

Navigate

SPRING 2024

CRUISE INSPIRATION



LUXURY RIVER CRUISES • FAMILY CRUISES • OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



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Santorini, Greece

Unlock savings of up to 20%* on your 2024 Azamara® voyage and immerse yourself in discovery. Setting sail with Azamara is an invitation to travel the world from the Mediterranean to Canada, where time becomes your ultimate travel companion.

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INCLUDED**

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Tips & Gratuities
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**ALWAYS
EXPECTED**

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Price example is per person with 2 people sharing a balcony stateroom and includes return flights from London Heathrow airport and transfers to and from the ship.

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2 Countries



11 Ports

Embark: Istanbul, Turkey – Debark: Athens (Piraeus), Greece

ITINERARY



Change The Way You Sea

**TO DISCOVER MORE FABULOUS CRUISES AND TO BOOK
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT**

*Savings are applicable on specific dates only and subject to availability. Price example is per person with 2 people sharing a balcony stateroom and includes return flights from London Heathrow airport and transfers to and from the ship. For new 2024 & 2025 bookings made by 21 March 2024. All information detailed in this advertisement is correct at the time of release, February 2024 – but subject to change. Contact your local travel agent for full terms and conditions.

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Welcome to Navigate

P10
A Memorable
Mediterranean Journey



We will find you a value-packed cruise holiday based on your budget and requirements.

- ✓ We provide the best prices
- ✓ Widest choice means value-packed recommendations
- ✓ If there's a deal to be had, we'll find it!
- ✓ We're your hassle-free holiday finder
- ✓ Our service and expertise save you time
- ✓ Our cruise knowledge means you are getting even more value when booking with us
- ✓ We know value means more than just the best prices!

Book with confidence with us, your local independent travel agent, where your cruise plans are in the best possible hands!

2024 is the year to take your adventures to the next level! And what better way to elevate your travel experience than with a cruise holiday that promises a fusion of luxury and exploration?

Embarking on a cruise is not just about the journey; it's an experience that takes you to a world where every sunrise and sunset is a work of art. Whether you crave crystal-clear waters or the vibrant energy of bustling cities, there's an itinerary to suit anyone's taste, making for a memorable holiday we're sure you won't want to end.

Navigate magazine is your portal to explore the endless amenities that cruise lines have to offer, such as fine dining, entertainment, luxurious spas and much more – and as cruise experts, we're here to make sure you're fully equipped

with all the 'need to knows' about everything cruise, in addition to getting value for money, so that you can enjoy your holiday to the fullest.

In this issue of Navigate, we share first-hand accounts of exotic escapades, culinary adventures and the diverse cultures that await at every port of call, in addition to recommendations on some of the best educational family cruises, and what shore excursions shouldn't be missed this year! With each page, you will embark on a journey of infinite possibilities and unlock the treasures that the world of cruising has to offer.

Whether you're a seasoned cruiser or a first-time sailor, this issue is your compass in navigating the vast seas of information so you can plan your perfect cruise holiday. Bon voyage!

DID YOU KNOW?

We're a member of The Advantage Travel Partnership, the UK's largest group of independently owned travel agents. We have access to a wide choice of great value, financially protected holidays. So, whether you're looking for culture, adventure or relaxation, we are ideally placed to help you find your dream holiday.

Part of the
Advantage
Travel Partnership

P32

Off-the-Beaten-Track Destinations

Cuba

& TREASURES OF THE WEST INDIES

Swap cold nights for warm days with a Caribbean cocktail of dreams. Cure those cold winter blues by escaping to the Caribbean's crystal-clear seas and cloudless skies on a truly magical 45-night voyage filled with sun-kissed serenity and tropical treasures.

Whether you're soaking in Cuba's retro city glory or losing yourself along palm-fringed beaches, dramatic volcanoes or tropical rainforests, the West Indies' mosaic of islands is a one-stop shop for paradise hunters and active adventurers. Sample authentic Caribbean cuisine and move to a new rhythm as you take in the dazzlingly diverse island scenes.

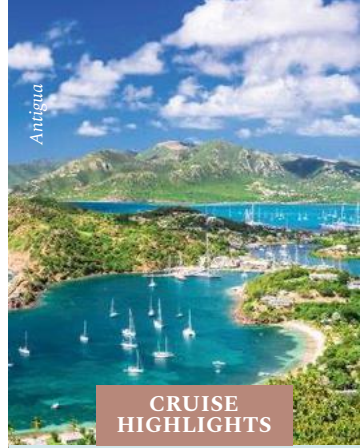
Sailing aboard *Ambition*, you can enjoy an authentic cruise experience effortlessly with a true sense of comfort and space. Your home-from-home, your cabin accommodation is where you'll feel most comfortable. This is

your restful haven that you can look forward to returning to after an exciting day ashore or a busy day at sea, where you can escape and rejuvenate during your trip.

Ambition's dining options will inspire you, with two main restaurants, speciality dining options and a more casual bistro-style café. Sit back, relax and enjoy a drink in one of her six bars and lounges. Or take in a show in the tiered main theatre, or discover your hidden talents in the card room, library and craft studio. Other facilities include the wellness centre, gym, two swimming pools and a range of retail shops, perfect for days at sea.

TAKE ME THERE

For more information on Ambassador Cruise Line's Cuba itinerary on board *Ambition*, contact us.



CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

PONTA DELGADA, AZORES

Sailing from London Tilbury, you'll have the exciting chance to stop by Ponta Delgada before heading off to the Caribbean. Dotted like jewels in the distant Atlantic, the Azores are world-famous for their lush and dramatic landscapes. Ponta Delgada blends the best of old and new, feeling like a miniature Lisbon, and has everything you could ask for.

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

With its candy-coloured market stalls and kaleidoscope of coral reefs, Antigua's energetic capital city really is a treat for the eyes (and the taste buds).

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO

The capital of Curaçao is a Caribbean delight, with its friendly multicoloured buildings, enviable climate, charming shopping, colonial architecture – and several famous casinos where you can flirt with Lady Luck.

HAVANA, CUBA

Sometimes referred to as the Rome of the Caribbean, it's impossible not to feel enchanted by Cuba's capital city's charm, with its Spanish architecture, classic American cars and gorgeous tropical climate.



Alexander, Cuba

Brought to you by

Celebrity **X** Cruises®

Ex UK Ocean Cruises 

Discover the Greatest Places in Europe

UP TO **75% OFF**
2ND GUEST*
*Ends 08 April 2024

+

FLY TO EUROPE FROM £49*
*Ends 08 April 2024

ADD DRINKS AND WIFI FOR £39 PER PERSON PER DAY**

**Ends 05 March 2024

Madeira

For the 2024/2025 Europe season, we're excited to introduce so much that's new from Celebrity Cruises. For the first time, the revolutionary Edge® Series ship, *Celebrity Apex®*, will be sailing from Southampton for a full season and the cruise line has curated some exciting itineraries that explore Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, featuring visits to must-see places such as the Norwegian Fjords, Reykjavik, Arctic Circle, Ibiza, Lisbon and Madeira.

There will be six award-winning ships from the fleet sailing from Iceland and Northern Europe to the Eastern Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea, including two of the amazing *Celebrity Edge®* Series ships – *Celebrity Apex®* and

its newest ship; *Celebrity Ascend™*. These stunning ships will set sail from seven departure ports across Europe, with itineraries ranging from 4 to 14 nights, so you're sure to find the perfect sailing to satisfy your wanderlust.

With this new season, Celebrity is also introducing more new places in Europe than it has ever done before, including Bordeaux (Pauillac), France; Brindisi and Trieste, Italy; and Volos and Kavala, Greece. Plus, the cruise line will be returning to some of our favourite locations in Europe that it hasn't visited in some time, such as Italy's Amalfi Coast and Gdansk (Gdynia), Poland. Along with these interesting cities, the new itineraries offer more time in more of the destinations than ever

before, so you can go beyond the historic landmarks and immerse yourself in the culture, history and beauty of the places you visit. And that's not all. With more overnight stays in some of the most dynamic cities in Europe, you can spend more time dancing, dining or just relaxing under the starry sky above. From the natural, geothermal baths in Iceland to the ancient ruins of the Parthenon in Greece – and every exciting destination in between – Celebrity Cruises will show you the greatest places in Europe.

JOURNEY EUROPE: NEW PLACES. NEW SPACES.

SPAIN, FRANCE & ITALY

Celebrity Ascend™
17 Aug 2024 • 7 Nights
£1,261pp*

NORWEGIAN FJORDS

Celebrity Apex®
16 Aug 2024 • 7 Nights
£1,063pp*

CANARIES & PORTUGAL

Celebrity Apex®
01 Oct 2024 • 11 Nights
£1,409pp*

*Subject to availability, prices may change

WHY PICK ONE BEACH?

One city, one restaurant or even one pool? With Celebrity Cruises, you can have it all. Exploring the world's greatest wonders is even more enticing with the exclusive offers up for grabs. Available for a limited time, enjoy 75% off your second guest's cruise fare. Plus, you can fly for less with flights to Europe from £49/£49pp. New discoveries await on our award-winning cruises.



