Viva Valletta!
Inside the walls of the
Mediterranean's miniature marvel

Epicurean Explorations
Talking food with
Aurelien Dumeylet

The Big Five
Seeking South Africa's
best national parks

Two-Faced
Subtle swaps unearth
future favourites

# INTOTHEBLUE

*November/December 2016* Edition  $16 \mid £4.95$ 

### PART ONE TOTALLY TROPICAL

Our complete guide to the Caribbean





### Welcome!

back and dark nights firmly on the agenda for the foreseeable future, you could be forgiven for planning an escape to paradise.

The Caribbean was made for cruising and few other destinations can rival its sun-soaked idylls in terms of popularity, which is why we decided it deserved a complete guide, spread across the next two editions of Into The Blue. With winter having arrived on our own shores, the rain soaking our streets and the skies painted grey, it becomes even more difficult to resist the lure of guaranteed sunshine and stunning beaches, and I hope part one of our guide will help you choose your ideal island escape.

This edition also features one of my favourite places in the world, South Africa, along with a look behind the walls of Valletta; an often overlooked gem of the Mediterranean, and one which will host a number of P&O Cruises fly-cruise itineraries from 2017.

We also catch up with seasoned Seabourn adventurer, Robin West, and find out what it takes to dish up dinner on board 'the most luxurious cruise ship ever built, in our interview with Regent Seven Seas Explorer's executive chef, Aurelien Dumeylet.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Into The Blue.

Yours sincerely

Michael Wilson Managing Director





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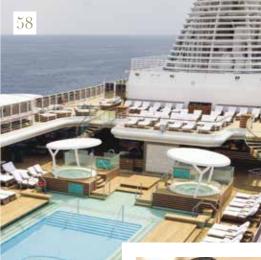
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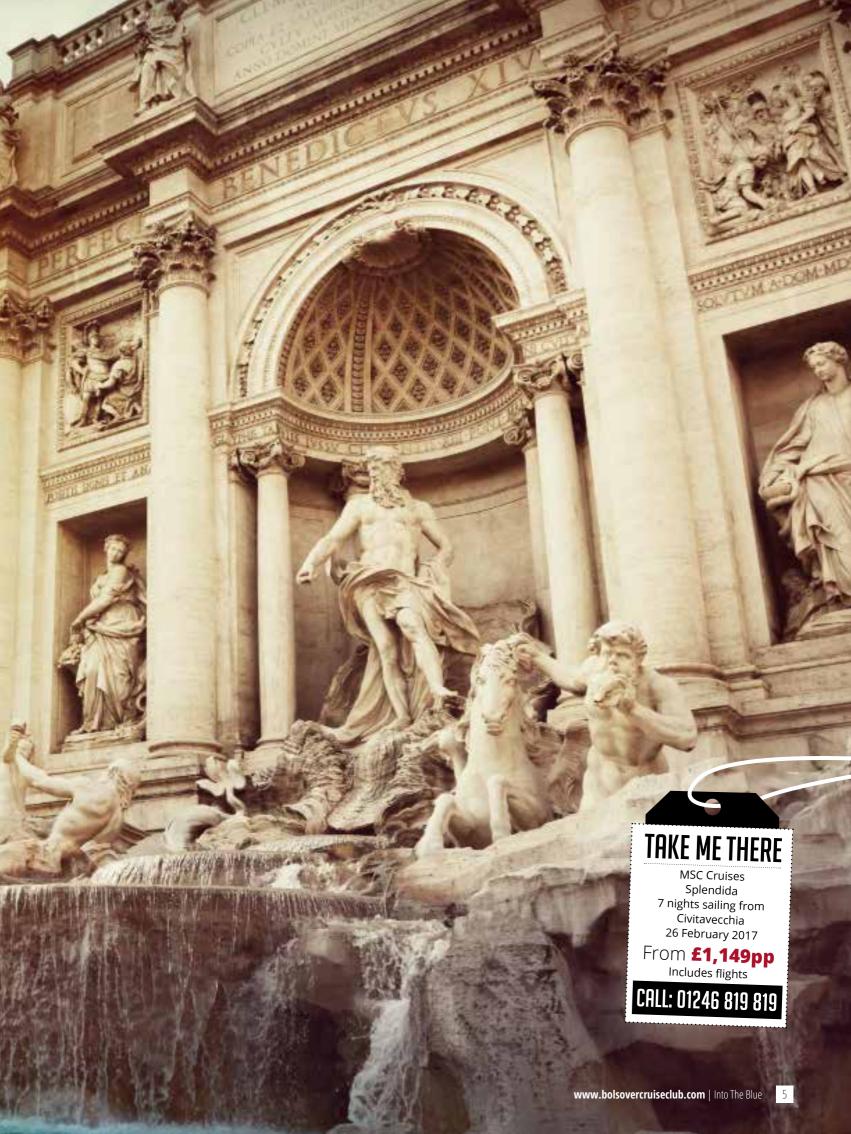
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## CRUISE NEWS



More than three years after the inception of an ambitious plan to transit the Northwest Passage (a sea route connecting the Northern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Arctic Ocean), Crystal Cruises' Crystal Serenity has completed the journey. The voyage marks the first of its kind by a large luxury cruise ship.

Over the course of 32 days and 7,297 nautical miles, more than 1,000 guests and 600 crew members witnessed the ship sail through a remote Arctic waterway which was inaccessible as recently as 100 years ago. The awardwinning vessel was captained by Master Birger J. Vorland, who joins an exclusive club of maritime explorers to have successfully led a vessel through the Northwest Passage, a milestone previously held by just two fellow sailors. The RRS Ernest Shackleton accompanied Crystal Serenity throughout the northernmost portion of the journey, serving as the ship's first response vessel and providing services including ice breaking capabilities, two helicopters for special adventures and additional expert expedition crew.

Speaking about the momentous undertaking, Captain Vorland said: "From day one of planning the voyage, we were committed to ensuring the safety of our guests, crew and the ship. In addition to carrying two veteran Canadian Ice Pilots, Crystal Serenity's bridge team received ice navigation simulator training to prepare ourselves for the conditions, and prior to the voyage, the ship was outfitted with forward looking sonar, ice searchlights, ice radar, and a thermal imaging system was installed."

The journey was a huge departure from Crystal's famously luxurious ocean cruises, with adventures ashore centred around the region's remote terrain. Zodiac landings, icy hikes and intrepid treks were enhanced by the extensive knowledge of Inuit guides and the on board expedition teams. Visits to Canada's Northwest Territories, Beechey Island, Ulukhaktok and Pond Inlet gave guests an insight into the local communities and traditions. By way of supporting the local Inuit villages throughout their transit along the Northwest Passage voyage, Crystal Cruises donated school supplies, hired local guides to assist in tours, hosted 'community visits' during which local communities sold arts and crafts, and made charitable donations worth over \$200,000.

"The importance of understanding the natural, cultural and historical implications of this sailing is tremendous," said Edie Rodriguez, CEO and president of Crystal Cruises. "We did not set out on this expedition to simply sail through the Northwest Passage, but also to illuminate the region and its remarkable nuances while also making a positive impact on the communities we visited."

Crystal Cruises introduced 'Unexpected Adventures' for the very first time on the Northwest Passage voyage, celebrating impromptu wildlife encounters, including whale pods and polar bears, and encouraging a number of guests to embark on an overnight Crystal Adventure to a Greenland Ice Camp, trekking through glaciers and sleeping beneath the stars. Several acclaimed

experts also joined the voyage to lend background insights about various topics relevant to the route. Naturalists, biologists, nature photographers and videographers, historians and professional adventurers were amongst those on board to bring the region to life.

Speaking about the record-breaking voyage, Rodriguez said "We are humbled and thrilled to have completed such a monumental journey. As Crystal is constantly seeking new ways to share the world with our guests, the Northwest Passage represents an especially massive undertaking that was made possible by the extreme dedication of our expert destination team and expedition partners. We now look forward to beginning the planning process in delivering another memorable experience for guests on our 2017 sailing."

Following the incredible success of the Northwest Passage voyage, Crystal Cruises announced a second sailing in August 2017, for which bookings are now open.





### New Cruise Port For Civitavecchia

Construction is to begin this month on a brand new cruise terminal at one of Europe's largest ports.

The new terminal, which is set to measure over 100,000 sq. ft. and will incorporate a 3,000 sq. ft. baggage area and a 4,400 sq. ft. waiting area, will see the Port of Civitavecchia handle 4,500 passengers at peak times.

The extension of the Italian port is expected to cost €20million and will be completed in 2018.



### Royal Caribbean International Orders New Icon Class Ships

Royal Caribbean International has announced that an order has been agreed with the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland for the construction of two cruise ships powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

The two new vessels are to be the first in RCI's Icon class and are expected to accommodate 5,000 passengers each. Delivery is scheduled for the second quarter of 2022 and 2024.

The ships will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions with LNG technology, which generates

electricity by chemical reaction with very little pollution. The technology, whilst ground-breaking for the cruise industry, has been used by NASA for decades.

Richard Fain, chairman and chief executive officer of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd, said: "With Icon class, we move further in the journey to take the smoke out of our smokestacks. We are dedicated to innovation, continuous improvement, and environmental responsibility, and Icon gives us the opportunity to deliver against all three of these pillars."





### Celebrity Solstice To Undergo Multi-Million Pound Refurbishment

Celebrity Solstice, one of the largest ships in the Celebrity Cruises fleet, is set to become the first in its Solstice class to undergo extensive refurbishment.

In addition to decorative enhancements to the ship's suites and public areas, new features will include a new Japanese dining venue, Sushi on Five, which will replace the Bistro on Five creperie; a change which will eventually be introduced across the fleet. A fleet-first 'Taste of Film' experience will see a large movie screen added to the Lawn Club, with bites and beverages inspired by the film served as part of an alfresco cinema experience.

Celebrity Solstice entered dry dock in Singapore on 22 October 2016 for the \$8.5million upgrade, with work expected to be completed by the beginning of November.



### Royal Princess Sails With New Look Livery

Royal Princess has become the first ship in the Princess Cruises fleet to sail with the line's brand-new livery. The ship emerged from dry dock in Palermo with the new design, which features the iconic Princess Cruises logo and will be rolled out across the fleet.



### Cunard To Host Space Explorers On Board Queen Mary 2



Cunard will celebrate International World Space Week, which takes place in October 2017, with a special transatlantic voyage aboard Queen Mary 2.

The eastbound transatlantic cruise will see a number of space exploration experts welcomed aboard, with guest speakers including Dr Jeffrey Hoffman, NASA astronaut and scientist, Charles Barclay of the Royal Astronomical Society, Stephen Attenborough, Commercial Director of Virgin Galactic, and NASA historian, Ken MacTaggart.

In addition to stargazing from the outside decks of the Queen Mary 2,

guests will also have access to the only planetarium at sea, where they will experience space through bespoke three-dimensional shows. Pre and post-cruise land tours in New York and London have been tailor-made to explore some of the key locations which have ultimately enabled space exploration, including New York's American Museum of Natural History and the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London.

The World Space Week sailing will be one of a number of Special Event Cruises for Cunard in 2017, joining the line's Transatlantic Fashion Week, which will return for a second time following its unprecedented success in September 2016.

### New Norwegian Cruise Line Ship To Be Custom Designed For Alaska

Norwegian Cruise Line's next megaship is to be called Norwegian Bliss and will be custom-designed for Alaska itineraries.

The vessel will become the third ship in the cruise line's Breakaway-Plus class, joining Norwegian Escape and Norwegian Joy, which was designed specifically for the Chinese market and is set to arrive in summer 2017. The 4,000-passenger Norwegian Bliss will be built at Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany, with a delivery date set for spring 2018. The ship will be open for booking in January 2017.

Whilst further details on the ship's design are expected to be released in coming months, the cruise line has already announced the artist behind its hull. Marine artist, Wyland, is known for his

whale murals and sea otter sculptures, and his design for Norwegian Bliss is set to be revealed this month.



Speaking about the ship's itineraries and future homeport of Seattle, Norwegian Cruise Line President Andy Stuart said: "Alaska is one of the top destinations for our guests to explore. We are thrilled to

be the first cruise line to offer our guests the opportunity to experience this coveted destination aboard a brand-new, stateof-the-art cruise ship, custom designed for Alaska and the first of its kind to ever debut in Seattle."

Norwegian Bliss will homeport in Seattle from summer 2018, from where it will depart each Saturday on a 7-night voyage through the Alaska Inside Passage, stopping in Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Victoria, British Columbia. The parent company behind Norwegian Cruise Line has also entered into a 15-year agreement with the Port of Seattle, in a \$30-million investment to upgrade the facilities at the city's Pier 66. Planned works include an expanded check-in space, adding a brand new VIP lounge and two passenger boarding bridges.

### P&O Cruises Announce New Ship For 2020

P&O Cruises has announced that it is to launch a brand new ship in 2020.

At over 180,000 gross tons and with a passenger capacity of 5,200 guests, the ship will be the largest in the P&O Cruises fleet and the largest cruise ship ever built specifically for the British market. A memorandum of agreement has been signed with leading German and Finnish shipbuilders Meyer Werft and Meyer Turku to deliver the nextgeneration P&O Cruises ship, which will be a sister ship to the recently released Britannia.

According to reports, the ship will feature the Carnival Corporation's exclusive 'green cruising' design and will be one of the first generation of cruise ships to be fully powered by Liquefied Natural Gas; shipping's most advanced fuel technology. As the most environmentally efficient ship in P&O Cruises' history, the ship will use LNG to generate 100 percent of her power both in port and on the open sea, significantly reducing emissions.

P&O Cruises senior vice president Paul Ludlow said: "These are very exciting times. The number of British passengers taking a cruise in the past five years has significantly increased, boosted most recently by our very successful launch of Britannia last year. We know there is still huge potential as more and more people realise the value for money, choice and range of dining and entertainment options available on ships of all sizes. With an amazing range of itineraries, from two days to three months, there is a cruise to suit every budget.

"P&O Cruises is uniquely experienced in designing ships to meet the specific needs and aspirations of British passengers and the agreement by Carnival Corporation & plc to build a new ship of this size reflects all that our guests and prospective cruisers have been telling us and shows our confidence in the growth of the UK market.

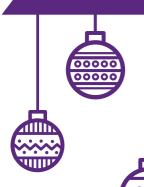
"This ship will be the largest in the P&O Cruises fleet, will have a striking new exterior and interior design and will comprehensively embrace the company's classic and iconic features. Innovative new guest experiences will be announced soon."

Further details are set to be revealed in the coming weeks.



## INTOTHEBLUE C O M P E T I T I O N





SUPPORTING

Bluebell Wood CHILDREN'S HOSPICE









### WIN A CHRISTMAS MARKETS CRUISE FROM JUST £1

Christmas is just around the corner and we're kicking off the season of goodwill in spectacular style, by giving you the chance to win a cruise from just £1.

There's no catch! All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning a two-night Christmas Markets cruise with P&O Cruises, is make a donation of £1 or more to Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice by text or via our JustGiving page.

To donate via text message, text the word **BOLS64** and an amount of **£1**.

£2, £3, £4, £5, or £10 to 70070 (for example text: BOLS64 £1). Once you've sent your text you'll receive a reply to confirm that it's been received and a link to an online form where you leave your name and contact details.

Alternatively, donate online by visiting www.bolsovercruiseclub.com and click on the 'WIN A CRUISE FROM JUST £1' button to be directed to our JustGiving page. Please note minimum donations made via the JustGiving webpage are £2. You will be asked to leave your email

address, as we'll need this to contact the lucky winner.

Not only will you sail to
Bruges in a balcony cabin
on P&O Cruises' Ventura,
we'll also give you £250 free
on board spending money,
so you can get a head start on
your Christmas shopping in
the ship's boutiques or raise a
toast to time spent at sea.

Please see full terms & conditions on our website.

## THE COMPETITION CLOSES 11 NOVEMBER 2016 AND THE WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY 5PM ON 14 NOVEMBER 2016. GOOD LUCK!

### **BLUEBELL WOOD CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**

At Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice, we care for children and young adults with life-shortening and life-threatening conditions. We are currently supporting around 250 families, both in our hospice and in family homes. In just one year, Bluebell Wood provides more than 50,000 hours of care.

We support the whole family through the toughest of times, including end of life care and treatment, music therapy, counselling, sibling support groups and home visits.

It costs more than £4m each year to keep our doors open for families across South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire, North Derbyshire and part of North Lincolnshire. Bluebell Wood receives around 10% of its funding from government sources. We are one of only 53 children's hospices nationally.





## CASE Cantenders

Shop our pick of the Christmas gifts and gadgets guaranteed to appeal to your nomadic nearest and dearest.



### Lonely Planet 'The Best Things in Life are Free' (shop.lonelyplanet.com)

Lonely Planet's latest guide sees travel industry insiders share their tips on the best free entertainment, attractions, events and more, in destinations worldwide.

£15.29



#### Michael Kors Rose Gold Smartwatch (beaverbrooks.co.uk)

Stay connected and healthy at home and away, without compromising on style and resorting to the usual rubber wristbands.

£329.00

#### Ted Baker Katena Citrus Bloom Travel Bag (tedbaker.com)

Checking in with the latest floral design in Ted Baker's luxe luggage collection will see the chances of a free upgrade soar.

£179.00



#### Jo Malone Cologne Collection (jomalone.co.uk)

The travel sized vials in this sleek set are small but mighty. Each may be worn alone or layered to create a signature scent.





### Disney Dumbo First Passport and Luggage Tag (findmeagift.com)

Celebrate a tiny traveller's first trip with this sweet passport cover and luggage tag set from Disney.

£14.49



This case from the luggage specialists is tough, hardwearing, weighs just 1.7kg when empty and looks pretty suave to boot.

£249.00



#### Lava BrightSounds Water Resistant Bluetooth Speaker with Ambient LED Lamp (johnlewis.com)

This portable, water-resistant
Bluetooth speaker will provide
the soundtrack to afternoons on
Caribbean beaches and pre-dinner

£39.95



#### Panasonic Lumix DMC-GX80 Camera (johnlewis.com)

Don't let the vintage styling fool you; there's nothing dated about this camera's technology, which includes brand new 4K photo and video capabilities.

£ 500 0

### Crystal Collar Necklace (johnlewis.com)

When you're working with a limited luggage allowance, a bit of bling goes a long way in taking your outfit from day to night.

£30.00









#### Cunard's Transatlantic Fashion Week Steals The Show

In September 2016 there was only one way to arrive at New York Fashion Week, and that was on board the recently remastered Queen Mary 2. Cunard's first ever 'Transatlantic Fashion Week' was a huge success, welcoming some of fashion's biggest names and future style stars to the seas.

