRYSTAL ENDEAVOR
LINE CRYSTAL EXPEDITION
CRUISES
PASSENGERS 200

As well as two helicopters and a seven-person submarine, the first expedition ship from Crystal Cruises will also carry a remote-operated underwater camera to send 360-degree images back to screens around the ship. Speciality restaurants include Umi Uma, which will serve up sushi and signature dishes from superstar chef Nobu Matsuhisa.

**As well as two
 helicopters and a
 submarine, Crystal's
 first expedition ship
 will carry an
 underwater camera**

SHIP ULTRAMARINE
LINE QUARK EXPEDITIONS
PASSENGERS 199

Quark promises to bring its guests closer to nature with two helicopters for 'flightseeing' trips and landings on the polar ice, and 20 Zodiacs ready for launch in response to wildlife sightings. The ship has a main restaurant and bistro, four bars, a panoramic lounge, spa and lecture theatre.

SHIP MINERVA
LINE SWAN HELLENIC
PASSENGERS 152

Cruisers may remember Swan Hellenic for an earlier Minerva, but now the line is back with a new expedition vessel bearing the same name. At its heart will be an observation lounge, but guests will also be able to relax in the Swan Restaurant or Club Lounge with a holographic fireplace.

SHIP SILVER ORIGIN
LINE SILVERSEA
PASSENGERS 100

All-suite Silver Origin will be the first Silversea ship designed for just one destination – the Galápagos – sailing around the islands all year, with expert local guides lecturing on the unique wildlife and landscape. The Explorer Lounge has a terrace with a fire pit, while Ecuadorian cuisine will feature in The Restaurant and Grill. ●



Clockwise from top left: Quark's Ultramarine is a polar-class expedition ship; 152-guest Minerva is a rebirth for Swan Hellenic; Silver Origin brings new levels of luxury to the Galápagos; Le Commandant Charcot is a green ship for the White Continent; Golden Horizon offers the thrill of life under sail; a veranda suite aboard Silver Origin; superyacht-style Evrima will carry the Ritz-Carlton luxury brand to the ends of the earth





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A shot in the arm

Covid-19 vaccines have been heralded as the beginning of the fightback. But what do they mean for cruisers and the travel industry?

Words by **GARY PETERS**



Masks, testing and social distancing will be the new normal, but cruising has already resumed in Singapore (below)

'The vaccination programme is giving everyone the chance to dream and start thinking about their travel plans'

LUCIA ROWE, MD OF A-ROSA

Recent findings from Saga also paint a positive picture of consumer confidence in future travel, with the company reporting an increase in the number of over-50s booking a once-in-a-lifetime holiday.

However, in another survey, commissioned by luxury travel specialist Mundy Cruising late last year, 47 per cent of respondents said they would cruise again only once they and the majority of the general population had been vaccinated.

The UK Travel Intelligence Report, compiled by communications firm Lotus, suggests a somewhat different picture, with just 26 per cent of those who hoped to cruise in Europe saying they are waiting to be vaccinated before they do so. What's more, as Lotus CEO Jules Ugo tells us, '14 per cent of those looking to cruise in Europe within the next six months, and seven per cent of those looking outside Europe, are eager to cruise, regardless of the vaccine.'

A-Rosa's Lucia Rowe adds that by late March, with more and more over-50s vaccinated, 'We could see a real surge in demand for the second half of this year and into 2022. For many cruisers, their suitcases are ready and waiting to be packed.'

At a Coventry hospital on 8 December 2020, 90-year-old Margaret Keenan became the first person in the world to receive the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 jab as part of a mass vaccination programme.

Keenan, who turned 91 just a week later, called it the 'best early birthday present', and across the nation the joy was unconfined. Scientists were hailed for the expertise and sheer hard work that had brought them to their goal with such unprecedented speed. Regulators, too, were praised for the swiftness with which they had approved the vaccine for public use.

Next, on 4 January this year, 82-year-old Brian Pinker became the first person to receive the Oxford-AstraZeneca jab, as the government began the roll-out of this second, more easily stored vaccine.

Throughout the travel sector, the response has simply been one of relief. There has been no huge celebration, no jumping for joy. Yes, the vaccines are hugely significant, but restrictions are still in place and lockdowns persist. Accordingly, the mood is best described as realistic optimism.

'The vaccination programme is giving everyone the chance to dream and start thinking about their travel plans for later this year and beyond,' says Lucia Rowe, UK & Ireland MD for German river line A-Rosa.

This view is backed by Philip Ordever and Stuart Perl, founders of The Cruise Strategy Company.

'It is undoubtedly a huge step forward that vaccines have been approved,' they say. 'We can be cautiously optimistic about the positive impact this will have on consumers' confidence to book holidays. However, we need to balance this with the fact that the phased roll-out means the segments of the market most likely to cruise are unlikely to be vaccinated before the spring.'

Janet Whittingham, head of cruise at online travel company Travel Counsellors, reports similar positivity in a customer survey – albeit one conducted before the third UK lockdown began in January.

'Seventy per cent of respondents said they were keen to cruise again in the next 12 months,' she reveals. 'Over 60 per cent also said that news of a vaccine boosted their confidence in being able to set sail again sooner.'

'Many customers are telling their Travel Counsellor how they've missed their cruising holiday so much and want to make their next trip as special as possible. And they have proved the value of an experienced travel professional, particularly one with expertise in cruise, to help navigate the latest developments as restrictions continue across the globe.'



No jab, no cruise?

With the rapid development of vaccines and the continued roll-out across the world, attention has now turned to the question of vaccine passports, and the promise they offer of a return to free movement around the globe.

In mid-January, Saga revealed that it will require all passengers to have been vaccinated against Covid-19 at least 14 days before departure. The operator has confirmed that all guests must be fully inoculated, having received both doses of the vaccine, adding that they will be required to show documentary evidence of their vaccination at the time of boarding. Any guest who has not received the vaccine at least 14 days before departure will be forbidden to board, but will be offered a future cruise or a full refund instead.

In a statement, the line says: 'Our customers want the reassurance of the vaccine, and to know that others travelling with them will be vaccinated too. To allow our customers time to get vaccinated, we are

moving the restart date for our travel businesses to May.'

In line with this decision, Saga's new ship Spirit of Adventure is now scheduled to make her inaugural voyage on 4 May, while sister vessel Spirit of Discovery will return to service on 2 June.

A similar policy on jabs was recently announced by the American Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) and its sister company Victory Cruise Lines,

'Our customers want the reassurance of the vaccine, and to know that others travelling with them will be vaccinated, too'

SAGA CRUISES OFFICIAL STATEMENT

to protect people, will work really well,' she explains. 'I imagine that, certainly in the early days, we'll see a combination of vaccinations with testing.'

Travel expert and chairman of Rock Insurance, Steve Endacott, adds: 'Vaccines are vital in creating a light at the end of the tunnel, [but] testing is vital for convincing customers pre-vaccination that relatively Covid-free environments can be created on board.'

Testing times

One thing that is accepted across the industry is that vaccines do not reduce the need for comprehensive testing, at least in the short term. Globally, CLIA cruise line members have agreed to 100 per cent testing of passengers and crew on all ships with a capacity of 250 or more guests – something that typifies the common approach we've seen since the very first days of the pandemic.

Cruise lines that have run reduced sailings in recent months have also demonstrated this attitude, with testing both prior to embarkation and during sailings.

CLIA UK & Ireland director Andy Harmer says: 'There is still so much about the virus that is unknown, and the scientific and medical understanding is constantly changing, but we are an innovative industry taking innovative approaches that continue to put people first.'

'Our members are working together to consider new and enhanced health protocols, technologies and sanitation solutions, informed by some of the world's leading experts in coordination with public health officials, governments and ports.'

The importance of testing is also highlighted by Edwina Lonsdale – managing director of Mundy Cruising and columnist on this magazine:

'I think the whole premise of ship-board testing, which is to mitigate risk by layering all the things that are going



From top: We all dream of a return to free movement; enhanced cleaning is a step on the way; lines such as the American Queen Steamboat Company now require proof of vaccination

both of which will ask customers to provide documentary proof of vaccination. Coming into effect on 1 July, the move is described by AQSC boss John Waggoner as 'the most prudent next step to ensure we are providing the safest cruising experience possible'.

Whether such a requirement will be adopted by other cruise lines remains to be seen. Asked whether he believes vaccinations will become mandatory for all cruise passengers, Royal Caribbean vice president, Ben Bouldin, said:

'I think it's too early to say. We are sailing in Singapore and there's no vaccines there [but] we have a rigorous testing programme and a set of protocols in place that have been working very effectively.'

'But for sure, a vaccine may become a realistic way of ensuring that our cruise experience gets back to as normal as possible.'

While no comment has been given on whether passengers will require Covid vaccinations, newly relaunched cruise line Swan Hellenic also recently announced that all of its onboard staff and crew will need to be vaccinated.

As for the wider travel industry, the CEO of Aussie airline Qantas said last year that international air travellers will need to prove they have been vaccinated before boarding longer flights, while in January former PM Tony Blair told *The Daily Telegraph* that



'The reality is likely to be that some passengers will be vaccinated, while others won't'

LLOYD FIGGINS, TRAVEL RISK EXPERT

the government should look to establish a global vaccine passport scheme. The passport should be digital, Blair argued, and capable of tracking and verifying someone's Covid-19 status, wherever they travel.

Also in January, after a meeting set up by the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the Global Tourism Crisis Committee called for a standardised system, as well as harmonised testing protocols.

UNWTO secretary-general Zurab Pololikashvili said: 'Vaccines must be part of a wider, coordinated approach that includes certificates and passes for safe cross-border travel.'

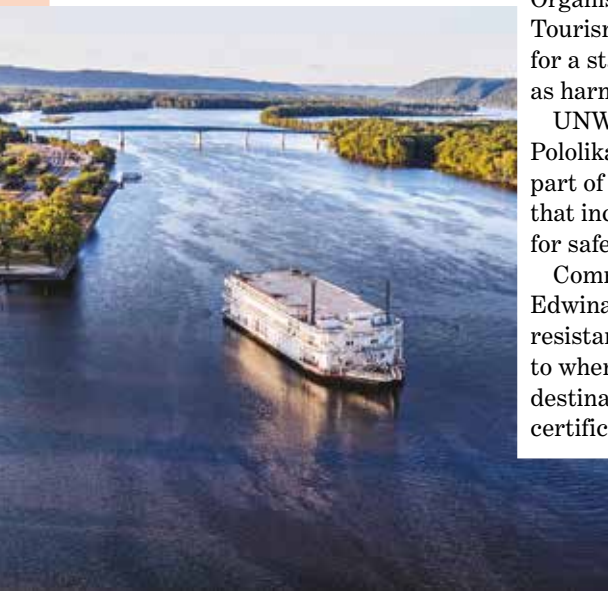
Commenting on such proposals, Edwina Lonsdale foresees little public resistance: 'I would say it is similar to when guests are going to a destination that needs a yellow fever certificate'. However, Travel Risk &



Incident Prevention Group chairman Lloyd Figgins believes that, while it might seem ideal to encourage all passengers to get a vaccine, 'the reality is likely to be that some passengers will be vaccinated, while others won't'.

Speaking in January, World Travel & Tourism president Gloria Guevara added: 'It will take a significant time to vaccinate the global population... so we shouldn't discriminate against those who haven't been vaccinated. The common-sense approach is to allow the free movement of people who can prove a negative test result.'

Whatever happens, the huge achievement of Covid-19 vaccines means the beginning of the fightback against this challenging disease, and a good reason for optimism among all those who love to cruise. 🌐



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FEAST *for* *the* SENSES

With gourmet cuisine, onboard cookery schools and culinary shore excursions, river cruises can be a mouth-watering treat. To whet your appetite for post-Covid travel, river-cruise expert **Jeannine Williamson** shares some of her favourite foodie memories...





Food is truly one of life's great pleasures, to say nothing of a perfectly chilled glass of wine or two to go with it. Add a wonderful location to the mix and life doesn't really get any better than that, does it? In fact, food and travel go hand in hand; be it a meal in an unforgettable

location, the first taste of something you've never tried before, joining locals for a coffee in a street café or sipping a glass of bubbly against the backdrop of vineyards where the grapes are grown.

For many travellers, food has become one of the major factors when it comes to choosing a holiday, no doubt influenced by food travel shows from leading chefs such as Rick Stein and Gordon Ramsay.

Of course, there's another crucial reason why gastronomy is such an important part of travelling. Through food and drink we can discover the culture and history of a country, and it's as much a part of the travel experience as visiting local landmarks.

Lockdown has made me realise how much I miss the many amazing foodie experiences I've enjoyed on river cruises both on board and ashore – so while we're all hungry to start travelling again, I'm sharing some of my favourite food memories.

Clockwise from top left: The lavender fields of Provence; wine-tastings are a highlight of many a European river cruise... as are local culinary delights; A-Rosa serves up a treat on the sun deck; see the tea harvest in Assam on a Brahmaputra cruise



WHERE IN THE WORLD

FRAGRANT FLAVOURS IN PROVENCE

You see it is not just for the bath,' said our guide as I bit into a delicately scented biscuit and took a sip of cloudy lemonade, pleasantly surprised by the floral flavour.

