

WORLD OF *cruising* CRUISE PLANNER 2016

SHIP
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Welcome

Welcome to World of Cruising's annual cruise planner – our at-a-glance guide to all the major operators of ocean-going cruises. We profile them and their ships in a straightforward way to help you select the voyage and vessel that best suits you and your family.

Packed with features for seasoned cruiser and newcomer alike, it includes a guide not only to the size of each ship but also an indication of how much room is available for each passenger, and how many members of crew there are to help you make the most of the holiday. There is information on dining and tipping, and a general guide to where the ships operate. The inclusion of cruise line internet addresses will help you find further information, and we also include every cruise line's Twitter handle.

We have made every effort to ensure the information is accurate and as up-to-date as possible. Given the amount of data involved, it is inevitable that there will be errors and omissions. Please contact us at info@worldofcruisingmagazine.com if you spot anything amiss.

The data is also available on the World of Cruising website, and will be updated throughout the year as changes occur – when new ships are launched or others are transferred to different owners or taken out of service.

Go to www.worldofcruising.co.uk/cruise-planner

JOHN HONEYWELL
EDITOR



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*Short break
or world
voyage?*

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At Cruise118.com you'll find a wealth of incredible deals and fantastic prices for cruise holidays with all of the world's most popular cruise lines, whether you're looking for a fun-filled getaway with Royal Caribbean, Norwegian Cruise Line or MSC Cruises, or a refined and relaxing escape with P&O Cruises, Cunard or Celebrity Cruises.

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At Cruise118.com and SixStarCruises.co.uk, we take great pride in the award-winning service of our specialist Cruise Concierge team, each of whom is on-hand to offer expert advice and guidance from your first enquiry up until the end of your voyage and beyond, making sure that you get exactly what you want from your cruise holiday.

Not only can our Cruise Concierges offer first-hand accounts of what to expect on-board, but they also have the skills and experience to make sure you get the most for your money, finding you fantastic deals and added incentives to make your cruise escape even more special.



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As well as hand-picking itineraries from the world's best cruise lines, we can offer hotel stays at the beginning and end of your holiday alongside some of the most exciting and immersive excursions ashore, turning your holiday dreams into reality. But remember, if you don't find exactly what you are looking for, simply give our Cruise Concierge team a call and let them tailor-make your perfect escape.

Finest Collection



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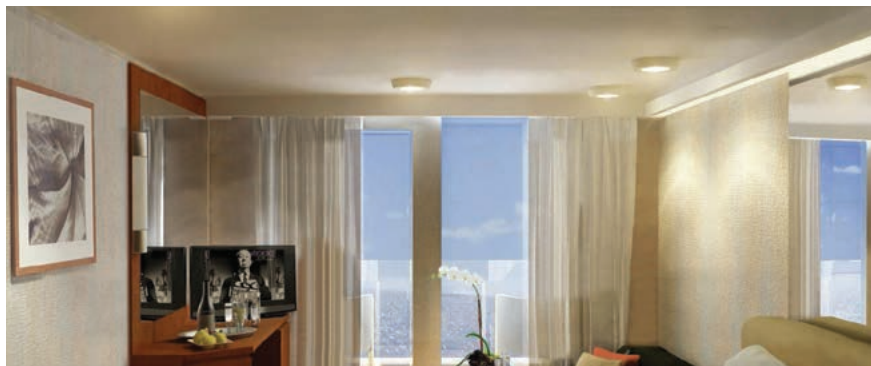
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Call now to speak to our expert Cruise Concierge team on **0800 912 3051**

10 reasons

TO TAKE A CRUISE



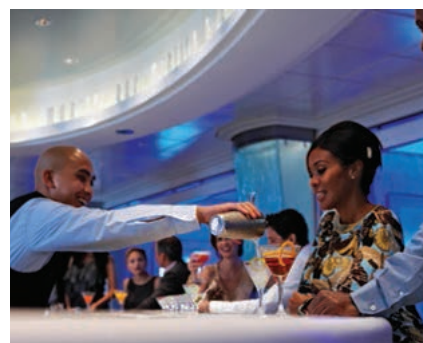
1 UNPACK ONCE
Check in, hop on board, unpack (your suitcase will be delivered to your cabin or suite) and relax as your floating hotel brings destinations to you. It really is that easy. No need for numerous flights or to pack and unpack as you island-hop around the Caribbean, tour the Mediterranean or enjoy history and culture in the Baltic.



4 A FAMILY AFFAIR
More than 1.5 million youngsters aged 17 and under go on cruises each year because there are so many exciting things for them to do on family-friendly ships these days – and all at no extra charge. They could be learning to surf, scooting down high-speed water slides, zip-wiring or walking over tightropes. All the modern resort-style ships have kids' and teen clubs with non-stop activities ranging from arts and crafts to pool parties and discos for youngsters aged three to 17.



3 SO MUCH IS INCLUDED
Your cruise price mostly includes breakfast, lunch and dinner in the dining room or self-service, as well as all entertainment. Some cruise lines additionally include gratuities in the price, others include drinks, gratuities and speciality dining. Cruise with Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Hebridean Island Cruises and your shore excursions will also be included.



2 SEE THE WORLD
Cruise around the world, sail in the Mediterranean or Baltic, or discover exotic Asia. The choice is boundless. There's island-hopping in the Caribbean and cruises along the coasts of Canada and New England. Looking for something more exotic? You can cruise to Antarctica and the Arctic, sail through the Northwest Passage, go on wildlife safaris in the Galapagos and voyage around the Kimberley in Australia.



5 AND SO TO BED
Cruise ships have a range of cabin categories to suit all budgets, from inside cabins that don't have a window to rooms with an ocean view or balcony. Several have family suites with separate living and sleeping space, and perhaps even a side room for the kids. If money is no object, luxurious suites as big as apartments have multiple bedrooms and bathrooms, private gyms, even grand pianos.

6

TIME TO DINE

With lavish breakfasts, lunches and five-course dinners included in the cruise price, you'll never

go hungry on a cruise. Help yourself in the self-service or pop down to the dining room for waiter service. New cruise ships also have alternative restaurants (mostly with an additional cover price attached) serving everything from Italian favourites to Asian dishes and steaks. Sail with Crystal Cruises to dine in an Asian restaurant created by sushi king Nobu Matsuhisa (at no extra charge) or Royal Caribbean International's Anthem of the Seas to sample Jamie's Italian – Jamie Oliver's first restaurant at sea.



8

WILL I BE BORED?

Bored is one word you never hear on a cruise as passengers are busy seeing the sights on port days and learning new skills on days at sea. You can learn to mix a cocktail, taste wine, cook paella, do the foxtrot and even how to fold a napkin. Too much like hard work? Spend the day with a good book or treat yourself to a spa treatment. Cruise with Voyages to Antiquity or Swan Hellenic, or to the poles with Hurtigruten, and sea days will be filled with erudite lectures about the history, culture and wildlife of all the wonderful places you'll be visiting.

9

FIT FOR PURPOSE

Everyone loves to eat on a cruise ship but a week or more at sea is also a great way to get into shape. Modern cruise ships have large gyms equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, from treadmills and cycles to cross-trainers and weight training. There are yoga, Pilates and stretching classes (mostly at an extra cost); increasingly ships have TRX training, which uses suspension cords for a full body workout, high-intensity spinning classes and cardio boxing classes.



7

YOU WEAR IT WELL

Want to dress up? Or down? Whatever your fancy, there is a cruise to suit. Downton devotees should consider

Cunard or P&O Cruises; check out Norwegian Cruise Line if you prefer to go casual all the way. Most cruise lines are somewhere in between, with one or two formal nights per seven-night cruise. Mostly a dark suit and tie will suffice for the men, with smart trousers, skirts or dresses for the ladies.



10

LIGHTS, ACTION, MUSIC

Production shows in the theatre are the staple diet of cruise ship entertainment, and a few companies have upped their game by putting on West End shows with professional players, but if that doesn't appeal there are also acrobatic and aerial acts, comedians and live bands in the bars and lounges. Several big ships have evening film shows on giant poolside movie screens.



ROOM WITH A *view*

With up to 30 different grades of cabin on some of the big ships, selecting your cruise accommodation can be confusing



You have chosen your cruise and are now trying to find your way through the maze of cabins, some big, some small, some with a window that doesn't open, some with restricted view, some for families. No wonder people get confused.

The first thing to know is that when you strip it all down there are just four types of cabin:

- ◆ **Inside** – these are the cheapest cabins, inside the ship with no window or porthole.
- ◆ **Outside** – these have a window or porthole but it won't open.
- ◆ **Balcony** – these cabins have their own private verandas.
- ◆ **Suite** – strictly speaking, a suite has separate sleeping and living areas (either different rooms or a curtain between the two) but some cruise lines use this moniker to mean a more spacious cabin.

Another area of confusion for cruising newcomers is the term stateroom, which is simply a word cruise lines like to use because it sounds grander than cabin. But

at the end of the day it is still a cabin.

They come with a range of fixtures and fittings as standard including a TV (and sometimes a DVD), minibar and hairdryer, and most have private safes. All have ensuite bathrooms with tubs or showers (or sometimes both); the best cruise lines provide toiletries. In short, everything you would expect from a modern hotel room – and sometimes more.

Cabin prices are determined by grade and location. Rooms on the lowest decks are the cheapest and they get more expensive the higher up you go. The most expensive suites are often at the very front and back of the ship, but you also pay a

premium for a more central position.

Which cabin you choose obviously depends how much you want to spend, but there are other things to consider.

If seasickness is a concern, pick a cabin on a lower deck in the middle of the ship as there will be less movement. If you are sensitive to noise, avoid a room just below the lido deck or the gym, or close to the engine room; if mobility is an issue, pick accommodation close to the lifts.

There are spa cabins and suites that come with perks including free access to the thermal suite; If you are travelling with children, you may want to pick a cabin close to the kids' clubs and children's facilities.

Most cabins are for two people, although more companies are adding single accommodation to cater for the growing number of people who cruise alone. Two-bedded rooms usually have a choice of double or twin beds, and many also have a third or fourth berth (either a sofa bed or a bunk that drops from the ceiling). These are good for families but can be cramped. For more space, choose a family suite or two cabins with an inter-connecting door. ⚓



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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Who needs terra firma when you can pedal a bike around an 800-foot track around the top of Carnival Vista? The SkyRide is one of many new features on the new ship, launching May 2016 and spending its inaugural season in the Mediterranean. Kids can zip down a kaleidoscopic water slide in an inner tube or watch favourite films in the first IMAX cinema at sea.

www.carnival.co.uk

**RED IS THE COLOUR**

It's all about food on Sirena, the Princess Cruises' ship joining Oceania Cruises in April 2016. It will have two new speciality restaurants, Tuscan Steakhouse and Red Ginger, which serves Asian favourites. At lunchtime, the dining room will become a bistro and serve French classics inspired by the company's culinary director Jacques Pepin.

www.oceaniacruises.com

what's new 2016

IT'S A MYSTERY!

Knowing where you're going on a cruise is so passé. Sign up for Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' mystery voyage on Europa 2 and all you'll know is that it starts in Istanbul on May 14 and ends in Piraeus, the port for Athens, on May 24. Bets are on for the Greek Islands and Turkey.

www.hl-cruises.com

**NOW WE ARE TWO**

Viking Sea, launching in spring 2016, is the second ship built for new company Viking Cruises. It has capacity for 930 passengers, a Nordic spa with a sauna and snow room and dining options that include Manfredi's Italian and Mamsen's for Norwegian deli-style fare. The Kitchen Table is a hands-on kitchen where passengers can learn to cook.

www.vikingcruises.co.uk

**IT'S ALL GREEK TO SWAN**

A cruise through the 70-foot-wide Corinth Canal and excursions to Ljubljana in Slovenia, Topkapi Palace in Istanbul and the Popes' Palace in Avignon are among highlights of Swan Hellenic's winter 2016-17 season in the Mediterranean and Canary Islands. On board, guest lecturers will talk about everything from volcanoes to the Arab Spring.

www.swanhellenic.com





DUBAI CELEBRATION

Desert safaris and Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi are among excursion highlights on Thomson Cruises' new voyages around the Arabian Gulf from Dubai starting winter 2016-17. Thomson Celebration will be sailing two seven-night itineraries that visit Abu Dhabi and Khor Fakkan in the UAE, as well as Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

www.thomson.co.uk/cruises

SOMME CENTENARY

Saga Cruises will be remembering the thousands who died during the Somme offensive 100 years ago on a five-night voyage round-trip from Dover on Saga Sapphire departing July 1. Excursions will visit the battlefields, trenches and the Thiepval Memorial to the 72,000 dead with no known grave.

www.saga.co.uk/cruises



EASTERN PROMISE

Seabourn's new ship Seabourn Encore launches in time to celebrate Christmas 2016 while sailing through the Middle East on its way to Australia and New Zealand. The all-balcony, all-suite vessel will be just over 40,000 tons, carry 600 passengers and count a sushi bar among its five restaurants.

www.seabourn.com



SUITE LUXURY

The biggest suite at sea will be unveiled when Regent Seven Seas Cruises' new Regent Seven Seas Explorer, dubbed the world's most luxurious ship, launches in July 2016. It's a stonking 3,875 square feet and comes with its own bar, spa and piano, and a private guide and driver in every port.

www.rssc.com



BLEND IT

Oenophiles can learn the art of wine-making in Blend, a new venue opening on Holland America Line's new Koningsdam launching in April 2016. The home-made tippie, made with wines provided by Chateau Ste Michelle, the oldest winery in Washington State, will be bottled and sent to the dining room to be enjoyed with dinner.

www.hollandamerica.com



THE ULTIMATE ABYSS

Why walk down 10 decks on Royal Caribbean International's Harmony of the Seas when you can plunge down the Ultimate Abyss? The 100-foot-long dry slide links the pool area to the Boardwalk on the new ship, launching in May 2016. Thrill seekers will also find a trio of waterslides, Supercell, Typhoon and Cyclone, together dubbed the Perfect Storm.

www.royalcaribbean.co.uk

new ships

It's going to be a BIG year for new cruise ships.

Harmony of the Seas will be the biggest ever – slightly larger than older sisters Oasis of the Seas and Allure of the Seas – and it is expected to pay a short visit to Southampton in May.

Carnival Cruise Line will get its biggest ship yet, Carnival Vista, also launching in May, and Koningsdam will be Holland America Line's largest to date. The trend continues even at the smaller, luxury end of the market, with Regent Seven Seas Explorer becoming the largest vessel in the all-inclusive fleet.

British favourites Thomson aren't going to be left out, either. They will be acquiring Splendour of the Seas and re-naming it Thomson Discovery. At almost 70,000 gross tons, it's 25 per cent bigger than Thomson Dream.



KONINGS DAM

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

Shipyard: Fincantieri, Italy
Delivery expected: April 2016
Gross tonnage: 99,500
Passenger capacity: 2,660

Fine dining restaurants include French seafood brasserie Sel de Mer, and among the entertainment attractions is a B.B. King Blues Club.



CARNIVAL VISTA

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE

Shipyard: Fincantieri, Italy
Delivery expected: April 2016
Gross tonnage: 133,500
Passenger capacity: 3,954

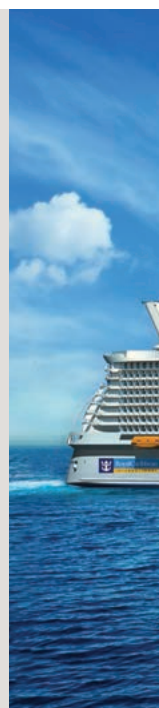
Vista will have the first IMAX cinema at sea, and passengers will be able to pedal around the upper deck on a suspended Skyride.

HARMONY OF THE SEAS

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

Shipyard: STX France
Delivery expected: May 2016
Gross tonnage: 227,700
Passenger capacity: 5,400

A bigger sister for Oasis of the Seas and Allure of the Seas, Harmony will be the biggest in the world. As well as a Central Park filled with thousands of living plants, and a Boardwalk area complete with carousel, Harmony will be Royal Caribbean's first ship to carry waterslides.



FOR 2016



SEVEN SEAS EXPLORER

REGENT SEVEN SEAS

Shipyard Fincantieri, Italy
Delivery expected June 2016
Gross tonnage 54,000
Passenger capacity 738

Billed as "the most luxurious cruise ship ever built," Explorer is an all-suite ship with spacious private balconies, offering all-inclusive cruises where drinks, gratuities and even excursions are included in the fare.



VIKING SEA

VIKING OCEAN CRUISES

Shipyard Fincantieri, Italy
Delivery expected early 2016
Gross tonnage 47,800
Passenger capacity 930

An identical twin sister to Viking Star, which set new standards of cool Scandinavian design and effortless cruising when it launched in 2015.

SEABOURN ENCORE

SEABOURN

Shipyard Fincantieri, Italy
Delivery expected Autumn 2016
Gross tonnage 40,350
Passenger capacity 604

An expanded version of Seabourn's sumptuous Odyssey class, carrying about 150 more passengers.



'All new: Royal's first waterslides, a B.B. King Blues Club, and 'the most luxurious ship ever built'

OVATION OF THE SEAS

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

Shipyard Meyer Werft, Germany
Delivery expected April 2016
Gross tonnage 168,600
Passenger capacity 4,180

Third of Royal Caribbean's Quantum-class ships which feature a NorthStar observation pod, and a dodgem rink which is also used for roller-skating and as a night club.

foodie CRUISES

Food is an integral part of cruising, and ships are tempting passengers with celebrity chefs, gourmet cuisine and cookery schools. Here are five ships to whet your appetite



OCEANIA CRUISES OCEANIA MARINA

This cruise line has earned a reputation for elegant and refined dining. French chef, television personality and author Jacques Pepin is the executive culinary director for Marina, which has an elegant Parisian-style restaurant named after him decorated with antiques and art from his own personal collection. La Reserve restaurant offers gourmet wine pairing dinners, wine seminars and tastings. The most exclusive dining venue is Privee, available for private dinner parties for up to ten people, with meals illuminated by a glittering gold chandelier.

oceaniacruises.com



SEADREAM YACHT CLUB SEADREAM I

Ida Elisabeth Donheim, who worked at restaurants such as London's three Michelin star Fat duck, is the new wine director who will develop Seadream's expanding programme of dedicated wine voyages with onboard experts. On any sailing, passengers can expect top notch fare, such as the 'champagne and caviar splash', a beach barbecue served on bone china. Innovative dining choices include a raw food menu, featuring organic and vegetarian ingredients. In some ports guests can go food market shopping with the chef.

seadream.com



CRYSTAL CRUISES CRYSTAL SERENITY

Guests are spoilt for choice with Crystal's new 'artistically inspired' menus created in collaboration with top culinary experts. Dining options include the Silk Road, featuring the cuisine of the renowned Nobu Matsuhisa with dishes prepared by Nobu-trained chefs. Tastes, which is exclusive to Crystal Serenity, features an open kitchen where guests can watch their meals being prepared. The Vintage Room has tasting menus with fine wine for four to 14 guests. They showcase some of the rarest vintages and these food and wine pairings cost around \$1,000.

crystalcruises.co.uk



SILVERSEA CRUISES SILVER SPIRIT

Its prestigious name is linked to some of the world's finest hotels and gourmet restaurants, and Silversea has the only Relais and Chateaux restaurant at sea. Le Champagne showcases the wine regions of the world with an exquisite six-course tasting menu of seasonal, regional dishes, created especially for the line's passengers. Select sailings are also culinary arts voyages where guests can join a cookery school at sea. This culinary discovery experience offers cookery classes and an interactive programme, hosted by Silversea chef David Bilsland.

silversea.com



P&O CRUISES BRITANNIA

For passengers who prefer to create their own culinary masterpieces, P&O's flagship boasts the first cookery school on a British cruise ship. It is equipped with stylish KitchenAid appliances and individual work stations, and up to 24 passengers can sign up for lessons with some of the country's best-loved chefs, including Mary Berry and James Martin. Afterwards guests get to savour the fruits of their labours and on celebrity sailings there are also chef hosted dinners, Q&A sessions and book signings. When it's time for a break, Britannia's restaurants include wine expert Olly Smith's The Glass House and 'master of spices' Atul Kochhar's Sindhu.

pandocruises.co.uk



TAKE THE *plunge*

Bulgari, Bollinger and butlers join West End shows and celebrity chefs to make cruising an unmissable experience

By **SUE BRYANT**







Regular cruisers have heard it all before; they are fed up of their stay-on-land friends asking the same old questions. Will I be bored? Will I feel cooped up? Will it be terribly formal? What if I get seasick?

