

# vocabulary

## TYPES OF CRUISE SHIPS

- **Adventure Vessel:** An adventure vessel is one that operates differently from a standard cruise ship - usually sail powered, and it frequently visits out-of-the-way destinations that are inaccessible to larger ships. Because of its unique makeup, adventure ships are far smaller than most vessels, though they may still offer luxury amenities. Ships range from the high-end Silver Explorer to Lindblad Expeditions, G Adventures and Hurtigruten. Windstar is also an example of an adventure cruise line.
- **Luxury Vessel:** A luxury ship is one that sails primarily luxury cruises, often longer itineraries to more exotic ports. The prices are typically higher on luxury ships, but the cost includes more amenities such as complimentary drinks or services. Luxury ships can be large or small and they usually cater to a more exclusive clientele. Cunard, Seabourn, and Silversea are examples of luxury lines.
- **Mainstream Vessel:** A mainstream ship is the most common type, a floating resort marketed to the majority of cruise passengers. Most cruise lines fall into this category, including Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Disney, and Norwegian. These ships include casinos, spas, children's areas, restaurants, pools, shopping areas, lounges, and other standard resort features, typically accommodating 850-3,500 passengers per sailing.
- **Megaship:** A new class of ship, a megaship is one that routinely serves more than 3,000 passengers. Most mainstream lines have several megaships, including Carnival's *Miracle* class ships as well as Royal Caribbean's *Voyager* class ships and the new *Freedom* class, currently the largest ships in the world.

## TYPES OF CRUISES

- **Adventure Cruise / Expedition Cruise:** caters to those seeking more off-the-beaten-path itineraries in places like the Galapagos, Antarctica, eastern Russia or Svalbard. The focus is on the experience at the destination — including viewing wildlife and scenery, kayaking, snorkeling, hiking or Zodiac excursions — rather than onboard activities. They're best for the agile, physically fit and flexible-minded.
- **Family Cruise:** Families are discovering that a cruise vacation can be an experience almost impossible to imagine. Zip lining through the rain forest, living history lessons in legendary destinations, PlayStations, Wii games and iPod Nanos: Onboard surfing pools, ice skating rinks, rock climbing walls, outdoor movies and even bowling alleys are some of the amazing features found on today's cruises.
- **Fitness Cruises:** Gyms are now much bigger and are usually located in prime positions with panoramic views. Healthy food choices feature guilt-free selections that are low in cholesterol, salt, fat, carbohydrates and calories. Activities include everything from bike rides down Hawaiian mountain roads at dawn, to swimming with the dolphins in the Bahamas, to kayaking in Glacier Bay in Alaska.
- **Luxury Cruise:** An elegant duplex apartment the size of a house; exclusive courtyards and verandahs with private pools, hot tubs and fitness areas; private space large enough to entertain 100 friends; 24-hour butlers and concierge service; a marble-appointed bath for every bedroom: today's cruise ships are redefining luxury with over-the-top suite accommodations unimagined only a few years ago.
- **Regional Cruise**
  - Alaskan
  - Caribbean
  - European
  - Hawaiian
  - Mediterranean
  - New England
  - Nile River
  - Panama Canal
  - South American

- **Repositioning Cruise** is a one-way itinerary that brings a ship from one region of the world to another — say, from the Caribbean to Mediterranean or Alaska to the South Seas — when a cruise season ends and another begins.
- **River Cruise:** cruises that take place on rivers. Sailing the major rivers of the world, from the Volga to Yangtze, the Rhine to the Rhone, as well as the lesser-known "little" rivers across the globe, river cruises offer a more intimate experience aimed at properly exploring the places en route.
- **Sailing Cruise:** billowing white sails carry their guests to many parts of the world in great luxury. These types of cruises provide a unique alternative to the typical cruise vacation, often carrying passengers to hidden harbors and secluded coves of the world's most treasured destinations while giving them the feeling of sailing on their own private yacht. Three in the market are Windstar Cruises, Star Clippers and Sea Cloud Cruises.
- **Specialty**
  - Babymoon
  - Business
  - Christian
  - Christmas
  - Clothing Optional
  - Gay and Lesbian
  - Honeymoon
  - New Year's Eve
  - Seniors
  - Singles
  - Theme
  - Wedding
  - Winter
- **Transatlantic Cruise:** A cruise that crosses the Atlantic Ocean, sometimes with longer itineraries, sometimes for repositioning cruises.
- **Volun-tourism:** allows you to engage in tourism while doing meaningful work as a volunteer. Organizations like Projects Abroad and businesses like Carnival's Fathom enable travelers to spend part of their vacations doing volunteer work with local communities.
- **World Cruise:** A cruise that can take 3, 4 months or longer and that sails around the world. The cool thing is that guests can choose to cruise the entire time or just on select one-way segments.