Since the 16th century, lavender oil has been distilled in Ardèche, where vast fields paint a purple swathe across the landscape each summer. Though I'd previously thought of it purely as a fragrance, my snack at the Lavender Museum in Saint-Remèze proved this plant can be tasty, too.

The visit was one of many appetising excursions on an indulgent cruise along the Rhône and Saône in southern France, and we returned to our ship, Amadeus Provence, laden with lavender nougat, sweets, olive oil and honey.

Another day took us to the Camargue, where we admired the famous white horses, black bulls and pink flamingos before exploring the capital, Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, with its artisan market. Once again I returned loaded with bags; this time of prized Camargue rice, salt from the marshes, and the irresistible Sexy Flamingo rosé wine.

Get on board

7-night 'Treasures of Burgundy and Provence' cruise, round trip from Lyon, departing 16 September 2021, from £1,782

➔ amadeus-rivercruises.co.uk

My snack at the Lavender Museum in Saint-Remèze proved this fragrant plant can be surprisingly tasty, too

JUST MY CUP OF TEA

The Brahmaputra flows through lush Assam in the shadow of the Himalayas. Wild tea plants were discovered here in 1834 by Robert Bruce of the East India Company, which led to this north Indian state becoming the world's major tea-growing region.

At a plantation I learned about the history and production of tea while sipping the prized 'second flush' harvest that produces a more full-bodied brew. Afterwards we walked through waist-high bushes where women in jewel-bright saris picked the precious leaves, carrying them in baskets hanging from their heads. Another excursion, later in the week, took us to a tea factory

where we saw how the jade-green leaves are dried, sorted and graded.

Back aboard the MV Mahabaahu we sat down to another deliciously authentic Indian meal, as always with meat and vegetarian options and a plethora of tasty breads and condiments. The truly brave (or mad) could try *bhut jolokia*, grown in Assam and also known by the innocuous-sounding name of ghost pepper, though it is actually the subcontinent's hottest chilli.

Get on board

11-night 'Kolkata and Brahmaputra River' cruise, round trip from Kolkata, departing 8 April 2021, from £3,149 including flights

➔ cruisingholidays.co.uk



GUTEN APPETIT IN GERMANY

Navigating narrow locks is a novel part of river cruising, and the scene must have looked particularly jolly to the passers-by who stopped to watch A-Rosa Silva sail past on the Rhine. It was only 11.30am, but we already had our glasses of chilled Moselle in hand as we eagerly watched our chef prepare *flammkuchen* on the sun deck. This regional speciality – like a thin pizza topped with crème fraiche, sliced onions and bacon – turned out to be the perfect post-breakfast snack (or pre-lunch, depending on how you look at it).

German-owned A-Rosa makes a point of immersing its guests in the regional food and drink scene, and the process began as we set sail from Cologne and crew members came round with trays of foaming local beer.

Extensive mealtime choices included hearty sausages with curry sauce, the curiosity of rice pudding at breakfast, and pretzel bake (akin to a savoury bread-and-butter pudding) at dinner. You can even buy a loaf of A-Rosa's tasty rye bread to take home.

Get on board

7-night 'Romance on the Rhine & Moselle' cruise, round trip from Cologne, departing 17 April 2022, from £1,332

arosa-cruises.co.uk





SWEET TREATS ON THE MEKONG

Leaving our ship, *AmaDara*, to reach the village of Cai Be on small boats, we sailed through a colourful floating market where freshly picked fruit, vegetables and other wares were hoisted high up the masts to serve as shop signs for the vendors below.

We weaved in and out of tiny fishing vessels, whose one and two-man (or woman) crews cast their nets just as they have for centuries. We passed wooden barges with piercing red eyes painted on their bows, an age-old custom to scare off the monsters once believed to lurk in the depths.

Safely ashore, we enjoyed a hands-on experience as smiling locals invited us to try their wares or have a go (and mostly fail) at making ultra-thin pancakes over a sizzling hot plate. Afterwards we savoured our sweet treats over cups of fragrant jasmine tea, and although my misshapen coconut candy bore little resemblance to the confection deftly rolled out by the vendor, it still tasted good.

Get on board

7-night 'Riches of the Mekong' cruise, from Kampong Cham to Ho Chi Minh City, departing 29 November 2021, from £2,535
amawaterways.co.uk

Smiling locals invited us to have a go (and mostly fail) at making ultra-thin pancakes over a sizzling hot plate

AN INSPIRING TASTE OF FRANCE

One day in 1945, Julia Child ordered her first meal in France. It consisted of oysters on the half-shell, followed by sole in parsley sauce with a green salad – and it changed her life.

Child's subsequent cookbook became a bestseller, introducing French cuisine to the USA, and 75 years later I followed in her footsteps to the atmospheric surroundings of La Couronne, the Rouen restaurant where she enjoyed that modest but momentous dinner.

Afternoon tea at the famous *auberge* – reputedly the oldest in France – is available on selected Seine sailings aboard Uniworld's *Joie de Vivre*, and I took my chance to tuck into tarte



tatin, the sweet Normandy staple of caramelised apples.

There were more treats back on board as the ship has its very own French bistro, which resembles a Parisian street café. I even signed up for a fun and informative cookery lesson in the ship's show kitchen, *La Cave des Vins*, complete with a chef's hat and apron to keep as a souvenir.

Get on board

7-night 'Paris & Normandy' cruise aboard *SS Joie de Vivre*, round trip from Paris, departing 10 April 2022, from £3,343
uniworld.com/uk



ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE, ITALIAN STYLE

Moored on the Venetian waterfront, we had no need to look for an eye-wateringly expensive pavement café. Our taste buds had been tantalised earlier that day, when hostess Francesca chalked up her menus in the dining room of La Bella Vita, an elegant, 20-guest hotel barge whose name aptly translates as ‘the beautiful life’. Then, after the bell had sounded to summon us to its convivial communal tables, chef Andrea provided an explanation of the dishes and Francesca talked us through the wines. Menus showcased delights such as guinea fowl with black truffle, carrot-and-ginger cream soup with scallops, seafood macaroni, a variety of Italian cheeses and, naturally, tiramisu.

Cruising the River Po and the Bianco Canal between Venice and Mantua, La Bella Vita felt like a very glamorous floating house party. And there was another culinary treat in store with a private dinner hosted by the owner of the 17th-century Villa Ca’Zen, the rural retreat where Lord Byron wrote some of his finest verse and – needless to say – courted the resident countess.

Get on board

6-night ‘Venice & the Po Valley’ cruise, departing 18 July 2021, round trip from Venice, from £2,890

📍 europeanwaterways.com



Clockwise from top left: A floating market on the Mekong; terraced vines in Austria’s Wachau Valley; apple tart is a taste of Normandy; guinea fowl is a menu favourite on a Venetian canal cruise; French-style oysters inspired a gastronomic revolution

APRICOTS ALL ROUND

Sampling local specialities ashore is something I always look forward to on a river cruise, and I felt I’d earned a little self-indulgence after the half-hour uphill walk to the ruins of Dürnstein Castle, perched high above the Danube. That said, it was worth the climb just for the panoramic views of Austria’s Unesco-listed Wachau Valley.

Wine grapes are not the only crop to flourish in the richly fertile soil below. Renowned for its sweetness, the plump Klosterneuburger apricot enjoys EU ‘protected designation of origin’ status, with only some 200

farmers allowed to use the name. On the way back down from the castle I stopped off to reward myself with a plate of the cinnamon-sprinkled dumplings known as *marillenknoedel*. And I didn’t need much persuasion from the waitress to add a restorative shot of apricot liqueur. Warming to the theme, after polishing off the dumplings I bought some fruity souvenirs, including jam, chutney and apricot-flavoured chocolate, to take home. 🍑

Get on board

7-night ‘Danube Dreams’ cruise, from Budapest to Deggendorf, departing 3 September 2021, from £2,544

📍 avalonwaterways.co.uk



THE AMERICAN DREAM

Whether it's seeing the bright lights of New York City, discovering the untamed wilderness of Alaska or basking in the tropical paradise of Hawaii, the USA offers some of the world's most epic cruising experiences

Words by **LAUREN HO**





WHERE IN THE WORLD

While the travel sector – and much of the world – was on pause for most of 2020, the upside is that 2021 is bursting with fresh optimism. The cruise industry is certainly hopeful, with lots of exciting new launches in the pipeline including Mardi Gras, the most hotly-anticipated cruise ship in the Carnival fleet (turn to page 20 for more details); Royal Caribbean’s enormous Odyssey of the Seas, and Endeavor, the much-awaited expedition ship from Crystal Cruises. And if you’re ready to set sail once again, there is no finer destination than the USA. Whether it’s ticking off that bucket-list Panama Canal transit, viewing New York’s iconic sights or enjoying a taste of paradise in Hawaii, the sheer diversity of this great nation is impossible to beat. So pull your suitcases out of storage and get set for a great Stateside adventure...

Best for...

HISTORY BUFFS

The East Coast

Discover America’s roots and follow in the footsteps of its forefathers as you hop along the craggy eastern seaboard from the picturesque coastal villages of Nova Scotia, past the charming ports of New England, the bright lights of New York, and the fascinating 300-year history of Charleston – America’s most



beautifully preserved architectural treasure – to the pristine beaches of South Florida. Visit the lighthouse at Peggy’s Cove in Halifax, grab a bowl of steaming clam chowder or a delicious lobster roll in Bar Harbor, take a scenic drive past the cultural landmarks of Boston and – if you time your visit towards the end of the year – you’ll get the added bonus of those legendary autumnal colours.

Get on board

Crystal Cruises 14-night ‘American East Coast Discovery’ cruise aboard Crystal Endeavor, from Montréal to West Palm Beach, departing 16 September 2022, from £8,483

🔗 [crystalcruises.co.uk](https://www.crystalcruises.co.uk)

Princess Cruises 7-night ‘Canada & New England’ cruise aboard Enchanted Princess, round trip from New York City, departing 8 October 2022, from £854

🔗 [princess.com](https://www.princess.com)



Clockwise from main picture:
Autumn colour in Vermont;
Hollywood Boulevard at sunset;
the streets of San Francisco;
Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia



Best for...
OENOPHILES
The West Coast

While the far northwest is deservedly popular, with hotspot destinations such as Vancouver and Alaska, a trip further down the Pacific Coast offers a delightfully mellow alternative with all the attractions of California thrown in. From landmarks such as Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco to the rugged scenery of Monterey and the glitz of Los Angeles, the Golden State never disappoints. But as well as its dazzling natural beauty, California also offers some of the world's greatest wineries. If you book with Celebrity Cruises, an overnight stay in San Francisco

Experience the best of California and its wine country with a cruise along the Pacific Coast

means you can take a daytrip out to Napa Valley or Sonoma County and discover some of the region's finest wines against a backdrop of gorgeous vineyard landscapes.

Get on board

Celebrity Cruises 8-night 'Pacific Coastal Cruise' aboard Celebrity Millennium, from Vancouver to Los Angeles via San Francisco, departing 16 September 2022, from £854
celebritycruises.com

Princess Cruises 7-night 'Classic California Coast' cruise aboard Majestic Princess, round trip from Los Angeles via San Francisco, departing 9 October 2021, from £699
princess.com

Clockwise from main picture:
Spectacular Multnomah Falls;
Sun Studio in Memphis, celebrated
as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll; the
rugged landscape of Columbia Gorge



Best for...

MUSIC LOVERS

Mississippi River

North America's greatest river, the mighty Mississippi, weaves its way from northern Minnesota to New Orleans, traversing no fewer than 10 states through the heartland of the USA. There is usually a choice of three itineraries – Lower, Middle and Upper Mississippi – but if time allows you can combine all three on a 21-night cruise that takes you past Native American sites, Civil War battlefields and grand plantations. Visit the Mark Twain Museum in Hannibal, Missouri, stop by the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis – the city that also gave birth

Cruises along the river are usually divided into sections, but we suggest seeing it all

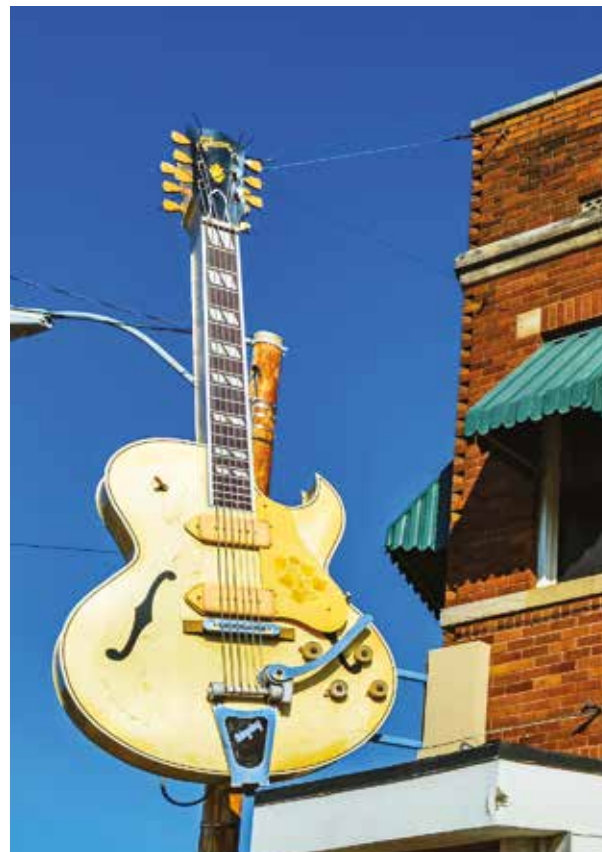
to jazz, blues and rock 'n' roll – and sample the rich flavours of gumbo and jambalaya in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On board, join an enrichment lecture or simply savour the stately pace of the river and those steamy Southern nights from the balcony of your suite.

