



CRUISE

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE



CRUISES
& TOURS

Navigate our cruise guide

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Be cruise savvy

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Be cruise-savvy

Blue skies. A quiet beach. Time to relax. Wherever the destination, be cruise-savvy to make the most of the weather and on-shore atmosphere. All you'll need to do is sit back and enjoy the journey.



Alaska

For the warmest weather, look to travel from June through to August. May is typically the driest month, with the least amount of rainfall – but pack an umbrella just in case!

Bermuda

For cooler weather, the spring and autumn months are your best option. Prices tend to go up in summer (June – August). Hurricane season traditionally affects the island at least once a year - between late August and October, which also tends to be the rainiest month.

Canada/New England

The best time to travel is through early September. If you're interested in crisp, autumnal weather, with cheaper prices too, you'll be best to sail from late September to mid-October.





Tahiti and the South Pacific

The South Pacific's high season is May through to October – there's less rainfall and a reduced chance of tropical cyclones. The South Pacific's summer (November until April) is the wettest time of year, when rain, temperatures, and humidity typically increase.

Australia

A great year-round destination. If you would prefer to visit without the crowds, then the months of June, July and August (Australia's winter months) allow for exceptional value cruising – particularly on larger cruise ships. November through to March is the high season and is also a lovely time of year to travel. Throughout the summer months, it's cyclone season in the subtropical climate in Northeast Queensland, which sometimes affects the ability to go to certain ports like Brisbane and Cairns.

Asia

If you want to immerse yourself in the culture and enjoy plenty of exploring, the cooler months of November and March are ideal and less humid.



Europe

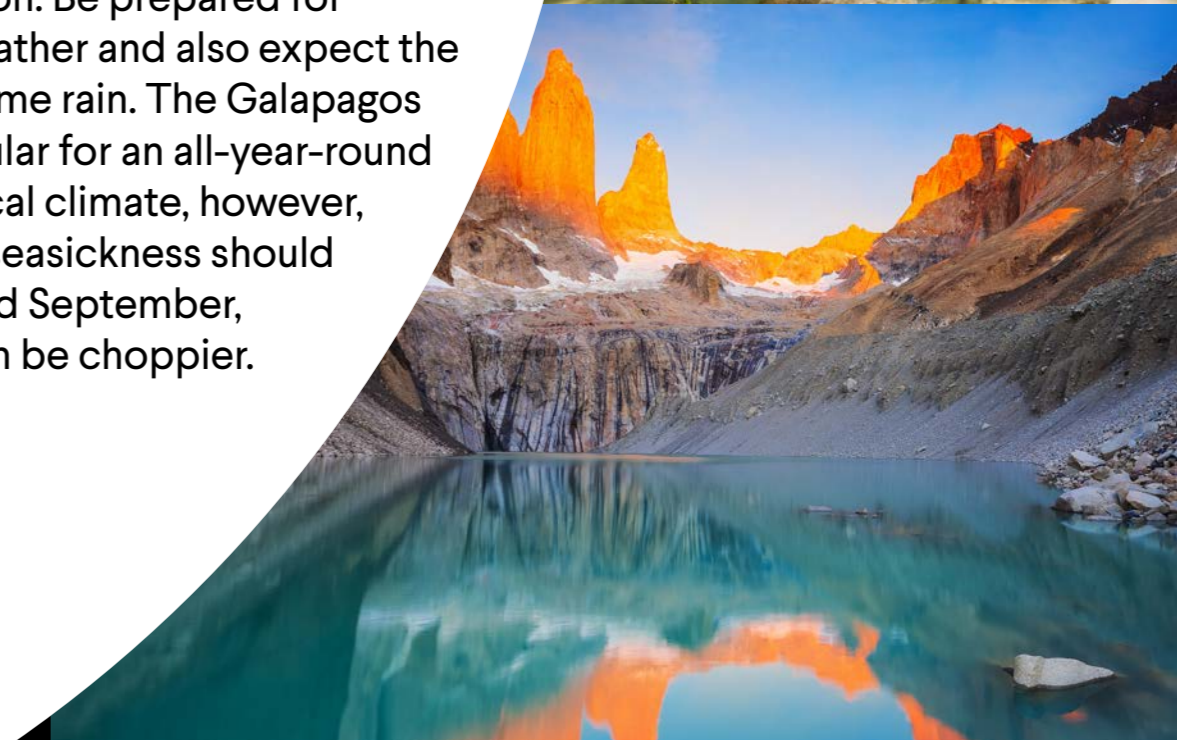
Want to soak up the sunshine whilst you explore? The summer months offer blue skies and golden sand beaches. If you want to avoid the crowds, then late spring or early autumn are your best bet – and are also the ideal time for a river cruise.

Caribbean, Hawaii and the Mexican Riviera

You can sail to these destinations year-round, but high season in Hawaii, the Caribbean and the Mexican Riviera is late December through to April – perfect for the ultimate winter sun escape.

