

CRUISING: ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

FOR VALUE, VARIETY AND SATISFACTION, NOTHING ELSE

MEASURES UP TO CRUISE VACATIONS.

Every day, more and more people are discovering the all-inclusive pleasures of a cruise vacation. More singles, families, couples, honeymooners, second honeymooners and groups of friends are sailing away on the vacation of their lives.

Last year alone, more than nine million people enjoyed cruise vacations. When you add it all up, it's easy to see why.

The price of your ticket includes all of your meals-and in-between snacks. All your daytime activities, nighttime parties and entertainment, plus, a relaxing voyage to some of the most exciting and exotic places in the world.

You'll find a cruise ship is a floating resort. With all the things a fine resort has to offer, and more. You'll meet new friends-people like yourself-who share the same tastes and interests. And, you can spend your days and nights being as lively or leisurely as you like.

The hassles of an ordinary vacation are *completely* eliminated in one neat package. You don't have to worry about making dinner or nightclub reservations; running to make connections; packing and unpacking several times; or expensive surprises at restaurants and nightclubs.

You can just lie back and be completely pampered. Or go non-stop. Dine like you never have before. Enjoy one great show after another. Let you cares float away.

It's no wonder that more people are taking cruise vacations than ever before. And it's no wonder that, once they get a taste of cruising, they come for more, again and Again.

As a matter of fact, cruises have a higher percentage of satisfied customers than any other vacation experience. Ask **Cruise Holidays** about it! Chances are, we'll recommend a cruise vacation from personal experience.

Suggestion: Take the advice!

HERE ARE ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CRUISE VACATIONS.

Isn't cruising expensive?

No! A cruise is one of the best travel values. Your fare includes all your meals, your stateroom, daytime activities, night-time parties and entertainment, plus transportation to some of the most popular ports in the world. For once, you'll know what your vacation will end up costing you before you go.

How long are cruises?

As long, or short, as you want. **Cruise Holidays** offers itineraries from three days to three months.

How do I book a cruise?

Call **Cruise Holidays**. We'll help you pick the cruise that fits your vacation schedule, tastes and budget, then make all the arrangements to get you from your doorstep to your stateroom.

Are all ships and cruises fairly similar?

Far from it. **Cruise Holidays** represent ships from under 200 feet to over 1,000. You can sail with anywhere from fewer than 100 fellow passengers to nearly 3,000. Experience atmospheres ranging from casual to formal and classically simple to ultra-deluxe. You can even choose between traditional propeller-driven craft and sailing ships.

What's an air /sea cruise?

A "fly/cruise" or "air/sea cruise" vacation package includes either free or much reduced airfare along with your cruise ticket. These money-saving options are available from most major North American cities and include transfers between the airport and ship as well as baggage handling.

Can I book on short notice?

To get exactly the ship, cabin and sailing date you want, you should plan and book early. **Cruise Holidays** has special prices on all cruises regardless of the time of booking.

Do I need a passport?

Starting December 31, 2007 you will be required to have a valid Passport as proof of citizenship. The cruise lines are very strict with these requirements so be sure you are prepared.

Are there different classes of service?

Today's cruise ships are generally "one-class". Everyone on board can use all the ship's facilities. The price of a stateroom is based only on its size and location. Regardless of the category you book, you'll enjoy the same courteous service, menus, activities and entertainment as everyone else on board.

Will I get bored? Feel confined?

Hardly, being at sea gives you a feeling of freedom few places can offer. There's plenty of room. And it will probably take you two or three days just to discover what's on board. Plus, you get the added adventure of exploring new and exciting ports of call.

Cruise ships are like floating resorts, with all the things fine resorts have to offer. You can be by yourself and lie back on a lounge chair, breathe in the sea air, soak up the sun, read good books or watch the ever-changing view. Or you can join in exercise classes, dance classes, sports contests and other organized deck activities. Perhaps you can practice your tennis strokes, drive golf balls, or shoot some skeet or basketballs. You can go for a swim, stretch out in the sauna or work out in the gym. You can take in a feature movie, listen to a lecture, or play backgammon or bridge. And, that's just when you're onboard!