For a traditional Mississippi experience, book your trip aboard American Queen – the largest steamboat ever built and the flagship of the American Queen Steamboat Company. Alternatively, from 2022 you can sail with European river cruise operator Viking, whose brand new ship will offer clean, contemporary Scandi design.

Get on board

American Cruise Lines 21-night 'Complete Mississippi River Cruise' aboard American Melody, from New Orleans to St Paul via Memphis and St Louis, departing 3 September 2021, from £11,699
americancruiselines.com

AQSC 16-night 'The Mighty Mississippi' cruise aboard American Queen, from Minneapolis to New Orleans via St Louis and Memphis, departing 11 September 2021, from £5,995
lightbluetravel.co.uk





Best for...

EXPLORERS

Columbia & Snake Rivers

Though it may not stand out on a map like the Mississippi, the Columbia and Snake River route is one of the most popular cruise itineraries in the US. Here you'll get a flavour of western frontier life as you sail in the wake of legendary pioneer explorers Lewis and Clark. Making your leisurely way towards the rolling hills of eastern Washington, you'll

Get a flavour of frontier life as you sail in the wake of legendary pioneers

pass exquisite scenery and natural landmarks, from the magnificent Multnomah Falls to the mighty Columbia River Gorge, slicing through the soaring Cascade Mountains. And while you're in Washington's Walla Walla region, don't forget a tasting trip to the area's world-class wineries.

Get on board

American Cruise Lines 7-night 'Columbia and Snake Rivers' cruise aboard *American Song*, from Portland, Oregon, to Clarkston, Washington State, departing 2 May 2021, from £3,999

🔗 americancruiselines.com

Lindblad Expeditions 7-night 'Columbia & Snake Rivers Journey' aboard *National Geographic Sea Lion*, from Portland, Oregon, to Clarkston, Washington State, departing 19 September 2021, POA

🔗 world.expeditions.com

Clockwise from main picture:
The island of Kauai in the Hawaiian archipelago; Glacier Bay, Alaska; an Alaskan grizzly bear in its natural habitat; paradise awaits in Hawaii; pretty Ketchikan is a popular cruise stop



Best for...

RELAXING

Hawaii

With its powdery beaches, epic sunsets and laidback island lifestyle, the volcanic archipelago of Hawaii is often likened to paradise.

Comprising 137 islands, scattered some 2,500 miles off the Californian coast, the 50th state of the USA is also a hugely popular cruise destination. Here you can sunbathe on Honolulu's cosmopolitan Waikiki Beach, take in the dramatic views of Waimea Canyon, reach the volcanic summit of Maui's Haleakala Crater, or simply admire the islands' spectacular landscapes from the water. As the islands are so far out in the Pacific, itineraries are usually filled with an abundance of sea days – but that just means more time for lazing poolside and enjoying the onboard cuisine as the world floats slowly by.

Get on board

Holland America Line 17-night 'Circle Hawaii' cruise aboard *Zuiderdam*, round trip from San Diego, California, departing 18 November 2021, from £1,810

📍 hollandamerica.com

Princess Cruises 15-night 'Hawaiian Islands' cruise aboard *Ruby Princess*, round trip from San Francisco, departing 7 December 2021, from £1,099

📍 princess.com





Best for...

NATURE LOVERS

Alaska

Offering more ocean coastline than all the other US states combined, Alaska is a natural cruising destination. And while ports such as Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway offer a glimpse of life in North America's most northerly state, Alaska is all about nature, with an untamed, epic landscape of spectacular fjords and glaciers, vast forests and soaring, snow-covered mountains. Book with Seabourn and you can take a Zodiac boat through the floating

ice calved by the great Hubbard Glacier, explore the Inian Islands by kayak or discover waterfalls and stunning mountain views on a hike from Herring Cove to Beaver Lake. And if you strike it lucky while salmon-fishing in Sitka, your catch will be deliciously prepared for your dinner by the onboard culinary team.

Get on board

Seabourn 6-night 'Glaciers & Alaska Inside Passage' cruise aboard Seabourn Odyssey, from Vancouver to Juneau via Ketchikan, Sitka and Hubbard Glacier, departing 1 July 2022, from £3,999
[seabourn.com](https://www.seabourn.com)

Holland America Line 7-night 'Glacier Discovery Northbound' cruise aboard Nieuw Amsterdam, from Vancouver to Whittier via Juneau and Glacier Bay, departing 8 May 2022, from £919
[hollandamerica.com](https://www.hollandamerica.com)

GREAT ESCAPE

Clockwise from below: Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman; Bridge of the Americas at the entrance to the Panama Canal



Best for...

ENGINEERING ENTHUSIASTS

Panama Canal

Ok, it's not actually in the USA, but the 50-mile manmade waterway that slices through the isthmus of Panama to join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans is offered as a bucket-list inclusion on many US-based itineraries. An opportunity not to be missed, it can be done as a partial transit, where the ship sails halfway through before turning back – but if time allows, opt for the full itinerary, which takes you from Florida to the West Coast via the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico. That

means you can look forward to sunny beach days in the Cayman Islands, lazy afternoons exploring the cobbled alleys of Old Town Cartagena, and spectacular snorkelling in the quiet coves of Mexico's Cabo San Lucas. But the highlight remains a full transit through the Panama Canal, during which you'll spend a whole day crossing from ocean to ocean. 📍

Get on board

Norwegian Cruise Line 17-night 'Panama Canal' cruise aboard Norwegian Encore, from San Francisco to Miami via Mexico and Costa Rica, departing 28 October 2021, from £1,558
📍 [ncl.com](https://www.ncl.com)

Oceania Cruises 18-night 'Miami to Lima' cruise aboard Marina, departing 1 December 2021, from £3,709
📍 [oceaniacruises.com](https://www.oceaniacruises.com)

Connecting the Atlantic to the Pacific, the Panama Canal is a bucket-list item for many cruisers



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worldtravelawards.com



PORT
GUIDE

LIMA

Peru's capital has become famed the world over for its innovative and culturally diverse culinary scene

Words by **OLIVIA SHARPE**

This is a city that marries a rich history with a promising future; a city where pre-Columbian settlements rub shoulders with skyscrapers and bustling financial districts, and where museums celebrate contemporary artists alongside a world-renowned archaeological heritage.

Visit Lima and you can spend days soaking up its fascinating culture and history, or simply marvelling at its extraordinary coastline.

And yet, the city's true pièce de résistance must surely be its culinary scene. In recent times Lima has become world famous as a gastronomic hub of South America, with a plethora of award-winning restaurants celebrating the melting pot of cultures that have inhabited Peru over the years.



The kissing statue in Parque del Amor is a romantic spot for couples



Lima's colonial past has left a handsome architectural legacy



Best sights

Miraflores district

Part of the city's burgeoning arts scene, the Miraflores district is home to the mosaic walls and contemporary artworks of Love Park, which is often compared with Gaudi's Park Güell in Barcelona. Rent a bike and cycle down the Miraflores boardwalk, which offers sweeping views of the coastline, and admire *El Beso* – a sculpture of the artist and his wife sharing a passionate kiss.

📍 [Parque del Amor Miraflores, Lima 18](#)

Plaza de Armas

The city of Lima was founded in 1535 by the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro González, and traces of Spanish rule are still evident in the Plaza de Armas, regarded as Lima's historic core. Stroll round this picturesque, Unesco-listed square (also known as Plaza Mayor and Plaza Central), admiring its historic buildings including the Cathedral of Lima and the Government Palace.

📍 [Plaza Central Lima, Cercado de Lima 15001](#)



Lima-born celebrity photographer Mario Testino also celebrates his country's cultural traditions

MATE

Founded by Lima native Mario Testino in an elegant 19th-century townhouse, this not-for-profit museum showcases the famous fashion photographer's most celebrated works, including portraits of Princess Diana, Beyoncé and Mick Jagger. Alongside these you'll find his photographs of Peruvians in traditional dress from the mountainous region of Cuzco, and all that's best and most vibrant in contemporary Peruvian art.

📍 [mate.pe](#)

Huaca Pucllana

Dating back 1,500 years and built of mud and clay, this mysterious pyramid now stands amid the modern bustle of the Miraflores district. Once an administrative centre for a civilisation that pre-dates even the Incas, it remains an imposing sight. And if you find yourself gripped by Peruvian history, you should also pay a visit to the Larco Museum, home to a dazzling collection of gold and silver artefacts from the pre-Columbian era.

📍 [museolarco.org/en](#)

Further afield...

If you have time, you must pay a visit to the Palomino Islands, located six miles west of the port city of Callao. Sometimes referred to as the 'little Galápagos of Lima', the islands have become famed for their abundant marine life. One of the biggest draws to the archipelago is the chance to swim with sea lions – a truly incredible experience. The islets are also home to large colonies of seabirds. Cruise lines such as Princess offer scenic boat rides to the islands.

📍 [princess.com](#)



Maido offers a distinctively Peruvian take on sushi



Central Restaurante is famous for its innovative cuisine. Photography: Ken Motohasi



Best restaurants & bars

Maido

It may look unassuming from the outside, but this trendy restaurant impresses as soon as you walk through the door – not just with its cool decor (a sleek sushi counter, wooden floors and a ceiling of suspended ropes) but with the food itself. Inspired by chef Mitsuharu ‘Micha’ Tsumura, the restaurant’s innovative menu fuses Japanese and Peruvian culinary techniques in a concept known as ‘Nikkei’.

📍 maido.pe/en

Central Restaurante

One of the first restaurants in Peru to receive a Michelin star, Central is a must-visit. Its innovative tasting menu, devised by head chef Virgilio Martínez Véliz, celebrates the gastronomy and geographical diversity of his native country, with each dish arranged and served according to Peru’s latitudes and altitudes. Courses feature intriguing ingredients such as limpets, river snails and seaweed.

📍 centralrestaurante.com.pe

Ayahuasca

Set in a colonial mansion in the bohemian Barranco district, this is the perfect spot for a late-night tittle. Take your time exploring the many rooms before enjoying one of the famous craft cocktails. We recommend the ‘Ayahuasca Sour’, made from pisco (the famous local brandy) macerated with coca leaves and fruit juice. Pair with Peruvian *piqueos* snacks, including deep-fried wonton rolls, crispy prawns and loin skewers.

📍 ayahuascaarestobar.com

Gran Hotel Bolívar

Follow in the famous footsteps of Ernest Hemingway and Walt Disney and pay a visit to the Gran Hotel Bolívar, situated on the Plaza San Martín in the historic city centre. You won’t find a better pisco sour in all of Lima than those served by the bartenders here. The Bolívar is also famed for its ‘Pisco Catedral’, a cocktail made with a full five ounces (150ml) of this potent spirit. Not for the faint-hearted.

📍 granhotelbolivar.pe/en

FOR MORE PORT GUIDES & TRAVEL ADVICE, SEE worldofcruising.co.uk



The potent pisco sour is Peru’s national drink



Looking for the best bar in town? You can count on Ernest Hemingway’s recommendation



Best buys



Textiles

The native Inca civilisation has a rich tradition of textile production and you'll find stacks of beautiful fabrics for sale at local markets, including tablecloths, place mats and pillowcases.

📍 **Calle Gral. Suárez 315, Mercado de Lima 15074**



Peruvian coffee

Coffee aficionados must pay a visit to Tostaduría Bisetti, a café in the Barranco district that prides itself on using the best quality blends from organic Peruvian farms.

Tasting events, along with concerts and art exhibitions, also take place here.

📍 **cafebisetti.com**



Alpaca

Alpaca products are ubiquitous in Lima, but to ensure you're buying the best quality, visit the boutiques in Miraflores, which sell the finest alpaca and vicuña wool scarves, hats, jumpers, blankets and throws.

📍 **Kuna, Avenida Larco 671, Miraflores**

What to expect

When to go

Situated near to the equator, Lima is never cold and, unlike many other parts of Peru, almost never sees rain. Those who visit during the winter (see below) may find it somewhat gloomy, however, due to *La Garúa* – a dense sea mist that casts a grey hue over the city.

Climate

Temperatures rarely fall below 12C or rise above 29C, but there are still two distinct seasons: summer, running from December through April, and winter, from June through October, with May and November being transitional months.