VALUE PACKED

All Aboard Fred. Olsen Cruises



Borealis



In a world of successful resort-style cruising options catering for the next generation of cruise aficionados, it is possible to overlook those smaller companies offering a classic approach to cruising. Read on to hear from cruise expert Jamie Robins as he reveals why he fell hook, line and sinker for ‘The Olsen Way’ as the family-operated cruise line celebrates over 170 years of seafaring heritage across five generations and two World Wars.

With three ships in the current fleet, *Balmoral*, *Borealis* and *Bolette*, and no more than 1,400 passengers per ship, you’ll get the traditional, intimate feel of these ships with fewer passengers than so many of

the new builds. These sisters also visit a wider range of ports thanks to their smaller size and ability to navigate narrow waterways and canals. Fred. Olsen ships also depart from a greater range of UK ports than many of their competitors, such as Southampton, Portsmouth, Dover, Liverpool and Rosyth – a welcome option for passengers wanting to avoid flights and hours of travel prior to embarkation.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

On revealing my inaugural plans to get my feet wet, figuratively, with Fred. Olsen, I was surprisingly greeted with comments alluding to a ‘different demographic’ and

experience to mine. I am in my 40s, to be clear, and it had never occurred to me to not choose a cruise line that largely attracted an ‘older’ British clientele. I wanted to find out if ‘The Olsen Way’ was a myth and, my goodness, this preconception of age equating to an experience unsuitable for someone like me was one I would strongly challenge.

THE OLSEN WAY

Opting for a five-night cruise on board *Borealis* which sailed from Liverpool, we docked in colourful Cobh, Ireland, and historic Belfast, Northern Ireland. On embarking *Borealis*, I really did get all the ‘feels’ of a homely ship, with a



Written by **Jamie Robins**, travel and cruise vlogger. You can find Jamie on YouTube by searching Travel Blog Jamie for more tips and recommendations on cruising.



charming, friendly and genuine welcome from every member of crew who greeted me. Some cruise lines profess the warmest welcome at sea, but none rival what I experienced where every smile broke through the overcast Liverpool skies that day.

To say I was impressed by my inside cabin was an understatement. I am not usually a fan of windowless accommodation, but finances dictated so. However, with ample space, splashes of colour, a wonderful cabin stewardess, in-cabin dining options and close proximity to amenities (on a ship the size of *Borealis*, everywhere is easily reachable), a windowless life did not seem so bad, and my envy

of passengers with ocean views and verandas was mitigated – if not completely subsided.

With a retractable roof for all weather conditions, the lido deck, featuring a large, heated pool, comes to life with the addition of large hot tubs, a well-stocked bar, regular live music and poolside grill serving delicious brunch and lunch options – included in the cruise fare.

“For £10 per person sharing a cabin, try the thermal suite located at the front of the ship. You get the entire space to yourselves for each hour you reserve. Yes, just you and your cabin mate (or ditch them!), hot tub, saunas, outdoor section with loungers, showers – I even ordered canapés and half a bottle of bubbly to luxuriate further – bliss!”

What I say now is no exaggeration; the food on board *Borealis* was the biggest surprise to me, not just for the quality and variety of options served in the buffet (which is no ordinary buffet with its many live cookery stations) and main dining room, but also the Asian speciality dining at the Vasco and Colours & Tastes restaurants. These cost £10 per person if booked in advance and, at over 60 cruises I have



enjoyed across multiple lines, Fred. Olsen has some of the best food at sea. I challenge anyone to disagree!

HOME

The overall experience was one of little luxuries often missing on other cruise lines. Efficient, proud service by a happy crew wanting to make you feel every bit as special as you are. A sense of space and calm throughout – no queues, no endurance tests. Exquisite food, interesting ports of call with excursions for all. And yes, every time I stepped back on board, I knew I was at home and experiencing The Olsen Way. Did the ‘older crowd’ put me to shame with their high energy and dance moves? Absolutely. Will I be back? I think you know the answer...

FIND OUT MORE

If Jamie’s experience has you eager to discover The Olsen Way for yourself, get in touch with us, your local travel agent – and we’ll find



An Inaugural Sailing on Norwegian Viva



By Emily Andrews

In August 2023, I was lucky enough to experience my first-ever cruise on Norwegian Cruise Line's brand-new ship, *Norwegian Viva*, on her inaugural sailing. We embarked at Barcelona and sailed to Rome, stopping at Cannes and Florence; and, whilst a short cruise, it certainly allowed us to see everything it had to offer...and we weren't disappointed!

FOOD AND DRINK: THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, FROM CASUAL QUICK DINING TO SOMETHING EXTRA SPECIAL

Something that impressed me on *Viva* was the food and drink options; whether you opt for the standard Full Board package or add premium drinks and speciality restaurants, there was plenty of choice!

In fact, the 'standard' restaurants were my favourites, including Hudson's. Located at the back of the ship and surrounded by views of the sea, the setting of this restaurant is one of the best on board. We sat by the window, so we could enjoy those sea views as we dined and ordered the French onion soup, rotisserie chicken and king prawns with creamy mash potato and peppers – all of which were enjoyed. Another stand-out restaurant included in the standard Full Board package is The Commodore Room, where steaks are the speciality – a great choice for a treat at no extra cost!



Prawn Starter, Palomar

Daytime or casual dining options include the Surfside Café – located by the main pool area and perfect for a quick burger and chips – and the Indulge Food Hall with an incredible choice of options from all over the world, all of which can be ordered straight from your table's very own tablet. For something extra special, I'd recommend booking a table at the supplementary restaurant, Palomar – with fish and seafood being the star of the show here.

And we haven't even started on the drinks! There are lots of bars dotted around the ship to enjoy a tippie, and my favourite spot was the Soleil Bar around 5pm. As the heat of the day was less intense, it was the perfect time to sit back, relax with a cocktail in hand and watch the waves.



Pool Area

WHETHER YOU'RE IN A COUPLE, WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY OR ARE TRAVELLING SOLO, THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES TO HANG OUT

Something that I noticed on board is the variety of seating areas on deck and within the bars. Whether you wish to find a secluded spot and settle in with a book, or hang out with the whole family, this is a cruise ship that caters for absolutely everyone. They've thought of it all! For those looking for some relaxed, quiet time, head to the Observation Deck (where the views are pretty good too!) For those seeking something a little livelier during the evening hours, head to Syd Norman's Pour House for a few drinks and live music.

There are plenty of entertainment options too, including live Broadway style shows and karaoke. If live shows are your thing, make sure you book in advance to avoid disappointment. They get booked up quickly!

FRIENDLY AND PERSONABLE SERVICE

I'd been told by all cruise goers that the service on board will always be exceptional, and they were certainly right. *Viva* has a relaxed feel throughout, and the staff were friendly, personable and always provided a service with a smile - plus, if they saw you with an empty drink in hand, would ask what else they could get for you. Nothing was too much trouble, and the staff set the tone throughout the ship, which made for a wonderful atmosphere.

"There was a real mix of customers on board, from young families to couples of all ages and solo travellers – meaning that this is a cruise ship for just about everyone!"



Viva would be classed as a mid-sized ship, allowing 3,000 guests on it; but with so many areas on board, and seating areas dotted throughout, never once did it feel crowded. What I really loved was the outside space that was available throughout the length of the whole ship - which you don't get with all cruise lines. If you're looking for a premium level ship, with a relaxed feel, I would absolutely recommend *Norwegian Viva*!

THE VERDICT: I CAN DEFINITELY SEE THE APPEAL IN CRUISING!

Before I set sail, I didn't know what to expect but now, having experienced my first cruise, I can see the appeal, and why so many customers return year on year. What could be better than waking up in a new destination each day, an array of entertainment venues on board and a wide range of restaurants and bars to try?

FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to find out more about *Norwegian Viva*, contact us today and we'll tell you all there is to know.



Dinner at Hudson's



A Memorable Mediterranean Journey

Porto Giunco, Sardinia



VALUE PACKED

Norwegian Escape



EXPLORE MORE WITH BIGGER SAVINGS

With a vast array of breathtaking cities and picturesque coastlines in the Mediterranean, it's no wonder selecting the perfect location can be daunting. So why not take a cruise holiday with Norwegian Cruise Line® (NCL) and experience some of the Mediterranean's finest destinations in one memorable journey?

Come aboard NCL on an idyllic itinerary through the Mediterranean. Embark on a 10-day holiday to remember on Norwegian Escape®, where each day is different, and you wake up in a new destination nearly every morning.



Rome, Italy

Take your pick of departure dates from June to October in 2024, round-trip from Barcelona, taking in nine fantastic ports. In the Catalan capital, stroll down the mesmerising streets of the Gothic Quarter and witness Gaudi's iconic La Sagrada Familia. Walk the palm-lined Promenade de la Croisette in glamorous Cannes, and discover the immense beauty of the French Riviera. Journey back over two and a half thousand years of history, art and culture in Rome from Civitavecchia. Witness the perfect blend of modern life and medieval mystery in Cagliari, Sardinia, and immerse yourself in the best restaurants, shops and nightlife of Palma, Majorca, all in one, fantastic holiday!

