

# Cruise Newsletter

June 2009



## Don't Miss the Boat.....

Sail away on a hotel at sea and be blown away by the onboard experience, world class entertainment, the fine food and especially, the attentive staff.

Every year more and more families are taking cruise vacations because they provide a chance to spend time together and create memories while exploring new exciting places. With so many cool activities onboard, "Are we there yet?" is a question of the past. From internet café to the electronic games arcade and the various kids programs, there's always something fun to do.

## Book Early

Cruises could be booked approximately 2 years in advance and should you change your mind prior to your final payment, most if not all cruises are fully refundable.

### Cruise Facts:

- Deposits minimal
- Should rates decrease prior to final payment most cruise companies will honor the decrease in price!
- Book early to choose the cabin that is best for YOU!

## The Best Value for your Vacation Dollar

A cruise offers unmatched variety, convenience, and fun. Plus, it's more affordable than many land-based vacations. Cruises enable you to visit multiple locations for one low price, without the hassle of coordinating travel details. Your vacation begins the moment you step onboard. And now, many cruises are just a short drive or flight away.

### What's Included:

- Stateroom or suite accommodations
- Ocean transportation
- Gourmet dining
- Supervised kids' programs
- Vegas- or Broadway-style shows
- Entry to nightclubs, piano bars, and more
- Activities like yoga & basketball
- Gym, pool & hot tubs
- Non-commissionable fares & taxes

### What's Not Included:

- Airfare & transfers
- Gratuities
- Spa treatments
- Alcoholic and some other beverages
- Casino gambling
- Shopping
- Organized tours & activities onshore
- Babysitting
- Nominal fees at some restaurants



## Cruise Lingo & Glossary

### Accommodations:

- (1) Category—a group of staterooms (aka cabins) that are assigned the same rank because of their size, amenities, deck level, and location. Prices vary according to category.
- (2) Interior—staterooms that do not have windows.
- (3) Oceanview—staterooms that feature portholes or a picture window.
- (4) Balcony—staterooms that feature private balconies.
- (5) Suites: the most spacious, luxurious accommodations onboard.

### Destinations:

- (1) Port—a destination or city visited by a ship.
- (2) Shore excursion—an activity or tour in a port.
- (3) Cruisetour—a cruise combined with a land vacation. The land portion may consist of anything from a hotel stay before or after the cruise to a fully escorted tour and airfare.

### Bonus Offers:

- (1) Shipboard Credit: a credit that is posted to your account upon embarkation. It's yours to spend at the spa, in the boutiques, or almost anywhere on board.



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## CRUISE TRENDS: WHAT'S HOT

Ensemble Vacations—Summer 2009 By: Debra Conkey

Adventure travellers zip-line from tree to tree in exotic locales like Costa Rica, the Caribbean and Mexico. But now you can zip-line across an open air atrium 16 storeys above the ocean—nine decks above the 'Boardwalk', on **Royal Caribbean's** newest 5,400 passenger mega ships Oasis of the Seas and Allure of the Seas, set to sail in December 2009 and summer 2010, respectively.

Perhaps you're drawn to more intimate cultural and culinary adventures—a hot trend in travel—like small ship river cruises led by travel journalists and television host **Burt Wolf** on **Avalon Waterways**. His 2009 series of European river cruises—which help support public broadcasting—include regional wine and culinary tasting, pairing food and wine, and European architectural history of the ports visited. In 2010 Avalon Waterways will be adding two new ships in Europe and introducing a three night "Taste of the Danube" cruise for first time cruises that starts at a remarkable \$949. Wolf will host his "Romantic Rhine" cruise on one of those new ships as well.

Or how about something tiny, but epic? One of **Norwegian Cruise Line's** new Norwegian Epic offerings will include 100-square-foot ultra-modern studio staterooms for the penny pinchers among us. But the lowest-category cabin has some special touches: rooms feature changeable mood lights and large round windows overlooking the corridor—plus private access to The Living Room lounge, which features a bar, two large TV Screens and comfy seating.

Speaking of penny-pinching, due to the sinking economy prices are dropping to new lows, whether on a luxury liner, river cruise, mega liner, yacht, small ship, sailing vessel or adventure steamer. Some are throwing in incentives like two-for-one air and free upgrades. The key is to book as early as you can for the best cabin selection and often the best price—that is, if you want to sail on a specific itinerary and date during high season (summer, holidays, spring break).

And yes, there may be deals 30 to 90 days before the sailing date, but your dream cruise may be sold out during high season, or you may get a cabin like the one I was stuck with on one of my first cruises years ago—underneath the galley, where a metal table rolled back and forth with each sway of the ship. It sounded like a bowling alley above my head—all night long—and they couldn't even move us because the ship was sold out. Or you may get a nice space, but at a higher cost when the lower categories sell out.

