

# Sailing Into 2012

SILVERSEA CRUISES

**T**rips may come and go, but somehow, doesn't the perfect cruise just seem to linger on in your memory a little longer? Maybe it's the romance of living on board a fabulous ship and enjoying all its amenities, or the camaraderie and friendships you strike up with favorite crew members and fellow passengers. Maybe it's that expectation and excitement you feel every time a new port city comes into view in the distance. Or it could be something as simple as sitting on deck at night, cocktail in hand and sea breeze on your face, staring up into a vault of stars that seem so close you could reach out and touch them.

We at *Hideaways* understand completely the allure of cruising, and we want to help you have your best—or maybe first—cruise experience in 2012. For our part, that means we'll help you decide the perfect line and ship for your cruise style, personality, and budget and then plan and book your cruise for you—so all you have to do is show up and have the time of your life!

This Special Report should help get your “cruise juices” flowing with thoughts of sailing the high seas or meandering along a lazy river, all the while visiting exotic destinations in distant lands. When it's time to put those dreams into action, call a *Hideaways* Travel Specialist at **800-843-4433**. Before you know it, you'll be sailing off into an exciting cruise adventure.

## Looking Into the Year Ahead

For 2012, the cruise industry is christening a veritable fleet of new ships (see our chart, page 8), adding a boatload of changes and upgrades to their offerings, and charting some unique new itineraries and phenomenal grand voyages. If you planned ahead, you may already be booked on one of those sought-after new itineraries or world cruises. If you didn't, you might find that your first or second choice is already booked.

But don't despair! The cruise calendar has already opened up for bookings into 2013, so you might want to act soon to secure that special suite, brand-new itinerary, or longer grand voyage. In fact, suites on some of the most popular spring 2013 sailings are already on waitlist for premium and luxury lines like **Regent Seven Seas**, **Crystal Cruises**<sup>™</sup>, **Silversea**<sup>™</sup>, and **Oceania Cruises**<sup>™</sup>. Also note: If you're looking at river cruising in Russia, don't delay—ships often sell out up to a year in advance!

Here are some of the most noteworthy developments for 2012—and beyond—that should enhance your cruise experience with these special *Hideaways*-recommended lines.

- Joining the likes of luxury lines **Silversea** and **Seabourn**, **Crystal Cruises** is going more all-inclusive beginning with its first transatlantic voyage in 2012, departing March 28 aboard the *Crystal Symphony*. Fares now will include fine wines and

# New Cruise Ships for 2012

Here's a short wrap-up of the newest vessels to ply the world's waterways in 2012. When you're ready to try out one of these sparkling new ships, call your *Hideaways* Cruise Specialist at **800-843-4433**, or email [ts@hideaways.com](mailto:ts@hideaways.com).