ON-BOARD EXPERIENCE

With NCL, you are free to cruise your way! You can go from exploring a brand-new destination in the morning, to relaxing in Mandara Spa® in the afternoon. Plus, there's plenty of award-winning entertainment and a wide range of family activities too – so you can always experience a different tomorrow. Elevate your entire holiday experience when you take advantage of the best value at sea by upgrading to NCL's 'Free

Get 50% off* this fabulous itinerary, as well as cruises worldwide, when you book your dream holiday at sea with NCL. Choose from 20 innovative ships open for sale and start planning your amazing getaway now. You'll even get up to £250pp airfare credit on select sailings through 2024*!

at Sea' package, from £249pp (on a 9-11 day cruise). You'll savour the finest cuisine with Speciality Dining, which includes delicious dishes to suit all tastes. Sip your favourite cocktails, unlimited spirits, wines, draft beer, juice and soft drinks with premium beverages. Make the most of your time on shore with US\$50 excursion discounts per tour*. Keep in touch with friends back home with wifi. And bring the whole family and pay only taxes for 3rd and 4th guests on select cruises.

READY TO SET SAIL?

If you would like more information or to discover different itineraries, please give us a call.

*Terms and conditions apply to all offers.

MARELLA
CRUISES

Set sail from Turkey

This summer, Marella Discovery will be setting sail from **Marmaris**, in Turkey. There are four seven-night itineraries to choose from or, if you fancy a longer break, Marella Cruises also offer Cruise & Stay holidays with three, four or seven night hotel stay options.

You can drop anchor in historical **Limassol**, in Cyprus, as well as Turkish gems like **Izmir**, **Bodrum** and **Alanya**. **Istanbul's** another highlight – the city's a real melting pot of eastern and western cultures.



Get in touch with your local travel agent to book your next All Inclusive cruise to Turkey.

Educational Family Cruising

By Sam Ballard

Parents often hold ambitions that a holiday will spark their children's imagination in some way. That being in Greece or Rome will ignite their creativity and bring their homework to life. Is it true that there is a plausible educational element to cruises? And if so, what does that look like?

The answer is that yes, there are tons of opportunities to load the imaginations of the ship's smallest sailors. However, you might want to make sure that you pick the right cruise line first.

Windsurfing, Mykonos

Shore excursions are the most obvious one. Family-friendly cruise lines like Royal Caribbean run a Family Connections Series of shore excursions, where kids can do everything from being a Gladiator for a day at the Roman Colosseum to taking a windsurfing class in Mykonos. There's also the chance to jump in the driver's seat for a non-stop go kart relay race in Ajaccio. These are phenomenal, tailored experiences. Be sure to ask us about whether the cruise line you're thinking of offers family-friendly shore excursions, because not all do.

Back on board and there are plenty of cruise lines that offer opportunities for their youngest passengers to learn something whilst on the ship.

Celebrity Cruises is a prime example. On top of the company's kids' clubs, it now offers Camp at Sea, which, it says, is "the only fully customisable kids cruise programme in the industry". Each camp schedule is created from more than 500 activities, from arts and recreation to science and technology. The aim is to ensure that, whatever your child's interests, they're well catered for whilst on board. And, if sailing on either *Celebrity Edge*® or *Celebrity Equinox*®, children have the option to take part in STEM at Sea.

The programme, which was formed under a partnership with the Frost Science Museum, is designed to help young people understand the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through

a one-of-a-kind educational experience on board. According to Celebrity:

“Our STEM at Sea programme offers exclusive activities and events that will engage, entertain and inform kids on varying topics such as marine wildlife, ecological conservation and nautical exploration.”



Kids' Go Kart Relay Race



Children's Cookery Class

They're not the only ones that are pushing the envelope when it comes to educating younger cruisers, either.

Explora Journeys, the ultra-luxury cruise line, has leant on its parent company MSC Cruises to offer a programme of activities created in partnership with the MSC Foundation, MSC's environmental non-profit. Children using Explora Journeys' Nautilus Club (the kids' club) can participate in workshops and discussions on marine conservation, environmental footprint, the ships' sustainable practices, the impact of tourism, and community support. Activities are designed to inform and engage the lively younger minds of guests.

Hurtigruten, the Norwegian expedition cruise company, is another one to look out for when it comes to placing an emphasis on education. The company's Young Explorers' Programme gives children the chance to "learn about other cultures, the importance of nature in our daily lives and the impact humans have on our delicate and beautiful planet". The programme, which also allows children to more easily meet other children whilst on board, introduces them to topics like environmental protection, local food and famous explorers.

Another company doing interesting things is Uniworld. The luxury river cruise line recognised that so many multigenerational families go away together, and it designed a 'Discover the generations collection' with this demographic in mind. Each Generations Cruise – be it the Nile or the Rhine – that the company runs will have a special programme of events and excursions designed for all members of the family. Uniworld tweaks its overall offering to include kids' menus in the restaurants as well as cookery classes, craft workshops and on board family hosts.

These are just a few great examples of cruise lines making some subtle differences on board that will make a big difference to those travelling with children. If you want to enjoy the delights of a cruise and make a lasting impression on your children, you could do a lot worse than taking a cruise!

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Whatever it is you're looking for, the perfect educational family cruise does indeed exist, so get in touch with your local travel agent today and start planning your next great escape!



Colosseum, Rome

Anthem of the Seas

WITH A COUPLE OF GEN-ZEES



By Noel Mutamba
and Millie Nunn

Last July, my friend Millie Nunn and I, Noel Mutamba, had the incredible opportunity to visit Royal Caribbean's *Anthem of the Seas* and personally experience what the ship had to offer. Being members of Gen Z, we had never considered cruising and always assumed it was geared more towards the older generations. So, a day trip experience was the perfect chance to debunk this theory and find out the truth about cruising.

As first-timers on a cruise ship, we were thoroughly impressed with the diverse range of amenities and entertainment options available to passengers on board, so here's an insider scoop on all things *Anthem of the Seas*.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY

There may be people wondering whether Royal Caribbean is worth the cost. Our straightforward answer is a resounding YES! The cruise ship offers a wide range of activities, from rock climbing, skydiving simulators and bumper cars to dance classes, outdoor movie nights and West End performances. Royal Caribbean has truly thought of everything, so you can rest assured knowing that there is something to suit everyone in the family. Additionally, the ship provides kids' clubs that can accommodate any age group up to 17, which allows parents to unwind, knowing their children are in secure hands and having a good time.

Royal Caribbean doesn't fall short on water activities for the whole family either, and we were far from bored on *Anthem of the Seas*. With five swimming pools including two whirlpools and a shallow kid's pool, as well as a 40-foot-long FlowRider® surf simulator, you can certainly appreciate why!

Adults can also take some time to unwind in kid-free areas such as the adult-only solarium. This haven is perfectly positioned at the front of the ship, providing stunning views where we enjoyed a swimming pool, whirlpools and a lounge area. The Vitality™ Spa is also available on board where you can indulge in treatments for an additional fee, including massages, facials and nail services – just what you need to feel relaxed and rejuvenated whilst at sea.

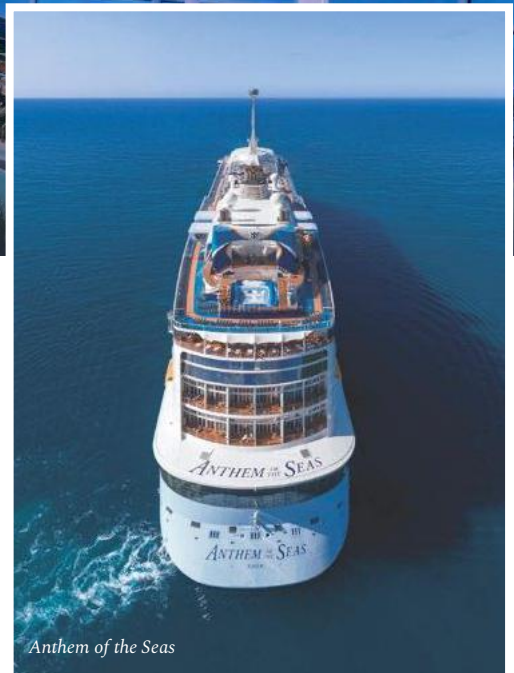


*Anthem Solarium*

FOOD HEAVEN

When you're feeling a bit peckish, Royal Caribbean has got you covered, with 15 incredible restaurants and diners, 8 of which were included in our package. The buffet-style restaurant, Windjammer, has a range of cuisines to give you a taste of the world (and some home favourites for picky eaters). If you're after an after-hours bite, Sorrento's Pizza will satisfy all cravings. We were able to grab a slice before disembarking, opting for the pepperoni slice, and it definitely did not disappoint.

For when you're seeking something extra special, there are also some incredible speciality restaurants on board, like Jamie's Italian and Izumi for the sushi lovers out there. However, it was the Wonderland restaurant that really stood out to us out of them all. From the moment we entered the restaurant, we were transported to a whimsical wonderland, where every detail was thoughtfully designed to create a truly immersive experience. It is much more than a place to just dine – the aesthetics and menu come together to create a full-sensory experience. The six-course dinner menu offers a selection of small plates that are carefully crafted to expand your culinary horizons. Amongst the courses, one of my favourite dishes was the Snap, Crackle and Pork. It featured a perfectly cooked piece of pork topped with apple crisps, which offered an ideal balance of crispy and melt-in-your-mouth textures. This was truly an unforgettable dining experience.

