



NEW TO
YACHT & SAIL
CRUISE GUIDE



Sailaway in style

cruising.org



An Introduction to the world of yachts and sail ships



One minute you're chatting with friends at the bar, the next they have all disappeared. It's sailaway time on a tall ship and no one wants to miss the moment the captain gives the orders and the sailors start to hoist the canvas, sail after sail catching the wind and speeding the ship on her way.

Welcome to the world of sail ship cruising – a holiday at sea that is about as different from traditional cruising as it's possible to get. It's not just that these vessels have masts and canvas and really do sail (but now and then, if the wind is not playing ball, captains do have to switch on the engines as they have schedules to keep) but that life on board is akin to a house party at sea.

These vessels are small (most tall ships hold many fewer than 200 passengers), and offer the ultimate connection with the sea. Even on the top deck you're never far from the sea, during sailing time, there might be lectures about the history of tall ships and the places being visited or a chance to learn the art of navigation from the captain. The bridge is always open for budding sea-farers to find out more.

Sounds too much like hard work? Feel free to enjoy some me-time being pampered in the spa, take a dip if there is a pool or find a comfy spot on deck to relax to the sound of the waves, catch some rays and take in the healthy sea air.

Casual is the name of the game on these vessels. A port day might mean sun, sea and watersports on a deserted beach or from a marina that opens out at the back of the ship or it could be a chance to explore an unknown harbour away from the crowds. As night falls it's time for drinks and dinner - under the stars if the weather allows - with new friends.

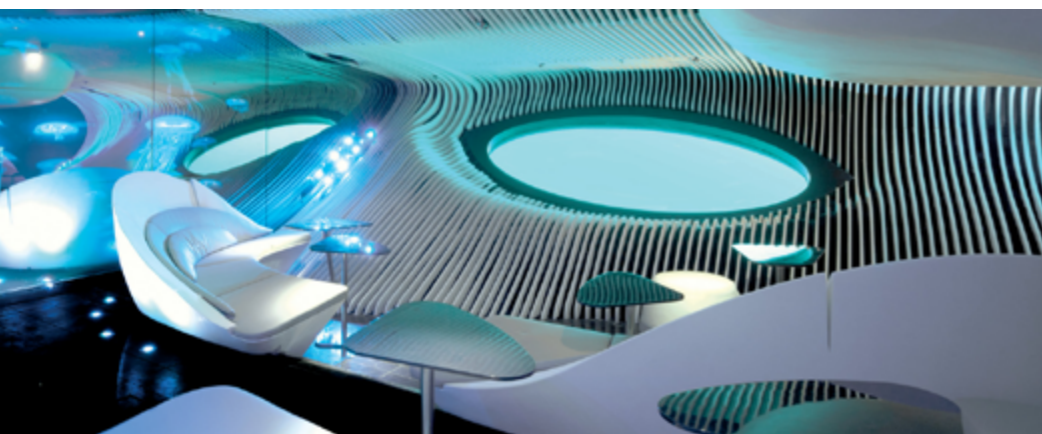
The dress codes is whatever guests feel comfortable in and everyone is free to mix and mingle as they wish. The meal over, the entertainment kicks in. A quiz maybe, a talent show or troupe of local dancers if there's a late night in port. If clients want a big production show, this is not the cruise for them.

Yachts boast many of the same head-turning credentials as their tall ship cousins, but with sleek lines in place of masts, and of course they are powered at all times by engines.

They also mostly hold fewer than 200 passengers and go for the laid-back lifestyle, and likewise have itineraries packed with lesser-known destinations but now and then throw must-see ports in the Med, Caribbean and Baltic such as Monte Carlo, Antigua or St Petersburg into the mix.

Whether they choose a yacht or sail ship, customers will be amazed at the accommodation on these vessels. They might be small, but cabins and suites range from beautifully appointed to downright swanky. All come with a view of the ocean, often with a fixed window rather than a balcony. If a veranda is a must, suggest one of the newer vessels.

Choice and freedom; it's what yachts and tall ship cruises are all about.





Selling Tips

(and how to dispel those pesky preconceptions!)

Active, young at heart, adventurous. If customers can tick any or all of those boxes, they are prime candidates for a cruise on a tall ship.

