# THE EXPERIENCE ARCHITECT

The Art of Choosing Your Perfect Cruise





Dear Traveler,

Whether you're thinking about cruising for the first time or you're a veteran of the seas looking to discover someplace new, I bet the hassle of planning your trip is holding you back from taking that first step. You probably wish you could close your eyes, picture yourself looking out from the ship's deck toward a palm-lined beach or iconic skyline, and—snap!—there you are with no effort at all.

This is where your friendly and knowledgeable Experience Architect® comes in. Just like the waiter at a local eatery who suggests an ideal wine to go with your meal, the interior decorator who gets your style with a quick glance at your wardrobe, or the architect designing your dream home from a quick sketch you made on a napkin, your Experience Architect will consider your passions, previous vacations, lifestyle, and more to come up with a dream vacation that perfectly matches your vision.

We know bringing this vision to life can be challenging, which is why we use our

comprehensive Experience Management® approach to minimize the usual headache of planning a vacation. With your wish list as a starting point, your Experience Architect will expertly steer you toward cruises that cater to your specific needs. Keeping the kids occupied, exploring little-known ports, dining in high-end restaurants—whatever your priorities are, we know who best delivers them, and we can show you when, where and how to book for the best value.

Let us help you turn your dreams to reality with a complimentary consultation at our toll-free priority number (877) 561–2673. You can also complete our Request a Quote form on our website and we will get back to you right away.

Congratulations on taking the first crucial step! Your Experience Architect is looking forward to guiding you on your journey toward the cruise of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Owner & Chief Architect CruiseEXPeriences.com

## THE PATH TO YOUR DREAM VACATION

#### Experience Architect® Availability

We strive to be available 24/7 for you. Our standard business hours for telephone calls, text messaging and email are 9:00 am to 8:00 pm EST, with a commitment to responding promptly to after-hours messages

#### **GETTING THERE**

Make sure the most complicated part of your trip—reaching the port of embarkation—goes off without a hitch

Page 14

# WHEN TO ACT ON YOUR DREAMS

Don't get shut out from that perfect cruise because the timing of your reservation was off

Page 16





#### PICTURE THE PERFECT CRUISE

Envision what you want to get out of your vacation, and we'll let you know which cruise lines can deliver on your expectations

Page 6



#### **SEASONS OF CRUISING**

Each part of the world shines most at certain times of the year, and our handy guide will show you when to go

Page 12



#### STAY AND PLAY

Enjoying your departure and arrival cities can be a big part of the fun, so why not explore for an extra day or two?

Page 18



#### PROTECT YOUR MEMORIES

Like any valued investment, ensure your trip is covered so you can climb aboard without a single care

Page 20





# PICTURE THE PERFECT CRUISE

Which Cruise Line is Right for You?

Circle your preferences in the diary entry on the opposite page, and then check the following pages to find the type of cruise that best matches your vision!

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## My dream vacation...

I had a vision last night. I was in [Cozumel ® 7 / St. Bart's ® 5 / Sydney © ∞ 6 / Ville Franche ® 9 / Vienna № ] with my [spouse 1890 No / partner 1890 No / children 1890 College-age kids 1890 / grandchild 1890]. We had spent a wonderful day [ sightseeing historic sites ⊕ | snorkeling ⊕ ⊕ / taking a cooking class ⊕ N / lying on the beach source and then returned to the ship to [enjoy the pool source / get a spa treatment source / partake in afternoon tea 🗪 / attend a lecture 🙃 / ride the water slide 🔞 ].

The cruise [ was full with many fun people from all over 1897 / felt like I was traveling with a group of close friends ( and I appreciated having [ something to do around every corner ( plenty of private space in which to get away 👓 🖎 / an ever-changing view of the shore 🐿 ]. I really enjoyed [ arriving at a new cultural center almost every day content almost every d

After a relaxing shower and [dressing up for dinner of putting on your favorite dress or crisp khakis and shirt () () throwing on a comfy outfit (), we were looking forward to [ pizza and burgers () our reservation at the elegant French bistro © V® / discovering exciting new flavors at a modern American eatery (89) a quiet dinner in our stateroom © Defore heading out to [ see a Broadway show © / relax to the sounds of a jazz quartet 🕫 🕒 🕸 / try our luck at slots 🐯 ]. Afterward, it was time to [get some rest under our high-thread count sheets SON / dance the night away (SO) ].

Even though it was a dream, this was the best [ weekend 69 / week 69 9 9 9 0 0 0 1 1'd ever spent now it's time to bring the dream to life with my Experience Architect!





Our Experience Architect Gabrielle shares: "For the ultimate combination of luxury accommodations and all the amenities of a fun resort cruise, The Haven on-board Norwegian ships is giving high-end lines a run for their money. With a private pool deck, a private butler, exclusive events, and much more, you may never want to leave this section of the ship. In case you do, dozens of activities await you throughout the numerous decks!