Fashion designer *Dame Zandra Rhodes DBE, Fern Mallis*, founder of New York Fashion Week, fashion writer and historian *Colin McDowell MBE*, and consultant to the International Fashion Industry, *Gail Sackloff OBE*, were Cunard's guests of honour, and the most fashionable cruise ever to sail the seven seas saw talks, hosted dinners and audiences with the special guests.

Afternoons in the Queens Room saw fashion shows showcasing collections by

graduates of the world's most famous fashion college, The Royal College of Art, and emerging new faces from one of London's top modelling agencies, STORM.

Fashion's most iconic faces will return to Cunard's fabulous flagship in 2017 and 2018, when Queen Mary 2's annual Transatlantic Fashion Week returns. Will you be joining them?

















### QUEEN MARY 2 TRANSATLANTIC FASHION WEEK (M732B)

Southampton to New York 31 August to 7 September 2017 Fares From £1,479

Join some of the most reputable names on the fashion scene, including revered fashion designer, *Julien Macdonald OBE*, whose red carpet gowns and embellished evening wear has been worn by style starlets including Beyoncé and Kylie Minogue. Cunard's Transatlantic Fashion Week 2017 will also welcome back *Colin McDowell MBE*, one of the industry's most senior and respected fashion historians, and *Gail Sackloff OBE*, consultant to the International Fashion Industry.

Fashion collections will be modelled by the emerging new faces from London's top modelling agency, Storm Model Management, in addition to an array of talks, hosted dinners and 'Audiences with...'

Guests will also have the opportunity to shop until they drop, on a bespoke shopping experience at the world-famous Macy's New York.



QUEEN MARY 2 TRANSATLANTIC FASHION WEEK (M833) Southampton to New York 2 September to 9 September 2018 Fares From £1,469

Arrive at New York Fashion Week in style, joined by some of fashion's most influential faces including American writer, designer and one of the founding editors of InStyle magazine, Hal Rubenstein. Hal has written for publications such as The New Yorker, Vogue and Vanity Fair, and remains a red carpet commentator at Hollywood's star-studded events. Accompanying Hal will be English society and celebrity photographer, Richard Young, and journalist Hilary Alexander OBE. Hilary is the editor-at-large of Hello Fashion Monthly, host of The Clothes Show and one of four judges on Britain's Next Top Model. Fashion writer and historian, Colin McDowell MBE, will return for a third year, along with consultant to the International Fashion Industry, Gail Sackloff OBE.



)ueen mary 2

Westbound Transatlantic Crossing 8 nights

7 - 15 June 2017 • M721

Southampton > Six Sea Days > Halifax, Canada > New York, USA >

Cunard Complimentary complimentary Stateroom Fares from\* spending money spending money Queens £4,549 \$195 \$105 <u>G</u>rill Princess £3,849 \$130 \$170 Grill

)ueen mary 2

Eastbound Transatlantic Crossing 7 nights

28 July - 4 August 2017 \* M728

→ New York, USA > Six Sea Days > Southampton

Stateroom		Complimentary spending money	Additional complimentary spending money
Queens Grill	£4,749	\$195	\$230
Princess Grill	£3,849	\$130	\$295

(\_) UEEN VICTORIA

Italy, Croatia and Greek Isles 14 nights

12 - 26 August 2017 • V719N

> Rome (for Civitavecchia), Italy > Transit Messina Strait > Brindisi, İtaly™> Kotor, Montenegro A > Dubrovnik, Croatia PALE > Sea Day > Venice, Italy LE > Trieste, Italy LE > Sea Day > Corfu, Greece > Olympia (tours from Katakolon), Greece > Sea Day > Ephesus (tours from Kusadasi), Turkey > Santorini, Greece A> Athens (from Piraeus), Greece >

Stateroom		Complimentary spending money	Additional complimentary spending money
Queens Grill	£5,299	\$350	\$100
Princess Grill	£4,149	\$250	\$200

Complimentary drinks are included for all Grills guests.<sup>+</sup>

)ueen elizabeth





### Complimentary on board spending money and inclusive drinks.



For a limited time, Cunard has a promotional offer available for you to enjoy your time on board even more. Book a Grills Suite on selected cruises by 5 December 2016 to receive:

Complimentary on board spending money (on selected departures from May 2017 to May 2018).

Treat yourself on board in the shops, bars, spa and for booking any shore excursions or personal tours for your next port of call. Why not try a whisky tasting session, tai chi class, dining out in The Verandah, or a private theatre box experience.

Plus, inclusive drinks (on selected departures from May 2017 to January 2018).<sup>†</sup>

Choose from a wide selection of inclusive drinks. No matter where your day or evening takes you, relax and savour complimentary drinks in all the bars, lounges, restaurants and your suite.

You will also receive your Cunard Fare benefits as standard.



### Greece and Gibraltar 17 nights

8 - 25 October 2017 • Q731

Southampton > Three Sea Days >
Mallorca, Spain > Sea Day >
Transit Messina Strait > Sicily, Italy >
Olympia (tours from Katakolon), Greece >
Mykonos, Greece LE >
Ephesus (tours from Kusadasi), Turkey >
Athens (tours from Piraeus), Greece >
Transit Messina Strait > Two Sea Days >
Gibraltar H > Two Sea Days > Southampton

Stateroom		Complimentary spending money	complimentary spending money
Queens Grill	£5,699	\$310	\$15
Princess Grill	£5,099	\$220	\$130

Additional



### Iberian Adventure 10 nights

28 November - 8 December 2017 ◆ Q735

Southampton > Sea Day >
La Coruña, Spain > Sea Day >
Seville (tours from Cadiz), Spain >
Malaga, Spain LE >
Gibraltar H > Lisbon, Portugal >
Two Sea Days > Southampton

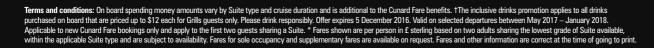
Stateroom		Complimentary spending money	Additional complimentary spending money
Queens Grill	£3,199	\$200	\$125
Princess	£2,699	\$140	*185





→ Pre Cruise or Post Cruise flight included - subject to availability <sup>A</sup>= Anchor Port <sup>PA</sup> = Possible Anchor Port <sup>H</sup> = Half Day

LE = Late Evening Departure <sup>O</sup> = Overnight Stay **Bold Port** = Embarkation/Disembarkation port







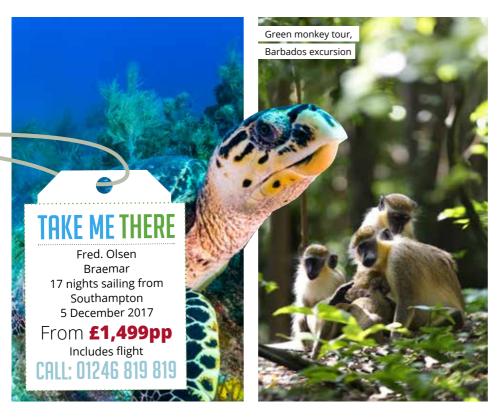
If there was ever a more delicious dilemma than which Caribbean idyll to cruise, we're yet to face it.

It's almost as if the Caribbean was made for cruising. Islands scattered in a manner which makes it perfectly possible to open your curtains to a new nirvana every morning. The promise of sunshine at a time when our hometowns are turning grey with drizzle. Seas made for snorkelling, coves for discovery by catamaran, and an intoxicating cocktail of rum punch and reggae.

By dictionary definition, paradise is 'a place or condition of great happiness, where everything is exactly as you would like it to be'. As you sit beneath the canopy of a rainbow beach shack on the sand, your hair whipped by the sea breeze and your belly full of jerk chicken, it's difficult to consider that a state of greater happiness could ever exist.

More than 7,000 islands, islets and reefs call the Caribbean home. In part one of our complete guide to the region, we're casting a spotlight on some of the stars of the show.







### BARBADOS

THE BRIT ABROAD

A sense of the familiar is dappled amidst the exotic in Barbados. On the one hand are the fiery, friendly Bajans, living life to a calypso beat, clad in carnival colours, hunched over raucous dominos games at the Oistins Fish Fry, fuelled by Banks beer.

ut they don't call the island 'Little England' for nothing. After almost 350 years of British rule, the tell-tale signs remain. There's the Bajan dialect unexpectedly interjected with the Queen's English, and there are afternoon teas enjoyed on former sugar plantations. There's the cricket - the island's national sport, in fact - and there's the Historic Bridgetown and Garrison, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which once stood at the centre of Great Britain's Atlantic colonial empire. St Nicholas Abbey is the oldest intact 17th century plantation on the island and the kind of regal sprawling estate you'd expect from a National Trust day out. More importantly, it serves up the best aged rum you're ever likely to imbibe.

But this isn't Britain, it is Barbados, a fact which is confirmed by the presence of swaying palms, millpond seas and blue skies. Upmarket resorts, a south coast surfer's paradise, the aforementioned historic capital, rugged roads lined with rum houses and sugar plantations, and aquamarine waters brimming with sea turtles entirely undisturbed by your presence; this diverse little island has it all. Hawkers peddle barbecued mahi-mahi and jerk chicken from beachside shacks, macaroni sides and rum punch washing it all down and lulling you into the kind of food coma only a sun-soaked siesta can shake off.

And then there are the beaches. The beauty of Barbados is that it has no private

beaches. Instead, every sandy cove is fair game and finding your favourite piece of paradise is part of the fun. The pale pink sands of Crane Beach are the island's most famous and some of its best, whilst the west coast's Payne Beach promises nothing but pleasure. Walk the entirety of its white sandy stretch or slip into the water and make your acquaintance with the incredibly tame turtles that famously inhabit the bay.



### ST LUCIA

### THE HOPELESS ROMANTIC

This is the original love island, where honeymooners spend their days on adrenaline-fuelled adventures for two and their evenings catching sunsets beneath the shadow of Les Pitons, two vast volcanic cones rising above acres of emerald rainforest. St Lucia has been recognised as the 'World's Leading Honeymoon Destination' a record eight times by the World Travel Awards and it isn't hard to see why.

hose who play together, stay together, and St Lucia offers plenty in the way of adventure. Hike the green peaks of the Pitons or zip line through the rainforest treetops. The steaming crater of Soufriere Volcano is another of the island's must-see attractions, the promise of soothing hot springs and curative mud baths rewarding those who can stand the smell; they don't call it Sulphur Springs for nothing. Natural

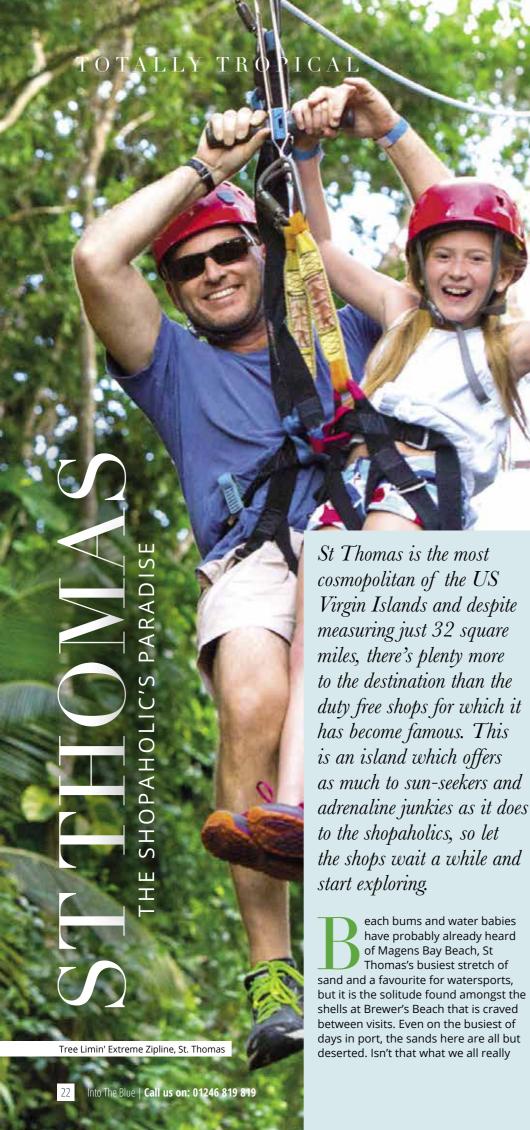
wonders also abound at Pigeon Island National Park, a historic spot just outside the island capital, Castries. Barracks, batteries and fortifications once protected the Caribbean from French fleets but today they are tasked with little more than facilitating the appreciation of heart-stopping views across the northwest coast.

Of St Lucia's 98-mile coastline, no slice of sand offers a once-in-a-lifetime

experience quite like Grand Anse beach. Each year, between the months of March and August, these sands welcome the return of the female sea turtles that hatched here as long as 40 years earlier. The endangered leatherback turtle lays its eggs in the sand of St Lucia's most remote beach, setting the scene for its tiny hatchlings to make their break in a frantic scurry to the surf months later. Those who are fortunate enough to witness the spectacle won't forget it in a hurry.

Memorable meals occur as often as memorable experiences here, where Michelin-starred restaurants and unassuming barbecue huts sit side by side, each dishing up equally impressive Caribbean cuisine. Fresh seafood is served from hook to hob, the rum is subtly spiced and the steel bands play into the night. What's not to love about St Lucia?





want when we're reclining on the sands and imagining ourselves castaway in

Another place that makes you wonder whether being shipwrecked in the Caribbean must really be all that bad is St John, the greenest of the US Virgin Islands and one located just a short boat trip from St Thomas. This idyllic isle is the smallest and quietest of

the three. with serenity seekers heading here for unspoiled scenery and a coast edged with no fewer than 44 beaches. Hiking trails here are well-walked, unearthing rugged routes to blissful bays and hidden coves.

If the thought of being marooned on an island paradise doesn't appeal, perhaps splashing the cash might. It is impossible to speak of St Thomas without mentioning its shops, and there's plenty to indulge in here aside from the usual bargain booze and souvenir rum cakes. The upscale stores of the Yacht Heaven Grande Marina are perfectly placed to take advantage of the moneyed guests who pass their winters on yachts in the nearby marina, which is one of the most exclusive moorings in the Caribbean. Louis Vuitton and Gucci are amongst the ultra-luxe offerings here, though neither offer duty free when you might well need the discount most. For those arriving into port, Havensight Mall is an obvious first stop, whilst the nearby cobblestones of Charlotte Amalie offer not just great shopping, but knockout chicken tacos and one of the best lookout spots on the whole island, too.



each bums and water babies have probably already heard of Magens Bay Beach, St Thomas's busiest stretch of sand and a favourite for watersports, but it is the solitude found amongst the shells at Brewer's Beach that is craved between visits. Even on the busiest of days in port, the sands here are all but deserted. Isn't that what we all really





### ARUBA

THE HAPPY ISLAND

Aruba proclaims itself to be the Caribbean's happiest island and it's a claim that's hard to question when you look at the facts. After all, if you're not happy in a 70 square mile space packed with blissful beaches, chic resorts, good-time casinos and a zesty coloured capital that could have come straight from Disney, there's really little hope for you at all.

his island retreat in the southern Caribbean, located just 18 miles off the tip of Venezuela, is 'compact but bijou' as an estate agent might say. But, whilst these may be words of warning when it comes to home buying, they're music to our ears in terms of tropical isles. This smaller size means that you can be on a beach within 10 minutes from anywhere on the island, a thought made all the more exciting by the fact that there's barely a 'World's

Best Beaches' list Aruba's sandy swathes haven't appeared on. Some are merely a slither, like the tiny Malmok Beach, whose sunken ship wrecks and coral reefs make it popular with snorkelers. Venture further north and you'll happen across the local's favourite, Arashi Beach, where little other than the odd ramshackle yet charming beach hut disturbs your view. Others beaches on Aruba are vast, like Eagle Beach, which is home to the famous fofoti tree and a nesting site for green,

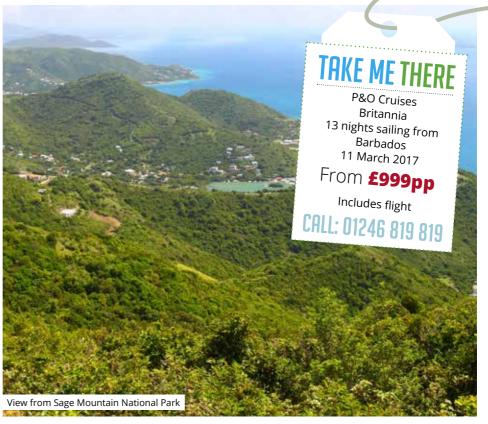
leatherback and hawksbill turtles.

Aruba's waterfront capital, Oranjestad, is every bit as colourful as its name suggests, its Dutch origins and multi-national population making for a cultural mixing pot that mustn't be missed. The city's proximity to the port puts attractions including the Butterfly Farm, Fort Zoutman and the National Archaeological Museum at your fingertips.

With such treasures on the coast, you could be forgiven for overlooking the interior wilds of Aruba, including a national park that blankets almost a fifth of the island in various shades of green. The dry landscape of Arikok National Park comprises flora and fauna, caves scrawled with authentic drawings by the Arawak Indians, numerous beaches and the Natural Pool, a unique circular volcanic rock formation accessible only by 4x4.







### TORTOLA

THE SAILOR'S CHOICE

A night at Necker Island, Sir Richard Branson's private island hideaway, sets the rich, famous and fabulous back around £30,000 a night. Fortunately, for everyone else there is Tortola. Whilst other isles in the British Virgin Islands chain have shunned traditional Caribbean flavour for an overwhelming air of exclusivity, there's still something seriously authentic about this cruise favourite that makes it the perfect place to catch a lime with a cool Callwood rum.

ou can measure happiness in grains of sand, or so the British Virgin Island mantra says. If that is the case, the colony's capital Tortola promises many a happy holiday. Tucked into coves, between green volcanic peaks, are red-roofed towns and golden bays lapped by turquoise water. In fact, the water here is the clearest in the Caribbean. Many who arrive into the British Virgin Islands don't linger long on Tortola at all, instead hopping across to nearby Jost Van

Dyke or Peter Island. And then there's Virgin Gorda and The Baths, the monumental granite boulders and cavernous grottos of which have become known as the world's most famous sheltered sea pool.

Those who do choose to remain on Tortola are justly rewarded with their own slices of paradise, be it at the beautifully underdeveloped Brewers Bay Beach, or on the sands of Cane Garden Bay Beach, one of the island's most scenic and so most popular spots, where beach barbecues and watersports draw a crowd.

Sage Mountain National Park is the highest point on the island and hiking its

seven trails to some of Tortola's best vantage points takes you along pathways lined with hanging vines, wild ferns and majestic mahogany trees. If you thought the British Virgin Islands looked good from ground level, the views across the chain of islands and on towards the US Virgin Islands will blow you away from 1,700ft above sea level.



