



Looking to Combine a Passion with Enjoying a Great Vacation? Theme Cruises May Be Your Ticket

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MIAMI, March 13, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Going on a cruise vacation is one of the hottest trends in travel. And for a growing number of travelers, going on a theme cruise is the proverbial icing on the cake.

On theme cruises you travel with like-minded fellow passengers, exploring one of your passions or interests while also enjoying all the other virtues of cruising – with the cruise fare covering accommodations, food, activities and entertainment and the big bonus that you only have to unpack once to see several popular destinations. Going on a cruise with a "theme" just makes a great experience that much better.

Cruise lines offer a wide variety of theme sailings to fit many tastes and preferences, with special activities and theme-focused experts on board to keep you well-entertained.

Music

On Carnival Cruise Line catch a performance by your favorite music or comedy star. The **Carnival LIVE!** series on select sailings has featured Journey, Gladys Knight, Nick Jonas, country music stars such as Little Big Town, Carrie Underwood and Tim McGraw, and comics such as Jay Leno. New this year: Tickets to the show are included in your cruise fare. Carley Rae Jepsen kicked things off with a performance on the Lido deck of Carnival Splendor in February. Additional shows are to be announced.

Filmmaking

Programming with the award-winning BBC Earth has become a popular feature on Holland America Line ships. **BBC Earth Theme Cruises** boost the action by providing guests the unique opportunity to mingle with the producers, presenters, filmmakers and photographers who create the spectacular BBC Earth documentaries. At presentations and master classes, learn the inside stories about making the films. Upcoming sailings are a seven-day Norse Legends cruise in the Norwegian Fjords in June and a seven-day Explore Alaska cruise in August.

Culinary

Princess Cruises' fourth **Culinary Cruise Series** kicks off in March with a focus on tacos. James Beard Award-winning food journalist Bill Esparza is hosting the four-day West Coast sailing on the Ruby Princess out of Los Angeles, embarking March 22. He will be joined by notable chefs Sabina Bandera (La Guerrense in Ensenada) and Carlos Salgado (Taco María in Costa Mesa, Calif.) Foodie experiences include chef-led cooking demonstrations, tequila tastings and cocktail-making tutorials, custom shore excursions and Q+A sessions. Guests on board will also find special Mexican flavor menus throughout the ship.

On **P&O Cruises Food Heroes** voyages, British culinary luminaries come on board to share their skills and insight. Marco Pierre White, the legendary godfather of British cooking, and a culinary consultant with P&O Cruises, will join six sailings this summer. Other top chefs appearing include Atul Kochhar, who operates the Indian fine dining specialty restaurant Sindhu on six of the line's ships, and master pâtissier Eric Lanlard, who created a special afternoon tea for the cruise line.

German line AIDA Cruises' celebrity chef partner, **Tim Mälzer**, has created special culinary experiences including cooking classes for adults and kids. Guests will have an opportunity to meet him on board the AIDAprima in June or the AIDAperla in October.

On Holland America Line ships, cooking classes and demonstrations are presented with America's Test Kitchen. **America's Test Kitchen Feature Cruises** boost the foodie focus; guest experts from the TV show and authors and editors from Cook's Illustrated and Cook's Country magazines on board to share the latest recipes and techniques, lead Q&A sessions and do book signings. Upcoming sailings visit Alaska in May, Scandinavia and Iceland in July, and Canada and New England in September.

Holland America Line's Culinary Council Aficionado series of cruises feature members of the line's prestigious chef advisory panel conducting cooking demonstrations, having their dishes featured on menus and hosting two "chef tables" one evening. Chocolate lovers won't want to miss a cruise with renowned chocolatier Jacques Torres, who will be on board a seven-day Alaska cruise in June and a 14-day Cuba sailing in August.

Wellness

The ultra-luxury small ships of Seabourn feature optional body and spirit activities designed by renowned wellness expert Dr. Andrew Weill. **Spa & Wellness Voyages with Dr. Andrew Weill** focus on healthy living. The doctor will be on board, along with a handpicked team of world-renowned experts in the fields of integrative medicine, enlightened nutrition, emotional balance and mindful living, for an Alaska sailing in June and a Greece and Italy sailing in October.

Thanks to its partnership with O, The Oprah Magazine, Holland America Line ships provide engaging wellness and personal growth activities including book clubs on some 300 North America cruises. **O, The Oprah Magazine Adventure of Your Life Cruises** add thought leaders and visionaries from the SuperSoul 100 to further inspire guests. There's an O magazine sailing this month in the Caribbean, in Alaska in August and in the Eastern Caribbean in October.