HIDEAWAYS LIFE - JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

CRUISE LINE	SHIP NAME(S)	SHIP SIZE	LAUNCH DATE	UNIQUE ASPECTS	NEW FEATURES
AmaWaterways <sup>TM</sup>	<i>ms Amacerto</i>	Small: 164 passengers	April 2012	River cruising on the Danube, Rhine, Main, and Mosel rivers of Europe; design inspired by classic ocean yachts; featuring AmaWaterways' exclusive "twin balconies" in the majority of staterooms & suites	Glass elevator, intimate Chef's Table restaurant, and heated Sun Deck swimming pool with swim-up bar
American Cruise Lines	<i>Queen of the Mississippi</i>	Small: 140 passengers	August 2012	Reviving the golden era of Mississippi River cruising; 7-night cruise segments between cities like New Orleans & Memphis and Nashville & St. Louis	Brand-new, purpose-built paddlewheeler; 75 staterooms with private balconies; Grand Dining Salon; Internet lounge
Celebrity Cruises	<i>Celebrity Reflection</i>	Large: 2,850 passengers	October 2012	Billed as "Best of Solstice Class," it's also the last of the Solstice Class; sailing Europe this fall before a transatlantic voyage departing November 18 from Barcelona to Miami	A new venue, The Art Studio, offers hands-on instruction from on-board experts in everything from drawing and painting to drink mixology and culinary lessons; three new suite categories: Reflection, Signature, and spa-focused AquaClass <sup>®</sup>
Oceania Cruises <sup>TM</sup>	<i>Riviera</i>	Large: 1,250 passengers	April 2012	Sister ship to last year's brand-new <i>Marina</i> ; designer touches like crystal Lalique Grand Staircase and Owner's Suites furnished in Ralph Lauren Home; maiden voyages in the Mediterranean	New Bon Appétit Culinary Center, the only hands-on cooking school at sea; Artists Loft, a new enrichment center
Viking River Cruises	<i>Viking Freya, Viking Idun, Viking Njord, Viking Odin, Viking Embla, and Viking Aegir</i>	Small: 190 passengers each	March 2012 through August 2012	Viking's brand-new Longship Class, designed by naval architects Yran & Storbraaten and named for Viking gods; sailing the rivers of Europe using "green" technology, including energy-efficient hybrid engines	Two new Explorer Suites on each ship feature 270° views with a private wraparound veranda; new Aquavit Terrace indoor/outdoor lounge space; organic herb garden and solar panels on each ship

spirits throughout the ship, open bar service in all lounges, non-alcoholic beverages like bottled water and specialty coffees, gratuities for housekeeping and dining staff, dining in the ships' specialty restaurants, golf lessons with PGA pros, fitness classes like Pilates or spinning, and enrichment programs. Whew! One caveat: Crystal's previous "As You Wish" spending credits will go away with the introduction of the more all-inclusive pricing.

- Love your time ashore? Then Silversea Cruises has good news for you. The line is introducing 19 new, immersive land tours for 2012, some of which are multiple-day adventures that really allow you to soak in the local culture and meet the people who live beyond the port cities. For instance, one inland excursion takes you to the Gorah Elephant Camp inside Addo Elephant National Park, near Port Elizabeth in South Africa. It's a three-day package that includes luxury tented accommodations at the Relais & Chateaux camp. Other new land adventures are offered in Egypt, Patagonia, Namibia, China and Tibet, Australia, and into the Amazon wilderness.
- If you hate the idea of being nicked and dimed for your on-board beverages, Oceania Cruises has two new beverage packages for 2012, and one is sure to be just your cup of... well, beer. Guests can opt for a "meals-only" package at \$29.95 per day that includes house wine and beer with lunch and dinner at any open dining venue, as well as with room service

dining for lunch and dinner. The second is an open-bar option at \$49.95 per day that includes premium house wine, beer, and open-bar service throughout the day, plus room service. Both packages include gratuities.

- Whale lovers, take note! **Paul Gauguin Cruises<sup>TM</sup>** has added a new whale-themed cruise, called "Island of Whales," to its regular lineup of themed voyages for 2012. The cruise departs Papeete on the first of September during the height of the Austral summer, when humpback whales teem in the waters off Rurutu as they gather to bear their young. You're in for a huge treat as you watch these gentle giants cavort in the protected waters and communicate with their eerily pitched songs. Fares for the 11-night cruise start from \$5,297 per person, double.
- Looking to 2013, **Holland America Line** has unveiled four lengthy grand voyage itineraries, two each on the *ms Amsterdam* and the *ms Prinsendam*. If you love the idea of settling in for a truly life-changing adventure, the 115-day Grand World Voyage departs January 5, 2013 (round-trip from Ft. Lauderdale), and will take you to dozens of ports, including some of the world's most popular UNESCO World Heritage sites. If you'd rather explore your favorite corner of the world, you can choose from the Grand Mediterranean Voyage, Grand South America & Antarctica Voyage, or the Grand Pacific & Far East Voyage.

