

Setting Sail

Have your say – write to us with any issues you have with the wide World of Cruising at: *Setting Sail*, *World of Cruising* magazine, 115 Sydney Rd, London, N10 2ND, UK or email: info@worldofcruisingmagazine.com.

★ Star Letter ★

A Family Delight

Dear WoC
Last summer, we took our first family cruise with our six-year-old daughter on the *Ruby Princess* of Princess Cruises in the Mediterranean. We were a little wary of picking a big ship at a busy time of the year (early in the school holidays), but we were absolutely thrilled with everything aboard, and found the ship a real delight.

Not only did we find it a high-quality experience throughout, the children's facilities were first class and our daughter loved every minute of the kids clubs and the whole experience of being at sea. As for her parents – we were equally impressed by the food, service and the whole style of the ship.

It had been recommended by my parents as ideal for their age group but we found it just as appealing for us, too, and would have no hesitation in recommending Ruby for families looking for a great cruise this year, too.

Ian Walsingham, via email



What to look for?

Dear WoC
Can you tell us some of the key cruising issues in the year ahead and any ships we should look out for? We are regular cruisers and looking for something new, the next 'It' item in the travel world, if you like.

Mr and Mrs Andy Newcombe, Taunton, Somerset

The Editor says: We can do better than that in this issue! We have a whole new feature looking ahead to the Top 10 Trends of 2014, and you can find it on Page 23.

Adventure Alert

Dear WoC
We are committed adventure cruise fans and wanted to let your readers know about a seven-day cruise we recently took aboard the beautiful *Silver Galapagos* of Silversea Cruises. Not only is this a stunning part of the world, the 100-passenger ship is a real delight and provided a wonderful close-up look at the islands and their wildlife. Is there any chance you have plans to feature *Silver Galapagos* in future?

A.E Erasmus, Oxford, UK

The Editor says: Yes, the new Silversea ship is definitely on our radar, so stay tuned for more info this year.

What's New?

Dear WoC
Can you tell us what new ships we can look forward to in the next year or so? We love to look ahead to maiden voyages and naming ceremonies and all the glamour that goes with it, having been in Southampton last year for the naming of the *Royal Princess* by HRH the Duchess of Cambridge. It was a wonderful occasion and we'd love to see more!

Mrs Carole Wright-Armitage, via email

The Editor says: sadly, there will be no big christenings in Southampton this year, with only five major newcomers to look forward to. But 2015 promises to be a big year, as P&O Cruises debut their new Britannia and Royal Caribbean will bring their Anthem of the Seas to the south coast port as well. Here's how the next 18 months will look for new ships:

Date Due	Cruise Line	Name	Christening PAX	Tonnage
Feb 2014	Norwegian Cruise Line	Norwegian Getaway, Miami	4,000	143,500
May 2014	Princess Cruises	Regal Princess, Venice	3,600	141,000
June 2014	TUI Cruises	Mein Schiff 3, Hamburg	2,500	93,000
Oct 2014	Costa Cruises	Costa Diadema, Venice	3,700	132,500
Nov 2014	Royal Caribbean	Quantum of the Seas, Bayonne	4,100	158,000
Mar 2015	Aida Cruises	AidaPrima, Hamburg	3,250	125,000
Mar 2015	P&O Cruises	Britannia, Southampton	3,611	141,000
Mar 2015	Royal Caribbean	Anthem of the Seas, Southampton	4,100	158,000
Apr 2015	TUI Cruises	Mein Schiff 4, Hamburg	2,500	93,000
May 2015	Viking Cruises	Viking Star, TBC	928	47,800



The latest views of cruise expert and podcaster supreme **Doug Parker**, otherwise known as Cruise Radio from his successful online broadcast show. Doug is our regular 'news-caster' on a full range of current issues. Be sure to see more at www.CruiseRadio.net.



A Burst of (Carnival) Sunshine

At a dockside ceremony in New Orleans, godmother Lin Arison christened the new-look *Carnival Sunshine* in the Liquid Lounge on a Sunday night aboard the ship. Philanthropist Lin is the widow of Ted Arison, founder of Carnival Cruise Lines, and previously served as godmother to this vessel when it was originally inaugurated as *Carnival Destiny*, the world's largest cruise ship, in 1996.

During the ceremony, Carnival made a donation of \$25,000 each to YoungArts and the New World Symphony, both of which are organisations founded by Ted and Lin Arison and dedicated to supporting young artists.

Carnival Sunshine, (the former *Destiny*), returned to the US after an extensive and ground-breaking \$155million dry-dock that is effectively a complete re-build. She is now in her new home-port in The Big Easy, and

offers the full array of Carnival's recent Fun Ship 2.0 re-branding. It includes:

- Alchemy Bar
- Red Frog Rum Bar
- Guy's Burger Joint
- Blue Iguana Cantina
- Playlist Productions
- Hasbro, The Game Show
- Bonsai Sushi
- Punch Liner Comedy Club

The ship is now operating seven-day cruises to popular Caribbean destinations until the end of April, on three different itineraries – an exotic western Caribbean route featuring Belize, Mahogany Bay (Isla Roatan) and Cozumel; a Bahamas/Florida schedule to Key West, Freeport and Nassau; and western Caribbean departures to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel.



Cruise Packing 101

I don't know how many thousands of miles I travelled in 2013, but it was a lot! I don't consider myself a professional traveller by any stretch, but I have mastered the basics of packing and figuring out logistics on the fly.

However, I forgot a handful of things on a recent trip that left me in a pinch.

Power converter. Most ship staterooms have two 120V outlets (North American plugs) and one 230V plug (European). If you have a lot to plug in and don't want to pack an extension cord, consider buying a power converter. It will give you three outlets instead of two. If you need more than three, you are packing way too much digital gear! I bought mine for under \$15 on Amazon.

NyQuil. I came down with a nasty bug and it was my own fault. I'd been jumping from ship to ship, plane to plane and hotel to hotel and not giving myself any rest. Usually, I pack a bottle of NyQuil because sleep is the best way to re-build your immunity. I had to buy a bottle on the ship and it was \$19. Yikes!

Vitamin C. Jumping around with a lot of travel, you want to boost

your immune system and prevent it from being compromised. If you're not a pill person, you can buy the orange flavoured mix that tastes like Gatorade and you can mix with water.

Water bottle. Hydration is important but, more importantly, drinking clean water is critical to your health. Sure, you can buy bottle after bottle but you may run into a destination that only takes local currency (or doesn't take credit cards), hence investing in a water bottle you can fill up on the ship will pay dividends.

Google Translate. The beauty of Google Translate is it operates on your smart device so you can download it on the fly with an internet connection. This saved my bacon in Barcelona when I had toothache and went to a local pharmacy. Before I left the hotel (while my phone connected to the internet), I punched in any possible phrases I would need to tell the pharmacist. I walked into and asked if they spoke English and they didn't. Luckily, I had Google Translate downloaded, and got my pain medication straight away.

Have you had any life lessons when it comes to cruise essentials? ■