

OCEAN CRUISING



CUNARD®



Holland  
America Line®



PRINCESS®



Celebrity  
Cruises®



VOYAGES



DISNEY CRUISE LINE

MARGARITAVILLE  
*at Sea*



MSC  
CRUISES



Royal Caribbean  
INTERNATIONAL



Carnival®

A Guide  
to the major  
Ocean Cruise Lines



An aerial view of a wide river flowing through a lush green valley. In the foreground, a large, multi-decked cruise ship is moving down the river, leaving a white wake. The banks are lined with green fields, trees, and small villages with red-roofed houses. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

***Coming Soon***

***A Guide to  
River Cruises***

**Welcome aboard** our guide to all things cruising! Whether you're a seasoned sailor or setting off on your maiden voyage, our guide is your trusty compass.

Explore insights on major ocean cruise lines, snag savvy packing tips, and discover advice to ensure you're perfectly prepped for an adventure that's perfect for you. Dive in, and get ready to chart a course to excitement, relaxation, and unforgettable memories!



# CHOOSE FUN™

*Fleet: 23 Ships Established 1972*



### Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$ Budget-friendly
- **Average Guest:** Families and young adults looking for fun!
- **Atmosphere:** Casual and lively, party vibes.
- **Food:** Plenty of comfort food choices with buffets, & some specialty restaurants
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activities:** Waterslides, comedy clubs, nightclubs, and kids' clubs.
- **Accommodations:** Comfortable & functional

Unleash your inner rockstar and have a blast on these incredibly fun-filled ships. Carnival ships are like floating playgrounds for party lovers! The vibe on a Carnival cruise is laid-back and ideal for the super social crowd.

Carnival cruises are particularly appealing to younger adults, and families with kids. Here you'll find waterparks, slides, and "Dive-in" movies by the pool. There is an extensive kids club with programs for all ages. Some features unique to Carnival include "Seuss at Sea" featuring the "Seuss-a-palooza" parade and story time, Sky Zone trampolines, and the Build-a-Bear workshop. There is even a roller coaster on the newest ships.



For more adult centered entertainment, Carnival ships offer multiple bars, nightclubs, pubs and comedy clubs. You can also indulge in spa treatments, or relax in an adults-only retreat.

Hungry? In addition to the main dining rooms, you'll find a variety of specialty restaurants including the Bonsai Teppenyaki and Bonsai Sushi Express, an elegant steakhouse, and Guy's Burger Joint which features a menu by celebrity chef Guy Fieri. For the kids, there is always a kid friendly menu, or you can treat them to the "Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast with the Cat in the Hat and Friends." 24-hour pizza and ice cream are also an option!

For those on Caribbean cruises, Carnival may make a stop at their private island "Half Moon Cay." There you can choose to rent a cabana, or if you are fast enough, you could snag one of the hammocks. Check out the beached pirate ship, or explore the island on horseback. Other activity options include snorkeling, kayaking, massage huts, nature walks, and a complimentary barbeque lunch.



Half Moon Cay

Coming in the summer of 2025, Carnival will be opening a massive new private destination called "Celebration Key" offering a whole new array of activities and entertainment options.



Celebration Key



If you enjoy the casino, Carnival offers the "Players Club." It's free to join and you can earn points while playing. Your points can be redeemed for a variety of benefits such as free drinks, spa treatments, and premium dining experiences.



## NOTHING COMES CLOSE

*Fleet: 14 Ships Established 1989*



### Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$\$ Luxury with an edge - chic and sophisticated
- **Average Guest:** Couples and adult travelers looking for refinement
- **Atmosphere:** Sleek, modern, with a hint of glamour
- **Food:** Fine dining with a focus on contemporary cuisine
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activities:** High-end spas, art auctions, wine tastings, and adult-only retreats
- **Accommodations:** Modern, luxury

The atmosphere on Celebrity Cruises is the epitome of "Modern Luxury." Picture a floating boutique hotel where every detail exudes understated elegance and contemporary flair. The service on Celebrity is nothing short of exceptional, everyone is committed to delivering a service that mirrors the elegance and sophistication of the ship.

Celebrity is a popular choice with singles, couples and luxury travelers. Most Celebrity guests fall into the 40-55 yr. old range, however kids are welcome aboard as well, and they do have programs and dining options just for kids. You will most likely find quite a few multi-generational families traveling with Celebrity.



Dining plays a significant role on Celebrity cruises. Here you will find menus developed by Michelin-starred chefs. With the aid of Celebrity's certified sommeliers, wine connoisseurs can explore diverse wine regions and learn the art of perfect pairings. Culinary demonstrations are offered as well. For more casual dining options, you will find pizza, gourmet burgers, fresh salads and ice cream at your disposal. Celebrity Edge Class Ships also feature the ground-breaking Magic Carpet —a cantilevered, floating platform offering dining experiences and stunning views.