*Anthem of the Seas*

All in all, our time on board *Anthem of the Seas* was nothing short of spectacular. We were able to learn that cruising is not just for the older generation but is, instead, a holiday that all ages can enjoy and make the most of. It was truly an unforgettable experience, and we can't wait for our next cruise with Royal Caribbean!

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, feel free to contact us, for more information on all things Royal Caribbean.

World's Best Family Holiday

This is more than a holiday upgrade. It's the best family holiday in the world. First-in-class, *Icon of the Seas*, raises the bar for family holidays. Packed with thrills, chills and wows, this is the holiday of a lifetime filled with new adventures, including new spaces built for families. Plus, memories extend from ship to shore, because every sailing stops at award-winning private destination, Perfect Day® at CocoCay®.



Discover the all-new *Icon of the Seas*, the first Icon Class ship, redefining adventure for you and your crew. Stay all day in the first-ever neighbourhood designed specifically for young families, Surfside, where there is no shortage of ways to splash and play.

Cool down at Water's Edge infinity pool. And for the kids, Splashaway Bay and Baby Bay are nearby so everyone can splash their own way. Take on all the ways to play including the newly redesigned Playscape and beach-themed carousel. When it's time to refuel, all-new dining is just steps away, offering food for adults and kids alike. For families looking to put their bravery to the test, venture to Thrill Island where the adrenaline-pumping experiences await. Catch the biggest thrills on Category 6 – the biggest waterpark at sea – or Crown's Edge, an adrenaline-pumping test of bravery high above the ocean. When your sweet-tooth calls, answer the craving at Desserted – the first milkshake bar in the fleet. Whether you're looking for bonding experiences, bold adventures or to kick back on board between Caribbean adventures ashore, the options are endless on *Icon* – the ship that offers something for everyone.



Discover the ship in our highlights video, just hit play!

PERFECT DAY AT COCOCAY

There's no such thing as a 'one-size-fits-all' holiday – especially on Perfect Day® at CocoCay®. Whether your ideal family getaway involves larger-than-life thrills or unwinding at a peaceful waterfront chill spot, you'll find there's no right or wrong way to make the most out of your adventure when you hop ashore to Royal Caribbean's award-winning private island, Perfect Day® at CocoCay®.

READY TO SET SAIL?

For more information about Royal Caribbean and the rest of its fleet, contact us, your local travel agent, and find out why Royal Caribbean is great for family holidays.

Brought to you by

Advantage
Holidays & Cruise

Ocean Cruises



Sailing into Serenity

THE IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL OF PRE-CRUISE STAYS

Miami Beach

Embarking on a cruise is an exciting adventure, promising azure seas, exotic ports and unparalleled relaxation. Yet, savvy travellers are increasingly discovering the hidden gem that lies in extending their holiday with a pre-cruise stay. Advantage Holidays & Cruise explores why indulging in a few extra days on land before setting sail is not just a good idea but an essential part of the ultimate cruising experience.

First and foremost, a pre-cruise stay sets the stage for a stress-free voyage. Imagine arriving at your port city a day or two before departure, allowing time to unwind and soak up the local sights, avoiding any travel fatigue by the time your cruise sets sail.

Beyond the practicalities, a pre-cruise stay opens the door to immersive exploration. Port cities are often rich in history and culture, in addition to the culinary delights that are waiting to be discovered. Take, for instance, a pre-cruise stay in Athens before embarking on a Mediterranean or Greek Islands cruise. Soak up the atmosphere at the Plaka, the oldest neighbourhood in the city, before climbing up the sacred rock of the Acropolis to marvel at some of the world's most important

masterpieces of architecture and art. Such experiences add layers of depth to your overall journey, creating memories that extend far beyond the confines of the cruise ship.

“A pre-cruise stay also allows you to mitigate the risk of unexpected delays, giving you peace of mind knowing that you’ll arrive well ahead of your cruise departure...be sure to know, the cruise ship won’t wait for you! Arriving a day or two early creates an ideal buffer – meaning your holiday will kick off with a smooth, positive start!”



Athens



Plaka, Athens

We think a stay before a cruise is not merely a practicality; it's an enhancement to the entire travel experience. It transforms your cruise experience into a multi-faceted adventure, giving you more time to explore and relax ahead of your adventure.

ADD A PRE-CRUISE STAY TODAY!

Ask us what packages we can put together with Advantage Holidays & Cruise, which offers a range of pre-cruise packages including hotels, transfers and even experiences at your destination. These packages not only streamline your journey but also provide a taste of the luxury and service you can expect on board. It's an enticing preview that sets the tone for the pampering and indulgence that awaits you at sea!

Trusted. Respected. Local. We make your holiday dreams come true! 17

Celebrity Ascent®

A MARVEL OF MARITIME ENGINEERING



By David Forder

Nestled in the ship 'car' park next to her equally impressive sister *Celebrity Beyond*®, her beguiling size is a sight to behold. A marvel of maritime engineering, this is a large ship by anyone's imagination, yet, as I was soon to find out, size really can matter, in a good way.

I was privileged to be experiencing the naming ceremony for *Celebrity Ascent*®, which included two nights on board and a short sailing out from mainland USA towards the Bahamas. This way, as guests, we were able to experience *Ascent*® in her full glory, and the crew could put their rigorous training into action, ahead of the official inaugural sailing that would take place immediately after the naming ceremony cruise.



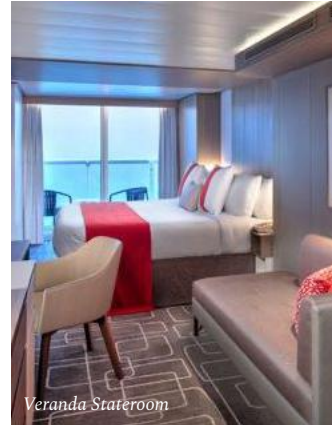
The Grand Plaza

I have to say, all that training meant the service from start to finish was exemplary! Embarkation was a swift, professional process, as you might expect in the USA where service is everything. On board, food and beverages were always served with a smile, rooms and public areas were kept immaculate, and the bar staff were incredible; from the mixologists expertly crafting cocktails and showcasing circus quality bottle juggling skills to the baristas shaping intricate milk foam patterns atop endless lattes – nothing was ever too much trouble for *Ascent's* attentive guardians.

My room was an Edge Stateroom with Infinite Veranda and, put simply, it was lovely!

Presenting clean lines and relaxing colours with soft furnishing and beautiful touches, like a piece of coral head artwork to remind you you are on a ship, at sea, and not a

Visually, *Ascent*® is a stunning ship. Within seconds of stepping on board, I was hit with my first 'wow' moment as I passed by the magnificent Grand Plaza on the way to finding my room. Here, I was later to find out, was the beating heart of the social scene on *Ascent*®, and home to The Martini Bar, a place that came alive in the evening, creating an energetic atmosphere that was somehow reminiscent of scenes from Hollywood blockbusters *Coyote Ugly* and *Cocktail*. Well, that's at least how it felt to me.



Veranda Stateroom

luxurious hotel in an extravagant resort. The proportions of the room were spot on, giving a comforting sense of space, which was further enhanced by the unique design of the room, where the veranda is an extension of the room, providing more usable space. A clever shutter can close off the space when you are ready to sleep, or you can leave it open, drop the split-level window at the touch of a button and drift off to the sounds of the ocean.

Bags unpacked, I was back out with a ship map in hand to go and discover. I had just 36 hours to sample as much of *Celebrity Ascent*® as I could. First stop, Oceanview Café, the marketplace-inspired eatery with a bewildering choice of food stations serving sumptuous worldwide cuisine.

With energy levels recharged, I set foot to walk the length of the ship, traversing levels to experience the different restaurants, bars, social areas and daytime activities. Whichever way I turned, whichever level I was on, the ship kept

piquing my interest, pushing my ‘wow-ometer’ mercury higher and higher.

From the gorgeous suites fit for a king, and large enough to accommodate a multigenerational family seeking a premium holiday experience, to the unforgettable culinary experience available across the ship in the 32 food and beverage restaurants, bars and lounges. At its pinnacle, Michelin-starred chef Cornelius Gallagher crafts menus to satisfy discerning palates, whilst elsewhere additional top culinary talent prepare dishes fresh daily using fine local ingredients. They (Celebrity) say a stay on board is about what you eat as well as where you go, and I for one will not disagree with them.

Then, as the sun began to set, a whole new world of opportunities opened, for dining, relaxation and entertainment. I was fortunate to enjoy a few of the shows in my short time on the ship where I struggled to contain my delight – the artists and musicians were top-class, delivering spectacular performances that blended traditional dance and theatre with cutting-edge technology to keep me on the edge of my seat.

“The sense of excitement builds the moment I see the ship’s funnel appear in the distance, emblazoned with the word ‘ASCENT’, in 15ft high lettering.”



Rooftop Garden

My time did not end here, but I want to leave some of the amazing experiences I enjoyed on board void of an explanation, for you to enjoy yourselves first-hand. All that I will say is whether you have cruised before or not, expect great things when you choose to cruise

on *Celebrity Ascent*[®], and you will not be disappointed. Yes, she’s a large ship but, as they say, size isn’t everything, and in this instance large means more – more ways and options to enjoy the finer things in life, and to do so at sea, which is most definitely a good thing, especially when you look at some of the sailing itineraries scheduled for *Ascent*[®].