## SHIP AREAS

- **Atrium:** The atrium of a mid-size or large ship is the central passenger area, equivalent to the lobby of a hotel. You'll find the reception desk, shore excursion desk and other guest services in this multi-deck, often glitzy area. Some ships call this area the foyer, lobby or Centrum.
- **Bridge:** Navigational, command, and control center of the ship. Where the captain and his officers steer the ship, typically in the bow.
- **Berth:** your bed on a boat, or the location in a port where a ship can be moored
- **Cabin / Stateroom:** Living accommodations on the ship. Most cabins consist of a bed or beds, as well as closets, cabinets, a desk and a bathroom.
- **Deck:** "floor" ... used to designate the different levels of a ship.
- **Galley:** a cruise ship's kitchen; where food is prepared; larger vessels may have more than one.
- **Gangway:** An area for embarking and disembarking (getting on and off) the ship. The area is overseen by ship security, and all guests and crew must scan their ID's when entering and exiting.
- **Lido:** A term meaning resort often used to describe a particular deck, usually where pools are located.
- **Muster Station:** The specific areas to which guests must report in the case of an emergency on board. Boat drill is conducted at the various muster stations around the ship. Your muster station will be noted in your cabin.
- **Promenade:** refers to a deck big enough to allow passengers to walk around. On some ships the promenade serves as a jogging path, while on others it serves as a public space where you might encounter shops, restaurants or a carousel.
- **Stabilizers:** wing-like retractable devices that extend from the sides of a ship to reduce roll and produce a more stable ride.
- **Steerage:** cabins below the water line

## WAYFINDING

- **Port:** left side of the ship.
- **Starboard:** right side of the ship.
- **Forward / Bow / Fore:** front of the ship.
- **Stern / Aft:** back of the ship.
- **Midships:** middle of the ship
- **Leeward:** the side of the ship that is out of or away from the wind
- **Windward:** on the side of the ship from which the wind blows; toward the wind

## CRUISING TERMS

- **Bearing:** Direction or position of the ship with respect to its destination.
- **Crossing:** The term used to denote a transatlantic cruise rather than a localized voyage.
- **Debark, Debarkation, Disembark:** Exiting the ship, usually at the end of your cruise.
- **Dock vs. tender:** When you read your cruise brochure, the itinerary will list the ports of call and a note next to them will indicate either “dock” or “tender.” Dock means that the ship will actually pull up to the pier and deploy the gangway. You’ll simply walk off the ship into port. A tender port indicates that the ship will anchor in the bay near the port. You will board a smaller vessel that will ferry you between the cruise ship and port.
- **Embark, Embarkation:** Boarding the ship, especially at the start of your cruise.
- **Embarkation Port or Departure Port:** The city your cruise begins. Miami is the largest embarkation port in the world, and millions of cruise passengers pass through the city annually.
- **Port of Call:** A destination you visit during the cruise. Most voyages include 2-5 ports of call depending on the cruise length, and the ship may be docked just a few hours or more than a day.
- **Fathom:** A measure of water depth equal to six feet.
- **GPS:** Global Positioning System is a satellite navigation system that can be used to locate positions anywhere on the earth.
- **Heading:** The direction in which the ship is traveling, usually in terms of a compass (N-S-E-W or 0-360 degrees).
- **Helm:** Commonly the ship's steering wheel, but more correctly the entire steering apparatus consisting of the wheel and rudder and their connecting cables or hydraulic systems.
- **Itinerary:** The schedule of ports for your specific cruise, including days at sea and the length of time the ship will be docked at each destination.
- **Knot:** One nautical mile per hour. One knot is about 15% faster than one mile per hour.
- **List:** the degree of tilt of the ship to one side or the other
- **Nautical Mile:** 6,080.2 feet. Slightly more than 1.15 land miles.
- **Occupancy:** The number of paying passengers a ship can carry. Does not include 3rd and 4th passengers occupying foldaway beds in an otherwise 2-person cabin. If these are totally occupied, a ship can claim to be over 100% capacity.
- **Port expenses:** Wherever you sail, each port of call will levy a charge based on local taxes and fees. That fee is charged to the cruise company, which then in turn charges it back to you. Cruise fares generally don’t include port expenses and other taxes and fees.
- **Sailing:** cruising [It's still called a sailing even if the ship has no sails.]