Getting around

The cruise pier, part of the state-run APN cargo terminal, is some eight miles west of central Lima. The best way to get around the city is by cab (watch out for hiked taxi fares) or pre-booked excursion buses.

Where to stay

Located in Lima's financial district, San Isidro, the five-star Swissôtel offers stylish interiors, impeccable service and abundant amenities, from a swimming pool and spa to five eateries, such as the excellent La Locanda restaurant.

GET ON BOARD

PRINCESS CRUISES

17-night 'Andes & South America' cruise aboard Diamond Princess, from Santiago, Chile, to Los Angeles via Pisco, Lima, Manta, Puntarenas and Puerto Vallarta, departing 19 March 2022, from £1,399

📍 **princess.com**

OCEANIA CRUISES

20-night 'Southernmost Seafarer' cruise aboard Marina, from Lima to Buenos Aires via Coquimbo, Santiago de Chile, Ushuaia and Montevideo, departing 19 December 2021, from £4,589

📍 **oceaniacruises.com**

Best local tips



'My husband and I visited local restaurants serving fresh ceviche, octopus and their famed *lomo saltado*, washed down with pisco sours. I would go back to Lima just for the food alone.'

Luisy Morejon
OCEANIA CRUISES



'We like to visualise a vertical world in which each altitude defines an ecosystem and that ecosystem is the inspiration for each dish.'

Virgilio Martínez Véliz
HEAD CHEF, CENTRAL RESTAURANTE, LIMA



'Barter your way through the lively Indian Market where you'll find souvenirs from all over Peru, including handmade paintings, Inca handicrafts and more.'

Matthew Lebborn
PRINCESS CRUISES

50

things you wouldn't expect
to find on a cruise ship

Words by **DAVE MONK**



Ask most people in the street what they'd expect to find on a cruise ship and they might guess restaurants, a theatre, bars and pools. But there is so much more – and even some experienced cruisers could be surprised by strolling the decks and finding a hidden Homer Simpson, a Tibetan prayer wheel, five-star dog kennels or an inglenook fireplace.

Here's our pick of the 50 most unusual features at sea...



1

£18,000 bottle of wine

Be careful what you order from the wine list at French restaurant Remy aboard Disney Dream and Fantasy – because in the rack is a 1947 Château Cheval Blanc, priced at \$25,000 (roughly £18,000) a pop (exactly as ordered by the food critic in Disney's film *Ratatouille*, which inspired the restaurant).

2

Mellow submarines

Some ships are now equipped with minisubs that can dive 1,000ft below the surface (those aboard the upcoming Seabourn Venture even have champagne chillers). As well as a sub (pictured above right), Crystal Endeavor will also have an underwater camera that can capture images up to 2,000ft down.

4

Hidden Homer Simpson

Cunard's Queen Mary 2 may be a grand transatlantic liner, but hidden somewhere in her ornate bronze panelling is a carving of everyone's favourite dysfunctional dad. 'We thought we'd introduce him as a fun element,' says artist Ben Harms.



3

Inglenook fireplace

Former floating nuclear bunker Hebridean Princess has twice been chartered by the Queen.

Part of its charm is the inglenook in the lounge – and although this is purely for decoration, some smaller Scottish boats do have wood-burning stoves.



5

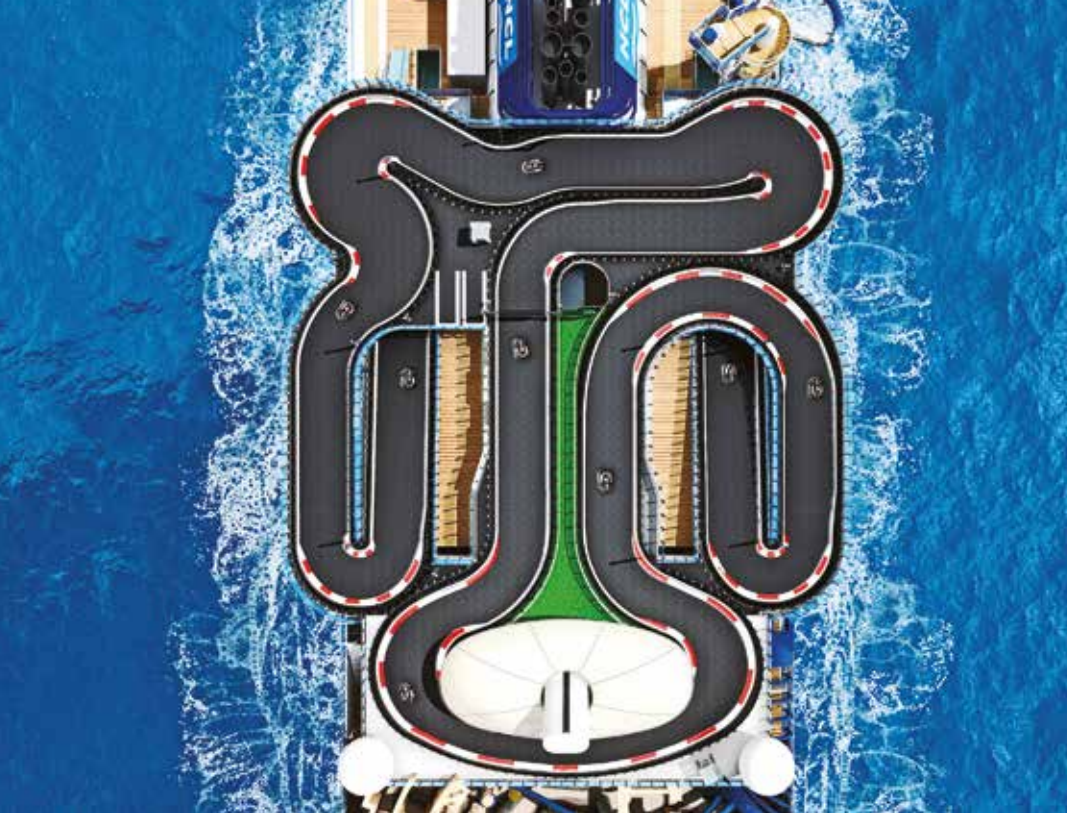
Buddhist prayer wheel

You can imagine the board meeting at Regent Seven Seas when someone said: 'What this ship needs is a two-ton Tibetan prayer wheel.' And so it came to pass that Seven Seas Explorer got the whopping £390,000 artwork (left) in its Pacific Rim restaurant.

6

Floating gardens

Guests aboard Royal Caribbean's Oasis-class ships can stroll through an onboard park with more than 50 trees and 20,000 plants (above), plus a 'living wall' of 10,000 more. Celebrity's Solstice-class ships feature real lawns on the top deck and trees suspended above the Grand Foyer.



7 Overhanging racetrack
Racers can reach 30mph as they whip electric go-karts round the track on Norwegian Joy, Bliss and Encore. The split-level circuit even extends 13ft over the side on Encore (above), much to thrill-seekers' delight.

8 Film crews
Look smart, you might be on camera. Cruise ships make popular movie locations, featuring in the likes of *Let Them All Talk* (Meryl Streep aboard QM2) and *Like Father* (featuring Kelsey Grammer on Harmony of the Seas).

9

Roller coaster

Carnival's Mardi Gras got there first, with a theme park-style ride for those brave enough to hurtle around an 800ft track at up to 40mph. But Dream Cruises' upcoming 19-deck Global Dream will top even that, with the 994ft 'Space Cruiser'.

10

Real snow

Viking ocean ships have 'snow grottos' where real flakes fall in temperatures of -10C. It certainly makes those saunas and the warm spa pool look all the more inviting.

11 Sightseeing helicopters
Many cruise ships have helipads in case of emergency. But some expedition vessels – including Scenic Eclipse (right), Quark Ultramarine and Crystal Endeavor – are now carrying their own 'copters for sightseeing trips and landings.

12 Missing decks
Who wants a cabin on deck 13? That's why on many cruise ships you walk up just one flight of stairs to go from deck 12 to 14. On MSC ships, deck 17 is absent because in Roman numerals that's XVII – an anagram of 'VIXI', meaning 'I lived' or 'my life is over'.



13 Ice bars
Don't ask for your drink on the rocks at the ice bar on Norwegian Epic, Getaway or Breakaway – the waiter might give you a frosty stare. And wrap up warm because the entire bar – including the walls, seats and glasses – is made of frozen water (above).

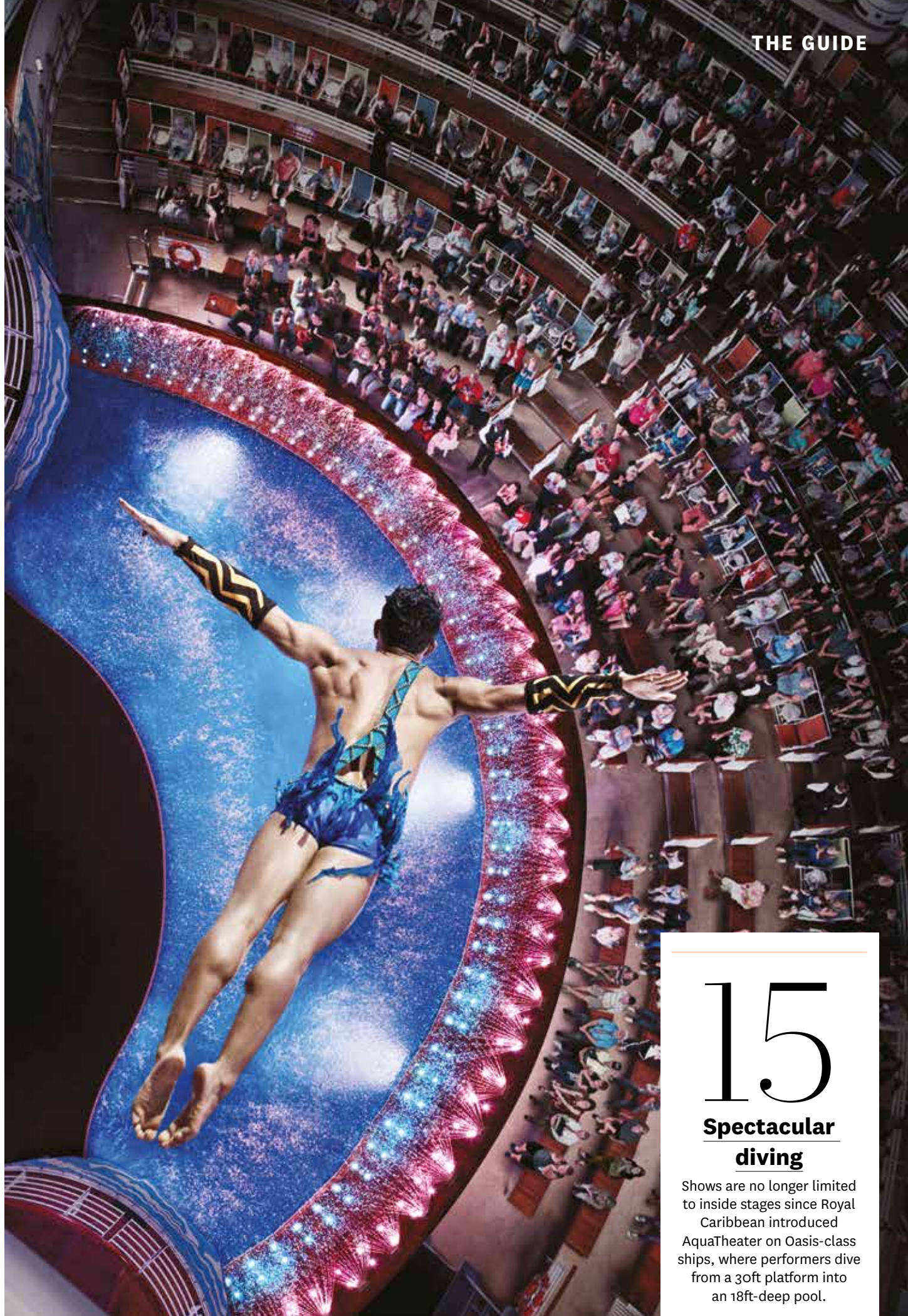


14

Talking turtle

It's not the booze – that cartoon turtle really is talking to you. Crush, star of *The Little Mermaid*, swims around the windows of the Animator's Palate restaurant (above) on Disney Dream and Fantasy, chatting to astonished diners.

