

## Top 10 Cruise Destinations in the World

### 1. Antarctica



Antarctica is the coldest and driest continent on Earth and has the highest average elevation. The frozen land boasts breathtaking scenery and tremendous and unique wildlife. The best way to visit Antarctica is via ice strengthened cruise ships as there is no tourism infrastructure like hotels and restaurants. Cruise passengers can view the interesting wild life found near the coastline. Adventure seekers visit the remote areas of Antarctica for the Dry Valleys, historical locations, Antarctic seals and the colonies of Emperor Penguins. Voyages have been made to the Weddell and Ross Sea region and, on occasion, islands of the Indian Ocean of East Antarctica. Antarctic cruises are not similar to other well known cruises to warmer climates with discos, and showbiz entertainment, though the larger the ship, the more likely that entertainment is provided. There are well informed and experienced cruise guides working on the ship who give regular lectures about various aspects of Antarctic history and nature.

### 2. Alaska



Alaska cruises have become one of the most popular ways to visit Alaska. Cruises feature glaciers, wildlife, great food, entertainment, interesting ports of call and fascinating tours along the way. Cruise ships bring you wonderfully close to glaciers, whales and rocky coasts. Larger boats offering more amenities, while small ships and yachts go where the big ships cannot, getting you up close to Alaska's nature and wildlife. Many vessels include naturalist guided hikes and sea kayaking right from the ship, perfect for active travelers. Alaska cruise ships have two main itineraries: The Inside Passage Route going roundtrip from either Seattle, Washington or Vancouver, Canada and the Gulf Route running Northbound and Southbound cruises between Seattle/Vancouver and Seward/Whittier. One can enjoy the local entertainment including humpback whales, orcas, porpoises and sea otters,

view awe-inspiring glaciers and breathtaking vistas, explore native villages, hike through wilderness, photograph the Alaskan wildlife or fish.

### 3. French Riviera



The French Riviera is a popular Mediterranean destination where the sun shines almost 300 days each year. With 120 km of coastline, successions of stunning world class resorts, fabulous sand and shingle beaches and never ending sights for all interests makes it an amazing vacation spot. Although the Riviera is famous for the glamour of St. Tropez, Monaco or the Cannes Film Festival, there are many other less well known attractions, such as the perched villages of Eze and Gourdon, the perfumeries of Grasse and the glass blowers of Biot. The Riviera has been the inspiration for many well-known artists such as Picasso and many of their works are on display in local museums and art galleries. Along the French Riviera coastline there are more than thirty harbors for small pleasure boats and luxury yachts, which add to the Riviera flavor. With ports like Nice, Cannes, Villefranche-sur-Mer and Monaco being offered by various cruise lines, sightseers are able to go directly to the heart of shopping and areas of interest. Each port has a little something that the others do not.

### 4. Cayman Islands



The Cayman Islands are an island group in the Caribbean Sea. The outstanding coral reefs and outstandingly clear waters have made this island group a favorite destination of divers. Grand Cayman Island is a very popular cruise ship port of call in the western Caribbean. It has azure blue skies, luscious, green palms and the vivid reds, yellows and oranges of blooming buds. Visitors can expect great food, scenery, watersports, shopping and nightlife. With their Caribbean heritage, British sensibility and American modernism, the Cayman Islands have long been a highlight of

Caribbean cruising itineraries. The three low-lying little islands south of Cuba which are actually the peaks of underwater mountains offer visitors everything from the hi-tech architecture, top restaurants and duty-free shopping of Grand Cayman to the laid-back style, nature sanctuaries and deserted beaches of its unpretentious sister islands, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.

### 5. New Zealand



New Zealand is a country of stunning and diverse natural beauty with soaring mountain peaks, fiords, lakes, rivers, and active volcanic features. The islands are inhabited many species of unique fauna, including the elusive kiwi, which has become the national symbol. New Zealand offers jet boating through shallow gorges and bungee jumping off anything high enough to give a thrill. New Zealand is the home of the Maori, majestic mountains and some of the world's most breathtaking coastal scenery, making it the ideal place to be explored by means of a cruise. Cruises help one discover these unique and beautiful landscapes, from the lively capital of Auckland to the Waitakere Ranges, Rotorua and the Thermal Valleys. Surrounded by rainforests and hills, Auckland is located within easy access of the coast making it the perfect place to visit on a shore excursion via cruise ship. New Zealand's spectacular landscapes, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to unwind.