Fashion

The second annual **Transatlantic Fashion Week** on the luxurious Cunard flagship Queen Mary 2 in September draws fashionistas from both sides of the Atlantic. During the one-week sailing from Southampton in the United Kingdom, to New York, guests will experience a glamorous array of catwalk shows, fashion presentations, photography exhibitions, styling and fashion illustration workshops and more.

Comedy

The jokes will be flying on P&O Cruises Australia's Pacific Explorer during **The Big Laugh Comedy Festival** cruise, embarking Sydney on June 20. More than 14 comedians will perform three dozen shows in four days. Dave Hughes will headline.

Set sail April 14 from Brisbane on the Pacific Dawn, for a three-night **Comedy Cruise**, featuring some of Australia's best comedians, a must-see Comedy Cruise Gala, up close and personal chats and Comedy Workshops, for those who want to learn from the pros. Other dates are also available.

Italian line Costa Cruises hosts **Comedy Voyages** featuring Italian comedians and a wide selection of workshops, seminars and performances. The next comedy cruise is on the Costa Mediterranea in the Mediterranean in October.

Dancing

Show off your moves on a P&O Cruises **Strictly Come Dancing** cruise in April, May, June or July. There will be performances from professional dancers from the popular BBC show, Q&A sessions and opportunity to meet the stars – including judge Craig Revel Horwood. New this year is the availability of one-on-one dance lessons with the show's dancers plus a dancer-hosted exclusive dinner. There's also the highlight of a passenger dance competition, complete with judging panel.

Photography

Learn from professional photographers while exploring the Norwegian fjords on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth in July. Specialists in landscape and wildlife photography will offer tips, whether your goal is to capture an image on your smartphone or to master macro on your DSLR. Among those sailing will be Paul Ward, who created the architectural photos featured in the recently re-mastered staterooms on the Queen Mary 2; Sir Malcolm MacGregor, one of Scotland's leading landscape photographers; and multi award-winning photographer Ross Hoddinott.

World War II History

For the second year, Cunard is hosting a transatlantic crossing with the **Greatest Generations Foundation**, bringing a group of World War II veterans on board to talk about their combat experiences. On the July 20 sailing from New York to Southampton, guests will have opportunities to hear first-hand accounts of D-Day, The Battle of the Bulge, Pearl Harbor, the Miracle at Midway, The Battle for Iwo Jima, Okinawa and The Last Epic Struggle of World War II.

Sports

For tennis fans, P&O Cruises Australia features the **Australian Open** on a five-night cruise in January 2019. Fares for the sailing on the Pacific Eden from Sydney include a two-day ticket to the Grand Slam tennis event (upgrades to the Rod Laver Arena or Margaret Court Arena are available for an additional fee). Q&As and photo opportunities with tennis pros, and tennis-themed events take place on board, with live matches shown on the ship's giant poolside screen. The line similarly offers **Melbourne Cup** (horseracing) and **State of Origin** (Australian Rugby League) sailings.

The FIFA World Cup 2018 is the theme of three **World Champion** sailings on AIDA Cruises' AIDAstella. Onboard the June 17, June 28 and July 8 cruises in the Mediterranean will be Dr. Pedro Gonzalez, the football trainer of the German Football Association. He has coached world champions including André Schürrle, Toni Kroos and Thomas Müller.

Genealogy

For those seeking insight into their family history, the **Journey of Genealogy with Ancestry.com** cruise from Southampton to New York on the Queen Mary 2, embarking November 4, features specialists such as Jennifer Utley, director of research for Ancestry, and Simon Pearce, whose work at Ancestry ProGenealogists has helped many families discover and understand their ancestors' military pasts.

Wine

Award-winning wine expert, British TV presenter, foodie and writer **Olly Smith**, who created The Glass House wine bar on P&O Cruises ships, will be on board to share his expertise on three cruises in May, September and November. Smith has also created an excursion in Madeira that includes an exclusive wine lodge and vineyard tour at Blandy's, with access to the Blandy family's private Madeira collection.

The new **Voyage du Vin** sailing on Cunard's Queen Victoria is a must-do for oenophiles. Embarking Southampton on June 1, the one-week Spain and Portugal cruise includes tastings and master classes presented by leading award-winning wine writers, wine producers and other experts. On shore, special excursions will focus on wine production – including a Douro river cruise highlighting port wine. Guests can also sample Cunard's newly revised and expanded wine list and earn a Wines and Spirits Education Trust Level 1 certificate.

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