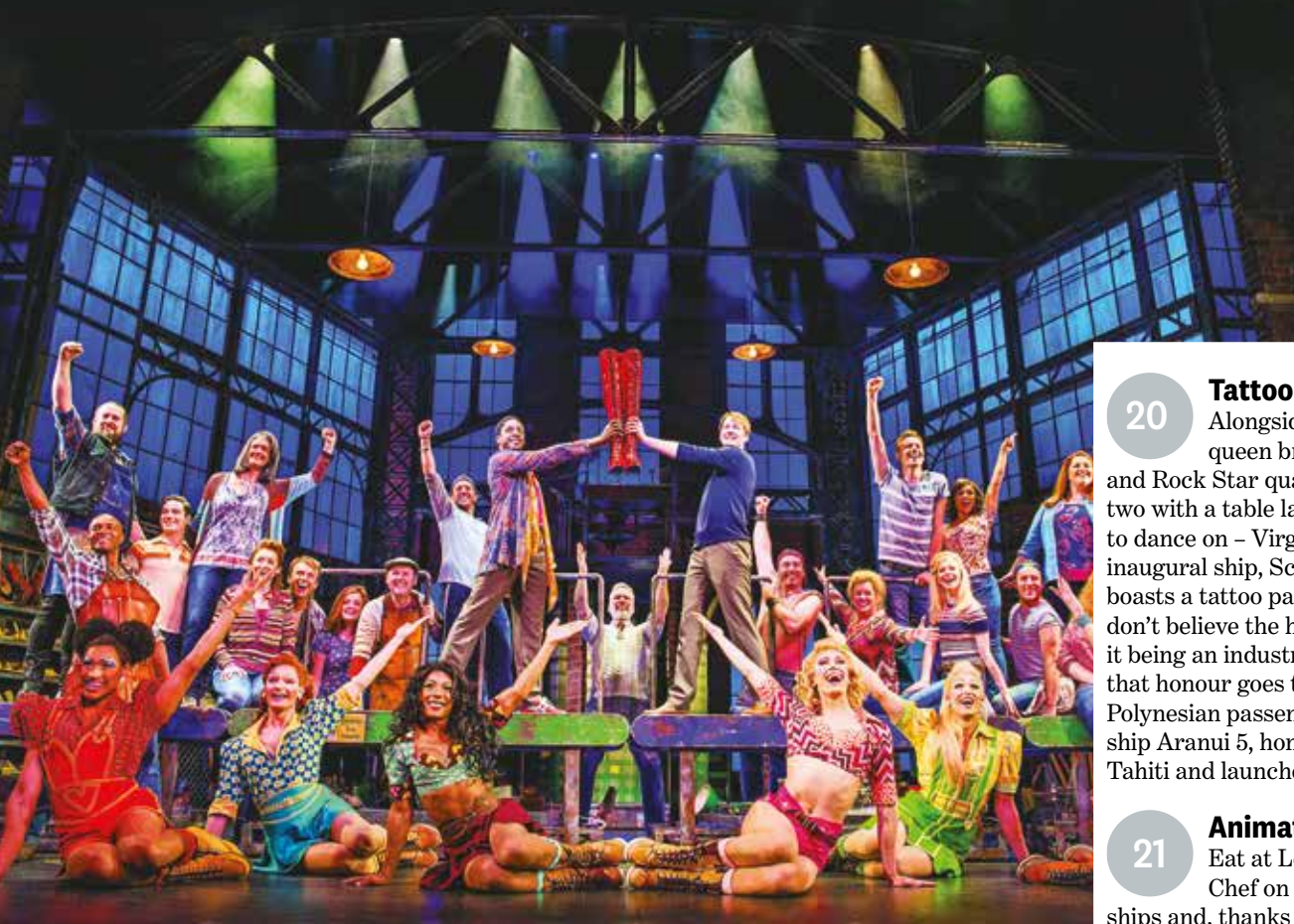
Ask for your drink on the rocks at the ice bar on Norwegian Epic and you'll get a frosty stare



15

Spectacular diving

Shows are no longer limited to inside stages since Royal Caribbean introduced AquaTheater on Oasis-class ships, where performers dive from a 30ft platform into an 18ft-deep pool.



20 Tattoo parlours
 Alongside drag queen brunches and Rock Star quarters – two with a table large enough to dance on – Virgin Voyages’ inaugural ship, Scarlet Lady, boasts a tattoo parlour. But don’t believe the hype about it being an industry first – that honour goes to the Polynesian passenger/cargo ship Aranui 5, homeported in Tahiti and launched in 2015.

21 Animated chefs
 Eat at Le Petit Chef on Celebrity ships and, thanks to some digital wizardry, you can watch your meal being prepared by tiny animated cooks on your tablecloth. Don’t worry though – real staff serve the actual dish.

22 Walking the plank
 Feeling brave? As part of the ropes course on some NCL ships, you can channel your inner pirate and step out over the side the ship, balancing 160ft above the waves on a plank just six inches wide (left).



16

£8,000-a-night luxury suites

Want to push the boat out? Book the top apartment on Regent’s Seven Seas Explorer or Splendor, where the \$11,000 (£8,000) per night tariff gets you a £113,000 bed, a £390,000 piano and your own spa with hot tub.

17 Zombie apocalypse
 They’re not the real thing, thankfully, but the experience of shooting the undead in a 3D cinema on an MSC Cruises ship can seem alarmingly authentic.

18 Broadway musicals
 Let’s do the show right here – because entertainment on Royal Caribbean and NCL ships can include full-scale versions of Broadway and West End shows such as *Grease*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Kinky Boots* (above) and *Jersey Boys*.

19

Relics of a ghost ship

French liner Normandie was the fastest ship of her day back in 1935. Sadly she was scrapped in 1946, but some of her panelling lives on in Celebrity Edge’s Normandie Restaurant (right).

Feeling brave? You can step out over the side of the ship, 160ft above the waves, on a plank just six inches wide



23

Undersea views

Sci-fi comes to life on Ponant expedition ships with the Blue Eye underwater lounges (above). Windows look out into the ocean while cameras play footage on screens. Even the sofas vibrate in tune to marine sounds.

24

Sextant education

Cruise ships bristle with advanced technology, but there is still one 18th-century throwback on many bridges – a sextant. Designed to measure the angle of the sun, this finely calibrated navigational aid is still used by cadets and even sometimes by officers.

25

Zip lines

In a rush to grab that lounge by the pool? MSC Cruises can speed you along the deck with a 345ft zip line aboard MSC Seaside (below) and Seaview. Royal Caribbean also offers a wire, high above the boardwalk on Oasis-class ships.



26

Bionic bartenders

Multilingual humanoid Rob (below) will be the star of the futuristic Starship Club on MSC Virtuosa, telling jokes as he serves your favourite cocktail.

On some Royal Caribbean ships, the twin bionic bar robots serve 1,000 drinks a day.



27

Dodgem cars

Missing your motor while you're at sea? Among the attractions on Royal Caribbean's Quantum-class ships you'll find a great British fairground favourite.

28

Michelin-starred chefs

From Mexican to Mongolian, pretty much any cuisine you fancy can be found in the speciality restaurants of the world's cruise ships. And as for Michelin-starred chefs, P&O Cruises boasts Marco Pierre White, while Crystal Cruises has Nobu Matsuhisa.

29

Bowling alleys

Not an obvious fit for cruising, you might think – but the stability of today's megaships means you can't blame the waves when your ball ends up in the gutter. Norwegian was the first to introduce the lanes, in 2007.

30

Goats, rally cars and the Olympic torch

Aranui 5 is a cruise ship that also ferries cargo – including live horses, pigs and goats – around French Polynesia. In the northern hemisphere, Norwegian line Hurtigruten has carried rally cars – the drivers disembark at ports to race along the coast before rejoining the ship – and the torch for the 1994 Winter Olympics.

31

Shopping arcades

Passengers boarding some Royal Caribbean ships can't believe it when they see a two-storey shopping arcade with a classic car. Carnival's Mardi Gras will also have a 1972 Fiat taking pride of place in an indoor piazza.

32

A crystal cabin

If you love the atrium staircases decorated with Swarovski crystals on MSC Cruises' ships, book cabin 16018 on MSC Bellissima, which is studded with 700,000 of these sparklers, including on the bedside tables and sideboard.



33

Planetariums

As well as star-spotting on deck, passengers aboard QM2 can learn more about space in the ship's planetarium (right) – as can guests aboard Viking Orion.

34

Skydiving and surfing

Can't get enough of that adrenaline rush? On some Royal Caribbean ships you can float like a bird in a skydiving simulator or ride a board with 100,000 litres of water rushing towards you.

35

Gondolas

When Costa launched a ship called Venezia, what else could they do but equip it with authentic Venetian gondolas from the historic Squero di San Trovaso boatyard?

37

10-storey slides

Beat the queue for the lift by shooting down 10 decks in just 15 seconds on the Ultimate Abyss. Pioneered on Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas, these twin stainless steel slides plunge 100ft from deck 16 all the way to deck 6.

38

A gin distillery

P&O Cruises' new Iona will be bottling its own version of this ultra-fashionable spirit, thanks to an onboard distillery (right), developed with Salcombe Gin. If beer is more your tippie, plenty of ships, such as Carnival Vista, now brew their own ales.

39

The captain's parrot

Captain Kim Tanner of Saga Cruises may not have a peg leg but he does own a parrot – a two-year-old macaw called Perla. Captain Kate McCue of Celebrity Edge goes to sea with a cat named Bug Naked, while pampered dogs crossing the pond in QM2's kennels can cock their legs against a US fire hydrant or a lamp post from the Cunard Building in Liverpool.

As well as star-spotting on deck, passengers aboard Cunard's QM2 can learn more about space in the ship's planetarium



36

Darth Vader

The Force can be with you on *Star Wars* cruises aboard Disney ships. On other lines, you may bump into 80s icons on a music-themed voyage or even see more than you bargained for on a naturist charter.





40

Billowing sails

Cruise ships come in all shapes and sizes, and some even have sails. The entire Star Clippers fleet are traditional tall ships, as are some Windstar vessels. New ones are being built, too – Golden Horizon and Sea Cloud Spirit both debut this year.

41

Say cheese

For the freshest food, pick the catch of the day from the Seafood Shack on Carnival ships and have it prepared by whichever restaurant you're dining in. Or visit the mozzarella 'factory' on MSC Grandiosa for just-made cheese.

42

Virtual assistants

Want to know something about your ship? Just ask Zoe, the talking MSC Cruises device that sits in cabins and can answer 850 different questions in seven languages.

43

Abandoned space station

That's the theme, at least, of the open-air laser tag course on Norwegian Bliss. Sister ship Norwegian Encore's arena is dominated by a giant serpent rearing above ruined temples.

44

Escape rooms

OK, we know it can be a puzzle simply finding your stateroom, but on some megaships the entertainment now includes escape rooms, where the aim of the game is to work your way out by solving clues. We love the astronomy theme on Independence of the Seas (right).

We love the astronomy-themed escape room aboard Independence of the Seas

45

Taking the tube

Want to make a splash? The 765ft AquaDuck water coaster (above) on Disney Dream and Fantasy carries riders on inflatable rings round a clear tube over the side of the ship, through the forward funnel and down a four-deck drop.

46

Cycle track 150ft above the sea

Go for a spin above the waves on Carnival Vista-class ships equipped with SkyRide – a pod that you pedal round a track suspended high above the top deck. It even juts out over the sea.

47

Virtual balconies

Booked an inside room? You can still enjoy a sea view thanks to the 80-inch HD screens showing real-time outside scenes on some Royal Caribbean ships.

48

Original Picassos

Art lovers can admire works by the great man on Regent's Seven Seas Explorer and Splendor, as well as etchings by Queen Victoria aboard her Cunard namesake, and paintings by Edvard Munch across the Viking fleet.