Your Experience Architect can give you more details, or get in touch with Norwegian directly.'



(866) 957-3925



## RS Resort Cruise Experiences

With innovative megaships featuring dozens of restaurants (many for an extra fee), multiple entertainment venues with Broadway, comedy and Vegas-style shows as well as water slides, rock-climbing, surfing machines, bowling alleys and numerous other activities, these cruises are perfect for active travelers and families with children of all ages. Staterooms are comfortable but larger suites are available and you should expect to pay for all shore excursions and beverages.

Carnival Cruise Lines

Disney Cruise Line

MSC Cruises

Norwegian Cruise Line

Royal Caribbean International



## **CT** Contemporary Cruise Experiences

Larger ships that incorporate some of the elements of Resort Cruises such as multiple dining venues and sophisticated entertainment as well as a notable selection of sporting and outdoor activities, these cruises also offer a more gracious level of service, improved cuisine and a more refined atmosphere with fewer families and more mature clientele. Keep in mind not all dining venues are included, and staterooms are also comfortable but slightly more elegant and a greater number of higher-end suites are available. Shore excursions and beverages are not included unless you purchase special packages.

Celebrity Cruises

Cunard Line

Holland America Line

**Princess Cruises** 



## CC Country Club Cruise Experiences

Mid-size ships allow access to more off-the-beaten-path destinations while service is unobtrusive, staterooms are reasonably spacious and elegant, cuisine is the peer of fine shore-side restaurants and traditional entertainment is supplemented by concertos, enrichment programs and hands-on experiences such as cooking and painting classes. Expect most dining venues, some beverages and activities other than off-shore tours to be included.

Azamara Club Cruises

Oceania Cruises

Viking Ocean Cruises

#### Luxury Cruise Experiences

The finest cruise experiences available, the focus is on the well-traveled who appreciate luxury and are willing to pay for accommodations that rival and even exceed that of the best high-end hotels ashore, a staff that anticipates every need without asking, elevated and sophisticated cuisine, understated but elegant luxury décor, and indulgent amenities from designer bath products to the highest thread count linens. A selection of tours, most on-board activities and fine spirits, wine and beer are typically included.

Crystal Cruises Regent Seven Seas Cruises Seabourn Cruise Line Silversea Cruises Windstar Cruises



## **RV** River Cruise Experiences

While service, cuisine and enrichment are on par with any ocean-going cruise line, river voyages are more sedate, feature more enrichment programming, and focus exclusively on inland destinations with more time in port and on the river surrounded by castles, cathedrals and charming towns. Rooms are comfortable but reasonably appointed, with a few larger suites available. Shore excursions and most beverages are not included.

**Avalon Waterways** Scenic River Cruises Uniworld Viking River Cruises





Our Experience Architect Jenny confides: "For an absolutely pampered cruise, Seabourn is hard to match. Aside from their sumptuous decor, Seabourn is renowned for the meticulously prepared meals in their award-winning onboard restaurants, from innovative tasting menus to refined multi-course meals. As with all luxury lines, there is never an extra charge for these culinary indulgences, which are

also available in the privacy of your suite any time of the day. Your Experience Architect will have more information, or get in touch with Seabourn directly."



SEABOURN°

(844) 494-6570





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Page 10 | Visit cruiseEXPeriences.com

## SEASONS OF CRUISING



#### Bermuda, Canada & New England

Summer and Fall are the best times of year to enjoy the warmer weather in Bermuda and Canada and, of course, the Fall foliage can be spectacular in autumnal New England

#### Alaska

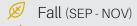
Alaska is cold in Winter but during the Summer months it is gloriously sunny and delightfully warm, and the glaciers astound

#### Caribbean, Bahamas & Mexico

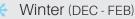
While the weather is wonderful any time of year, it can be a bit warm in the Summer, and in the Winter the sea can be choppier. In the Fall, the possibility of hurricanes means your itinerary may be changed to stay on calm seas

## Best Times to Travel

Spring (MAR - MAY)



Summer (JUN - AUG)





#### South America

The biggest attractions in South America come alive during the Winter, including Carnaval in Rio and the penguin colonies in Argentina

\$ . \( \mathcal{B} \)

#### Mediterranean

Spring, Summer and Fall are the peak months for the historic sites of the Mediterranean, but in the midst of Winter the cooler weather is offset by smaller crowds

#### Northern Europe

Northern Europe is understandably primarily a Summer destination, when the stark beauty of the Norwegian Fjords is at its best and colorful blooms explode in the Northern capitals

#### Asia

Asia spans a vast area in which most voyages take place during the Winter months, although in South Korea, China and Japan Spring and Fall can be more desirable due to the higher latitudes

