

CLIA DESTINATION FACTSHEET

TRANSATLANTIC & ATLANTIC ISLES



Manhattan, New York

BEST TIME TO GO/WEATHER

Traditional transatlantic crossings between Southampton and New York run for most of the year, generally from spring until around Christmas time and, not surprisingly, the warm, sunny summer months are generally the most settled period. However, the Atlantic can be unpredictable and even in winter months when conditions can be rougher, there may be occasions of good weather when it resembles a millpond.

Repositioning voyages tend to operate in spring and autumn and these seasons can be a beautiful time to cross the ocean and avoid the worst of the Atlantic hurricane season which runs from June to November. During this period, storms mainly affect the Caribbean and it is unusual for them to cause disruption in the Atlantic's more northerly points.



São Miguel Island -
Azores - Portugal



Tenerife, Canary Islands
- Spain

10 REASONS TO CRUISE HERE

Relive sea travel's golden age – the ultimate transatlantic crossing between Southampton and New York is one of the world's great journeys across more than 3,000 miles of ocean, conjuring up an era before jet travel when ocean liners ruled the waves.

History, heritage and romance – follow famous explorers who discovered the New World and millions of emigres who chased dreams of a new life, plus legendary tales of Titanic, wartime valour and Hollywood A-listers who added stardust to this journey.

East Coast glamour – New York leads the line-up of North American cities on transatlantic crossings, with maritime hubs Boston and Halifax and, further south, Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

Go with the ocean flow – live life in the slow lane to kick back and relish lazy days amid the vast expanse of ocean, where there is time to do whatever you like.

Brush-up your skills – with so many sea days, passengers can opt for a multitude of activities, from lectures and quizzes to hobby classes and dance workshops. They can even learn a language, join a choir or perfect their culinary skills in cookery classes.

New York thrills – that first sighting of Manhattan's skyline on the horizon after a week at sea is an unforgettable highlight, while sailing out of the city and past the Statue of Liberty enroute to England is another.

Cruising to the Tropics – transatlantic voyages aren't only confined to the UK and North America; some sail southwards into the tropical embrace of the Caribbean and South America and depart from other European ports such as Barcelona or Civitavecchia.

Choose your ocean style – opt for tradition on a classic ocean liner, the wind-in-your-hair feel of a tall-masted schooner, the exclusivity of a small luxury vessel or the all-singing, all-dancing vibe of resort-style cruise ships.

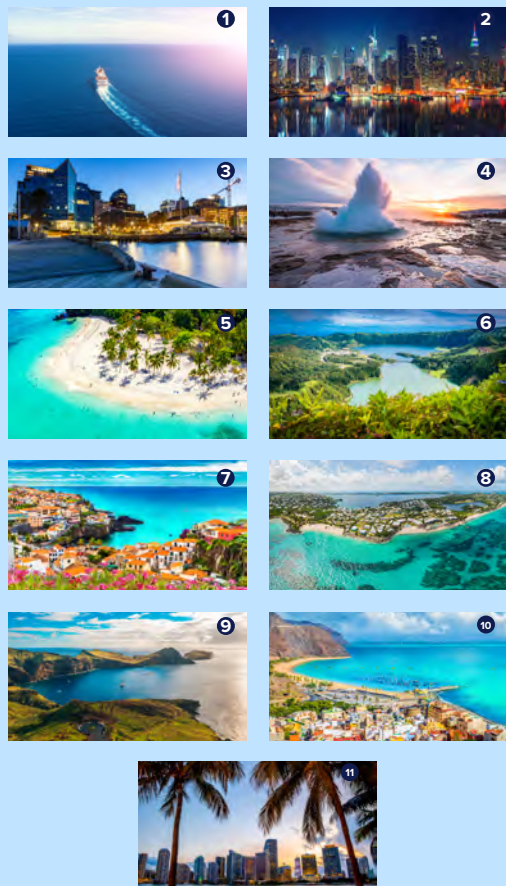
Island discoveries – transatlantic cruises (as opposed to direct crossings) break up the journey with stops at the Portuguese isles of Madeira and the Azores, the Canaries, Cape Verde Islands and Bermuda.

Repositioning bargains – look out for cut-price deals as cruise lines move their ships between the Mediterranean and the Caribbean each spring and autumn with one-off one-way sailings that can be significantly cheaper than regular voyages.