As for holidaying on a yacht, all they need is a desire for something small and friendly, and to discover the world beyond the tourist hotspots.

In short, there is a huge cohort of potential customers out there who would love these cruises if only they knew about them.

They might be past cruisers who have cut their teeth on big ships and want to try something different, or first-timers attracted by a small ship and itineraries that veer off the beaten track. A luxury yacht is very much in the running for sybarites used to five-star service and food to match. On the tall ships, romance is definitely in the air for couples and honeymooners.

Whether they are seasoned cruisers or new to life at sea, they will have questions about life on board - and probably plenty of preconceptions – so here are some of the most likely things agents need to know to secure that sale.

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO?

In between learning about navigation and how to tie sailors' knots, helping hoist the sails where that is still done manually, attending talks on history and wildlife with guest speakers or an on-board expedition team, exploring ashore, going snorkelling, swimming or kayaking from a beach or the rear marina, there might be some downtime, when there's nothing to do but relax in the sun or read a book. But isn't that what holidays are all about?

YOU NEED GOOD SEA LEGS?

You feel the motion of the ocean more on sail ships but that is the joy of these vessels. Importantly, the accurate meteorological forecasts available these days coupled with the tall ships' small size means captains can steer around bad weather or take shelter in a nearby port if necessary. Yachts have stabilisers that help keep vessels steady.

I LIKE ULTRA LUXURY?

Everyone has a different idea of what luxury is but chances are you'll find a tall ship or yacht to suit every request, be it a small ship, a suite with a balcony, personal service, a choice of restaurants or an opulent spa in which to recharge the batteries.

YOU NEED GOOD MOBILITY?

That depends on the ship and destination. Some tall ships don't have lifts so customers need to be able to negotiate stairs. Those with poor mobility could also have problems with itineraries that spend most days at anchor rather than alongside in ports as they will need to get in and out of tenders or zodiacs to go ashore.

IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE?

One man's costly is another man's affordable. Agents are ideally placed to know their past clients' budgets and suggest suitable options or discuss price options with new customers. Fares vary from including everything to covering fewer items so guests can personalise their spend.

YOU HAVE TO DRESS UP?

No you don't! Shorts, tee-shirts, skirts and bathing gear are fine by day; come evening smart casual is perfectly acceptable. Some might choose to dress up a bit if there is a Captain's dinner but there's no pressure. By the same token, it's all open dining so you can sit where and with whom you choose.





DECK ACTIVITIES

Get ready to channel your inner Captain Jack as the crew of your tall ship cast off, manoeuvre out of port and start to hoist the canvas. The task is automatic on some tall ships; on others the sails are set by the crew and guests are welcome to lend a hand hauling the ropes.

Life on board these vessels is very different from traditional cruise ships. Laid back, casual, geared to the great outdoors. Entertainment might be anything from learning about navigation and the niceties of rigging from the captain to how to tie a knot or read a chart from one of the sailors. Look out for early morning yoga outdoors; special guests might talk about nautical history or wildlife in a quiet corner under the canvas. Prefer to catch some rays? No problem.

Feel free to take time out and snooze to the soporific sound of the sea. Both sail ships and yachts have pools and hot tubs where guests can take a dip after a busy morning relaxing in the sun.

Come evening, expect anything from quiz games and talent contests to local troupes of dancers and disco night. The larger yachts will likely have a lounge but if there's no room for the fun and games inside, no problem. It'll all take place under the stars.

DINING

Inside or out? Just the two of you or a table with new friends? When it comes to dining on yachts and sail ships, the choice is yours.

Dining on a cruise ship is always a treat, and these vessels are no exception despite their small galleys. Most have at least two places to eat, between them offering a mix of waiter service and buffet-style dining. Some of the larger yachts and tall ships have a variety of restaurants where passengers can indulge in everything from Asian favourites to French fine dining. Don't forget to try out all the bars and lounges, both outside and in, to find a favourite for pre-dinner drinks.

