



## Ultimate Floating Seminar Cruise 2009 – Newsletter 8

### Hello Again Fellow Cruisers

Guess what? We now have less than 90 days before the start of our fantastic cruise.

The current sleep countdown is around 87 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.

### Our second port-of-call - Cherbourg

Our cruise schedule takes from Le Havre to Cherbourg for the second day of our adventure.

Cherbourg has a long history as a naval station, fortified town and seaport on the shores of the English Channel in the

Normandy region of France. It was settled by the Vikings long ago, since they could see its advantages as a protected port.

More recently, this region of France was fought over by the French and English from about the 11<sup>th</sup> century until Charles VII of France finally recovered it in 1450.

The town was pillaged by the English in a surprise attack in 1758. A vast breakwater, begun under [Louis XVI](#) in 1776, was completed 70 years later and converted the town into a major military and commercial port.

During [World War II](#), most of the port installations were destroyed in the fighting when the town was taken from the Germans by Allied forces after the [Normandy Invasion](#) in June 1944.

A temporary port was rapidly rebuilt and handled a vast quantity of war matériel until hostilities ended. A museum commemorating the invasion is located in the 19th-century Fort du Roule, which overlooks the town.

### What can we do during our day in Cherbourg?

The steep Roule Mountain nearby offers a panoramic view of the town.

There are also a number of museums in the town.

The [Musée de la Libération](#) offers materials and information relating to the

D-Day invasion at Normandy and the resulting liberation of France from the Axis powers.

The *Cité de la Mer* (aquarium) has grown from the old Cherbourg maritime terminal, which has been renovated and changed into an aquarium and museum. A nuclear submarine is also included in the display, and visitors are able to investigate what life is like of one of these vessels (doubtless a little more crowded than your stateroom on the Independence of the seas).

The *Airborn Troups Museum* provides the visitor with a sense of the adventure, excitement (and probably terror) involved with airborne pursuits during wartime.

Amongst the shore excursions and tours that are listed by Royal Caribbean for the Cherbourg visit are:

### ***Mont Saint Michel Exploration***

A 7.5 hour trip from Cherbourg through Normandy's fertile dairy country to the Bay of Mont Saint Michel.

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.

### ***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.

sky and the sea. Next, enjoy some independent time to walk down the hill and through the village.

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.

### ***Balleroy Castle***

To reach Balleroy Castle, your coach will drive through the Normandy countryside passing through the Contentin area before arriving in Bessin.

Balleroy castle was built in the XVII century by the famous architect Francois Mansart for Jean de Choisy. De Choisy's descendants, the Marquis de Balleroy have owned the Chateau for three centuries. It is now owned by the Malcolm Forbes family, the American publisher and aeronaut, who purchased it in 1970.

You will admire during your 45-minute guided tour the interior of the Chateau including the Mansart's revolutionary cantilevered staircase, the dining room with an oak parquet floor "à la Versailles" and the English-style library. During your free time of approximately 45 minutes, you can visit (on your own) the museum of hot-air balloons housed in a converted stable. In his lifetime, Malcolm Forbes collected paintings, miniatures, artefacts and documents related to the history of ballooning from the time of the Montgolfiers to the present.

Hands up all those who don't want to have to carry a suit around the world just to ensure that they don't feel out of place during the "formal nights" during the cruise.

Its interesting to see how many of you now have your hand up. Well, never fear! Your intrepid Cruisemarketer researchers have been asked to let you all know what options are available to ensure that you won't need to feel uncomfortable on those formal nights.

Royal Caribbean offers a tuxedo rental service for any guys who are looking for such an option.

*"Make the most of your formal evenings in our elegant new Tuxedos from Perry Ellis, the leading name in men's fashion! Our Tuxedo rental program offers designer tuxedos at a great value and it's convenient to use. Just provide us your measurements and we'll take care of everything, including delivery to your stateroom. "*

For more information, visit the following site:

<http://tuxedorentals.rccl.com/tuxedo/tuxrental.nsf>

We've been asked about communications options whilst we are on the cruise. The following information should prove useful to anyone who feel unable to avoid working with computer and mobile phone for the time away (like us, unfortunately).