#### Australia & New Zealand

Winter in North America is the height of Summer Down Under so trips may include holiday decorations overlooking pristine sandy beaches

#### Africa

Winter is safari season and also provides the most temperate weather for exploration of the mysteries of the forbidden continent





Our Experience Architect Amanda has this to say: "What could be more adventurous and romantic than traveling around the world by sea? If you have the time—180 days, to be exact—I highly recommend Oceania's amazing World Cruises, which will take you to many of the most breathtaking places on Earth without needing to unpack more than once. Their ships are casually elegant, with staterooms and public spaces that are beautifully decorated

**CEANIA** and exceptionally attentive staff. Talk **CRUISES**® to an Experience Architect for more info, or get in touch with Oceania

(855) 623-2642

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directly.

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Our Experience Architect Tamara has some great advice: "Although it may cost more up front, the all-inclusive nature of luxury cruising means that almost every detail of your vacation will be carefully curated for your maximum gratification. For example, to make sure your vacation begins on the best possible note, starting in Spring of 2017 Regent Seven Seas will be including free business class air for all categories. Your Experience Architect

can give you more info about this generous deal, or you can also contact Regent directly."

SEVEN SEAS CRUISES\*

(866) 957-3925



## GETTING THERE

The Best Ways to Reach Your Ship



If you live next to a major cruise port, then feel free to turn the page in your planning process. If not, we have some useful tips for you! Our Experience Architects know that most people will need to drive or fly to their embarkation port. If you're driving, we can steer you toward the parking lot closest to your ship, or the most economical option if cost is more important. If you're flying, you may want to use your own airline reward miles or purchase your own air ticket, but sometimes it can be challenging to find the right flight at the right time. And if you

do choose to make your own air arrangements, what happens if your flight is delayed or canceled?

Unfortunately, if you're very delayed, your ship will leave without you and you'll be scrambling to try to meet it in its first port of call, costing you extra money and ruining the first few days of your vacation. That's why we recommend letting your Experience Architect find you flights through the cruise line, and in the event of an unplanned disruption they will take responsibility for getting you to your cruise. You can forget any worries about being stranded on your own because you will have the power of a cruise line and the guidance of your Experience Architect behind you.

Also, for those longer flights overseas where upgraded class of service in the air would be much more comfortable, our Experience Architects can find you an appropriate cruise line upgrade program that makes more sense than using your own hardearned airline reward miles. Depending on your class of travel and the specific cruise line, you may have some flexibility in selecting your flights and routing and, if not, can often do so for a modest surcharge.

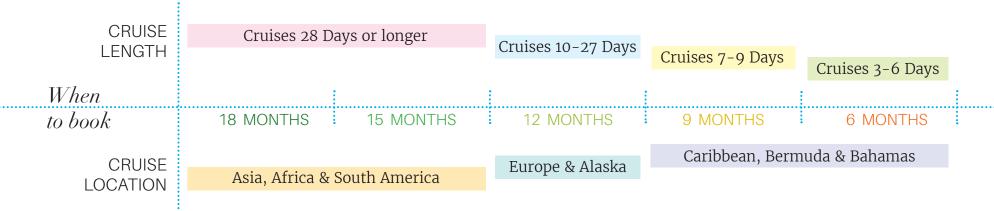
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## WHEN TO ACT ON YOUR DREAMS

The Sooner the Better!



You probably already know that waiting until the last minute will not get you the lowest airfare or that walking in to get a same-day table at the hottest new restaurant means you'll likely be turned away. It turns out the same principles apply when making your cruise reservation. That's why our Experience Architects are the go-to gurus for the best time to book your voyage.

Quite simply, cruise lines don't like to find themselves with hundreds of empty suites and staterooms just weeks before a cruise begins because it costs plenty of money to market this last-minute inventory. That means today's cruise companies work hard to offer their best pricing as far in advance of sailing dates as possible. Your Architect knows that the advantage of booking early is not just lower prices and better deals but a wider range of accommodations so you can find the perfect spot on the perfect deck. There may even be upgrades from window staterooms to veranda staterooms or special shore excursion or beverage packages for those who plan ahead.



On rare occasions, cruise lines will discount at the last moment but they will almost always extend the same discount to those who booked earlier at a higher price. Your Experience Architect monitors pricing changes and asks for retroactive deals on your behalf. And although deposits are usually due at the time of booking, they are small and some cruise lines even reward early bookings by postponing the deposit requirements for months.





Our Experience Architect Francie has a tip: "You've finally set aside the time to explore Asia, the most exotic of continents. If so, Celebrity wants to sweeten the deal for you with some pretty awesome freebies on their 2017 and 2018 Asia cruises. You'll get one free perk, with a choice of free beverages, free internet, included tips or \$150 to spend on board as you wish. Find out why these Asia cruises have received numerous awards! Chat with your Experience Architect Celebrity Cruises to take advantage of this deal or



contact Celebrity directly."