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10 KEY ATTRACTIONS



1. Days at sea – experienced cruisers, in particular, revel in days without port stops when a full programme of on-board activities gets underway. Some sailings are themed with a string of related events for passengers.

2. New York – this metropolis may be the ultimate prize, but you need to be up early to celebrate the dawn arrival, while anyone sailing from New York to Southampton can shop 'til they drop without worrying about luggage limits.

3. Halifax – bristling with maritime heritage as seen in the fascinating Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, this Canadian city was the birthplace of Samuel Cunard – who founded the line that still bears his name – and is the final resting place of 150 Titanic victims.

4. Iceland – wild and rugged, the Land of Fire and Ice brims with natural wonders of steaming geothermal pools, thundering waterfalls and powerful geysers, while quirky capital Reykjavik serves up off-beat charm.

5. Caribbean Islands – it takes around 11 days to cruise between the UK and the Caribbean, allowing for a stop or two enroute, with the tropical allure of these isles making them a balmy hotspot during winter months.

6. Azores – known as the Hawaii of the mid-Atlantic, this volcanic chain of lush isles sitting 1,000 miles from the coast of Portugal is a popular stop, with ships calling at capital Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel.

7. Madeira – the Portuguese outpost 350 miles off the coast of Morocco is known for colourful flowers and rugged terrain, while capital Funchal's steep streets are famous for the wicker toboggans that speed tourists downwards over the cobbles.

8. Bermuda – Britain's oldest overseas territory, this self-governing isle is a genteel haven of pink sand beaches, calm aquamarine seas, top-notch golf courses and the pretty pastel-coloured houses and shops of the capital Hamilton.

9. Cape Verde Islands – sitting more than 300 miles west of Senegal, and 440 miles south of the Canary Islands, the remote volcanic archipelago boasts mountains and sandy shores with the capital, Mindelo, on Sao Vincent appearing on transatlantic itineraries to/from South America.

10. Canary Islands – these Spanish isles are ideally-placed for sailings to and from the Caribbean with Tenerife's cosmopolitan capital, Santa Cruz, being a magnet for cruise ships with its historical roots and vibrant mix of dining and shopping.

11. Miami – Florida's party city rocks to a Latino rhythm, adding extra spice to its line-up of hip bars and on-trend restaurants that go hand-in-hand with dazzling sand beaches and the swanky Art Deco playground of South Beach.

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10 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

1. All set for sea days – pick a ship to suit your interests, whether it's the spa, or the gym, catching films or listening to lectures, watching shows or attending workshops. Alternatively, immerse yourself in a good book and let mesmerising ocean views lull you into daydreams.

2. Watch the clock – remember that westwards to North America/Caribbean, you'll gain an hour on some days to even up the time difference, while sailing eastwards to the UK will lose the same amount of time, but at least you'll return without jetlag.

3. Pick your season – while transatlantic crossings run for much of the year, spring is when most repositioning sailings head eastwards across the Atlantic to Europe and autumn is when they return Stateside.

4. Add a city – turn your transatlantic adventure into a cruise-and-stay by twinning it with the likes of New York, Boston, Miami, Fort Lauderdale or one of the Caribbean islands.

5. Different durations – from one-week crossings to New York to two-week voyages to the Caribbean or longer sailings via Iceland and Greenland, plus South America sojourns lasting several weeks.

6. Don't forget flights – transatlantic sailings normally involve a flight in one direction, though some longer departures are round-trip journeys, which are ideal for guests not wanting to fly.

7. Be prepared – with so many sea days, you could encounter changeable weather and variable sea conditions, so it is worth packing seasickness medication just in case. If this is a concern, pick a more southerly route, perhaps from the Caribbean or Florida that ends in the Mediterranean.

8. Stock up on supplies – because once you're onboard, they'll be no (or few) port calls to quickly dash off and buy anything you need, though the ship's own retailers will stock basic items.

9. Dress to impress – or not – check in advance to see if your sailing involves formal nights or theme evenings, so you can pack accordingly. If sailing between the Caribbean and UK in winter, remember to pack for both winter temperatures and the warmer tropics.

10. Pick a theme – some transatlantic sailings may be themed along culinary, theatrical or musical lines and others may host special events, such as literary festivals or involving well-known speakers, with a chance to meet them onboard.