The intellectuals among us will particularly appreciate Celebrity for their wealth of enrichment programs, including expert-led talks, and art workshops. Entertainment options also include Broadway-caliber performances, movies, and a wide variety of live music venues including jazz clubs, and high energy nightclubs. Gamblers can enjoy the full service casino, and those seeking relaxation will appreciate the peaceful atmosphere of a rooftop garden, or some of the many offerings in the spa.

Celebrity's luxurious suites offer personalized butler service, premium amenities, and access to The Retreat, an exclusive suite-class experience offering a private sundeck, lounge, and restaurant.



Many of Celebrity's Caribbean sailings now include a stop at "Perfect Day at Coco Cay." On this private island you can find everything from an enormous waterpark, to a secluded, adults only beach enclave.



# CUNARD®

*Fleet: 4 Ships Established 1840*



## Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$\$\$ High-end
- **Average Guest:** Luxury travelers, older adults, and history enthusiasts
- **Atmosphere:** Classic, stately, luxurious, and formal
- **Food:** Exquisite dining with afternoon tea and gala dinners
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activities:** Theatre, planetarium, classical concerts, and the famed Queens Room
- **Accommodations:** Regal, Lavish

Cunard Line embodies sophistication, offering a timeless and opulent cruise experience. Delivering classic fine dining, educational talks, and enriching activities, Cunard caters to mature singles, couples and luxury travelers. Their majestic accommodations and exceptional service have earned them accolades such as "Best Luxury Cruise Line." With a rich history spanning over 182 years, Cunard is a symbol of enduring grace.



Embarking on a Cunard oceanliner feels like a journey back in time. These vessels exude tradition and splendor, and showcase impeccable British White Star service and hospitality. The atmosphere aboard Cunard ships is akin to stepping into a grand, floating palace. The decor exudes timeless elegance, with stately wood paneling, opulent chandeliers, and grand staircases reminiscent of a bygone era of ocean travel. The ambiance is refined and cultured, offering an atmosphere where guests feel both at ease and utterly pampered.



Experience the pinnacle of fine dining where multi-course feasts are prepared by world-class chefs. Appropriate semi-formal dress is a requirement in the dining rooms. Cunard does offer less formal dining options with a variety of pubs for those that would prefer a more relaxed environment.





From fencing and croquet to afternoon tea served by white-gloved waiters, there's always something genteel to engage in. Indulge in therapeutic treatments at the Canyon Ranch Spa, or enjoy a tranquil moment at the conservatory.



Cunard's service is in a league of its own, characterized by attentive, discreet, and personalized care. From the moment you step aboard, you are treated like royalty, with your needs anticipated and fulfilled seamlessly.

Entertainment options include lectures and workshops delivered by experts in various fields, including partnerships with institutions like The Juilliard School and the National Symphony Orchestra. Enjoy Shakespearean plays from the Royal Shakespeare Company, ballroom dancing in the grand Queens Room, or classical concerts in the Royal Court Theatre. Spend some quiet time in the tranquil conservatory. Here you will also find the only planetarium at sea. Formal nights provide the opportunity for black-tie dinners and dancing. Themed voyages like Transatlantic Fashion Week and Literature Festival at Sea are occasionally scheduled as well.





# Disney CRUISE LINE

Fleet: 5 Ships Established 1998



## Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$\$ Premium
- **Average Guest:** Families with children, Disney enthusiasts
- **Atmosphere:** Magical, family-oriented, and whimsical
- **Food:** Family-style dining with themed restaurants like Animator's Palate
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activites:** Top-tier kids' clubs, family pools, and adult relaxation areas
- **Accomodations:** Spacious family-friendly cabins, with "split bath" layouts

Disney brings its signature magic to the seas with a family-oriented experience that's a dream come true for Disney enthusiasts. The ship's decor effortlessly marries classic ocean liner styling with beloved Disney themes, creating an environment where both elegance and enchantment coexist beautifully. Expect to see Mickey Mouse-inspired motifs, elegant chandeliers, and grand atriums that feel like stepping into a fairy tale. Themed dining, top-notch cuisine, dazzling shows, and character meet-and-greets create an enchanting environment. Nevertheless, you don't need to be a Disney fan to enjoy a Disney cruise.

The Disney Cruise Line attracts an eclectic mix of passengers. Families, couples, solo travelers, and of course those die-hard Disney fans can be found on a Disney cruise.

Multi-generational families thrive in this wonderland. For the kids, Disney offers a collection of age appropriate youth clubs brimming with activities, games and adventures. Broadway style shows, and magical deck parties such as "Pirate Night" add to the fun. For the adults, there are adult exclusive areas where they can enjoy a cocktail and a quiet pool. For evening festivities, check out the adults-only nightclub. Disney cruises tend to be more expensive than most cruise lines. However, the majority of guests feel that a Disney cruise is totally worth the higher price.





Disney cruise ships offer a unique dining experience through a rotational system. Each evening, guests get to dine at a different themed restaurant, each presenting its own ambiance and menu. Your dedicated waiter accompanies you, ensuring personalized service throughout. Adults also have the opportunity to indulge in a specialty dining experience at Palo or Remy, where they can savor exquisite gourmet meals paired with fine wines.