Breakfast and lunch is usually a casual affair out on deck on warm, sunny days, and now and then there might be a BBQ under the stars come nightfall. Dinners in the main dining rooms or speciality restaurants are a classier act, with freshly-prepared dishes that make as much use of locally-sourced ingredients as possible. Lobster, filet mignon, locally-caught fish, desserts to die for. They'll all likely figure on the menus. Once the meal is ordered, it's time to choose a favourite wine to complement the selection, or go with the sommelier's expert suggestion. Often it is included in the price. As you'd expect from any leading restaurant, most dietary requirements can be catered for; just be sure to let the ship know in advance.

SPA AND WELLNESS

Yachts and sail ships might be small, but they can always find room for a spa. Thank goodness. Because a spot of pampering at sea has long been a must-have for cruisers looking to recharge their batteries, and it is even more important now health and wellness is high on everyone's radar.

On the very smallest ships, the spa might be one room next to a beauty salon, and compact but well-equipped gym. It might even be a private spot out on the sun deck. On the bigger, modern yachts it's all much more lavish, with full-size spas decked out with walls of crystal that house saunas, thermal loungers, fitness studios, plunge pools, gyms and several treatment rooms.

Whichever ship they choose, guests are in for a treat as expert therapists work their magic. Hot stones and Swedish massages are always popular, but there's plenty more exotic sounding treatments for spa lovers to look forward to. Thai massages that revive tired muscles, being wrapped in glacier mud from Alaska, a Japanese-inspired exfoliation treatment, deep-cleaning facials, being scrubbed with a mix of corn cobs and ground red rice powder or rubbed down by Quartz crystals to help rebalance your Chi. Pure heaven!

Gyms are equipped with treadmills, cycles, weights and more as space allows; those who need a bit of coaxing can sign up for keep-fit classes, yoga and Pilates. But if that all sounds a bit too energetic, pop into the salon for a spot more pampering courtesy of hairdressers and nail technicians.

WATERSPORTS AND MARINA

It's the moment those who have cruised previously on yachts and sail ships have been waiting for. The announcement that the watersports marina is open for business.

The thought of the back of a ship opening up sounds a bit 007, but it's a brilliant feature as the marina houses all sorts of fun water toys that guests can borrow at no charge. Sailing, kayaking, maybe speeding around on jetskis – they are all likely to be possible from the back of the ship. Some marinas have wakeboards, waterskis and even scuba dive gear, although the latter is only for those who are either fully certified or taking lessons with an on-board dive instructor. Where snorkels are available, they are usually distributed on the first day of the cruise for passengers to keep for the duration of the trip.

There are a few marina rules to make customers aware of so there are no disappointments. Platforms can't be lowered when ships are docked, only when they are at anchor and their use will vary depending on the itinerary (they are used mostly in the Caribbean) and the weather. Additionally, some authorities ban the use of motorised equipment (for instance the jetskis). Swimming off the marina is usually forbidden but some sail ships have platforms from which passengers can take a dip in the ocean.

Developing the marina concept, the latest yacht must-have are submarines and helicopters for adventurous guests who fancy exploring above and below the waves. These will cost extra.



Top 10 reasons to take a yacht or sail cruise

1 SAIL AWAY. All cruising entails sailing, but tall ships are the real McCoy, just with the hard work of hoisting canvas done for you. The magic starts as the ship leaves port, with haunting music playing and the sails starting to catch the breeze as they inch slowly up the masts.

2 TURNING HEADS. Forget those small boats that race across the Atlantic. When it comes to cruising, yachts look more like the head-turning floating gin palaces that frequent the harbours of Monaco and St Tropez. Hop on a yacht cruise and for a couple of weeks, you'll be the one turning heads.

3 INTIMATE & INFORMAL. These vessels are the ultimate in small and friendly, often with no more than a couple of hundred passengers, and often many fewer. There are no fixed dining arrangements or dress codes. Just come as you are, join the house party and be prepared to make plenty of new friends.

4 ROMANCE. White sails billowing in the wind, the gentle swish as the ship's hull cuts through the waves, dining under the stars. Things don't come much more romantic than snuggling up with your loved one on a sailing ship. No wonder they are favourites for couples tying the knot and honeymoon.

5 RELAXATION. There might be a navigational talk or spa treatment calling, but generally sailing time on the yachts and tall ships is yours to catch up on your reading, chat to new friends, watch the horizon or snooze in the sun. Life doesn't get much more relaxing than this.