- **Sea day:** A day in which the cruise ship does not visit a port of call and stays on the open water.
- **Shore Excursion:** A tour or guided activity that passengers take part in while ashore. You can book an independent shore excursion or one arranged by the cruise line.
- **Smartship:** refers to a new generation of cruise ships that have been built to include new digital technologies such as faster, more widespread Internet (usually including video streaming and online social sharing), faster check-ins, bracelets or medallions that communicate passenger preferences or allow people to make reservations or purchases, and other advances.
- **Tender:** A ferry that transports passengers from the cruise ship to the dock when the ship cannot be accommodated at the port facilities.
- **Wake:** The track left in the water at the stern created by a moving ship.

## PLACES + ACTIVITIES

- **Flow Rider:** An onboard surf pool on some Royal Caribbean ships where guests can try their hand at surfing or boogie boarding.
- **Kids Club:** Programming provided for children, generally consisting of games, arts-and-crafts, and various supervised activities.
- **Zip lining:** a thrilling activity during which a rider wears a harness that is securely connected to a cable suspended high above the ground. The rider then glides along the zip line cable for an exhilarating experience.
- **Specialty / Alternative Restaurant:** Your cruise fare covers the cost of the ship's regular dining rooms and buffets. On many ships you have the choice of dining at an alternative or specialty restaurant that offers a higher end or niche dining venue, generally for an additional price.
- **Assigned Seating:** Some cruise ships give passengers assigned seating with fixed-time dining for their main dining rooms, letting you get to know the same fellow passengers for the duration of the cruise. Though this is becoming less common, a large ship might offer a first seating (main seating) and second seating. Other ships have open seating or "freestyle" or "anytime" dining, and some cruisers choose to dine in specialty restaurants without assigned seating.
- **Open Seating:** A dinner seating in which tables are not assigned — the opposite of assigned seating.
- **Captain's Table:** refers to a dinner event in which select passengers are selected to dine with the ship's captain and other guests.

### SPA

- **Thalassotherapy:** refers to the therapeutic use of seawater and marine products to restore and re-mineralize the body.
- **Whirlpool / Spa / Jacuzzi:** a fiberglass or acrylic mini-pool filled with heated water with jets providing a swirling water action.



## CREW AND STAFF RELATED TERMS

- **Cabin steward:** The housekeeper responsible for maintaining passenger cabins. Individual cabin stewards take care of the cabin and guests for the entire cruise with services covering everything from breakfast service to turning down the beds at night
- **Captain:** commander of the ship
- **Cruise director** – the cruise ship director generally take responsibility for all the entertainment on board your cruise ship - from parties at the pool to late night entertainment in the bars
- **Maître D':** The officer in charge of the dining room and its wait staff. Each dining room usually has its own maître d'.
- **Mess:** A large, communal area where crewmembers eat.
- **Port Pilot:** Local captain responsible for bringing the ship into and out of a Port of Call.
- **Pursers:** Individuals trained in customer service and responsible to answer general questions, handle complaints, and generally monitor passenger happiness. Pursers can typically be found in the main lobby at an information desk.
- **Purser's office:** Home for the cruise line's pursers
- **I-95:** In addition to describing a document, 'I-95' also commonly refers to the main hallway area for crew, off of which the Staff Admin, Crew Training Center, staff mess and gangways for exiting the ship are located.
- **Crew Training Center:** An area of the ship that provides resources, services and information to crew, including language lessons, games and movies, and tours of various restricted areas on board the ship.

