



Ultimate Floating Seminar Cruise 2009 – Newsletter 7

Hello Again Fellow Cruisers

Guess what? We now have less than 100 days before the start of our fantastic cruise.

The current sleep countdown is around 97 sleeps until we set sail.

Please Let Us Assist You

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.

Confusion About Airfare Costings

Following a couple of comments about pricing for the air travel component of the trip, we feel that it is probably worthwhile to explain just how we go about the prices that we are including in each of these newsletters.

Obviously there are a number of factors that determine the cost and availability of international airfares. These include such things as currency exchange rates, forward bookings with a particular airline, current special deals on offer, projections on seat availability, and the day of the week for the trip.

In attempting to come up with a relatively consistent pattern on which airfares can be compared, we have taken the following options when looking for available fares for our table:

- forward travel on or about 20th November
- return travel on or about 10th December
- searching for the best price offered by the airline on or around these dates
- in the case of return fares where the return leg is not to be used, selecting a return leg around late January on a Tuesday or Wednesday (usually the cheapest travel days).

This offers a reasonably consistent list of available fares, but has obviously not been chosen to meet specific travel needs.

You may for instance need to travel out of Australia at the last possible time to board the cruise, or may perhaps have commitments that make it imperative to

leave the US as early as possible after the end of the cruise. In this case, the costs and flight availability for your travels will be different from the indicative values that we include in the newsletters.

If you wish to find out exactly what options will meet with your specific travel needs, then we suggest that you make contact with Josh Zuker, our recommended travel agent. Josh's details are included later in this newsletter.

Our first port-of-call - Le Havre

Once we have settled on board our ship, we will leave London on the evening of 23rd November and travel across the English Channel to dock at Le Havre (The Harbour) on the mouth of the River Seine at 7:00 on the 24th November.

Le Havre is located in the province of Normandy on the northwest coast of France, at the mouth of the River Seine. It has a population of approximately 200,000.

Little remains of the 'Old Quarter' after the ravages of World War II, and the City has been totally rebuilt.

A busy commercial port, the harbor is also a terminus for cross-channel ferries and trans-Atlantic traffic, as well as a yacht harbor with mooring for over 1,000 boats.

Le Havre was founded by King Francis I in 1517, and in 1562 it was given to Queen Elizabeth I of England.

However, by 1563 it was again the property of the French.

Under Napoleon it became a first class naval port, while in the first World War it was a landing area for British expeditionary forces.

During World War II the City suffered much damage and 5,000 civilians died. The Germans blew up the docks before their surrender in September 1944.

What can we do during our day in Le Havre?

The most obvious activity (and probably the most popular one) is to use the stopover of the ship as an opportunity to visit Paris.

The rail service to Paris from Le Havre takes about 2 hours each way. The cost for a return ticket is about \$A 118 2nd class or \$A 173 1st class.

Your train arrives at Gare St Lazare in Paris, and you should have about 5 hours for your own chosen activities between arrival and the departure time of your train back to Le Havre.

Another option for travel into Paris is to take advantage of the "**A Taste Of Paris**" shore excursion offered by Royal Caribbean. This guided tour of about 10 hours 30 minutes offers guests the opportunity for an orientation to Paris and then time to explore independently.

The guide greets guests at the pier. A 2.5-hour drive bus drive takes you across the Seine Valley, past Rouen and through the rich dairy country of Normandy. In Paris, the tour includes a drive down the Champs-Elysees, the principal thoroughfare of the city.

See the Arc de Triomphe, and then pass the Opera House and Madeleine Church. Drive past the world famous Louvre Museum with its recently added glass pyramid, to proceed to the River Seine and the island of La Cite to pass by the Notre Dame Cathedral. The coach will continue down the left bank, past the Hotel des Invalides, burial place of Napoleon and the Latin Quarter.

The coach will drop you off in the city centre and the guide will inform you when and where to meet the coach for the return trip to the ship. The tour includes approximately 3.5 hours on your own and does not include lunch or entrance fees.

This tour costs about \$A 115 per adult.

Other tour options include the following:

Mont Saint Michel Exploration

The Abbey of Mont Saint Michel is a UNESCO World Heritage site, built on a rock perched above the ocean, and connected to the mainland by a permanent causeway.

Mont Saint Michel became a place of pilgrimage and worship in the Middle Ages.

The Abbey is a masterpiece of Norman architecture. Inside you'll discover the ways of the monks by visiting their famous dining hall and the beautiful gothic cloister, which appears to be suspended between sky and sea.

After the guided portion of the tour, you will have free time in the charming village of Mont Saint Michel to explore the twisted passageways, old houses and shops.

Alabaster Coast - Etretat & Fecamp

The northwest coast of Normandy, known as the Alabaster Coast, has dramatic scenery with sheer cliffs and wide beaches, interspersed with seaside resorts.

The scenic drive along the coast reaches the beautiful resort of Etretat, where you can see the two impressive chalk cliffs known as the "Arch and Needle."

Participants will have approximately one hour to walk the cliffs or explore the town.

The next stop is at the town of Fecamp, situated at the foot of some of the highest cliffs in Normandy.

Fecamp is the home of the famous Benedictine Liquor, invented there by the monk Bernardo Vincellio in 1510.

Honfleur

This tour along the "Cote Fleurie" will show you why this beautiful area attracted many celebrities and artists.

You will visit the charming fishing port of Honfleur, dating back to the 14th century and renowned for its role in the discovery voyages to Canada.

You'll enjoy:

a walking tour along typical Norman streets and discovering the Old Dock and the former house of the Governor.

a visit to the Saint Catherine Church, the largest wooden church of France dating back to the 15th century.

After the orientation tour, you will have free time for shopping and browsing.

D-Day Beaches & Bayeux Tapestry

This tour starts with a visit to Bayeux, with its Gothic cathedral dominates the charming old town. Its most cherished treasure is the magnificent 900-year old Bayeux Tapestry, a wool-on-linen embroidery 70 metres long, recounting the events of the Norman invasion of England in 1066.

Although faded by time, it remains one of the most informative records of life in the Middle Ages.

Then on to the D-Day beaches, scene of the Allied invasion. As we drive along the coast they stretch from west to east, code-named, Gold, Juno and Sword, and the whole area is dotted with war museums and military cemeteries.

Sharing Your Stateroom

We're still looking for people wishing to share a stateroom with another member of our cruise group. Please email us at info@cruisemarketer.com

if you 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 Tuesday August 18th.

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

suggest 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 or on mobile: 0407 865 897

Best fare deals discovered as at: 18/08/09

	Fares from	
Sydney to New York		
Qantas	\$A 1169	via Los Angeles
Delta	\$A 1186	via Los Angeles
United	\$US 863	Via San Francisco
Sydney to Los Angeles		
Qantas	\$A 997	direct
Delta	\$A 980	direct
United	\$US 984	Via San Francisco
V Australia	\$A 1025	direct
Sydney to London		
Qantas	\$A 2254	via Singapore
Japan Airlines	\$A 1997	via Tokyo
Etihad	\$A 2518	via Abu Dhabi
Malaysia	\$A 2001	via Kuala Lumpur
Los Angeles to London		
Air New Zealand	\$A 638 O/W	direct
New York to London		
Aer Lingus	\$A 612 O/W	via Dublin
Delta	\$A 907 return	direct
Miami to Los Angeles		
Northwest	\$A 206 O/W	via Memphis