### ST MAARTEN

#### THE SPLIT PERSONALITY

St Maarten is a destination split between Dutch and French heritage. Philipsburg is the island's Dutch capital and the arrival point for those visiting by cruise ship, whilst Marigot is the capital of the French territory. No formal boundaries exist between the two regions, in fact, the only indicator that you have crossed from one to the other is a single welcome sign.

t Maarten is an island of beaches great and small, with 37 scattered around its coast. Each is entirely unique, from the lengthy stretches of Long Bay and Orient Beach, to the clothing-optional Cupecoy Beach, which is famed for its sunsets over the surf. Google 'Maho Beach' and you might be surprised by the results. This St Maarten spot is located directly under the flight path of the Princess Juliana Airport runway on the

Dutch side of the island, and has become famous for the jumbo jets flying so low on approach to the runway, beachgoers can feel the force of the jet blast. As a result, the Maho Beach is always busy and whilst there are better beaches on which to while away a day, it's worth a trip here purely for the photos.

Both the Dutch and French sides of St Maarten share a love of shopping, though their wares differ greatly. The old Creole houses of Marigot have been restored in traditional Saint Martinoise style, with many transformed into luxury boutiques. Whilst the duty-free prices are mighty tempting, it is the daily open-air Marigot Market which offers a more authentic insight into life on the island, along with some tasty souvenirs that sure beat the usual magnets and keyrings. Despite being the Dutch side of the island, Philipsburg's shops are purveyors of plenty more than Edam cheese and Delft Blue, though you'll find both of these in abundance too.

As if St Maarten's two totally unique sides aren't enough, the island is also the starting point for excursions to two of the Caribbean's most elite haunts, Anguila and St Barts. Saba is another popular day-visit destination, with beaches substituted for mountain hikes and awesome volcanic scenery.





### ANTIGUA

THE BEACH BUM

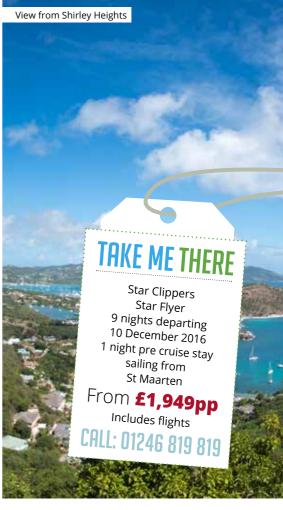
There's a slice of paradise for every day of the year in Antigua, with the island home to an incredible 365 beaches.

rom the idyllic Valley Church
Beach and the lively Dickenson
Bay with its watersports, boat
trips and beach bars, to the
quieter Darkwood Beach and Ffrye's Bay,
the picture-postcard paradise spot and a
photoshoot favourite. You could spend
a month on the sunniest island in the
eastern Caribbean and still fail to find the
time to soak up the sun on all its beaches,
never mind fitting in space to make the
90-minute ferry trip to its sister island,
Barbuda; home to the famous soft-pink
crushed coral sands.

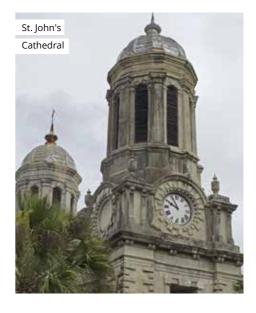
Then there is everything besides the beaches. Nelson's Dockyard hosted Admiral Nelson's fleet in the 1700s but now it welcomes ships sailing the oceans for pleasure, rather than for King and Country. Many are often surprised to discover that, despite being considered the best remaining example of Britain's colonial Caribbean legacy, the Georgian

dockyard was only granted UNESCO World Heritage status earlier this year. The English Harbour, in which Nelson's Dockyard is located, continues its maritime links today, known as the international capital of sailing and famed as the home of the Caribbean's largest annual regatta, Antigua Sailing Week. The best views of the harbour are famously found at Shirley Heights, a former Royal Navy lookout championed for offering the best views in Antigua from 490ft above sea level.

Lively Friday and Saturday mornings can be spent at the farmers' market in St John, Antigua's pastel-coloured capital, where market stalls are piled high with exotic fruits and local crafts. The neo-baroque towers of St John's Cathedral loom above the St John skyline, whilst the far-reaching city and harbour views from the 18th century Fort James and Fort Barrington once acted as the first line of defence against an attack by the French.



The sugar cultivation industry also played a huge part in Antigua's history and former plantations are scattered around the island. Perhaps the most famous of them all is 17th century Betty's Hope, where gripping guided tours do an incredible job of conveying the hardships of the slaves who once laboured there.





The 700 islands and atolls in the Bahamas archipelago resemble a string of pearls from above, dotted in waters so bright a shade of turquoise they can be seen from space.

here is something about the Bahamas which attracts those to whom money is no object. From Bill Gates to Tiger Woods, Mariah Carey to Michael Jordan; those who can holiday anywhere in the world, holiday here.

There's never a dull moment in the Bahamas, between mornings spent on sugary white sands and snorkelling along the Andros Barrier Reef, and afternoons spent tucking into conch salad at Arawak Cay, the sun setting to a reggae soundtrack outside the rainbow beach shacks that are home to the archipelago's exuberant Junkanoo. This is the most colourful place in the Caribbean, with 25 flora-filled national parks, the world's largest pink flamingo colony and the inky waters of the world's deepest blue hole. From the fiery face of the Andros iguana, to the green, coral and blue of the endangered Bahama parrot, even the animals provide the most colourful of welcomes.

Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruises and Holland America Line all founded their private islands in the Bahamas, confirming the destination's reputation as the action-packed party capital of the Caribbean. There isn't much you can't do here and there are few who the destination doesn't aim to please. There are Nassau's historic ramparts, Fort Montague, Fort Charlotte and Fort Fincastle, and there are the sunken Spanish galleons occupying ocean beds between islands. For those who prefer aquatic adventures, there are day passes to the Aquaventure Waterpark at the Atlantis Paradise Island, the largest waterpark in the Caribbean. With 18 water slides, 11 pools and a mile-long river rapid ride, this 114 acre attraction is the star of the show on a family cruise from Miami and is located just a stone's throw from Nassau's downtown shopping mecca.



### GRAND CAYMAN

THE PEOPLE PLEASER

Few destinations can claim to be affluent yet laidback, family-friendly yet with an air of exclusivity and subtle touches of luxury. Grand Cayman is all of these things and more, and if you're in the market for a Caribbean holiday with appeal well beyond the beaches, the largest of the Cayman Islands fits the bill perfectly.

n a Caribbean studded with coastlines which are perfect by their very definition, achieving the accolade of being the very best of them all is quite the achievement. Seven Mile Beach, on the island's west coast, has scooped the top spot countless times and once you step on its sands, it becomes instantly apparent why.

Grand Cayman's seas are brimming with coral formations and there are over 360 dive sites around the island. Plunge below the waters to experience some of the Caribbean's best snorkelling at Seven Mile Beach, where snorkel sites can be accessed straight from the beach, and at

the equally popular Devil's Grotto or Smith Cove, both of which are just minutes from the George Town port. The Cayman Wall is one of the most renowned dive sites in the world and experienced divers might well confirm this British Overseas Territory as home to the best diving in all of the Caribbean. Highlights include the wreck of the USS Kittiwake, sunk off the northern end of Seven Mile Beach, and the Ironshore Gardens on the island's east coast.

Wildlife abounds in Grand Cayman, both at sea and ashore, with two of the island's star attractions bringing you closer to nature. Stingray City occupies a sandbar



off the North Sound, where stingrays once congregated to collect the scraps left behind by fishermen cleaning their catch of the day. Today, they have become more accustomed to being hand-fed squid by visiting tourists and doing so is a must during your time in Grand Cayman. Equally enthralling is an afternoon at the Cayman Turtle Farm: Island Wildlife Encounter, which sits with the 23-acre marine park and conservation area of Boatswain's Beach Park. The attraction is the largest in the Cayman Islands and, whilst its 11,000 green sea turtles take a starring role, there's enough going on to entertain the whole family all day.



## MIAMI BEACH STAY WITH EVERGLADES AIRBOAT ADVENTURE & SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

### From Only £1,789pp

13 nights departing 17 Jan 2017

Includes-

RETURN SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

ALL TRANSFERS 2 NIGHTS 4\* PESTANA SOUTH BEACH ART DECO

(OR SIMILAR)

EVERGLADES AIRBOAT ADVENTURE TOUR 10 NIGHT CRUISE ON ROYAL PRINCESS

### Everglades Airboat Adventure Tour Information:

trip to Miami isn't complete without visiting the Everglades; home to nature at its best. This tour includes a thrilling airboat ride, daring alligator show and more.

Your experienced airboat captain

will narrate throughout your thirtyminute ride, as you glide through the Everglades; a vast and carefullypreserved wilderness made up of over 1.2 million acres of grasslands. Breathtaking panoramic views, lush vegetation and an air of tranquillity are found in this unique ecosystem of native flora and fauna, where exotic wildlife including alligators thrive.

After the airboat ride, you'll have the opportunity to watch with baited breath at an alligator wildlife show, before exploring a jungle walking trail filled with crocodile exhibits.

### Your Itinerary:

17 Jan 2017	Fly from London Heathrow to Miami	22 Jan 2017	Aruba	
	Shuttle transfer Miami	23 Jan 2017	Bonaire	
	Airport to hotel	24 Jan 2017	Grenada	4
	4* Pestana South Beach Art Deco	25 Jan 2017	Dominica	
		26 Jan 2017	St Thomas	
18 Jan 2017	4* Pestana South Beach Art Deco	28 Jan 2017	Princess Cays, Bahamas	
	Everglades Airboat Adventure including hotel pick up	29 Jan 2017	Ft Lauderdale, Florida Shuttle transfer Ft Lauderdale port to	Inter Balc
19 Jan 2017	Shuttle transfer hotel to port, Ft Lauderdale, Florida, Embark		Miami Airport  Fly overnight Miami to London Heathrow	Alter
	Royal Princess	30 Jan 2017	Arrive London Heathrow	



#### BOLSOVER CRUISE CLUB FARES FROM

Interior Stateroom
Balcony Stateroom
E2299 per person

Alternative departure dates available at a supplement, see T&Cs below.

Also available on the following departure dates at a supplement; 6 Feb, 26 Feb, 18 Mar & 7 Apr 2017. Exclusive Holiday Direction packages are solely organised by Holiday Direction Ltd a fully bonded member of the Global Travel Group (ATOL 3973). Prices shown are per person in £ sterling based on two adults sharing and are subject to availability. Fares and other information are correct at the time of going to print. The holiday is subject to Holiday Direction booking conditions. Visit www.bolsovercruiseclub.com/holidaydirection for further details. Please note the cruise itinerary changes slightly on all dates so please call for details. Visa and vaccinations may be required.

Hotel accommodation is on a room only basis. Travel insurance is at an additional cost. Intermediate cruise days are at sea. E&OE

**Bolsover** Cruise Club

### CRUISE & STAY

**EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE** 

### CLEARWATER STAY W DOLPHIN WATCHING BOAT TOUR WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

From Only £1,799pp

13 nights departing 19 Feb 2017

Includes

**RETURN SCHEDULED FLIGHTS** 

**CAR HIRE** (INTERMEDIATE SIZED CAR)

5 NIGHTS
MARRIOTT SUITES SAND KEY CLEARWATER (OR SIMILAR)

**DOLPHIN** WATCHING **BOAT TOUR**  **6 NIGHT CRUISE** ON HOLLAND **AMERICA OOSTERDAM** 

**POST CRUISE PORT TO AIRPORT** TRANSFER

### Clearwater Dolphin Watching Tour Information:

he bottlenose dolphin is a Florida favourite and you'll spend two-hours watching for these charming creatures from the decks of a specially-designed catamaran.

After embarking your double-decker catamaran at Clearwater Beach, you'll take in views of the Gulf Coast and its beachfront mansions as you set out in search of bottlenose dolphins. The marine mammals

have been known to live in pods of varying sizes, from a single dolphin to a pod of over 1,000, and a sighting of these playful creatures is no rarity in this region. Be sure to keep your camera close to hand!

### Your Itinerary: -

			2001001001 y •
19 Feb 2017	Fly from London Gatwick to Tampa Pick up Car Hire – Intermediate Size 4* Marriott Suites on	24 Feb 2017	Drop off Car Hire, make own way to Port Tampa, Embark Holland America Oosterdam
	Sand Key	25 Feb 2017	Key West, Florida
20 Feb 2017	4* Marriott Suites on Sand Key	27 Feb 2017	Mahogany Bay, Roatan, Honduras
21 Feb 2017	4* Marriott Suites on	28 Feb 2017	Belize City, Belize
	Sand Key	1 Mar 2017	Cozumel, Mexico
	Dolphin Watching Boat Tour	3 Mar 2017	Tampa, Florida
22 Feb 2017	4* Marriott Suites on Sand Key		Shuttle transfer Tampa Port to Tampa Airport Fly overnight Tampa to London Gatwick
23 Feb 2017	4* Marriott Suites on Sand Key	4 Mar 2017	Arrive London Gatwick



#### **BOLSOVER CRUISE CLUB FARES FROM**

Interior Stateroom Ocean View Stateroom | £1899 per person **Balcony Stateroom** 

£1799 per person £2099 per person

Alternative departure dates available at a supplement, see T&Cs below.

Similar itinerary also available on the following departure dates at a supplement; 26 Feb, 5 Mar & 26 Mar 2017. Exclusive Holiday Direction packages are solely organised by Holiday Direction Ltd a fully bonded member of the Global Travel Group (ATOL 3973). Prices shown are per person in £ sterling based on two adults sharing and are subject to availability. Fares and other information are correct at the time of going to print. The holiday is subject to Holiday Direction booking conditions. Visit www.bolsovercruiseclub.com/holidaydirection for further details. Please note the cruise itinerary changes slightly on all dates so please call for details. Visa and vaccinations may be required. Hotel accommodation is on a room only basis. Travel insurance is at an additional cost. Intermediate cruise days are at sea. E&OE



From Only £2,999pp

16 nights departing 20 Sep 2017

Includes-

**RETURN SCHEDULED FLIGHTS** 

**ALL TRANSFERS** 

**3 NIGHTS 4\* PARK HOTEL** TOKYO (OR SIMILAR)

**MOUNT FUJI AND HAKONE ONE DAY TOUR** 

**12 NIGHTS CRUISE ON CELEBRITY MILLENNIUM** 

### Tour Information:

ount Fuji is the most famous mountain in Japan and was recently registered as a World Heritage site. The mountain is the biggest in Japan, at a height of 3,776m, and visits are becoming more popular among not only tourists, but also the Japanese.

This guided one-day tour includes a stop at the Fuji Visitor Center, a trip up to Mt. Fuji's 5th station at an elevation of 2,300 meters, a cruise on pristine Lake Ashi, and a ride on the Mt. Komagatake Ropeway which boasts great views of the surrounding Hakone National Park. You will be speechless when you see Mt. Fuii reflected in the beautiful lake.

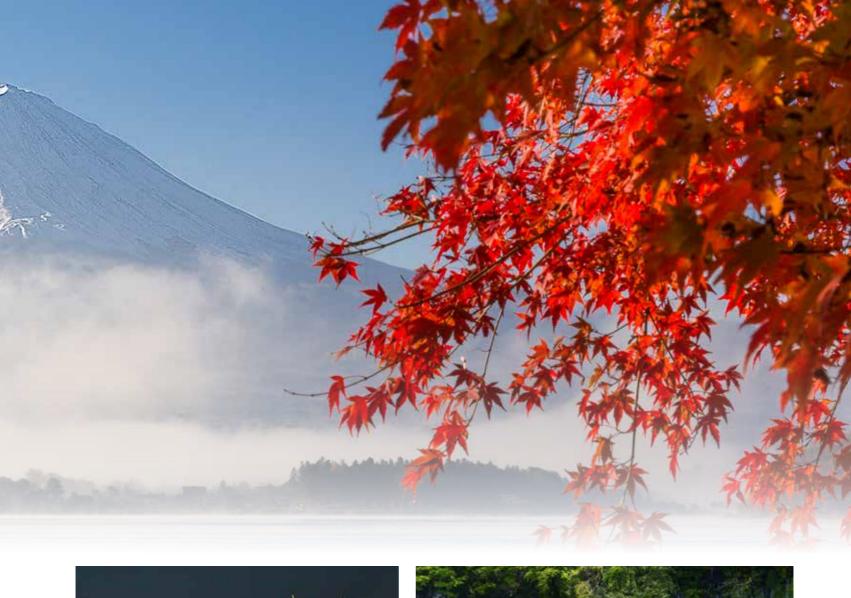
Return from Mt Fuji to Tokyo aboard the world famous Shinkasen bullet train.



### Your Itinerary:

20 Sep 2017	Fly overnight from London Heathrow to Tokyo	26 Sep 2017	Kobe, Japan	<b>5 Oct 2017</b> To	okyo (Yokohama), Japan	
21 Sep 2017	Transfer from airport to	27 Sep 2017	Kobe, Japan	-	sembark and transfer Tokyo airport	
	hotel, stay 4*Park Hotel	28 Sep 2017	Kochi, Japan	FI	y overnight to	
22 Sep 2017	4* Park Hotel	29 Sep 2017	Nagasaki, Japan		London Heathrow	
23 Sep 2017	4* Park Hotel, full day Mt. Fuji and Hakone Tour	30 Sep 2017	Pusan, South Korea	<b>6 Oct 2017</b> A	rive London Heathrow	
24 Sep 2017	Transfer from hotel to port	1 Oct 2017	At Sea	BOLSOVER CRUISE CLUB FARES FROM		
		2 Oct 2017	Aomori, Japan			
	Embark Celebrity Millenium in Tokyo (Yokohama), Japan	3 Oct 2017	At Sea	Interior Stateroom Ocean View Statero	<b>£2999</b> per person <b>£3279</b> per person	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	4.0 -+ 2047	Talinia (Valiabanas) Janas	Balcony Stateroom	£3699 per person	
25 Sep 2017	Mt Fuji (Shimizu), Japan	4 Oct 2017	Tokyo (Yokohama), Japan	balcony stateroom	23033 per person	

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### VIVA VALLETTA!

Having been declared the European Capital of Culture 2018, the future looks brighter than ever for this miniature Mediterranean marvel





#### Don't miss...

Don't let the startlingly simple exterior convince you that St John's Co-Cathedral is anything other than a Baroque masterpiece. Built by the Knights of St John between 1573 and 1578, and revamped with its current Baroque style in the 17th century, the church's austere façade belies an incredibly elaborate interior in which every inch is gilded, carved and painted. Amongst the treasures hung on its walls are works by Italian painter Caravaggio, including the vast 'Beheading of St John the Baptist'.