## SAFETY MEASURES

- **Life Boat:** One of several small boats, with a capacity of approximately 150 people and equipped with emergency supplies, that is secured to the cruise ship and used to evacuate guests and crew in the event of an emergency on board.
- **Life Raft:** One of several inflatable rafts, stored in the same area as the lifeboats and with the similar purpose of evacuating the ship in the case of an emergency. Life rafts have a capacity of approximately 35 passengers.
- **Fire-Screen Door:** One of many heavy, thick doors on the ship designed, once closed, to contain a fire in such an emergency situation on board.
- **Water-tight Door:** One of many very thick doors on the ship designed to seal so tightly that water cannot pass through in the case of a breach or leak.

## PROCEDURES

- **Tenders:** Tenders is a term referring to the general process of docking in the water, as opposed to at a pier, and then shuttling guests to shore using smaller boats; tendering refers to the actual process of shuttling the guests, tender boats refer to the smaller boats, and the term tender port refers to any port that requires this process.
- **Boat Drill/Pax Drill:** Both of these terms refer to a short precautionary exercise, mandatory in accordance with maritime law and conducted the first day of each cruise, conducted to familiarize guests with the procedure in case of an emergency on board.
- **Port Manning:** The safety and precautionary requirement that a certain number of crew must be on board the ship at all times. Port manning is therefore the duty of all crewmembers to occasionally remain on board for this purpose.
- **Vessel Familiarization.** A short training session for all new crewmembers (both brand new and returning to work) that touches on basic shipboard concepts and procedures. Often, either an officer gives a tour of the ship during the training or by a department member following the completion of the training.
- **Alpha Team, Bravo Bravo, Bright Star, etc.:** These are all terms describing emergency situations on board, announced over the P.A. system and given code names so guests don't know what's going on and therefore don't interfere or panic. The code names differ depending on the cruise line, and crewmembers will be informed of their specific meanings during vessel familiarization and other trainings once on board.
- **I-95:** A term commonly used to describe a piece of paper offering proof of employment and permission to enter a foreign territory or country.
- **Norovirus:** the most common cause of viral gastroenteritis in humans, causing vomiting and diarrhea. To avoid it, wash your hands often and use the antiseptic gel available around the ship. Norovirus gets wide coverage in the media when an outbreak occurs on a cruise ship, though the Centers for Disease Control points out that your chances of coming down with norovirus are much greater on land — it affects 20 million people a year in all age ranges.
- **Turnaround Day:** the day that a cruise ship is docked, usually in its home port, on the day of departure and the day of return. Imagine 5,000 or more passengers disembarking, another 5,000 getting on board with their luggage, new provisions that need to be loaded — it's a challenge for the crew!

## DESIGN RELATED TERMS

- **Bulkhead:** Wall or partition separating cabins and compartments.
- **Beam:** the width of a ship at its widest point.
- **Deck plan:** illustrations that show what type of staterooms are located on each deck along with the location of elevators, laundry rooms, restaurants, theaters, and shops.
- **Draft:** measurement in feet from waterline to lowest point of ship's keel.
- **Dry-dock:** the period when ships are taken out of the water so external surfaces can be cleaned and machinery can be serviced. A minor refurbishment may take a short time, while a major refurbishment can cost millions, last months and involve major upgrades to the entire ship.
- **French balcony:** a glass door or wall-to-wall window that opens to give you fresh air and the feel of a veranda, minus the veranda, tables and chairs. Many river ships (constrained by width limitations) use them to give the feeling of turning your cabin into a veranda.
- **Hull:** The outside shell of the ship from the main deck down to the keel.
- **Veranda / Balcony:** A private or semi-private exterior space for the exclusive use by passengers occupying a cabin.
- **Virtual Balcony:** is offered in interior cabins on newer ships. It's a floor-to-ceiling 80-inch high-definition TV screen showing live views from the outside of the ship. [Pioneered by Royal Caribbean]
- **GRT: Gross Registered Ton:** A measurement of enclosed passenger space, including the space in cabins, lounges, showrooms and dining rooms. Although frequently misunderstood, GRT is a measure of volume, not weight.
- **Passenger capacity:** There are two ways to calculate the passenger capacity of a ship: (1) Double occupancy. One way is to take the total number of rooms and multiply by two, with two people sharing one stateroom (Cruiseable uses this method). (2) Maximum capacity refers to the potential number of passengers for a full sailing, given that ships add convertible sofas, pull-downs or rollaway beds. For instance, Quantum of the Seas has 4,180 passengers at double occupancy and 4,905 passengers at maximum occupancy. Most ships sail near or above capacity — the industry average is 104%.