## When Smaller Is Way Better

When good friends Amy Felgar and Linda Klippenstein of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, decided to cruise Alaska's Inside Passage together, they both knew what they *didn't* want—another large-ship “herding experience” that involved impersonal service and endless waiting in lines. Enter Silversea Cruises, and its 382-passenger *Silver Shadow*—a match made in heaven!

We asked these two friends for the low-down on their trip last August, and especially the inside scoop on Silversea's legendary on-board experience.

**HIDEAWAYS INTERNATIONAL:** What was your favorite part of the ship?

**AMY FELGAR:** For starters, our suite was amazing, complete with sofa, desk, an orchid-adorned coffee table, a walk-in closet (!), and enough floor space to perform daily stretching exercises. We had a lovely big soaking tub and a nice selection of luscious bath products. Once out of our room, we found that just walking the hallways was a treat, admiring the original artwork that was *everywhere*. We also loved afternoon tea in the forward-facing lounge with its panoramic views of icy water, glaciers, and endless green forests. And it seemed as if fresh orchids were blooming on every table top—I wondered if a greenhouse was tucked away somewhere on the ship.

**HI:** Did you notice advantages to the ship's smaller size?

**AF:** Definitely. Its more manageable size helped us get acquainted with the deck plan in a short time and start feeling “at home” after just a couple of days. And there were always quiet, pleasant spaces to tuck into for a card game or conversation.

**HI:** Did you attend any on-board enrichment programs?

**LINDA KLIPPENSTEIN:** Yes, and they were all very informative. I especially enjoyed the one on the Tlingit people and their culture. Also, the couple doing the Resident Artist program were wonderful and made a great team. Their little “walking talks” on individual paintings and artists represented on board—including Dali, Picasso, and Chagall—were filled with gems of insight, and their amber-carving demonstration was just fascinating.

**HI:** Was the service level as good as everyone says?

**AF:** Absolutely! We felt pampered and well tended to the entire time. I'd say the staff training is meticulous and extensive across the board. Dining room servers remembered us by name all week, even though we never sat at the same table. Our butler was a delightful young man who was disappointed that we didn't order room service, as he was looking forward to serving us! While we were settling into our suite, he knocked and asked if we would listen to his presentation on the selection of bath products we could choose from. They were so scrumptious, we opted for all of them!

**HI:** How was the on-board dining experience?

**AF:** The food was wonderful, with a great selection at each meal. The breakfast buffet had an endless variety of wonderful fresh fruit—a real treat! Our final lunch was served buffet-style, with selections offered through the kitchen and representing world-wide cuisine. It was an unexpected and delicious experience—and we got an interesting tour of the kitchen while selecting our food.

**HI:** What was your favorite excursion?

**LK:** By far our favorite was a 10-man rowboat adventure on Mendenhall Lake near Juneau. Our paddle across the lake gave us “up-front-and-close” exposure to the glacier and its associated icebergs—truly awesome! And our guide, Christina, was a hoot! Winding in and out of those icebergs was both thrilling and a bit scary—especially when Christina said rather quietly to herself, “Oh, I've never seen an iceberg moving quite that fast.” And we were just yards away from it!

**AF:** Yes, she steered us through the mist and right up to the icebergs, so we could practically reach out and touch them. It was quite eerie and totally awesome to be sitting on that icy water next to those massive icebergs that seemed to be moving.

Sitka also was a favorite stop where we explored a nature preserve. Who knew southeastern Alaska is a temperate rain forest? No surprise, then, when it rained every day of our trip. We didn't mind—we just didn't get any photos that look like postcards!

*Read Amy and Linda's complete Alaska report, including highlights of their shopping excursions, at [www.Hideaways.com/cruisingalaska](http://www.Hideaways.com/cruisingalaska).*

*Tempted to sail Alaska this summer? Contact your Hideaways Travel Specialist today (800-843-4433), and you could earn valuable shipboard credits when booking any 2012 Silversea voyage.*