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## STAY AND PLAY

Extend your Vacation Ashore

Without the vast knowledge and steady hand of your Experience Architect, planning your own cruise vacation can create unnecessary stress. And we know from experience that the greatest anxiety every cruise traveler experiences on departure day is the possibility of their flight being delayed and not arriving in time for their sailing.

Fortunately, there is no better way to unwind and relax into your vacation even before boarding the ship than purchasing an optional pre-cruise hotel and tour stay in the embarkation port. Leave a day or two early and take the time to explore the attractions of an interesting and dynamic city such as Amsterdam,







Our Experience Architect Corinne believes: "Alaska's breathtaking landscapes are worth exploring for a few extra days before or after your cruise. Holland America offers ideal packages giving you more time in spectacular Denali National Park, authentic prospecting outpost Dawson City, and many other gorgeous sites as add-ons to your cruise of the Inside Passage. Check in with your Experience Architect to learn more or contact Holland America directly."

Holland America Line\*

(844) 389-0477



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Barcelona, Rio de Janeiro, Miami, Bangkok or Sydney, and simultaneously feel comfortable knowing that you are mere minutes away from the port.

The transition from the conclusion of your cruise back into the harsh reality of everyday life can be equally unsettling, but your Experience Architect has the answer with dozens of post-cruise packages put together by the cruise lines. You could take a safari from Capetown after an African voyage, enjoy some jazz and beignets in New Orleans after a Western Caribbean jaunt, head to a lodge in Denali National Park after an Alaskan cruise or sip tea by the Thames after a European journey that ends near London.





Our Experience Architect Julie says: "Arguably, if you could visit just one city in the world, Venice and its incomparable heritage should be a top contender. And while there, you might as well live it up like a Doge in the Hotel Danieli. It is perfectly located steps from the Bridge of Sighs and Piazza San Marco, and you'll feel like Renaissance royalty

(but with all the 21st Century comforts) in their palatial rooms and public spaces, which hold a museum-like collection of art and antiques. Your Experience Architect can provide more details or contact Hotel Danieli directly."



(844) 376-0199



Page 18 | Visit cruiseEXPeriences.com Call (877) 561-2673 | Page 19





Our Experience Architect Maria advises: "Once you've figured out that being covered against any contingency is a wise idea, the choice is easy: AIG's Travel Guard offers a suite of options matching virtually every budget and type of cruise, with unparalleled 24/7 support wherever you are. And it doesn't just include your cruise portion—flights are covered too. Find yourself days away from your vacation and realize you still haven't gotten coverage? No problem, you can purchase it up to 24

AIG Travel Guard

(844) 523-8138

Experience Architect® Availability

hours before your trip!

Ask your Experience

Architect or contact

AIG directly."

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## PROTECT YOUR MEMORIES

Trip Protection Programs Take Away the Uncertainty

Your dream vacation is no exception, and your Experience Architect knows that no matter how unlikely it is that something may not go as planned, you deserve to have peace of mind.

The media loves to run stories about cruise ships, but the reality is that cruising is one of the safest and most hassle-free forms of travel. However, your Experience Architect is familiar with a variety of trip protection options that will cover

the unexpected, leaving you carefree to enjoy your vacation.

If an illness or death in the family requires cancellation of your journey, you can receive a refund and rebook at a better, healthier and happier time. If you experience a mishap or illness when traveling that requires hospitalization or transfer back to the United States, there's no need to worry even though most medical insurance plans do not incorporate such thoughtful coverage. From the moment you book your trip until the moment you return home, you Experience Architect is your guide, confidant and friend who is always looking out for you.











cultural immersion, a river cruise is the way to go.
Viking's tour of Russia is a standout, with visits to iconic locations such as Moscow's Kremlin and Red Square, the Hermitage and Catherine Palace in St. Petersburg, and charming little towns along the Golden Ring. Their Culture Curriculum will give you insight into the luxurious palaces, fortress-like monasteries and

stunning cathedrals of this unique

country. Talk to your Experience

Our Experience Architect Rachel says: "For complete

VIKING CRUISES

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#### Call or order online 24/7

Shipping to your cruise with Luggage Free is easy, and reliable. Prepare your luggage as you normally would, and Luggage Free will take care of the rest. Delivery directly to your ship is guaranteed. It's really that

Sending luggage home from your cruise is also simple and reliable. We meet you directly at the pier upon your debarkation, you hand off what you want sent home, and we take care of the rest.



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Architect for more details or contact after-hours messages Viking directly.' (844) 906-1062

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