



Ultimate Floating Seminar Cruise 2009 – Newsletter 4

Hello Again Fellow Cruisers

The current sleep countdown is around 125 sleeps until we set sail.

Please Keep Us In The Loop

Remember that we're here to assist, offer you advice and find solutions to any problems. Please contact us by phone or email when anything comes up that you feel we can help you with:

If you're one of the group who have booked more recently, and haven't been on the newsletter mailing list since the beginning, remember that to visit our website and download any that you have missed, just visit:

<http://www.cruisemarketer.com/> and click on "Newsletters" on the menu bar.

If you receive an invitation from us to join our mailing list, then please click on the link included in the invitation to automatically receive future newsletters.

Questions and Answers

Q. What would be considered to be appropriate "formal wear" on the cruise?

A. The following discussion has been found on a blog site relating to cruising, and we think that it covers all of the issues that this person was asking about.

Great question. Normally, there

are one or two nights where formal attire is encouraged. Most cruises have a "Captain's Night," with a formal theme. But formal attire is somewhat subjective, and for many of us who rarely even wear a dress anymore, this concept can be challenging!

My solution was to bring along two short "cocktail" dresses... one was white cotton with black embroidered flowers, and the other a green silk "slip" dress. I figured that I could use them again whereas I wouldn't have any use for a formal gown.

A friend of mine went to an op shop and picked up a couple of recycled but sophisticated prom dresses, and I have seen some really nice gowns in the local Vinnie's store. Of course, end of the season sales can yield some nice more formal dresses at a huge savings.

I think the key is to be comfortable and not to spend too much money on something that you may never wear again. It's only one night, and in my mind, I would rather spend my money on souvenirs or something that I can use again.

Although many men will bring formal evening attire, a good business suit is also appropriate.

Q. Can cribs/rollaways be provided in my stateroom?

A. Royal Caribbean provides Pack and Play's for use on-board. Pack and Play's are similar to a playpen. Cribs are no longer provided.

Pack and Play's specifics:

For use by children unable to climb out, less than 24" tall, and less than 30 lbs. Mesh on four sides Sets up in less than one minute Strong and stable, yet lightweight Approx. dimensions 28"W x 38 7/8"L x 31-1/4"H Mattress/pad is 1" thick Sheets are provided Folds for storage and includes carrying bag with handle

Pack and Play's should be reserved in advance so that we are sure we have enough on-board

Please Note: Only one Pack and Play per stateroom can be reserved in advance. Requests for additional units must be made on-board

Q. I'm concerned about the new requirements to be able to enter the United States. Can you please tell me a little about this new "Visa Waiver Program"?

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables nationals of certain countries, including Australia, New Zealand, and the U.K., to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa, if certain requirements are met.

From the January 12, 2009, all Australian travellers who want to go to the United States must be approved by internet-based Electronic System For Travel Authorization (**ESTA**) in advance to be entered.

The results of the application are divided into "approved", "held", and "rejected"; if held, authorization will be confirmed within 72 hours.

And if rejected, travelers need to attain the visa through the US Embassy to enter the

United States.

The ESTA system is required for:

- anyone from eligible countries who is traveling for business meetings or pleasure, if the total time in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and adjacent islands is less than 90 days.
- Traveling on an unexpired machine-readable passport (MRP)
- Depending on when VWP travelers' passports were issued, other passport requirements will apply:
 - Machine-readable passport (MRP) issued before 26 October 2005 - no further requirements
 - MRP issued between 26 October 2005 and 25 October 2006 - digitized photograph on data page or integrated chip with information from the data page
 - MRP issued on or after 26 October 2006 - integrated chip with information from the data page (note: Australian passports issued in Australia from 2006 onwards comply with this requirement)
- They have complied with the conditions of previous admissions under the Visa Waiver Program, and have not been found ineligible for a U.S. visa.
- If arriving by air or sea, they are traveling on an approved commercial carrier and have a return trip ticket to a foreign destination other than the U.S. or adjacent islands.
- VWP travelers who have been admitted under the Visa Waiver Program and who make a short trip to Canada, Mexico or an adjacent island generally can be readmitted

to the U.S. under the VWP for the original admission period.

- They do not have a criminal record.

A previous arrest or conviction will affect your entry into the United States. In most cases, it makes you ineligible for the Visa Waiver Program which means you must apply for a visa instead.