49

Polar bear skull

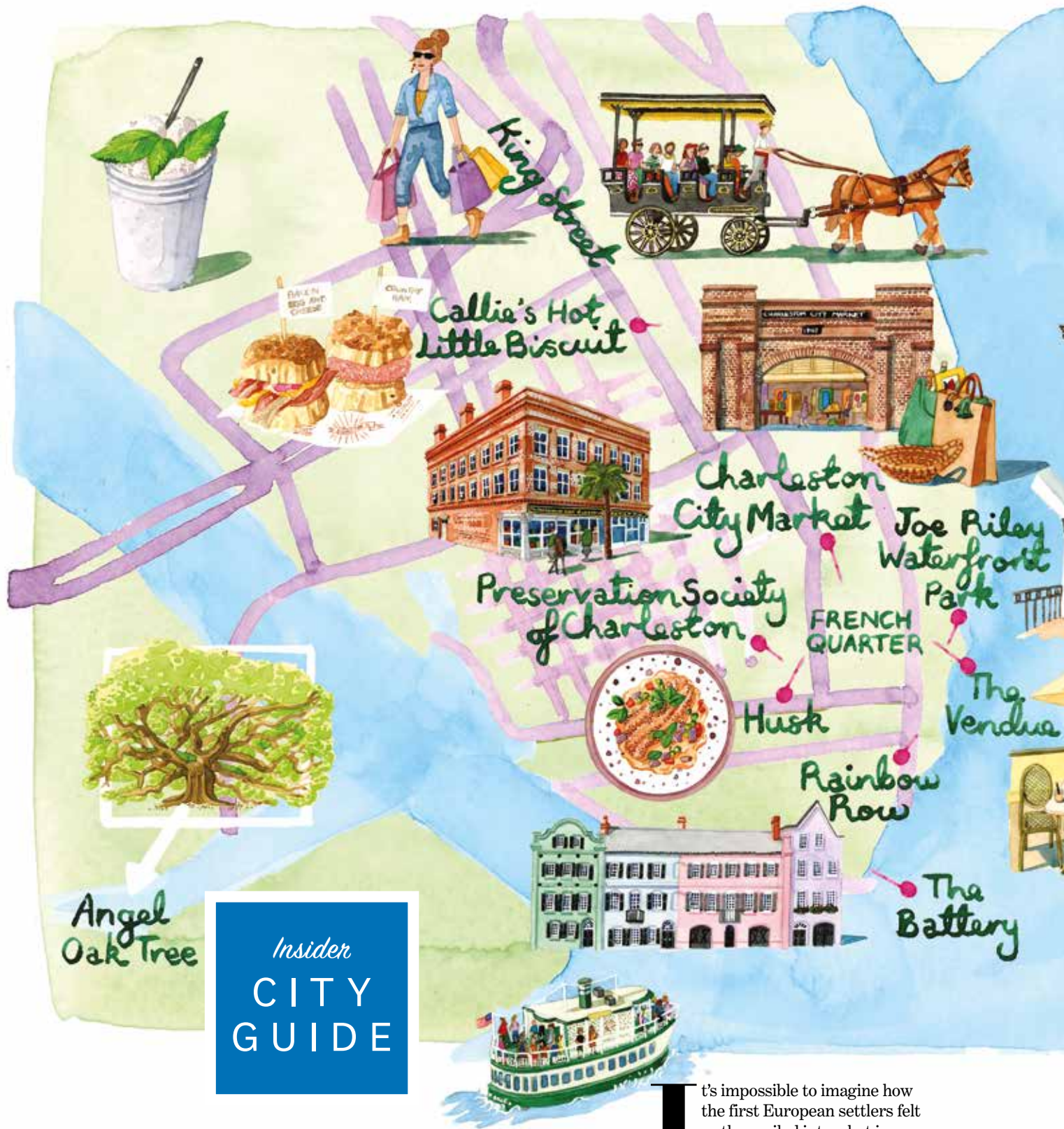
A walrus tusk, black bear's paw and polar bear skull are among the exhibits in the science centre aboard Hurtigruten's Fridtjof Nansen.

50

IMAX cinema

The three-deck screen made its debut on Carnival Vista, allowing audiences to enjoy movies on a huge scale. 🎬





Insider
**CITY
 GUIDE**

Charleston

This Southern belle in the heart of South Carolina has a rich if turbulent history – but her best is yet to come

Words by **SARAH NEISH**

It's impossible to imagine how the first European settlers felt as they sailed into what is now Charleston Harbour more than three centuries ago. But a spirit of discovery lives on in this vibrant port city where heritage meets enterprise – think hipster entrepreneurs tapping away at MacBooks on antebellum porches, and horse-drawn carriages rattling over cobble streets past modern fashion boutiques.

Against this genteel backdrop, one of the most exciting new scenes in the American South is bursting into life, with eclectic shops and restaurants springing up all over the French Quarter. Duck through

Charleston

DID YOU KNOW?

Pineapples have been a symbol of hospitality here since colonial times, when mariners would display the fruit outside their homes to let friends know they'd returned safely.

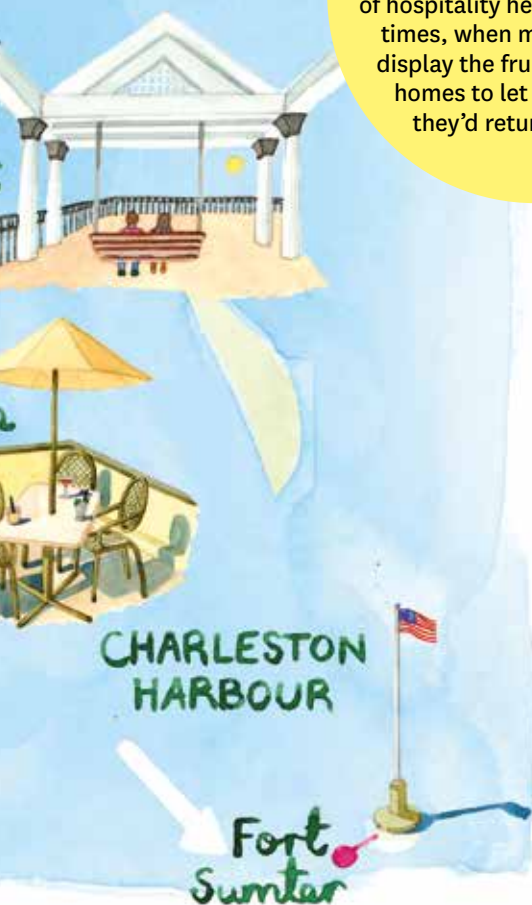


ILLUSTRATION: LAURA HALLETT

one of these jasmine-framed doors to feast on oyster sliders, or jump in the elevator to the top of The Vendue hotel for cocktails. But whatever you get up to, don't try telling a Charlestonian what to do. See that dark green paint all round town? That's the subtle badge of a defiant nature. Known as Charleston Green, this shade came about after the Civil War, when the North donated black paint to help residents fix up their damaged city. The locals then mixed this with a hefty splash of Southern yellow.

Charleston's growing popularity as a cruise destination may have opened up its mysteries to the rest of the world, but this is a city that blazes its own unique path.



Historic downtown Charleston



Must see

FORT SUMTER

The first cannon shots of the Civil War were fired at this historic spot, igniting a bitter four-year conflict that raged across the country. Take a tour of the fort ruins, complete with narrated boat ride around Charleston Harbour, to hear heroic stories and learn why this location became ground zero for the nation's famous battle between North and South.

📍 fortsumtours.com

KING STREET

This bustling thoroughfare is the place to go for exceptional shopping and the trendiest eateries in Charleston. The wide boulevard, lauded as one of the country's 'Top 10 Shopping Districts' by *Forbes Travel Guide*, is carved into three distinct zones: antiques, fashion and dining. In between shops you'll find churches, art galleries and a rich array of restaurants showcasing Charleston's booming food scene.

📍 charlestoncvb.com



King Street is a shoppers' paradise

JOE RILEY WATERFRONT PARK

Spread over 12 acres of Carolina coastline, this peaceful enclave is a fabulous people-watching spot. Feel like an extra in *Gone With The Wind* as you stroll down paths shaded by canopies of interlocking oaks. Check out the famous golden pineapple fountain, then follow the wooden boardwalk to the end of the pier, where you can settle down on a bench swing to watch graceful cranes swooping oceanside.

📍 charlestonparksconservancy.org



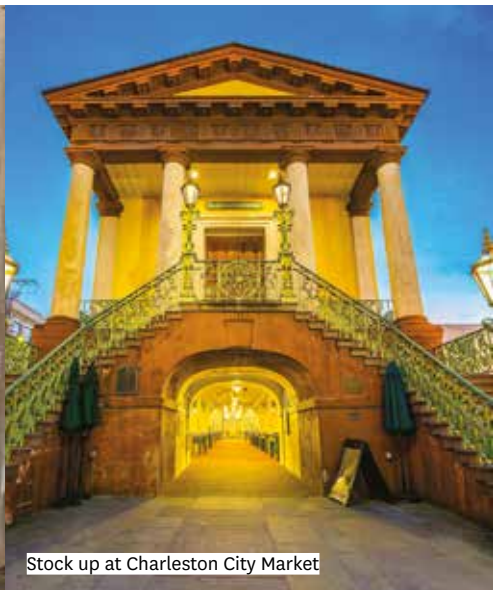
Joe Riley Waterfront Park



Admire opulent homes on The Battery



Sample a local delicacy at Callie's
Photography: Chris McEniry



Stock up at Charleston City Market



Snap & go

ANGEL OAK TREE

An easy 20-minute taxi ride from downtown brings you to Johns Island and a sight worthy of *Lord of the Rings*: a colossal 400-year-old oak whose boughs stretch out like giant octopus tentacles. There was outrage a few years ago when a developer threatened to build apartments around the ancient tree but local conservationists stepped in to buy the land, protecting the grand old oak for generations to come. Follow centuries of courting Southern couples and laze in the shade of its mighty trunk.

📍 angeloaktree.com

THE BATTERY

Head to this scenic promenade at the tip of the Charleston peninsula to get your antebellum fix. The coastal road is lined with huge Southern mansions painted in pretty pastels, giving rise to the nickname 'Rainbow Row'. A stroll along the colourful strip offers a glimpse of opulent old-Charleston society – only the elite (judges, cotton brokers, etc) could afford to buy homes here – while ancient cannons and plaques denote the walkway's historical significance.

📍 charlestoncvb.com



Grab a bite

HUSK

Behind the colonnaded porch of a handsome Victorian townhouse this temple to 'new South' cuisine abides by one simple rule: if it's not from the South it's not coming through the door. Expect dishes such as crispy catfish, steaming shrimp-and-okra stew and moreish Southern-fried chicken skins. A chalkboard pays homage to the folks responsible for what's on your plate: local farmers, fishermen, millers and bakers. Anyone who still thinks of Southern food as artery-clogging stodge is in for a culinary revelation.

📍 huskrestaurant.com

CALLIE'S HOT LITTLE BISCUIT

You can't come to the South and not try one of its famous biscuits (nothing like a Digestive – think more along the lines of a savoury scone). This small-town biscuit shop is so good it's been featured in *The New York Times* twice. The piping hot country ham biscuits are a must, or try the black pepper bacon; perfect for a quick lunch on the go while you're taking in the sights. Thirsty? Wet your whistle with a pitcher of super-refreshing mint iced tea.

📍 calliesbiscuits.com



Retail therapy

PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON

While its name might make it sound like a dusty old museum, this Aladdin's cave offers a brilliant boutique packed with authentic Charleston keepsakes. Everything is sourced locally, from cookbooks stuffed with Southern soulfood recipes to jaunty bow ties, baskets woven from sweetgrass, and pecans grown on a farm two hours north. After browsing its treasures, nip to the back room for free coffee, comfy couches and shelves of great books to peruse.

📍 preservationsociety.org

CHARLESTON CITY MARKET

One of America's oldest markets, this first opened in 1804 and was once famous for the flocks of buzzards (affectionately called 'Charleston eagles') that would swoop down for scraps. These, thankfully, are long gone, and the now-vast market stretches across three blocks. More than 300 vendors pitch up daily, selling everything from stone-ground grits and jewellery to ceramics, furniture and art. If you can't find it here, you didn't need it in the first place.

📍 thecharlestoncitymarket.com



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CRUISES

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NOTE BOOK

style | beauty | health | cuisine



MUST
HAVE

Wild side

Months of lockdown have got us all pining for the wide blue yonder – not least the designers behind fashion label Veronica Beard, who say their inspiration for this spring's 'Wildflowers' collection came from 'finding peace and freedom outdoors'. Based on 'the hope of brighter days ahead', the collection features an earthy palette and easy silhouettes in ruffled linens and airy cottons. We love this floaty, floral silk number, paired with an oversized jacket.

Dress, £440; jacket, £530, veronicabeard.com

Between the LINES

Re-energise your wardrobe this spring with big & bold stripes



BELT UP

When the heat is on, there's nothing like a loose-fitting jumpsuit. Designed with a relaxed fit in mind, Alice + Olivia's 'Marty' is made from a breathable linen blend. Pair with trainers for an effortlessly cool look.
£180, aliceandolivia.com



GET SHIRTY

Make a statement on your return to the office post-lockdown in this sophisticated wrap midi shirt dress by palmer//harding. The perfect transitional item, it looks great in spring with espadrilles or in autumn with chunky boots.
£435, net-a-porter.com

PARALLEL WORLD

The bigger, the bolder, the better was Dior's attitude when it came to stripes this season. We love this bold canvas maxi dress with a clashing mix of multicoloured stripes. Do you dare?
£7,500, dior.com



EDITOR'S PICK

HELLO SAILOR

...is what they'll be saying the moment you put on this Jason Wu nautical-style sweater, made from lightweight wool. Just add jeans and trainers for off-duty chic.
£225, net-a-porter.com



MINI MARVEL

This Alba blush and cream mini dress by Reiss is a chic day-to-night option for spring. Team with a pair of lace-up sandals and a stylish shoulder bag.

£195, reiss.com



WIDE STRIDES

Louis Vuitton made a splash with stripes for spring/summer 21, pairing wide-leg trousers in bold black-and-white with oversized belts and an updated take on the slogan T-shirt.

Trousers, £1,200
uk.louisvuitton.com



SPEAK VOLUMES

A striped midi skirt is an essential item for your wardrobe this spring. Chloé's version is made from panels of striped cotton-poplin that's pleated to create volume. Wear with the detachable belt to emphasise your waist.

£845, chloe.com



J'ADORE DIOR

When it comes to your spring handbag, you can never go wrong with Dior. We're lusting after this Lady D-Lite bag with beige vertical stripes and an embroidered removable strap.

£3,800, dior.com

OPEN UP

The backless loafer is a shoe closet update that's also practical for everyday life. Go for the wow factor with these Gucci Princetown horsebit-detailed canvas slippers – perfect with a skirt or pair of jeans.

