

CLIA DESTINATION FACTSHEET

WORLD CRUISES & GRAND VOYAGES

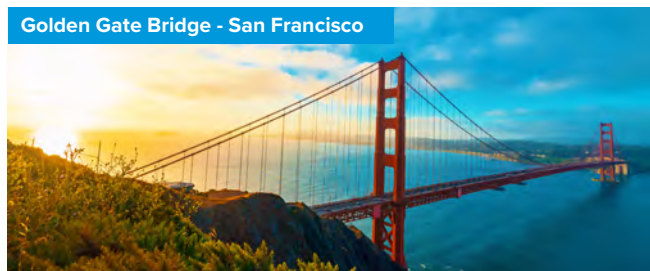


The Panama Canal

BEST TIME TO GO/WEATHER

Most world cruises, and especially those sailing from the UK, depart in early January, offering a welcome escape from the Northern Hemisphere winter, and returning during the spring. However, the growing number of such voyages and variety of departure points means there are more circumnavigations departing at different times of the year, while long voyages also depart year-round.

While these sailings cross different climatic zones, it's worth noting that itineraries to Southern Hemisphere destinations including Australasia and South America generally take place during the Northern Hemisphere winter.



Golden Gate Bridge - San Francisco



Singapore



Guanabara Bay - Rio de Janeiro

10 REASONS TO CRUISE HERE

What a way to see the world – the ultimate, and easiest, global tour. Follow in the footsteps of explorers to circumnavigate the planet or cruise around the likes of South America, Asia and Africa in the most relaxing way.

Escape the winter – sailaway to warmer temperatures in January, when most world cruises depart, and return in the spring or summer as the Northern Hemisphere climate warms up.

Bucket list bragging rights – while taking a world cruise is bucket list on its own, be prepared to tick off a long list of iconic experiences, from crossing the International Date Line to traversing the Panama Canal.

Global landmarks – relish pinch-me moments you'll never forget as you sail under San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, cruise into the iconic surroundings of Sydney Harbour and moor up under the shadow of Hong Kong's spectacular skyline.

Flight-free bonus – choose from a clutch of world cruises and other memorable odysseys departing from the UK, with most from Southampton, but others from Liverpool, Portsmouth and Tilbury.

Circumnavigation or long voyage – a classic world cruise that encircles the world will follow a well-established route through Asia, Australasia and the Americas, whereas grand voyages may concentrate on a particular region such as South America, Australasia or Africa.

Mesmerising metropolises – capture the exotic spirit that pulsates through the streets of Singapore, the scenic splendour of Cape Town, the frenetic whirl of New York and sizzling Samba spirit of Rio de Janeiro.

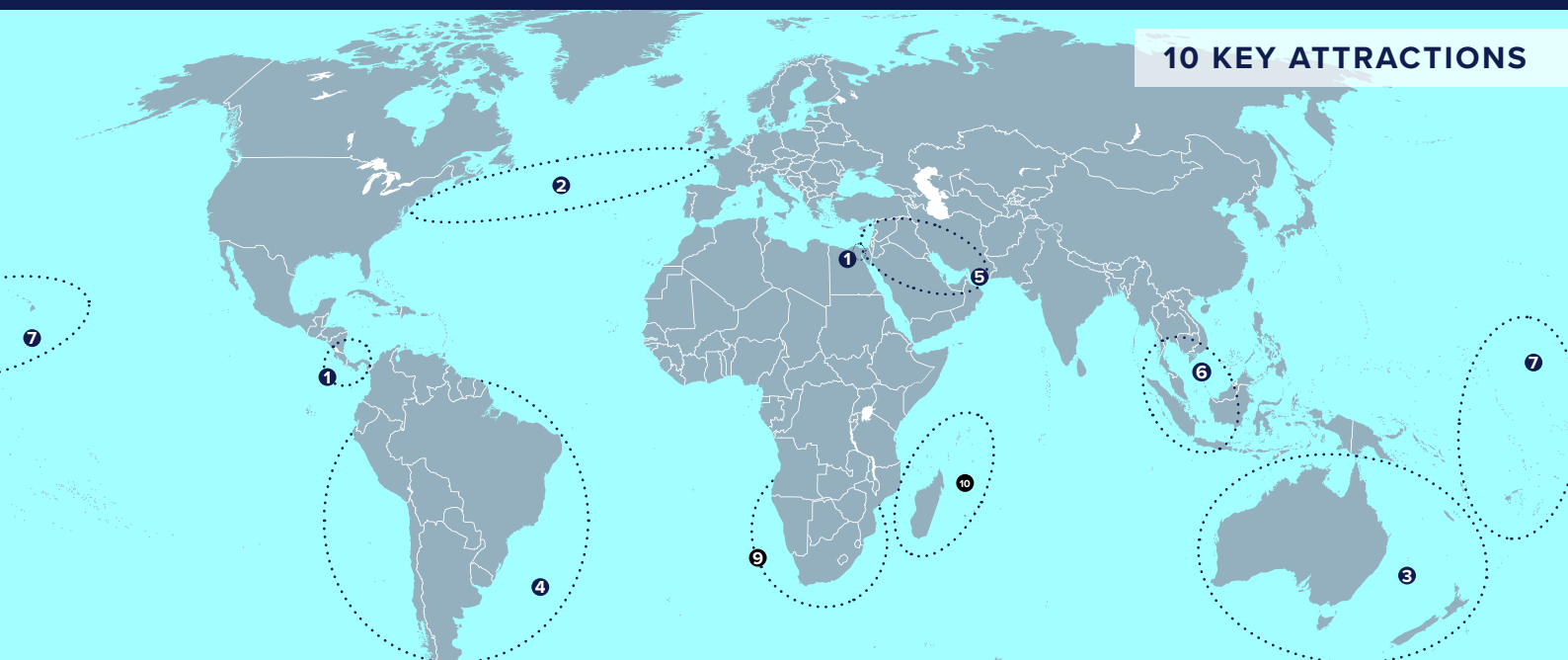
Cultural contrasts – from Bangkok's ornate temples amid teeming steamy streets and Africa's fascinating tribal traditions to the captivating Maori heritage of New Zealand and Arabian mysticism of the Middle East.