Satisfy those mid-day cravings at Cabanas buffet, grab a quick bite at Flo's V8 Café, or stop in at the Sweet Shop!

A large percentage of Disney cruise guests are parents with kids. As such, staterooms are generally more spacious than those on other cruise ships. Many staterooms also feature a split bath layout where the shower is separated from the toilet and sink so that the facilities can be used by more than one person at a time.



Castaway Cay, Disney's private island, features picturesque beaches, and family activities. There is an adults-only retreat as well.

Impeccable service is a Disney hallmark and you will find that crew members on Disney ships go above and beyond to deliver that Disney magic, and to make every guest feel like a VIP.

# Holland America

Fleet: 11 Ships Established 1873



## Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$\$ Moderate to high
- **Average Guest:** Mature travelers, couples, and culture aficionados
- **Atmosphere:** Relaxed, classic, and culturally rich
- **Food:** High quality dining with diverse options
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activities:** World class spa, enrichment lectures, intimate music venues, culinary demos
- **Accommodations:** Refined, Comfortable, Modern

A Holland America cruise is a journey through elegance, culture, and refinement. With its serene atmosphere, enriching activities, exceptional dining, luxurious accommodations, and impeccable service, a voyage with Holland America is an experience that leaves a lasting impression. This cruise line attracts a mature and cultured crowd, known for their appreciation of finer things in life. Accommodations are created with comfort and elegance in mind. Each stateroom is designed for maximum comfort, with plush bedding, contemporary decor, and thoughtful amenities to ensure a restful stay.



When it comes to onboard activities, cultural enrichment is key. With Holland America, you'll experience an innovative program that enriches your understanding of your cruise destinations through cultural encounters, lectures, and tailored shore excursions. Music lovers can choose from a trio of live music venues. B.B. King's Blues Club, Billboard Onboard, and Lincoln Center Stage offer unparalleled musical experiences. For the art connoisseur, they can expect to find carefully selected modern art collections in Holland America's unique at-sea art galleries where they will enjoy engaging art talks and auctions.



Holland America is dedicated to providing outstanding dining experiences. An esteemed culinary council comprising top chefs has been formed to enhance your dining experience. Whether you're having a relaxed bite to eat or a fancy meal, every dish is meticulously made. Enjoy exceptional



dining at specialty eateries such as the Pinnacle Grill, where you can savor delicious steak and seafood, or Canaletto, which serves up authentic Italian fare. Culinary enthusiasts can even take part in onboard cooking demonstrations and hands-on workshops.

Indulge in luxurious treatments at the Greenhouse Spa & Salon, or enjoy a quiet moment at the Hydrotherapy Pool. Holland America crew members are dedicated to providing personalized and attentive service. From the moment you board, you're treated with a genuine warmth and care that makes you feel truly valued. Their commitment to excellence ensures your needs are anticipated and met with grace and professionalism.



If you're dreaming of exploring Alaska on a cruise, Holland America is the perfect choice. With over 75 years of experience, they offer unparalleled access to Alaska's top glaciers, including Glacier Bay National Park, Hubbard Glacier, and Tracy Arm Fjord. It's the ultimate way to experience the beauty of Alaska!





*Fleet: 19 Ships Established 1989*



### Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$ Moderate
- **Average Guest:** International travelers and families
- **Atmosphere:** European inspired, contemporary with a Mediterranean flair
- **Food:** Wide range of international cuisine with emphasis on Italian, and themed dining
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activites:** Themed parties, theatre, aqua park, spa and wellness programs
- **Accomodations:** comfortable combination of affordable and upscale spaces

MSC Cruises is distinguished by its European charm and family-friendly atmosphere. Their offerings include genuine Mediterranean cuisine and themed activities for families. Known for being a more budget-friendly cruise line, MSC attracts a true melting pot of passengers, leading to a diverse mix of English and non-English speaking guests. The multicultural passenger mix adds a layer of richness to your experience. Both French and English are the designated languages spoken by the crew, catering to the international nature of this cruise line.

Service on MSC Cruises is defined by warmth and professionalism. The crew members hail from all corners of the globe, bringing a rich tapestry of cultures and a shared commitment to excellence.

When it comes to activities, MSC Cruises have something for everyone. Dip into a sun-kissed pool, tackle a rock-climbing wall, or twist and turn down thrilling water slides. Unwind in luxurious spas, partake in yoga classes with



ocean views, or jog around the deck at sunrise. Learn something new with workshops ranging from mixology classes to star-gazing sessions. Evenings can be spent enjoying Broadway-style shows, live music, and themed parties. In fact, sailings often feature a "white" party, so you might want to be sure to pack something white to wear!



As a family-owned company, no one understands family like MSC. Children are always made to feel special with MSC, receiving a dedicated welcome from the Kids Corner either in terminal or onboard. You'll find a varied program of whole-family and supervised activities. Entertainment and social events are tailor-made for four separate age groups in their own clubs.



Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve is MSC Cruises' new private island located in The Bahamas. There you'll see uninterrupted sweeping views of crystal blue waters and over two miles of pristine beachfront spread across eight world class beaches allowing guests to connect with the natural environment and its beauty.