Enough of the worrying! Most people are hooked after their first cruise and come back time and again. If they don't, it's probably because they received bad advice and ended up on a ship that did not suit their personality.

Fred. Olsen Cruises is so convinced that first timers will be instantly converted to life at sea that it offers an 'Enjoyment Promise'. If you decide within 48 hours of boarding that cruising's not for you, the company will fly you home and refund your money, no questions asked. Since the scheme was launched in 2013, only five people out of 190,000 have taken up the offer, which must say something.

It's true that 30 years ago or so, cruising used to be somewhat one-dimensional, inviting the harsh 'newly-wed-or-almost-dead' kind of stereotypes. Nowadays, though, there are more styles

of ship than ever before, more adventures, more outrageous destinations, better value, more fun and if you want it, a lot more luxury.

Cruising is a wonderful holiday. Whether you're an adventurer, a young family, a foodie, a culture vulture or simply the kind of person who dreams of sipping champagne in a beautiful suite while dressing for dinner, there is a cruise that will make you wonder why you've left it so long.

Cruising will take you to places you'd only ever dreamed of. Indeed, sometimes, a cruise is pretty well the only way to get somewhere. Deep into the Amazon; across the Southern Ocean to the icy wilderness of Antarctica; on a week-long holiday that links gorgeous cities like Venice, Dubrovnik and Athens, effortlessly. A cruise is not just a convenient way to get to inaccessible places; it's a way of joining together places you'd always wanted to see in one easy voyage. Get on board, unpack, and put the suitcase away while the ship does all the work.

Yes, you may argue, but I'd only get a taste of each place. I'd never discover

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
James Martin leads P&O passengers on a tour of a food market in Barcelona; hit musical *We Will Rock You* on stage aboard Anthem of the Seas; sight-seeing in Diocletian's Palace with Swan Hellenic; Voyages to Antiquity's Aegean Odyssey in Greece; Venice

PREVIOUS PAGE Europa 2 pool party





anything in depth. Well, this isn't really the case any more. The fashion is for ships to overnight in port so you can explore ashore after the day trippers have left. Venice, Mykonos, Barcelona, Bangkok, Singapore, Sydney are all popular two-day stops.

Some cruise lines specialise in slower itineraries. Azamara Club Cruises makes cultural immersion a selling point, with overnights and late departures on most of its cruises. French-owned Ponant offers several voyages that explore just one small area, but in depth – for example, the beautiful Croatian coast.

Cunard ships overnight in port on several of the line's summer Mediterranean fly-cruises. Costa Cruises has introduced 'slow cruising', in which distances between ports are kept short and several evenings can be spent ashore in ports from Santorini to Cochin.

True, you are never going to get to know a place as intimately from a cruise as you would by spending a week there. But this isn't to say the world of cruising is a cultural desert, or in any way dumbed down. Some lines specialise in holidays for the thinking traveller, among them Swan Hellenic, Voyages to Antiquity and Noble Caledonia. On each of these, the shore excursions are included in the price and the cruise is escorted by a team of expert guest speakers.

Voyages of Discovery is a good option for anybody looking for an immersive

cultural experience but on a tighter budget, while Cunard and Seabourn are also known for their guest speaker programmes.

A lot of cruise virgins worry that they may feel claustrophobic on a ship – another unfounded myth. If you opt for a huge ship, essentially a floating holiday resort, it's true that you could be sharing your space with a couple of thousand others – but these ships have multiple pools, sumptuous spas, numerous restaurants from which to choose and so many bars you'd have a tough job fitting in a crawl around all of them.

If you want the choices a big ship offers but need a bit of personal space, book a balcony cabin or a suite. Bypass the main pool for the adults-only deck area (called, enticingly, The Sanctuary on Princess Cruises and The Retreat on P&O Cruises) or splash out on a private cabana, available on Holland America Line's ships and on Celebrity Cruises' newer Solstice-class vessels.

On the smaller, most luxurious ships, the sensation is more like being on a private yacht, especially if you sail with SeaDream, on which uniformed waiters jump in the pool to serve champagne at a decadent party on every cruise and crew materialise as if by magic to polish your sunglasses. Or Seabourn, which has beautiful, spacious teak pool decks and a full fleet of water toys that appear when the marina platform is lowered.

Something that surprises many new cruisers is the sheer quality of what you get on board. On a luxury ship, you'd expect Bvlgari, Bollinger and butlers but even on mainstream cruise lines, it's all about the big names. P&O Cruises has aligned itself with a whole parade of celebrity chefs, from Marco Pierre White to James Martin and Eric Lanlard, all of whom offer their wares on board for a minimal supplement.

Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Line have poured vast amounts into their entertainment, showing original productions of award-winning Broadway and West End shows on board, so you can see *Mamma Mia!* or *Burn the Floor* – for free. Cruise lines are in hot competition with one another and the customer is the winner.

Some of the reasons people fall in love with cruising, though, are less tangible. Standing on your private balcony at sunrise with a cup of tea, watching dolphins frolic in the water. A stroll around the deck in the moonlight as the ship steams to its next destination. In other words, magical moments that you'll only discover if you take the plunge. ⚓



WHAT MAKES CRUISING THE *best value?*

There's so much more included in your holiday at sea. The only question is ... do you get the best value by booking early or leaving it until the last minute?

By **SUE BRYANT** —



So you're trying to choose a holiday and you're weighing up the benefits of another cruise – or switching to a stay in a resort ashore. Hopefully, this won't be a purely financial decision, as there are many other factors at play. True, big cruise ships are often referred to as floating resorts, but that's where the similarity ends.

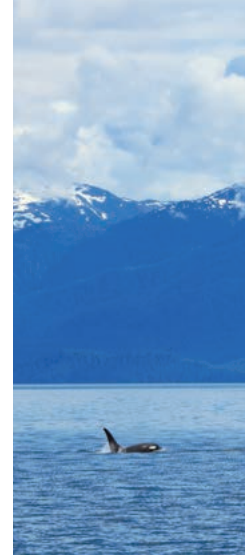
Cost will come into it, of course. Generally speaking, an all-inclusive resort is going to include more than a standard cruise. All drinks, all food, maybe a programme of spa treatments, all watersports, for starters. Some Caribbean resorts even throw in expensive items like scuba diving and golf. Unless you pick an all-inclusive cruise (more of which later) you're inevitably going to end up with something on your onboard account at the end of the holiday, as all that's normally included is meals, accommodation and entertainment. So tips, alcoholic drinks, some gym classes, cover charges in the more exclusive restaurants and shore excursions all pile up as the cruise progresses.

But wait. Cruise lines offer exceptional value in areas where land-based resorts simply can't compete. On some ships, world-class entertainment and a lecture programme by big-hitting guest speakers, for example. See a Broadway show for free on Royal Caribbean, or split your sides laughing at live stand-up every night on Carnival. Ashore, at best, even in the smartest hotel, you'd get a crooner, or a local band or folklore show.

Cruising is exceptional value for families, too. Lines like Royal Caribbean, Norwegian, Princess, P&O Cruises, Carnival and Celebrity have outstanding facilities for kids of all ages, and it's all included. You would be hard-pushed to find comparable facilities ashore, from science labs to craft classes to cookery lessons, evening pool parties and on some cruise lines, like Disney, cartoon characters wandering around. Evening babysitting is free on some lines, too, which it wouldn't be in an hotel.

And even though ships are limited on space, they pack in the activities. Royal Caribbean offers ice rinks on some of its ships, while other lines like Carnival and NCL have high ropes courses, circus schools or climbing walls, all free to use. Families often get good deals, too. Sail with MSC Cruises and children travel either free or for massive discounts when sharing a cabin with parents, even in one of the stunning Yacht Club suites.

Don't lose sight of the fact, in your calculations, that a cruise ship is a form of transport as well as your floating



holiday home. Imagine what it would cost to get from, say, Barcelona to Marseille, Monaco, Portofino, Corsica and Mallorca in a week and the true value of cruising becomes clearer. Not to mention the fact that you can cruise from your own doorstep. Take a voyage that departs from Southampton or any number of other UK ports and your holiday comes with no airfare.

The fashion in cruising now is to go all-inclusive, but this is interpreted by the cruise lines in many different ways and some are more inclusive than others. On Regent Seven Seas Cruises, for example, it really is all thrown in: flights, transfers, tips, meals, drinks and excursions. Wi-fi costs extra unless you're in a certain cabin grade and so do spa treatments, but that's a minor consideration.

Silversea offers an all-inclusive product but you have to pay for excursions on most cruises. Crystal Cruises includes drinks and dining in its very fine alternative restaurants – but not gratuities.

On any cruise, and many charge more, if you allow, say, around £8 per person per day for tips, you're looking at £448 for a family of four on a two-week cruise, which is a hefty whack and probably more than you'd tip in an hotel.

Lower-priced lines offer the option to upgrade to 'all inclusive' but the reality is that this is usually just included drinks, with deals available on lines like Fred. Olsen, Thomson Cruises, MSC and Celebrity Cruises. The answer is to





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
 Wrapped up warm to view the glaciers; whales meet a Disney ship; luxury dining at fresco; all lit up in Sydney harbour; dinner with a sea view; the impossibly pretty town of Portofino, Italy

study very carefully what's in the list of inclusions. Don't lose sight of the fact that most cruise lines will try to part you from your money once they've got you on board, whether it's with glamorous portrait photography or promotions in the spa.

But think before you opt for an all-inclusive cruise. If you don't drink, is it really worth splashing out to subsidise someone else's cocktail habit? If you prefer to do your own thing in port, why pay in advance for the excursions?

Ultimately, what should really determine your land vs sea choice is the kind of holiday you want. If it's to be lying on the beach all day, every day, there's not much point going on a cruise. If you like sightseeing, or a mixture of culture and relaxation, a cruise could be the answer. If you don't like being surrounded by other people, cruising could be the wrong choice; unless you book one of the most luxurious ships, there will inevitably be some queuing to get back on board after a busy day in port and pool decks get very

crowded on sea days.

If you see food as mere fuel, then don't spend money on a ship packed with fancy restaurants. On the other hand, if you like the idea of eating in a different place every night, with the promise of top quality cuisine, a cruise could be a real opportunity. Pick a cruise with P&O and you can eat in Atul Kochhar's Sindhu restaurant for a fraction of the price of what it would cost to dine at the Michelin-starred chef's Benares restaurant in London. The afternoon tea in Britannia's Epicurean restaurant by patissier Eric Lanlard is far better than anything you'd get in a London hotel – and a bargain at £15.

So the cruise wins out and the next question is, when to book? There's a lot of debate around about whether to book early or book late. The UK is traditionally a late-booking market but don't think this means you'll snag a bargain. If your preferred cruise line is one that carries a lot of Americans, you could struggle to get

the cruise you want as Americans book early. Azamara Club Cruises, popular with American guests, has already launched its 2018 brochure for this very reason, while Viking Ocean is already almost sold out for 2016, even with the arrival of a new ship next year.

Book early and you can choose your exact cabin, get a cheaper flight, should you be making your own travel arrangements, and often take advantage of early booking discounts of up to 20%. Some lines will even refund the difference if they discount the same cruise at a later date.

If you're flexible, though, and want, say, a week in the Med but don't really mind where, then play the game and book late. Scour the websites of the big cruise travel agents for bargains, upgrades and booking incentives. The cruise lines won't thank you, and you might get a less desirable cabin, but there are holidays available at knock-down prices to the canny shopper. 🍷

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table TALK

One thing is for sure – you'll never go hungry on a cruise ship

Dining is the high point for most cruise passengers, if only because there is so much food, from breakfast through to the evening meal and some late-night nibbles in the buffet to keep you going until the next day.

All ships have self-service buffets and waiter-service dining rooms that open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and most also have poolside grills serving burgers, hotdogs and fries. All the food served in these venues is included in the cost of the cruise.

New cruise ships also have alternative restaurants that offer a more personal service and serve food that is cooked to order. Reservations are needed and most cost extra – expect to pay anything from £5 to £60 or more per person.

Steakhouses, Italian eateries and Mediterranean restaurants are the most popular alternative dining options, but there are also French bistros, Sushi bars, Indian and Asian outlets and more.

For something more quirky, Norwegian Cruise Line's newest ships (Norwegian Breakaway, Getaway and Escape) have a Brazilian steakhouse where hunks of meat on big skewers are sliced table-side. Red and green stop and go cards indicate when you have had enough or want more.

A few cruise lines link their speciality restaurants to famous chefs. Marco Pierre White and Michelin-starred Atul Kochhar each have restaurants on five P&O



Cruises' ships. The Silk Road Restaurant on Crystal Cruises' ships was created by sushi king Nobu Matsuhisa, while Cunard's Queen Mary 2 has a restaurant affiliated to US chef Todd English. Jamie Oliver has a branch of Jamie's Italian on Royal Caribbean International's Quantum of the Seas and its siblings Anthem of the Seas and Ovation of the Seas.

TO SHARE OR NOT TO SHARE

It used to be that all cruise passengers were allocated a table and time to dine in the evening, invariably sharing with other people chosen at random. These days, while several companies retain the system, they also have an open-dining option, to cater for passengers who want the freedom to eat when they choose and not

have to share a table with strangers.

Crystal Cruises, Carnival Cruise Line, Princess Cruises, Holland America Line and Royal Caribbean are among those with the two systems. Be sure to specify which you want when making a booking.

Cunard offers fixed dining only for its Britannia-class passengers; for more freedom you have to book one of the Britannia Club cabins or Princess Grills or Queens Grills suites.

Norwegian Cruise Line is among those that have dropped all fixed dining. It's also gone from Hapag-Lloyd Cruises Europa2. On Swan Hellenic, the maître d' fills up tables as people turn up to eat, which is a good way to meet other passengers. Best of all, if you don't get on, it doesn't matter because next day you'll be seated with another random set of passengers. [↗](#)



LIFE ON THE *ocean wave*

From being pampered in the spa to learning ballroom dancing or teaming up for a trivia quiz, there is never a dull moment on a cruise

Life on board a ship splits neatly into two types of day - those when the vessel is in port and passengers are off enjoying sights ashore and those spent at sea, sailing from one location to another. This is a time to relax and watch the waves go by or enjoy all the activities the cruise lines lay on.

Activities start early, with morning exercise classes – yoga or Pilates maybe, or TRX training, which is the latest keep-fit craze. Once you've worked off the calories and then refuelled with a spot of breakfast, the day starts in earnest.

Activities vary but often there'll be line-dancing, ballroom dancing, bridge classes and lectures in the spa about how to detox, stay slim, or the wonders of acupuncture. Of course you can forget trying to learn anything and just enjoy being pampered in the spa, with massages, facials, body scrubs, manicures and pedicures among a long list of options.

A lot of companies have wine-tasting sessions, usually at an extra cost, and complimentary cooking demonstrations. If you enjoy cooking, Oceania Cruises' two ships Marina and Riviera have fully-equipped culinary centres where you can learn everything from making

sauces to preparing fish and pizzas (for a fee). There's a similar facility on Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' Europa 2, P&O Cruises' Britannia and Viking Cruises' Viking Star. Regent Seven Seas Cruises' new Seven Seas Explorer and Holland America Line's Koningsdam will also have culinary centres when they launch in 2016.

There are port talks where you'll learn what to see and where to shop at the various places you'll be visiting, and also classical concerts, trivia quizzes and Photoshop, iPad and other computer classes. Crystal Cruises even has language classes on some departures.

On cultural cruise lines such as Voyages to Antiquity or Swan Hellenic, sea days are devoted to scholarly lectures about history, culture or archaeology. You'll learn about the Egyptian pharaohs on cruises through the Suez Canal, and about the fighting in Gallipoli during the First World War on a voyage through the Dardanelles into the Black Sea. If you are cruising to the polar regions with Hurtigruten, Ponant or Lindblad, expect lectures about the whales, penguins, polar bears and birds you are likely to encounter.

Come evening, the entertainment continues – everything from production



shows, cabaret acts, aerial acrobats and classical singers to live bands, karaoke and nightclubs. Naturally the greatest choice is on the big resort-style ships as they have multiple theatres, show lounges and bars. The fun goes on until everyone has gone to bed, which can be anything from 10.30pm on Swan Hellenic to the wee small hours on Carnival's party ships.

Whenever you turn in, just remember you'll need to be up bright and early next day because it starts all over again. 🍷

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As the ship glided around another impossible granite wall, we heard the rumble of Stirling Falls ahead. And then, there it was - 500 feet of tumbling magnificence! Yet another wondrous sight that makes the glacier-formed fiord of Milford Sound the jewel of New Zealand's South Island. Now to dry off from the lovely Stirling shower (we were that close), followed by champagne at the Stardust lounge and dinner at Nobu's Silk Road.

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CUBA AND THE GULF LEAD THE WAY IN *what's hot for* 2016

The World of Cruising map is ever changing as cruise lines strive to meet passengers' thirst for exciting new destinations and itineraries. We look at what's hot and what's not for 2016

By **LESLEY BELLEW**



Havana, Cuba



Palm-fringed beaches and relaxed sunshine days make the Caribbean the world No. 1 cruise destination but it's about to get even hotter with Cuba becoming the 'let's get there before it changes' choice for 2016.

Cruise itinerary planners have been quick to respond to demand from culture-hungry passengers who realise US President Obama's efforts to ease America's 50-year trade and travel restrictions will probably mean global brands like Starbucks and McDonald's moving in, as well as a flood of US tourists.

First to base a vessel in Cuba is MSC Cruise Lines; the capital Havana will be MSC Opera's home port this winter. MSC reports 'healthy bookings' so expect a further increase in its offering for 2016/17.

A number of cruise lines already call in to Havana, most offering overnights, and Scott Anderson of The Luxury Cruise Company says: "Cuba is hot for sure as everyone wants to get there before the potential Americanisation of Havana. Star Clippers operate there and we have a package that includes hotel stays."

The heat is also on in the United Arab Emirates with cruise calls growing year-on-year through the lure of warm weather, desert adventures and a great choice of flights from UK airports. Attractive pre- and post-extension packages in deluxe hotels are also adding to the allure of must-see attractions including traditional souks and the ultra-modern Burj Khalifa and Palm Jumeirah.

Dubai's Port Rashid is expected to welcome around half a million cruise tourists in 2016 and Thomson Celebration will be the latest ship to sail from there in winter 2016/17. Thomson Cruises' managing director Helen Caron says: "As Dubai becomes more popular for winter sun and incredible excursions, we know our customers will welcome this destination and we can't wait for everyone to discover Arabia."

