



Ultimate Floating Seminar Cruise 2009 – Newsletter 3

Hello Again Fellow Cruisers

The current sleep countdown is around 132 sleeps until we set sail.

Feedback

The feedback from those receiving these newsletters is still great. There are some people however who have told me that they're not receiving the newsletters by email, and need to go to our website at: <http://www.cruisemarketer.com/Newsletters.html>

to access these files.

Once we have all of your booking information and are able to send your booking request to the good folks at Royal Caribbean Cruises, then we send your email details onto our aWeber email tool so that you can be added to our automatic newsletter email list.

You will then receive an email from us that invites you to join the list by clicking on a special link within the message. If you don't do this, then you won't be added, and hence will not receive regular emails containing future newsletters.

If there is anything that is worrying you or of any concern, please send us an email, because you can be sure that others will also be hoping for more information.

Questions and Answers

We have more questions that have been received during the last week, so we're

able to provide some further answers for you.

Q. Can you provide us with some wardrobe recommendations?

A. In covering this question, I've decided that I could do a lot worse than to summarise some of the advice that we provide in our **Get Packing** book:

Packing for a cruise is an interesting challenge, because you will be on the ship for a number of days, mixing with the same people (particularly at the dining table, and if possible don't necessarily want to be seen in the same gear too often.

When packing for a cruise, you should take into account the range of climates you'll be experiencing during your time away, so that you can determine the basics, and then consider how to apply the layer effect look.

For the first day of the cruise, pack a small carry-on bag with your travel documents, a change of clothes, workout clothes, and any medications you may need. That way you don't have to wait for your checked bags to arrive in your stateroom.

If your cruise will take you to a warm climate, then in your main luggage you should include shorts, T-shirts, slacks,

trousers, casual skirts, blouses and sun dresses, which are perfect daytime wear, indoors or out. However, on this cruise, the chances are that you won't need these for the first week or so of the trip.

For lounging by the pool, pack two bathing suits (an extra suit in case the other is wet), and a pair of casual shoes. You'll also need some casual shorts and a couple of t-shirts or a cover-up for getting to and from the pool areas.

If you're planning to visit the on board fitness center, be sure to bring extra shorts, T-shirts and socks that you won't mind working out in, plus a pair of runners or sneakers.

Since the first days of the cruise will be in much cooler climes, we suggest that you also pack some gloves and at least one item of warm outer wear.

Royal Caribbean cruise ships do not have guest ironing or self-laundry facilities. You will need to send your things out to the ship's dry cleaners and laundry when required. You may need to keep this in mind when selecting what to take on board. We would recommend that you don't pack clothes that are too likely to crush easily, since they can't be "touched up" before each wearing.

In terms of planning a suitable wardrobe for "her", the following advice is quite relevant:

- 2 pairs of black slacks on light wool or a blend for daytime use
- 1 pair of good black slacks for evening
- 3 or so tops for daytime in the same colour as the slacks, and another pair in a contrasting colour. These can easily be accessorised with scarves, pasminas, etc.
- 2 tops for evening use, that can

also be accessorised.

- And of course, don't forget a pair of walking shoes as well as evening shoes.
- Limit your jewellery to perhaps one necklace and a set or two of earrings.

In terms of wardrobe planning for "him", what more could a guy want than a few socks, jocks, a couple of pairs of trousers and a few shirts or polos.

However, during the cruise, there will be a couple of "formal nights" - however more on the wardrobe implications of this in a later newletter.

Q. What sort of clothing am I going to need when I get to London and possibly up to New York?

A. Remember that upon arrival in the UK and for those who decide to travel north to New York upon arrival in the US, temperatures will be somewhat lower than those you are probably accustomed to during winter in Australia.

London's weather in late November can be interesting! Expect an average daily temperature range from about 4°C to 10°C. However, also be prepared for short days, and the chance of much more extreme weather patterns.

We'd recommend a reasonably substantial coat that can be used to keep you warm while you are walking around outside.

New York's climate in December boast an average daily temperature range from -1°C to +5°C. It is recommended that you should at the very least sport a scarf and gloves, as well as waterproof footwear in the case of early snow. The coat from London will also come in very handy for this part of the trip.

Q: I have 2 young kids who always complain about child care centres. Am

I going to have a problem if I take them on the cruise with me?