### 6. Norway



Norway is well known for its amazing and varied scenery. The Norwegian coastline includes thousands of enticing islands with breathtaking waterfalls and fjords, enabling cruise ships to sail in beautiful sheltered waters. Norway's long coastline provides immense possibilities for creative, interesting itineraries. Today, cruise ships call on more than 30 different Norwegian ports annually. The most

popular cruise areas are the fjords, the North Cape, Spitsbergen on Svalbard and coastal stops such as Lofoten. Taking a cruise is a good way to see Norway. From its many ports along the coast it is easy to launch into a wide range of exhilarating outdoor sports activities such as mountain walks, camping, fishing, golf, polar expeditions and much more. Norwegian cruises offer a vast selection of shore excursions where visitors can disembark to experience the rich coastal culture and heritage, from architecture, museums, and literature to festivals and concerts.

### 7. Mexico



Mexico has nice and warm people, unique food, art and archeology, pyramids, museums, Haciendas, 6,000 miles of shoreline, superb architecture, lots of golf courses, excellent fishing, world top destinations like Acapulco, Cancun, Cozumel, Los Cabos, and Patzcuaro and varied weather from snow mountains in the Sierras, to rainy jungles in the Southeast and desert in the Northwest. Sail from Los Angeles, Long Beach or San Diego and visit spectacular seaside cities and experience the vibrant culture Mexico has to offer. You can dance all night long in Acapulco, discover the colonial beauty of Puerto Vallarta, dive into the exotic underwater world of Cabo San Lucas and relax on the beaches and boulevards of Zihuatanejo and Ixtapa. Mexico is unique for its scenic beauty, wildlife, Spanish colonial history and local artisans. Explorations of historic sites, shopping excursions, jungle tours and beach and water activities allow a great Mexico cruise vacation.

### 8. Hawaii, USA



The natural beauty of the islands continues to be one of Hawaii's greatest assets. Hawaii cruises call at Honolulu, Maui and Kauai to name a few islands. With its raging waves and gorgeous beaches Hawaii is a haven for sun worshippers and surfers alike. With some of the most exotic landscapes on earth, Hawaii captures your imagination with fiery volcanoes, lush rainforests, palm-fringed beaches,

tropical sunsets and Polynesian luaus. Hawaiian cruises are the ultimate "island-hopping" adventures; affordably taking you from one tropical Hawaiian Island to another while experiencing the best Hawaii has to offer. The six major islands (Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Hawaii's Big Island) each presents a unique vacation experience. To people nationwide, it is the dream vacation, the favorite honeymoon spot, and the destination often referred to as "America's Paradise." Hawaii is exotically beautiful, culturally unique and highly regarded by visitors with equal parts fondness and reverence.

### 9. Panama



Panama is one of the most exotic travel destinations in the world offering a number of cruises either to attractive port locations, cruises in the open sea, or cruises to the magnificent Panama Canal, which is a major shipping canal joining the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. The Panama Canal is a fifty-one-mile waterway through the rainforest and one of the world's engineering masterpieces. While cruising, you can see the famous Gatun Lake and the incredible Gaillard Cut, which was blasted out of a solid mountainside and also visit warm, exotic shores in Costa Rica, Mexico, Colombia, and more. A Panama cruise takes crosses full length of this outstanding canal, showcasing some breathtaking views of the canal, as well as offering an alluring choice of tour options along the canal. You can also visit the Panama Canal railroad, which too emphasizes on the inner banks of the Canal and the vivacious rainforest of Central America.

### 10. Nile



The Nile has long been the lifeblood of Egypt and there's simply no better way to experience the wealth of Egyptian history, culture and architecture than on a Nile River cruise. The shorter tours usually operate between Luxor and Aswan, while the longer cruises travel further north to Dendera.

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The usual cruise is aboard a Nile cruiser, often referred to as a floating hotel, including small swimming pools, hot tubs, exercise rooms, nightclubs, good restaurants, stores, small libraries and often dance areas and variety of night shows. Many Nile River cruises include visits to the legendary pyramids and Sphinx in Giza, the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in Cairo and Djoser's Step Pyramid in Sakkara. A much more adventurous style of Nile cruise can be aboard a felucca, Egypt's traditional Nile sailboat. Most felucca trips are short trips of several hours, but multi-day felucca cruises can be arranged between Aswan and Luxor. The best time to take a Nile cruise is over the cooler months of November - March.