Discover the impressive array of culinary experiences available on every MSC cruise, featuring a blend of European influences and global flavors. Indulge in carefully crafted meals in the main dining rooms, showcasing the authentic flavors of the destinations you're visiting. If you prefer a more relaxed dining experience, you can enjoy a quick bite at the pizzeria or savor a gourmet burger at a food truck inspired venue. (Their pizza is truly one of the best I've ever had on a cruise ship!) Or indulge in specialty restaurants and delectable desserts created by renowned French chocolatier and world pastry champion Jean-Philippe Maury.



# PRINCESS®

*Fleet: 18 Ships Established 1965*



## Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$\$ Higher end
- **Average Guest:** Couples, older adults and multi-generational families
- **Atmosphere:** Romantic, relaxed, with a blend of classic and modern cruising elements
- **Food:** Fine dining with a focus on global and contemporary cuisine
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activities:** stage shows, art galleries, enrichment courses, spa, movies under the stars
- **Accommodations:** Spacious cabins with comfortable, home-like decor

Princess Cruises, the original "Love Boat," offers an atmosphere of refined elegance that appeals to discerning travelers. The decor is a tasteful blend of timeless grace and contemporary style, with plush furnishings, rich wood accents, and an inviting warmth that makes you feel immediately at home. Service aboard Princess Cruises is in a class of its own. The crew is dedicated, professional, and genuinely happy to be at your service while anticipating your needs, exceeding expectations, and adding personal touches.



What sets Princess Cruises apart is their innovative MedallionClass experience. The medallion is a wearable device that simplifies everything from boarding to unlocking your stateroom, ordering drinks, and locating your travel companions. It will even help you navigate your way around the ship!



Princess Cruises is all about top-notch dining experiences. You can savor delicious multi-course meals in beautifully decorated dining areas. Don't miss out on the unique dining options like Sabatini's Italian Trattoria and the Crown Grill Steakhouse. Fancy some fresh pastries at the International Café or a slice of pizza? You can even treat yourself to an indulgent ice cream sundae!



Enjoy concerts, and live theatre productions at the Princess Theater, chill to live music, or take in a movie Under the Stars on the top deck. Princess entertainment options include everything from high-energy fitness classes to laid-back cocktail mixing workshops. There's always a dance class, trivia contest, or art auction to spark your interest. Try your luck at the full service casino. Participate in the Princess Discovery at Sea Program, where you can learn about marine life, astronomy, and more from experts.



With state-of-the-art spa facilities beckoning travelers seeking ultimate relaxation, and entertainment-packed kids programs sparking imagination and learning, Princess Cruises ensures a memorable experience for guests of all ages.

The spa features luxurious facilities including a stunning hydrotherapy pool, a thermal suite with steam rooms, and heated stone beds for ultimate relaxation. Developed in partnership with Discovery™, the youth centers offer age-specific programs filled with

edutainment activities. Kids can participate in science activities like MythBusters experiments and animal planet activities for an engaging and fun learning experience. Families can bond over activities like Stargazing, Shark Week at Sea, and Animal Planet highlights.





*Fleet: 28 Ships Established 1968*



### Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$\$ Moderate
- **Average Guest:** Younger families, couples, and groups of friends
- **Atmosphere:** Adventurous, Family friendly
- **Food:** Diverse options and specialty restaurants
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activities:** Extensive onboard high-energy activities for every age
- **Accommodations:** Comfortable and stylish

Royal Caribbean boasts an adventurous and family-friendly atmosphere. With features like rock climbing walls, surf simulators, and Broadway-style shows, the cruise line ensures fun for all ages. Think of them as the "thrill-makers" of the seas, boasting mega-ships packed with adrenaline-pumping activities!



These ships are like floating metropolises, blending the allure of sleek architectural design with playful and dynamic elements. It's the ultimate playground on the water where every turn brings a new adventure, and the excitement never ends.



Royal Caribbean attracts a diverse crowd. With innovative family-friendly amenities and activities, it's no surprise that families are a significant part of the passenger mix. Young adults looking for fun, relaxation, and socialization are drawn to the energetic vibe. Solo travelers find countless opportunities to make connections through activities and events, and whether they're celebrating milestones or seeking a romantic retreat, couples enjoy the variety of experiences Royal Caribbean offers. Groups also thrive on these ships.



On a Royal Caribbean ship—you name it, they've probably got it. Skydiving simulators, surfing on a FlowRider, zip-lining, rock climbing walls, and ice skating rinks. Aquaparks, mini-golf, bumper cars, and game arcades keep kids and parents entertained for hours. Royal Caribbean also offers the Adventure Ocean program, packed with age-specific activities for younger cruisers. Be wowed by Broadway-style shows, acrobatic performances at the AquaTheater, comedy clubs, and ice-skating shows. There's a huge variety of quality entertainment that will keep your nights lively.