In terms of staying in touch whilst on the cruise, you'll be happy to know that Royal Caribbean is one of the few cruise lines on which all of their ships are equipped with satellite based communications options.

For mobile phones, this means that as long as you have international roaming enabled, you'll be able to pick up and return calls at any time. However, remember that satellite based mobile charges are not insignificant,

and that you'll probably be more cost effective by having the phone switched off most of the time, and simply picking up messages from the message bank as often as needed, since you will pay for both incoming and outgoing calls whilst on the ship.

As an example of possible roaming call charges, the Telstra site shows indicative pricing of the order of \$3.70 per minute for both incoming and outgoing calls, and around 60 cents per message for SMS.

By the look of it, SMS may be a good option where it is able to be used in terms of communication with clients.

Internet is provided at a cost whilst onboard the ship.

There are two options for staying connected while onboard.

Wireless Internet Access (Wi-Fi): There will be six designated "Hot Spots" which vary from ship to ship.

To use the WI-FI access, you'll need:

- A laptop
- Windows operating system
- 802.11b Wireless networking capability

The cost (\$US) for Wi-Fi access through your own laptop is:

Base rate of \$0.55 per minute or choose from one of our prepaid packages:

- \$28.00 for 60 minutes
- \$38.00 for 90 minutes
- \$55.00 for 150 minutes

Royal Caribbean also states on their website that:

# The Wi-Fi service is available throughout the ship for Freedom, Liberty and Independence of the Seas® .

# Wi-Fi is available in your stateroom using your own laptop for Freedom, Liberty and Independence of the Seas®.

If there is a need for coaching calls, we would suggest that it may be worthwhile seeing if Skype will work on board, although the quality would probably be degraded as a result of reduced bandwidth available on the satellite link.

The voltage standard on board is 110V 60Hz, which should be fine for computers, phone chargers, etc.

We found last year on the Rhapsody of the Seas that while the cabins included both the US and European connectors, it was almost impossible to find US style connectors outside the cabins.

My recommendation for power supply matters is to carry a set of adaptors to meet both US and European connector configurations, and to also carry an Australian power board, so that it's possible to connect more than one device at a time up to the ship's power supply.

### 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](mailto:info@cruisemarketer.com)

if you want to find someone to share with.

### “Fare Watch”

The table below summarises the fares listed on the internet as at Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup>.

We've noticed that prices for many of the routes listed have begun to rise (for some quite significantly). We'd recommend that you should be thinking about locking in your fares quite soon (if you haven't already done so).

**Best fare deals discovered as at: 29/08/09**

	Fares from	
<b>Sydney to New York</b>		
Qantas	\$A 1406	via Los Angeles
Delta	\$A 1432	via Los Angeles
United	\$US 1077	Via San Francisco
<b>Sydney to Los Angeles</b>		
Qantas	\$A 1195	direct
Delta	\$A 1812	direct
United	\$US 1181	Via San Francisco
V Australia	\$A 949	direct
<b>Sydney to London</b>		
Qantas	\$A 2269	via Singapore
Thai Airways	\$A 1945	via Bangkok
Etihad	\$A 2718	via Abu Dhabi
Malaysia	\$A 2112	via Kuala Lumpur
<b>Los Angeles to London</b>		
Air New Zealand	\$A 679 O/W	direct
<b>New York to London</b>		
Aer Lingus	\$A 583 O/W	via Dublin
Kuwait Airways	\$A 896 O/W	direct
<b>Miami to Los Angeles</b>		
Northwest	\$A 315 O/W	via Memphis
Delta	\$A 212 O/W	via New York

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](mailto:josh.zuker@flightcentre.com.au) or by phone on (03)-8543-1777 or on mobile: 0407 865 897