Hamad bin Mejjren, the executive director of Dubai Tourism says he expects to have welcomed 450,000 cruise tourists by the end of 2015 and to 'record



➤ sustained growth until 2020’.

Abu Dhabi’s Zayed Port with its new, world-class cruise terminal is also expecting a greater influx of visitors. Hapag-Lloyd’s Europa 2 has already sailed in and will offer three sailings around the Persian Gulf in 2016 including golf packages as well as unforgettable excursions to the Sheikh Zayed Mosque and the seven-star Emirates Palace Hotel for afternoon tea. Not content with being a pioneer in Cuba, MSC is using Abu Dhabi as a turnaround port next year.

Moving further east, exotic itineraries in south-east Asia continue to attract strong bookings for ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ cruises which combine calls to sophisticated cities such as Singapore with enrichment tours in developing tourism areas of Cambodia and Vietnam. Learning about life along the Mekong River and visiting the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda in Phnom Penh are sell-out tours on many cruise lines.

To meet demand, Norwegian Cruise Lines is returning to the region for the first time since 2001-2002 with Norwegian Star sailing from Singapore and Hong Kong.

Azamara Club Cruises’ guests, who love destination-immersive voyages, are



signing up for far-flung cruises right through 2016 to 2018 with a 102-day World Journey starting in Sydney, Australia and visiting 61 ports in 29 countries.

Savvy cruise passengers have also discovered sailing is the perfect way to discover South America’s diverse landscape. Travelling from country to country to explore rainforests, wildlife, lakes and mountains is likely to be far simpler by ship rather than organising a land itinerary.

Scott Anderson of theluxurycruisecompany.com says he has

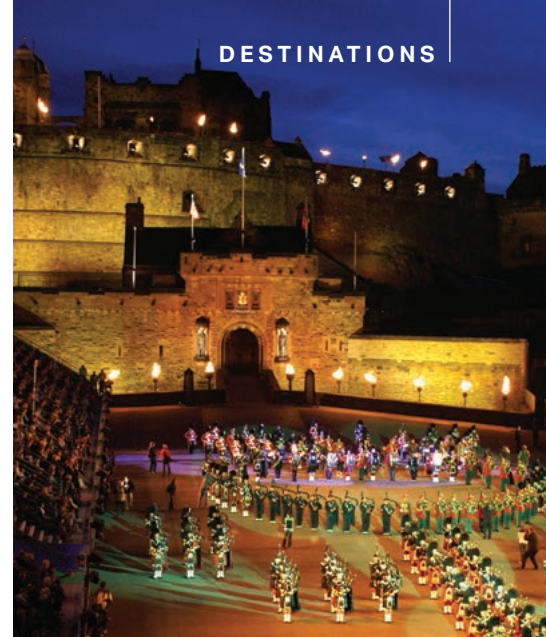


seen a 120 per cent increase in departures to South America in 2016 against 2015.

As if that’s not enough, cruise calls to the Rio Carnival are keeping bookings to Brazil nicely buoyant before the summer Olympics.

Anderson says add-on holidays to explore bucket-list sites including ancient Machu Picchu, in Peru, and Iguassu Falls, in Brazil are also snapped up by guests who want to explore these heritage sites.

He added: “Overall, for 2016, there is a growing trend for customers to want to tailor-make their holiday. We are seeing more and more top-end luxury clients



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT The Corniche in Abu Dhabi; Royal Palace, Bangkok; Edinburgh Military tattoo; penguins in Antarctica; Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro

wanting to extend pre or post-cruise with added extras. And not just one night in a hotel; they want authentic experiences in local flavour and culture.”

The call of the wild continues to capture cruise passengers’ imagination - not only on the equator but in further reaches such as Antarctica where Hurtigruten has launched 10 new sailings on 500-guest MS Midnatsol for the 2016/2017 season.

Hiking on glacier ice, walking with penguins, kayaking and snorkelling in ice water are all proving just the ticket for adventurous cruise passengers.

Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam said: “Some 28,000 tourists travelled to Antarctica in 2013/2014 and the market for active nature-based adventures to exotic destinations shows significant growth.”

In Alaska it is a similar story with Crystal Cruise Lines’ Serenity set to sail seven voyages to keep up with demand by passengers who want outdoor adventures. Add-ons for the Rocky Mountaineer train are also reported to be buoyant.

Cruises to Svalbard in the Arctic Circle, where guests enjoy wildlife sightings and the summertime midnight sun, are also booking well and Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines reports it is the fastest-selling destination alongside Greenland and Iceland.

The Baltic cruise season starts on January 6 when Cunard’s Queen Victoria makes her first port of call in Copenhagen during her world circumnavigation from Southampton. Sailings to Russia and the Baltic have seen a small decrease in the last few years but Claus Bodker, who heads Cruise Baltic, the collective voice of the Baltic ports, says 2016 bookings are encouraging. He said: “We are feeling

optimistic and anticipate an increase of four to five per cent in passenger numbers.”

Europe remains the second-most popular cruise destination and the appetite to enjoy the sunshine and see cultural cities including Barcelona, Florence and Rome show no sign of a slow-down, particularly in seven-night cruise bookings.

Despite economic problems and the refugee crisis, the allure of the Greek islands means cruise ships will be sailing in as usual during 2016 including Royal

'Dubai's Port Rashid is expected to welcome around half a million cruise tourists in 2016'

Caribbean’s Jewel of the Seas. The ship will sail around the islands for seven nights from July 17.

A Royal Caribbean spokesman said: “We constantly monitor advice given by government departments and have no current plans to amend our Greece Itineraries.”

However, passengers who are uncertain about travel are finding an exceptionally strong offering of Round Britain cruises and with the 400th anniversary commemorations of the life and work of playwright William Shakespeare there is probably no better time to embrace our sceptred isle.

Nathan Philpot, sales and marketing director at Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines confirms that UK and Ireland cruises are growing in popularity.

He said: “We will be operating eight cruises in 2016, that’s two up on 2015. They include a 10-night UK Castles cruise on Balmoral, departing from Newcastle on June 18 with visits to Tintagel, Dover, Cawdor and Beaumaris castles.”

Saga is seeing strong bookings for its selection of UK cruises including Saga Sapphire’s 14-night Around Britain and Ireland cruise from Dover on August 18, 2016 which gives guests the unique opportunity to watch the Bournemouth Air Festival from the English Channel.

Small ship cruise line Voyages of Antiquity will be sailing into the UK for the first time with Aegean Odyssey’s itinerary focusing on the rich history and beautiful scenery; Europa 2 will offer two around-Britain summer cruises and so too will MSC Splendida – this will be the first time MSC has seen one of its biggest Fantasia class ships in the UK. Princess Cruises’ Caribbean Princess will sail on a 12-night round-trip from Southampton on August 12 which will include the military tattoo.

With current volatile situations, and others emerging, reassurance regarding world cruising comes from the cruise lines’ association which highlights that cruise ships can quickly change itineraries.

A spokesperson for CLIA said: “Across the globe, including areas such as North Africa, cruise lines closely cooperate with local authorities on security matters.

“The safety and security of passengers and crew is the industry’s highest priority and port and onshore facilities and infrastructure are rigorously and continually scrutinised.

“Should safety concerns arise, cruise ships have the flexibility to make last minute itinerary alterations in order to avoid high risk areas.”

stay A BIT LONGER



Combining a cruise with a land stay offers the best of all worlds. Not only do you get a good-value holiday at sea but also time to explore in and around your departure port

The options for cruise-and-stay holidays are endless. You could have a few nights in popular cities such as Barcelona, New York or Hong Kong at the start or end of a holiday at sea, or add a week in the Caribbean to a voyage around the West Indies.

You can tack a week at the theme parks of Florida to a Caribbean cruise departing from Port Canaveral, or tour India's Golden Triangle before joining a cruise from Mumbai.

The days on land will open up a new range of sights and experiences. If you've never cruised, and are still not sure whether it's right for you, it's a perfect way to hedge your bets as you get to try a holiday at sea without spending your time aboard a ship. And of course it is a perfect compromise for families or couples who can't agree whether to cruise or stay.

The easiest cruise-and-stay destinations are those that are close to

popular embarkation and disembarkation ports and have a good range of hotels, varied local attractions and comprehensive air links.

There are plenty of cruise-and-stay hot spots around the Mediterranean to consider. Barcelona, Venice, Athens and Istanbul are all popular departure ports, and all offer plenty to keep you enthralled during a few days ashore. Rome is another top choice. Its fabulous sights and shopping can be paired with one of the many cruises starting and ending in the port of Civitavecchia, just two hours outside the city.

In the Caribbean, consider a cruise from Barbados with a few nights on land. If you're feeling flush, Port Ferdinand is a new resort-cum-residential property that has set new standards of luxury on the island. With more companies basing ships in Cuba (think MSC Cruises, Celestyal Cruises and Variety Cruises) a cruise coupled with a few nights in Havana is a

perfect break.

In the Far East, cities such as Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok are exciting and exotic, and full of attractions, but also major cruise hubs.

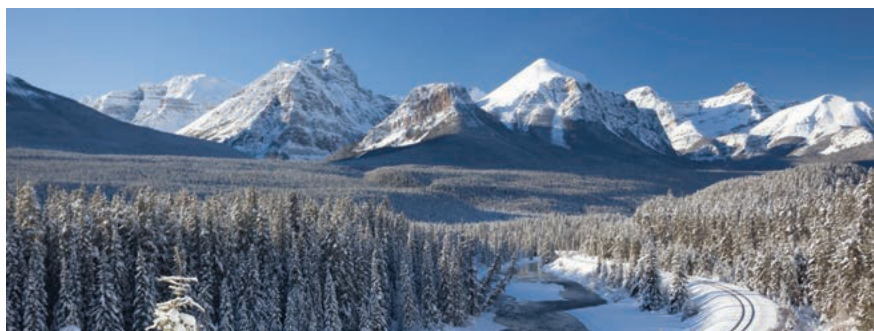
Several cruise lines feature hotels on their websites and in brochures, making it easy to add a few nights to cruise bookings, but shop around because a few also include a city stay with the cruise. Regent Seven Seas Cruises includes one night in a hotel before each of its voyages; Voyages to Antiquity usually includes a couple of days at the cities either end of its cruise itineraries.

Thomson Cruises has a huge range of cruise-and-stay holidays built around its departure ports in the Caribbean and Mediterranean and, new from autumn 2016, in Dubai.

You could also consider linking a cruise with one of the world's many iconic train journeys, for instance riding the Trans-Andean railway through Ecuador before joining a cruise around the Galapagos Islands or sailing across the Atlantic to New York before jumping on a train to San Francisco.

One of the most popular options is to package a ride through the Canadian Rockies on the Rocky Mountaineer with a cruise in Alaska. If time is on your side, choose a one-way cruise to the 49th state and stay a few nights in Alaska itself.

You can enjoy a night travelling through Europe on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express to join a cruise from Venice, twin a ride on the Bergen Line with a voyage around the Norwegian fjords or combine a picturesque rail journey through the Scottish Highlands with a cruise to the Western Isles. ⚓



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DON'T *fly* JUST *sail*

Did you know that almost as many people cruise from British ports as catch a plane to join their ship abroad?



There are plenty of good reasons to set sail from British shores. There are no flights to pay for, you don't have to hang around at airports for hours before departure, or worry about delays or cancellations.

There are no luggage weight restrictions. You just drive to the departure port, hand your bags over to the crew (who will deliver it to your cabin), check in and embark your ship. The holiday starts right away.

Two hours after arriving at the port, you'll have found your cabin and be out exploring the ship and enjoying lunch, afternoon tea or a cocktail or two.

Twenty years ago, if you wanted to sail from the UK, your choice was limited - a traditional British cruise with P&O Cruises or Fred. Olsen, or Cunard's formal Anglo-American style. Fast forward to 2016 and 16 cruise lines are offering no-fly cruises from the UK and a variety of cruising experiences (see chart).

There are the formal British voyages still from the likes of P&O, Fred. Olsen and Cruise & Maritime Voyages, a new firm launched in 2010, but also more casual American cruise lines, and companies offering cultural voyages, with guest lecturers replacing the

ubiquitous evening song, dance and comedy shows in the theatre.

There are large family-friendly floating resort-style ships, adults-only vessels and luxurious craft that include drinks and gratuities in the price. Those in search of a more cultural experience will find something to suit as well.

The choice of places to go is even greater. You can cruise from the UK to the Mediterranean, Aegean, Norwegian fjords, Baltic and Canary Islands. There are itineraries that take you around Britain, to Iceland, Spitsbergen and Russia's White Sea. And if time is on your side, there are long voyages to the Caribbean, the Amazon and around the world (see p22-23).

Most no-fly cruises depart from Southampton, but Dover is a popular port and a few cruise lines use Portsmouth. Recognising that not everyone lives in the south, Cruise & Maritime and Fred. Olsen have departures from regional ports including Tilbury, Liverpool, Newcastle, Greenwich, Leith and Rosyth (for Edinburgh), Harwich, Hull, Bristol Avonmouth and Belfast. New for 2016 Fred. Olsen has a couple of departures from Falmouth in Cornwall. ⚓

CRUISE LINES WITH VOYAGES FROM THE UK IN 2016

Azamara Club Cruises ♦ Celebrity Cruises ♦ Cruise & Maritime Voyages ♦ Crystal Cruises ♦ Cunard ♦ Disney Cruise Line ♦ Fred. Olsen
Hebridean Island Cruises ♦ Oceania Cruises ♦ P&O Cruises ♦ Princess Cruises
Regent Seven Seas Cruises ♦ Royal Caribbean International ♦ Saga Cruises ♦ Seabourn
Swan Hellenic ♦ Voyages of Discovery
♦ Voyages to Antiquity

STYLE?

BRITISH

Cruise & Maritime Voyages ♦ Fred. Olsen
Hebridean Island Cruises ♦ P&O Cruises
Saga Cruises ♦ Swan Hellenic ♦ Voyages of Discovery

AMERICAN

Azamara Club Cruises ♦ Celebrity Cruises ♦ Crystal Cruises ♦ Oceania Cruises
Princess Cruises
Regent Seven Seas Cruises
Royal Caribbean International ♦ Seabourn

ANGLO-AMERICAN

Cunard (British ambiance, dollar currency)

CULTURAL CRUISE LINES

Swan Hellenic ♦ Voyages of Discovery
Voyages to Antiquity

LUXURY/ULTRA-LUXURY

Celebrity Cruises ♦ Crystal Cruises
Cunard ♦ Oceania Cruises
Regent Seven Seas Cruises ♦ Seabourn

BEST FOR?

FAMILIES

Celebrity Cruises ♦ Cunard ♦ Disney Cruise Line
P&O Cruises ♦ Princess Cruises
Royal Caribbean International

COUPLES 30-PLUS

Celebrity Cruises ♦ Crystal Cruises
Oceania Cruises ♦ Princess Cruises
Regent Seven Seas Cruises
Royal Caribbean International ♦ Seabourn

ADULTS-ONLY

Cruise & Maritime Voyages ♦ P&O Cruises
Saga Cruises

COUPLES 55-PLUS

Cruise & Maritime Voyages ♦ Crystal Cruises
Cunard ♦ Fred. Olsen ♦ Hebridean Island Cruises
Oceania Cruises ♦ P&O Cruises ♦ Princess Cruises
Regent Seven Seas Cruises ♦ Saga Cruises
Seabourn ♦ Swan Hellenic
Voyages of Discovery

IT'S *showtime!*

Prepare to be dazzled by the wealth of entertainment on cruise ships these days



Cruise ship entertainment has come a long way since the variety-type shows of old, with Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, We Will Rock You and Mamma Mia among the top-selling musicals you can now enjoy at sea.

The change has been revolutionary and not just confined to the song and dance shows. Royal Caribbean International's Oasis, Allure and Harmony of the Seas, for instance, have an AquaTheatre that stages thrilling displays of high dives and aquabatics.

The company's new Quantum-class ships (Quantum, Anthem and Ovation of the Seas) each have a venue called Two70 - a relaxing hangout by day and high-tech show lounge in the evening with a video wall and even six robot-controlled 'dancing' screens. These ships also have skydiving simulators, dodgem cars and roller-skating, as well as a FlowRider surf simulator.

Musical attractions are a popular theme. Stroll through the Music Walk on Koningsdam, a new Holland America Line ship launching in April 2016, and



you can get with it in the BB King Blues Club, listen to chamber music in Lincoln Centre Stage and bop till you drop to live chart-toppers in Billboard Onboard.

Crystal Cruises has Imagine, a show performed in total darkness (no one is allowed to enter once it has started) with dancers dressed in black costumes fitted

with wireless lights that switch on and off so they appear and disappear. New on Norwegian Epic, Beatles tribute bands will be performing in the first Cavern Club at sea.

P&O Cruises has professionals from Strictly Come Dancing on selected departures; on Princess Cruises' ships the passengers themselves are the entertainment in an at sea version of The Voice. It launched on three ships in autumn 2015 and is being rolled out across the fleet between January and May 2016.

Carnival Cruise Lines has Carnival Live!, a concert series featuring well-known acts such as Heart and Lionel Richie. They fly in, perform their gig in the theatres on selected Carnival ships (there is a price for seats) and then head off again.

If something more scholarly appeals, entertainment on Swan Hellenic and Voyages to Antiquity means lectures by eminent professors, religious leaders and military experts. Seabourn's Conversations programme features historians, business leaders, artists, scientists and diplomats. 

WHAT WOULD YOUR INNER EXPLORER

rather be doing now?

Cruising among the marble-blue icebergs of Antarctica?

Polar bear watching in Spitsbergen?

Being mesmerised by the Northern Lights in Norway?



*Awaken
your inner
explorer*

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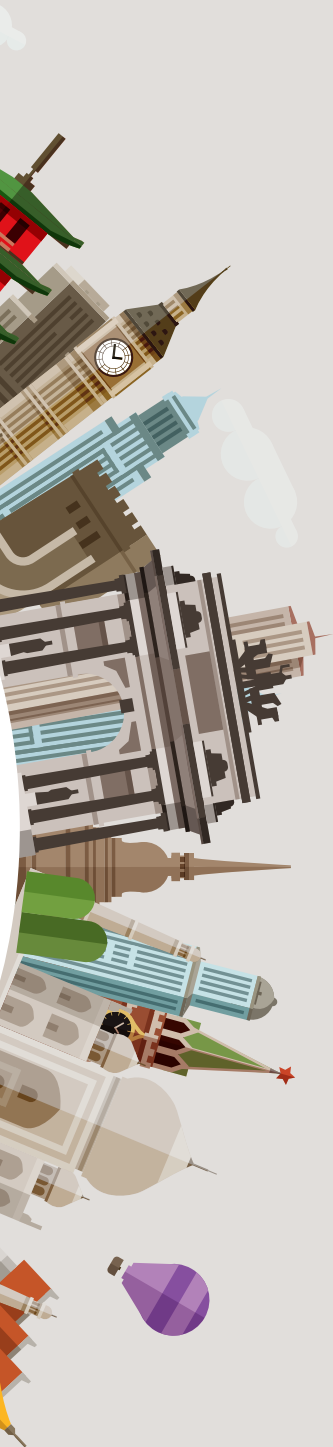
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A *world* OF CHOICE

There's a world of difference between a weekend break cruise and a once-in-a-lifetime world voyage. We put ourselves in the shoes of a passenger on each to highlight the contrasts

By **DANIELLE FEAR**



IS A WEEKEND BREAK THE BEST WAY TO SAMPLE CRUISING?

Embarking on a 2, 3 or 4-night mini-cruise can be a great way to sample a holiday at sea but it might not give a true picture of a full-length cruise.