South America

November to March is summer in South America – a glorious time of year to travel to this destination. Be prepared for variations of weather and also expect the possibility of some rain. The Galapagos Islands are popular for an all-year-round warm and tropical climate, however, those prone to seasickness should avoid August and September, when waters can be choppy.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

We're here for every trip, every time, everywhere. For smooth sailing, our helpful guide offers everything you need to know before you embark.

Cruises starting overseas

When sailing from a port outside of the UK you might need to make further arrangements, including transportation such as flights, inter-city transfers or even accommodation pre or post cruise. Check the travel extras page within your RCI.com account to add hotel bookings and transfers.

Seasickness advice

Adapting to your new surroundings can take time, so definitely get plenty of rest whilst onboard. Be sure to pack anything you might need before you go. Rest assured that bigger cruise ships may be likely to rock less, which can help to minimise the effects of being at sea.

Cruise durations

The most standard cruise duration is seven to 14 nights. If you want to truly see more of the world, then a world cruise is for you. These cruises can sail over 100 days, but if you can't commit to that length of time, you can pick a 20- or 40-day segment of the cruise and meet people boarding from many different destinations.





Large ships

Experience life on your own floating island. Larger ships are known for sailing to popular destinations like Civitavecchia (Rome), Naples, and Barcelona. Choose from a range of onboard activities, sample delicious cuisine for dinner, and relax in the pools and spas.

Small ships

Are you a lover of the undiscovered? Smaller ships can cruise to niche destinations, and often theme their entire journey around the destinations visited. Enjoy cheese and wine tasting whilst sailing to Cannes or get ready to be swept away by the gleaming lights of St. Tropez as you sip Champagne.

Shore excursions

Adventuring on dry land is exciting – but make sure you're well prepared! Choose to book your activity beforehand or pick one whilst on the cruise. Try and stick to one excursion per day, as getting on and off the ship can take time.

Transfers

Travel relaxed. Book your transfers well enough in advance to counter in checking-in time, just like you would for a flight. Sometimes your cruise port can be quite far from the centre of your departure city, so this is worth checking ahead of time.

Drinks and dining

Some cruises offer main drinks and most meals with your cruise experience, but this isn't always the case. Most cruise lines offer special packages which can be bundled together with your cruise fare at the time of booking. Ask your cruise expert for the best options onboard. Often, for a small premium, you can go all-inclusive, so you'll feel secure that most food and drink is covered whilst you're onboard.

Discover your dream cruise

From authentic river cruises to luxury ocean liners, explore the different ways to set sail!

Ocean

The ultimate floating oasis. Sail the high seas on an ocean liner and enjoy a variety of onboard experiences. From mouth-watering culinary options, high-quality production shows, to first-class entertainment, indoor and outdoor activities – you'll be spoilt for choice!

River

Experience authentic cities and cultures. River cruising offers an immersive experience, where you can reach different cities and ports. Step off in the middle of the town ready to explore the history, cuisine, and culture of the destination.