£530, net-a-porter.com



CANDY CRUSH

Olivia Rubin has never been one to shy away from colour. Her bright collections feature a range of eye-popping pastels. Mix and match if you're feeling bold.

Jumper £240; skirt £280
oliviarubinlondon.com



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EDITOR'S PICK



Get the gloss

Glossier Priming Moisturiser
£18, glossier.com



High brow

Hourglass Arch Brow
Sculpting Pencil
£33, hourglasscosmetics.co.uk



All about the base

Estée Lauder The Illuminator Radiant
Perfecting Primer + Finisher
£28.50, esteelauder.co.uk



Super slick

e.l.f. Sheer Slick Lipstick
in Dragon Fruit
£5, boots.com



Luscious lashes

Clinique Naturally Glossy Mascara
£21, clinique.co.uk



Skin defence

Anti-Oxidant Sheer Tint
Release Moisturiser SPF 15
£45, esteelauder.co.uk

Less is more

Lockdown has seen a return of the 'no makeup' makeup look – so bin those fussy routines and let your true beauty shine through

A fine line

NARS Sex Machine Velvet
Matte Lip Pencil
£22, narscosmetics.co.uk



Bright future

By Terry Brightening CC Serum
£61, net-a-porter.com



Midas touch

Charlotte Tilbury Magic Away
Liquid Concealer
£24, charlottetilbury.com

Rise and shine

Wander Beauty On-the-Glow
Blush and Illuminator
£40, net-a-porter.com



HEALTH NOTES

Get ready for post-lockdown lift off with the best health tips and treatments – at home and away

Words by **OLIVIA SHARPE**

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

Private island destinations are set to become the next big trend in travel as holidaymakers look to escape the crowds and go off the beaten track in a post-Covid world. Well ahead of the game, MSC Cruises has its very own private island destination ready and waiting to welcome guests following lockdown. Located just south of Bimini in the Bahamas, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve is home to an award-winning spa. Guests looking for head-to-toe pampering can choose from a wide range of massage options, all of which incorporate eco-certified and fully biodegradable skincare products by beauty brand Aveda.



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

'Wellness tourism' has been a growing trend for a while, and we predict that its popularity can only increase, post-pandemic. Royal Caribbean has a whole host of itineraries offering some of the best wellness experiences any cruiser could wish for. These include hiking through the beautiful wildernesses of Alaska, enjoying a mineral-rich mud bath treatment on an Italian island, and soaking in the healing waters of Iceland's balmy Blue Lagoon (left).

FACIALIST'S TIP

'Lacklustre skin is often a reflection of your diet. As a rule, the more green on your plate, the better. Vitamin C and Omega 3 ingredients are also great. Avoid foods high in fat and too many sweets, which tend to break you out.'

JASMINA VICO
SKIN HEALTH SPECIALIST



3

of the best

HOME GYM EQUIPMENT

SPA QUALITY

At the stylish spas on Viking's ocean ships (left), they know all about the benefits of natural, healthy ingredients – and now you can enjoy the benefits of Scandi skincare at home, with Viking's easy-to-make Nordic face mask. Simply mix three tablespoons of finely ground oats with one tablespoon of hot water. Stir in one tablespoon of runny honey, followed by a few drops of almond oil. Then wrap a towel around your head and apply the mask to your face, avoiding the eye area. Leave for 10 to 15 minutes before rinsing off with tepid water, revealing transformed and glowing skin.

RELAXATION ON THE RHINE

Scenic's seven-night 'Rhine Highlights' river cruise now includes a visit to a thermal spa in Germany's most famous spa town, Baden-Baden. The perfect complement to a day spent exploring Europe's most romantic river (right), the spa visit is now available as part of Scenic's Freechoice tailored shore excursions. The 'Rhine Highlights' itinerary starts from £2,345, based on a 4 April 2022 departure.



1 WEIGH TO GO

Worried that your home workout lacks intensity? A great way to feel some added burn when doing those squats and lunges in your living room is to invest in some strap-on ankle weights. These limited edition Bala Bangles by Free People look ultra-chic and stylish, too. **£48, freepeople.com**

2 FLEX YOUR MUSCLES

Like pasta and rice, weights have been tricky to get hold of during lockdown – but you can now grab this iron kettle bell from Reebok. Kettlebell exercises activate your core muscles, including your abdominals, gluteals and back, and a strong core is vital in helping to prevent injuries. **£29.99, johnlewis.com**

3 ROLL WITH IT

After all that strenuous activity, a good foam roller is essential for getting out those post-workout knots and preventing you from feeling sore the next day. This generously sized roller from lululemon helps to release muscular tension in your back, arms and legs. **£48, lululemon.co.uk**

MUST TRY



Healthy glow

Winter skin deserves a treat – and Votary's Super Seed facial oil is packed with plant-powered goodness, perfect for nourishing and calming your complexion.

£70, votary.co.uk





Taking a bite out of Venice

There's one destination we've really missed – not least for its incredible food. So while we wait for the world to get moving again, here's how to eat like a Venetian...

Words by **ANGELINA VILLA-CLARKE**

For some people, the pre-spring months may be considered an odd time to visit Venice. In fact, these wintry twilight days are when La Serenissima comes into her own. The usual hordes of sightseers have yet to arrive, so you can roam freely around Venice's narrow streets – the *calli* – hearing your footsteps echo as the canal water laps alongside you. As the fog drifts around her palazzos and piazzas, the city takes on a mysterious, romantic appeal and you can breathe in a true sense of her ethereal beauty. This is also the one time of year when the locals can claim Venice back for themselves.

But if you really want to witness the city as a Venetian, you should eat as they do, with a plate or two of *cicchetti* – small, tasty, affordable side dishes – at one of the many tiny bars, called *bacari*, that are dotted all over the city. Once you've enjoyed the obligatory cappuccino (strictly before noon in Italy, please) at the opulent Caffè Florian in St Mark's Square, and a Bellini at the iconic Harry's Bar just round the corner, you must ignore the other tourist haunts and seek out places where the Venetians eat.

The variety of *cicchetti* on offer is enormous, with many places known for a single speciality – spicy *polpette*

(meatballs) perhaps; *tramezzini* (small triangular sandwiches) or crunchy *crostini* crowned with fresh anchovies or buttery shrimp. Salt fish – known as *baccalà* – is served at most, as is some form of squid, with chefs often using age-old family recipes to give their dishes their own twist. These 'little bites' are meant to be eaten with the fingers, often while standing up, and always accompanied by a glass of local wine or spritz.

Cantina Do Mori (Calle Do Mori 429), close to the Rialto Bridge, is allegedly the oldest bacaro in Venice, dating back to 1462, and is a good place to start. With its copper pots hanging from the ceiling, wooden bar and moody, dark interior, this is one of the most authentically Venetian spots in town. Uniquely, it has two separate 'secret' entrances leading on to different streets (rumour has it, this allowed for illicit lovers to escape unnoticed if necessary). Lean at the bar and order the house speciality, *francobollo*. Translating as 'postage stamp', this is a tiny white-bread sandwich filled with meats, cheese, shellfish or roast vegetables. Don't stop there, though: other tasty morsels on offer include fried artichoke hearts and deep-fried mozzarella croquettes – and neither should be missed.

With its plain frontage, Osteria Al Squero (Fondamenta Nani 943) seems, at first, rather nondescript, and you could easily miss it. In the quiet Dorsoduro district, the tiny bar is firmly off the



Osteria Bancogiro is on the site of the old market warehouse, and the world's first public bank, founded in 1587

The mortadella and cured coppa are delicious in their simplicity and perfect with a glass of crisp soave classico

beaten tourist track, and is a word-of-mouth favourite among neighbourhood regulars and art students due to its proximity to the Gallerie dell'Accademia.

It's often standing room only, so order a few of the seafood specialities – *baccalà montecato* (creamed fish served on polenta), crostini topped with tuna laced with olives, and fresh sardines cooked with onions and raisins – and head outside. From here, you can while away the hours watching perhaps one of the city's most beguiling views.

Opposite, on the other side of the Rio di San Trovaso, is the city's oldest gondola workshop, where there is a continual buzz of activity as craftsmen still make and repair the vessels in the original style. At the osteria, order a *mezzo e mezzo* – a cocktail made with half Campari, half Aperol – for the authentic experience.

Nearby, with a strong focus on local wines from the Veneto region, Cantine del Vino già Schiavi (Fondamenta Nani 992) is a cross between a wine shop and a bacaro. Hundreds of bottles line the walls, though you can order just a glass. It has an ever-changing menu of small bites piled behind its long glass counter. Ask if the owner has made *cicchetto di castagna* – chestnut purée with creamy robiola cheese. Also tasty are the freshly caught oysters (in season) and parmesan crostini with pistachio and figs.

Said to be a favourite haunt of Casanova, who used to bring his conquests here,

Cantina Do Spade (Calle de le Do Spade, San Polo 859) may date back to 1448, but these days it is best known for its inventive take on cicchetti. The osteria at the back of the

building offers more of a restaurant feel, but you'll want to stay put at the atmospheric bar. Kick off with a plate of polpette – made from Calabrian sausage, mixed with smoky cheese and potatoes, covered in breadcrumbs and fried to a crisp – utterly delicious. It's best to arrive hungry, as everything is too tempting to resist – fried squash flowers stuffed with cod, baby octopus in piquant tomato sauce and the classic *sarde in saor* – sardines marinated in vinegar and onions – leap off the menu.

In the heart of Venice, next to the Rialto Bridge, Osteria Bancogiro (Campo San Giacometto 122) is also part-restaurant, part-bar, carved out of an old warehouse, which once served the Rialto market. It is also the site of the world's first publicly funded bank – the Bancogiro, founded in Venice in 1587 – and you can almost feel the history oozing out of its walls.

Located next to the Grand Canal, the bar's outdoor terrace means you can soak up all the modern-day action of the market and the busy waterways. As with all these restaurants and cafés, the menu changes with the seasons, but its salted ricotta and curried shrimp perched on top of squid-ink polenta is a revelation, while the cold cuts of mortadella with toasted nuts, and cured *coppa* on toast, are delicious in their simplicity, and

perfect with a glass of crisp and well chilled soave classico.

All'Arco (Calle Arco 436), in San Polo, is a favourite lunchtime meeting place for Venetians but – be warned – it has only three tables, with most customers spilling out on to the pavement outside. Chaotic and noisy, this is one of those special eateries that you'll dream of – and salivate about – when back at home. There's a huge choice of plates on offer – from calamari to salami *tramezzini*; from veal *stracotto* (a rich stew) served on a crusty panini to gorgonzola and prawn crostini. Order a glass of prosecco and let it all go to your head.

Finally, Al Timon (Fondamenta dei Ormesini 2754), in the northern district of Cannaregio, prides itself on offering up perfectly formed, delicious bites using the freshest ingredients. With a counter-top overflowing with unique concoctions it's almost impossible to choose. But you won't regret it if you opt for the slices of rare steak and mustard or plates of local cheese with pickles, and celebrate with a glass of Aperol spritz. This is a buzzy place, with tables in and outside, but some diners also eat on the deck of the owner's boat, which is moored on the canal outside.

In fact, Cannaregio is one of the liveliest quarters in Venice, well known for its authentic restaurants and bars, and here you can also indulge in another Venetian eating ritual worth a mention. *Fritoin* – a Venetian street food – is essentially a paper cone filled with fried seafood and vegetables (rather like a north Italian take on tempura) and eaten on the go. Frito Inn (Campo San Leonardo 1587), near to Ponte delle Guglie, is little more than a hole in the wall, but it does a fabulous line in these hot, crisp delicacies, which are dangerously addictive and utterly Venetian. 🍷





Clockwise from top left: Some bars, such as Cantine del Vino, are as much off-licence as eaterie. Photography: Tommaso Gastaldi; *baccalà*, creamed cod, is much-loved in Venice; *cicchetti misto* is a favourite at Bancogiro; fried courgette flowers are a speciality; Florian's is as famous for its location as for its ambience; a dish of lamb cutlets is on the menu at Bancogiro; you'll find amazing seafood in Venice





Japanese roasted cauliflower with pomegranate vinaigrette

SERVES 2

Anton Egger

Consultant chef, Seabourn

'This is a new dish for our Earth & Ocean Restaurant and will be ready for guests to enjoy when we resume sailings. The inspiration for this dish came from my travels in California when I was invited to a family barbecue hosted by my Japanese-American chef friends.'

