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## Why You Should Cruise To Europe

By J Schipper

On a transatlantic cruise, time slows and you feel like a traveller half a century ago before the introduction of jet travel made crossing the Atlantic a hurried, mundane experience. Besides the standard repositioning cruise, a transatlantic trip can be part of a world cruise, and these cruise trip itineraries offer a truly epic adventure.

For people who love to cruise, a transatlantic cruise brings to mind classic cruising at its heyday, with a leisurely pace of activity. Lounge on deck all day and spend the evening with fine dining and dancing.

Once the mainstay of travel across the Atlantic, the Trans-Atlantic crossing has evolved from a necessity to a luxury voyage, an opportunity to recapture the golden age of cruising from the early 20th century.

The model Trans-Atlantic crossing is characterized by four or five consecutive days at sea. However, newer, and longer versions of this basic itinerary will usually offer stops at places such as Bermuda, the Azores or the Canary Islands. Some Caribbean islands or European cities may also be included near the beginning or the end of the itinerary. Longer routes can travel down the coast of Latin America before crossing over. Or else choose a northern route via Newfoundland and Iceland and see the unspoiled Scottish Isles and the Norwegian fjords. But the unique character of the traditional Trans-Atlantic cruise makes these ports short diversions from the main purpose of the voyage: the transit across the vast expanse of the Atlantic. Cunard lines, in keeping with its 165-year-old tradition, offers more regular Trans-Atlantic sailings than any other cruise line. Cunard is known for providing classic luxury cruises. These cruises leave approximately every month and customarily take 6 nights to travel between New York City and Southampton, England.

When it was first launched by Cunard in 1969, the Queen Elizabeth 2 was the world's largest passenger ship. With the 2004 debut of the Queen Mary 2, which is twice the size of the Queen Elizabeth 2, Cunard once again holds this record. The Queen Mary 2 is the longest, tallest, largest and most expensive passenger ship built to date. The QM2 provides unprecedented luxury in amenities and accommodations. The Queen Elizabeth 2 continues to display the high standard of British elegance associated with these classic ships. In 2007, the Queen Victoria, the second largest ship in

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the world, will join the fleet. Carnival Corporation acquired Cunard Line from the Norwegian Kvaerner group in 1998.

For most cruise lines, Trans–Atlantic cruises are only offered as a seasonal repositioning between the Caribbean and Europe. Commonly at the end of April or in early May, ships finish the winter season in the Caribbean make an eastbound crossing to begin a series of European cruises during the summer. At the end of the European summer season, in September or October, the ships return westbound to the warm waters of the Caribbean for the winter. Most major cruise lines such as Celebrity, Holland America, Princess Cruises, and Royal Caribbean International have biannual 10–16 night trans–Atlantic itineraries.

Eastbound Trans–Atlantic crossings often sail from Boston, New York, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and a few Caribbean ports. Westbound ships often depart from Dover or Southampton, Barcelona, Lisbon, Rome and other major European ports. The ship can then travel through different ports on its way to America.

There is plenty to keep travellers busy on the trans–Atlantic passage. In response to passengers' desire for activity many cruise lines take advantage of the opportunity to offer special interest cruises such as Swing Dance, Big Band music, or wine and culinary themes. These events may be hosted by a well–known author, chef or celebrity for additional appeal. Educational programs such as art classes or computer learning may be provided, and dances and dinners on the ship will be organized to provide guests with plenty of opportunities for socializing. The extra time to relax is can also be used to take full advantage of the shipboard spa. And of course, the trans–Atlantic crossing is always the perfect time to catch up on the latest novel.

J Schipper loves Cruising

<http://www.cruise-to-europe.com>

<http://www.royalcaribbeanreview.com>

<http://www.celebrity-cruise-now.info>

<http://www.2qz.com/condo-cruise-ship>

<http://www.condo-cruise-ship.com>

## **Plan Your Cruise For Convenience And Fun**

**By Barney Garcia**

In order to ensure that you have fun and relax on your cruise, it is essential that you plan your cruise meticulously. You go on a cruise to have fun on water. The cool sea breeze and the spectacular view of the vast expanse of water in front of you can really intoxicate you with pleasure. Since you spend so much on a cruise, you should ensure that you enjoy every minute of it. Planning is the first thing you

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should focus on if you are going on a cruise.

**Pick the Best Cruise Liner** The first step in planning a cruise is to choose the best cruise line and the destination. Study the offerings of the various cruise lines and base your decision on what you really want from the cruise. It is also important to decide the duration of your cruise.

You can choose from any of the world famous cruises such as the panama cruise, Mediterranean cruise, carnival cruise, Caribbean cruise, Europe cruise, Alaska cruise, and Norwegian cruise.

**Check with People Who Have Gone On Cruise** Check out with other people who have experience in such cruises and then decide on the cruise line. You should also check the facilities being offered by them and whether these are in consonance with your aspirations. The next step is to check if the cruise that you select operates to the destination that you want to visit.

**Booking the Cruise** Having selected the cruise line and the cruise, you should make the booking for the cruise either through a travel agent, or through online sources. You should also select the type of room that you would like to have and book the same with the cruise booking. If you want to avail of shore excursions or other off-ship activities you should also book these early.

A good planning will really stand you in good stead and you can have all the fun in the world on your cruise. A good planning will ensure that you come rejuvenated from the cruise and ready to face the realities of life once again.

Barney Garcia writes about many different topics. He is a proud contributing author and invites you to his websites.

<http://www.cruises-for-you.info>

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<http://www.cruises-galore.info>

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<http://www.perfect-resorts.info/sitemap.php>



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