Travel agent cruise specialists recommend booking nine to 12 months in advance—and longer for specialty and inaugural cruises. But if you'd prefer to wait until the last minute (30 to 60 days in advance), and can be flexible about the ship, types of cabins and itinerary, they can help you sort through the discount madness.

**Royal  
Caribbean**  
*Oasis of the Seas*  
Launch:  
December 2009

**Norwegian  
Cruise Line**  
*Norwegian Epic*  
Launch:  
May 2010

## WHAT'S UNIQUE

Largest ship in the world, accommodates 5,400 guests on 16 decks. Features seven 'neighborhoods' at sea—including tree-filled Central Park and the Boardwalk promenade with a hand-carved, full size carousel – all designed so guests can seek a variety of experiences. Two flowriders for bodysurfing and flowsurfing. Multi-level, urban-style loft suites with balcony and concierge service. Two-bedroom, two-bath suites (sleep up to 8) with balcony and views of the Aqua Theater amphitheatre, and similar cabins with views of other 'neighborhoods'. Rising Tide bar that slowly rises and falls within three decks.

Largest Norwegian Cruise Line Freestyle ship, carries 4,200 guests. All outside staterooms have balconies and chic New Wave curved architecture. Five nightclubs include the industry's first Ice Bar, the adults-only POSH Beach Club, the private-access Halo Uber Bar at the top of the ship, Bliss Ultra Lounge with a four-lane bowling alley and adults-only Spice H2O at the aft pool deck. Three private access stateroom complexes:

1. Ultra Modern Urban Studios—slightly smaller than standard inside rooms—have exclusive card access to the Living Room Lounge;
2. Spa Suites access a complete spa vacation at sea;
3. The top two decks contain the 'largest ship within a ship at sea' complex of 60 villas and suites, where guests have access to the Courtyard Villa—a pool, two whirlpools, gym, saunas, sundeck, indoor/outdoor dining, bar/nightclub and concierge lounge.

## ITINERARIES

**December 2009 through April 2010:** Seven-night Eastern Caribbean-Fort Lauderdale, Nassau, St. Thomas, St. Marteen. Departing **December 1, 2009** a special four night voyage to celebrate the launch of Royal Caribbean's new Labadee private beach paradise in Haiti. Beginning **May 2010**, alternating seven night Western Caribbean (Fort Lauderdale, Haiti, Jamaica, Cozumel) and Eastern Caribbean.

Following a series of inaugural events in Europe and the U.S. the ship will sail year-round from Miami to the Caribbean beginning **summer 2010**, offering alternating seven-day Western and Eastern Caribbean itinerary includes stops in Costa Maya, Mexico; Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras; and Cozumel, Mexico. The Eastern Caribbean itinerary includes stops in Philipsburg, St. Marteen; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; and Nassau, Bahamas.

# High + Low

**Profile:** Family of Four

**Sailing Date:** March 14, 2010 (March Break)

**Destination:** Western Caribbean—7 night



## Royal Caribbean--Liberty of the Seas

		Arrival	Departure
Day 1	Miami, Florida	----	4:30pm
Day 2	Cruising	----	----
Day 3	Labadee, Haiti	8:00am	4:00pm
Day 4	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	9:00am	5:00pm
Day 5	George Town, Grand Cayman	8:00am	4:00pm
Day 6	Cozumel, Mexico	10:00am	7:00pm
Day 7	Cruising	----	----
Day 8	Miami, Florida	7:00am	----

### Oceanview Stateroom –Category (I)

Passenger	Fare	NCCF	Taxes	Total
#1	\$949	\$160	\$97	\$1206
#2	\$949	\$160	\$97	\$1206
#3	\$639	\$160	\$97	\$896
#4	\$639	\$160	\$97	\$896

**\$4204**



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE  
FREESTYLE CRUISING

## NCL—Norwegian Jewel

		Arrival	Departure
Day 1	Miami, Florida	----	4:00pm
Day 2	Cruising	----	----
Day 3	Roatan, Honduras	8:00am	5:00pm
Day 4	Belize City, Belize	8:00am	5:00pm
Day 5	Costa Maya, Mexico	8:00am	5:00pm
Day 6	Cruising	----	----
Day 7	Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas	10:00am	6:00pm
Day 8	Miami, Florida	8:00am	----

### Oceanview Stateroom –Category (F)

Passenger	Fare	NCCF	Taxes	Total
#1	\$715	\$156	\$108	\$979
#2	\$715	\$156	\$108	\$979
#3	\$10	\$156	\$108	\$274
#4	\$10	\$156	\$108	\$274

**\$2506**

\*Above prices are for CRUISE ONLY for the entire family—cruise + taxes. Does not include: Airfare, transfers, insurance, gratuities, drinks and excursions.