



Ultimate Floating Seminar Cruise 2009 – Newsletter 1

Welcome Fellow Cruisers

Just a short note to say that there are only about 147 sleeps until we set sail on the Ultimate Floating Seminar Cruise, and there is just so much information that we want to share with you over the weeks ahead.

We will be embarking from Southampton Cruise Terminal in the UK on November 23rd, and our fantastic cruise will finish at Fort Lauderdale in Florida, US on the morning of December 6th.

Our Cruise Line

We'll be travelling with Royal Caribbean International. Royal Caribbean is one of the world's most experienced cruise lines, one that specialises in offering that little bit more to its guests, and provides you with a cruise experience that you'll remember long after you disembark from the cruise.

Royal Caribbean is 40 years old this year, and boasts well over 20 ships in its fleet, including the largest cruise ships afloat.

Our Ship

We will be travelling on the Independence Of The Seas, an amazing ship that took its maiden voyage in May 2008. This ship is one of the largest cruise ships currently operating, with a displacement of over 150,000 tonnes.

The ship has 15 passenger decks, and has 1,360 crew to look after its 3,500

passengers.

While on the ship, we'll all find lots to do aboard, because the Independence Of The Seas includes the following special facilities:

- Day Spa and Fitness Center
 - Royal Promenade Boutiques
 - Art & Photo Gallery
 - Three Pools
 - Six Whirlpools
 - Pool Bar
 - Adventure Ocean Water Entertainment Centre
 - Florist
 - Medical Center
 - FlowRider® surf simulator
 - Rock-climbing Wall
 - Sports Court
 - Nine-hole Miniature Golf Course
 - Jogging Path
 - Karaoke Room
 - Video Game Room
 - Ice Skating Rink
 - Alhambra Theatre
 - about 10 lounges and bars
- and of course, never forgetting the
- Skylight Wedding Chapel
- for any of us for whom the sheer romance of the cruise is just too much to bear.

Travel Options

Most of us will be travelling from Australia to join the cruise.

For anyone travelling by air, there are four main options available:

- a return flight from Australia to the UK or Europe, with a 1-way flight from the US to the UK after the cruise
- a return flight from Australia to the US, with a 1-way flight from the US to the UK before the cruise
- a one way flight from Australia to the UK and a one-way flight from the US home to Australia
- a round-the world fare

Obviously, you'll need to work out which of these options will best meet your own individual needs.

The sorts of things that will impact your decisions are whether you plan to add a visit to Europe or to the US during your time away, travel dates and overall travel preferences.

For anybody thinking of using the "round-the-world" ticketing option, we strongly advise that you work out itineraries in conjunction with your travel agency.

There are so many options available that it is very unlikely that you will be able to select the most cost and time effective travel plan without professional advice.

For anyone wishing to seek the advice of a travel professional to assist them with this aspect of the planning of the cruise, we recommend that you speak with Josh Zuker.

Josh has been informed of the travel needs of our group, and will be very happy to help you assemble a travel itinerary that will meet your cost and flexibility needs.

Some of you may feel that whilst you would like to deal with an agency or book online, you nevertheless feel that you'd like to discuss any particular travel options with Barbara first. Remember that she has probably had more travel experience as a senior consultant than many of us have

had hot dinners, and can probably help to advise any of us.

Contact Barbara by email at:

info@cruisemarketer.com

We'll also keep you informed about special airfare deals that are announced from time to time.

Bookings

As we believe that most of you are already aware, the selection of the range of staterooms for our group is summarised on Andrew and Daryl's website at:

<http://andrewanddaryl.com/cruise09/order.html>

or at Paul and Mary's website at:

<http://cruisinwithpaulandmary.com/order.html>

The ticket deposit is covered for anyone who has purchased a special pack which includes a cruise ticket(s) once they have confirmed with us that they are travelling. This ticket is not transferable to anyone else

For everyone else (including children), we require that the initial deposit of \$750 per person travelling on the cruise is processed.

This enables us to transfer your name and stateroom preference to the cruise line.

If you have any doubts about your own situation, please contact us at:

info@cruisemarketer.com

For anyone who hasn't already paid their deposits, we can strongly recommend that you don't delay, because many of the staterooms in our allocation are already committed, and those who delay may well find their stateroom choices limited.

The final payments for the cruise will be payable on the 20th of September, and will be processed using the credit card that you have nominated for the payment of the deposit, unless you notify either Andrew and Daryl's or Paul and Mary's office of a change in payment arrangements before the due date.

Dietary Requirements

If you have specific dietary requirements, can you please notify us of these, so that we are able to pass them on to Royal Caribbean, who will endeavour to meet them for you.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

For anyone wishing to share special occasions with others during the cruise, please let us know of any anniversaries or birthdays that may take place whilst we are at sea.