6 WELLNESS. And talking of spas, most of these ships have wellness centres where passengers can enjoy massages, facials and more that pamper and spoil. The gyms tend to be small but at least you can work off those extra desserts you know you shouldn't have had.

7 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK. Yachts and sailing ships are small enough to sneak in to quiet harbours away from the crowds or drop anchor in bays and tender passengers ashore in inflatable zodiacs. In the Caribbean, they often anchor off deserted beaches and take everyone ashore for a BBQ on the sand.

8 WILDLIFE SPOTS. The outdoors lifestyle means wildlife lovers will find no better vantage point for connecting with the oceans than a sail ship or yacht. The railing is the perfect place for scouring the oceans and skies for seabirds, leaping dolphins, even whales.

9 WATERSPORTS. Fancy having a go on jet skis or trying your hand in a sailing dingy? You can on the yachts and sail ships - and without even going ashore. Most of these vessels have rear marinas that open up to reveal a host of water toys that passengers can borrow at no charge. On some yachts you can even dive, dive, dive in a sub!

10 AL-FRESCO DINING. Most yachts and sail ships offer al-fresco dining because, as everyone knows, nothing spices up a meal more than breakfast and lunch outdoors when the sun is shining, or dinner under the stars on a balmy evening. Choose the newer yachts and there's even more dining choice.



It's all about destination

One of the joys of discovering the world on a yacht or sail ship is that they can venture off the big ship routes, taking passengers into lesser-known ports or mooring in calm bays away from the crowds.

Who would say no to bypassing the hectic streets of Naples for a mooring in scenic Sorrento from which to venture to Pompeii, or skipping the busy cruise port in the St Lucian capital of Castries for a quiet anchorage off Pigeon Island, where active sorts can go snorkelling off the beach or hike up to the British-built Fort Rodney.

Come summer, yachts and sail ships spend their days seeking out attractive spots in the Med. They might be calling into the Croatian towns such as Hvar and Korčula that rival Dubrovnik in the beauty stakes, or going off-piste on a voyage through the Mediterranean (gin tasting in Mahon anyone?).



How about navigating Spain's Guadalquivir River from Cadiz right into the heart of Seville. As the city looms up ahead, get ready for a fabulous day or two exploring its narrow cobbled streets, authentic restaurants and the third largest cathedral in the world.



There are so many wonderful places in the Mediterranean that agents can use to tempt clients. The Sicilian city of Syracuse, a once great trading port where Greek, Roman and Norman civilisations have all left their mark; the little island of Amorgos in Greece, where passengers are tendered ashore to visit a monastery built inside a mountain: medieval Bonifacio in Corsica, perched on steep cliffs and dominated by a great citadel.

Vessels below 25,000 tons – which means most yachts and sail ships – can also navigate the Giudecca Canal into Venice. It's one of the most beautiful arrivals or sailaways in the world and now exclusive to these small ships.

And let's not forget the Corinth Canal in Greece, a four-mile-long waterway so narrow that even small ships have to breathe in. It was first mooted by Julius Caesar but was almost another 2,000 years until it was finally dug.



As Europe descends into winter, these vessels head off in search of the sun. Tahiti, beaches in Indonesia, swanky resorts along the east coast of Australia; all beckon those who fancy exploring far from home. You'll find yachts moored in small coves along the coast of Costa Rica, from where they can take guests in search of wildlife, tall ships anchored off the tiny Caribbean islands of Nevis, Canouan or Bequia so guests can have a day at the beach. Thought Japan was all neon lights and bullet trains? Hop on a yacht cruise to discover there's more to the Land of the Rising Sun than sushi.

Small ships don't avoid the big-hitters completely though. Barcelona, Piraeus and Civitavecchia in the Med, and Barbados in the Caribbean, invariably figure at the start and end of cruise itineraries as they have the airlift needed to get passengers to and from the ships. It's a great opportunity to book clients time in, say Rome or Athens, either side of the cruise and a win-win for everyone!