READY TO SET SAIL?

If David’s experience has piqued your wow-ometer’s interest, get in touch with us, your local travel agent, today to find out more about *Celebrity Ascent*[®] and all the wonderful itineraries you can choose from.



Celebrity Ascent

Shore Excursions

By Sam Ballard

Sailing around the world is one of the most pleasurable types of holiday available. Bobbing across the ocean, calling in at a port and exploring, before getting back on board in time for a negroni and dinner. Cruise lines spend so much time curating their on board entertainment, activities and general amenities that sometimes it's easy to forget what an integral part of the cruise experience shore excursions are.

Those quality moments spent on land can really enhance a holiday. For those who don't know how it works, here's a little explainer. Typically, the more luxurious your cruise line, the more will be included. That could be a programme of shore excursions built into the fare, as with the likes of six-star specialists Silversea and Regent Seven Seas. Or a limited number of included experiences, as with Azamara, for instance, which offers one Az-Amazing Evening per cruise, one of which, for example, features an exclusive opera performance. Or, as with many lines, it could be as simple as a free shuttle service between the port and the local town for a chance of independent discovery.

Guests can usually pre-book shore excursions with their local travel agent, before they board, and the most popular and exclusive ones do tend to sell out quickly. So, if you're sailing on a Mediterranean itinerary because you're desperate to see Pompeii or the Leaning Tower of Pisa, it's worth booking with your travel agent early to secure your place.



Temple of Apollo Ruins, Pompeii

Whether you prefer touring holidays, city escapes, beach breaks or cruising, we know many of you are seeking more authentic on-land experiences. This can be as tricky with cruise holidays, as, by their very nature, shore excursions cater to thousands of people, making it hard for them to each offer a tailored experience. The typical format has always been: board a coach, travel to a site or experience and then board the coach and head back to your ship.

This can work in certain situations where travellers have a set expectation. For instance, if you're heading for a guided tour of the Louvre in Paris, you know it's going to be busy, and it undoubtedly will be. Where it can sometimes falter is when there are staged interactions with people that masquerade as authentic. It's why there is a growing movement to create more authentic shore excursions that give a better experience to the traveller and engage local communities more with tourism.

An example of this is six-star cruise line Explora Journeys. Having only launched in 2023, Explora Journeys was able to build its shore excursion (which it called Destination Experiences) programme from scratch. The company chose to offer a greater choice than its competitors but with much lower availability

“These experiences are better for everyone. They're authentic and use the institutions favoured by locals – offering a real slice of the destination, not a manufactured one. They also don't inundate a destination with too many tourists – thus maintaining the overall experience.”



Hot Air Balloon Ride Over Napa Valley

per Destination Experience. By offering experiences to smaller groups, it means that there is more the company can offer, meaning a better experience for both the client and the local community.

It might be the Charlotte Amalie Culinary Crawl where guests can “sip, savour and awaken your palate as you taste the culinary best of Charlotte Amalie. Sate your curiosity on this expert-led tour that stops at three restaurants cherished by locals, for rum tastings, cocktails and savoury and sweet West Indies dishes.” Or, how about taking a hot air balloon ride over Napa Valley? This Experience sees guests glide over one of the

world's most famous wine regions followed by brunch in Yountville, where vintner Robert Mondavi first put Napa Valley on the global wine map.

TAKE ME THERE

It's not always easy to get it right but, when shore excursions are really thought out, they offer something truly extraordinary. Get in touch with your local travel agent to find out which cruise lines offer the best shore excursions for you, which will save you valuable time and help find a cruise perfectly tailored to you.

The Louvre, Paris





Hammerhead Shark, Bimini

VIBRANT VIRGIN VOYAGES:

Tales of a Converted Cruise Lover

Santorini



By Kelly Joannides

As a first-time cruiser, I really didn't know what to expect and, quite frankly, the idea of a cruise just didn't sound like my cup of tea at all, especially as my other half is prone to severe seasickness and travel sickness in general. Three Virgin Voyages later – all in the space of 10 months – I guess you could say I've been converted (and no - he wasn't sick)!

ITINERARIES AND 'SHORE THINGS'

Our first cruise with Virgin Voyages was the 'Valiant Caribbean Holidays' itinerary which we went on over Christmas, and what a fantastic way to spend it! We embarked from Miami on a round-trip visiting Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Bimini, and, although we missed out on the rainforest tour in Puerto Rico, we more than made up for it by jumping from waterfalls, zip lining

through lush foliage and going on a muddy buggy ride in the Dominican Republic. In Bimini, we channelled our inner Bear Grylls and went scuba diving with hammerheads and a tiger shark in the open ocean, which is one of my top life experiences to date.

For our second cruise, we did the 'Greek Island Glow' itinerary round-trip from Athens, visiting Santorini, Rhodes and Bodrum, with an overnight stay in Mykonos, which, out of the three, was my favourite. With over 1,200 Greek islands in existence, this was a brilliant way to see some of the most sought-after destinations in Greece – and Virgin Voyages offers a generous amount of time in each to truly explore the islands.

Santorini and Mykonos were ridiculously stunning and, if you don't end up booking any excursions with Virgin Voyages, I would definitely recommend hiring a quad bike or car for the day to see as much of the islands as you can. Whilst all the food back on

board is included, you don't want to miss out on the mouth-watering Greek food to be had on land, with many restaurants offering the most romantic, panoramic views in Greece. But if budgets are tight, Virgin Voyages has something called 'Opa Hour' at The Dock House, featuring a themed menu offering Greek-inspired dishes such as pita bread, dips, meat skewers and vegetarian crudités, so you'll still get a chance to taste Greek cuisine regardless.

I flew solo for my last and most recent cruise with Virgin Voyages, opting for the 'French Daze & Ibiza Nights' itinerary round-trip from Barcelona, visiting Marseille, Cannes and Mallorca, with an overnight stay in Ibiza. I was happily surprised to find that Virgin Voyages had noticed this and had organised an optional meeting point where I could mingle with other solo travellers on board! Everyone was so friendly – including staff – so I never felt lonely and loved getting to know people from different parts of the world. The best Shore Things excursion on this cruise for me was a visit to Monaco and Monte Carlo from Cannes, and I will certainly be making a return to the south of France as soon as possible – it's all so incredibly beautiful!

TOP TIP:

Shore excursions can be booked via the app up to 120 days in advance so, if you see something you fancy doing, make sure you book before it's sold out!



Gunbae



The Wake

FOOD AND DINING

Unlike other cruise lines that do buffet food in one big dining hall, Virgin Voyages allows you to book a table at six terrific and varied restaurants serving made-to-order food, in addition to seven other eateries.

The standouts for me include The Wake, not only for the wonderful view of the ocean from its huge windows but also because of the chic design and delicious steak and seafood options on the menu. We're talking roasted bone marrow, clam chowder, salt-crusted dorade and New Zealand lamp chops – yum!

Pink Agave serving Mexican food was also amazing and, in my opinion, served the best steak on

board, but the Pato (roasted duck) seemed to be the winner amongst others. Check the event line-up once on board and book this one on the same evening as Agave After Dark for free shots and a live DJ playing epic salsa beats!

Serving Korean BBQ-style dishes, Gunbae is great if you're travelling as a big group or going solo and are up for socialising. You will all be sat at one big, round table which begins with a super fun drinking game to break the ice. The Haemul Pajeon (seafood pancake) here is very yummy, so be sure to order for the table to share.



Roasted Duck, Pink Agave

TOP TIP:

You can make dinner reservations via the app 45 days before your voyage, whilst those with Rockstar bookings get the advantage of booking 60 days in advance. Walk-ins are accepted providing there's availability – but embarkation and sailing days in particular are when you want to be sure you have a reservation.

ON BOARD ENTERTAINMENT

On Scarlet Night, everyone dons their favourite red outfit for a party like no other. We started off the evening at The Roundabout to find that the ship had completely transformed, with red lighting and cool art installations dotted about. With a complimentary glass of fizz in hand, the night kicked off with a full-on show and dance. And for those who receive a special invitation, the exclusive Tentacle Tour begins immediately after this event, but what it entails is best kept as a surprise – so to not spoil all the fun!

Later in the evening, we headed to The Octopus Garden: The Story of Scarlet Night to watch an entertaining performance from the Octopus Goddess and hear the legendary tale behind the night's celebrations before heading to the pool deck for the ultimate pool party! One might say that if you wore your swimwear underneath your clothing, you would find yourself in a most advantageous position – nudge nudge, wink wink.

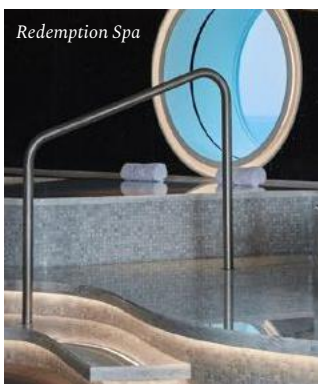
“Why stick with the same cruise line? I hear you ask. Three words: Adult Only Cruising.”



The Manor



The entertainment on board is brilliant – with everything from magic shows and circus performances to 80s-themed workouts and pyjama parties, Virgin Voyages has something for everyone at all times of the day. Scarlet Night in particular trumps it all.