Take part in cooking demonstrations, dance classes, wine tastings, or even scuba diving certifications through the PADI® program. Enjoy the serene adults-only Solarium, multiple pools, hot tubs, and tranquil spa treatments. Try the futuristic bar with robotic bartenders that will craft your perfect cocktail.

The level of service on Royal Caribbean is exemplary. The crew members are trained to provide friendly, efficient, and personalized service. Dining on Royal

Caribbean is an international culinary journey. Taste exquisite multi-course meals in beautifully appointed dining rooms that offer a variety of global cuisine. Discover specialty venues like Wonderland, where culinary creations are inspired by imagination, or Jamie's Italian, serving up rustic dishes crafted by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver. Casual spots like Johnny Rockets and Sorrento's Pizza offer quick, delightful bites.

A unique feature found on some ships is the Virtual Balcony Stateroom which displays real-time ocean views on an 80-inch high-definition screen. Royal Caribbean offers an exhilarating blend of activities. It's more than a cruise—it's a playground at sea, promising unforgettable memories at every turn!





Fleet: 4 Ships Established 2020



### Highlights

- **Price:** \$\$\$\$ Moderate to high
- **Average Guest:** Millennials, Gen Xers, and trendy travelers
- **Atmosphere:** Hip, modern, adults-only
- **Food:** Over 20 eateries including international cuisine and small plates
- **Kid's Club:** No
- **Activities:** Nightclubs, drag performances, and wellness programs
- **Accommodations:** Ultra modern, stylish cabins with tech-savvy features

Embark on a modern and stylish voyage with this newcomer where cruising is redefined with flair, fun, and a touch of rebel sophistication. Trendsetters and young adults will find their paradise with Virgin Voyage's trendy and adult-only atmosphere. Featuring innovative and modern cuisine, and activities such as exclusive parties and unique fitness classes, it's a haven for the modern traveler. Swanky, hip venues and ultramodern accommodations round out the offerings of this relatively new but highly acclaimed line.



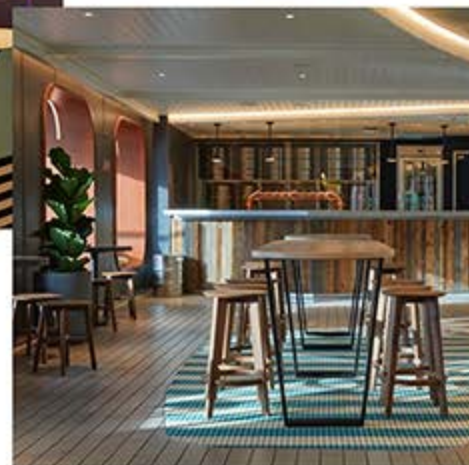
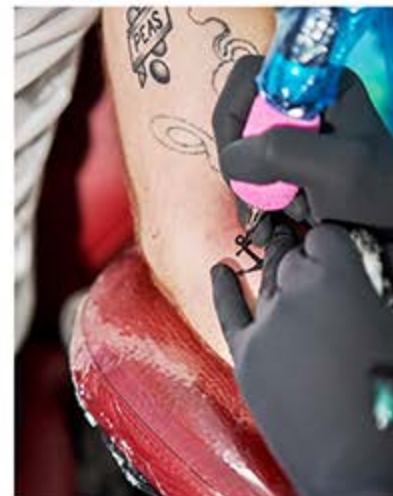
Virgin Voyages is adults-only, fostering an environment that feels both liberated and refined. The passenger demographic skews younger, with a strong emphasis on those who value experiences over things. When it comes to activities, Virgin Voyages has pioneered a new wave of cruising—with options that cater to all tastes.



Enjoy sunrise yoga, high-energy fitness classes, or a tranquil moment at the full-service spa. There's even an outdoor training zone dubbed "The B-Complex" for fitness enthusiasts. Participate in thought-provoking talks, art installations, and hands-on workshops that inspire creativity and learning. Lounge in The Dock, an alfresco social space designed for laid-back afternoons by the sea.



Revel in immersive, boundary-pushing performances and shows that transform the traditional cruise entertainment paradigm. Dive into the pulsating beats of The Manor nightclub or enjoy a sultry evening at the intimate Red Room. How about a tattoo — because why not push the boundaries of traditional cruise experiences?



Gone are the days of uninspired buffet lines; every meal here feels like a culinary revelation with no extra charge for specialty dining. Indulge in the flavors of a Korean BBQ at Gunbae, or fresh modern Mexican at Pink Agave. Savor light bites from food stalls at The Galley, an international food market at sea. From elevated vegan cuisine to indulgent desserts, the food is not just about sustenance; it's a celebration of the senses. And there are no set dining times or table assignments—freedom is a given, not an option. An emphasis is placed on eco-friendly practices from eliminating single-use plastics to serving sustainably sourced food.

Service on Virgin Voyages is in a league of its own. The crew members are not just service providers; they're spirited individuals dedicated to making each moment memorable and personal. Expect warmth, professionalism, and a genuine connection.

The Beach Club at Bimini, with its Fire & Sunsets Soirees is a staple on all Virgin Voyages Caribbean sailings originating from Miami.