Passports and Visas

Some of you have not yet provided us with a copy of your passport details. These are necessary, and we will be in touch with you individually to make sure that we don't have any issues on the day of departure.

One of the issues that you need to be aware of is that your passport will need to have at least 6 months currency as of the date of departure. IF your passport is due to expire prior to June 2010, then it may be necessary for you to renew it.

For those travelling on passports other than Australian and New Zealand, it is necessary to provide copies of re-entry visas in Australia. For some of you, there may be a need for visas to visit some of our destinations. Please email us for further information.

Fitness

There are those amongst us who are very concerned about maintaining fitness levels whilst on the cruise.

The Fitness Center on the ship has all the equipment that major sports clubs do: weight machines, free weights, stationary spin bikes, stair steppers, treadmills, sauna, whirlpool, steam room, and thermal suites. Plus a sweeping ocean view that extends for miles!

A large range of fitness classes is

provided for all levels. These Include:

- Aerobics in Motion
- Shape Up/Step Up
- Pathway to Yoga
- Shape Up/Pump Up
- Wheels in Motion
- Shape Up/Firm Up
- Aquamotion
- Combat in Motion
- Circuits in Motion
- Wake Up/Shape Up
- Balance in Motion

Computing Resources

Internet access is available on the ship.

For those of us with our own laptop computer with wi-fi capability, there are a number of areas on the ship which are designated WiFi "Hot Spots" To use these, you'll need:

- a laptop
- Windows operating system
- 802.11b networking capability

There are also internet café workstations on board for those who don't want to take their own computer.

Access charges are \$US 0.55 per minute, or there are a number of prepaid access packages with costs that range from \$US 28.00 (60 minutes) to \$US 55.00 (150 minutes).

Mobile Phones

As long as your mobile phone has international roaming configured before you leave, you'll be able to remain in contact with the outside world while on the cruise.

Could we however suggest that you make use of SMS services as much as possible to avoid excessive international call charges. Remember that while overseas, you are charged for both incoming and outgoing calls to your mobile!

How To Spend Your Time At Sea

When you're not enjoying the magnificent ocean views, you could be indulging and relaxing in the soothing Day Spa, swimming in one of the many pools, taking a much-needed Jacuzzi or catching up with friends and colleagues over your favorite drink in one of the many lounges onboard.

From sunrise to sunset and around every corner, there's something exciting for you to do on the Independence Of The Seas.

Try the rock-climbing wall, shooting some hoops on the expansive Sports Deck, a workout or a relaxing massage.

What about some surfing, a round or two of golf or maybe a little ice skating?

How about the opportunity to attend an art auction, partake in a little serious shopping, taste some wine or dance the night away?

These are just a few of the many exciting things available for you on our cruise.

For those of us traveling with kids, Royal Caribbean Line's Adventure Ocean Youth Program is designed with a range of supervised activities covering a range of ages from tots to teens.

Dining

The elegant main dining rooms are a great way to finish off a fabulous day with a five-course meal.

Breakfast in the dining rooms is served from 7:30am to 9:30am, with lunch from 12pm to 2pm.

The Independence Of The Seas also offers many other dining options for its guests, ranging from the informal service in the Windjammer Buffet, to Johnny Rockets® '50s-style restaurant, and Italian restaurant and a grillhouse.

For those of us who get so excited and carried away with other activities, and miss scheduled meals, the ship also provides complimentary room service 24 hours per day.

Remember that we're here to help

When you have any question, please send us an email to info@cruisemarketer.com so that we can help you out.

Future newsletters will also include answers to the questions we receive, so that everybody in our group is kept up to date with the issues that arise.

In future newsletter editions, we'll also be providing advice on what to pack, clothing options for the northern hemisphere in late November and early December, what you can do when you get off the ship in Fort Lauderdale, and many other topics.



Barbara Walsh and John Kumm

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Flight Centre Waverley Gardens can help with your travel requirements for the "Ultimate Floating Success Seminar Cruise 2009".

Do you want to take the hassles out of organising your air travel arrangements for the cruise on the Independence Of The Seas?

Then we can recommend that you contact our preferred travel agent, who has all of the details of cruise timings, and who will work with you to find cost effective travel options to meet your individual needs.

Contact Josh Zuker (our preferred travel agent) at Waverley Gardens Flight Centre:

Shop 31, Waverley Gardens Shopping Centre
Crn Jacksons & Police Roads | Mulgrave, VIC 3170
Ph: (03) 8543 1777 | Fax: (03) 9547 3922
Email: josh.zuker@flightcentre.com.au

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