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Taking A Cruise: Getting Out Of The Lower Deck Cabins

By Kirsten Hawkins

Taking a cruise for the first time can be one of the most exciting ventures you may take upon

yourself. Cruises are a great time for fun, family, laughter and a care free lifestyle, but first-time cruisers are not advised to rush into the cruising thing very quickly. You may find yourself disappointed on a lot of levels. The location of your cabin or sleeping quarters on the ship are a large part of whether or not you will enjoy yourself on your stay on the ship. It's hard to have a cabin on the lower level of the ship under a veranda or walkway because people are constantly walking overhead, but if you have a cabin on sea level, you may have people outside your door at all times of the night. Having a cabin or state room under sea level can have its financial advantages, but sacrificing your cruising fun to save a little money may not be worth the extra dollars in your pocket if you are unhappy with your space. At that, state rooms are usually final after the cruise ship has 'set sail.' For those of you out there who are cruising for fun and want to get the most out of your voyage at sea, cabins at the rear of the ship may be your best bet. These areas do tend to be pricier than the standard two twin-bed cabins, but they are the most luxury rooms on the ship. These cabins are called aft cabins, or rear cabins and they usually feature some type of porch or balcony with a view of the ocean. The view is always breathtaking no matter what the weather, but take caution in the fact that these cabins don't always take turbulence at sea very well. If you are inclined to sea sickness, a rear cabin may not be your best bet. On the flip side, a bow cabin (a cabin at the front of the ship) also has an excellent view. Since it is so far above sea level, bow cabins usually take sea turbulence just as roughly, if not rougher than the rear cabins but they are excellent for the sailor at heart. Sometimes bow cabins feature balconies or verandas as well, and they certainly get an exhilarating spray of water from the ocean in these, more pricey living spaces. While also an option to avoid if you are prone to sea sickness, higher deck cabins are also an option outside of the standard, lower level cabin quarters on the cruise ship. They are a lot closer to lounge areas, sun decks, the pool, and dance floors etc, which people are willing to pay extra money for. These cabins are usually a little above or at sea level, so the rock factor is also pretty high in these areas. Another down side to a higher deck cabin is the noise you may experience from passers by. No matter what the cost or level, cruise ship cabins generally do not offer a lot of privacy. A mid-ship cabin is also an option available to you. A mid-ship cabin is the best choice for those prone to sea sickness but who are willing to pay a few extra dollars for a better living space. These cabins usually feature the same amenities as the rest (two twin beds or one large one, a nightstand or table, a dresser, a closet, a TV, and maybe a bathroom) but they are centrally located

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cutting down on walk time or elevator time; sometimes these quarters may offer a view of the ocean through a window or porthole as well.

Kirsten Hawkins is a cruise and travel expert specializing in discount cruises and travel. Visit

<http://www.luxury-cruise-deals.com/>

for more information on how to cruise the world for little or no money.

Cabin Pressure - Which One For Your Cruise?

By Kirsten Hawkins

For three, five, seven or however many days, the ship's cabin will be your second home. Depending on your plans for rest and relaxation, you might want to give some thought to your choice of cabins. If you plan to be on the go, go, go and partake of all the ship has to offer, then pay for the cheapest cabin rate. After all, you will only be in your cabin to sleep and change your clothes. However, if you need to be alone and plan to huddle in your cabin at times, reconsider your options.

All cruise cabins are created for comfort with a sensible design where you can move with ease. Nonetheless, all cruise cabins are not the same. Your normal, average cruise ship cabin is going to be smaller than what you would find at some landlocked hotel. To compensate for the size, cruise lines spoil the passengers with mints on their pillows, shampoos, bath gel, fluffy robes and other amenities.

The cruise ship cabins were designed to make the best of the least amount of space possible. Sure some cabins have more room than others, but in any case, not a square inch is wasted. The cruise literature depicts a roomy cabin but that is just trick photography. The furnishings are utilitarian, but attractive. There is often a queen or king sized bed that could be broken down into twin beds if you were traveling with a companion other than a spouse or significant other. A closet or wardrobe is also in the cabin with a desk, bathroom, shower and chair. Depending on the size of your cabin, you might even have a little nook with a small couch and table.

Inside cabins tend to be the most economical. If you do not mind not having any windows or portholes to see outside, then this might be the choice for you. Inside cabins are usually about the same size as the outside cabins. It does tend to be darker when you have an inside cabin, so keep that in mind.

Outside cruise ship cabins have a window or a few portholes, which allow the sunshine to come into your cabin. If you are susceptible to claustrophobia and the thought of an inside cabin with no window gives you the shakes, book an outside cabin.

If enjoying the ocean views in the privacy of your own cabin is a must, consider booking an outside cabin with a balcony or terrace. This option is pricier, but it gives you a private view of the ocean with your own little deck.

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If you have the expendable cash and want the "ooh-la-la" factor, consider the cruise ship suite option. Just picture the usual amenities along with some excess square footage. You definitely have room to maneuver! You'll have extras like a mini-refrigerator and a private veranda.

The only thing about booking a cabin is that you cannot pick what part of the ship you want. You pay the going rate for the kind of cabin you want and hope for the best when it comes to its location like being near elevators or the bow are of the ship. If you are worried about seasickness, request a cabin on the lower decks. You may not be able to be accommodated, but it never hurts to ask. Just remember to keep in mind why you are on the cruise in the first place. Choose the best type of cabin for your needs and enjoy your cruising experience.

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