What's there to do in port?

So much, you'll have a hard time choosing! You can go off on your own or take a guided tour. You can search ancient ruins or for shopping bargains. Ride a raft over river rapids, a bicycle down the side of a 10,000-foot volcano, or a horse across miles of hills and beaches. Climb a waterfall or pyramid. See the birthplace of civilization or steel drum bands. Follow the footsteps of history or the wake of water-skiing boat.

If there's still time (and you aren't ready to rest yet) enjoy a folkloric show. Play golf or tennis. Eat native foods. Learn how to windsurf. Sun and swim at some of the world's best beaches. Catch a record marlin. Sail, snorkel or go scuba diving. Go to a nightclub or glittering casino. Take a cable car to the top of a mountain. Explore catacombs.

In short, a cruise is the easiest way to see new places and do all the things you dream of.

Do I have to participate in the activities?

On a cruise you do what you want to do. You can do everything. Or lay back and do absolutely nothing. It's your vacation.

Would our kids enjoy cruising?

If your children enjoy swimming, sports, games, movies and the adventure of seeing new and exotic places, they'll love cruising. You'll find that kids adapt to shipboard life with ease, yet you won't wonder where they are and what they're up to every minute. The cruise staff will help keep them busy and entertained. The cruise lines offer a wealth of supervised children's programs that offer a great variety of activities. Best of all, children generally travel at substantially reduced rates.

What's there to do at night?

At night, life aboard a cruise ship really turns on. There's dancing, live entertainment in the nightclubs, discos and lounges, Feature films, and parties with all your new friends. Most ships even have casinos. There are also many special events, like the Captain's Cocktail Party, Passenger's Talent Night, the Masquerade Parade, the Midnight Buffet (just for one last bite to tide you over 'till breakfast). And the night can go on as long as you want. Even until the spectacle of sunrise at sea.

Is it easy to meet people?

A cruise ship is a great place to make new friends, because everyone's so friendly. The atmosphere is cordial, relaxed. And you'll have all kinds of things in common to talk about. At dinner.. At cocktails... Around the pool... Or along the promenade rail. And don't be surprised if you find yourself making arrangements to meet them aboard ship again next year.

Will there be people like me?

No matter what you've heard to the contrary, there's no such thing as a typical cruise passenger! All kinds of people take cruises...of all ages...from all walks of life...singles, couples and families. Passengers can vary from ship to ship and cruise to cruise. Just ask **Cruise Holidays** for advice on the best ship for you, your tastes and lifestyle.

Can I travel alone?

Cruising is ideal for people traveling alone, because it's so easy to meet other people. In fact, most ships have parties just for singles-early on, so you can start to be involved right away.

What should I pack?

Pack like you would for any resort. Cruise vacations are casual by day, whether you're on the ship or ashore. In the evening, ships vary as to dress. As on shore, attire is dictated by occasion. For the Captain's Gala you'll probably want to wear something more formal, such as a dark suite, or cocktail dress; perhaps even a dinner jacket or gown.

Will I need a tuxedo?

If you have one and like to wear it, bring it along! But don't go out and buy one for the trip. Even on the most formal of ships, a dark suit and tie are just fine.

Can I use my hair dryer or shaver?

Certainly. Virtually all ships have 110-volt outlets in the staterooms. Most ships today will have hair dryers in the bathrooms.

What are "different meal seatings?"

Some ships' dining rooms can accommodate all passengers in one "seating." But, most ships have two seatings, which differ only by time. To choose, just decide whether you prefer to dine early or later-then have us request your preference when you book. Whichever seating you choose, remember that one of the best ways to make new friends is to ask for a large table. Some cruise lines today offer "open seating" to dine when you like.

Can I have seconds?

Everything you've ever heard about cruise ship dining is true. You'll find a varied selection of entrees (appetizers, salads, soups, vegetables and desserts, too) every time you sit down. There's virtually no limit on what or how much you can order. Best of all, the one thing you'll never see on a cruise ship menu is a price!