A: The best way to handle this issue is to rely upon what Royal Caribbean says on its own site about the kids packages it puts together:

Royal Babies - 12 to 18 months

Set aside some special family time onboard and join in the fun of our Royal Babies interactive classes held in one of our onboard lounges. These enriching activities have been developed by early childhood experts at Fisher-Price and are hosted by trained youth staff. A parent or caregiver **MUST** accompany children 12 to 36 months of age during all activity sessions.

Royal Tots – 18 to 36 months

Join your child in the fun of Royal Tots, interactive playgroup sessions developed by early childhood experts at Fisher-Price. Each 45-minute session, held on one of our onboard lounges, offers activities that expose children to new experiences and teach you how to make playtime learning time as well. Plus, your little one will be all smiles and giggles as they make new discoveries, sing, sway and play with great toys they're sure to love. A parent or caregiver **MUST** accompany children during all playgroup sessions.

Fisher-Price Toy Lending Program

Draw from an onboard treasure chest of Fisher-Price toys during your stay with us. Our Fisher-Price Toy Lending Program consists of a collection of developmental toys, specifically created for infants and toddlers ages 12-36 months. Borrow and exchange toys for a new activity every day, and help your little one's growing mind learn through play.

The Royal Caribbean Nursery

Undoubtedly one of the most anticipated innovations from Royal Caribbean is our addition of the Babies and Tots Nursery. This colorful new space will serve as a

fully-staffed nursery where children can be left in the care of our trained professionals, as well as host to various playgroups created by Fisher-Price® and Crayola® for babies and tots aboard our cruises. The nursery offers parents drop-off options in the daytime and evening, while always maintaining an optimum staff-to-child ratio. Free-time play will also be offered daily, providing a chance for parents and their young ones to bond while playing with a variety of developmental toys from Fisher-Price in specially-designed programs available exclusively for guests of Royal Caribbean.

In addition, the Crayola Beginnings line of art tools will be featured in unique developmentally-focused art activities so parents and their children can enjoy some memorable creative moments together.

Aquanauts – 3 to 5 years

Your Aquanauts' time onboard will not only be fun, it will be educational too! They'll get to learn about local customs, do cool science experiments and make great new friends. To participate, children must be fully potty-trained and 3 years of age as of the first day of the cruise. (No pull-ups or diapers, please.) You can rest assured your little ones are in good hands - every member of our Adventure Ocean® staff holds a college degree in education, recreation or a related field and has experience working with children ages 3-17.

Explorers – 6 to 8 years

One thing you won't have to worry about during your cruise adventure is a bored Explorer! All kinds of exciting activities await your 6- to 8-year-olds, like hands-on science experiments, scavenger hunts, theater games, and more. You can feel confident leaving your children with us because every member of our Adventure Ocean staff holds a college degree in education, recreation or a related field and has experience working with children ages

3-17.

Voyagers – 9 to 11 years

Our Voyagers program is all about kids having a great time, learning new things and making new friends from all over the world. And you can be confident that your children are in very capable hands - every member of our Adventure Ocean staff holds a college degree in education, recreation or a related field and has experience working with kids ages 3-17.

Age 12 to 14 years

The best thing about our Teen program is that it's not structured. Our 12- to 14-year-old guests can come join activities and games when they want to, or just chill with friends in our teen-only lounge. And parents don't have to worry about you hanging out there, because every member of our teen staff holds a college degree in education, recreation or a related field and has experience working with youth ages 3-17.

Age 15 to 17 years

Our Teen program isn't some structured set of classes or rules. We know you're almost an adult, and it's your vacation, too. So we give you the freedom you deserve. You can join events all day, or come and go as you want. We've got great laid-back hangouts where you can just chill with your new friends. Some ships also have teen-only clubs where you can dance, listen to music or just hang out.

Q: *What options are there for dining on board the ship, and are they all included in the cost of the cruise?*

A: Passengers have access to a number of dining options on board the ship that are covered in the cost of the cruise fare. These include the main dining room that offers three meals per day from a very varied and exciting menu.

The Windjammer Cafe is a buffet that

offers guests a range of dining options from a continental breakfast starting at 6:30 am until dinner service finishes at about 9:30 pm.

Sorrento's Italian Cafe offers pizzas and a range of other casual Italian style food choices.