I am aboard a cruise ship for the first time and ready to see what a holiday at sea is all about. I have a beautiful room with a balcony, although I am told that it is referred to as a stateroom. The dining options are incredibly varied; I can have a fine dining experience for no extra charge or opt for something more casual in the buffet; and the drinks prices seem to be reasonable, just £4.25 for a fruity cocktail. My cruise spends a day in port at Bruges.

I feel like I have made the perfect choice for sampling ship life. I sit back and relax with a Mojito, watching the sunset on the horizon and enjoying the sounds of the live band as we sail from Southampton. I have only been on board several hours, but already I am starting to feel myself being consumed by everything that is on offer and I like that feeling. Later, I may even browse future cruise potential – that would be voyages, not men.

My enthusiasm, however, is short-lived. The last thing I wanted to see was a group of half-naked, intoxicated young women, but that is exactly what

I was faced with as a gaggle of hen parties got into full swing. I had enjoyed Beef Wellington in the main dining room and was looking forward to a few drinks in one of the lounges when the young boots appeared and sent me scurrying in search of somewhere more peaceful.

This is not what I can expect from a two-week summer cruise around the Mediterranean, however. I have already met some very nice fellow-passengers and we might even book another holiday before we return home.

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT BOOKING A MINI-CRUISE?

- ◆ An affordable option for a weekend break
- ◆ A chance to sample the varied dining options
- ◆ Evening entertainment
- ◆ 1, 2 or even 3 destinations and only unpacking once
- ◆ Wide variety of ships to choose from
- ◆ Great last-minute getaway option
- ◆ Easily accessible embarkation ports
- ◆ A chance to see what accommodation level works well for you
- ◆ Duty-free shopping





Bruges

→ WHAT'S BAD ABOUT BOOKING A MINI-CRUISE?

- ◆ Some can turn into 2-night parties at sea
- ◆ Stag and hen groups often use cheap weekend options
- ◆ Not a true overall representation of what cruising is like
- ◆ Can be expensive depending on the time of year
- ◆ Crew can sometimes be less attentive



SAMPLE CRUISES

P&O Cruises Ventura 4-nights. 15 Feb to 19 Feb 2016. Balcony from £419pp

Southampton – Amsterdam – Bruges – Southampton

Celebrity Cruises Celebrity Eclipse 2-nights. 8

May to 10 May 2016. Inside from £299pp

Southampton – Le Havre – Southampton

Cunard Queen Elizabeth 4-nights. 10 May to 14

May 2016. Balcony from £489pp

Southampton – Hamburg – Southampton

Cunard Queen Victoria 4-nights. 5 June to 9 June

2016. Balcony from £449pp

Southampton – Zeebrugge – Southampton

RCI Harmony of the Seas 3-nights. 26 May to 29

May 2016. Oceanview from £449pp

Southampton – Cherbourg – Southampton

RCI Ovation of the Seas 5-nights. 17 Apr to 22 Apr

2016. Inside from £699pp

Southampton – Cherbourg – Le Havre – Zeebrugge –

Southampton

Fred. Olsen Black Watch 3-nights. 5 Jan to 8 Jan

2016. Outside from £179pp

Liverpool – Dublin – Southampton

Fred. Olsen Braemar 3-nights. 27 Aug to 30 Aug

2016. Inside from £349pp

Southampton – Rouen – Southampton

IS IT WISE TO BOOK A 3-MONTH WORLD VOYAGE IF YOU HAVE NEVER CRUISED BEFORE?

A world cruise is one of life's ultimate travel luxuries. You pack your luggage, enough to cover three months and various weather conditions, and off you go on one of the most impressive journeys imaginable. It's something that many people spend their lives working towards, but most of those people have at least tried cruising BEFORE they decide to set sail for three months.

What a marvellous way to see the world. I had never done a cruise before, I hadn't even stepped aboard anything that floats, other than the channel ferry, but I had found myself dreaming many times of foreign lands and new-found friends.

So, here I am, four weeks in to what I had expected would be the most incredible journey of my life. Our ports of call thus far have been wonderful, San Francisco being my absolute favourite, but there are many days spent at sea and when you have an inside cabin without a window, your world starts to feel a little claustrophobic. Compared with a two-week holiday world cruises have a disproportionate amount of sea days to port days. I didn't see it when I booked, I was too engrossed in where I was going and what I could do, but now I am here I see and feel it.

Many of my new friends don't have an issue with our sea days, they are used to being aboard ship and sailing the world's oceans (and clearly much wiser than me), but for me it has come as a bit of a surprise.

The ship is absolutely superb, I couldn't have picked a finer vessel and the crew are very attentive. The food has also been very good, I tried sushi for the very first time several evenings ago and that was, well, it was interesting, but in a good way.

If I could go back in time then I would probably do things a little differently. Taking a much shorter cruise to begin with would have been a sensible

idea, to test the water (pardon the pun). I'd then have known to book a cabin with, at the very least, a window.

I am sure the rest of my adventure will be a pleasant one in all, but I do worry about cabin fever... not to mention the bar charges that I seem to be racking up on my account – it's not quite as easy to have a nightcap every evening when it is charged at £4 a glass and I am on board for another 60-nights. At least when I disembark I can say that I am a real worldie.

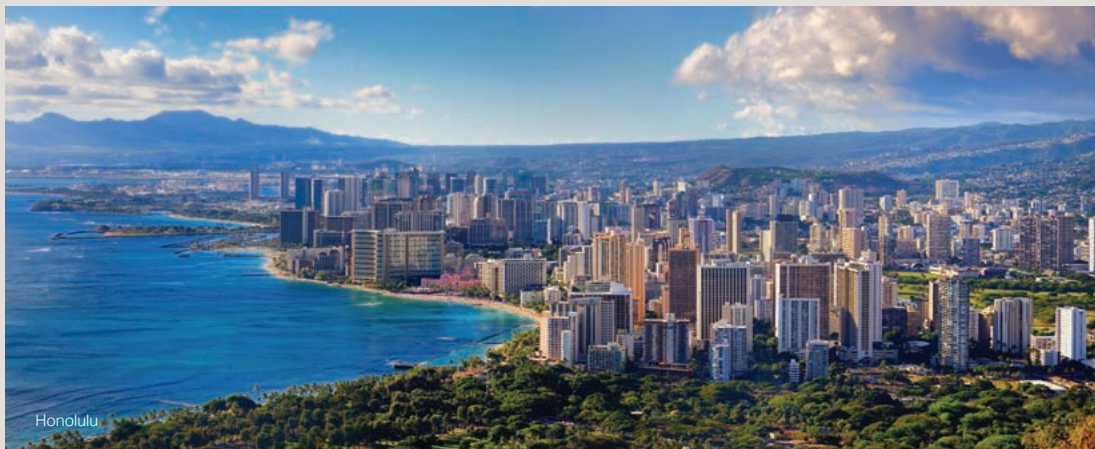
World cruise sectors are also a popular option for those that want to experience the grandeur and atmosphere of a world cruise, but not necessarily do the entire voyage. World cruise sectors can range from 14 to 32 nights and more.

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT BOOKING A WORLD CRUISE?

- ◆ A chance to meet a lot of new and interesting people
- ◆ Seeing the world in one incredible voyage
- ◆ Only having to unpack once
- ◆ Instant bragging rights on future cruises
- ◆ Huge choice of excursion options
- ◆ Highly attentive crew
- ◆ Instantly climb the ranks in the cruise line loyalty club
- ◆ Once in a life-time opportunity

WHAT'S BAD ABOUT BOOKING A WORLD CRUISE?

- ◆ Lots of sea days
- ◆ The sense of "cabin fever" if you are not used to being on a ship
- ◆ Potentially high cabin bill
- ◆ Long time away from home



SAMPLE CRUISES

Cunard Queen Mary 2 120-nights. 10 Jan to 10 May 2016. Balcony from £18,149pp

Cunard Queen Elizabeth 121-nights. 10 Jan to 10 May 2016. Balcony from £18,879pp

Cunard Queen Victoria 120-nights. 10 Jan to 10 May 2016. Balcony from £12,899

Oceania Cruises Oceania Insignia 180 day voyage. 6 Jan to 6 July 2017. Ocean view from £29,229

Miami, George Town, Cayman Islands, Cartagena, Colombia, Panama Canal Daylight Transit, Golfo, Puntarenas, Corinto, Puerto Quetzal, Acapulco, Cabo San Lucas, San Diego, Hilo, Honolulu, Nawiliwili, Nuku Hiva, Rangiroa, Papeete (Tahiti), Bora Bora, Pago Pago, Suva, Lautoka, Port Vila, Noumea, Norfolk Island Australia, Auckland, Gisborne, Wellington, Picton, Akaroa, Dunedin, Cruising the Fjords of Milford Sound, Eden, Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Cooktown, Darwin, Komodo, Bali (Benoa), Semarang (Java), Kuching (Borneo), Muara, Kota Kinabalu (Borneo), Manila, Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Hanoi (Ha Long Bay), Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Bangkok, Ko Samui, Singapore, Phuket, Rangoon, Cochin (Kochi), Mangalore, Goa (Mormugao), Mumbai, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Fujairah, Muscat, Salalah, Aqaba, Luxor (Safaga), Sharm El Sheikh, Suez Canal Transit, Jerusalem (Haifa), Alanya, Kos, Catania, Gaeta, Rome (Civitavecchia), Barcelona, Alicante, Almeria, Gibraltar, Seville (Cadiz), Lisbon, Oporto, La Coruna, Biarritz (Saint-Jean-de-Luz), Bordeaux (Le Verdon), Lorient, Belfast, Dublin, Cork (Cobh), Saint-Pierre, Corner Brook, Trois-Rivieres, Montreal, Quebec City, Sept-Iles, Halifax, Canada, Bar Harbor, Boston, New York, St. George, Charleston, Miami

Silversea Silver Whisper 116-days. 6 Jan to 3 May 2017. Medallion Suite from £86,850pp
San Francisco, Hilo, Lahaina, Honolulu, Apia, Somoa Islands, Nuku'alofa, Auckland, Tauranga, Gisborne, Wellington, Nelson, New Plymouth, Newcastle, Sydney, Burnie, Melbourne, Adelaide, Fremantle, Geraldton, Exmouth, Benoa, Celukan, Sandakan, Boracay, Manila, Kaohsiung, Keelung (Taipei), Shanghai, Hong Kong, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok (Klong Toey), Ko Samui, Singapore Port Klang (Kuala Lumpur), Penang, Phuket, Sabang, Colombo, Cochin, Mumbai, Fujairah, Abu Dhabi, Sir Bani Yas, Doha, Dubai, Muscat, Salalah, Safaga, Aqaba, Sharm El Sheikh, Suez Canal Transit, Port Said, Alexandria, Piraeus (Athens), Nafplion, Valletta, Siracusa, Lipari, Sorrento, Civitavecchia (Rome), Monte Carlo

P&O Cruises Aurora 104-nights. 9 Jan to 22 Apr 2017. Inside cabin from £9,699pp
Southampton, Malta GC, Suez, Port Said, Suez Canal, Sharm El Sheikh, Aqaba, Safaga, Salalah, Muscat, Dubai, Dubai, Mumbai, Cochin, Colombo, Penang, Singapore, Singapore, Semarang, Bali, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Sydney, Dusky Sound, Doubtful Sound, Milford Sound, Dunedin - New Zealand, Akaroa, Wellington - New Zealand, Tauranga, Auckland, Lautoka, International Date Line, Apia, Upolu - Western Samoa, Honolulu, Hawaii, San Francisco, San Francisco, San Diego, Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Quetzal, Full transit Panama Canal, Cartagena - Columbia, St. Lucia, Barbados, Ponta Delgada, Southampton

P&O Cruises Arcadia 114-nights. 2 Jan to 27 April 2017. Inside cabin from £10,699pp

Southampton, Madeira, Barbados, Curacao, Full transit Panama Canal, Huatulco - Mexico, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Francisco, Honolulu, Hawaii, Bora Bora, Papeete, International Date Line, Auckland, Auckland, Napier, Wellington - New Zealand, Sydney, Sydney, Brisbane, Yorkeys Knob, Alotau, Okinawa, Osaka, tours to Kyoto - Japan, Nagasaki - Japan, Busan - South Korea, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Nha Trang, Phu My, Laem Chabang, Singapore, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Phuket, Colombo, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Aqaba, Port Said, Suez Canal, Suez, Cruise by Dardanelles, Istanbul, Cruise by Dardanelles, Malta GC, Lisbon, Southampton

Regent Seven Seas Cruises Seven Seas

Navigator 128-nights. 5 Jan to 13 May 2017.

Deluxe Window Suite from £38,199pp

Miami, George Town, Cartagena, Panama Canal, Golfo, Costa Rica, Puntarenas, Corinto, Puerto Quetzal, Acapulco, Cabo San Lucas, San Diego, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Lahaina, Maui, Nawiliwili, Hilo, Nuku Hiva, Rangiroa, Papeete, Bora Bora, Pago Pago, Suva, Lautoka, Bay of Islands, Auckland, Rotorua (Tauranga), Napier, Wellington, Akaroa, Dunedin, Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Cooktown, Darwin, Komodo, Bali (Benoa), Singapore, Phuket, Yangon (Burma), Cochin (Kochi), Mangalore, Goa (Mormugao), Mumbai (Bombay), Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Salalah, Aqaba, Luxor (Safaga), Suez Canal transit, Jerusalem, Limassol, Rhodes, Istanbul, Zakynthos, Rome, Monte Carlo, Provence (Marseille), Barcelona, Gibraltar, Seville, Lisbon, Funchal, Hamilton, Miami

Cruise & Maritime Voyages Magellan 120-nights.

5 Jan to 5 May 2017. Ocean view from £10,999pp
London Tilbury, Amsterdam, Ponta Delgada, Bridgetown, Willemstad, Oranjestad, Aruba, Cristobal, Panama, Transit Panama Canal, Balboa, Acapulco, Nuku Hiva, Papeete, Bora Bora, Rarotonga, Auckland, Wellington, Sydney, Hamilton Island, Townsville, Cairns, Darwin, Komodo Island, Bali, Semarang, Jakarta, Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei), Kota Kinabalu, Manila, Hong Kong, Halong Bay, Chan May (for Da Nang), Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Port Kelang, Penang, Phuket, Chennai (Madras), Colombo, Male, Salalah, Safaga, Aqaba, Transit the Suez Canal, Ashdod, Piraeus, Valletta, Gibraltar, Lisbon, London Tilbury





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TAKING THE *kids*

Fancy a family holiday that visits a different destination every day, and has a choice of places to eat, kids' clubs and activities galore – and all for no extra cost?

If you thought cruising was only for old people, think again. Around 1.5 million youngsters aged 17 and under go on a cruise each year, some 85,000 of them from the UK, because it is such a fantastic holiday for families.

Check out the large resort-style vessels and you'll discover wall-to-wall childcare that caters for all ages, from tiny tots to world-weary teenagers, in nurseries, kids' clubs and teen hangouts, and a host of onboard attractions.

There's everything from climbing walls and dodgem cars to ice-skating rinks, water slides and flight simulators, plus the chance to breakfast with Mickey and friends aboard Disney Cruise Line ships or Shrek and other DreamWorks characters on Royal Caribbean International's Oasis, Allure and Quantum of the Seas. They will also be on Anthem of the Seas from November.

The resort-style ships also have a variety of family-friendly accommodation, from family cabins with sofa beds or bunks that drop down from the ceiling to inter-connecting cabins and suites.

IT'S AN AGE THING

A few lines take youngsters from six months upwards, though Disney Cruise Line takes tots aged from just three months. They are catered for in onboard nurseries, parent and baby play areas and with babysitting sessions, though these may carry a charge, especially late at night.

Children are generally not accepted into kids' clubs unaccompanied until they are three years old, and most require them

to be toilet trained; if your child is not, expect to be summoned when their nappy needs changing.

Clubs are divided into different age groups, roughly along the lines of two to five, six to eight, and nine to 12, offering an action-packed programme of activities that includes pizza-making classes, ice-cream parties and sporting challenges.

Some ships also have water-themed play areas and toddler pools, outdoor play areas attached to the kids' clubs and sections in the buffet restaurants for young diners.

Teens aged 13 to 17 are either grouped together or split into two groups, with "tweens" aged 12 to 14 and teens aged 15 to 17. They can enjoy adult-free areas with comfy sofas, plasma-screen TVs, video game consoles with the latest PlayStation games, and Wii gaming areas.

Some lines leave youngsters to chill out and do their own thing, while others arrange dance classes, talent contests and parties. On some ships, teens can even enjoy their own spa treatments.

All kids' clubs are free of charge during sea days; on port days some stay shut while others charge a child-minding fee. Late evening sessions, which can run into the early hours, also carry a charge.

While the larger mass-market ships offer the best facilities, upmarket lines such as Crystal Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises also have their own youth programmes. And if your children are more gregarious, it might be worth considering one of Star Clippers' tall ships, where youngsters (think eight years or older) can enjoy hauling up the sails





and climbing the mast to the Crow's Nest, along with visits to deserted beaches and kayaking trips.

ALL AT SEA

The one word you'll never hear on the modern family ships is 'bored' as these vessels are packed to the funnels with things to do.

There are AquaDuck water coasters on Disney Cruise Line's Disney Dream and Disney Fantasy. Norwegian Cruise Line has wild water slides on its newer vessels and Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas will be fitted with a trio of water slides during a makeover in February 2016. Harmony of the Seas, a new Royal Caribbean ship launching in next May, will also have a flume trinity – Supercell, Typhoon and Cyclone, together called the Perfect Storm.

But there's plenty of other exciting stuff to keep the itchiest of feet busy. Carnival and Norwegian ships have ropes courses, Royal Caribbean has climbing walls and surf simulators, and its Quantum-class ships even have dodgem cars and a skydiving simulator.

Princess Cruises and P&O Cruises

have giant on-deck movie screens where children can catch a film while playing in the pool, MSC Cruises' biggest ships have Formula 1 simulators and 4D cinemas.

Parents aren't forgotten either. Most child-friendly ships have adult-only areas where couples can grab some "me" time, as well as sumptuous spas and à la carte restaurants where they can enjoy a meal for two while the children are having fun in the kids' clubs.

LAND AHOY

On port days you can do as much or as little as you want. Parents with young children sometimes find it easier and more relaxing to stay on the ship and enjoy having the pool almost to themselves.

Some cruise lines allow parents to leave their children in the kids' clubs while they go ashore, but if you want to go together there are family-friendly trips to water parks, bike rides or whale-watching excursions. A few companies even offer teen-only outings ashore.

The Mediterranean is a popular family choice as it is a short flight from the UK and has a wealth of fun days out. If you don't want to fly, there are plenty of cruises from the UK.

Further afield, the Caribbean offers a tropical alternative and more relaxed pace, but bear in mind it's a long flight time of around nine hours. Alaska is fun for older children thanks to adventurous activities such as bear-spotting and whale-watching, climbing glaciers or snowmobiling. ⚓





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There are river cruises, and there are Uniworld Boutique River Cruises



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| Sumptuous interiors designed by Red Carnation Hotels | | • |
| River-view staterooms | • | • |
| The best river-view staterooms as acclaimed by Zagat Survey | | • |
| Onboard fine dining | • | • |
| The best onboard fine dining as acclaimed by Zagat Survey | | • |
| Included shore excursions | • | • |
| A choice of included shore excursions at every major port | | • |
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| Comfortable transfers to and from the ship | • | • |
| Early booking discounts | • | • |
| PLUS River Heritage Club discounts for past travellers | | • |

THE *facts* AND

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) makes a habit of producing statistics to support its members and show how successful cruising is as a holiday choice. Its 2016 State of the Cruise Industry Outlook reveals global cruise travel is continuing to grow and evolve at a record pace.