Valletta is filled with immaculately manicured public gardens, but the best of them all is the Upper Barrakka Gardens, the view from which stretches over the Grand Harbour, out to the Three Cities and over Fort St Angelo, Malta's oldest fort. Things are no less intriguing below terra firma, where you'll find the Lascaris War Rooms. This hive of tunnels and chambers once formed the underground headquarters from which Malta's defence was masterminded during World War II, before becoming a NATO Command Centre in later years. Today, it operates as a museum and offers an intriguing insight into Malta's military past.

Not all of Valletta's most notable attractions are historic. The current City Gate, which is constructed from stone from the neighbouring island of Gozo, is the fifth version to have stood at the site and its ultra-modern design caused controversy when it was first unveiled by Italian architect Renzo Piano, the man behind The Shard in London. City Gate became the first modern addition to the city for centuries and, despite initial reservations, has become one of Valletta's most celebrated structures, appreciated by both locals and visitors alike.

Malta's minute stature means you're never far from the coast and waters so blue, that staying out of them is no mean feat. Dip in a toe at Marsaxlokk's pretty harbour, swim in Comino's luminescent Blue Lagoon or take a ferry across the water from Valletta's Great Harbour to the Three Cities. These three picturesque walled towns – Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua – offer a true insight into the Maltese way of life, without a single tourist trap in sight.



### Tuck in...

For as historic as the golden city of Valletta may be, its gastronomic offerings are anything but antiquated. The city has become known for the epicurean experiences offered within its fortifications, with Rampila perhaps the most popular of them all. Ancient olive trees strung with fairy lights, a babbling fountain, white tablecloths and canvas umbrellas set the scene

at this restaurant, which occupies an enviable spot within Valletta's bastion walls. Lunches on the restaurant's terrace, which overlooks the City Gate, are some of the most memorable you'll enjoy anywhere in the Mediterranean.

The Harbour Club is a hidden gem loved by locals, yet often overlooked by visitors to the city. The restaurant's

unique interior is built around a recycled American ship deck, which sits inside a converted warehouse built by the 64th Grand Master of the Order of Malta in 1712. The restaurant's terrace is as impressive as its unique interior, overlooking Valletta's Grand Harbour, and the French fusion menu dishes up Mediterranean cuisine and local ingredients with a touch of je ne sais quoi.





### Drink up...

Strait Street, or Strada Stretta to the Maltese, was once a raucous hangout for off-duty American, British and Italian sailors, its bar-lined cobbles providing rowdy respite from the toils of war. Alcohol flowed like water in 'The Gut', as Valletta's most notorious street would soon become known. The debauchery came to an end in the 1970s, with the war over and the island becoming increasingly conservative, and Strait Street is no longer considered Valletta's seedy yet strangely endearing underbelly. That isn't to say that the slender stretch isn't still the life and soul of the party; wine bars and live music remain a constant here, albeit with the odd artisanal café thrown in for good measure.





Bolsover Cruise Club



# 5\* MALTA STAY &

BALEARIC ISLANDS WITH STAR CLIPPERS

From Only £2,299pp

12 nights departing 19 Oct 2017

Includes

RETURN SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

**ALL TRANSFERS** 

3 NIGHTS 5\* RADISSON BLU ST JULIAN'S BAY

(OR SIMILAR)

9 NIGHTS CRUISE ABOARD STAR FLYER

### Your Itinerary:

19 Oct 2017	Fly from London Gatwick to Malta	26 Oct 2017	Mahon, Menorca, Balearic Islands		
	Private transfer Malta airport to 5* Radisson Blu, St Julian's Bay B&B	27 Oct 2017	Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca, Balearic Islands		
20 Oct 2017	5* Radisson Blu,	28 Oct 2017	lbiza, Balearic Islands		
	St Julian's Bay B&B	29 Oct 2017	Cartagena, Spain	//	
21 Oct 2017	5* Radisson Blu, St Julian's Bay B&B	30 Oct 2017	Motril, Spain	BOLSOVER CRUISE CL	LUB FARES FROM
22 Oct 2017	Private transfer hotel	31 Oct 2017	Malaga, Spain	Cat 5 Inside or Outside	<b>£2299</b> per person
	to port Valletta, Malta Embark Star Flyer		Private transfer Malaga Port to Airport	Cat 4 Outside	£2469 per person
24 Oct 2017	Cagliari, Sardinia		Fly Malaga to London Gatwick	Cat 2 Larger Outside	£2689 per person

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Travel insurance is at an additional cost. Intermediate cruise days are at sea. E&OE





For adventurers, thrill-seekers and wildlife enthusiasts, safaris are what dreams are made of

unsets over the savannah, red hot-air balloons soaring above migratory herds, elephants blowing the dust with the flap of an ear and hippos cooling thick, leathery skin in muddy watering holes; Africa is a destination unlike any other. Some may call it the trip-of-a-lifetime, but the truth is that once you have experienced the wildlife and landscapes of South Africa, you will have a habit of finding yourself returning there again and again. Fortunately, the country has enough national parks to ensure that you never run out of options. Here are some of our favourites.

## KARIEGA GAME RESERVE

### The one with the happy ending

South Africa's fastest-growing conservation area is home to not only the Big Five, but also the rare and endangered Cape leopard. However, it is rhinos Thandi and Thembi who are stars of the show on this Eastern Cape stage. Thandi became famous in 2012, when she was one of three rhinos attacked on the reserve during an especially prolific period of poaching in South Africa. Whilst her two companions sadly died, Thandi not only survived but, as tests during her lengthy treatment revealed, was found to be pregnant. Thembi, whose name means 'hope' in the indigenous language of isiXhosa, was born in 2015 and has remained by her mother's side, and has been Kariega Game

Reserve's star attraction ever since. Both rhinos roam free under the protection of the reserve, which blankets almost 25,000 acres of the Eastern Cape and incorporates the Kariega and Bushman's rivers within its verdant and mountainous wilderness.





# ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK



The one with the Big Seven

There is more to South Africa's third largest wildlife conservation park than its namesake elephants, though they are undoubtedly one of its biggest draws. Addo Elephant National Park started out with just 11 elephants in 1931. Now, there are over 600 African



elephants roaming its arid savannah, joined by lion, buffalo, black rhino, spotted hyena, leopard, antelope and zebra. The reserve is also the only place in the world where you will find the flightless dung beetle. Add into the mix the southern right whale and great white shark, both of which are found off the Algoa Bay Coast in the park's marine



area, and you have one of the world's few Big Seven reserves. With the Woody Cape sand dunes, the Sundays River Valley, which spills into the mouth of the Indian Ocean, and the rugged Zuurberg Mountain surrounded by citrus trees and rose farms, Addo Elephant National Park is one of South Africa's most diverse in terms of scenery.



## KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

### The one everybody knows

If you were asked to name a South African national park, the chances are that Kruger National Park would factor in there. This is the world-famous one, its almost endless wilderness having provided the ultimate safari experience since 1898. Yes, the Big Five are here in abundance, but this enormous 7,500

sq. mile space offers so much more besides. The diversity in the park's wildlife is key here and nowhere in the world will you find such a vast variety of species, including 2000 plants, 53 fish, 34 amphibians, 118 reptiles, 517 birds and 147 mammals. Kruger National Park will soon become part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, a peace park which will eventually link the game reserve with parks in neighbouring Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The fences between the parks are slowly being removed, allowing animals to migrate as they would have done before political boundaries put manmade borders in their way.







# HLUHLUWE – IMFOLOZI PARK

### The one that came first

Established in 1895, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park is the oldest game reserve in Africa, and whilst it was once the Zulu kings who hunted here, it is the Big Five which now stalk the savannahs. The park is in fact made up of two reserves, the Hluhluwe Game Reserve in the north and iMfolozi in the south, with the two combining to cover an area of over 370 sq. miles. The usual safari suspects are joined by crocodiles and hippos loitering in the watering holes in their masses, whilst the park has become best-known for nurturing one of the world's most notable populations of black and white rhino. It was at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park

that the 'Operation Rhino' conservation programme oversaw efforts to bring the Southern white rhino back from the brink of extinction during the 1950s. The park's conservation team continues to grow the black rhino population too, at a time when poaching continues to be rife. Aside from its rhino conservation, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park is best known for its wilderness trails.







# CAPETOWN CRUISE SAFARI

### 10 Jan 2018 · Boudicca - 18 Nights

Fly from/to London

- Cape Town
- Port Elizabeth overnight in port
- Richards Bay overnight in port
- Durban overnight in port
- Mossell Bay
- Cape Town 3 day experience



from £2,775 per person

### 24 Jan 2018 · Boudicca - 18 Nights

Fly from/to London

- Cape Town
- Port Elizabeth 3 day experience
- Richards Bay **overnight in port**
- Durban overnight in port
- Mossell Bay
- Cape Town 3 day experience



from £2,629 per person

ruise the beautiful coastline of South Africa from Cape Town aboard Boudicca, and step ashore at a string of incredible destinations to go in search of the country's most iconic wildlife and unspoilt natural landscapes.

A day at sea will ensure a relaxing start to your exotic holiday, allowing you time to familiarise yourself with the ship and get to know your fellow guests as you sail to Port Elizabeth. Once docked, you'll have either two or three full days to indulge in an ultimate safari experience, depending which itinerary you choose. You could

spot the 'Big Five' at the Kariega or Lalibela Game Reserves; or perhaps watch hundreds of elephants, Cape buffalo and much more in their natural habitat on a 4x4 adventure through Addo Elephant Park. An overnight in Richards Bay follows, with the chance to encounter even more African wildlife, such as rare white rhinos, at Hluhluwe Game Reserve. For a unique cultural experience, join a tour to DumaZulu for a fascinating insight into the Zulu Kingdom's way of life.

The next two days will be spent docked in Durban, the gateway to the traditional Zulu villages and spectacular landscapes of the famous Valley of a Thousand Hills. The city is also perfectly placed for those

wishing to visit Tala Game Reserve or the UNESCO-listed iSimangaliso Wetland Park - home to a diverse range of wildlife including crocodiles, African elephants, turtles and even humpback whales. An abundance of South Africa's lesser-known fauna await you in Mossel Bay, the next port of call. See over 2,500 Cape fur seals on a boat trip to nearby Seal Island; or tour to Oudtshoorn, 'the ostrich capital of the world'. Your exotic cruise then concludes back in Cape Town, where there's plenty to tick-off your 'must-see' list before heading home. From the stunning scenery at Cape Point and the penguins of Boulders Beach, to iconic Table Mountain, there's much to discover during almost three days in the 'Mother City'. Spending one of your evenings watching the sunset over delicious oysters and fine wines at the top of Signal Hill is highly recommended.





TREAT A LOVED ONE AND LOVE PAYING HALF. MODERN LUXURY

LIVES HERE.

What's not to love about a Celebrity Cruises® holiday? And with a choice of over 280 beautiful destinations, you can explore new faraway destinations until your heart's content...

And now there's even more to love. Book an eligible Ocean View stateroom or above on selected 2016–2018 European Sailings, and you'll only pay half the cruise fare for the second person. You'll also both enjoy a free Classic Drinks Package for the first and second guest in your stateroom, plus the third and fourth guests will get a Non-Alcoholic Drinks Package. Hurry, limited availability! See full terms and conditions for details.





### CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOMS. IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN.

Concierge Class from Celebrity Cruises® is perfect for discerning travellers who appreciate finer details like personal service and priority bookings – special touches that can make all the difference. Each room features a private balcony with high-end furnishings and extras like sparkling wine to welcome you on board, fresh fruit, custom-blended bath amenities and a pillow menu.

With priority check-in and disembarkation, you can rest assured that your Celebrity Cruises holiday will be one of incomparable modern luxury, from start to finish.



### AQUACLASS® STATEROOMS. THE ULTIMATE IN RELAXATION.

For the spa enthusiast, our AquaClass® staterooms are located close to our stunning Canyon Ranch SpaClub®, Solarium, Persian Garden and, on Solstice Class® ships, Relaxation Room.

These soothing staterooms feature a beautiful balcony and many in-room extras to help guests relax, as well as exclusive access to specialty restaurant Blu. Featuring a choice of healthy dishes for breakfast or dinner, with a little inspiration and plenty of flavour, it's intimately elegant, yet fresh and modern.



### ACCOMMODATION THAT'S IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN.

Suite Class is everything you, as discerning guests, could want from seriously indulgent accommodation. With an extensive range of special privileges, including unlimited specialty restaurant dining, a luxurious VIP Lounge, complimentary premium drinks, personal butler service, a round the clock concierge to take care of dining reservations, shore excursion bookings and much more, it is the ultimate address at sea.

\*Further terms and conditions apply. The Classic Drinks Package includes beers up to \$6 per serving, spirits, cocktails, liqueurs and frozen drinks up to \$8 per serving, and wine-by-the-glass up to \$9 per serving. The Non-Alcoholic Drinks Package includes fountain and selected canned sodas, fresh and bottled juices, premium coffees and teas, non-premium bottled water, smoothies and frozen drinks.

### **SAILING FROM** SOUTHAMPTON.

### CELEBRITY ECLIPSE®



Imagine no long flights, lengthy delays or transfers. For sheer convenience and a stress free start to your holiday, Celebrity Cruises round-trip sailings departing from the UK can't be beaten. Follow the sun south to the Mediterranean, Canaries and Azores. Or set sail for the tempting northern delights of Scandinavia, the Baltic, Russia and the Norwegian Fjords. All this aboard the incredible Celebrity Eclipse®, a ship that's worlds apart from anything at sea today.



### **SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA**

Celebrity Eclipse® - 16 July 2017 - 14 Nights

Southampton - Bruges (Zeebrugge) - Copenhagen Stockholm (overnight) - Tallin - St. Petersburg (overnight) Berlin (Warnemunde) - Southampton

FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
BALCONY STATEROOM	£2,640	£1,320
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,900	£1,450
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£3,150	£1,575
SKY SUITE	£5,000	£2,500



### **SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA**

Celebrity Eclipse® - 13 August 2017 - 13 Nights

Southampton - Frederica - Copenhagen - Stockholm Tallin - St. Petersburg (overnight) - Berlin (Warnemunde) - Southampton

FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
BALCONY STATEROOM	£2,650	£1,325
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,900	£1,450
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£3,100	£1,550
SKY SUITE	£4,810	£2,405



### NORWEGIAN FJORDS

Celebrity Eclipse® - 17 September 2017 - 8 Nights

Southampton - La Coruna - Madeira (Funchal) - Ponta Delgada Lisbon - Southampton

FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
BALCONY STATEROOM	£2,030	£1,015
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,300	£1,150
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£2,600	£1,300
SKY SUITE	£3,500	£1,750



### **SPAIN & CANARIES**

Celebrity Eclipse® - 18 October 2017 - 10 Nights

Southampton - Madeira (Funchal), (overnight) - Tenerife Lanzarote - Vigo - Southampton

FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2	
BALCONY STATEROOM	£1,910	£955	
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,190	£1,095	
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£3,090	£1,545	
SKY SUITE	£2,340	£1,170	

### JET SET SAIL

Fly in style. Sail in modern luxury.





Celebrity Reflection® - 19 May 2017 - 10 Nights

Rome (Civitavecchia) - Sicily (Messina) - Mykonos - Rhodes - Santorini Athens (Piraeus) - Naples - Rome (Civitavecchia)

CRUISE ONLY FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
BALCONY STATEROOM	£1,610	£805
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,090	£1,045
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£2,430	£1,215
SKY SUITE	£3,550	£1,775
ADD JET SET SAIL FLIGHTS FROM LONDON STANSTED FROM £630pp		



Celebrity Constellation® - 10 Aug 2017 - 9 Nights

Venice - Dubrovnik (overnight) - Athens (Piraeus) - Mykonos Santorini - Katakolon - Venice

CRUISE ONLY FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
BALCONY STATEROOM	£2,200	£1,100
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,300	£1,150
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£2,400	£1,200
SKY SUITE	£4,000	£2,000
ADD JET SET SAIL FLIGHTS FLIGHTS FROM LONDON STANSTED FROM £550pp		

### REST OF THE WORLD.

Join us to experience all of what the rest of the world has to offer that can only be viewed by sea. From blue glaciers rising majestically beside you, to epic sunsets & some of the world's most desirable beaches. Unpack, pull up your sun lounger and claim your own personal piece of heaven.





Celebrity Reflection® - 27 January 2017 - 9 Nights

Miami - Cozumel - George Town - Falmouth - Labadee - Miami

CRUISE ONLY FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2	
BALCONY STATEROOM	£1,295	£647	
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£1,345	£672	
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£1,509	£754	
SKY SUITE	£2,615	£1,307	

#### ADD FLIGHTS FROM HEATHROW FROM £905PP



### Celebrity Millennium® - 15 October 2017 - 15 Nights

Shanghai (Baoshan) - Busan - Taipei (Keelung) - Manila (overnight) Hue (Chan May) - Hong kong (overnight)

CRUISE ONLY FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
BALCONY STATEROOM	£2,151	£1,075
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,341	£1,170
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£2,691	£1,345
SKY SUITE	£4,291	£2,145

#### ADD FLIGHTS FROM HEATHROW FROM £1,130PP



### ALASKA HUBBARD GLACIER

Celebrity Millennium® - 24 June 2017 - 9 Nights

Vancouver - Inside Passage (cruising) - Inside Strait Point Hubbard Glacier (cruising) - Juneau - Inside Passage (cruising) Vancouver

CRUISE ONLY FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2
FREE UPGRADE FROM BALCONY T	O AQUA CL	ASS
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£2,067	£1,033
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£2,067	£1,033
SKY SUITE	£3,367	£1,683

#### ADD FLIGHTS FROM GLASGOW FROM £1,710PP



### Celebrity Constellation® - 26 November 2017 - 11 Nights

Abu Dhabi - Muscat (Overnight) - Khasab - Dubai (overnight x 2) Abu Dhabi (overnight)

CRUISE ONLY FARES FROM	GUEST 1	GUEST 2	
BALCONY STATEROOM	£1,350	£675	
CONCIERGE CLASS STATEROOM	£1,490	£745	
AQUACLASS® STATEROOM	£1,620	£810	
SKY SUITE	£2,690	£1,345	

#### ADD FLIGHTS FROM GLASGOW FROM £665PP

\*All advertised prices are correct for the time of brochure print. Prices are in GBP, per person and based on two people sharing the same stateroom. Eligibility for promotion benefits is limited to new bookings of eligible Ocean View staterooms and above (guarantee staterooms excluded) made between the 1st September 2016 and 30th November 2016 on selected 5 nights or longer sailings departing between December 2016 and April 2018. See website for a list of applicable sailings. Promotional benefits for eligible bookings vary by sail date: (i) For all sailings participating in this promotion and departing between December 2016 and April 2018, the first two adult guests will receive a free Classic Drinks Package. The Classic Drinks Package is available for selected funks only, does not include room service, in stateroom purchases, minib ar items or souvenir glasses. Where the second guest in a stateroom is less than 18 years of age on the initial sailing date (21 year of age for North America and Middle East departures), a Classic Non-Alcoholic Drinks Package will be provided instead. Classic Drinks Package value based on daily rate of \$55 per day plus \$10 gratuity charge on a 14 night sailing. Each additional guest in occupancy with two full fare paying guests within the same stateroom will receive a complimentary classic Non-Alcoholic Drinks Package. See www.celebritycruises.cou.k for full details of included/excluded beverages and limitations. Please drink responsibly, (ii) For all sailings participating in this promotion and departing between December 2016 to April 2018, a saving of 50% of the Cruise Fare of the second guest booked into a stateroom. The Cruise Fare refers to Cruise Fare and Taxes & Fees only. Other add-ons including, but not limited to, Gratuities, Air fares, Intel and William to the reduced as part of the promotion. Minimum of 2 guests must be booked in the same stateroom booking to receive the 50% discount on the second person occupancy occurrency occurrency of the same stateroom of booking o

# TWO-FACED

You needn't venture far to find a new favourite

e all have our favourite ports of call, the ones which seem to show us something completely different every time we visit and the

places to which the prospect of returning never fails to excite. However, if "the world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page", as Saint Augustine once famously remarked, one might argue that those who fail to explore beyond the familiar can never truly read the whole story. These are the subtle swaps that might just unearth your new favourite destination in 2017.