Café Promenade features sandwiches, pizzas and pastries as well as ice cream

Room Service – For those of us who are just too busy having a great time to manage to get to any of the other eating places on the ship, then there is always the opportunity to make use of Royal Caribbean's room service offerings that are available 24 hours per day.

There are a small number of dining options that are available at a nominal additional charge. These include the Johnny Rockets 50's style burger joint, Latté-tudes and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Parlor.

Q: *What costs aren't covered on the cruise?*

A: The price of your cruise vacation includes:

- Ship accommodations
- Ocean transportation
- Most meals onboard
- Some beverages onboard
- Most entertainment onboard

However, the following goods and services are not included in the cruise price:

- Dining in Specialty Restaurants such as Portofino and Johnny Rockets
- Spa and salon services
- ShipShape Fitness Classes (i.e. kickboxing, pilates and yoga)
- Golf Simulator
- Art auctions
- Casino gambling and bingo
- shore excursions

- photographs
- Video Arcade
- Medical Services
- Internet Access
- Transfers to and from the ship
- Laundry and Dry Cleaning services
- ship-to-shore phone services
- alcoholic beverages
- non-alcoholic beverages (excepting water, iced tea and lemonade)
- and (although we did our best to change their mind ladies) any shopping that you do in the gift shops onboard the ship

Q: How much does alcohol cost on board?

A: There is an option to pre-purchase a range of packages to enable you to have a bottle or so of wine with your evening meals. You are able to purchase packs from 5 to 12 bottles at a 25% discount on the normal price in a range of wine categories – from the gold, diamond and platinum ranges.

In addition, wines may be purchased by the bottle or glass in a range of bars on the ship.

For those whose tastes are more for exotic cocktails or other iced drinks, these are also available at most bars. We have found that most days, the ship offers a cocktail of the day at an extremely good price. A wide range of beers and other mixers is also available.

Sharing Your Cabin!

We have a number of passengers who are planning to travel on their own, and are looking for travelling companions.

Remember that the cost of sharing is considerably less than a single cabin. As examples, for an inside stateroom, the costs are \$3,449 for solo occupation or \$2,626 for twin share. For a balcony, the

costs are \$5,297 and \$3,550 respectively.

If you are also in this category, then we're more than happy to act as facilitators by passing on email contact details to anyone looking for similar stateroom options.

At present we are aware of one lady looking to share a balcony stateroom, and also one request for another lady to share an inside stateroom.

Please email us at info@cruisemarketer.com if you also want to find someone to share with.

Long Haul Travel

You will have noticed that we have begun the task of tracking a range of airfares so that we can keep you up to date with the deals and options available for your travels to and from Australia.

We've been busy checking out the current fares on offer for your travel over to the cruise.

The table below summarises the fares listed on the internet as at Monday July 13th.

Best fare deals discovered as at: 13/07/09

	Fares from	
Sydney to New York		
Qantas	\$A 1190	via Los Angeles
Delta	\$A 1149	via Los Angeles
United	\$US 756	Via San Francisco
Sydney to Los Angeles		
Qantas	\$A 983	direct
Delta	\$A 958	direct
United	\$US 756	Via San Francisco
V Australia	\$A 1281	direct
Sydney to London		
Qantas	\$A 2288	via Singapore
Korean Air	\$A 1524	via Seoul (42 hr)
Etihad	\$A 2413	via Abu Dhabi
Emirates	\$A 2964	via Dubai
Malaysia	\$A 1690	via Kuala Lumpur
Los Angeles to London		
Air New Zealand	\$A 689 O/W	direct
New York to London		
Aer Lingus	\$A 490 O/W	via Dublin
Delta	\$A 853 return	direct

At the moment, the most cost effective option is to travel via the US, and fly across to London before the cruise.

As an example, for a single person, it should be possible to book from the east coast of Australia to New York for about \$A1,000 given the current exchange rate, and combine this with a one-way from New York to London via Dublin for just under \$A 500. a total fare of \$A 1,500 for a trip that takes in the US and the UK (as

well as a brief visit to the Republic of Ireland) is certainly a good price.

However, remember that if you'd like to leave this part of the trip to a professional, contact our recommended travel agent, Josh Zuker at the Flight Centre office at Waverley Gardens in Victoria.

You can contact Josh by email to: josh.zuker@flightcentre.com.au or by phone on (03)-8543-1777