The industry shows no signs of slowing down, with nearly 24 million passengers expected to take a cruise in 2016, a dramatic increase from 15 million just 10 years prior (2006), or even 1.4 million when CLIA began tracking passengers in 1980.

CLIA also revealed its member cruise lines are scheduled to launch 27 new ocean, river and specialty ships in 2016, representing a total investment of more than \$6.5 billion in new ocean vessels alone.

"In an effort to make cruises the best overall holiday experience available, the

industry is continuing to evolve to ensure there truly is a cruise for every travel style and budget," said Cindy D'Aoust, CLIA's Acting CEO. "By creating unique ships, new experiences and access to destinations around the world, the evolution, appeal and value of cruise travel continues to drive the overall growth of the industry."

Cruising also generates a substantial positive economic impact globally. In 2014, cruise industry expenditures generated \$119.9 billion in total output worldwide, supporting 939,232 full-time equivalent employees who earned \$39.3 billion in income.

Here are the 'Lucky 13 Cruise Industry Trends' showcasing how the cruise industry has transformed to meet the styles and preferences of today's traveller:

1 Rise of the River Cruise River cruises are growing in popularity, introducing the value and unique travel experience

to new cruise travellers. CLIA cruise line members currently operate 170 river cruise ships, with 18 new river cruise ships on order for 2016 - an increase of more than 10 per cent.

2 More Ships, More Options In 2015, there are a total of 471 cruise ships* in operation with an additional 27 new ocean, river and specialty ships scheduled to launch in 2016.

3 On the Map Five years ago, cruise travel was almost unheard of in Asia. Today, the region is the fastest growing in the cruise industry. Between 2012 and 2014, passenger volume grew from 775,000 to nearly 1.4 million passengers, a 34 per cent compound annual growth rate.

4 G'Day for a Cruise While Asia continues to grow rapidly, Australia also continues to experience record growth. In fact, Australia's cruise industry surpassed a major milestone in 2014, exceeding more than one million

2016 CRUISE INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Global fleet

471 SHIPS

301
ocean

170
river

27 NEW SHIPS ON ORDER

9
ocean

18
river

28,566
new beds

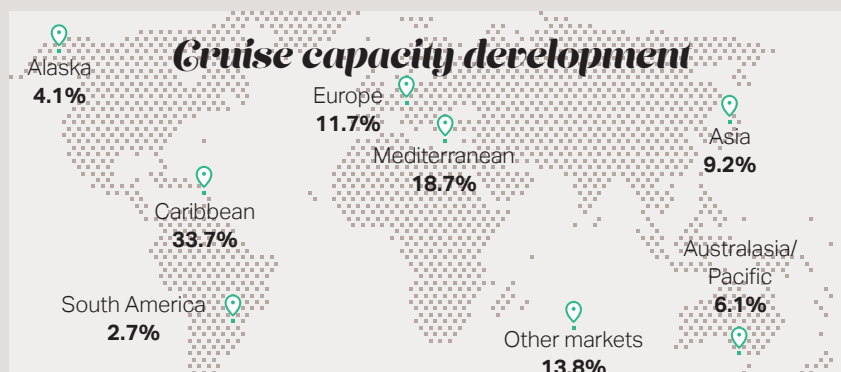
A TOTAL INVESTMENT
IN 2016 OF MORE THAN
\$6.5 BILLION IN NEW
OCEAN VESSELS ALONE

Ocean passenger volume

24
MILLION

8/10

CLIA MEMBER BASED
TRAVEL AGENTS STATED
THEY ARE EXPECTING
AN INCREASE IN SALES



2016 forecast based upon historical relationship between yearly capacity increase and yearly passenger increase CLIA 2015 - Capacity, Deployment & Orderbook Report - September 2015; Cruise Outlook Survey - Travel Agent Research Panel - November 2015 Cruising.org

figures

Statistics show how cruising is more popular, and attracting passengers in record numbers

passengers in a calendar year. In ten years, Australia's cruise passengers have grown more than six-fold, from a base of 158,000 in 2004.

5 Cruise Specialists The cruise industry continues to call on the expertise of cruise specialist travel agents to help guide travel decisions. There are more than 30,000 CLIA-member travel agents globally.

6 Connectivity and Cruising The cruise industry has made consumers' desire to stay connected while traveling a priority. Most of today's cruises offer Wi-Fi, onboard texting and data options.

7 A Love for Luxe The desire for luxury travel continues to rise. Specialty cruise lines are responding with options including yachting experiences, concierge services, exclusive tours, gourmet dining and personal butler service.

8 Brands at Sea Cruise lines are leveraging the cross-promotional

appeal of brands to appeal to new cruise travellers. From family-friendly household names like LEGO and Dr. Seuss, to upscale luxury brands like Hermes and Veuve Clicquot champagne, and even dining options like Johnny Rockets and Margaritaville, brands are setting sail on cruise lines.

9 Ships Are the Destination While cruise ships were once considered a mode of transportation to get to a desired destination, today, for many, a cruise ship offers the experience of a destination. Today's latest ships offer unprecedented onboard experiences and amenities for travellers, from Broadway productions and designer shops to zip lining and bumper cars.

10 Stay the Night Many cruise lines are offering overnight stays at designated ports of call to give cruise passengers an opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the experiences available at the destination.

11 Grand(parent) Travel Experiences Intergenerational cruising has become a popular selection for family reunions or the family holiday of a lifetime. Cruises provide the togetherness (and the independence) that makes intergenerational family travel a success.

12 Cruise Voluntourism More 'voluntourism' cruises are available in 2016 with several ships including excursions to help areas of need around the world. These service-oriented cruises offer a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the communities cruise ships visit, and a rare experience to embrace and impact the local culture.

13 Culturally Customised Cruise lines are continuing to customise cruise ships based upon passenger cultures. From shopping and dining preferences, vessels are being outfitted to serve guests as well as pay homage to their ports of call. ⚓



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CRUISE SHIP *directory*

Our annual Cruise Planner is an at-a-glance guide to all the major lines and their ships, offering a simple way to select the right voyage and vessel for YOU. Our detail includes all the basic information on ship size, style and quality.

HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

SHIP TYPE is a guide towards the onboard style, which can be categorised as: Resort (a modern ship with the latest resort-style features); Classic (an older ship with fewer mod cons and more traditional feel); Boutique (a small specialist ship, usually offering upmarket service and cuisine); and Adventure (a more basic style geared towards expedition-style voyaging to more far-flung destinations).

SPACE RATIO (SR) indicates the relative space per passenger on each ship. The higher the ratio, the more spacious the ship. It is calculated by dividing the ship's **TONNAGE** (a measure of a cubic capacity rather than weight) by the number of passengers.

PASSENGER and **CREW** numbers help to provide a clear idea of the capacity of each ship, if full, and the ratio of passengers to crew; the closer the ratio, the better the service you can expect. Passenger numbers are calculated on the basis of two per cabin (apart from single cabins). Most ships have a higher maximum capacity if all additional berths are occupied).

STAR RATINGS are the subjective view of the World of Cruising team and indicative of relative standards. The higher the rating, the higher the overall standard. The highest rating we confer is 6-star, which takes into account a ship's qualities for hardware, service, cuisine, entertainment and satisfaction level. These ratings are compiled by our writers, researchers and from consumer feedback. The majority of ships are in the four and five-star categories.



WHO *sails* WHERE

CRUISE LINE		Alaska	Antarctica	Asia	Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific	Baltic	
Azamara Club Cruises	www.azamaraclubcruises.co.uk			✳	✳	✳	
Carnival Cruise Lines	www.carnival.co.uk	✳					
Celebrity Cruises	www.celebritycruises.co.uk	✳		✳	✳	✳	
Celestyal Cruises	www.celestyalcruises.com						
Costa Cruises	www.costacruises.co.uk			✳		✳	
Cruise & Maritime Voyages	www.cruiseandmartitime.com				✳	✳	
Crystal Cruises	www.crystalcruises.co.uk	✳	✳	✳	✳	✳	
Cunard Cruises	www.cunard.co.uk			✳	✳	✳	
Disney Cruise Line	www.disneycruiseline.com	✳					
Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines	www.fredolsencruises.com					✳	
Hapag-Lloyd Cruises	www.hl-cruises.com		✳	✳	✳	✳	
Hebridean Island Cruises	www.hebridean.co.uk						
Holland America Line	www.hollandamerica.com	✳	✳	✳	✳	✳	
Hurtigruten	www.hurtigruten.co.uk		✳				
MSC Cruises	www.msccruises.co.uk					✳	
Norwegian Cruise Line	www.ncl.co.uk	✳		✳		✳	
Oceania Cruises	www.oceaniacruises.com	✳		✳	✳	✳	
P&O Cruises	www.pocruises.com				✳	✳	
Paul Gauguin Cruises	www.pgcrises.com				✳		
Ponant	www.ponant.com	✳	✳	✳		✳	
Princess Cruises	www.princess.com	✳		✳	✳	✳	
Regent Seven Seas Cruises	www.rssc.com	✳		✳		✳	
Royal Caribbean International	www.royalcaribbean.co.uk	✳		✳	✳	✳	
Saga Cruises	www.saga.co.uk/cruises					✳	
Seabourn	www.seabourn.com		✳	✳		✳	
SeaDream Yacht Club	www.seadream.co.uk						
Silversea	www.silversea.com	✳	✳	✳		✳	
Star Clippers	www.starclippers.co.uk			✳			
Swan Hellenic	www.swanhellenic.com					✳	
Thomson Cruises	www.thomson.co.uk/cruises						
Viking Ocean Cruises	www.vikingcruises.co.uk					✳	
Voyages of Discovery	www.voyagesofdiscovery.co.uk			✳			
Voyages to Antiquity	www.voyagestoantiquity.com			✳			
Windstar Cruises	www.windstarcruises.com					✳	

WHO *includes* WHAT

CRUISE LINE		Flights	Transfers	Accommodation	Main meals	
Azamara Club Cruises	www.azamaraclubcruises.co.uk	 				
Carnival Cruise Lines	www.carnival.co.uk	 				
Celebrity Cruises	www.celebritycruises.co.uk	 				
Celestyal Cruises	www.celestyalcruises.com					
Costa Cruises	www.costacruises.co.uk	 	Optional			
Cruise & Maritime Voyages	www.cruiseandmartitime.com					
Crystal Cruises	www.crystalcruises.co.uk	 Selected itineraries	 Selected itineraries			
Cunard Cruises	www.cunard.co.uk	 				
Disney Cruise Line	www.disneycruiseline.com	 				
Fred Olsen Cruise Lines	www.fredolsencruises.com	 				
Hapag-Lloyd Cruises	www.hl-cruises.com	 				
Hebridean Island Cruises	www.hebridean.co.uk					
Holland America Line	www.hollandamerica.com	 				
Hurtigruten	www.hurtigruten.co.uk	 				
MSC Cruises	www.msccruises.co.uk	 				
Norwegian Cruise Line	www.ncl.co.uk	 				
Oceania Cruises	www.oceaniacruises.com					
P&O Cruises	www.pocruises.com	 				
Paul Gauguin Cruises	www.pgcrises.com					
Ponant	www.ponant.com					
Princess Cruises	www.princess.com	 				
Regent Seven Seas Cruises	www.rssc.com					
Royal Caribbean International	www.royalcaribbean.co.uk	 				
Saga Cruises	www.saga.co.uk/cruises	N/A	 UK port transfers			
Seabourn	www.seabourn.com					
SeaDream Yacht Club	www.seadream.co.uk					
Silversea	www.silversea.com					
Star Clippers	www.starclippers.co.uk					
Swan Hellenic	www.swanhellenic.com					
Thomson Cruises	www.thomson.co.uk/cruises					
Viking Ocean Cruises	www.vikingcruises.co.uk					
Voyages of Discovery	www.voyagesofdiscovery.co.uk					
Voyages to Antiquity	www.voyagestoantiquity.com					
Windstar Cruises	www.windstarcruises.com					

✱ Included ✈️ Flycruise or cruise-only prices available 🚗 Transfers included when buying flycruise package

	Speciality dining	Alcoholic drinks	Soft drinks	Bottled water	Wine (or beer/soft drinks) with meals	Gratuities	Shore excursions
	✱ Suite passengers only	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱ One AzAmazing Event per cruise
		✱ Cuba cruises only					✱ Cuba cruises only
						Mandatory	
	✱ First visit only	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	
			✱				
	✱	✱ From mini bar only		✱ On excursions		✱	
		✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
							✱ Expedition cruises only
		Soft and alcoholic drinks included with selected packages					
	✱		✱	✱			
	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	
	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱		
	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
	✱				✱ From April 2016	✱	
	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	
		✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	
	✱ Selected	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱ Expedition cruises only
						✱	✱
						✱	
	✱			✱	✱		✱
	✱					✱	
			✱ In mini bar of balcony cabins only	✱ Balcony cabins only	✱	✱	✱
	✱						



Azamara Club Cruises

Part of the Royal Caribbean group, Azamara provides a more luxurious touch than the company's resort-style ships and the modern elegance of Celebrity. The line has pioneered the concepts of longer stays in port, more overnight stops, and even night touring which have now been widely copied by others. Every cruise includes a spectacular one-of-a-kind Azamazing Evening event. Azamara's two ships were originally the R6 and R7 of Renaissance Cruises and the line is in direct competition with Oceania which itself has four former R ships. Both Quest and Journey will be undergoing extensive – and expensive – dry dock refurbishments in early 2016. In Europe for the summer, they visit Asia, the Caribbean, Panama Canal and South America in winter. Gratuities included, along with soft drinks, beer, wine, and basic spirits. Extra-cost packages are available for premium brands.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Azamara Journey	Small/Premium	2000	686	408	1.68	30,277	44.14	US \$	★★★★
Azamara Quest	Small/Premium	2000	686	408	1.68	30,277	44.14	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.azamaracruises.com @AzamaraVoyages

Carnival Cruise Lines

The world's largest cruise line, Carnival's fleet of 'Fun ships' offers extensive onboard activities and lively evening entertainment, with generous-sized cabins and good children's facilities and programmes. The company's biggest ship to date, Carnival Vista, launches in 2016 and will spend summer cruising the Mediterranean. Popular cuisine, with menus tailored to American tastes and good alternative dining with their steak houses and Cucina del Capitano Italian trattorias, plus branded outlets such as Guy Fieri's Burger Joint and Red Frog pub serving Carnival's own-brand Thirsty RedFrog beer. Live comedy clubs and short, snappy music and dance shows top the entertainment bill, together with brand-name games from the likes of EA Sports and Hasbro. In the Caribbean and Mexican Riviera year-round, but now further afield too, including the Panama Canal, Bermuda, Hawaii and New England/Canada sailings, plus selected summer cruises in the Mediterranean and Alaska. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Carnival Breeze	Large/Resort	2012	3690	1386	2.66	130,000	35.23	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Conquest	Large/Resort	2002	3756	1150	3.27	110,239	29.35	US \$	★★★★+
Carnival Dream	Large/Resort	2009	3646	1367	2.67	128,000	35.11	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Ecstasy	Large/Resort	1991	2675	920	2.91	70,367	26.31	US \$	★★★
Carnival Elation	Large/Resort	1998	2052	920	2.23	70,367	34.29	US \$	★★★
Carnival Fantasy	Large/Resort	1990	2675	920	2.91	70,367	26.31	US \$	★★★
Carnival Fascination	Large/Resort	1994	2675	920	2.91	70,367	26.31	US \$	★★★
Carnival Freedom	Large/Resort	2007	3754	1180	3.18	110,000	29.30	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Glory	Large/Resort	2003	3700	1160	3.19	110,000	29.73	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Imagination	Large/Resort	1995	2056	920	2.23	70,367	34.23	US \$	★★★
Carnival Inspiration	Large/Resort	1996	2658	920	2.89	70,367	26.47	US \$	★★★
Carnival Legend	Large/Resort	2002	2680	930	2.88	88,500	33.02	Aus \$	★★★★
Carnival Liberty	Large/Resort	2005	3700	1160	3.19	110,000	29.73	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Magic	Large/Resort	2011	4724	1386	3.41	128,000	27.10	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Miracle	Large/Resort	2004	2680	930	2.88	88,500	33.02	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Paradise	Large/Resort	1994	2606	920	2.83	70,367	27.00	US \$	★★★
Carnival Pride	Large/Resort	2002	2680	930	2.88	88,500	33.02	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Sensation	Large/Resort	1993	2658	920	2.89	70,367	26.47	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Spirit	Large/Resort	2001	2680	930	2.88	88,500	33.02	Aus \$	★★★★+
Carnival Splendor	Large/Resort	2008	4914	1160	4.24	113,300	23.06	US \$	★★★★+
Carnival Sunshine	Large/Resort	1996	3002	1040	2.89	102,853	34.26	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Triumph	Large/Resort	2000	3470	1100	3.15	101,509	29.25	US \$	★★★★
Carnival Valor	Large/Resort	2007	3730	1180	3.16	110,000	29.49	US \$	★★★★+
Carnival Victory	Large/Resort	1999	3470	1100	3.15	101,509	29.25	US \$	★★★★+
Carnival Vista	Large/Resort	2016	3936	1450	2.71	133,500	33.92	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.carnival.co.uk @CarnivalCruise

Celebrity Cruises

One of the more refined mainstream brands, offering modern elegance for those willing to pay a little extra. Standard accommodation is bigger than many, decor is chic and the ambience cosmopolitan. Excellent spas, good entertainment and choice of facilities for children. Dining is good and the alternative restaurants on the Millennium and Solstice-class ships are among their strongest features. The Solstice vessels (2008-12) enhance the excellent range of facilities and style still further, and introduced real grass lawns to the cruise experience. Their arrival was followed by an extensive refit (or Solsticisation) of the Millennium ships. Destinations around the globe. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Celebrity Constellation	Large/Premium Resort	2002	2170	999	2.17	90,940	41.91	US \$	★★★★
Celebrity Eclipse	Large/Premium Resort	2010	2850	1210	2.36	122,000	42.81	US \$	★★★★+
Celebrity Equinox	Large/Premium Resort	2009	2850	1210	2.36	122,000	42.81	US \$	★★★★+
Celebrity Infinity	Large/Premium Resort	2001	2170	999	2.17	90,940	41.91	US \$	★★★★
Celebrity Millennium	Large/Premium Resort	2000	2158	999	2.16	90,940	42.14	US \$	★★★★
Celebrity Reflection	Large/Premium Resort	2012	3046	1210	2.52	126,000	41.37	US \$	★★★★+
Celebrity Silhouette	Large/Premium Resort	2011	2886	1210	2.39	122,400	42.41	US \$	★★★★+
Celebrity Solstice	Large/Premium Resort	2008	2850	1210	2.36	122,000	42.81	US \$	★★★★+
Celebrity Summit	Large/Premium Resort	2001	2158	1210	1.78	90,940	42.14	US \$	★★★★
Celebrity Xpedition	Small/Premium Expedition	2004	100	64	1.56	2,742	27.42	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.celebritycruises.co.uk @CelebrityUK