Extraordinary island escapes – discover some of the remotest outposts on the planet, where you'll be welcomed by the famous monolithic statues of Easter Island off the coast of Chile or the mid-Atlantic isle of St Helena, a British overseas territory and final resting place of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Love the slow life – on such long voyages be prepared for numerous lazy days at sea where you'll have time on your hands to catch up on reading, learning a new skill, sitting in on lectures or simply relaxing and gazing at the horizon.

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10 KEY ATTRACTIONS



- Cruising canals** – the most famous being the Panama Canal (pictured), the 50-mile short-cut linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, avoiding the 8,000-mile detour around Cape Horn. World cruises and voyages heading eastwards often include the Suez Canal that links the Mediterranean with the Red Sea.
- Transatlantic treat** – on westward world cruises from the UK, cruisers follow in the footsteps of sailors and celebrities on the much-hallowed route to New York (pictured) while others sail into the tropics towards the Caribbean.
- The magic of Australasia** – Sydney (pictured) is a mainstay of world cruises, along with other Aussie ports including Adelaide, Cairns and Melbourne, but so is New Zealand with Auckland, Wellington and the spectacular Bay of Islands.
- South America's Latin spirit** – tap into the sizzling tango tempo of Buenos Aires, the vibrant spirit of Uruguayan capital Montevideo (pictured), the frontier feel of Chile's southernmost city Punta Arenas and snow-capped peaks of the Chilean fjords.
- Arabian sights** – from the party playground of Dubai and Qatar's dynamic capital Doha (pictured) to the souks and bazaars of Salalah in Oman and breath-taking beauty of Petra's Rose Red city explored from the Jordanian Red Sea port city of Aqaba.
- Asian marvels** – witness the dragons of Komodo Island, an Indonesian outpost appearing in some world cruise itineraries; the Asian powerhouse of Singapore, bustling Bangkok, and the cultural medley of Kuala Lumpur (pictured).
- Seductive South Pacific** – succumb to the beauty of Polynesia with the contrasting charms of the Hawaiian isles, the rugged volcanic lure of Samoa, beguiling beauty of Fiji (pictured) and French flavour of Tahiti.
- Island idylls** – the pink sands of Bermuda brighten up transatlantic voyages while the islands of the Caribbean go hand in hand with Panama Canal crossings. Australia's Whitsunday Islands (pictured) add dazzling sands and azure seas while the Philippines inject a sense of the exotic.
- Southern Africa's contrasts** – the jewel in the crown is Cape Town (pictured) and wildlife attractions of the Western Cape, but there's the rugged beauty of Namibia's Skeleton Coast and absorbing Portuguese roots of Mozambique and Angola.
- Tropical temptations** – the islands of the Indian Ocean embodying the natural beauty of the Seychelles, the cultural melting pot of Mauritius, Gallic ambience of Reunion and wildlife bounty of Madagascar (pictured).

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10 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- 1. Book early** – world cruises and long voyages tend to be released further in advance than other sailings, sometimes up to three years ahead and booking early means there's more chance of securing the specific cabin you want – important on such a long voyage.
- 2. Splash out** – it's worth spending as much as you can afford to secure the best cabin as this will be your home for weeks or months. The bigger the stateroom, the more storage space there will be too.
- 3. Life on an ocean wave** – pace yourself as the rhythm on long voyages is quite different to other cruises. Take books to read/load on to devices, select onboard activities and set yourself a goal of learning a new skill.
- 4. Try before you buy** – for some passengers, a world cruise might be their first taste of a holiday at sea. It may be best to recommend they dip their toe in the water with a shorter sailing beforehand to check it's right for them.
- 5. Differing departures and durations** – in addition to world cruises and long voyages from UK ports, other departure points include Miami, Fort Lauderdale, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Civitavecchia (Rome), Sydney and Tokyo. Durations for long voyages are from around 30 nights upwards, while world cruises start at around 100 nights, rising to an epic 274 nights.
- 6. Don't go all the way** – instead of a full world cruise, opt for a segment lasting from a few weeks to a few months; a grand voyage, which is generally shorter; or a boomerang voyage where you start on one ship and swap to another part way through.
- 7. Ship size matters** – depending on whether you want larger ships for their extra facilities and greater mix of guests or smaller vessels which can slip into cosier ports and dock closer to city centres.
- 8. Study the itinerary** – to see how many sea days there are (avoid long stretches if you're doing a segment as that will mean there are less port stops), how long is spent in port and whether there are many overnight stays.
- 9. Benefits and perks** – many lines offer a string of complimentary extras to passengers booking full world cruises, such as free wifi (essential), luggage shipping, speciality dining and exclusive experiences. Some include business-class flights, drinks packages and laundry.
- 10. Be prepared** – on such long journeys that visit so many different destinations check the validity of passports, whether visas and vaccinations are needed and special travel insurance that covers such a lengthy duration.