

Cruise Ships Are Fun But There Are Important Things To Remember

There seems to be a common denominator amongst cruise ship enthusiasts... they just keep going back. Why? Obviously fun and relaxation.

On a recent Carnival cruise to the Caribbean, my expectation of what fun and relaxation was all about all but exceeded my expectations. I felt as if I needed a vacation just to get over the vacation if you know what I mean. It was that enjoyable. And that's why we take cruises isn't it? To enjoy the spirit of adventure combined with plenty of fun.

Travelling with a group has so many benefits than going it alone. Unless you have a special reason for travelling alone, cruises, in my opinion, are best enjoyed in a group situation. However, group or not, if you are thinking of cruising for the very first time, then there are some things you should be aware of.

Even though accomodation is probably one of the last things that should concern you on a cruise I think it's important to keep in mind that small, windowless rooms can affect some people. Cruise ships are designed for utmost efficiency. If you aren't planning on spending a lot of time in your stateroom that's great. But you're going to have to get some sleep at some stage and my first ever experience in a windowless room was interesting to say the least. It doesn't matter what time of the day it is, I'm here to tell you that unless you are wearing a watch, distinguishing between night and day is nigh on impossible. If you have special engagements to meet, then either an alarm clock or wake up calls are essential.

Entertainment on cruise ships can either "fall flat on their face" or provide some enjoyable moments. A tip for first time cruisers; pick your marks at the beginning of your cruise and stick with them. All too often I see people trying to spread themselves too thinly by trying to take in too much. Making a plan is a great idea particularly if you are holidaying with a group. Study your itineraries carefully before you sail and decide exactly which shows you want to see.

The choice of dining selection is another area that first timers need to make a note of. Another tip: if you like fine dining and dressing up then make sure you pack something to wear that's appropriate for the occasion. It's also a good idea to check to see whether the fine dining areas require booking. Many people were caught out thinking it was just a matter of showing up during dining times, only to discover their chosen restaurant was booked out, sometimes even before the cruise got underway. I must admit, I'm pretty much a casual dining enthusiast. In holiday mode, my motto is to dress the part so the top hat and tails look can wait until I get back on land.

A cruise for many is a once in a lifetime experience. Doing some ground work before you board your ship is always a good idea. And remember, if you're not sure, ask. The rigors of day-today life can be demanding. A cruise will certainly help you "blow out some of the cobwebs." Prepare sensibly and you'll remember forever your R & R experience.

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