When it comes to Spanish ports of call, the Mallorcan capital of Palma is often overlooked in favour of Barcelona. The truth is that the two share more than a penchant for Gothic architecture and Palma is an equally worthy contender for a sun-soaked city break. The Roman Catholic cathedral, La Seu, rises

imposingly from the city walls of the old town, and the hustle and bustle of the narrow streets which lay in its shadow are living, breathing testament to the Mediterranean lust for life. A palm-lined promenade welcomes the yachts of the jet set and forms the starting point for boat trips around the pretty Bay of Palma.







The medieval streets of Split emanate from Diocletian's Palace and are home to a multitude of Roman treasures, however it is nearby Šibenik which holds the title of Croatia's oldest town and one of the must-visit destinations of

2017/18. There's an air of the Italian Riviera to Šibenik, yet the charming town remains beautifully underdeveloped and authentic to Dalmatian life. Walk the chunky walls of the town's four fortifications, the views from which stretch

across the old town and to the Adriatic Sea beyond. When the time comes to refuel, the Riva waterside promenade is an obvious choice, promising friendly chit-chat with the locals and a chance to sample that signature Croatian cuisine.









FREE FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

\$85 FREE ONBOARD SPEND^

#### **GRAND MEDITERRANEAN**

**ROYAL PRINCESS • 11 NIGHTS** 6 May 2017

Barcelona ▶ Marseille (for Provence) ▶ Florence/Pisa (Livorno) ▶ Mykonos ▶ Istanbul ▶ Kusadasi (for Ephesus) ▶ Santorini ▶ Naples (for Capri & Pompeii) ▶ Rome (Civitavecchia)

#### PRICES FROM PP

Interior	£1,199	
Balcony	£1,599	
Deluxe Balcony	£1,699	
Mini-Suite	£1,899	
Suite	£2.999	

FREE FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

\$50 FREE ONBOARD SPEND^

#### **MEDITERRANEAN** & ADRIATIC

**ROYAL PRINCESS • 7 NIGHTS** 15 Jul 2017

Athens (Piraeus) ▶ Santorini ▶ Kotor ▶ Sicily (Messina - for Mt. Etna & Taormina) ▶ Naples (for Capri & Pompeii) ▶ Barcelona

#### PRICES FROM PP

Interior	£949
Balcony	£1,149
Deluxe Balcony	£1,249
Mini-Suite	£1,449
Suite	£2,199

FREE FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

\$75 FREE ONBOARD SPEND^

#### **MEDITERRANEAN** & ADRIATIC

**MAJESTIC PRINCESS • 7 NIGHTS** 7 May 2017

Athens (Piraeus) ▶ Santorini ▶ Kotor ▶ Sicily (Messina - for Mt. Etna & Taormina) ▶ Naples (for Capri & Pompeii) ▶ Barcelona

#### PRICES FROM PP

Interior	£899
Balcony	£1,099
Deluxe Balcony	£1,199
Mini-Suite	£1,399
Suite	£2,199

FREE FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

\$50 FREE ONBOARD SPEND^

#### **MEDITERRANEAN** & AEGEAN

**ROYAL PRINCESS • 7 NIGHTS** 19 Aug 2017

Rome (Civitavecchia) ▶ Sicily (Messina - for Mt. Etna & Taormina) ▶ Malta (Valletta) ▶ Crete (Chania) ▶ Kusadasi (for Ephesus) ▶ Mykonos ▶ Athens (Piraeus)

#### PRICES FROM PP

Interior	£899
Balcony	£1,099
Deluxe Balcony	£1,199
Mini-Suite	£1,399
Suite	£2,099

FREE FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

\$85 FREE ONBOARD SPEND^

#### GREECE, TURKEY & ITALY MEDLEY

**ROYAL PRINCESS • 14 NIGHTS** 3 Jun 2017

Rome (Civitavecchia) ▶ Messina (for Mt. Etna & Taormina) ▶ Malta (Valletta) ▶ Crete (Chania) ▶ Kusadasi (for Ephesus) ▶ Mykonos ▶ Athens (Piraeus) ▶ Volos (for Meteora) ▶ 2 Day Experience Istanbul *overnight onboard* ▶ Khios ▶ Rhodes ▶ Athens (Piraeus)

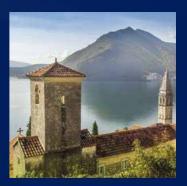
#### PRICES FROM PP

Interior	£1,749
Balcony	£2,149
Deluxe Balcony	£2,349
Mini-Suite	£2,749
Suite	£4,149









**BEST CRUISE LINE** 

Cruise International Awards 2014, 2015 & 2016

### **BEST PREMIUM CRUISE LINE**

World of Cruising 2016

### **FOOD & DINING EXPERIENCE**

Good Housekeeping Reader Recommended 2015 & 2016



This advert should be read in conjunction with Princess Cruises Booking Conditions which can be found at www.bolsovercruiseclub.com. Prices shown are subject to availability based upon two adults sharing the lowest available grade within the stateroom type specified Inis advert should be read in conjunction with Princess Cruises Booking Conditions which can be found at www.bolsovercruiseciub.com. Prices shown are subject to availability pased upon two adults sharing the lowest available grade within the stateroom type specined and include taxes, fees and port expenses. Prices and availability are correct at time of going to print, and may go up or down. Free on blooked own. Free flights and transfers are for first and second passengers only based on two people sharing a stateroom. Free flights and transfers are based on economy air fare and transfers. Offer includes the cost of the flight, taxes and transfers, but guests may be charged for baggage and will need to check with the operating airline. The cruise booking must be completed and ggo per person cruise deposit must be paid before any air can be booked, although flights may be searched when checking cruise booking availability. Offer is available from 19 Oct-29 Nov 2016 and applies to sailings included in this campaign only. Third/fourth-berth guest pricing will be up to 50% off the double occupancy fare if available\_£50 per person deposit applies for all guests. ABTA/ATOL protected. Princess Cruises on board restaurants have been reviewed by 100 Good Housekeeping readers and awarded the Good Housekeeping Reader Recommended endorsement.







**SEVEN SEAS CRUISES** 

# AURELIEN DUMEYLET



(Executive Chef on Seven Seas Explorer)

Could you give us an insight into a typical day in the life of an Executive Chef aboard a luxury cruise ship?

A typical day is busy! With eight different restaurants to look after, the day starts early and finishes late. I'm responsible for ensuring that the highest quality of cuisine is ready for our guests for breakfast, lunch and dinner and all those times in between – our guests expect exquisite dining experiences and rightly so. I have a great team who I can rely on, so it makes a very demanding job a bit easier.

Seven Seas Explorer is known as 'the most luxurious ship ever built'. How does the cuisine reflect this ultraluxury approach?

Luxury is reflected throughout Seven Seas Explorer and this is certainly what we set out to achieve with the on board culinary experience. Most notably, two new restaurants were conceived for this incredible ship with Chartreuse and Pacific Rim.

Chartreuse delivers classic French cuisine with a modern twist in chic Parisian fine dining ambiance. The menu is a feast for the senses with dishes including hand-cut Charolais steak tartare in a hazelnut Dijon emulsion, topped with Perlita caviar

d'Aquitaine and poached Brittany blue lobster tail, glazed with caramelized lobster roe butter on a bed of Sologne white asparagus and Romanesco.

Pacific Rim features a diverse array of delightfully prepared Pan-Asian dishes. The menu offers artfully plated creations such as tempura battered Canadian lobster with shiso leaf, finished with an orange ponzu sauce and spicy mayo and a miso-spiced black cod wrapped in hoba leaf, accompanied by pickled daikon and spicy den miso.

Much like the rest of the ship, you'll find immaculate attention to detail in the restaurants themselves, heightening an overall sense of luxury. For example, in Compass Rose, Regent's signature dining room, there are 400 specially designed Versace place settings.

Seven Seas Explorer features more restaurants than any other ship in the Regent Seven Seas Cruises fleet. Do you think that food has become increasingly important for cruisers in recent years?

Dining is a very important part of any holiday, not just cruising. It has the power to produce and evoke memories of wonderful times. That's why we put so many resources behind our culinary programme to ensure that the guests' expectations are exceeded with every bite.

People state dietary needs as something that has stopped them cruising in the past.

How are the various dietary preferences of guests managed on board?

We can cater for many different dietary needs. If a guest has less common, or very specific dietary requests, we ask that they advise that information many weeks ahead of their cruise so we can ensure the best dining experience possible. Most menus on the ship have specific offerings for vegans, vegetarians or gluten-free diets.







You originate from Limoges in France, a country considered by many to be the world capital of cuisine. You must have been thrilled to see plans for the new Parisian restaurant, Chartreuse?

I was delighted to see that Chartreuse would be added. Not just because I am French, but because of course French cuisine is world-renowned and I could see it would be a wonderful experience to share with our guests. The restaurant is sublime and has already become a favourite.

Seven Seas Explorer also features the first Culinary Arts Kitchen in the Regent Seven Seas Cruises fleet, plus 22 carefully curated Gourmet Tours. This must be an exciting addition for an executive chef?

The Culinary Arts Kitchen and Gourmet Explorer Tours are fantastic as it bridges the gap between destination and dining, two key elements that make for a perfect cruise holiday.

The Culinary Arts Kitchen has its own curriculum of courses from Spanish tapas, to Caribbean cuisine and even a Downton Abbey themed class! Workstations are fully equipped with top-of-the-line induction cooktops, stainless steel sinks and a comprehensive collection of cooking essentials. Participants receive hands on instruction from world-class chefs.





Gourmet Explorer Tours get guests right to the heart - and stomach - of a destination with an expedition of a region's culinary highlights led by a local guide, often a chef, who can share insights, techniques and tips. The tours are planned in partnership with a vast network of Michelin-starred chefs and local culinary experts to showcase the finest array of culinary experiences available for each destination. The tours often end with guests returning to the ship with freshly bought ingredients, ready to test their newly learned skills.

### How does the menu change to reflect the ship's destination?

Every day brings a new destination and new ingredients – it makes it a very interesting part of the job. Many menus are already international, however we will adjust menus to local specialities, allowing guests to discover not only new destinations, but new flavours as well.

### How much produce comes from the ports you visit?

We source a lot of fresh produce in ports where we have regular suppliers in terms of fresh fish, fresh seafood and perfectly ripe fruit and vegetables. It is always a pleasure to go out to discover new ingredients.

Previous to joining Regent Seven Seas Cruises in 2007, you worked at the iconic Hotel Martinez in Cannes. How does life in the kitchen of a cruise ship differ to that in a landbased hotel?

I came from a typical French culinary background, working in a two-star Michelin environment. When I joined Regent I quickly realised that there was still a lot to learn and that I have to open my mind to other food cultures to gain more international culinary knowledge. Dining at sea is incredible, you'll find restaurants of the same standard as some of the best restaurants on land.

Having sailed with Regent Seven Seas Cruises for almost ten years, you must have visited some incredible places. Which stand out as your favourite destinations?

I have a passion for fresh fish markets and try to visit as many as possible. My favourites are Tsjukiji fish market in Tokyo, Kowloon Wet Market in Hong Kong and La Boqueria in Barcelona. The spice bazaars in Istanbul and Marrakech are also a must see. I would probably have to say that the highlight of my career with Regent though was an afternoon trip with local fishermen in Moorea, French Polynesia. I caught a 22lbs blue marlin and served it up in Compass Rose for dinner that very night.

### Are any destinations still on your list of must-sees?

There are so many places to discover. Top of the list would be to spend more time in Southeast Asia to continue to find new tastes and cultures.



#### **Seven Seas Explorer®**

The newest member of the Regent Seven Seas Cruises® fleet, Seven Seas Explorer® has been hailed as THE MOST LUXURIOUS SHIP EVER BUILT™. At 56,000 gross-registered tons and carrying only 750 guests, she boasts one of the highest space ratios in the cruise industry.

THE MOST
LUXURIOUS SHIP
EVER BUILT™

The elegantly designed ship features spacious suites, including the one-of-a-kind, 3,875-square foot Regent Suite, extravagantly designed lounges and showplaces, and lavish gourmet restaurants - including two new specialty restaurants, the Parisian Chartreuse and Pan-Asian Pacific Rim - whose Tibetan prayer wheel is several metres high and weighs as much as a luxury car (it required a reinforced deck to hold its tons of engraved bronze barrels!).



Seven Seas Explorer®

### MIAMI TO MIAMI

16 MAR 2017 | 10 NIGHTS

#### Ports include

Miami, Totola, Castries, Bridgetown, St John's, Gustavia, Miami

DELUXE VERANDA SUITE (H)

£3,999<sub>pp\*</sub>

+ \$400 PER SUITE ON BOARD CREDIT

Seven Seas Explorer®

### SOUTHAMPTON TO STOCKHOLM

14 JUN 2017 | 12 NIGHTS

#### Ports include

London (Southampton), Bruges, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Visby, Riga, Tallinn, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm

DELUXE VERANDA SUITE (H)

£5,539pp\*

+ \$400 PER SUITE ON BOARD CREDIT



#### Seven Seas Voyager®

The 700-guest capacity vessel has always been a trailblazer in the exclusive world of all-suite, all-balcony ships the amenities are surprisingly plentiful and include four main dining venues where you can dine wherever, whenever and with whomever you choose.

With 447 international crew members attending to a mere 353 suites, personal service is exceedingly indulgent throughout. As part of our commitment to delivering the worldís most

NEWLY UPGRADED



Seven Seas Voyager®

#### **ABU DHABI TO ATHENS**

2 MAY 2017 | 20 NIGHTS

#### Ports include

Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat, Salalah, Luxor, Aqaba, Suez Canal, Jerusalem, Limassol, Rhodes, Santorini, Chania, Athens

CONCIERGE VERANDA SUITE (E)

£6,059pp\*

COMPLIMENTARY 1-NIGHT PRE CRUISE HOTEL PACKAGE Seven Seas Voyager®

### **VENICE TO MONTE CARLO**

1 JUN 2017 | 10 NIGHTS

#### Ports include

Venice, Ravenna, Zadar, Kotor, Corfu, Taormina, Amalfi, Rome, Portoferraio, Portofino, Monte Carlo

DELUXE VERANDA SUITE (H)

£4,599pp\*

+ \$400 PER SUITE ON BOARD CREDIT

luxurious fleet, we are in the process of a US\$125m refurbishment of our existing fleet of already luxurious ships. Seven Seas Voyager® has just entered the dry-dock to undergo extensive renovations of her public spaces along with a complete redesign of several categories of suites. Featuring the same elegant style and undisputable attention to detail to be featured on Seven Seas Explorer®, Seven Seas Voyager® will continue to exceed even the loftiest expectations for luxury.

# FRED OLSEN KID

Back in August, Fred Olsen announced the arrival of its brand new kids club, Little Skippers. Bolsover Cruise Club's Training Manager, Sarah Wilson, travelled on a special family sailing to Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands aboard Balmoral, released by the cruise line to celebrate their first kids club. We asked her and daughter Olivia to share their diary of a day in the life of a Fred Olsen kid.



### La Coruna, Spain

### Olivia

I am so excited today! We are in Spain and we can get off the ship. Mummy and daddy have said they will take me and my sister to an aquarium, but I really want to go the kids club this morning before we get off. They are making bookmarks.

### sarah

We woke up this morning to such a gorgeous sunny day, opening the curtains to see the pretty port of La Coruna, Spain. We're really looking forward to taking the kids ashore. We have been here before and they loved the aquarium, so I think we will take them there again. The girls on the other hand are more excited about getting to the kids club first thing, as apparently they're making bookmarks! Bookmarks aside, they have made some lovely friends and can't wait to go and see them.



The Wilson Family

### olivia

I loved the aquarium, it has so much stuff to see. My favourite part was going down into the pretend submarine and seeing all the fish swimming around me. There were even sharks in there! I think my little sister Sienna was a bit scared though, because it was dark and noisy. She cheered up though, when we got to go to the shop and we got presents.

### Sarah

We had the best morning. We jumped in a taxi outside the port for the quick drive to the aquarium, which the kids absolutely loved. Before we got back on the ship, we went into town. We were all starving and somehow managed to be led into a typically Spanish restaurant by the owner, who spoke no English at all. He brought out freshly-made bread with olive oil and sea salt, then we had the biggest platter of chips and fried calamari. To say that it was so simple, it was probably the tastiest meal I have ever eaten! I particularly loved that we were surrounded by Spanish locals, without a single tourist in sight.



After the aquarium, mummy and daddy took us into the town and we found a great park. We had ice creams to cool down, because it was so hot! Then, we went to a funny restaurant and had chips and a drink. I was so hungry and the food was lovely.



### Sarah

We were back on the ship in good time before setting sail at 4.30pm and we had time before dinner to go for a swim. It is what holidays are all about; the sun is shining, the girls are loving playing with their friends in the family pool and I can relax on a sunbed with a cocktail, feeling happy and relaxed.



DATE / TIME

15 August 2016

### Olivia

When we got back on the ship, I grabbed my swim kit and went straight up to the pool. I loved it, swimming with my friends. Sienna is funny, her favourite thing is sitting in the hot tub talking to people.





### Sarah

The girls love the pool and we always have to practically drag them out to get ready for dinner. After an hour or so in the cabin, we are all washed and changed, ready to eat. They have a kiddle many too which always for the cabin and the state of the cabin and the state of the cabin and the state of the cabin and the cabi or so in the cash, we are an washed and changes, ready to eat. The lood in the main restaurant has been fantastic and we have a lovely waiter, who is so attentive to the girls. They have a kid's menu too, which always fantastic and we have a lovely waiter, who is so attentive to the girls. has something the girls like.