Virgin Voyages is like a breath of fresh sea air, offering a unique experience that breaks away from the traditional cruise mold. If you're looking for an unforgettable escape that's as unique as you are, look no further than this trendsetting cruise line.

# MARGARITAVILLE at Sea

Fleet: 2 Ships Established 2022



## Highlights

- **Price:** \$ Budget
- **Average Guest:** Younger families, couples, college students, and groups of friends
- **Atmosphere:** Island vibes, family friendly
- **Food:** tropical inspired, and specialty restaurants
- **Kid's Club:** Yes
- **Activities:** High-energy, themed parties, games and activities for every age
- **Accommodations:** Comfortable, cozy



Escape with Margaritaville at Sea, a new way to vacation where it's always 5 o'Clock! Sailing from the Port of Palm Beach, Florida, to the stunning shores of

Grand Bahama Island, Margaritaville at Sea launched its maiden voyage in 2022. With rates starting as low as \$189 per person for 3 day voyages (excluding taxes and fees), this cruise presents an irresistible opportunity for a quick getaway. The second ship was launched in 2024, sailing from Tampa Bay and featuring longer voyages. Picture vibrant energy, limitless ocean breezes, and a remarkable crew that goes above and beyond to make your time aboard unforgettable. Dive into an experience where each cocktail whispers tales of paradise, especially if you opt for their drink package! The Margaritaville at Sea Islander even offers pre-cruise discounts on drinks. Meals across eateries like the Cheeseburger in Paradise Bar add a delicious layer to the journey, perfect for any Parrothead at heart.



Get the party started with high-energy shows, comedians, and magicians. Adults can also enjoy wine tastings, mixology classes, and the casino. Cast away your worries and enjoy the ride. Live music, entertainment, and special events will take you from relaxation to revelry, so you can celebrate the day or play, and party all night in paradise.

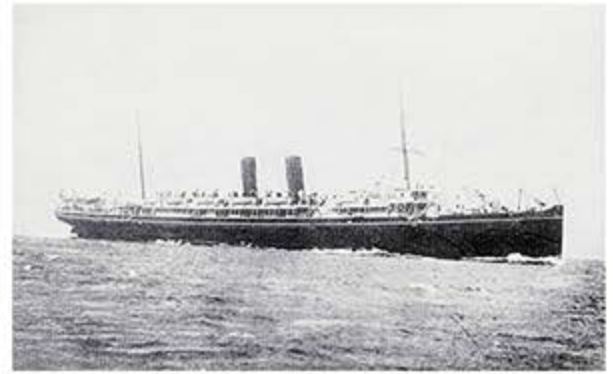
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## Norwegian Cruise Line

If you are wondering why you haven't seen NCL mentioned in these pages, let me say this. I have sailed on this cruise line, and my experience was not one that I would ever recommend to anyone. Their customer service was extremely poor, and the cruise line has more than once displayed to me an attitude of not caring about customer feedback. I know other people who have experienced this as well. Yes, there are people who enjoy this cruise line very much. I expect those people were fortunate enough to never encounter a problem during their cruise. I personally do not promote this cruise line.

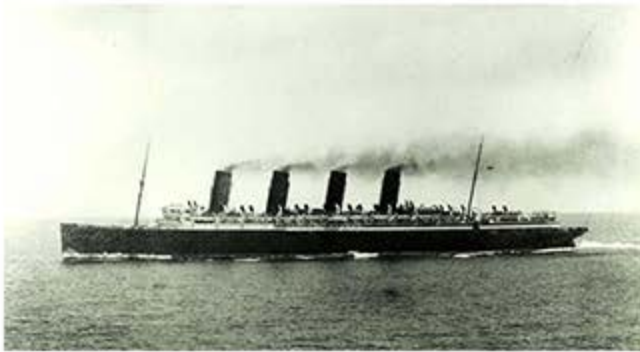
# A brief history of cruise ships

Cruises, as we know them today, trace their roots back to the grand voyages of the early 19th century. The initial concept of travel for pleasure is most often credited to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, popularly known as P&O Cruises. Founded in 1837, it began operating regular passenger services on the Mediterranean, marking the dawn of commercial cruising. This company is still in operation today!



*P&O S.S. India - one of the very first cruise ships*

The early 20th century witnessed the rise of opulent cruise liners like the Mauretania and the Aquitania. These floating palaces boasted lavish interiors, first-class amenities, and impeccable service, attracting the aristocracy and high society. They traversed the Atlantic in style, offering passengers a taste of glamour and adventure.



*Cunard's Mauretania*



*Holland America's 1st ship - the Rotterdam*

In the 1950s, the airline industry began to dominate the transatlantic travel space. Ships that once served as ocean liners adapted to become floating paradises, intricately blending transport with experience. Luxurious amenities, gourmet dining experiences, and enriching entertainment became the new order.