INGREDIENTS

YUZU MAYONNAISE

- 3 tbsp plant mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp plant sour cream
- 1½ tsp yuzu (Japanese citrus) juice

POMEGRANATE VINAIGRETTE

- 6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp white balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp fresh pomegranate seeds
- Pinch of freshly ground black pepper
- Pinch of coarse salt

TOASTED JAPANESE PANKO

- 2 tbsp panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
- 1 tbsp plant butter or margarine, unsalted
- Pinch of coarse salt

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER

- 1 medium head of cauliflower
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 pinch ground cumin (or any other spice of your choice)
- Pinch of coarse salt
- Pinch of freshly ground black pepper

CAULIFLOWER MOUSSELINE

- 325g cauliflower florets, roughly chopped
- 180ml almond milk
- Pinch of coarse salt
- 1 tbsp plant butter or margarine, unsalted
- Pinch of nutmeg

Grass ROOTS

Are you looking to embrace a more plant-based lifestyle in 2021? Then why not try these amazing vegan and vegetarian recipes created by leading cruise chefs

Words by **OLIVIA SHARPE**



METHOD

- 1 Preheat the oven to 250C.
- 2 In a mixing bowl, combine the mayonnaise ingredients, mix well and season to taste.
- 3 In another mixing bowl, stir together the vinaigrette ingredients. Season to taste.
- 4 To make the toasted panko, gently fry the breadcrumbs in plant butter until golden brown (2 to 3 minutes). Season with salt, transfer to a plate and allow to cool.
- 5 To make the roasted cauliflower, cut into finger-thick slices (see picture opposite) with some stalk remaining but leaves removed.
- 6 In a large bowl, combine the olive oil, cumin, salt and pepper, and mix well. Add the cauliflower slices, toss to coat, then place slightly apart on a foil-lined baking sheet.
- 7 Roast for 8 to 10 minutes in the oven, then turn and roast for an additional 8 to 10 minutes, or until evenly browned and tender.
- 8 To make the mousseline, place cauliflower florets, almond milk and salt in a lidded saucepan and steam until tender.
- 9 Transfer the steamed cauliflower to a blender, add the plant butter and blend into a smooth mousse. Add nutmeg, adjust seasoning and set aside.
- 10 Arrange the roasted cauliflower slices on a serving plate. Spoon over the vinaigrette and mayonnaise. Dot with the cauliflower mousseline, sprinkle with panko, and garnish with fresh parsley.



Bean falafels with tzatziki salad, cucumber tomato & mint

SERVES 10

Rudi Sodamin

Master chef, Holland America Line

'I create spontaneously. No sketches. I go into the kitchen and use ingredients that are already there. I create from emotion. A vision comes to me.

Within minutes, I develop something that resonates and makes people very happy. I think that is the key.'

INGREDIENTS FALAFEL

- 30g white beans, soaked overnight
- 30g fresh coriander leaves
- 30g fresh mint
- 30g fresh parsley

- 12g coarse salt
- 8g crushed black pepper
- 8g cumin
- 50g olive oil
- 20g roasted garlic
- 100g roasted spring onions, chopped
- Vegetable oil for deep-frying

TZATZIKI

- 200g tahini
- 1 litre bottled water
- 15g roasted garlic
- 10g coarse salt
- 20ml lemon juice
- 6g cayenne pepper
- 80g plain Greek yoghurt
- 12g fresh mint
- 100g fresh spinach

GARNISH

- 300g peeled cucumber, cut into ribbons
- 50g olive oil
- 50g red pepper, cut into strips
- 200g roasted asparagus
- 200g roasted tomato wedges
- Half a roasted jalapeno pepper

METHOD

- 1 Strain the beans and place in a food processor with the remaining falafel ingredients, except the oil. Blend until well combined.
- 2 Form the falafel mix into patties. Deep-fry the patties until golden brown, remove from the pan and set aside.
- 3 For the tzatziki, blend the tahini and water in a large mixing bowl, then add all the remaining ingredients apart from the spinach.
- 4 Blanch the spinach, then place in iced water. Remove, squeeze out all the water and blend the spinach into the tahini sauce. Season to taste with coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper.
- 5 Serve with garnish as above.



Vegan spinach & tofu cannelloni

SERVES 4

Karen Burns-Booth

Viking guest chef and author of cookbook *Lavender & Lovage*

I've loved my time as guest chef on Viking Sun, something I've done twice as part of Viking's Ultimate World Cruises. I was also very proud to be able to create a special five-course British menu, highlighting some fabulous classic and heirloom British recipes for the Chef's Table restaurant.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 onion
- 7 garlic cloves
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 2x400g tins chopped tomato
- 2 tsp red wine vinegar
- 250g spinach
- 80g pine nuts
- 280g smoked tofu
- Pinch of grated nutmeg
- Handful of fresh basil, roughly chopped
- 12 cannelloni tubes
- 1 slice stale bread, toasted
- 2 tbsp thyme
- 25g vegan cheese
- Olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD

- 1 Preheat oven to 200C/Gas 5.
- 2 Finely chop the onion and four cloves of garlic.
- 3 Heat the vegetable oil in a large pan and fry the onion and chopped garlic on a medium heat for around 5 minutes, until softened.

4 Add the tomato and vinegar, bring to the boil, then simmer for around 15 minutes (you want the sauce to have thickened but still be quite liquid, as this will cook the pasta when baking later).

5 While the tomato sauce is simmering, prepare the cannelloni filling. First, wilt the spinach by placing in a colander and pouring boiling water over the top. Leave to cool, then squeeze dry and roughly chop.

6 Finely chop the remaining garlic and put half to one side. Heat a little oil in a frying pan and add the spinach, half the chopped garlic and 25g pine nuts.

7 Sauté on a high heat for a minute or two to ensure all the excess water has been removed from the spinach.

8 Cream the tofu in a blender and stir into the spinach. Add the nutmeg and a generous amount of freshly ground black pepper.

9 When your tomato sauce has finished simmering, season to taste and add the basil.

10 Coat the bottom of a large, rectangular oven dish with half the tomato sauce. Fill the cannelloni tubes with the spinach-and-tofu mix and place in the oven dish.

11 Pour the rest of the sauce over the cannelloni and bake in the oven for 30 minutes.

12 Meanwhile, combine the bread, thyme, vegan cheese and remaining garlic and pine nuts in a blender. Season, then blitz.

13 Remove the cannelloni from the oven, top with the bread mix, drizzle with olive oil and return to the oven for 10 minutes or until the crumbs are golden. Serve with fresh salad leaves.



Oatmeal & banana pancakes

SERVES 4

Franck Garanger

Corporate executive chef, Oceania Cruises

'Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so I love starting with a healthy plant-based dish that gives me energy. I often prepare these pancakes because they are very easy and quick to make. You can even store the pancake mix for a few days in the fridge and make them fresh every morning. The best part of this recipe is that it's 100 per cent plant-based and therefore easy to digest – plus, my kids love it.'

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ripe bananas
- 350ml plant-based milk (cashew, almond or soy are recommended, though cow's milk can also be used)
- 1½ tbsp maple syrup
- 65g oatmeal
- 300g oat flour (rolled oats, blitzed in a high-speed blender)
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil for frying

TOPPING

- Chopped fruit of your choice
- Toasted pecans or walnuts
- 125ml maple syrup

METHOD

- 1 Peel the bananas, place in a large bowl and mash with a fork until puréed. Whisk in the milk and maple syrup. Add the oats, oat flour and baking powder. Mix well, then set aside for 15 minutes to rest.
- 2 Add a little oil to a warm non-stick frying pan. Spoon the banana mix into the pan to form pancakes about 8cm in diameter.
- 3 Fry on both sides over a medium heat until cooked thoroughly and beginning to brown.
- 4 Transfer to a plate and garnish with the chopped fruit and toasted pecans. Drizzle with maple syrup and serve.

Mushroom ceviche

SERVES 4 TO 6

Tom Goetter

Executive chef, Scenic Eclipse

'Ceviche is a classic Peruvian dish, usually made with raw fish, cured in citrus juice. While sailing in Canada we created a mushroom version that was so amazing we've added it to our regular repertoire on Scenic Eclipse. But it's a very flexible recipe, so feel free to play with all kinds of different vegetables. If you don't like mushrooms, try it with artichoke hearts instead.'



INGREDIENTS

- 2 fresh red chillis, sliced into fine strips
- 720ml lime juice
- 220ml orange juice
- 15g Maldon salt
- 15g cayenne pepper
- 1 medium white onion, thinly sliced
- 375g oyster mushrooms, cut into wedges (any type of mushroom can be used, but the whiter the better)
- 900g avocado, sliced
- 300g red onion, cut into wedges
- 30g coriander leaves, roughly chopped

METHOD

- 1 Place half the chilli strips into iced water to curl up.
- 2 Make a marinade by combining the lime juice, orange juice, salt, cayenne pepper, white onion and remaining chilli.
- 3 Marinate the mushroom and avocado for about one minute.
- 4 Serve garnished with red onion, coriander and chilli curls. 🍴

STAR ON BOARD

How are things looking for 2021 and beyond? Are you feeling positive?

Yes, absolutely! Last year was of course very challenging, but in 2021 we're seeing the first green shoots, with vaccinations rolling out around the world. The good news is that the whole industry is working diligently to ensure that when we do come back, cruising will be the safest form of travel. And there's unprecedented future demand: guests are booking for 2022 and 2023 in numbers like never before.

When do you think Oceania Cruises will be sailing again?

I'd love to be able to answer that question, but there are some external factors that none of us has any control over. I can tell you that cruise lines in general and Oceania in particular haven't been sitting behind the scenes waiting. The 74-point plan that the industry put forward to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is so far-reaching



that we'll be making a real difference to safety and health when cruising returns. But we will endeavour to continue delivering most of the previous experience to guests at the same time.

Will guests need a Covid vaccine and even a vaccine passport in order to cruise?

We, like so many travel companies, continue to explore all possibilities with regard to vaccinations. This is



Bernard Carter

The senior vice president of Oceania Cruises talks vaccines, round-the-world cruises and onboard haute cuisine

Words by **OLIVIA SHARPE**

still a work in progress, but I have every confidence that we will prevail. I'm aware that some airlines and cruise lines have said they'll make it mandatory, but we're in discussion. We're working on our own level, but who is to say that won't be superseded by government directives.

What will an Oceania sailing look like, post-Covid?

We are making it very safe but not a cold, sterile environment. We're putting in measures behind the scenes, thus retaining the signature Oceania Cruises experience. And our ships will feel every bit as intimate and the service will be as personal as ever.

Oceania has just launched its 2023 'Around the World Cruise'. Could you tell us a bit about that?

Yes, it's interesting - it's a round-the-world cruise that extensively explores the North

and South Americas, Africa, the Middle East and India before heading off to Asia, including Thailand, Vietnam, China and Japan. It's 180 days from San Francisco to New York, and 218 days from Miami to New York. We've got lots of guests who want to travel further afield. I think people want to book these once-in-a-lifetime journeys post-lockdown.



Oceania Cruises is known for offering fine cuisine at sea.

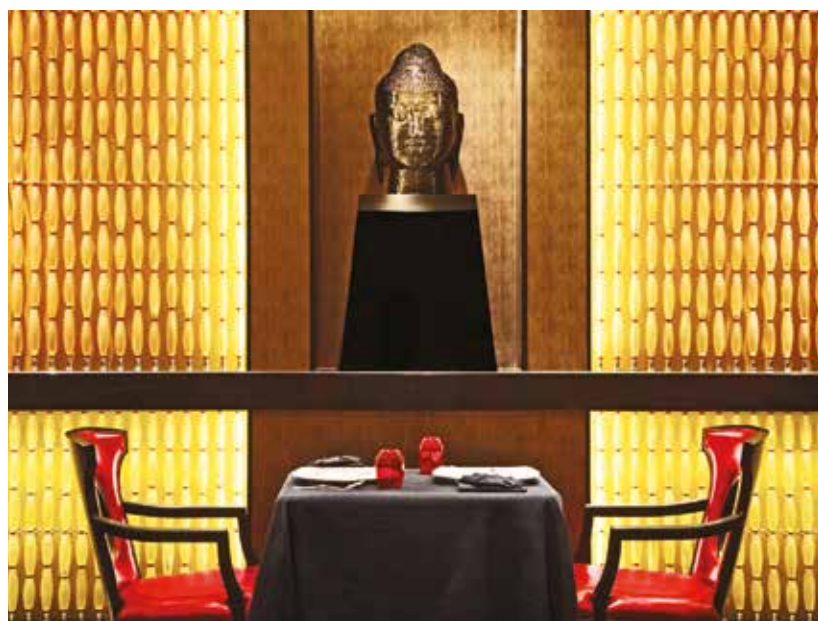
How will dining be affected?

For us, it probably offers fewer challenges than in other areas. In 2019 we introduced waiters placing orders via tablets that are wirelessly connected to the kitchens for immediate preparation. I would say open dining in our grand dining room and pre-booked dining in our speciality restaurants will still operate. Our executive chef and his team have been working on some new menus and recipes, too - there's an amazing one that includes a sumptuous Parmesan soufflé, for instance.

What are you most looking forward to about the return to cruise?

I think the biggest thing for me will be when I first walk across the threshold into the ship. It's going to be very emotional, just like coming home. 🇬🇧

You can see our entire exclusive video interview with Bernard Carter at [worldofcruising.co.uk](https://www.worldofcruising.co.uk)



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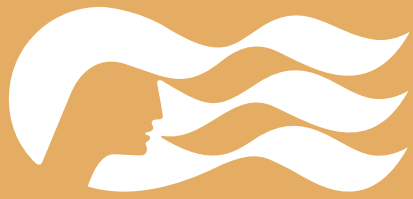
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