

Cruising into the 21st Century

Once the excitement of celebrating the start of a new millennium has past, what are you going to look forward to in 2000 and beyond? Why, the best value in vacations, a cruise! From the Caribbean to Alaska, from Hawaii to Europe and nearly all points in between, cruise ships are crisscrossing the globe to more than 1800 ports and taking vacationers like yourself to ever more exotic and unusual destinations.

The cruise lines have ambitious goals, starting with plans to launch more than 20 new ships - including the world's largest passenger vessel ever -- by the end of 2001. Indeed, the cruise industry will have plenty of news in coming years about new ships, new itineraries, new ports, and more.

In response to consumer research, the trend continues with ships being bigger and including more amenities with each new launch. Cruise lines are investing in unprecedented cruise ship design and product enhancements such as the first ice rink, in-line skating track and rock-climbing wall. There will be ships with cabins overlooking a soaring indoor atrium and more spacious accommodations. Each line is trying to top the other with theme cruises, entertainment venues, and programs for ALL ages.

And, what was innovative just a few years ago, has become almost "standard" in the industry today: multiple restaurants onboard, private balconies, golf programs with onboard driving ranges and putting greens, full court basketball, volleyball and paddle tennis are now available, as are full jogging tracks, several different types of swimming pools; specialty and sports bars, 24-hour dining and a variety of other features.

One of the new exciting, larger ships is the Voyager of the Seas. Launching in 2000, it will weigh 142,000-tons and span the length of three football fields. Voyager's innovations will include enhanced cabins, increased dining options, and exceptional recreational facilities for the entire family. Perhaps the most breathtaking of these innovations will be the Royal Promenade which will host a wide selection of shops, restaurants and entertainment in a large, four story atrium. The Voyager of the Seas has 14 passenger decks and 1559 cabins, many with balconies overlooking the Royal Promenade or the sea.

So start planning today for a grand beginning to the new century. At Cruise Holidays, we have the experience to help you select a wonderful new adventure, whether you've taken a cruise before or have only dreamed of one. Our experienced cruise counselors are knowledgeable about the latest ships and the latest itineraries, and will be glad to share their own personal experiences.

Cruise with a friend!

Do you have a best friend from grade school you rarely get to see? Do you still exchange Christmas cards and occasional phone calls with your college roommate? Or maybe you have a desire to hold the creme de la creme of family reunions. An ideal way to share fun and good times with your favorite people is to take a cruise together!

Just think about it. On a cruise, there are lots of activities and entertainment for folks of all ages and interests. You can meet for meals and shared experiences, yet there is plenty of opportunity for each person to do his own thing. You can catch up on news of each other while relaxing at a spa or playing a wicked game table tennis. You can let kids can "have their space" without the fear they'll get lost or into trouble.

At Cruise Holidays, we specialize in group tours, whether your group has a few people or many. As the top Cruise Holidays franchisee, we have the power to reserve large blocks of cabins and reduced group rates. Call us today, and we will help you and your friends arrange for the reunion of a lifetime.

Perhaps you've cruised already and know all about the glories of vacationing at sea. Perhaps you haven't. In that case, you're likely one of the 74 million Americans who are interested in taking a cruise, but haven't yet. If you're at all like most first-timers, let me tell you now that your expectations will be greatly exceeded. A recent CLIA survey of first-time cruisers cited these top attractions, compared with land-based vacations: all-inclusive price, pampering, hassle-free (no packing once you've set sail), fine dining, relaxation and "getting away from it all," having "everything planned for you," the ability to visit several destinations, good value for the money and "fun."

If you're considering a cruise, the best course of action is to visit a CLIA-affiliated travel agency. Many of these agencies employ Accredited Cruise Counsellors (ACC's) and Master Cruise Counsellors (MCC's) who are highly trained in what the individual cruise lines offer. Much of their knowledge is gained through first-hand experience, through ship inspections and actual cruises, so these agents truly know the products they're selling.

Always insist on using the services of a CLIA-affiliated travel agency. Before you visit the agency, though, it helps to think about your vacation needs. Where would you like to go, and what would you like to do, on the ship and on land? And, will you be traveling with family, friends or alone? Having some idea of what you want will better enable the travel agent in helping you to pick an appropriate cruise.

If you're wondering about cost, don't. If you can afford a vacation, you can afford a cruise. Just look at the ads in your local newspaper's travel section and consider that quite often the all-inclusive nature of cruise vacations means they cost less than comparable "land" vacations. You'll see what I mean if you add up all the costs of your last vacation, including roundtrip air fare; all the breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks; all transportation, such as taxis or rental car; and all the admission fees for special

attractions, entertainment, health club and kids' programs. These items and more are included in the cost of a typical cruise.

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Total Cabins: 1,559

Handicapped Accessible: 26

Passenger Decks: 14

of Elevators: 14

Normal Passenger Capacity: 3,118

Total Passenger Capacity: 3,840

Space Ratio/Passenger in cu. ft.: 46