*Cunard's Queen Elizabeth*

The 1970s heralded the 'Golden Age' of cruising thanks to the advent of more lavish and larger ships aimed purely at the pleasure-seeking traveler. The iconic Pacific Princess holds a unique place in the world of cruising. The ship became synonymous with romance and adventure thanks to the popular television show "The Love Boat." The show acted as a powerful catalyst, leaving its mark on the public's perception of cruising and propelling the industry forward in profound ways. "The Love Boat" era witnessed a significant surge in passenger numbers, solidifying cruising as a mainstream form of leisure travel. This influx of new cruisers led to industry diversification, offering a wider variety of options – from budget-friendly trips to more luxurious voyages – catering to varied demographics and interests.



*Princess Cruise Line's Pacific Princess  
aka "The Love Boat"*

# Helpful cruise preparation tips and advice



- **Plan early!** Now, more than ever, cruise ships are selling out a year or more in advance. It's not at all unusual to find only a handful of staterooms left at premium prices as early as 10-12 months before sailing. Working with a travel advisor can help ensure that you will get the best room at the best price possible. Plus, travel advisors often have access to extra benefits and perks that you can't get when making reservations on your own!
- **Don't fly in on the day your cruise leaves** If you need to travel any significant distance to get to the cruise port, don't take a chance on waiting until the day of the cruise to head out. Flight delays and cancellations are a frequent occurrence. Bad weather, construction, and accidents can back up traffic for hours. If you are late, the cruise ship will not wait for you. Plan to arrive near the cruise port a day or two before the ship sets sail.
- **Download the cruise line's app** It will provide valuable information about the ship, daily activities, and onboard services. You will also be able to use the app to do your on-line check in prior to your departure date. This will save you time when boarding the ship.
- **Join loyalty programs** Accumulate points and unlock perks like onboard credits, priority boarding, and exclusive discounts.
- **Gather necessary documents** Make sure your passport, visa (if needed), and travel insurance documents are up-to-date and easily accessible. Make sure your passport will not expire less than 6 months before your cruise return date. This is often a requirement for traveling to other countries. This is not always the case, but better safe than sorry! Even if you are on a cruise that doesn't require a passport, it is better to have one with you. If for whatever reason you have the misfortune of being in another country and not getting back to your ship before it leaves, you will need that passport for transportation. Plus, you never know when regulations might change.
- **Print your luggage tags** You will need to have these affixed to your luggage before you arrive at the port. Porters will be there to take your checked luggage when you arrive, and it will be delivered directly to your stateroom later that day. Be prepared with a few dollars for a tip.
- **Prepay gratuities** Cruise lines automatically add gratuities to your bill at the end of your cruise. These can range from \$12 - \$20 or more per person, per night. Avoid the "sticker shock" at the end of your cruise by prepaying the gratuities when you book the trip. You may find that you pay less by doing this. If someone provides exceptionally good service during your cruise, feel free to extend to them an additional cash tip. Many people choose to do this.
- **Book shore excursions in advance** Popular excursions will sell out, so secure your spot early.
- **Make dinner & specialty dining reservations in advance** Again, the most popular dining times and restaurants will sell out early. However, if you do miss out on getting that advance reservation, all hope is not lost! Not all seating is sold in advance. Most of the time you can go to the restaurant in person after boarding the ship and secure a reservation. People often cancel too, so even if it's a last minute decision, it's always worth going to the restaurant and asking if they can fit you in.
- **Purchase cruise "extras" in advance** If you would like to take advantage of a drink package, spa services, photo packages, an internet package, or shore excursions offered by the cruise ship, you may save money by booking these things before you board. Most ships discount these items before the cruise sets sail.



- **You might want to consider a drink package** Drink packages are not just for alcoholic beverages. Most cruise lines will only include water and basic juices, coffee and tea for their beverage offerings. If you are a soda drinker, enjoy specialty coffees, or prefer bottled water you can buy those items individually on the ship, but you'll be paying top dollar for them. If you are looking a several of these drinks per day, you will probably want to purchase some type of drink package. Cruise lines will offer basic soft drink packages, as well as packages that include alcoholic beverages. One caveat to keep in mind - many cruise lines require everyone in the same stateroom to purchase the same drink package. Obviously passengers under 21 would only need to purchase a soft drink package, but if one person age 21 or older purchases a package that includes alcoholic beverages, then all passengers 21 or older in the same stateroom must purchase that package as well. Sometimes exceptions can be made, for example, if a passenger is pregnant. The cruise line would need to be contacted directly to arrange for an exception.
- **Bring your own drinks with you** Be sure to check the cruise line policy first, but many ships will allow you to bring one or two bottles of unopened wine onboard with your carry-on luggage. Some will also allow a case of 12-24 cans of soda to be carried onboard as well. They will not permit you to bring any hard liquor. And if you plan to drink the wine with your dinner, be prepared to pay an "uncorking" fee. Otherwise, you can enjoy your wine in the privacy of your stateroom without extra charge.
- **You don't have to select shore excursions from those offered by the cruise line** There are several companies outside of the cruise lines that offer shore excursions, and a lot of them are less expensive than what the cruise ship will charge. Many of these companies also offer guarantees that they will return you back to the ship before it leaves port. A travel advisor can help you with these excursion reservations. You also have the option of getting off the ship and exploring on your own. Just be very careful about the time. If you are late getting back to the ship, it will leave without you!
- **Check for shareholder benefits** Some cruise lines will offer a free on board credit if you are a shareholder that meets a set minimum amount of stock. For instance, if you have at least 100 shares of stock in Carnival cruise lines, they will give you an on board credit for a cruise on Carnival, Princess, or Holland America. Generally, the amount of the credit is based upon the length of the cruise.
- **Put your cell phone in airplane mode!** Unless you have made previous arrangements with your phone provider, once the ship pulls out to sea, calls, texts, and downloads are not local anymore. Avoid expensive accidental charges by putting your phone in airplane mode. Most ships offer free wifi in order to make use of the ship app. If you want to be able to make phone calls using wifi, or if you want internet access, consider purchasing an internet package. If the ship docks at a location that is included in your phone plan (most often Canada or Mexico), you can also use that time to take your phone out of airplane mode and handle any calls or internet searches that you may need to make.
- **Talk to the crew!** Take the time to greet the people that serve you on your cruise. Learn their names, and get to know them. They are very kind, hard-working people and are doing their best to make your vacation a great one. I have enjoyed many facinating conversations with crew members.