Celestyal Cruises

Re-branded from the Cyprus-based Louis Cruises, Celestyal is updating its fleet and in 2016 will add Celestyal Nefeli – named after a Greek goddess. The ship was originally built as Crown Jewel and is a sister to the Fred. Olsen ship Braemar (which has since been stretched). Celestyal Crystal is chartered for cruises to Cuba each winter. During the remainder of the year, Celestyal operates affordable cruises in the Aegean and the Mediterranean. Gratuities not included. The company also charts two ships to Thomson Cruises.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Celestyal Crystal	Medium/Classic	1980	960	406	2.36	25,611	26.68	€	★★★
Celestyal Nefeli	Medium/Classic	1992	800	350	2.29	19,093	23.87	€	★★★
Celestyal Olympia	Medium/Classic	1981	1450	540	2.69	37,580	25.92	€	★★★

Find out more www.celestyalcruises.com @celestyalcruise



Costa Crociere

Fun ships with an Italian accent, Costa is noted for the lively atmosphere on board – southern Europeans dine late and the party doesn't really get started until after midnight. Dramatic décor is a feature of many Costa ships, thanks to the sometimes outrageous designs dreamed up by Joe Farcus, although the most recent ships such as Costa Diadema show a little more restraint. Costa is expanding, and has ordered two large 6,600-passenger vessels which will be the first

cruise ships to be powered by LNG (liquefied natural gas), due for delivery in 2019 and 2020. Costa's cruise range includes year-round Mediterranean itineraries, northern Europe in summer and Caribbean in winter, plus South America, and the Far East. The neoCollection sub-brand offers slow cruising to interesting destinations with small-group excursions included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Costa Atlantica	Large/Resort	2000	2680	897	2.99	85,619	31.95	€	★★★★+
Costa Deliziosa	Large/Resort	2010	2826	934	3.03	92,600	32.77	€	★★★★
Costa Diadema	Large/Resort	2014	4947	1253	3.95	132,500	26.78	€	★★★★
Costa Fascinosa	Large/Resort	2011	3800	1110	3.42	113,200	29.79	€	★★★★
Costa Favolosa	Large/Resort	2011	3800	1110	3.42	114,500	30.13	€	★★★★
Costa Fortuna	Large/Resort	2003	3470	1027	3.38	102,587	29.56	€	★★★★+
Costa Luminosa	Large/Resort	2009	2826	1050	2.69	92,600	32.77	€	★★★★
Costa Magica	Large/Resort	2004	3470	1027	3.38	102,587	29.56	€	★★★
Costa Mediterranea	Large/Resort	2003	2680	897	2.99	85,619	31.95	€	★★★
Costa neoClassica	Large/Resort	1992	1680	590	2.85	52,926	31.50	€	★★★
Costa neoRiviera	Large/Resort	1999	1498	670	2.24	48,200	32.18	€	★★★
Costa neoRomantica	Large/Resort	1993	1800	622	2.89	57,100	31.72	€	★★★
Costa Pacifica	Large/Resort	2009	3780	1110	3.41	114,500	30.29	€	★★★
Costa Serena	Large/Resort	2007	3780	1100	3.44	114,500	30.29	€	★★★★+
Costa Victoria	Large/Resort	1996	2394	790	3.03	75,166	31.40	€	★★★

Find out more www.costacruises.com/co.uk @costacruises

Croisi Europe

Better known as one of Europe's largest river cruise operators, the family-owned CroisiEurope deploys one small coastal ship – which actually looks a bit like a river ship on steroids. The 198-passenger Belle de l'Adriatique sails mostly 7-night cruises to Croatia and Montenegro, and also visits Italy's Amalfi Coast and the Aeolian Islands. The atmosphere on board is relaxed and informal; set-menu meals are of good-quality French cuisine. Complimentary beer and wine with meals. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
MS La Belle de l'Adriatique	Small/Coastal	2007	198	n/a		3,500	17.68	€	★★★

Find out more www.croisieurope.co.uk @Cross_Europe



Cruceros Australis

Based in Chile, this two-ship line operates adventurous voyages around the southern tip of South America, plying routes between Ushuaia and Punta Arenas, and offering – weather permitting – Zodiac landings on Cape Horn island. There's plenty of Charles Darwin-related history, close-up

sightings of magnificent glaciers, and opportunities to see- and smell – colonies of chattering Magellanic penguins. English and Spanish-speaking lecturers and Zodiac drivers/expedition guides are provided. Excursions are included in the fare, and the bar is complimentary. Gratuities not included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Stella Australis	Small/Expedition	2010	210	65	1.84	4,508	21.47	Various	★★★★
Via Australis	Small/Expedition	2005	136	45	1.84	2,716	19.97	Various	★★★★

Find out more www.australis.com @AustralisCruise

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*Norway's Fjordland – Baltic Cities & St Petersburg – Iceland – British Isles – Canary Islands & Madeira
Short Breaks – Scottish Isles & Faroes – Land of the Northern Lights – Amazon, West Indies & Azores
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Cruise & Maritime Voyages caters for the many British cruise passengers who prefer a more traditional experience aboard smaller, classic-style ships. Magellan, Marco Polo, Astoria (formerly Azores) and Astor fit into this exclusive category and offer a leisurely and friendly 'home-from-home' style of cruising, accessing a wide choice of interesting and remote ports of call. The company offers a programme of exceptional value scenic cruising holidays from a choice of eight British ports – London Tilbury, Bristol Avonmouth, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Leith (Edinburgh), Greenock (Glasgow) and Dundee. In addition, there are line voyages to Australia and, in 2017, a grand world cruise. Gratuities added to on-board accounts.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Astor	Small/Classic	1987	600	278	2.16	21,000	35.00	£	★★★
Azores	Small/Classic	1946	550	260	2.12	16,144	29.35	£	★★★
Magellan	Medium/Classic	1985	1250	640	1.95	46,052	36.84	£	★★★★+
Marco Polo	Medium/Classic	1965	800	356	2.25	22,000	27.50	£	★★★

Find out more www.cruiseandmaritime.com @CMVoyages

Crystal Cruises

Refined elegance meets casual simplicity aboard the all-inclusive, ultra-luxurious Crystal Symphony and Crystal Serenity. Both ships offer the ultimate in luxury with contemporary staterooms, a variety of places to eat including speciality restaurants featuring menus by Nobu Matsuhisa and Piero Selvaggio. The ships are also home to spas designed on Feng Shui principles, a renowned Creative Learning Institute (free of charge) and Broadway-style entertainment. Crystal is about to embark on a rapid expansion; the luxury yacht Crystal Esprit joined the fleet in late 2015, sailing in The Seychelles in the winter and the Adriatic in summer. Three new 1,000-passenger ocean ships (each with 1,000 crew) are to be built, and Crystal is to launch its Luxury Air brand.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Crystal Serenity	Medium/Ultra luxury	2003	1,070	655	1.63	68,870	64.36	US \$	★★★★★
Crystal Symphony	Medium/Ultra luxury	1995	922	566	1.63	51,044	55.36	US \$	★★★★★
Crystal Esprit	Small/Luxury	2015	62	91	0.68	3,341	53.89	US \$	★★★★★

Find out more www.crystalcruises.com @crystalcruises



Cunard Line

Cunard Line was founded in 1839 to deliver Royal Mail across the Atlantic to America. Its ships continue to reflect that proud tradition, and Queen Mary 2 in particular – the only vessel still operating a frequent Transatlantic service – carries reminders of many of the famous names who travelled with Cunard before airliners took over from ships. Cunard's continued tradition of providing exclusive Queen's Grill and Princess Grill restaurants, a Grills Lounge and private sundecks for passengers travelling in the top suites is sometimes unfairly criticised for its class distinction. In reality, it's no different from MSC's Yacht Club or Norwegian's Haven Suites. In spring 2016, QM2 will enter dry dock for a major refurbishment which will include the introduction of single cabins for the first time, and the addition of extra balcony cabins; King's Court, its much-derided buffet restaurant, will be re-designed and the under-used Winter Garden is to get a new lease of life. All three Cunard ships undertake world voyages at the beginning of each year. While not built to the same exacting liner standards as flagship QM2, younger sisters Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth echo the traditional experience with their red plush theatres, Queens Room ballrooms, and English pubs (serving pints paid for in US dollars). Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Queen Elizabeth	Large/Resort	2010	2172	1005	2.16	90,900	41.85	US \$	★★★★★
Queen Mary 2	Large/Ocean liner	2004	3090	1254	2.46	148,528	48.07	US \$	★★★★★
Queen Victoria	Large/Resort	2007	2172	1001	2.17	90,049	41.46	US \$	★★★★★

Find out more www.cunard.co.uk @cunardline



Disney Cruise Line

The most outstanding feature of Disney's ships is the attention to detail paid to every aspect of the whole experience. Though heavy on the Disney style, the ships are well equipped for the whole family. All-American menus are served in three different dining rooms through which passengers rotate on a daily basis, but always served by the same waiters. There's also Palo, a chic adults-only Italian restaurant, and on Dream and Fantasy, a top-notch French restaurant inspired by the film *Ratatouille*. There's excellent service and entertainment throughout the ships. As you would expect, the facilities for children and teens are superb, but so are the spa facilities and private areas for grown-ups. Inside cabins have virtual portholes (inspiration for Royal Caribbean's virtual balconies) and family cabins have separate bathrooms and WCs. It's not all Disney princesses and Pinocchio – Star Wars takes to the sea on Fantasy, transporting guests from the Caribbean to a galaxy far, far away. In 2016, Disney Dream makes its first round-Britain cruise, leaving Dover on June 5 and sailing to Invergordon, Kirkwall, Greenock, Newcastle, Liverpool, Dublin, and Guernsey. Other destinations in 2016 for Disney Cruise Line include the Bahamas, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Alaska, and Canada's eastern seaboard. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Disney Dream	Large/Family resort	2011	4000	1458	2.74	130,000	32.50	US \$	★★★★★
Disney Fantasy	Large/Family resort	2011	4000	1450	2.76	130,000	32.50	US \$	★★★★★
Disney Magic	Large/Family resort	1998	2700	950	2.84	84,000	31.11	US \$	★★★★+
Disney Wonder	Large/Family resort	1999	2700	950	2.84	83,000	30.74	US \$	★★★★+

Find out more www.disneycruise.com @DisneyCruise

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With a variety of restaurants, all offering delicious menu options to suit every palette, guests will be spoilt for choice. Plus, there is a host of sparkling entertainment to enjoy every evening, from string trios, pianists, musicians, comedians and energetic, cabaret-style dance shows.

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Fred. Olsen's 2016/17 cruise programme is bursting with over 100 unique cruise holidays, offering adventure, exploration, relaxation, sunshine, culture and 'once-in-a-lifetime' experiences in abundance.

During its 2016/17 cruise season, Fred. Olsen will be visiting 84 picturesque scenic sea passages and waterways, taking guests past awe-inspiring scenery, such as the stunning Stockholm archipelago and beautiful Bay of Kotor, in Montenegro. Fred. Olsen's shallower-drafted cruise ship, Braemar, will also be sailing

'right into the heart' of cities and towns, such as Seville, in Spain, and Bordeaux, in France.

Fred.'s Favourite Fjords!

With its proud Norwegian heritage and smaller-sized ships, Fred. Olsen is able to showcase this country's most exciting and iconic experiences in a way that larger cruise ships cannot, devoting time and skill to deviate from the direct route, and not just sailing from port to port.

Guests can choose from over 20 Norway itineraries with Fred. Olsen in 2016/17, taking in some of its most outstanding natural wonders, at their magnificent, snow-capped best. Beautiful cities, such as Bergen and Oslo, are combined with some of the most impressive fjords, including Nærøfjord and Geirangerfjord, to give guests the full flavour of the beauty and magnificence of this fascinating country.



Find out more about Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' 2016/17 cruise season by visiting the website at www.fredolsencruises.com
Book online, call Reservations on 0800 0355 242, or see any ABTA travel agent.

 **Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines**

Fathom

A one-ship brand created by Carnival Corporation as a means of opening the door to cruises to Cuba, when the lifting of the US trade embargo permits. Taking over P&O's 710-passenger Adonia, Fathom will sail weekly voyages from Miami, alternating destinations between Havana and the Dominican Republic. Rather than relaxing by the pool, or lazing on the beach, passengers will be expected to learn about the destinations and take part in educational and community projects – helping out at a women's co-operative chocolate factory, or making clay drainage pipes, for example. They call it “impact travel”.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Adonia	Small/Premium	2001	710	0	1.84	30,300	42.68	£	★★★★

Find out more www.fathom.org @fathomtravel

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

Operating four traditional, intimate ships – Balmoral, Braemar, Boudicca, and Black Watch – Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines cruise to the heart of more than 200 destinations worldwide, operating from 10 regional UK ports. The onboard atmosphere is like a country house hotel, there is a friendly and informal ambience, and the crew quickly get to know the guests by name and are soon able to offer their favourite drink. Although Norwegian-owned, Fred. Olsen is among the most traditionally British lines and offers familiar entertainment, bridge classes, and gentlemen hosts. Moving with the times, the ships are introducing an extra-charge Grill restaurant and squeezing in speciality coffee and chocolate shops into the library space. There's tea and coffee-making facilities in the cabins, and bar prices are very reasonable. Ex-UK cruises operate from ports around the country, including Liverpool, Greenock, Newcastle and Rosyth as well as Dover and Southampton, while experiences in 2016 include tickets to the Monaco Grand Prix and visits to Rio Carnival. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Balmoral	Medium/Classic	1987	1350	510	2.65	43,537	32.25	£	★★★★+
Black Watch	Medium/Classic	1972	804	330	2.44	28,613	35.59	£	★★★★+
Boudicca	Medium/Classic	1973	880	329	2.67	28,388	32.26	£	★★★★+
Braemar	Medium/Classic	1993	929	371	2.50	24,344	26.20	£	★★★★+

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Hapag-Lloyd Cruises

Individual small ships that visit a diverse selection of unique destinations have been a passion of Hapag-Lloyd Cruises for more than 100 years. The ultra-luxury ships Europa 2 and Europa are consistently given the highest ratings in the annual Berlitz guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships, and are the only vessels to which editor Douglas Ward grants a five star-plus rating. In the same publication, H-L's Hanseatic is the highest-rated expedition ship in the world. Hapag-Lloyd Cruises appeals to discerning travellers whose priorities are destination, high-quality accommodation, services, facilities and catering, and for whom price is a secondary consideration. Dual-language itineraries (German and English) provide a European-style cruise experience. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
MS Bremen	Small/Expedition	1990	164	100	1.64	6,752	41.17	€	★★★★+
MS Europa	Small/Ultra luxury	1999	400	285	1.40	28,890	72.23	€	★★★★★
MS Europa 2	Small/Ultra luxury	2013	500	370	1.35	42,830	85.66	€	★★★★★
MS Hanseatic	Small/Expedition	1993	175	125	1.40	8,378	47.87	€	★★★★★

Find out more www.hl-cruises.com

Hebridean Island Cruises

The delectably small and exclusive Hebridean Princess sails mainly from her home port of Oban, on Scotland's west coast. A converted Caledonian MacBrayne ferry, she became a luxury cruise ship in 1989 and has twice been chartered by The Queen for family summer holidays. Carrying just 50 guests, Hebridean Princess has an enviable reputation for exceptional service, fine food and wine, and a guaranteed warm welcome from the dedicated crew. She has 30 elegant and well-appointed cabins and 10 bedrooms designed for solo travellers. The welcome is always warm, with the congenial atmosphere of a country house party, where old friends meet up and new acquaintances are quickly made.

Cruising the Scottish coast and islands each summer, the ship makes occasional forays to Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the south coast of England. Excursions and gratuities included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Hebridean Princess	Small/Luxury	1964	50	38	1.32	2,112	42.24	£	★★★★+

Find out more www.hebridean.co.uk @Hebcruises



Holland America Line

Holland America Line takes its stylish mid-sized ships, adorned with priceless art and fresh flowers, to every continent. Recently awarded 'Best Cruise Value' for the 23rd year by the World Ocean and Cruise Liner Society, and offering high standards of service, Holland America Line combines quality, value, and innovative ideas to enhance passengers' experience. Highlights include a Culinary Arts theatre with cookery demonstrations and classes, and complimentary digital workshops, plus special touches such as Egyptian cotton sheets and fluffy bathrobes within spacious staterooms. Holland

America Line specialises in leisurely itineraries that have long days and overnights in port, bringing the spirit of the region alive with local entertainment and cuisine. New for 2016, MS Koningsdam will combine innovations in dining and entertainment with favourite places and the classic style for which the company is renowned.

Sailing further afield each year, the Dam ships are in the Caribbean, Panama Canal, South America, Pacific, Asia, Mexico and Hawaii in the winter; in Europe, Alaska and Canada and New England in summer and autumn. Gratuities not included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
MS Amsterdam	Medium/Premium	2000	1380	615	2.24	62,735	45.46	US \$	★★★★
MS Eurodam	Large/Premium	2008	2104	929	2.26	86,273	41.00	US \$	★★★★
MS Koningsdam	Large/Premium	2016	2,650	1,025	2.59	99,500	37.55	US \$	★★★★
MS Maasdam	Medium/Premium	1993	1258	580	2.17	55,575	44.18	US \$	★★★★
MS Nieuw Amsterdam	Large/Premium	2010	2106	929	2.27	86,700	41.17	US \$	★★★★
MS Noordam	Large/Premium	2006	1972	800	2.47	82,318	41.74	US \$	★★★★
MS Oosterdam	Large/Premium	2003	1916	817	2.35	82,305	42.96	US \$	★★★★
MS Prinsendam	Medium/Premium	2002	835	470	1.78	38,100	45.63	US \$	★★★★
MS Rotterdam	Medium/Premium	1997	1404	600	2.34	61,849	44.05	US \$	★★★★
MS Ryndam	Medium/Premium	1994	1260	580	2.17	55,819	44.30	US \$	★★★★
MS Statendam	Medium/Premium	1993	1260	580	2.17	55,819	44.30	US \$	★★★★
MS Veendam	Medium/Premium	1996	1350	580	2.33	57,092	42.29	US \$	★★★★
MS Volendam	Medium/Premium	1999	1432	615	2.33	61,214	42.75	US \$	★★★★
MS Westerdam	Large/Premium	2004	1916	817	2.35	82,348	42.98	US \$	★★★★
MS Zaandam	Medium/Premium	2000	1432	615	2.33	61,396	42.87	US \$	★★★★
MS Zuiderdam	Large/Premium	2002	1916	817	2.35	82,305	42.96	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.hollandamerica.com @HALcruises



Hurtigruten

For travellers who want to search for the Northern Lights on a Norwegian Coastal Voyage or those excited by the prospect of camping among penguins on a cruise to Antarctica, Hurtigruten offers authentic adventures, immersing its guests in the nature, culture, and local traditions of their chosen destination. The ships provide a comfortable, relaxed environment from which to explore and a series of exciting excursions to enhance the journey, including kayaking above the Arctic Circle, and dog-sledding with teams of huskies. On-board activities range from lectures on local flora and fauna to science experiments and photography workshops. There might even be a chance to meet local fishermen

who bring their catch on board. The ships offer authentic Norwegian dishes, incorporating local specialities – expect reindeer stew, pickled herring, and plenty of fresh vegetables. Operating year-round between Bergen and the North Cape, Hurtigruten also provides a handful of seasonal voyages to Spitsbergen, Greenland, western Europe, the Baltic and Antarctica, plus long ‘Pole to Pole’ voyages. During the coastal voyages, there are numerous stops en route (some at odd hours of the night) as the ships deliver cargo and passengers throughout Norway. There is no tipping, and limited entertainment but shore excursions are increasingly imaginative. Drinks prices are steep.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
MS Finnmarken	Medium/Passenger & Cargo	2002	1000			15,690	15.69	N kr	★★★
MS Fram	Small/Expedition	2007	318	75	4.24	11,647	36.63	N kr	★★★★+
MS Kong Harald	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1993	662			11,204	16.92	N kr	★★★
MS Lofoten	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1964	400			2,621	6.55	N kr	★★★
MS Midnatsol	Medium/Passenger & Cargo	2003	1000			16,151	16.15	N kr	★★★★+
MS Nordkapp	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1996	622			11,386	18.31	N kr	★★★
MS Nordlys	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1994	623			11,204	17.98	N kr	★★★
MS Nordnorge	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1997	623			11,384	18.27	N kr	★★★
MS Polarlys	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1996	619			11,341	18.32	N kr	★★★
MS Richard With	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1993	623			11,205	17.99	N kr	★★★
MS Trollfjord	Medium/Passenger & Cargo	2002	822			16,140	19.64	N kr	★★★★+
MS Vesteralen	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1983	516			6,261	12.13	N kr	★★★