Yacht & Sailing Ship profiles

SCENIC°
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS



Scenic Eclipse
Scenic Eclipse II
Scenic
Tonnage: 17,085
Length: 168 metres
Guest/crew capacity: 228/176
(200/192 in Polar regions)

Did you know? Scenic Eclipse is rated Polar Class 6, so she is equally at home exploring Antarctica as turning heads in the Med.

EMERALD
CRUISES



Emerald Azzurra
Emerald Cruises
Tonnage: 5,175
Length: 110 metres
Passenger decks: 6
Guest/crew capacity: 100/50

Did you know? EmeraldPLUS excursions are complimentary and include everything from private concerts to mussel tasting.



Emerald Sakara
Emerald Cruises
Tonnage: 5,175
Length: 110 metres
Passenger decks: 6
Guest/crew capacity: 100/50

Did you know? Emerald Sakara will be making the Seychelles her home when she launches in early 2023.

WINDSTAR
CRUISES
180' FROM ORDINARY



Wind Surf
Windstar Cruises
Number of masts/sails: 5/7
Maximum sail area: 2,500 square metres
Height of masts: 67.36 metres
Tonnage: 14,745
Length: 163 metres at waterline, 188 metres including bowsprit
Passenger decks: 6
Guest/crew capacity: 342/210

Did you know: A Officer's Suite added during a 2019 refit allows passengers to stay in the officers' quarters right behind the bridge.



Wind Star & Wind Spirit
Windstar Cruises
Number of masts/sails: 4/6
Maximum sail area: 2,000 square metres
Height of masts: 62.5 metres
Tonnage: 5,307
Length: 110 metres at waterline; 134 metres including bowsprit
Passenger decks: 4
Guest/crew capacity: 148/101

Did you know: Wind Star was the ship that got it all started for Windstar Cruises back in 1986. Sister ship Wind Spirit followed two years later, in 1988.

SEADREAM
YACHT CLUB



SeaDream I and II
SeaDream Yacht Club
Tonnage: 4,333
Length: 105 metres
Passenger decks: 5
Guest/crew capacity: 112/95

Did you know? Each yacht has eight Balinese beds on the sundeck where guests can sleep out under the stars.

PONANT
EXPLORE TO INSPIRE



Le Lapérouse, Le Bougainville, Le Champlain, Le Jacques Cartier, Le Dumont-d'Urville, Le Bellot
Ponant
Tonnage: 9,900
Length: 131 metres
Passenger decks: 5
Guest/crew capacity: 184/118

Did you know? All six ships are named in honour of French explorers and have a lounge – with windows - beneath the water line.



Le Ponant
Ponant
Number of masts/sails: 3/6
Maximum sail area: 2,212 square metres
Height of masts: 45 meters
Tonnage: 1,490
Length: 88 metres
Passenger decks: 4
Guest/crew capacity: 32/33

Did you know: Le Ponant held many more passengers but she will emerge from dry dock in May 2022 with a fabulous new look and just 16 luxury cabins.

SEA CLOUD
CRUISES



Sea Cloud
Sea Cloud Cruises
Number of masts/sails: 4/29
Maximum sail area: 3,000 square metres
Height of masts: 56 metres
Tonnage: 3,077
Length: 109.5 metres
Passenger decks: 3
Guest/crew capacity: 64/60

Did you know: Sea Cloud launched in 1931 as Hussar, sailed as a US coast guard ship in the Second World War and was acquired by Sea Cloud in 1978.



Sea Cloud II
Sea Cloud Cruises
Number of masts/sails: 3/23
Maximum sail area: 2,700 square metres
Height of masts: 57.4 metres
Tonnage: 3,849
Length: 117 metres
Passenger decks: 4
Guest/crew capacity: 94/64

Did you know: Sea Cloud II launched in 1991. She was built in Spain, but her rigging was produced in Germany and the sails were made in Poland.



Sea Cloud Spirit
Sea Cloud Cruises
Number of masts/sails: 3/28
Maximum sail area: 4,100 square metres
Height of masts: 57.9 metres
Tonnage: 4,228
Length: 138 metres
Passenger decks: 4
Guest/crew capacity: 136/85

Did you know: SeaCloud Spirit was christened in September with champagne that was carried 120km on foot to Santiago de Compostela to be blessed.

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