## Cruise carry-on tips



- **DO NOT pack your passport, driver's license, birth certificates, or cruise documents in your suitcase!** You need to have these items readily accessible in order to board the ship. If the cruise porters take them away in your suitcase, you've got a problem!
- **All medication** You don't know for certain what time you will next see your checked luggage. Always have your prescription medication, as well as any over-the-counter medication you may need in your carry-on bag. If you're prone to seasickness, be sure to bring seasickness medication or other such remedies.
- **Cash, credit cards, health insurance cards** Again, you don't know if or when you might need any of these items so make sure to keep them readily accessible.
- **Cell phones, ear phones, battery back-ups, charging cables** You will most likely need your charged cell phone in particular once you board the ship to help you find your way around, see what's happening on the ship, and to keep in touch with friends and family members.
- **Basic toiletries** You may need to brush your teeth after lunch, or freshen up before dinner. If your luggage hasn't yet arrived, you will want to have your most needed toiletries with you.
- **Swim suit, cover-up, sun glasses, sun screen** For those that can't wait to dive into the pool and lounge in the sun, be sure to pack your swim suit in your carry-on so you can start enjoying your vacation right away.
- **Extra outfit** Maybe you've boarded the ship in traveling clothes and would like to change into something less formal. Or perhaps you've spent a few hours around the pool and need to change into something more appropriate for dinner. If your suitcase has yet to be delivered, you will want to have an extra outfit in your carry-on bag.
- **Jewelry and other valuables** Be sure to keep with you anything that you don't want to risk losing to lost or damaged luggage.

## Things not to bring on a cruise



- **Weapons of any kind** This includes not only the obvious weapons such as guns and knives, but also any martial arts weapons, and any restraining devices such as handcuffs.
- **Illegal drugs** This includes marijuana and CBD products, even if they're legal in your home state or departure port.
- **Candles, incense, irons, hot pots, or most other appliances with a heating element** Cruise ships will not allow anything on board that could potentially start a fire.
- **Modems, routers or other internet related equipment** You will not be permitted to bring any equipment that could potentially interfere with the operation of the cruise's internet service.
- **Some other prohibited items** Beer or hard liquor. Any hazardous chemicals, compressed gas, or explosives. Lasers or laser pointers, satellite phones, wide band receivers, radio beacons, communication scanners, transformers, boom boxes or large radios, helium balloons, drones, extension cords, manual or power tools.

Why do I keep finding ducks all over the ship??



The fun started when a couple of enthusiastic cruisers decided to spread a little joy by hiding small rubber duckies around the ship with a simple tag saying, "You've been ducked!" It's become a whimsical game of hide-and-seek. Families with kids love it; finding and hiding ducks turns the vast cruise ship into a wonderland of discovery and fun for all ages. There's something inherently delightful about stumbling upon a hidden duck, a small gesture that evokes big smiles and collective positivity. 🦆🦆🦆 However, don't bring your ducks on a Disney cruise. Hiding ducks is not permitted by Disney cruise lines.



Ready to plan a cruise?



I hope you have found the information in this booklet to be helpful. I have found cruises to be one of the best vacation options available. The ships are so much fun, and you can experience a sampling of multiple countries on a single trip.

Please reach out to me when you are ready to plan your first - or next - cruise. As a professional travel advisor, I work every day to stay current with cruise line offerings, sales, and special events. I have not only sailed on many ships, but I also have taken tours of other ships so I have seen first hand what the ships look like, and what they have to offer. I am a trained expert with many of the cruise lines, and continue to add to that training.

In my role as your travel advisor, I will find the best cruise options for your personal needs as well as the best possible prices. I often have access to discounts and extra perks that can only be obtained by travel advisors. I hope you will allow me to handle your cruising needs.

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