### olivia

I love the food on this ship! Every night I always order a starter of crudités and Sienna orders fresh fruit. I enjoy reading out the menu and getting to choose anything I want to eat. But I don't take too long eating my dinner, as the kids club opens at 7.30pm.





### sarah

It's so lovely to be able to eat as a family, but then have the evening to enjoy adult time alone whilst the girls are in the kids club until 9.30pm. We're looking forward to a couple of hours in the Neptune Lounge, where we're watching West End singer Nikki Evans perform.

### Olivia

Kids club was fun tonight. We played bingo and charades. I won some prize points that I can exchange for goodies at the end of the cruise! Then, mummy picked us up and we went to the Lido Lounge with our friends. It is so much fun. We play games, chat, have a dance and get to drink mocktails.



### Sarah

We both really enjoyed the show tonight; the vocalist was amazing and really funny too. It was a great atmosphere. Once the show finished, we picked up the girls to finish our evening in the Lido Lounge. We meet up with some other parents and the girls love every minute spent with their new friends. Later, it is back to the cosy cabin; we're all shattered but we've had such a fun-packed day to remember.



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#### Western Mediterranean

VENTURA | N707 | 21 MAR 17 | 12 NIGHTS

Southampton, Mallorca, Marseilles, Florence/Pisa, Ajaccio, Gibraltar, Southampton

Outside (obs^) Select Price from





### Eastern Mediterranean (Med Fly) France, Italy & Portugal

OCEANA | E706A | 20 APR 17 | 7 NIGHTS

→ Fly from London to Valletta (Malta), Athens, Mykonos, Ephesus, Heraklion, Valletta (Malta), Fly to London →

Outside (obs^) Select Price from



### ORIANA | X706 | 23 APR 17 | 18 NIGHTS

Southampton, Seville, Marseilles, Calvi, Rome (Civitavecchia), Salerno, Corigliano Calabro, Messina, Cagliari, Gibraltar, Lisbon, Southampton

Outside (obs^) Select Price from



#### Iceland

AZURA | A716 | 16 JUN 17 | 14 NIGHTS

Southampton, Bergen, Alesund, Akureyri, Isafjordur, Reykjavik, Torshavn, Belfast, Southampton

Outside Select Price from





### Canada & New England

ARCADIA | J715 | 10 SEP 17 | 24 NIGHTS

Southampton, New York, Newport (Rhode Island), Boston, Bar Harbor, Halifax, Saguenay, Quebec, Sydney (Nova Scotia), Southampton

Outside (obs^) Select Price from





#### **Atlantic Islands**

VENTURA | N733 | 27 NOV 17 | 12 NIGHTS

Southampton, Madeira, La Palma, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, Lisbon, Southampton

Outside (obs^) Select Price from





†Select Prices shown are per person based on two adults sharing the lowest available grade outside cabin and are subject to availability. Fly-cruise prices include economy



\*Up to £700 based on two adults sharing an outside cabin, grade NC, on cruise J715, a 24 night Canada & New England cruise. Applicable to new Select Price bookings made between 1 October and 30 November 2016 on selected cabin grades on selected departures and is inclusive of the Select Price benefit of on-board spending money, which can be swapped at time of booking for another Select Price benefit of car parking or return coach travel. Choice of benefits dependent on cruise type, date, duration and time of booking. On-board spending money can only be spent whilst on board. Offer is not applicable to Early Saver or other promotional prices and cannot be exchanged for a cash alternative. We reserve the right to withdraw the offer in whole or on individual cruises at any time. The term (obs') when relating to fare grades means your cabin will have an obstructed view.

For up to date prices visit www.bolsovercruiseclub.com. For full P&O Cruises terms and conditions please refer to P&O Cruises September 2016 - October 2018 brochure or visit www.bolsovercruiseclub.com. Here you will find full descriptions of the cruises, cabin accommodation and itinerary details, as well as important information on passport, visa and health requirements and booking conditions, which you must read before booking



# 2018 World Cruises



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This is more than a holiday. This is a chance to do the things you've always wanted to, experience the cultures you've found curious, and visit the places you've longed to see. Encompassing idyllic unspoilt beaches, mysterious ancient cities, pulsating modern metropolises, lush rolling landscapes and iconic world wonders, you've often dreamed about your perfect journey. Let's make the reality even better than the fantasy.



### Southampton to San Francisco ARCADIA | JSW | 09 JAN 18 | 25 NIGHTS

Southampton, Madeira, Barbados, Curacao, transit Panama Canal, Huatulco, Cabo San Lucas, San Francisco (overnight in port), fly to London





#### Singapore to Dubai ARCADIA | J56 | 19 MAR 18 | 12 NIGHTS

Fly from London to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (Pt. Kelang), Langkawi, Colombo, Mormugao, Dubai (overnight in port), fly to London





### **Dubai to Southampton** ARCADIA | J6S | 31 MAR 18 | 20 NIGHTS

Fly from London to Dubai (overnight in port), Muscat, Aqaba, Sharm El Sheikh, cruise Suez Canal, Naples, Seville (Cadiz),





†Select Prices shown are per person based on two adults sharing the lowest available grade outside cabin and are subject to availability. Fly-cruise prices include economy class flights from/to London and transfers.



\*Up to £750 based on two adults sharing an outside cabin, grade LF, on cruise JSW, a 25 night Southampton to San Francisco cruise. Applicable to new Select Price bookings made between 1 October and 30 November 2016 on selected cabin grades on selected departures and is inclusive of the Select Price benefit of on-board spending money, which can be swapped at time of booking for another Select Price benefit of car parking or return coach travel. Choice of benefits dependent on cruise type, date, duration and time of booking. On-board spending money can only be spent whilst on board. Offer is not applicable to Early Saver or other promotional prices and cannot be exchanged for a cash alternative. We reserve the right to withdraw the offer in whole or on individual cruises at any time.

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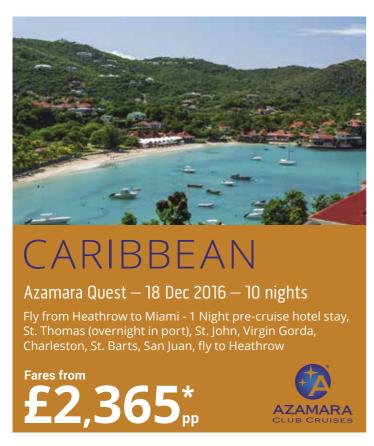
### **Christmas Cruise Picks**

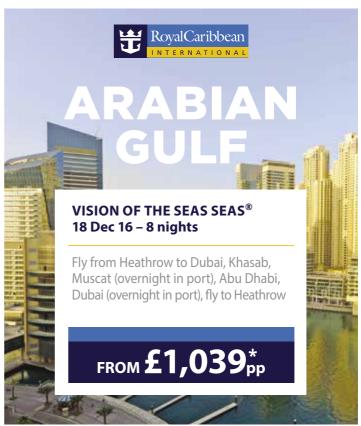
Our pick of the top Christmas 2016 deals will tempt you to wrap up warm for Europe's best Christmas markets or head away for a festive season spent in the sun





Prices correct at the time of going to print. Please see our website www.bolsovercruiseclub.com for the most up to date offers and availability. These fares are not combinable with any other promotion and are subject to the booking conditions of the cruise operator. A copy of Bolsover Cruise Club's Terms of Business is available on request or by visiting our website www.bolsovercruiseclub.com. This advert contains an outline description of the cruises featured, which are solely organised by the cruise operator (ATOL available on request). It should be read in conjunction with the cruise operator's current brochure which contains full information about the cruise itineraries, accommodation details, booking conditions that apply, passport and health requirements, what's included in the fare and other general information. Prices shown are per person, based on twin occupancy and already include current fuel surcharges at the time of going to print. †Early Savers: offer lower fares, limited added value and flexible booking conditions. You are able to choose the grade of cabin; the specific cabin number will be allocated by the cruise operator at any time up to departure. A lower priority will be given to the allocation







### **Baltic**

Arcadia (J620) 19 Dec 16 – 9 nights

Southampton, Gothenburg, Copenhagen, Oslo, Amsterdam, Brussels/Bruges (Zeebrugge), Southampton





Balmoral - 20 Dec 2016 - 18 nights

Southampton, Casablanca, Arrecife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, La Palma, La Gomera, Tenerife, Funchal (Madeira), Lisbon, Southampton

Anchor Fares £1,749pp

Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines

of dining time and table size. Bookings may be on a guarantee basis without a cabin number which will be allocated by the cruise operator at any time up to departure. Dining will be allocated on board. 
^Saver Fares: payment in full is required at the time of booking and cancellation charges are 100% from the time of booking. Any amendment to a Saver Fare booking will be treated as a cancellation. Bookings are made on a guarantee basis without a cabin number which will be allocated by the cruise operator at any time up to departure. \*Royal Caribbean and Azamara Cruises ZY,X,XC,XA and W categories are guarantee cabins without a cabin number which will be allocated by the cruise operator at any time up to departure. Dining will be allocated on board. Further terms and conditions apply, please call for details. Fred Olsen Anchor Fares: payment in full required at the time of booking. 100% cancellation charges apply. Ask for full details. Travel insurance is requires. Visas and vaccinations may be required at an additional cost. A 1.5% charge applies to all payments made by credit card and American Express. E&OE.

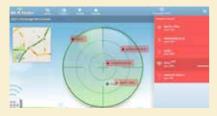
# GRUISING CLEVER

Who wants to penny pinch on holiday? Not us! However, there are some no-brainers that'll stretch both your time and your budget in a big way next time you're sailing the Seven Seas.

Scan your passport, doctor's letters, travel insurance information and other important documents, and email them back to your own email address. It'll save you carrying paper copies and you'll have access to them wherever you have access to your emails.

Don't forget to let your bank know that you're travelling. There's nothing worse than finding yourself stranded at the checkout, running up a hefty bill on an international call to the bank because they've blocked your card.

When paying by card abroad, always choose to pay in the local currency, if given the option. Choose to convert the cost to GBP and you'll pay a rate that is often set by the vendor, rather than the much better rate set by your card provider.



If the thought of a digital detox fills you with dread, the free-to-download 'Wi-Fi Finder' app will scope out free Wi-Fi spots in almost every city in the world.

Put one change of clothing in another person's luggage. That way, you'll have at least one fresh outfit if your luggage goes astray.



Download the free Google Translate app before you leave home. The translator is available in 52 languages and, although each one is free to download and use, you'll need to do so before you leave home in order to avoid hefty data usage charges.







Airport shops are incredibly expensive for travel accessories. Head to the high street instead; you'll be amazed what you can pick up from your local pound shop, from travel adapters and pill cases, to luggage tags and inflatable neck pillows.

Unless we're talking sizeable amounts, changing back foreign currency left over from your holiday can be more hassle than it's worth. Instead, throw all those loose dollar bills and €10 notes in a pot, then dig them out as spare change for your next trip.

For those with no pre-existing medical conditions, annual travel insurance policies often work out cheaper than individual plans, especially if you tend to take a couple of mini breaks alongside your main holidays each year.

Invest in decent luggage and it'll last you a lifetime. Literally in some cases, with some brands offering lifetime guarantees.

# CRUISING CLEVER

Don't bother spending money on seat selection and priority boarding. Check in nice and early, either online with budget airlines or at the airport, and you'll usually find that you are seated together anyway.

City bars almost always offer happy hours and, in addition to cheaper drinks, you'll also get the opportunity to mingle with locals and soak up that post-work day buzz.

Can you think of any better meal than one enjoyed on the grass of Singapore's Botanic Gardens, beneath the Eiffel Tower, overlooking the Sydney Harbor Bridge or atop Cape Town's Table Mountain? Picnic to save pounds and you'll gain memories you won't forget in a hurry too.

Book a pay-as-you-like city tour, rather than more expensive traditional tours. Your guide will be equally knowledgeable and, as they're usually locals, they'll often share the secrets other tours don't. Who doesn't want to know where to eat the best pastries in Paris or sip the best Belgian beer in Bruges?

Research the museums on your must-visit list. Many offer free entry on certain days of the week or month, including New York's Museum of Modern Art (free every Friday, between 4-8pm) and the Louvre in Paris (free on the first Sunday of the month, between October and March)

Cruise ship spas tend to offer large discounts on days the ship is in port. If today's port of call is one you've seen before, consider sticking around for a day of ultimate rest and relaxation on board.





Avoid the dreaded "Can I have?", by giving the kids an allowance for the whole holiday. Provided you make it clear that that's their lot for the duration of their time away, they'll love being responsible for how they spend their own cash. You'll be surprised how many become super frugal all of a sudden!

If you're flexible on dates, consider travelling during shoulder season. Fares are often cheaper, attractions are less crowded and the weather is usually more pleasant for exploring in.

'Rome to Rio' (www.rome2rio.com) is a travel search engine that will work out the cheapest and quickest way to get from A to B. The website is super simple to use too, breaking the trip down into bite-sized chunks.

Never eat within a mile of a tourist attraction. You can almost guarantee that the price will be double and the food half as good.



If you travel several times each year, the Priority Pass (www.prioritypass. com) is worth its weight in gold. Sign up to the Standard Pass at £159 and you'll receive ten free visits to 950+ airport lounges around the world, then unlimited visits at a discounted rate of £15 thereafter.

If you're reluctant to watch the pennies whilst away, start saving way before you leave. That daily £5 spent on a convenient but costly meal deal for lunch could mount up to a whopping £1,300 over the year.

Don't discount luxury cruise lines based on their higher fares. When you take into consideration everything that is included in this price, from shore excursions and speciality dining, to premium drinks and all gratuities, it can often work out comparable to the cost of a 'pay-as-you-go' style cruise with more budget lines.

Lunch is the best time of day to visit tourist attractions and historic sites. Whilst everyone else is lining their stomachs, you'll be working up an appetite for a later lunch by skipping the queues and meandering minus the crowds.

Don't be afraid to haggle. It may go against everything we ever-polite Brits believe in, but it is a huge part of the culture in the souks of Morocco and Turkey, and the street markets of China.

Just as a drinks package can cut the cost of cruising, so too can a dining package. With more speciality dining venues than ever on board cruise ships, packages offered by the likes of NCL, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises make it possible to sample them all for less.





Unparalleled wonders await on a Royal Caribbean® Arabian cruise holiday. Sailing from the breathtaking port of Dubai, this journey into the extraordinary will guide you through bustling souks, soaring skyscrapers, vast deserts, fascinating historical sites and more.

In the Arabian Gulf, you'll find an unforgettable blend of ancient beauty and modern living, where ancient treasures sit side by side with modern masterpieces, and some of the world's most incredible spiritual sites rub shoulders with a host of designer shops. With sweeping deserts, pristine beaches, incredible historical sights and non-stop sunshine, this is unlike anything you've experienced before. What's more, Dubai Cruise Terminal is a sight to behold in itself, where the ultraluxurious facilities have made it one of the most tourist-friendly ports of call.





# VISION OF THE SEAS®

It's not just the Arabian Gulf that you have to look forward to on this sailing - there's also a world of adventure waiting for you onboard

- **ROCK WALL** Touch the sky on this colourful climbing wall
- OUTDOOR MOVIE SCREEN

  Sip a cocktail as you enjoy a
  blockbuster at this poolside screen
- DINING FOR ALL TASTES
   Mouth-watering options to enjoy around the clock
- **CENTRUM** A sensational entertainment space with live acrobatic performances
- SOLARIUM Soak up the sun or enjoy a leisurely swim in this stunning, adults-only open-roofed pool.
- VITALITY AT SEA® SPA Indulge in some rest and relaxation with a blissful treatment
- KIDS' ACTIVITIES Award-winning kids' and teens' clubs offering fantastic fun and games for children of all ages



# **ARABIAN GULF**

7-NIGHT CRUISE VISION OF THE SEAS®

The labyrinthine Khasab Souk is ideal for holiday keepsakes, then you can take in a glorious Arabian sunset in Muscat. Abu Dhabi's exquisite Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is the largest in the UAE, offering a striking contrast with Dubai's modern skyscrapers. This incredible cruise holiday includes two amazing overnights to really immerse you in this fascinating region.

DAY	PORTS OF CALL	ARRIVE	DEPART
1	Fly to <b>Dubai, United Arab Emirates</b>		
	Transfer to ship		18:00
2	Khasab, Oman	08:00	17:00
3	Muscat, Oman Overnight	09:00	
4	Muscat, Oman		18:00
5	Cruising		
6	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	08:00	18:00
7	<b>Dubai, United Arab Emirates</b> Overnight	08:00	
8	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Debark	
	Transfer to airport for return flight		

**2016 DEPARTURES** Dec 12, 19\*, 26\* (\*Festive sailing) **2017 DEPARTURES** Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 | Mar 6, 13, 20, 27

PRICES PER PERSON FROM

CRUISE ONLY

£699

Prices based on 2 & 9 Jan 17 sailings. Flights based on London Heathrow.







# **SHORE EXCURSIONS**



# BEDOUIN BREAKFAST BY 4X4

Take an exciting trip in a 4x4 across the dunes of the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve. Soak up the stunning beauty of sunrise in the desert, and then tuck into a traditional breakfast.



# 4-WHEEL DRIVE WADI ADVENTURE

This amazing off-road adventure sets you on the trail to explore Muscat's modern and medieval treasures.

Pricing is per person based on two people sharing an interior stateroom. Prices are in pounds sterling and inclusive of taxes. Price includes accommodation, meals (excluding speciality dining), entertainment and selected on board activities. Additional charges apply for shore excursions, spa, speciallty dining etc. Itineraries, dates and pricing correct at time of going to print but subject to availability and change. When fly/cruise option is selected, holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay for a flight inclusive holiday you will be issued with an ATOL certificate. See our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL certificate go to www.atol.org.uk. For general booking terms and conditions, inclusions, cancellation charges and other information, see the Royal Caribbean International 2015-16 brochure, or visit www.bolsovercruisectub.com



# INTERVIEW NUMBER ROBIN WEST

Senior Manager of Expedition Operations & Planning

i Robin, thank you for taking the time to chat to us for the latest edition of Into The Blue.

With Seabourn already leading the way for luxury cruising in Antarctica, and with voyages to Alaska set to sail from 2017, there are exciting times ahead for Seabourn. Being tasked with planning and overseeing expeditions in such diverse destinations must be incredibly exciting?

Very true! The world is our playground and it is exciting to be able to create a product like this. Being involved in every process along the way, from itinerary planning to executing. It is very exciting to plan itineraries, and then see them slowly come together. I am in a lucky position that not only do I get to plan, but I also get to lead the programs. It is very rewarding when you see a program come to life and hear the guest's positive responses, after two years of planning.

You joined Seabourn a little over three years ago, as the cruise line prepared for its first season of voyages to Antarctica.
What challenges did you face in terms of planning this huge new operation?

