

What About Land Touring While On A Cruise Vacation?

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**What About Land Touring While On A Cruise Vacation?**

**By Mary Hanna**

What about touring while on a cruise vacation? Tours can be purchased from the cruise line, done on your own or you can combine the two. Booking it through the cruise lines has some advantages. Some of them are obvious.

By taking a cruise ship tour you are assured that the cruise line has thoroughly examined the places they will take you and will rate them according to their difficulty. This lets you know ahead of time if this is the right tour for you. They are always run by local tour companies and these companies want to keep that business. For this reason alone they go above and beyond to keep you happy.

With a cruise ship tour you know the equipment –buses, trains, vans and sometimes airplanes– are A-one. They will always have English speaking tour directors but they also supply tour guides that speak other languages as well. You never have to wait in line to get into museums or other attractions– a big time saver. And of course, all of the work is done for you by the tour companies and the cruise lines. And it is safe. The cruise lines would never put you in a dangerous situation or take you to a dangerous location. There are always a couple of cruise line employees on the tour to make sure no one gets lost and that the bus leaves with the same amount of people that it started with.

When going to a new or exotic port I would recommend the cruise lines excursions. Some of the most wonderful excursions we have taken were cruise line tours.

Really, for a first time visit this is the way to go. And if you choose this option when the tour guide tells you to be back at the bus at a certain time, be there. By being late you are inconveniencing all the others on the tour and jeopardizing the remaining stops that are scheduled. When you get back to the ship look all around your seat for your belongings and don't forget the rack overhead.

On the flip side of cruise excursions, you will be traveling in buses with lots of people. It will always be more expensive than doing it on your own. You're paying for the work that has gone into the sites visited and the expertise of the tour guide

When touring on your own make sure you have the name and number of the port agent in case of an

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emergency. (This is quite handy if you miss the ship). Always know what time your ship leaves. Do NOT rely on the time printed in the initial brochure that you read at home. The departure time will be printed in your daily schedule and will be posted at the gangway. Things change and sometimes ships leave earlier than previously announced.

If you miss the ship it is your responsibility to meet it at the next port. Not a situation you want to be in. If you want to visit a place on your own make sure it is open on the day you are visiting the port.

Use common sense when touring. Don't wear lots of flashy jewelry, leave it back in your cabin locked in the safe or in the safety deposit box at the purser's office.

Use a handbag that zippers shut and keep a firm hand on it. Rome, Italy is notorious for expert picket pockets with all kinds of ways to trick you.

Wear comfortable shoes– your days are long when touring and you will probably be doing a lot of walking. Don't wander off on your own, stay with the group. Layered clothing in the colder climates is very sensible since you may leave at 8:00 am when it's still cold out but by noon it has warmed up. Pack some wet ones so you can clean your hands. We always pack an apple or candy bar for a little pick-me-up in mid afternoon on long tours (our tour from Le Havre, France to Paris was twelve hours).

I pack a small purse that has a handle that you can zip to make it into a back pack or it can be worn over the shoulder and in front of you. The pack always contains Tums, any medication I am taking, an extra pair of glasses, one for sun the other for indoors, bottled water, a book for long bus rides, a small snack, a collapsible cup, wet ones and tissues. My money and credit cards go in the inside compartment completely zipped up. When touring in large groups or large cities I put it over my shoulder with it facing forward and I always have a hand securely around it. If you are at an outdoor café don't put on the seat next to you or hang it from the back of the chair you are using, keep it on your lap. You don't have to be paranoid just be sensible. By following these guide lines you will have an enjoyable tour experience, no matter which option you choose.

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Happy Cruising, enjoy it, we do!

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Mary Hanna has traveled the world by Air and Ship while writing eBooks, Software Reviews and Practical Articles on Internet Marketing, Cruising, Gardening and Cooking. Visit her websites at:

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### **Why Cruising is the Best Honeymoon Vacation**

**By Mary Hanna**

Your honeymoon vacation would be wonderful on a cruise. You can even get married on some of the cruise lines. On one cruise vacation we were on, there was a couple that got married on land at the point of embarkation and then had the reception on the ship. Another time, it was funny when we were on the Grand Princess in the Casino, and in walked a bride in full bridal regalia.

We took our honeymoon vacation on a cruise which was fabulous. Ask your travel agent about cruise ships that leave on a Sunday or Monday if your wedding is on a Saturday. By taking a Sunday cruise for your honeymoon vacation you have 24 hours to make it to your ship and you won't have added stress on your wedding day. There couldn't be a better way to have a honeymoon. You can even set up through your Travel Agent a bridal registry which will enable your wedding guests to pre-pay for spa packages or champagne. It's a perfect gift to give to newlyweds who are frazzled after planning their wedding.

**Cruise Tip for the Bride:** You may want to book the cruise in your maiden name. All travel documents must match your ID. You will not have had time to change your passport or drivers license to your new name and Security is very strict since September 11th. So keep it simple, book the cruise in the brides maiden name and it is one less thing you have to worry about your honeymoon vacation.

On Princess Cruise Lines the following ships, Caribbean, Coral, Diamond, Grand, Golden, Island, and Star Princess, can web cam your wedding ceremony to love ones at home.

Any special occasion qualifies for a cruise, birthdays, honeymoon vacations, anniversaries, or family reunions. On the newer ships that have wedding chapels there is a storage space for your wedding gown next to the main lounge. This is useful when you purchase a package to get married at one of the destinations like Bermuda or St. Thomas.

On one Cruise in Norway on Celebrity, we had spent the day touring and we were tired when we got back to the ship. We decided that we would stay in our Cabin and have room service. The dinner arrived on a rolling table with a white linen table cloth, china, silver and wine goblets and we ordered off the dinner menu from the main dining room. What a romantic night that was. I highly recommend that. We've also had our breakfast delivered to the room and set up on our private balcony.

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Wonderful!!

Christmas and New Year's are a great time to cruise although they are more expensive. The ships are beautifully decorated and the air is festive. You don't do any of the work. If you cruise at Thanksgiving, trust me here, there will be a lot of families and lots of kids. An inexpensive time to cruise is the week before Christmas or Thanksgiving; all cruise lines have deals at that time.

So pick your special occasion, be it a birthday, anniversary, or honeymoon vacation, whatever, call your travel agent and Set Sail!

Happy Cruising!

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### About the Author

Mary Hanna has traveled the world by Air and Ship while writing eBooks, Software Reviews and Practical Articles on Internet Marketing, Cruising, Gardening and Cooking. Visit her websites at:

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