Redemption Spa

REDEMPTION SPA

The Redemption Spa on board features a mud room, salt room, sauna, steam room, hot and cold plunge pools, and heated marble benches – ideal for unwinding after a day exploring or partying the night before, but particularly appreciated on sailing days when the pool deck is at its busiest. If being pampered and recharged for a couple of hours sounds like a bit of you, I would highly recommend booking this when you first board, as it tends to book up pretty quickly.

TAKE ME THERE

Booking with my local travel agent was the best decision ever and took away the anxiety of fears like ‘what if my flights are delayed and I miss embarkation?’. They were also super helpful with booking hotels pre/post cruise close to port whilst not being miles away from major attractions, and provided me with the best tips and tricks for first-time cruisers. So, with that, my final tip is to 100% book with your local travel agent and have a fabulous time!



Set Sail the Virgin Way

With kid-free, superyacht-inspired lady ships featuring signature red hammocks on every balcony and a focus on offering nothing but exceptional service, Virgin Voyages' unique vision has been dropping jaws since they first hit the water.

ALWAYS INCLUDED LUXURIES

Taking the ordinary to extraordinary, Virgin didn't just build a cruise. They set out to create a revolutionary way to explore the world. All voyages feature Always Included Luxuries - unparalleled value where all dining, group fitness classes, tips, wifi, entertainment and essential drinks never cost extra.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN ANTILLES VOYAGE

Embark this winter on the spectacular eight-night round-trip 'Eastern Caribbean Antilles' voyage aboard the *Scarlet Lady* from Miami, USA, featuring a day in Puerto Plata (the Dominican Republic), a late-night stay in San Juan (Puerto Rico) and a visit to St. Croix.

The largest of the US Virgin Islands, St. Croix has been coined 'The Garden of Antilles' for its

lush geography and less touristy feel. From sipping champagne on pristine beaches with crystal blue water to exploring world-class diving spots, the island stands out as an escape from everyday life.

THE BEACH CLUB AT BIMINI

After three days of indulging in the (very) good life on board, you'll sail to The Beach Club at Bimini, Virgin Voyages' private beach club, where luxury is all yours. Float through the pool, relax beachside in a private cabana and take in the vibrant sunset as you say your goodbyes with an epic bonfire soirée. Bimini is the final stop on Virgin Voyages sailings from Miami so, no matter how you plan your days, relaxation with a much-deserved beach day of pristine white sands and azure waters awaits.

EAT YOUR HEART OUT

When you're on board, enjoy a casually luxurious vibe. Virgin Voyages has ditched buffets and pre-set dining times to bring you fresh flavours and unexpected pairings with made-to-order food from 20+ unique eateries. Dine on hanger steak and lemon cheesecake at The Wake, mezze-style bites and glasses of rosé in the open air of



VALUE PACKED



FALL IN LOVE WITH EXPLORATION

This February, fall in love with every moment on board a new journey of extraordinary experiences with 65% off for 2nd Sailors and up to US\$500* in free drinks when you book by 29 February 2024.

*Bar Tab tiers: \$500 14+ nights, \$250 7-13 nights, \$150 5-6 nights, \$100 4 nights or less

The Dock, or get your crew together for a lively Korean BBQ free-for-all at Gunbae – all with views of the waves. No stuffiness, just brilliant service and endless options.

TAKE ME THERE

And now that they've become the first brand ever to sweep the entire large ship category of the Cruise Critic Cruisers' Choice Awards for 2023 – winning Best Dining, Best Service, Best Cabins, Best Value-for-Money, and Best Overall Cruise Line – it's time for you to see what it means to Set Sail The Virgin Way. So, what are you waiting for? Contact us, your local travel agent, to find out more or to book.



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

THE VERY BEST PLACES AT THE VERY BEST TIMES

Book by 29th February 2024 for Free Drinks
or On Board Spend on selected 2024 cruises

Contact your local travel agent to find out more

Terms & conditions apply. Free Drinks or Free On Board Spend offer is valid on new bookings from 01/02/24 to 29/02/24 and cannot be combined. E&OE.



Good night
St Lucia.
Good morning
Barbados.



HOLIDAY LIKE
NEVER BEFORE




P&O CRUISES



An Arctic Adventure

Mendenhall Glacier, Alaska

For over 180 years Cunard has set the bar and then raised it. A voyage with Cunard means a chance to travel the globe with the pioneers of the world voyage. It means an effortless holiday, on which every day can be different. Unwind. Embrace a sense of freedom. Enjoy life with no responsibilities. With more included than you might think, spend time in any way you like. It is your holiday, after all.

You could learn something new at fascinating Insight talks, or maybe take part in a beginner's Wine Academy course, leaving with a recognised qualification. Take in remarkable theatre, from the renowned talents of the Royal Shakespeare Company to critically acclaimed Cunard Showcase productions. That's when you're

not treasuring peaceful hours spent at Mareel Spa or gazing out to sea from spacious decks. You could fill your days and nights with activities, or do you dream of lying by the pool doing nothing at all, whilst you sail to the next destination?

Days in the Inside Passage offer a wealth of possibilities. You could warm up with a hot chocolate on the deck whilst keeping a watchful eye out for the local wildlife and listening to local naturalists narrate the passing scenery.

Enrich your knowledge of the region with one of the Alaskan Cultural Heritage Guides. Admire original Alaska artwork in the Clarendon Fine Art Gallery or treat yourself to afternoon tea - Alaska style - feasting on Alaska-inspired

creations, like halibut wontons and mini snow crab bagels, washed down with a glass of Laurent-Perrier champagne. If a spot of pampering appeals, look no further than the Alaska-inspired treatments at Mareel Wellness and Beauty.

For something a little different in the evenings, why not try the Alaska dining experience, Frontier? Exclusive to Alaska sailings, the menu showcases home-reared delicacies such as Anchorage goose and Arctic cod. Follow up with a nightcap at one of the on board bars. Perhaps a locally brewed beer at the Golden Lion or an Alaska-inspired cocktail at the Commodore Club? Then there's the magic of the Ice White Ball when The Queens Room transforms into a wintry wonderland, complete with ice sculptures. It's the perfect excuse to dress up and dance the night away on the water-effect dancefloor, as the evening cools yet the light lingers on.

READY TO SET SAIL?

Reserve your spot now for the cruise of a lifetime, where majestic glaciers and untamed wilderness await. Don't miss the adventure - contact us, and book your Alaskan cruise with Cunard today!

“Cocktails inspired by Alaska's glacial scenery. Renowned explorers sharing heroic feats. Native flavours, foraged from land and sea. Experience a voyage like no other, in a destination like no other, sailing in Alaska on board Queen Elizabeth.”

EXPERIENCE MORE WITH THE BEST VALUE IN

Luxury Cruising

Santorini, Greece

Oceania Cruises' small ships are leading the way in luxury travel, providing a five-star cruise experience on board. With a focus on incredible destinations, the small ships call at boutique ports that larger ships are unable to visit – such as Sorrento and St-Tropez – offering easy access to a more diverse range of destinations across all corners of the globe. The wide range of exciting and enriching itineraries often feature overnight stays and later departures in destinations like Athens and Istanbul, providing more time in port and more opportunity for immersive exploration.

With Simply MORE™, on every sailing you will receive amenities which include virtually everything you will desire throughout your cruise. As airfare and airport transfers are included in your cruise fare, you can relax knowing your transport is all taken care of and focus on creating unforgettable travel experiences. With every voyage you will receive a generous shore excursion credit of up to US\$1,400 per stateroom to be spent on any of Oceania's small group tours.

There is even more to celebrate with a comprehensive beverage package, available during lunch

and dinner, featuring dozens of vintage champagnes, premium wines – not limited to house pours – and a range of international beers to choose from. The inclusions don't end there; enjoy a wide variety of fine teas and coffees, soft drinks and still and sparkling Vero Water® throughout the day, 24-hour room service, unlimited wifi, gratuities and fitness classes available on every voyage.

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

With culinary experiences at the heart of Oceania Cruises wherever you dine on board, you will discover the renowned Finest Cuisine at Sea®. Enjoy carefree dining with no reservation, fee or cover charge at any of the distinctive speciality restaurants. All gourmet restaurants feature extraordinary dishes crafted by the talented chefs on board. Whether you are after authentic Italian dishes in Toscana, bold Asian flavours in Red Ginger or American classics in Ember, you can dine wherever and whenever it suits you.

For those looking to improve their cooking skills and even recreate delectable dishes sampled on board, why not head down to the Culinary Center on *Marina*, *Riviera* and *Vista* to learn from our passionate chefs as they reveal their secret recipes and share their passion for cuisine.



The Grand Dining Room

AWARD-WINNING ITINERARIES

There is no better place to fulfil your wanderlust than the exquisite Mediterranean. This fascinating region offers the perfect combination of quaint beauty and modern charisma. Oceania Cruises offers award-winning itineraries that showcase the most iconic destinations and undiscovered ports. From ancient ruins and atmospheric old quarters, to



Concierge Level Veranda Stateroom

thriving food scenes and sun-drenched beaches, there is always an adventure to enjoy.

