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Why Small Ship Cruises Are Better

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22 August 2013



When we think of cruises we often picture behemoth ocean liners, but in fact, some of the best are much smaller. From cozy spaces to friendly fellow passengers and lesser-travelled ports, there are many benefits to choosing a small ship cruise.



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Why in the world would anyone give up the glamour and glitz of those huge, ocean-going cruise liners with dozens of restaurants, sprawling suites and glamorous ports of call to cruise on much smaller ships? We have cruised all over the world on those monstrous vessels, but just recently cruised on three much smaller ships and now we will choose the small ships every time. Here's why small ship cruises are better.

Small ships are cozy and intimate

On a recent cruise through the islands of British Columbia on a yacht with Un-Cruise Adventures, I spent a great deal of the time we were cruising curled in a very comfy, cushioned corner of a couch in the tiny library reading and daydreaming as I watched the world pass by the large window. I searched fruitlessly for a similar place to read on a recent large cruise trip.

The atmosphere is friendlier

We have never made friends on any ocean liners. But on a small ship cruise in Europe on the Amadeus with AmaWaterways, we made several good, close friends with whom we have stayed in contact long after the cruise. The comfortable lounges, relaxed seating at dinner (often with great local food) and the excitement of exploring small, undiscovered ports lends an air of camaraderie to the small ship cruises.



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The service is exemplary

On our cruise around the gorgeous islands of British Columbia on luxurious yacht the Safari Quest with Un-Cruise Adventures, there were only about 20 passengers and seven crew members who spent just about every minute of every day making sure that we were comfortable and having a perfect experience. When our cruise was delayed by weather in Chicago, the crew of the Grande Mariner from Blount Small Ship Adventures went out of their way to find activities for us in the area, then provided them to the passengers at no charge.

Staterooms are lovely and make great use of space

Don't expect a huge suite with a Jacuzzi and enormous verandah, but look forward to a cozy stateroom with a surprising amount of room for storage, nice amenities, and a quiet retreat. I couldn't believe we could fit two large suitcases worth of clothes into the drawers and closets of our stateroom on the Grande Mariner. But not only did everything fit neatly, the suitcases all slid under the bed out of our way. On the Safari Quest yacht from Un-Cruise Adventures, the tile floor in the bathroom was heated!

You will get up close and personal with ports of call

Forget about waiting in a long line of people to board a tender that will take several minutes to get you to another port crowded with people from the several massive cruise ships which have docked. We were the only cruise ship docked at Mackinac Island, Michigan, with Blount Small Ship Adventures and we stepped right out onto the dock with no folderol, then came and went as we pleased.

So instead of booking with a major ocean liner, forget those huge monsters of the sea and take a chance on a small ship cruise company. I guarantee your experience will be that much more special!

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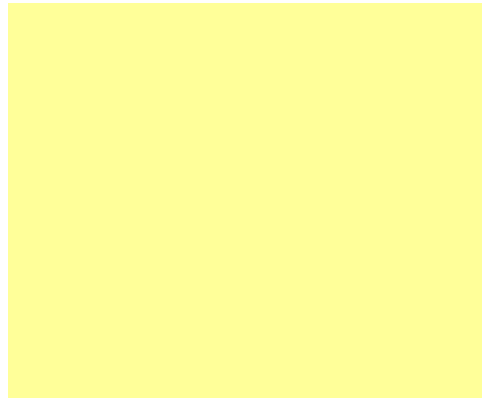
JAN ROSS





After a lifetime of travel, Jan Ross can pack a bag and hit the road with very little notice, although she will always have a little black dress and some snazzy shoes in there. She loves to travel with her husband of more than 35 years as he is a great photographer and she is often way too busy having fun to think about taking pictures. Active travel or relaxing, she is up for it all!

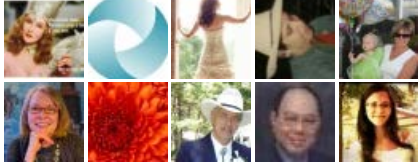
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