In some cases, a previous arrest or conviction might also make you ineligible for a visa, although, depending on the nature of the offense and its outcome, a consular officer may find it appropriate to recommend a waiver of this ineligibility.

In all cases, you should gather any documents already in your possession which relate to your offense and any subsequent conviction, including court records, arrest sheets, and charge sheets.

If you are applying for a visa, you should also be aware that during the course of your application, you may be asked for further documents, such as a current Police Certificate based on a fingerprint check.

Acquiring these records, and the processing of any subsequent request for a waiver of your ineligibility by the Consulate, will require several weeks, so it is important to apply for a visa well in advance of your proposed travel dates.

Q. I had a drink driving charge. Do I need a US visa?

A. ESTA will assess your eligibility for travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program.

The assessment includes questions regarding previous arrests and/or convictions. If you have been arrested for or charged with a crime, including offenses involving drink driving or the use of a controlled substance, you may require a U.S. visa and, in some cases, a waiver of ineligibility.

If you choose to apply for electronic travel authorization via ESTA, the system will

advise you whether you **must** visit a U.S. Embassy or Consulate to apply for a visa.

Q. What are the visa requirements for our visits to the UK, France, Spain and Portuguese Madeira

A. Travellers carrying an Australian or New Zealand passport won't have any problems with entry into the European locations for our cruise. No visas will be necessary.

However, passengers holding passports from other countries should read on.

You may need to check on your visa status in order to ensure that there are no problems encountered during the trip.

UK Visa Requirements

From what we can see, those with passports other than Australian or New Zealand need to find out if a UK visa is required in order to board the ship at Southampton. You will need to classify your trip as a "visit" on the UK visa information website at:

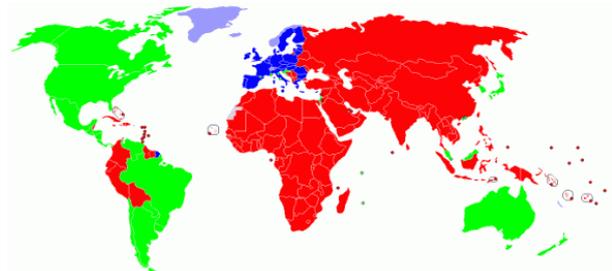
<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/>

You will then find out if a visa is necessary for your entry into the UK.

Should you need a UK visa, then you will need to visit the UkinAustralia site:

<http://ukinaustralia.fco.gov.uk/en/visas/>

European Visa Requirements



Citizens of the countries shown in red will need a Schengen Visa to visit the ports in France, Spain and Portuguese Madeira.

The Schengen Visa which entitles them to travel freely throughout the Schengen Area.

Given that our first port-of-call to the

European mainland is France, anyone requiring a Schengen visa will need to apply through the French Consular office.

You will need to lodge a visa application for entry into France no earlier than 25th August (90 days prior to travel). We recommend that you don't delay too much after this date with your application.

Due to security changes with the French consular offices, you will need to have a prior appointment to visit the consulate in Sydney, and must attend in person to be considered for a visa.

If you need to find out more, then visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/lw4c3h>

Save Money If Travelling On Your Own - Share Your Cabin!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, 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.

“Fare Watch”

Once again, we've worked our way

through the current airfare offerings, so that we can continue to provide you with regular updates on what is currently on offer.

The table below summarises the fares listed on the internet as at Monday July 20th.

Best fare deals discovered as at: 20/07/09

	Fares from	
Sydney to New York		
Qantas	\$A 1191	via Los Angeles
Delta	\$A 1154	via Los Angeles
United	\$US 745	Via San Francisco

Sydney to Los Angeles		
Qantas	\$A 968	direct
Delta	\$A 1045	direct
United	\$US 752	Via San Francisco
V Australia	\$A 1281	direct

Sydney to London		
Qantas	\$A 2290	via Singapore
Korean Air	\$A 1486	via Seoul (42 hr)
Etihad	\$A 2327	via Abu Dhabi
Emirates	\$A 2587	via Dubai
Malaysia	\$A 1740	via Kuala Lumpur

Los Angeles to London		
Air New Zealand	\$A 730 O/W	direct

New York to London		
Aer Lingus	\$A 499 O/W	via Dublin
Delta	\$A 884 return	direct

Remember that you always have the opportunity to leave this part of the trip to a professional. If you wish to do this, we recommend that you should 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