Discover your summer holiday and learn more about an incredible 10-day voyage from Athens to Barcelona departing 24 July 2024 on board the stunning, 1,250-guest ship, *Riviera*. This spectacular port-intense itinerary showcases beautiful destinations across Greece, Italy, France and Spain. Soak up the summer sunshine and captivating culture, from mythical Greek shores to Italy's Renaissance glories and the fashionable French Riviera.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

In beautiful Mykonos, Greece, why not head out on a 'Mykonian Seafood Treasures' tour, which will immerse you into the local culture where you will dine at a waterfront tavern overlooking the southernmost beach on the island. Savour classic mezes made with delicious, local ingredients that highlight the bounty of seafood in the Aegean Sea.

Find peace and tranquillity on the volcanic island of Santorini and join one of the Oceania Wellness Tours. During your half-day tour, you will climb to the rim of the still-active volcano on the 400-year-old islet of Nea Kameni. Pausing for a moment to take in the breathtaking views, see the lava fragments, volcanic rock formations and, on many days,

steam rising from the crater. Round out your day with a swim in the thermally warmed, mineral-rich sea waters and a relaxing, meditative yoga session.

Enjoy historic Chania, known for unique folklore, maritime tradition and an opportunity to explore fascinating local museums. Visit the excavated palace of King Minos, join a tour to a local vineyard or explore the Agia Triada Monastery which produces renowned olive oils and wines.



Mykonos, Greece

READY TO SET SAIL?

Plan your dream voyage around the Mediterranean today and experience Oceania Cruises' small and luxurious ships this summer. For more information or to book, get in touch with us today.

A Grandeur Voyage

Seven Seas Grandeur™, the sixth ship to join Regent Seven Seas Cruises®, in November 2023, is the culmination of more than three decades of Regent's expertise in luxury cruising. Inspired by the past and stunningly reimaged for the future, this magnificent vessel was designed by the multi-award-winning Studio DADO and built by premier ship builder Fincantieri in Ancona, Italy.

Holding just 746 guests, the *Seven Seas Grandeur* offers amongst the highest space and staff-to-guest ratios in the industry, providing unrivalled space, unparalleled service, Epicurean Perfection, fascinating art and transformative experiences for guests – beginning the moment you step on board.

You can discover Caribbean islands this winter, as well as an itinerary sailing the US Eastern Seaboard before she sails across the Atlantic from New York to Barcelona in March to discover the Mediterranean in Summer 2024, in a close-to-sold-out inaugural season. *Seven Seas Grandeur* will discover the colours of autumn

in Canada and New England in September and October, then finally, culminating a luxurious year of travel, explore more of the Caribbean to close 2024.

Seven Seas Grandeur features 15 stunning accommodation categories, from the palatial \$11,000-a night Regent Suite and the contemporary, yet timeless, Distinctive Suites, the beautifully appointed Spacious Suites. The accommodation designs evoke an elevated, residential feel, harnessing the qualities of natural light, meticulously thought-through layouts, art and materials.

For guests looking to broaden their culinary skills, the ship's Culinary Arts Kitchen offers hands-on classes, special demonstrations and more. In addition, the culinary experience will be enhanced with captivatingly reimaged designs for signature restaurants Compass Rose, Prime 7, Chartreuse and La Veranda.

Seven Seas Grandeur will also be home to a 1,600-piece art collection; the ship will debut Regent's very first digital art tour - Art Experience - which is

available through the new Regent mobile app.

Other highlights include multiple works by Picasso; a custom-made bronze and hand-cast glass Bonsai Cherry Tree sculpture which will welcome guests into the Asian-fusion restaurant Pacific Rim; and 'The Enchanted Tree', a 40-foot-tall, hand-woven tapestry by world-renowned Brazilian artist Walter Goldfarb.

READY TO SET SAIL?

To find out more or to book a cruise on board *Grandeur* or any other ship in Regent Seven Seas Cruises' fleet, get in touch with us today.



Learn more about *Grandeur* by clicking the play button



**HAND-CAST
GLASS CHERRY
BLOSSOM TREE**

"Epicurean Perfection has been enhanced across the ship's eight exquisite dining experiences, including in its five complimentary speciality restaurants, with 130 new dishes created exclusively for Seven Seas Grandeur."





£3,000 reasons to sail with Silversea

BOOK BY 29 FEBRUARY 2024

OUR MOST ENRICHING OFFER YET

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- 15% REDUCED DEPOSIT
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DISCOVER

Off-the-Beaten-Track Destinations

WITH SMALL SHIP CRUISING

By Sam Ballard

From the farthest corners of Alaska to Australia's unexplored coastline, for as long as there has been travel, there has been a fascination with getting off the beaten track. Whether you have a desire to avoid the crowds, want to get deeper into a destination or have some big items on your bucket list, there are a plethora of reasons to want to get off the main tourist trail. However, have you ever considered a cruise as being the best way to do it?

When it comes to travelling to these hidden gems, bigger is not always better. Big ships are fantastic and we love them for

different reasons but, when it comes to the road (or sea) less travelled, often they're just not compatible. Typically, only certain places have the infrastructure to handle the larger ships - and those tend to be the more famous, established, destinations, whereas the destinations that aren't as well known as the marquee ports tend to have smaller harbours and are visited by fewer people.

Whilst the smaller ships have fewer options on board, what they do have is aimed squarely at a more discerning traveller. You could compare the experiences to hotels: the larger ships are like

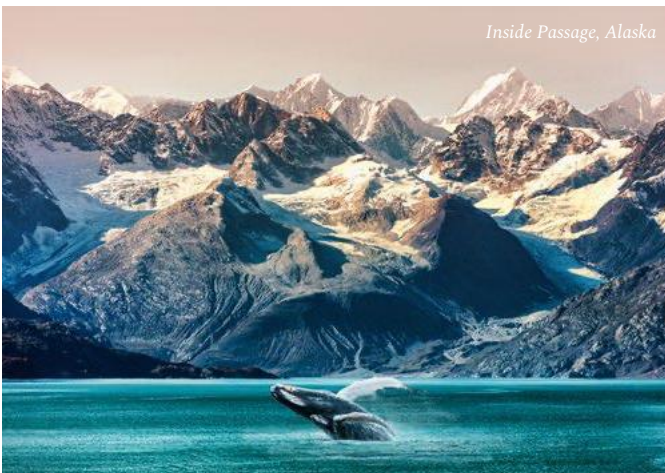


Oceania's Regatta in Alaska

large resorts. They've got tons of facilities but often the resort is the destination. Smaller ships are like boutique hotels. They're beautiful, staff know your name and your preferences but, ultimately, it's all about the destination.

And those destinations are incredible. It could be an overnight stay at a Greek Island, a lesser-visited harbour in the Caribbean or a tiny port in Norway where you can see a unique side to what is otherwise a relatively well-travelled destination. They usually offer the chance to stay late and - more often than not - are centrally located, so an evening's entertainment is just a short stroll away.

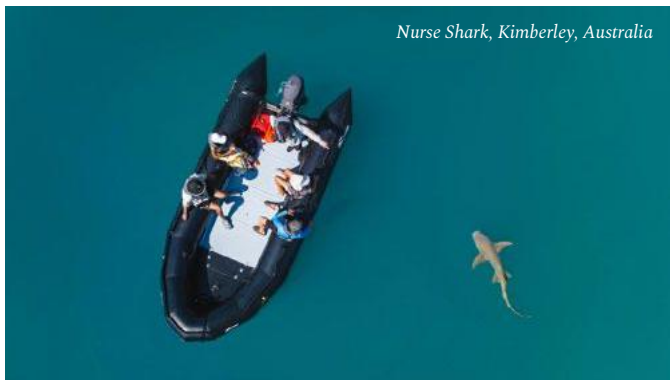
Take Alaska as an example. During the summer season, the region attracts dozens of cruise ships which mostly sail a tried and tested route, taking in the highlights. However, even if you board a relatively smaller ship, like Oceania, you can see gems like Sitka, a tiny city on Baranof Island in Alaska's Inside Passage.



Inside Passage, Alaska

This unique place offers an intriguing mix of indigenous and Russian history, as it is the ancestral home of the indigenous Tlingit people and once served as the capital of Russian Alaska. It's a classic example of a small ship going to a relatively popular area and being able to offer its guests a totally different experience to the larger vessels.

Or what about Australia's Kimberley region? The area is renowned for being one of the world's last wild frontiers, with sunken mangrove forests, deserts and waterfalls. The scenery is incredible and the wildlife, out of this world. It's also home to arguably one of the greatest natural wonders on Earth with Montgomery Reef, where the tidal movement is so big (and fast) that the reef appears to rise out of the sea, along with a host of marine life, from octopuses to dolphins and sea snakes. Seabourn, the six-star cruise line, will be sailing through the region this summer.



Nurse Shark, Kimberley, Australia

Whilst there might not be a Broadway show on these smaller vessels, Seabourn has a world-class expedition team and a 6-seater submarine. Oceania may not have an ice rink but it offers what it calls the best cuisine at sea.

So, to truly get off the beaten track, it seems the answer is to board a smaller ship. You'll avoid the crowds, find yourself immersed in a destination and, more than likely, see something completely new.

READY TO SET SAIL?

If you're ready to explore off-the-beaten-track destinations like the ones mentioned and truly immerse yourself in all it has to offer, get in touch with us today to find the perfect small ship cruise for you.



