



## Ultimate Floating Seminar Cruise 2009 – Newsletter 9

### Hello Again Fellow Cruisers

Guess what? We now have less than 11 weeks before the start of our fantastic cruise.

The current sleep countdown is around 73 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 third port-of-call – Vigo (Spain)

Once we leave the port of Cherbourg, we set sail for Vigo in northern Spain.

The city of Vigo is in a wonderful location running up into the surrounding hills from the wide Vigo estuary (Ria de Vigo).

The city is situated in the middle of the "Ría de Vigo". This southernmost inlet of the Rías Baixas is undoubtedly the most beautiful of the "Rías", and stretches from the Cíes Islands to the island of San Simón, where it broadens after the bridge at Rande. The whole bay is dotted with picturesque little fishing villages, and is overlooked by the Olive City also known as "The Gate to the Atlantic".



This is Spain's most significant fishing port, and therefore the region boasts amazing seafood choices – an ideal opportunity for the epicure to sample the very best of Spanish seafood.

Vigo's maritime facilities have seen it as a target for many foreign invaders over the centuries. Attempts have been made to take over the harbour by navies and pirate vessels from England, the Netherlands, Turkey and France.

However, the resolve of the locals in resisting such attacks has been effective. Amongst the people who's attacks have

been repulsed are Sir Francis Drake and Napoleon.

### **What can we do during our day in Vigo?**

One of the most popular onshore excursions for cruise passengers is to one of Europe's most revered and historic pilgrim sites, Santiago de Compostello, goal of the Pilgrim Way of St James (Camino de Santiago). Beneath the cathedral's high altar are the remains of St. James the Apostle, revered by pilgrims who have walked there from all over Europe, since the Middle Ages. The Knights Templar are reputed to have planted an olive tree at the cathedral, giving the city its symbol.



The winding old streets around the port, in the Casco Vello, are sprinkled with shops and studios, and the seafood restaurants that overlook the ria are outstanding.

Other things to do in Vigo include:

- Exploring the stone streets of the old port
- Taking a ferry from the Maritime Terminal to the Cies Isles at the mouth of the *ria*, with beautiful beaches and 15,000 nesting pairs of shore birds.
- Shopping along Gran Via and Puerta del Sol, or at the famous Spanish department store, El Corte Ingles.
- See the beautiful wide views over the *ria* from the castle on top of Mount Castro.
- Visit the 17th-century Quiñones de

León Palace, housing a museum of local history from the time of the area's Celtic hill forts.

- Admire modern art in the unusual Museum of Contemporary Art (MARCO), built inside an old prison.

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### **Questions and Answers**

#### ***Q: Is our booking confirmed now that we've paid the rest of our money?***

Once your final payment has been processed by either the Grants or the Blackburns, then your reservation on the cruise has been confirmed. You will receive a notification of this confirmation during the next week.

#### ***Q: When will we get our cabin number***

With the confirmation of your reservation on the ship, you will also receive information about the stateroom that has been allocated to you for the cruise.

#### ***Q: How do we register online for the ship?***

Over the next few weeks, we'll be providing advice about the process of registering online for the cruise.

#### ***Q: I think that I may have a "record". What should I do about getting into the US of A?***

In the case of this question, we should stress that the "record" in question was only for a minor 0.5 conviction some 20 years ago, so the rest of you won't need to worry about consorting with underworld connections!

However, our strong advice was that the full facts should be divulged to the US consulate, rather than running the risk of failing to declare them on the ETSA online application. For more information on ETSA, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ledh6g>

There are a number of documented cases of tourists being summarily

deported from the United States on attempting to enter via the Visa Waiver program when the search of court records in the home country has shown up such a minor infringement.

Although until recently obtaining a visa as a result of such a record has involved a face to face meeting at the US consulate office, we understand that in many cases, it is now possible that you can show that you are a "fit and proper person" to visit the US by means of a phone interview with consular officers.

We can only recommend that you make contact as soon as possible with the US consulate if in any doubt.

### 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, contact us, so that we are able to match you with someone else in a similar situation.

### "Fare Watch"

The table below summarises the fares listed on the internet as at Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Best fare deals discovered as at: **Sep 12, 2009**

	Fares from		
<b>Sydney to New York</b>			
Qantas	\$A 1490	via	Los Angeles
Delta	\$A 1209	via	Los Angeles
<b>Sydney to Los Angeles</b>			
Qantas	\$A 1285	direct	
Delta	\$A 1170	direct	
V Australia	\$A 1087	direct	

### Sydney to London

Qantas	\$A 2248	via	Singapore
Finn Air	\$A 1757	via	HK, Helsinki
Emirates	\$A 2117	via	Dubai
Malaysia	\$A 1941	via	Kuala Lumpur

### Los Angeles to London

Air New Zealand	\$A 593	O/W	direct
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### New York to London

Aer Lingus	\$A 590	O/W	via Dublin
Delta	\$A795	return	direct

### Miami to Los Angeles

US Airways	\$A 184	O/W	via Charlotte
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You will see that prices for many of the routes listed have begun to rise quite significantly.

A number of airlines are following the lead of Qantas and reducing capacity on a number of flights in order to improve load factors. As a result, the scramble to sell seats regardless of price has definitely slowed.

We'd recommend that you should lock in your fares quite soon (if you haven't already done so).

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