There were definitely some challenges with taking the most luxurious ship down to Antarctica and operating an expedition product with 450 guests on board. Seabourn was the first company ever to execute 6 days of landings and zodiacs tours with 450 guests. We were basically inventing the wheel when it came to this operation. However, saying that, Seabourn is not a company that likes to do things half-heartedly. Every single department did an amazing job, from nautical, to technical, to hotel. The support and the commitment to do this right, was something I had never witnessed before. Of course, all the planning in the world is one thing, but doing it in practice is a whole different story. We learnt some very valuable lessons on the first sailing and by the end of the second cruise, Seabourn received the highest ratings, guest feedback and Net Promotor Scores that we had every received in its history of operating.

What do you think contributed to this success and led to such positive guest feedback?

It was the marriage of 6 star ultraluxury and an excellent expedition product while in Antarctica. I always describe Seabourn's Antarctica experience, as "no compromise". The on-board experience is equally matched by the shore side experience. Seabourn is one of the few companies capable of delivering this type of all-round experience, with the crew being the secret ingredient.

How does Seabourn manage to merge six-star luxury cruising with such adventurous itineraries, without compromising the home comforts for which it has become so renowned?

With an incredible amount of good planning from all departments. At no point do we want one to compromise or over shadow the other. The onboard team works exceptionally hard to ensure that both products are given equal attention, because as a company we believe that both are equally important to the modern luxury globe trotter.

Expedition cruising isn't just for the die-hard adventurer and Seabourn has brought uncompromising luxury to some of the world's most remote regions. For every explorer who wants to hike, climb and kayak in the likes of Antarctica and Alaska, there is another who prefers a softer, less active approach. How does Seabourn cater for these people?

Luxury is about choice and Seabourn gives guests the choice of doing exactly as they wish. They can make their experience as active or as passive as they like. In Antarctica for instance, guests can choose to join a kayak trip, go ashore and explore the landscape, climb the hills, join a zodiac tour looking for more wildlife, or join the expedition team out on deck in search of whales. However, we also cater for those guests that prefer to take it a little slower, preferring to simply come ashore, sit down and take in the wildlife as it passes them. The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) has a '5-metre from wildlife' rule, but I always tell guests that the penguins do not know this! Let them come to you! When our guests have had enough, they return to the luxury of the ship. The bottom line is that both guests, active or passive, are equally excited and pleased with their experience, all of them having had their individual expectations exceeded.





Many people who dream of visiting Antarctica cite the cold weather and the tumultuous Drake Passage as the reasons behind their hesitation to book. How warranted are these worries in the grand scheme of such a once-in-a-lifetime experience?

Not really. Keep in mind that it is summertime in Antarctica, which means that the weather can often be better than that during winter time at home in Europe. The average temperature is around 0°C and it is a dry cold. I have been colder in Scotland in summertime than I have been in Antarctica. Also, it's not the weather that makes you cold, it is incorrect clothing. As for the Drake Passage, it is the luck of the draw and yes it can be rough, but saying that, we often cross in rather calm seas or even experience what we call "the Drake Lake". Guests are actually often disappointed that it wasn't rough enough, as they were almost looking forward to the excitement of it all. I always tell guests at the start of an Antarctica sailing that all holidays after this will be boring! Many of them laugh, but at the end of the voyage I have many of them come to me and say "You were right". It is the trip of a lifetime and one which can only be appreciated once experienced.

# What does an average day in Antarctica look like with Seabourn?

As we have 24hr daylight, we generally start early to make the most out of the day. Different from our regular voyages, we wake up the entire ship with a morning announcement, informing guests of the local conditions and what we can expect for the day. Depending on the location we will offer guests the opportunity to join us ashore and have a close-up look at the penguins and other wildlife, partake in a zodiac tour taking in the scenery, icebergs, seals snoozing on ice floes and when we get lucky, some whales playing with the zodiacs. Additionally, guests have the option of joining us for a kayak trip where you can experience Antarctica at its best. Enjoying serenity in complete silence. Once back on board and warmed up by some hot chocolate, there is the choice to join a lecture and learn more about the area and its wildlife and history. Just before dinner we have our daily recap and briefings where members of the expedition staff will give a short recap on all we saw and experienced outside that day and the Expedition leader will go into more detail on our plans for the following day. After dinner, when the ship cruises through one of the scenic channels on its way to the next destination, we encourage guests to join us on the outer decks searching for whales and other wildlife or simply taking in the views. As I said, never a dull moment! There is always something to see and do and since most guests will only make it down to Antarctica once in a lifetime, we really recommend they join us for everything and make the most out of it.





You have completed over 40 expeditions to Antarctica, a destination described by Seabourn as 'as close to being on another planet as you'll ever come'. Does the awe ever lessen?

Never! I head south in a couple of weeks and can't wait. I still feel excited to be able to wake up and enjoy another day in Antarctica. The scenery, the wildlife, the history, always overwhelming and never ceases to amaze me. Even a bad day in Antarctica is spectacular.

Like Antarctica, Alaska is famous for its wildlife. What species' can people expect to see in the region if they join Seabourn there next year?

When guests join us in Alaska, they could expect to encounter orcas, humpback whales, otters, brown and black bears, caribou, moose, mountain goats, bison, bald eagles, tufted and horned puffins, Canada geese, ospreys, American dippers and much, much more.

Would you suggest that people visiting Antarctica or Alaska to do their research beforehand, so that they know what they are looking for and can appreciate the history behind the destination? Or should they wait until they arrive, so as not to ruin the surprise of everything the regions have to offer?

I would highly recommend for people to do research in advance, as it will definitely make you appreciate the destination more and help you to make the most of your experience. However, for those that may not have the opportunity or time to do research, keep in mind that we have a large team of lecturers, scholars and naturalists on board, who present lectures about the destinations and the natural history as we go along.

Seabourn Ventures have been designed to extend and enhance voyages in destinations such as Antarctica, Alaska and the Norwegian Fjords. How does this recent addition serve to enrich the guest experience?

There are two parts to Ventures by Seabourn. Firstly, we have the on board academic programme, which is delivered by a team of on board lecturers, scholars and naturalists. This aspect is delivered through Seabourn Conversations and is designed purely to educate guests about the areas through which they are travelling. The Ventures team are experienced ornithologists, geologists, historians, glaciologists and archaeologists who, through Seabourn Conversations, educate you about the natural history of the area. The actual zodiac, kayak and hiking tours are the practical side of the experience. This is where you get to see the things that have been covered in lectures for yourself, first-hand. This unique, two-part Ventures by Seabourn programme is how we enhance a guest's experience of a destination.





You have led expeditions around the world during your career, from the Arctic and Antarctic, to Africa, the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, Australia and Central America. Which region stands out as a personal favourite?

I often get this question and it is so hard to answer. I think when travelling on a ship, my ultimate favourites would be Antarctica and South Georgia for polar regions and for more tropical climates I would pick Aldabra in the Seychelles. They both are heaven on earth and nature as it is supposed to be.

Finally, where does someone who has travelled so extensively around the globe head off on his own holidays?

My wife and I enjoy self-drive 4x4 safaris in Southern Africa, visiting countries like South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia. Only a start and end date with no set plans in between. Another favourite is a diving holiday in the Maldives.





Cruising with Seabourn is unlike any other form of travel. The experience is luxurious, yet relaxed ... elegant, yet casual ... sumptuous, yet understated. Designed to accommodate no more than 600 guests, Seabourn ships offer the perfect blend of glamorous elegance, impeccable service, all-suite accommodation, exquisite cuisine and highly personalised destination experiences.

PLEASE ASK FOR MORE ITINERARIES AND FARES Seabourn Sojourn

18-nights | 18 Mar 2017

Hong Kong; Coron (Philippines); Boracay; Manila (overnight); Hundred Islands; Kaohsiung (Taiwan); Hualien (Taiwan); Ishigaki Island (Japan); Naha (Japan); Nagasaki (Japan); Kochi (Japan); Kobe (overnight, Japan)

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14-nights | 1 Apr 2017

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# ULTIMATE ALASKAN SOJOURN Seabourn Sojourn

14-nights | 27 May 2017

Copenhagen (Denmark); Flam (Norway); cruising

Sognefjord; Alesund (Norway); Svolvaer (Lofoten

Islands); Tromso; Storstappen Islands; Honningsvag;

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With Business Class air from £7,779pp

GEMS OF ITALY & GREECE

Seabourn Encore

7-nights | 10 Jun 2017

Civitavecchia (Rome); Amalfi (Italy); Syracuse (Sicily);

Crotone (Italy); Corfu (Greece); Katakolon (Olympia);

Nafplion (Greece); Piraeus (Athens)

Cruise from £2,999pp Fly/cruise from £3,259pp With Business Class air from £3,499pp

11-nights | 26 Jun 2017

Vancouver (Canada); transit Seymour Narrows; cruise Queen Charlotte Sound: Ketchikan (Alaska): Rudverd Bay (Misty Fjords); Wrangell (Alaska); cruising Sumner Strait and transit Decision Passage; Sitka (Alaska); cruising Tracy Arm & Endicott Arm; Haines; Juneau; Icy Strait Point; Gulf of Alaska; Seward (Alaska)

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- All dining venues complimentary with gourmet dining experiences that rival the finest restaurants anywhere.
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- Spacious, all-suite accommodations with ocean views - 90% with verandas.
- Open bar throughout the ships, and fine wines poured at lunch and dinner.
- Tipping is neither required nor expected, service simply to delight you.

Fares are per person sharing a twin occupancy suite. Fares for other suite categories are available on request. Lead-in fly/cruise fares are shown from London. Please ask for airfares from selected regional airports. Please ask for single occupancy and 3rd person fares. New bookings only. Subject to change.

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Prices and availability are correct at the time of going to print but are subject to change. From prices are per person based on two sharing the lowest available stateroom grade on selected 2017 and 2018 departure dates. From prices shown include early booking discount. Prices are valid until 30 November 2016. Single supplements apply. \*Restrictions apply. For full terms and conditions visit www.bolsovercruiseclub.com or call us.







# NORTHERN LIGHTS PROMISE

This is our unique and exclusive promise to you that if the Northern Lights don't occur on your 12-day voyage with us between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2017, we'll give you a 6-day Classic Voyage South or 7-day Classic Voyage North FREE OF CHARGE. Terms and conditions apply.

Trkenes Brønnøysund

# **Classic Round Voyage**

12 days | Bergen - Kirkenes - Bergen



The definitive voyage showing off the very best of Norway's beautiful coastline and culture, visiting 34 ports northbound and southbound. Includes Hurtigruten's unique Northern Lights Promise.

#### Itinerary

Day 1: Bergen, the City of Seven Mountains

Day 2: Stylish Art Nouveau town of Ålesund

Day 3: The medieval royal city Trondheim

Day 4: Bodø and the beautiful Lofoten Islands

Day 5: Tromsø is the capital of the Arctic

Day 6: Honningsvåg, portal to the North Cape

Day 7: Kirkenes is near the Russian border

Day 8: Hammerfest, the world's most

Day 9: Stunning scenery of Vesterålen

Day 10: Seven Sisters Mountains and Torghatten

Day 11: Calling at Kristiansund and Molde

Day 12: Your voyage ends back in Bergen

# **FULL BOARD VOYAGE** INCLUDING FLIGHTS

DAYS £1224pp

Birmingham: 25 Feb 2017

Bournemouth: 11 Feb 2017

Bristol: 16 Mar 2017

**London Gatwick:** 23 & 31 Jan 2017,

14 & 22 Feb 2017, 8 Mar 2017

Manchester: 20 Jan 2017,

3 Feb 2017, 5 & 19 Mar 2017



# **Arctic Highlights**

5/6 days | Tromsø-Kirkenes-Tromsø



This entire short coastal voyage takes place within the Arctic Circle for an ideal chance to see Norway's mesmerising Northern Lights and engage in some additional winter wonderland activities.

# **Itinerary**

Day 1: Tromsø is the capital of the Arctic

Day 2: Optional excursion to the North Cape at Honningsvåg

Day 3: Kirkenes is near the Russian border

Day 4: Hammerfest, the world's most northern town

Day 5/6: Tromsø for optional excursions such as our award-winning husky dog sledging, whale watching or snowmobiling

†These departures have one night pre- and one night post-voyage in Tromse

# HALF BOARD VOYAGE INCLUDING FLIGHTS

#### **Bournemouth:**

6-day itinerary: 23 Feb 2017<sup>†</sup>

#### **Bristol:**

6-day itinerary: 20 Feb 2017 5-day itinerary: 11 Mar 2017

#### **Dublin:** 6-day itinerary: 25 Feb 2017

East Midlands:

# 6-day itinerary: 19 Mar 2017

London Gatwick:

# 6-day itinerary: 8, 17† &

24 Mar 2017 5-day itinerary: 28 Feb 2017,

#### 2.13.15.22 Mar 2017 Manchester:

6-day itinerary: 6 & 26 Mar 2017 5-day itinerary: 19 Feb 2017

# Newcastle:

5-day itinerary: 4 Mar 2017

rrms and Conditions: Full terms and conditions apply to the Northern Lights GBP and are per person, based on full occupancy of an inside two-berth cabin abins and optional excursions are subject to availability. Hurtigruten operates a e capacity controlled, correct at time of booking. Please see website for full Itine lange due to local conditions. Not included: travel insurance, luggage handling, clusive flights are economy and include all current taxes and charges. Flights by otected (ATOL 3584). Full booking terms and conditions available online at www.









# Cask the EXPERS

**LET US ANSWER YOUR CRUISE QUERIES!** 

# EMAIL: HELLO@INTOTHEBLUEMAGAZINE.COM WITH YOUR QUESTIONS

>I am having difficulty finding information on which ships are able to accommodate my electric wheelchair and will allow disembarkation when in port. understand that not all ships offer disembarkation for wheelchair users, as they do not have a lower gangway, but it is difficult to find out which ships do have this facility. I know that many newer cruise ships are being built with disability in mind, but smaller and older ships often have restrictions. Being disabled, it is difficult enough to get around and this information would help in planning where I can cruise to and who offers the best facilities.

A Cruising can be the perfect hassle-free holiday for disabled travellers and the key really is in choosing the right cruise line, ship and itinerary.

Newer ships tend to be designed with a more open and flowing interior, making it really easy for wheelchair users to get around and access all of the various public areas on board. Celebrity Cruises' Solstice Class ships are some of the best in the industry in terms of accessible cruising, particularly Celebrity Eclipse, and the cruise line is known for focusing on accessible shore excursions too; assistance on initial boarding and on the gangway in port is provided for all wheelchair users. Celebrity Cruises cabins feature push button access, as do all public



toilets on the ship. Most doors to outside decks also feature push button controls or are automatic. Wheelchair cabins feature ramp access onto the balconies, wider bathroom doors and bathtubs with grab bars.

Royal Caribbean's Freedom Class ships incorporate accessible cabins, along with lifts into both the pool and whirlpool; something which is featuring more often than ever in the design of new ships. All ships in the P&O Cruises fleet are wheelchair friendly, however it is the larger ships such as Aurora, Ventura, Azura and Britannia which have more accessible features, including hoists for pool use. All toilets have at least one grab rail and the cruise line can also cater for a grab rail to be located on a certain side of your cabin.

Cunard's three Queens are wheelchair friendly and there are a number of adapted staterooms available to wheelchair users. The bathrooms in accessible staterooms are designed in a wet room style, with grab rails for the shower and toilet, plus a pull-down shower chair. All three of Cunard's ships offer a pool hoist in one of their pools.

Accessibility varies between ships in the Fred Olsen fleet, all of which feature a limited number of adapted staterooms. The cruise line itself suggests Boudicca to be the most wheelchair friendly ship in the fleet, thanks to the generous dimensions of its adapted staterooms and the general layout of the ship's public areas.

Unfortunately, river cruising can be difficult for those who are confined to a wheelchair, due to the size of the ship and difficulties when embarking and disembarking. River cruise ships will often moor alongside each other, with passengers required to cross gangways between their upper decks in order to get ashore. If river cruising is something you want to experience, then be sure to seek out a cruise line with exclusive port access. Viking River Cruises are a great example of this.

River cruising aside, the world is your oyster in terms of where you can cruise to, provided you research the accessibility of the ports on your preferred itinerary before booking. Unfortunately, there are certain ports of call in which a tender is unavoidable. Many of the Greek islands fall within this category, as do other ports such as Portofino and Villefranche. Cruise lines share information on which ports require a tender on their websites and your Bolsover Cruise Club Sales Consultant will always be able to advise which itineraries may best suit your needs, avoiding those which include several anchor ports. Another alternative is to consider sailing on a smaller ship, as these are often able to dock directly in ports which are inaccessible to larger vessels. You will need to check that the accommodation and facilities on board are suitably accessible too, given the ship's smaller size.

With regard to ships with a lower gangway, this is something which depends on several factors. Again, it is the larger ships in a cruise line's fleet which tend to offer more accessibility. For example, most of the larger ships in the P&O Cruises, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Cunard fleets allow ships to deploy low level gangways to allow wheelchair users easy access to the shore. On some occasions however, there may be times when it is not possible to deploy this gangway in ports with a large tidal range. Unfortunately, this is something which cannot be foreseen.

Whichever cruise line you travel with and regardless of which itinerary you choose, booking ahead is an absolute must. Accessible cabins are in incredibly limited supply, with fewer than 20 on some ships. Demand outstrips supply by a huge margin, meaning that they have a tendency to sell out very quickly when new season programmes are released!



# ACCESSIBILITY AT SEA: FACT

- Upon booking, passengers with a disability or medical requirements are required to complete a form notifying their cruise line. The cruise line will send a questionnaire via post or email, which should be returned no later than 14 days prior to departure.
- If you are cruising from
  Southampton, cruise lines including
  P&O, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity
  Cruises and Fred Olsen offer
  wheelchair assistance from the
  moment you arrive at the terminal.
  If you're flying to meet your ship,
  be sure to discuss pre-flight
  arrangements with your Bolsover
  Cruise Club Sales Consultant, who
  will advise you which cruise lines
  and flight operators are better
  equipped to provide assistance
  from check-in to boarding.
- Most cruise lines offer adapted accommodation for full-time wheelchair users. Special features in adapted staterooms often include wider doorways, larger floor space to allow for easier manoeuvrability, and wet-room style bathrooms with low sinks and toilets, grab rails and pull-down shower seats. Adapted balcony staterooms feature ramped access to the balcony.
- Only adapted cabins offer wetrooms and baths are usually only available when booking higher grades of accommodation. This is something to consider if you would prefer a bath in your stateroom. Your Bolsover Cruise Club Sales Consultant will talk you through the available options.
- Passengers who require the use of a mobility scooter must occupy an accessible cabin, selected suites or mini-suites. Mobility scooters must be declared at the time of booking, or as soon as the need is known.

