

Cruise Vacations

Planning a vacation can be hard work. Sometimes, even taking a vacation brings so many stresses and hassles, you feel like you need a break after your holiday is finished. Cruises take away the worries and leave you with a stress-free vacation that you deserve.

The beauty of taking a cruise vacation is that you don't have to drive a hundred miles in a hot car. You won't need to drag your luggage around or worry about planning your itinerary. If you want to have a vacation with truly relaxing options, a cruise ship is a great choice.

Before your actual cruise begins, some cruise lines will arrange additional excursions for guests staying in the point of departure. For example, if you are departing from Los Angeles, your cruise line may arrange visits to famous places like Venice Beach and Hollywood.

On the day of the cruise departure, you'll be brought to the pier where the cruise ship is waiting for you. It will take about 45 minutes for you to check your baggage and board the ship. Your room steward will take you to your room and you'll find that your luggage has already been delivered. Once you've unpacked and arranged your things, you'll be able to take an onboard tour of the ship. Most cruise ships have large balconies, so you'll be free to stroll about outside.

Cruise vacations offer virtually every service and amenity you'd expect from luxury accommodations. There are fully equipped fitness centers to keep you in shape, and spas to soothe your soul. Swimming pools are available for adults and kids, with plenty of deck chairs and benches on hand for stretching out and soaking up the sun.

Entertainment is an important part of cruise vacations. State-of-the-art theaters are often provided for on-board film buffs, screening everything from Hollywood blockbusters to popular children's movies. If you want to shake up your evenings, several theme bars and discos are available with live music played into the wee hours of the morning. On board casinos with a selection of games provide all the fun and good fortune of Las Vegas.

Everyone loves to shop while on vacation, and cruise ships fit the bill. Many have huge shopping concourses with interesting stores and shops. You can find personal items, clothing, souvenirs and just about everything you'll need while on board.

When it's time to wind down, libraries and recreation centers can be found inside the cruise ship. Curl up with a book, or just relax in front of a television. Passengers looking for friendly conversation can catch up at any of the ship's 24-hour coffee shops.

One of the most important elements in cruise vacations is food. Cruise lines hire the best chefs from continents across the world to provide delicious menus for all tastes. Food is cooked to perfection to ensure that your on-board dining experience is truly memorable. First-class dining rooms are available, and these do have dress codes--so plan on dressing up at least one night for some fine cuisine and top-notch service. When you prefer lighter fare, visit any of the many on-board snack bars, cafeterias, buffets or pizza parlours. These establishments are generally operated under extended hours, and are all included in your cruise price.

Cruise itineraries include daily stops at ports along route. Check with your cruise line to see which ports-of-call you'll be stopping at. When the ship docks, you'll be given the option to join other passengers on a guided tour, stay on board the ship, or explore each port at your leisure. If you choose to freely explore the town, be sure to return to your ship before the scheduled departure time.

A cruise vacation can be the dream getaway you really need. Call your travel agent or search online to learn about different cruise lines and vacation plans. You'll find out about destinations and cruise vacation packages that suit your interests and budget. Discounts and special offers are often available, so take the time to compare.

Booking a cruise is simple. Enjoying it is even easier.