Find out more www.hurtigruten.com @UKHurtigruten



Majestic Line

Probably the smallest operator in this list, and the one with the smallest ships. Majestic has two converted trawlers that sail out of Oban and through the Western Isles, mostly on three and six-night cruises. All 11 guests eat at the same table and evenings

are convivial affairs. Passengers are welcome in the wheelhouse at any time. The company is launching a third ship, purpose-built for cruising, but similar in design, in 2016.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Glen Etive	Small/Traditional	2016	12	4	3.00	TBA		£	★★★★
Glen Massan	Small/Traditional	2004	11	4	2.75	1,000	90.91	£	★★★★
Glen Tarsan	Small/Traditional	2007	11	4	2.75	1,000	90.91	£	★★★★

Find out more themajesticline.co.uk @TheMajesticLine



MSC Cruises

Owned by one of the world's biggest shipping families, this traditional Italian outfit boasts a modern, high-tech fleet. The ships all feature a chic European style, with good standard cuisine and imaginative alternative dining. The newest mega-ships – Divina, Fantasia, Preziosa and Splendida – have ship-within-a-ship Yacht Clubs with luxury accommodation in a gated community, with butlers and exclusive restaurants and bars. Four older ships were stretched in 2015 to provide extra cabins, new restaurants, and improved entertainment and

kids' club facilities. MSC Splendida will be sailing a number of cruises from Southampton in 2016, but most UK passengers will travel on fly-cruises in the Mediterranean and to the Canaries year-round, and northern Europe every summer. MSC Divina is returning to Miami, and this winter sees MSC Opera sailing from Cuba on a regular basis, and a return to the Gulf (with flights to Abu Dhabi and Dubai). Also on the list of destinations are South Africa and South America – leading to some good-value repositioning voyages. Gratuities not included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
MSC Armonia	Large/Resort	2001	2679	885	3.03	60,000	22.40	€	★★★★
MSC Divina	Large/Resort	2012	3502	1388	2.52	139,072	39.71	US \$	★★★★
MSC Fantasia	Large/Resort	2008	3274	1370	2.39	137,936	42.13	€	★★★★
MSC Lirica	Large/Resort	2003	1560	732	2.13	59,058	37.86	€	★★★★
MSC Magnifica	Large/Resort	2010	2518	1038	2.43	95,128	37.78	€	★★★★
MSC Musica	Large/Resort	2006	2550	1014	2.51	92,409	36.24	€	★★★★
MSC Opera	Large/Resort	2004	2679	885	3.03	60,000	22.40	€	★★★★
MSC Orchestra	Large/Resort	2007	2550	1054	2.42	92,409	36.24	€	★★★★
MSC Poesia	Large/Resort	2008	2550	1039	2.45	92,627	36.32	€	★★★★
MSC Preziosa	Large/Resort	2013	3502	1388	2.52	139,072	39.71	€	★★★★
MSC Sinfonia	Large/Resort	2005	2679	885	3.03	60,000	22.40	€	★★★★
MSC Splendida	Large/Resort	2009	3247	1370	2.37	137,936	42.48	€	★★★★

Find out more www.msccruises.co.uk @MSC_Cruises_UK

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Norwegian Cruise Line

Distinguished by their decorated hulls, which get more elaborate with every new design, Norwegian's ships are among the liveliest at sea. Norwegian Cruise Line is an innovator, with a 49-year history of breaking the boundaries of traditional cruising, most notably with the introduction of Freestyle Cruising which revolutionised the industry by giving guests more flexibility for dining and entertainment. Passengers can plan their days to their own schedule rather than being restricted by set times for meals. They can choose to relax or be active, dress up or go casual, and enjoy some of the best entertainment afloat. Norwegian invites its guests to enjoy a relaxed,

resort-style cruise holiday on some of the newest and most contemporary ships at sea. Newer ships from Epic onwards have extensive facilities for single travellers. The recent arrival of the Breakaway-plus class Norwegian Escape marks a further evolution of the brand. Entertainment on Norwegian Epic in the Med is tuned to UK tastes, featuring a recreation of Liverpool's Cavern Club and a Beatles tribute group.

Operating to all the main cruise destinations, including year-round in the Caribbean and the Med, plus Alaska, Mexico, Bermuda, Canada, New England, northern Europe and South America. No ships currently sailing ex-UK. Gratuities not included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Norwegian Breakaway	Large/Resort	2013	3963	1651	2.40	145,655	36.75	US \$	★★★★+
Norwegian Dawn	Large/Resort	2002	2340	1033	2.27	92,250	39.42	US \$	★★★★
Norwegian Epic	Large/Resort	2010	4100	1738	2.36	155,873	38.02	US \$	★★★★
Norwegian Escape	Large/Resort	2015	4200	1665	2.52	163,000	38.81	US \$	NYR
Norwegian Gem	Large/Resort	2007	2394	1076	2.22	93,530	39.07	US \$	★★★★
Norwegian Getaway	Large/Resort	2014	3963	1640	2.42	145,655	36.75	US \$	★★★★+
Norwegian Jade	Large/Resort	2006	2402	1078	2.23	93,558	38.95	US \$	★★★★
Norwegian Jewel	Large/Resort	2005	2376	1067	2.23	93,502	39.35	US \$	★★★★
Norwegian Pearl	Large/Resort	2006	2394	1074	2.23	93,530	39.07	US \$	★★★★
Norwegian Sky	Large/Resort	1999	2002	896	2.23	77,104	38.51	US \$	★★★★+
Norwegian Spirit	Large/Resort	1998	2018	913	2.21	75,904	37.61	US \$	★★★★+
Norwegian Star	Large/Resort	2001	2348	1032	2.28	91,740	39.07	US \$	★★★★
Norwegian Sun	Large/Resort	2001	1936	940	2.06	1,936	1.00	US \$	★★★★
Pride of America	Large/Resort	2005	2186	917	2.38	80,439	36.80	US \$	★★★★+

Find out more www.ncl.com/co.uk @CruiseNorwegian



Oceania Cruises

The five Oceania Cruises ships – soon to become six – offer new heights in comfort, cuisine and service. These by-words of a line also known for value have led Oceania Cruises to be cited as offering restaurants and cuisine superior to many of the finest shoreside restaurants – and the company claims to spend more per passenger on raw ingredients than any other cruise line. Each vessel is elegantly furnished and appointed, with large-ship standards and small-ship friendliness and accessibility. The 1,250-passenger Marina and Riviera were purpose-built for epicureans. The 684-passenger Regatta, Insignia and Nautica will be joined in 2016 by identical sister ship Sirena (currently sailing as Ocean Princess). All the older ships, originally built for Renaissance Cruises, have had millions spent on updates and refurbishments. In the Mediterranean, northern Europe and Alaska in summer, with winter seasons in the Caribbean, South America, Africa and Asia. Gratuities not included. No under 12s.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Insignia	Medium/Luxury	1998	824	386	2.13	30,277	36.74	US \$	★★★★★
Marina	Medium/Luxury	2011	1258	800	1.57	66,086	52.53	US \$	★★★★★
Nautica	Medium/Luxury	1998	824	400	2.06	30,277	36.74	US \$	★★★★★
Regatta	Medium/Luxury	1998	824	386	2.13	30,277	36.74	US \$	★★★★★
Riviera	Medium/Luxury	2012	1250	800	1.56	66,086	52.87	US \$	★★★★★

Find out more www.oceaniacruises.com @OceaniaCruises



P&O Cruises

The all-British cruise line leads a slightly schizophrenic life these days, trying to maintain its appeal to a solid core of long-standing customers, while needing to attract large numbers of people who have never cruised before if it is to fill its growing capacity – which has included flagship Britannia since the vessel was named by The Queen last March. There's also the fact that some of its ships (Arcadia and Oriana) are child-free havens exclusively for adults, while the remainder of the fleet welcomes families. Early in 2016 the line will lose the 710-passenger Adonia to Carnival Cruise Corporation's Fathom brand, which will sail voluntarism cruises from Miami to Cuba and the Dominican republic. The 3,647-passenger Britannia adds a few new twists to the tried and tested formula,

in particular the Cookery Club, headed by TV chef James Martin. He is joined as a P&O Food Hero by Marco Pierre White, who designs menus for gala nights; Atul Kochhar, whose Sindhu restaurants feature on several of the fleet's ships; Olly Smith, whose Glass House wine bar/bistro is a popular attraction; and French patissier Eric Lanlard, who adds a modern twist to afternoon tea.

P&O still sell out their traditional world cruises, and as the fleet has grown, it has added Mediterranean and Caribbean fly-cruise options to its year-round Southampton departures – not everyone has the time or inclination to spend a couple of days in the Bay of Biscay at the start and end of a week in the sun. Gratuities not included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Adonia	Small/Premium	2001	710	385	1.84	30,300	42.68	£	★★★★
Arcadia	Large/Resort	2005	2385	880	2.71	83,700	35.09	£	★★★★
Aurora	Large/Resort	2000	1950	850	2.29	76,000	38.97	£	★★★★
Azura	Large/Resort	2010	3597	1226	2.93	115,000	31.97	£	★★★★
Britannia	Large/Resort	2015	3647	1350	2.70	141,000	38.66	£	★★★★+
Oceana	Large/Resort	2000	2016	890	2.27	77,499	38.44	£	★★★★
Oriana	Large/Resort	1995	1880	760	2.47	69,840	37.15	£	★★★★
Ventura	Large/Resort	2008	3078	1205	2.55	116,017	37.69	£	★★★★

Find out more www.pocruises.com @pandocruises

Footnote: Adonia leaves the P&O fleet in March and will transfer to Carnival's Fathom brand, cruising from Miami to Cuba and the Dominican Republic

Paul Gauguin Cruises

Hedonistic luxury in the South Pacific is the promise offered by the ship which gives its name to the company; the smaller Tere Moana roams further afield, to the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, but with effect from May 2016 will be owned by American operator Grand Circle Travel. Gratuities included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
MS Paul Gauguin	Small/Luxury	1998	332	217	1.53	19,200	57.83	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.pgcruiises.com @paulgauguin



Ponant

This chic French line is a world leader in Polar cruising, operating four sleek megayachts that accommodate about 250 passengers each in surroundings similar to a contemporary boutique hotel. Ponant offers exceptional destinations on small ships that embody a lifestyle 'à la Française' and a travel concept that combines intimacy and curiosity,

luxury and authenticity. English-speaking passengers are attracted from the UK, the US and Canada, Australia and New Zealand and South Africa. The company's fifth vessel, the three-masted 64-passenger Le Ponant, is almost exclusively marketed in France. Drinks included with meals. Gratuities not included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
L'Austral	Small/Premium	2011	264	140	1.89	10,944	41.45	€	★★★★+
Le Boreal	Small/Premium	2010	264	140	1.89	10,944	41.45	€	★★★★+
Le Lyrial	Small/Premium	2015	264	140	1.89	10,700	40.53	€	★★★★+
Le Ponant	Small/Sails	1991	64	32	2.00	1,443	22.55	€	★★★★+
Le Soleal	Small/Premium	2013	264	140	1.89	10,944	41.45	€	★★★★+

Find out more en.ponant.com @ponant_cruises



Princess Cruises

In many ways, Princess is P&O with an American accent, but in recent years it has been more innovative and it is first to get newly-designed ships. It had been operating its Grand Class vessels for some years before P&O launched the similar Ventura and Azura; Royal and Regal Princess were the blueprints for P&O's Britannia. Princess's interior décor is widely regarded as bland but is that necessarily a bad thing? Not everyone wants to be shocked by the Joe Farcus's excesses that can be found elsewhere in Carnival Corporation. Continued reliance on its Love Boat heritage – the cast were godparents to Regal Princess in 2014 – suggests an unhealthy dependence on a generation which was more active in the 70s

and 80s, but the line features weddings at sea and is popular among honeymoon couples. Ocean Princess, one of the line's smaller vessels, has been sold to Oceania (to become Sirena in 2016) and sister ship Pacific Princess could also be for sale if the right buyer came along. In the Caribbean year-round, Princess offers extensive summer itineraries around Europe and seasonal programmes to South America, Alaska, the Mexican Riviera, Hawaii & Tahiti, Asia, Canada & New England, Australia and New Zealand. Grand class ships Emerald Princess and Caribbean Princess will be sailing from the UK in summer 2016. Gratuities not included.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Caribbean Princess	Large/Resort	2004	3082	1200	2.57	112,894	36.63	US \$	★★★★
Coral Princess	Large/Resort	2003	1974	895	2.21	91,627	46.42	US \$	★★★★
Crown Princess	Large/Resort	2006	3082	1200	2.57	113,591	36.86	US \$	★★★★
Dawn Princess	Large/Resort	1997	1998	924	2.16	77,441	38.76	Aus \$	★★★★
Diamond Princess	Large/Resort	2004	2670	1100	2.43	115,875	43.40	US \$	★★★★
Emerald Princess	Large/Resort	2007	3082	1200	2.57	113,561	36.85	US \$	★★★★
Golden Princess	Large/Resort	2001	2600	1100	2.36	108,865	41.87	US \$	★★★★
Grand Princess	Large/Resort	1998	2600	1150	2.26	107,517	41.35	US \$	★★★★
Island Princess	Large/Resort	2003	1974	900	2.19	92,000	46.61	US \$	★★★★
Ocean Princess	Small/Premium	1999	672	375	1.79	30,277	45.06	US \$	★★★★
Pacific Princess	Small/Premium	1999	672	375	1.79	30,277	45.06	US \$	★★★★
Regal Princess	Large/Resort	2014	3560	1346	2.64	141,000	39.61	US \$	★★★★+
Royal Princess	Large/Resort	2013	3560	1346	2.64	141,000	39.61	US \$	★★★★+
Ruby Princess	Large/Resort	2008	3082	1200	2.57	113,561	36.85	US \$	★★★★
Sapphire Princess	Large/Resort	2004	2670	1100	2.43	115,875	43.40	US \$	★★★★
Sea Princess	Large/Resort	1998	1998	910	2.20	77,499	38.79	US \$	★★★★
Star Princess	Large/Resort	2002	2600	1100	2.36	108,977	41.91	US \$	★★★★
Sun Princess	Large/Resort	1995	1998	924	2.16	77,441	38.76	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.princess.com @PrincessCruises

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Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Claimed to be the most inclusive luxury cruise line, Regent wraps up everything from flights to excursions, drinks and gratuities in its headline fare – and boasts that total costs are favourable when compared with lower lead-in prices with added on-board spend. The ships are billed as pinnacles of excellence and grace, providing all-suite accommodation, spectacular gourmet restaurants included in the price, and an enviable staff-to-guest ratio. Navigator heralded a new style of 6-star cruising in 1999; Mariner and Voyager added even more choice to the range of ultra-chic facilities and styling, with impeccable service. Catering for 700 passengers, Explorer will be Regent's biggest ship to date when it debuts in summer 2016. A wide range of itineraries, from northern Europe and the Med to the Caribbean, Mexico, Panama, Alaska, Asia and Australia, Indian Ocean and South America. Prices include in-suite bars, wines with meals, tax and gratuities, flights and shore excursions. Guests determined to spend money over and above the fare can do so in the casino and spa.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Seven Seas Explorer	Medium/Luxury	2016	750	542	1.38	56,000	74.67	US \$	★★★★★+
Seven Seas Mariner	Small/Luxury	2001	698	445	1.57	48,075	68.88	US \$	★★★★★+
Seven Seas Navigator	Small/Luxury	1999	490	345	1.42	28,550	58.27	US \$	★★★★★+
Seven Seas Voyager	Small/Luxury	2003	698	447	1.56	46,000	65.90	US \$	★★★★★+

Find out more www.rssc.co.uk @regentcruises

RMS St Helena

A cargo vessel with passenger facilities, the last working Royal Mail Ship operates a shuttle service from Cape Town to St Helena and Ascension Island, with occasional forays to the linked British Overseas Territory of Tristan da Cunha. Cabins are basic and the ship offers a utilitarian ferry service rather than a sophisticated cruise. But it's a unique journey, and the opportunity to make it will disappear this summer, after the opening of St Helena's airport. The ship will make a final visit to the Thames, and will moor alongside HMS Belfast at Tower Bridge, before returning home for one last time. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
St. Helena	Small/Passenger & Cargo	1989	156	56	2.79	6,767	43.38	£	★★★

Find out more www.rms-st-helena.com

Footnote: RMS St Helena will be retired in July, following the opening of the first airport on the island she serves

Royal Caribbean International

They may not be the biggest cruise line in the world (Carnival Cruises hangs on to that title) but Royal Caribbean operates the biggest ships – Oasis and Allure of the Seas, which will be surpassed in spring 2016 by the even bigger Harmony of the Seas. It can also boast the most innovative, with Quantum of the Seas, Anthem of the Seas and another 2016 debutante, Ovation of the Seas, featuring sky-diving simulators, dodgems, and an elevated observation pod that looks like one of the capsules from the London Eye transplanted onto the end of a giant cherry-picker. Constantly striving to attract families who may never previously have considered a holiday at sea, RCI ships also introduced rock climbing walls, ice rinks and surfing simulators to the cruising experience. Harmony will be their first to follow Norwegian, MSC and Carnival in having waterslides. Royal were pioneers of full-length West End shows, such as Chicago, Mamma Mia!, and We Will Rock You. The Oasis-class ships are big enough to carry a



Central Park packed with thousands of living plants, and a Boardwalk with a full-sized fairground carousel. Operating to all the major cruise destinations around the world, Royal's itineraries are juggled to follow the money - hence the emphasis on the Chinese market. Anthem has moved there after a summer in Southampton, and the UK will be served next year by old favourites Independence of the Seas and Navigator of the Seas.

NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Adventure of the Seas	Large/Resort	2001	3114	1185	2.63	137,276	44.08	US \$	★★★★
Allure of the Seas	Large/Resort	2009	6360	2394	2.66	252,282	39.67	US \$	★★★★
Anthem of the Seas	Large/Resort	2015	4905	1500	3.27	167,800	34.21	US \$	★★★★
Brilliance of the Seas	Large/Resort	2002	2543	848	3.00	90,090	35.43	US \$	★★★★
Enchantment of the Seas	Large/Resort	1997	2730	840	3.25	81,500	29.85	US \$	★★★★+
Explorer of the Seas	Large/Resort	2000	3840	1185	3.24	137,308	35.76	US \$	★★★★
Freedom of the Seas	Large/Resort	2006	4375	1360	3.22	154,407	35.29	US \$	★★★★
Grandeur of the Seas	Large/Resort	1996	2440	760	3.21	73,817	30.25	US \$	★★★★
Harmony of the Seas	Large/Resort	2016	5,497	2,300	2.39	227,000	41.30	US \$	★★★★
Independence of the Seas	Large/Resort	2008	3634	1365	2.66	154,407	42.49	US \$	★★★★
Jewel of the Seas	Large/Resort	2004	2510	859	2.92	90,090	35.89	US \$	★★★★
Legend of the Seas	Large/Resort	1995	2074	726	2.86	70,000	33.75	US \$	★★★★+
Liberty of the Seas	Large/Resort	2007	4375	1360	3.22	154,407	35.29	US \$	★★★★
Majesty of the Seas	Large/Resort	1992	2774	827	3.35	74,077	26.70	US \$	★★★★+
Mariner of the Seas	Large/Resort	2003	3114	1185	2.63	138,279	44.41	US \$	★★★★
Navigator of the Seas	Large/Resort	2002	3800	1180	3.22	140,000	36.84	US \$	★★★★
Oasis of the Seas	Large/Resort	2009	6360	2394	2.66	252,282	39.67	US \$	★★★★
Ovation of the Seas	Large/Resort	2016	4905	1500	3.27	167,800	34.21	US \$	★★★★
Quantum of the Seas	Large/Resort	2014	4905	1500	3.27	167,800	34.21	US \$	★★★★
Radiance of the Seas	Large/Resort	2001	2531	869	2.91	90,090	35.59	US \$	★★★★
Rhapsody of the Seas	Large/Resort	1997	2416	765	3.16	78,491	32.49	US \$	★★★★+
Serenade of the Seas	Large/Resort	2001	2490	891	2.79	90,090	36.18	US \$	★★★★
Splendour of the Seas	Large/Resort	1996	2075	750	2.77	70,000	33.73	US \$	★★★★+
Vision of the Seas	Large/Resort	1998	2435	765	3.18	78,491	32.23	US \$	★★★★+
Voyager of the Seas	Large/Resort	1999	3840	1176	3.27	137,276	35.75	US \$	★★★★

Find out more [@MyRoyalUK](http://www.royalcaribbean.co.uk)

Footnote: Splendour of the Seas is to leave Royal Caribbean and will become Thomson Discovery from July 2016



Saga Cruises

Discover a friendlier way to cruise aboard Saga Sapphire and Saga Pearl II, two small ships offering all the luxuries of classic cruising but with a modern twist. Exclusively for guests aged 50 and over, the vessels provide a choice of restaurants, grand public rooms and spacious cabins. A packed calendar of cruises visits Norway, the Baltic, Mediterranean, Canary Islands, and the Caribbean. One of the 2016 highlights is a round-Britain voyage that does not visit any ports of call, and the annual Captain's mystery cruise always sells out, even though passengers do not know where they will be heading (a packing nightmare!). After years of relying on second-hand tonnage, Saga has for the first time ordered a newbuild ship that is still in the early stages of design. It is scheduled to be delivered in 2019, and the company has an option for a second. Gratuities are included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Saga Pearl II	Small/Classic	1981	449	252	1.78	18,591	41.41	£	★★★★
Saga Sapphire	Small/Classic	1981	720	415	1.73	37,301	51.81	£	★★★★

Find out more www.sagacruises.com @SagaHolidaysUK

Seabourn

Cruising with Seabourn is unlike any other form of travel. Designed for 458 guests, the line's intimate ships are the perfect blend of glamorous elegance, impeccable service, exquisite cuisine, and highly-personalised destination experiences, all of which have earned Seabourn some of the most coveted awards in travel. The ships sail to the heart of landmark cities around the world, and to hidden gems where larger ships cannot go, including tours to more than 86 World Heritage sites in an exclusive partnership with UNESCO. From the luxury of all-suite accommodation to complimentary fine wines and spirits throughout the ship, Seabourn exemplifies the definition of travelling well. Having disposed of its smallest ships to Windstar Cruises, Seabourn is preparing for the arrival of the 600-passenger Seabourn Encore in December 2016. Gratuities included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Seabourn Encore	Small/Luxury	2016	604			40,350	66.80	US \$	★★★★+
Seabourn Odyssey	Small/Luxury	2009	450	330	1.36	32,000	71.11	US \$	★★★★+
Seabourn Quest	Small/Luxury	2011	450	330	1.36	32,000	71.11	US \$	★★★★+
Seabourn Sojourn	Small/Luxury	2010	450	330	1.36	32,000	71.11	US \$	★★★★+

Find out more www.seabourn.com @SeabournCruise

SeaDream Yacht Club

SeaDream I and II, originally Cunard's Sea Goddesses, are just big enough to be ships, still small enough to be yachts. The company is run by co-founder Atle Brynestad, a Norwegian entrepreneur, and his family; former partner Larry Pimentel now runs Azamara, to which he took a number of key staff. SeaDream's vessels offer utterly relaxed luxury attended by sophisticated crew. There are no balcony cabins but passengers wanting to enjoy the fresh air can drink, dine and even sleep al fresco. The ships have a water sport platform which lets down at the stern, and their small-but-perfectly-formed spas are among the best at sea. Fares are inclusive of everything on board including drinks and gratuities, but do not cover flights.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
SeaDream I	Small/Luxury	2001	112	95	1.18	4,300	38.39	US \$	★★★★+
SeaDream II	Small/Luxury	2001	112	95	1.18	4,300	38.39	US \$	★★★★+

Find out more www.seadreamyachtclub.com @SeaDreamYC

Silversea Cruises

Something of a split personality here, with a fleet of five ultra-luxury classic cruising ships, and three expedition vessels which don't quite achieve the same standards of comfort. Casual dress code and open-seating dining – plus sumptuous speciality restaurants – feature on Silver Wind, Cloud, Shadow, Whisper and Spirit. The smaller expedition trio – Silver Galapagos, Explorer and Discoverer – also share the hot rocks al fresco grill concept. Itineraries encompass the globe, with the Polar regions and Australia's remote Kimberley region high on the list of expedition destinations. Silversea excursions and onboard enrichment experiences are enhanced by a partnership with the prestigious Royal Geographical Society. Drinks and gratuities included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Silver Cloud	Small/Luxury	1994	296	222	1.33	16,800	56.76	US \$	★★★★+
Silver Discoverer	Small/Premium expedition	2014	120	96	1.25	5,218	43.48	US \$	★★★★+
Silver Explorer	Small/Premium expedition	2008	132	115	1.15	6,072	46.00	US \$	★★★★+
Silver Galapagos	Small/Premium expedition	1990	100	70	1.43	4,077	40.77	US \$	★★★★+
Silver Shadow	Small/Luxury	2000	382	302	1.26	28,258	73.97	US \$	★★★★+
Silver Spirit	Small/Luxury	2009	540	376	1.44	36,009	66.68	US \$	★★★★★
Silver Whisper	Small/Luxury	2001	382	302	1.26	28,258	73.97	US \$	★★★★+
Silver Wind	Small/Luxury	1995	296	222	1.33	17,400	58.78	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.silversea.com @Silversea

Star Clippers

Three magnificent sailing ships, with the 228-passenger, five-masted Royal Clipper the fleet's flagship. The vessels sail around the Mediterranean and northern Europe in summer, and the Caribbean in winter. Yoga-themed voyages are a popular addition to cruising's rich tapestry, and the Clippers' Transatlantic repositioning cruises are particularly exciting. Star Flyer will spend the summer season of 2016 in the Mediterranean, before sailing to Phuket via the Suez Canal and Sri Lanka. The company has ordered its biggest vessel yet, and will take delivery in the second half of 2017. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Royal Clipper	Small/Premium	2000	227	106	2.14	5,000	22.03	€	★★★★
Star Clipper	Small/Premium	1992	170	75	2.27	2,298	13.52	€	★★★★+
Star Flyer	Small/Premium	1991	170	75	2.27	2,298	13.52	€	★★★★+

Find out more www.starclippers.com @starclippers

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Swan Hellenic

Stimulating, informative, relaxing and sociable – they are the bywords for Swan Hellenic, which provides refined country house-style cruising for the well-heeled and well-travelled. A cruise aboard Minerva is like nothing else, with meticulous attention to the finest details and a quality and charm honed over 60 years of sailing. In the company of expert guest speakers, guests travel to the world's cultural and geographical highlights to uncover the soul of each destination. Minerva also calls at smaller and less-visited ports, where it stays longer to escape the crowds. Accommodation is elegant and understated, with spacious lounges and comfortable bars – one named after Sir Mortimer Wheeler who was an early guest lecturer on archaeology, and the other after explorer Ernest Shackleton. The ship's library is one of the most extensive afloat and the restaurant rightly lays claim to having the best cheeseboard at sea.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
MV Minerva	Small/Classic	1996	350	160	2.19	12,449	35.57	£	★★★★

Find out more www.swanhellenic.com @swanhellenic

Thomson Cruises

Aimed squarely at the British package holiday market and offering excellent value, the ships – and accommodations – vary widely. In summer 2016, the line will take delivery of Thomson Discovery, its biggest ship yet, the former Royal Caribbean vessel, Splendour of the Seas. The rest of the fleet, chartered from other operators (Louis, HAL) offer a growing choice of casual alternative dining. Children's clubs are well run and make for successful family-friendly cruises, with kids choices in all dining options. The entertainment is well geared for UK tastes, with proficient resident troops of singers and dancers, and visiting comedians. In Europe each summer, the Canaries, Caribbean in winter, including a number of itineraries based at Montego Bay, Jamaica, and with some visiting Cuba.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Thomson Celebration	Medium/Classic	1984	1264	520	2.43	33,930	26.84	£	★★★★+
Thomson Discovery	Large/Resort	1996	2075	750	2.77	70,000	33.73	US \$	★★★★+
Thomson Dream	Medium/Classic	2012	1506	600	2.51	54,763	36.36	£	★★★★+
Thomson Majesty	Medium/Classic	1992	1462	600	2.44	40,876	27.96	£	★★★★
Thomson Spirit	Medium/Classic	1983	1254	520	2.41	33,930	27.06	£	★★★★

Find out more www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html @ThomsonHolidays

Viking Ocean Cruises

Building and launching a dozen or more river ships a year wasn't enough for Viking boss Tor Hagen, so he set up an ocean-going line with ambitious plans to grow to 10 vessels. The first was a game-changer – full of cool Scandinavian style. The pace of growth has slowed from the original expectations, and only one vessel will be added to the fleet in 2016 instead of the original plans for two. The medium-sized ships have more space for dining than seems possible and there's still room for a plush theatre, an intimate nightclub, and a two-level forward observation lounge. Every cabin has a balcony, and the main pool is provided with a sliding glass roof (there's another small pool cantilevered over the stern). Viking Star has spent its first year in the Med, northern Europe and the Baltic. In late 2016 it will operate Viking's first cruises in America and the Caribbean. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Viking Star	Medium/Premium	2015	930	620	1.50	47,800	51.40	US \$	★★★★★
Viking Sea	Medium/Premium	2016	930	620	1.50	47,800	51.40	US \$	★★★★★

Find out more www.vikingcruises.co.uk/oceans @VikingCruisesUK



Voyages Of Discovery

With its excellent guest speakers and excursion programmes, this is an ideal choice for passengers who want to get the most out of some adventurous and thoughtful itineraries. Imaginative menus and informal dining add value to the well-run product, as does a distinguished line-up of lecturers. On its worldwide journeys, Voyager never has two identical itineraries. Gratuities included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Voyager	Medium/Classic	1990	556	215	2.59	15,271	27.47	£	★★★★

Find out more www.voyagesofdiscovery.com @VoyageDiscovery

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Voyages To Antiquity

The one-ship line aims to open a window into the origins and genius of ancient cultures. As well as visiting breathtaking sites, guests see some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. Visiting speakers are an integral part of the Voyages to Antiquity experience, complementing the in-depth programme of shore excursions by bringing to life the art, history, and culture of the regions visited. Aegean Odyssey is a premium class ship that explores areas bigger vessels are unable to access. The vessel returns to south-east Asia and Burma for the early part of 2016, and in June will make its first ever visit to the UK, calling at Falmouth and Dartmouth en route to Dover. Gratuities and shore excursions included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Aegean Odyssey	Small/Classic	2010	378	174	2.17	11,563	30.59	US \$	★★★★

Find out more www.voyagestoantiquity.com @voyageantiquity

Windstar Cruises

The line's three sophisticated sailing ships have been joined by three small luxury ships that used to be part of Seabourn's fleet and have now been renamed Star Breeze, Star Legend and Star Pride. Windstar's original vessels offer casual luxury and the sails are computer-controlled – so passengers are not required to haul ropes or scrub decks. The atmosphere on board the additions is similarly relaxed – but with mechanical power driving the ships forward. Younger-than-average guest profile, with active passengers expected to conform to the mythical American “country club casual” dress code. Sailing in the Caribbean and to Central America (from Costa Rica) in the winter and in Northern Europe and the Med in summer. Gratuities not included.



NAME OF SHIP	SIZE	LAUNCH YEAR	PAX	CREW	PAX CREW	TONNAGE	SPACE RATIO	CURRENCY	STARS
Star Breeze	Small/Premium	1986	212	140	1.51	9,975	47.05	US \$	★★★★
Star Legend	Small/Premium	1992	212	140	1.51	9,975	47.05	US \$	★★★★
Star Pride	Small/Premium	1990	212	140	1.51	9,975	47.05	US \$	★★★★
Wind Spirit	Small/Premium	1998	148	90	1.64	5,700	38.51	US \$	★★★★+
Wind Star	Small/Premium	1986	148	90	1.64	5,700	38.51	US \$	★★★★+
Wind Surf	Small/Premium	1998	310	191	1.62	14,700	47.42	US \$	★★★★★

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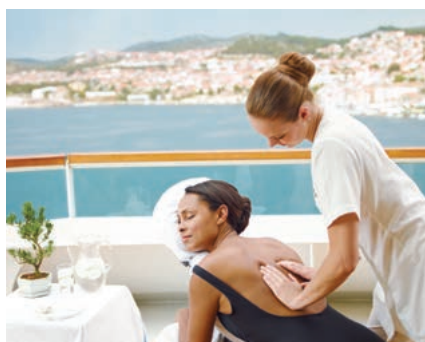


1 Celebrity Reflections AquaSpa sets the gold standard with its facial offering of a 24 carat gold leaf mask. Alongside the usual menu of wraps and scrubs, massage and manicures the spa also offers a programme of fillers and Botox in its superb two-deck location.

10 OF THE BEST *spas*

There's no escape from pampering, stress-relieving, muscle-relaxing and sheer indulgence when cruising. Here's our choice of the best on board

By **JO FOLEY**



2 Uber luxury is at hand in Seabourn's Penthouse Spa Suites (Odyssey and Quest) – which are there for those who want to make use of spa facilities during their time at sea. All have large private verandahs and two in-suite mini bars – one offering standard drinks and mixers and the other healthy drinks and snacks! Spa access is via its own spiral staircase.

3 Windstar's Wind Surf spa suites are pampering palaces on board – their aromatherapy essences are changed every day while each evening the turndown gifts are of lavender hand cream, night cream, eye gel or body lotion. Added to which there are specialist bath gels and oils from L'Occitane, a pillow menu offering everything from organic buckwheat to lavender, and a selection of herbal and well-being teas and tisanes. Plus spa suite guests enjoy two facials, two massages, two grooming treatments plus unlimited fitness training, yoga and pilates classes during their cruise – and there is a spa concierge to help organise.

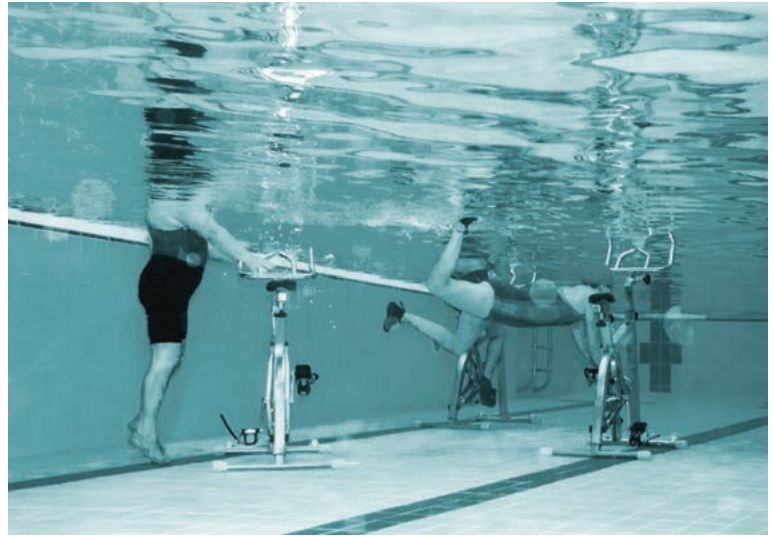


4 It takes a legendary spa to devise unforgettable experiences – and such is the case when Canyon Ranch SpaClub, native of Tucson, Arizona, went to sea with the glorious Queen Mary 2. The largest spa at sea with 24 treatments rooms, saunas, steam rooms, an aquatherapy suite, Thermal pool, fully equipped gym and a host of specialists to tend to every need from top to toe...for men and women.



at sea

5 The Aurea Spa on MSC Divina has a comprehensive thermal suite of hydrotherapy pools, steam room and sauna, but also offers a wide choice of massages – from Balinese to Swedish, Thai to shiatsu alongside aromatherapy and hot stone. Add to this the complete beauty works of facials, manicures and pedis, a spa doctor to advise on skin and age management areas, and the most up-to-date fitness facilities, including the very latest in aqua exercises - spinning classes on the specially designed hydro riders.



6 P&O's Azura has teamed up with Elemis to offer some of the most pampering and exclusive treatments at sea. Among the more exotic are a 24 carat gold facial, a pro-collagen quartz lift facial, a bamboo massage and a scented steam rasul, but there is also the usual comprehensive Elemis menu of body wraps, scrubs, manicures and facials as well as a plethora of anti-ageing therapies to choose from. Many of these can be enjoyed at the Spa Retreat – an outdoor terrace on an upper deck with special cabanas for extra privacy.

7 Experience a world of spas during a Costa Cruise at a Samsara Spa which offers a menu of treatments and experiences from around the world – from ayurvedic massages to Turkish baths, from thalassotherapy affusions to temples of peace for relaxation and meditation. Added to which there are fitness programmes, facials and barber shop specials.



9 Adventurers need cossetting too which is why Quark Expeditions have introduced spa treatments on the Ocean Endeavour. Massages, baths and body treatments are provided by Voya, the Irish Spa brand whose products are based on the healing properties of seaweed all harvested from the west coast of Ireland. Quark's signature treatment is the Explorer's Revive Ritual – a massage which is ideal for restoring aching muscles and dry chapped skin. The facials are great, too.



8 Viking, newcomers to on-board spas, have teamed with Raison d'Etre, a Scandinavian company, to launch their first spa at sea with Viking Star. Not only are the treatments and therapies based on Nordic traditions – Swedish massage, hydrotherapy pools and of course saunas...but they introduced the first snow room at sea (since followed by Norwegian Escape), where snowflakes descend from the ceiling to chill the air and cool the body.



10 Canyon Ranch SpaClub has also joined with Oceania Marina to bring many of its iconic rituals and treatments to sea, including of course its renowned Canyon Stone Massage, alongside the ageless oxygen boost – and a few just made for sea, such as organic body sea wraps and an ocean scrub. In total there is a choice of some 50 treatments and therapies plus a special spa cuisine menu in the Grand Dining Room and Terrace Cafe. ⚓

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