- Wheelchair users are advised to occupy an accessible cabin, but if you wish to travel in a non-accessible cabin most cruise lines will require your wheelchair to be collapsible and when collapsed must not exceed a width of 51cm and maximum weight of 45kg, with no individual piece to weigh more than 20kg. These dimensions and weight requirements may vary. It is also important to note that most cruise lines will only accept gel, dry cell or Lithium-Ion battery operated wheelchairs on board. This also applies to most airlines, who will often request that your arrive at the airport a little earlier, to allow baggage handlers time to either remove the battery from your chair and place it in a special container for the flight or to disconnect the leads from the battery terminal to avoid shorting.
- Should you choose to occupy a standard cabin, there are several things to bear in mind. Unlike adapted cabins, standard staterooms are unlikely to feature wide doorways and offer limited space for manoeuvring a wheelchair. It is also likely that a step measuring around 14cm in height will be required to access the bathroom.
- Most adapted staterooms are located in close proximity to elevators, as well as entertainment and dining venues.
- Most cruise ships now feature wheelchair accessible toilets. These bathrooms will be clearly indicated and are located across numerous decks.
- Some cruise lines have implemented special gangway mechanisms designed to simplify embarkation and disembarkation for disabled passengers. Shore facilities will vary however, so this still needs to be considered when choosing your itinerary. Princess Cruises are a leading cruise line for disabled passengers, having focused on expanding its accessible offerings ashore. Their private Bahamas island, Princess Cays, features ramps for easier access and custom-designed tours utilising the island's only accessible trolley. The cruise line also offers custom-built wilderness lodges with accessible rooms and public spaces on Alaskan itineraries, too.

# portsdirect SHEFFIELD TO SOUTHAMPTON IN STYLE (and back)

Bolsover Cruise Club customer, Mr King, recently booked a cruise holiday departing from and returning to Southampton. As the client was travelling with five other family members, they decided to make arrangements for port transfers via Ports Direct. This way they could travel stress-free and all together, allowing them to make the most of their journey to and from Southampton. Here are Mr King's thoughts on his Ports Direct experience.

fter deciding on a departure date and itinerary that suited everyone, our cruise was finally booked. All we had to do now was decide on our travel arrangements to and from Southampton. We agreed that we would prefer to avoid any potential traffic by arriving early, so decided to travel down to Southampton the day before departure and stay in a hotel overnight. This would take some of the stress out of the journey and give us plenty of time to relax once we had arrived.

We priced up port parking at Southampton, fuel for two 4x4s, and two hotel rooms; a family room for four and a room for two. After totalling the cost and allowing for snacks, an evening meal and breakfast, we were looking at around £700. We also realised that we would need additional clothes for the night before, plus we'd have to park the cars the following morning and handle six heavy cases, a pram, plus hand luggage, from the hotel to the cruise terminal.

All of this combined made us reconsider whether travelling to Southampton the night before our cruise was the best idea after all, so we began looking at what other options were available. Having read a recent blog about Bolsover Cruise Club's partnership with Ports Direct, a luxury door-to-door cruise transfer service, and after noticing the service was advertised in the Into The Blue magazine, I suggested this as an option to the rest of the group, who all agreed it would be a great way to get to and from Southampton.

The booking process with Ports Direct was very simple and it was completed in a matter of minutes. Our confirmation email arrived on the same day, and within two days we had a letter through the post confirming the location and time of our pick up and drop off points, along with the names of our drivers and details of their vehicles. With travel arrangements finally made, we could sit back and relax until embarkation day.



# **SHEFFIELD**

# **SOUTHAMPTON**

The morning finally arrived and Phil, our driver, pulled up outside our door 10 minutes earlier than expected, in a black Mercedes Viano. The 7-seat mini bus was stunning, with black leather seats and interior trim, blacked-out windows, air con and auto closing side doors; it was definitely top spec! The interior was spotless and you could see that the vehicle had been looked after and cleaned daily. In fact, it looked as if it had just left the showroom.

Phil was looking smart too in his black suit and tie. We didn't have to lift a finger, as he took our cases and packed them neatly into the back of the vehicle. Before we set off, he advised that there was complimentary bottled water and Wi-Fi on board, and that we could stop for services whenever required. Phil was extremely friendly and a big cruiser too, so the conversation was always on topic, which only added to our excitement!

Not having to drive over 200 miles first thing on a Monday morning made the day so much easier, and the fact that we could travel down together in one vehicle made the journey very enjoyable – not what you'd expect when travelling for four hours with two children!



# **SHEFFIELD**

# **SOUTHAMPTON**



The morning of disembarkation, we arrived back to a very wet and miserable Southampton; sad times indeed, but it was a great feeling knowing that we didn't have to drive 200 miles home in the rain. I received a text message from our driver Paul, who said he would be waiting in the arrivals hall with a name board for collection. Like Phil, Paul certainly looked the part. He immediately fetched the vehicle to the pick-up point, which was under cover so we didn't get wet from the rain. He packed the cases in the car and we set off for home.

Paul was also very professional and frequently asked if we required water or services. Unfortunately, the six of us were nowhere near as excited as we were on the journey down to Southampton; hopefully Paul realised our holiday blues had well and truly kicked in!

# FINAL THOUGHTS

We were all very happy that we had made the decision to travel with Ports Direct. The booking process was very quick and so simple, and once it was completed it was like a big weight had been lifted from our shoulders. It was certainly a stress-free way to get to and from Southampton

The vehicles are top class and their drivers are very well presented and sociable. It is the type of transport you would expect a celebrity to use. The cost for the Ports Direct transfer was very reasonable compared to our alternative option (travelling down to Southampton the day before embarkation and staying in a hotel overnight). With that in mind, I feel the transfers are definitely worth it, especially for the level of professionalism, luxury and service we received.

Children can be a nightmare in the back seats, especially on long journeys. Travelling with Ports Direct allowed us to sit with them and keep them entertained, which made the whole experience very pleasant and relaxing.

I'd have no hesitation in using Ports Direct again and I will certainly be recommending their services to others. Give them a try for your next



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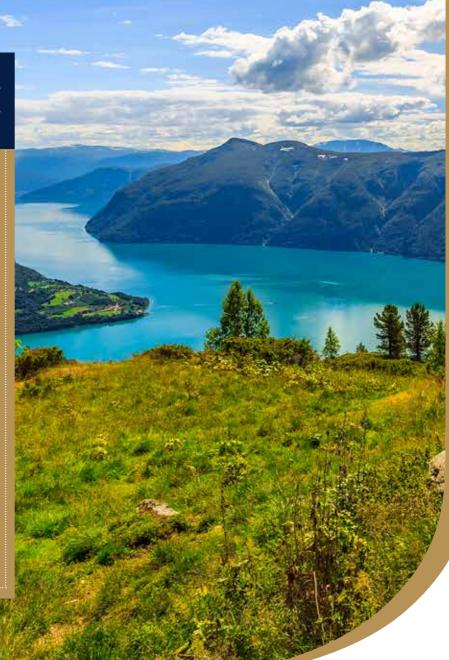
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# MEDITERRANEAN FOLLOW THE MASTERPIECE



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Veranda from £2,739pp Penthouse Suite from £3,949pp

Transfers included (airport to ship and ship to airport) Other airports available at a supplement, call for details.

# **MIDNIGHT SUN**



21 July 2017 / Marina / 11 Days

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# **MEDITERRANEAN MEMORIES**



# 18 August 2017 / Sirena / 12 Days

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Veranda from £3,839pp Penthouse Suite from £4,989pp

Transfers included (airport to ship and ship to airport) Other airports available at a supplement, call for details.

# **ADRIATIC EMBRACE**



#### 30 August 2017 / Sirena / 12 Days

Fly from London to Rome (Civitavecchia), Amalfi/Positano, Catania, Valletta, Corfu, Tirana (Durres), Kotor, Split, Ravenna, Rijeka, Venice (overnight in port), fly to London

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# **ANCIENT FOOTSTEPS**



#### 7 November 2017 / Marina / 14 Days

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Veranda from £3,499pp Penthouse Suite from £4,779pp

Transfers included (airport to ship and ship to airport) Other airports available at a supplement, call for details.

# **SPOTLIGHT ON SPAIN**



#### 21 November 2017 / Marina / 12 Days

Fly from London to Barcelona, Malaga, Arrecife (Lanzarote), Santa Cruz De La Palma, Santa Cruz De La Tenerife, Las Palmas De Gran Canaria, Tangier, Almeria, Valencia, Barcelona, fly to London

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Transfers included (airport to ship and ship to airport) Other airports available at a supplement, call for details.

Price based on 2 adults sharing a veranda stateroom or above unless otherwise stated from the departure point shown. Free airfare includes economy flights from London and may be indirect. Terms and conditions apply – see full brochure. Prices exclude overseas transfers from airport to ship. OLife Choice Promotion is Free Internet plus your choice of one from either Free House Select Drinks Package or Free Shipboard Credit or Free Shore Excursions. Free Internet is one per statestroomy. Owner's, Vista & Oceania Exclusives and Exclusives (Collection; Up to 9 Days – 4 FREE Shore Excursions | \$400.05 Exp er Stateroom. 10 to 13 Days – 6 FREE Shore Excursions | \$400.05 Exp er Stateroom Excursions | \$400.05 Exp excursions | \$400.05 E

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# Plus, book by 30 November 2016 and receive an exclusive £100 per cabin to spend on board.

Prices and availability are correct at the time of going to print but are subject to change. From prices are per person based on two people sharing the lowest available stateroom grade on selected 2017 departure dates. From prices shown includes early booking discount. Prices are valid until 30 November 2016. Offers can be withdrawn at any time. Single supplements apply. \*Restrictions apply. IMPORTANT: VISA REQUIRED A China visa must be arranged in advance at an approximate cost of £226 per person. Wi-Fi is not available on board our China ship. For full terms and conditions visit www.bolsovercruiseclub.com or call us.

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# 15 days from £2,495pp

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Explore the wonders of Vietnam & Cambodia as you discover ancient temples, bustling cities, and vibrant floating markets on an unforgettable cruise along the Mekong. On our Premium holidays you will enjoy the perfect balance of included sightseeing and leisure time, giving you the freedom to explore at your own pace. Enjoy hand-picked accommodation in central locations, quality meals and a range of included sightseeing, all delivered with wonderful service.

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A Buddhist Blessing in Oudong, an ox-cart ride through the countryside, and witness the sunset over Angkor Wat. Just some of the experiences you will enjoy.



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Exuding a true Asian ambience, you'll cruise in style aboard the RV La Marguerite. On land, you'll stay in premium hotels in central locations.



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Complimentary local beer, local spirits and soft drink included throughout, plus complimentary wine with lunch and dinner on board.



Return flights on quality airlines, tipping, port charges, overseas transfers, luggage porterage and free WiFi all included.













\*Prices are per person, twin share and include saving where applicable. Prices based on travel in Cat. C Standard Suite on 8 July 2017 (Essential Vietnam & Cambodia) and on 10 July 2017 (Discover class flight from London. Two people must travel together to qualify. Flight upgrades and regional flights may be available, surcharges would apply for both passengers, please contact Bolsover





# YOUR STYLISH RIVER SHIP

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Departures from July 2017 to April 2018



# YOUR COMPANION FLIES FREE\*

# **DISCOVER VIETNAM & CAMBODIA**

#### 19 day Premium river cruise & tour Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City

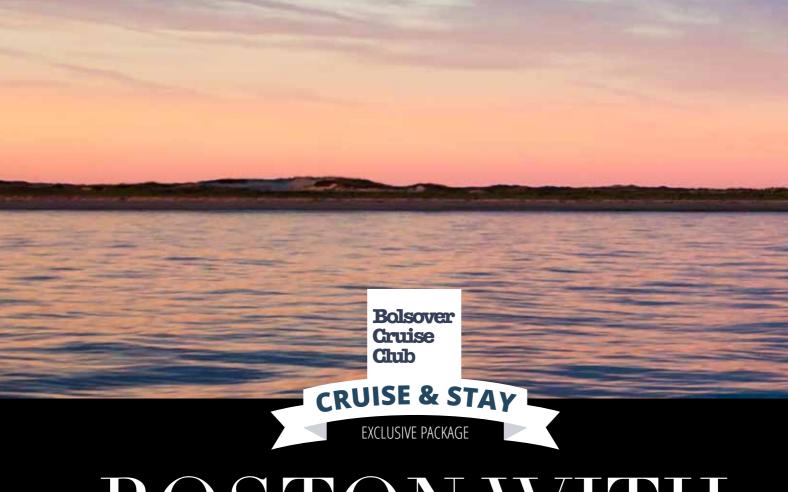
Extend your adventure and begin by exploring the bustling Vietnamese capital of Hanoi. Travel to World Heritage-listed Ha Long Bay and absorb the tranquil scenery on a premium two-night cruise aboard a beautiful Bhaya Cruises junk boat, before flying south to Ho Chi Minh City.

1st person from £4,295 Companion from £3,445\*

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# MYANMAR | CHINA | INDIA

Vietnam & Cambodia). Offers apply to new bookings made by 28 Feb 2017 or until sold out. Subject to availability and may be withdrawn at anytime. Companion Flies Free offer based on free economy Cruise Club for details. Solo supplements apply. Visas are not included in the tour cost. Prices correct at time of publication. UK0866



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ide across the Cape Cod Canal and wonder at a beautiful landscape of sand dunes and salty beaches with the Cape Cod excursion from Boston. This beautiful and historic peninsula juts out from the coast of Massachusetts like an arm flexing its biceps, and draws thousands of visitors to enjoy its gorgeous sand beaches, delicious seafood and quaint clapboard towns.

Cross the Cape Cod Canal, the artificial waterway cut through the peninsula that opened in 1914, connecting Cape Cod Bay to Buzzard's Bay. Head to the affluent village of Hyannis Port, now well known for its yachts, but once famous as the holiday home of President John F. Kennedy. Visit the memorial constructed in his memory,

13 Jun 2017

# Cape Cod Tour Information:

and then join a lectured sightseeing harbour cruise, which offers the best possible view of the property where Kennedy spent many happy summers from when he was a boy, through his successful campaign of 1960 up until his assassination in 1963.

Enjoy some free time to sample the best Cape Cod seafood for lunch at The Lobster Boat Restaurant, where you will find everything from lobster chowder to steamed clams, pan-fried scallops and fresh fish. Then, travel along the old 'King's Highway', one of the most beautiful roads in America, with the blue Bay water on one side and pretty white weatherboard houses on the other. Stop at one of the area's seaside villages for shopping,

strolling and sightseeing before you return to Boston with the scent of the ocean lingering in your head.

Duration: 9 hours.



# Your Itinerary:

**AMTRAK Business Class** 11 Jun 2017 Fly from London 14 Jun 2017 Heathrow to Boston Seat Boston to New York Shuttle transfer Boston 4\* Wyndham New Yorker Airport to Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel 15 Jun 2017 **Embark Cunard QM2** 4\* Westin Boston for a Classic Waterfront Hotel Transatlantic Voyage 12 Jun 2017 4\* Westin Boston 22 Jun 2017 **Arrive Southampton** Waterfront Hotel Cape Cod Day Tour from **Boston including Hotel** Pick Up (9 Hours)

4\* Westin Boston

Waterfront Hotel



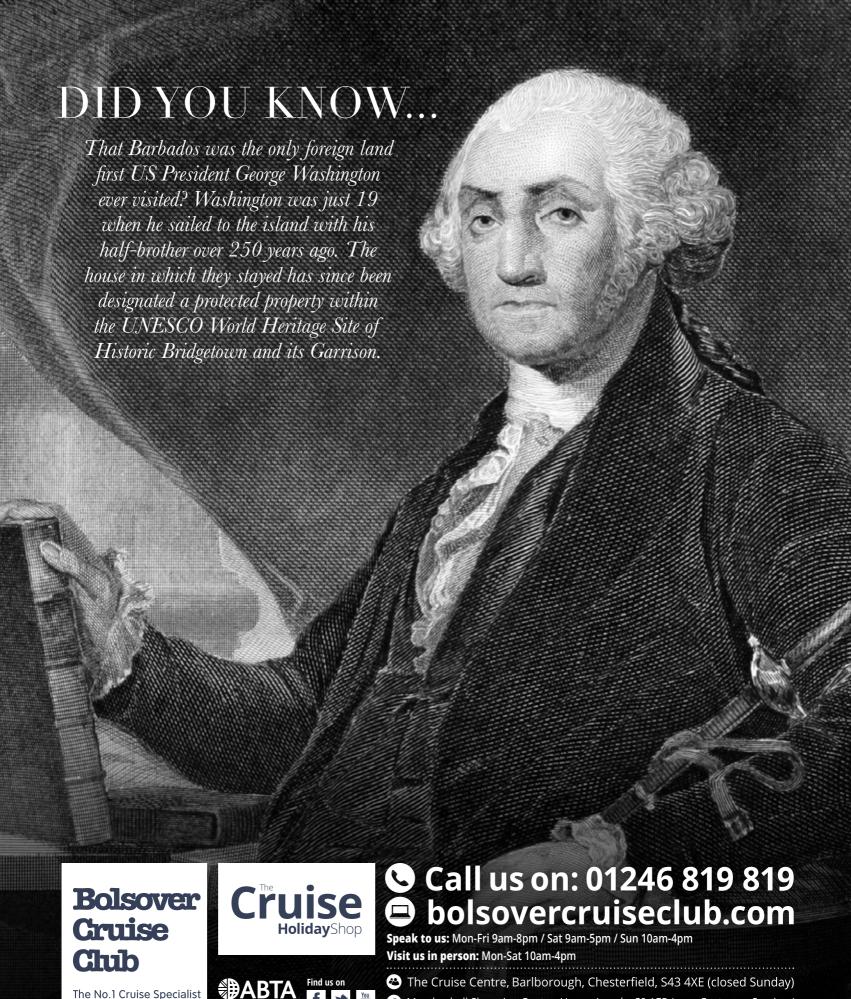
BOLSOVER CRUISE CLUB FARES FROM

Interior Stateroom
Ocean View Stateroom
Balcony Stateroom
£1899 per person
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Alternative departure dates available at a supplement, see T&Cs below.

Also available on the following departure dates at a supplement; 27 May, 2 Jul, 24 Jul, 8 Aug & 3 Sep 2017. Exclusive Holiday Direction packages are solely organised by Holiday Direction Ltd a fully bonded member of the Global Travel Group (ATOL 3973). Prices shown are per person in £ sterling based on two adults sharing and are subject to availability. Fares and other information are correct at the time of going to print. The holiday is subject to Holiday Direction booking conditions. Visit www.bolsovercruiseclub.com/holidaydirection for further details. Visa and vaccinations may be required.

Hotel accommodation is on a room only basis. Travel insurance is at an additional cost. Intermediate cruise days are at sea. E&OE



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