Will I gain weight?

Not if you don't want to! In addition to "low cal" or "fitness" menu selections, you'll have ample opportunities stay fit. You can jog, work out in the gym, join in aerobics, swim, golf, play tennis, and much more.

Can I get a special diet?

Most ships can accommodate salt-free, low carbohydrate, Kosher, or other diet preferences. However, this request must be made in advance. So be sure to advise us of this requirement when you book your cruise.

What if I don't like my tablemates?

Rarely is this a problem. However, if you wish to move to another table, speak with the maitre d'. He'll make every effort to seat you with more compatible dining companions...discreetly and politely.

Are there "non-smoking" areas?

Today, virtually all ships have nonsmoking Dining Rooms. Smoking is optional in most cabins and on other public areas of the ship.

Can we celebrate a "special" occasion?

Absolutely! Most cruise lines will even treat you to a complimentary cake and a chorus of "Happy Whatever" to honor the occasion. Your birthday or anniversary can be more festive with champagne, flowers, canapés, wine or cheese. You can even arrange for a special private party. All you have to do is advise us in advance and we'll make all of the arrangements.

Is cruising right for honeymooners?

Without a doubt. Cruising creates an atmosphere that's just right for romance...cozy dinners for two, strolling on deck at sunset, dancing the night away (even under the stars) and so much more to remember forever.

Can we stay in touch with the "outside?"

Quite easily. Most ships have a daily newsletter with news headlines, selected stock quotes and sports scores. You can call someone on shore through the ship's radio operator while at sea. And you can make phone calls from most ports of call. Internet cafes are available on most ships so that you can communicate by email.

What about tipping?

Tipping is of course a matter of individual preference but the cruise lines will offer a suggested guideline. A general rule of thumb is to plan for about \$10 per day per person per day of the cruise, which will cover tips for everyone who has served you including the cabin steward, dining room waiter, and busboy. Other shipboard personnel can be tipped for special services at your discretion.

Isn't seasickness a problem?

Not really. The most popular cruise areas boast some of the calmest waters in the world. In addition, stabilizers on modern ships, advance availability of accurate weather information, and development of effective preventative medications have, for the most part, eliminated the incidence of motion discomfort.

Are there medical services on board?

Virtually every cruise ship (except for some smaller vessels operating in coastal waters) has a fully equipped medical facility and staff to handle almost any emergency.

Are there laundry services aboard?

Yes, almost all cruise ships have laundry facilities and a great many provide dry-cleaning services. There is however, additional charge for professional laundry and dry-cleaning services. Many ships have self-service laundry facilities on board.

Do cruise lines accept group bookings?

Cruise Holidays works with all types of groups; often at reduced rates depending on how many people are involved. Policies vary from company to company and sometimes there are other benefits and perks awarded to groups. Just call us for complete details.

Are there meeting rooms on-board?

Yes. Most cruise lines will be happy to make public rooms available to groups. If you need to make such arrangements, **Cruise Holidays** can work with the cruise line's group sales department to co-ordinate schedules as well as any catering desired. Most modern ships have meeting and conference rooms available as well as access to the ship's audio-visual equipment, all for no additional charge.

Can I extend my cruise vacation?

Cruise Holidays can arrange pre- or post-cruise land packages at the same time you book your cruise.

There's no such thing as a perfect vacation. What are the negatives?

In all seriousness, the one major complaint we hear over and over again is that cruises end far too soon! Beyond that, it's hard to find any negatives. After all, you don't have to run to make plane connections to get from one port to the next. You don't have the hassles of making dinner or nightclub reservations. You don't have the bother of packing and unpacking as you move from place to place. You don't get unexpected, expensive surprises at restaurants or nightclubs. You have a wealth of options for shopping, adventure, sightseeing, exploring, entertainment and sports activities. All you have to worry about is relaxing and enjoying your vacation.

Most importantly, every crew and staff member on board is dedicated to making your cruise vacation the best vacation of your life (until you top it the next year with another cruise!)