Sitka, Alaska



Seabourn's Pursuit in Australia

EXPLORA JOURNEYS'

Culinary Philosophy

A celebration of global culinary talents, cultures and passions, EXPLORA I's 11 culinary experiences, one of which includes a two Michelin star restaurant featuring chef Emma Bengtsson, have been carefully created to celebrate global cooking talents, provenance and wholesome ingredients sourced by local partners inspired by the Ocean State of Mind.

Set in an ambience of refined elegance, with the opportunity to dine al fresco, Anthology offers flawless service in an intimate yet elevated atmosphere. Guests are invited to experience menus curated by some of the world's most celebrated guest chefs and discover their inspiring creations representing cuisines from around the globe (experience fee applies).

Sakura is an immersive, authentic dining experience offering the finest Pan-Asian cuisine, representing Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese and Malaysian, with Asian-influenced beverages and a Sake sommelier. For a refined European steakhouse experience, Marble & Co. Grill, inspired by the marbling found in only the finest beef, serves exceptional cuts, personally sourced and sustainably farmed.

Franck Garanger, Head of Culinary at Explora Journeys, comments: "Explora Journeys isn't just an opportunity to travel the world. We also see it as a way for our guests to taste it too, actively discovering new cuisines and experiences..."



Franck Garanger

"...Worldly and well travelled, our team bring enthusiasm for provenance along with a plethora of stories about the rare ingredients, which are hand-selected just for Explora Journeys. Set to deliver refined dining experiences that embrace authenticity and sustainability, we ensure each guest leaves with memories of their culinary journey on board, being the finest at sea."

Brought to you by



Watch the EXPLORA I highlight video

Influenced by sophisticated, beachside Mediterranean restaurants, Med Yacht Club embraces the varied cuisines of the region and infusing tastes and textures of Italy, Spain, Greece and France. At Emporium Marketplace, 18 separate cooking stations can be found, evolving throughout the day with cuisines representing every corner of the globe. Features include sushi, fresh seafood and a daily rotisserie offering grilled, roasted and slow-cooked meats. Pasta is cooked to order, and freshly baked pizzas and bread are on offer as are homemade sandwiches. Whilst at Fil Rouge, a common red thread unites international flavours with a French influence: a sophisticated and intimate restaurant, offering a global tasting tour of French-inspired international cuisine.

At Chef's Kitchen – an immersive experience held in an ocean-front private kitchen setting for 12 guests – Explora Journeys' team of culinary experts guides guests through a journey of discovering new ingredients, flavours, textures and cultures, regardless of their cooking skills level. An exclusive experience fee applies.

TAKE ME THERE

For more information about Explora Journeys and the amazing itineraries it offers, get in touch with us today.

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Have it all featured fares are per person based on double occupancy and available for 1st/2nd guests only, sailing on cruise numbers 0449 and Y475. Prices are correct at time of going to print and are subject to change. *Stateroom upgrades are available in the select stateroom categories and ships and are subject to availability of the staterooms in the next highest category. **Onboard credit offer is available in the following amounts: USD\$100 per person (USD\$200 per stateroom) for guests booked on a 6- to 9-day cruise, USD\$150 per person (USD\$300 per stateroom). *£400 air credit and airport transfers are available on select 2024 Mediterranean sailings. Air credit is applicable on economy flights booked through Holland America Line's Flight Ease programme. Luggage is not included unless verified and offered by the individual airline. Transfers are inclusive from/to airport to ship. Offer ends 29 February 2024. Please contact your local travel agent for full terms and conditions.





Unique, Luxury River Cruising With Uniworld

By Sam Ballard

It's hard to define what makes a cruise with Uniworld River Cruises just so special. It could be the superlative service, it could be the sumptuous decor or it could be the incredible itineraries that the company offers. The truth is that it is a heady combination of these factors, and many more.

DESIGN

With ships sailing on Europe's major rivers, not to mention on exotic rivers much farther afield, Uniworld is renowned for offering an experience that is beyond the ordinary. Every one of its ships is unique, with maximalist decors that are designed by Bea Tollman, the wife of the late Stanley Tollman, founder of the company behind Uniworld. And those ships really do stand out, from the genuine Pablo Picasso on the SS *Beatrice*, which sails on the Rhine and Danube, to the beautiful teak decks and furniture on the *Ganges Voyager II*, one of the most opulent



ships to sail on India's famous river. Uniworld consistently offers the most decadently luxurious option for anyone who wants to get under the skin of the destination, from Portugal and France to the exotic rivers it operates on in the likes of South America, India, Egypt and Vietnam.

The uniqueness of the vessels goes beyond the beautiful public spaces, too. No two suites on Uniworld are the same. There aren't many hotels, let alone river cruise ships, which can boast such a feat. It shows just

how seriously Bea Tollman takes the design of Uniworld ships that she scours the world finding pieces to go in every suite, making them works of art in their own right. It also means that you can repeat the same itinerary and have a totally different experience if you stay in a different suite.

EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES

Excursions are included in the fare and are led by masterful local guides, who know the region inside and out. And, because of the Tollman family's connections,



Ganges Voyager II

CULINARY JOURNEY

The food on board is gourmet and heavily influenced by the region. So, in India, guests will dine on wonderfully spiced curries whilst in France you're more likely to dine on baguettes and coq au vin. The All-inclusive nature means that you can order cocktails, champagne or a local beer after a day out exploring on an included shore excursion. It means that guests can easily – and frequently do – go the whole voyage without having to put their hand in their pocket.

BESPOKE LAND PROGRAMMES

It's also worth speaking to your travel agent about the land programmes that can be added on to your river cruise. In India, for example, Uniworld offers the opportunity to see the famed Golden Triangle (Delhi, Agra and Jaipur) as well as the chance to

board one of the most luxurious trains in the world, the Maharajas' Express. Similarly, in South America, a journey down the Amazon can be combined with Machu Picchu, making it a real bucket-list adventure.

UNRIVALLED SERVICE

Uniworld has also invested heavily in ensuring that its service is unrivalled. All of its butlers are trained under the tutelage of Zita Langenstein at the Ivor Spencer Butler School, to the same standards as those who work in Buckingham Palace. That standard is carried on throughout the ship and on land.

There's no doubt that when it comes to luxury river cruising, there are plenty of contenders vying to be the most luxurious. If you are looking for something stripped back and contemporary, then Uniworld might not be for you, because a sailing with Uniworld is a celebration. It's about ordering that extra dessert, having the cocktail and exploring world famous sites with an expert. It's a river cruise with all of the trimmings. It is pure enjoyment.

TAKE ME THERE

Speak with us today to find out more or to book your next luxury river cruise with Uniworld.

they are often experiences that simply aren't available to the general public. An example would be an after-hours private lighting ceremony at St Mark's Basilica in Venice. The intimate event takes place before the ship heads off to explore the farther islands of the Venetian archipelago and beyond. It's an itinerary that is pretty much unique to Uniworld, too.



St Mark's Basilica, Venice

Danube Kingdoms

A LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

Hohenschwangau Castle, Germany

Explore Habsburg castle, medieval wine-towns, alpine peaks and lakes, Baroque monasteries and enchanting cities on a 12-day journey through Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. With river cruise line Tauck discover hidden treasures on and off the beaten paths, including a 2-night land stay in Prague and a 7-night cruise on the Danube, the river of kings.

Immerse yourself in the opulence of the royal Residenz at Munich, or make a pilgrimage to BMW's ultra-modern car museum.

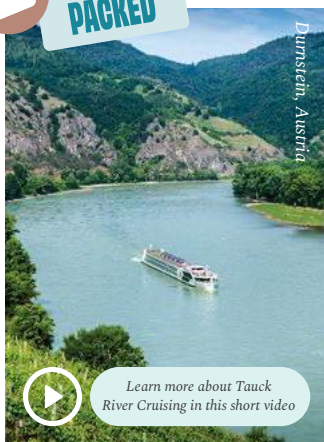
Take a train ride to the clouds and the top of Germany for breathtaking views of alpine peaks and glaciers. Discover the soul of Bavarian beer at Weltenburg Abbey, marvel at Oberammergau's parade of medieval painted houses, and lose yourself in the Romanticism of Mad King Ludwig's fairytale castles. Sail through the Wachau Valley, the heart of Austrian wine country, with tastings along the way. Enjoy a gala evening of dinner, music and pageantry at a palace in Vienna, for Tauck guests only. Drink in the eccentric spirit of Bratislava, its colourful history and eclectic architecture on a walking tour with

local guides, and enjoy an evening of Slovakian cuisine, music and dance. In Budapest, find a feast for the senses around every corner, bursting with medieval castles and monuments, romantic Parisian-style architecture and elegance, and a vibrant, cosmopolitan spirit. Best of all, a river runs through it.

READY TO SET SAIL?

For more information on this Danube Kingdoms itinerary or any other river cruise with Tauck, contact us today.

**VALUE
PACKED**



Durnstein, Austria

Learn more about Tauck River Cruising in this short video

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

✓ Private Imperial Evening at a palace in Vienna featuring a gala dinner and Viennese performers

✓ Bavarian Lunch at Weltenburg Abbey on the Danube

✓ Visit to the summit of Zugspitze, Germany's highest Alpine peak

✓ A dinner cruise on the Danube in Budapest at night

✓ A walking tour and wine tasting in Durnstein

✓ And much more – all private Tauck shore excursions come to a value of £2,760

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