Expedition

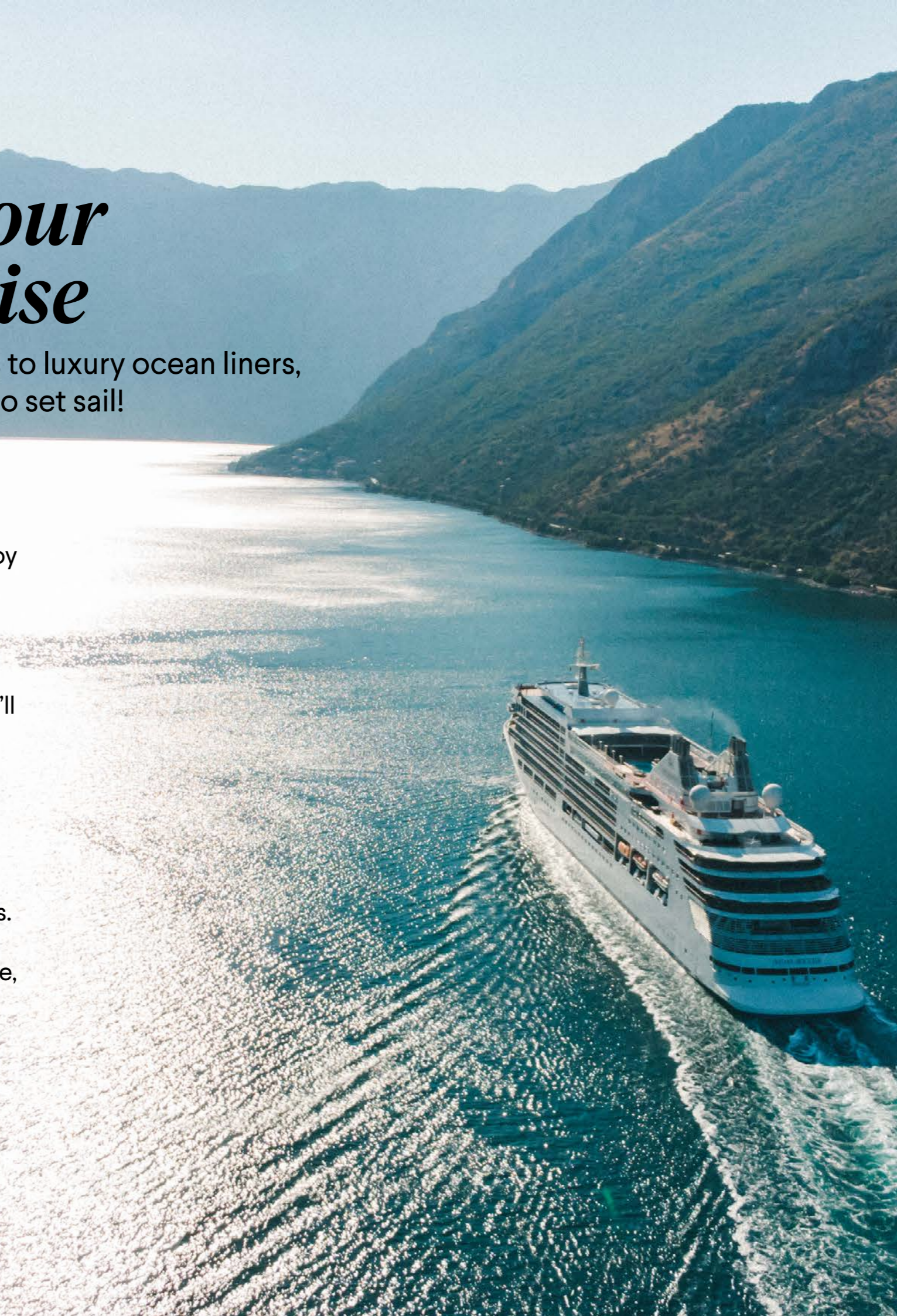
Explore bucket-list destinations. Stop off in awe-inspiring places and be ready for an adventure of a lifetime! Antarctica and the Arctic are popular expedition cruise destinations, where the focus is on nature, animal encounters, history, and unique experiences.

Small ship

Best for intimate and personal experiences. Set sail in comfort onboard a small ship. Reap the advantages of accessing smaller ports that larger ships can't reach. Cruise along shallow and narrow waterways, immerse yourself in the intimate nature of the ship, and revel in unique experiences.

Coastal cruises

Discover the UK coastline from a unique perspective. Embark on a scenic voyage to encounter coastal wildlife, rugged cliffsides and medieval castles.



SAIL YOUR OWN WAY

Holiday in style with friends.
Make memories with family.
Reconnect on a solo trip.

Whether you're planning on cruising together
or sailing solo, make the most of your
next adventure with our top tips.

Going solo

Setting sail on a cruise holiday on your own gives you the chance to enjoy time to reconnect with yourself. You'll be able to experience the best of both worlds: enjoy some time for quiet reflection on a voyage of discovery, or take the opportunity to socialise and make new friends onboard.

When booking a solo cruise, don't forget to:

- Talk to your agent about adults-only cruises.
- Look for cruise lines with single cabins.
- Ask your cruise agent if any single supplement fees apply.



Couples cruises

Create new memories with your loved one that will last a lifetime. Experience date night every night, thanks to world-class dining options paired with panoramic views.

When booking a couples cruise, consider:

- Telling your cruise agent if you are celebrating a special occasion.
- Looking for cruises with adults-only areas.
- Travelling outside of school holidays.
- Choosing a luxury cruise liner.



Family fun

With clubs, waterslides and musicals, children will be anything but bored!

Make memories onboard or on land with a shore excursion, so you can enjoy time spent together.

When booking a family cruise, try to:

- Look for cruise lines where children's fares are cheaper, or children have the option to cruise free of charge.
- Explore the different children's programmes available.
- Plan an offshore excursion for the whole family.
- Ask your cruise expert for adjoining suites.



A large cruise ship with multiple decks, including a pool and a tennis court, is docked in a harbor. In the background, there is a cable-stayed bridge and a town built on a hillside. The water is blue and the sky is clear.

Cruising with friends

One word: fun! There will be plenty of time to catch up with friends onboard. From Broadway-themed shows to spa days, or sunbathing to soak up some sunshine, your days will be filled with laughter and endless entertainment.

When booking a cruise trip with friends, remember to:

- Start planning your holiday as early as possible if you're looking for rooms next to each other.
- Think about shore excursions before you set sail and any activities you'd like to do.
- Ask your cruise expert about the different types of cruises, as certain ships can suit different age groups.

Ready to set sail?

With cruise exchange, you can use your trading power or points to reduce the price of holidays with the world's leading cruise lines.

If you'd prefer to save your trading power or points, you can opt to take advantage of our exclusive book one, get one half-off cruise passenger offer instead.

Call our experts at RCI Cruises and Tours for the latest cruise deals on

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Read our cruise exchange terms and conditions [here](#)

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