



Why Cruising Is a Great Family Vacation Adventure!

Explore How to Choose the Best Cruise for Your Family.

By Shannon Jones / January 31, 2022

A cruise is a great family vacation adventure any time of year. For starters, you can visit several destinations (or ports-of-call) on a cruise and you only need to unpack once. Everything is taken care of for you and your whole family. Your itinerary is planned and excursions are offered. It's like an all-inclusive low-stress resort on the water with something for everyone in the family – from dining and entertainment options to kids' clubs, swimming and sports to shopping and spas.

There are so many options when it comes to a cruise. A great place to start planning your adventure is to think about the type of experience you want to have.

- Where do you want to go?
- What type of ship do you want to voyage on?
- How many days do you have and who is going?
- What do you want to do?
- What's your budget?

Where Do You Want to Go?

Thinking about where you want to go is a great first decision as your destination choice can help narrow down your cruise options. Most people think of cruises simply to Mexico, the Bahamas or the Caribbean – or maybe a bit further in European ports-of-call such as Italy, Greece and Spain. However, you will be surprised that you can literally go all over the world via cruise.

In the U.S., you can explore the Pacific Northwest or the entire Pacific Coast, the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, Alaska and its glaciers, the New England Coast or cruise the Hawaiian Islands.

Adventure to Iceland, Greenland and Canada. Cruise across Asia visiting Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, China, Japan and more. Explore Europe's magical Christmas Markets – all by ship.

How about South Africa, Seychelles and Mauritius? Australia and the Great Barrier Reef? Egypt and the Middle East? Around South America to Peru, Argentina, Chile and Brazil?

Yes, yes and yes!

In fact, some locations are truly best seen or only seen by boat, for example, cruises through the Panama Canal or Antarctica. There are even Transatlantic Cruises from the U.S. to Europe and cruises that take you around the entire world!

There are so many cruise adventures for you and your family to choose from. Get started planning here.

What Type of Ship Do You Want to Voyage On?

- a. You can choose from huge ships, smaller boutique-style ships or even a genuine steamboat.
- b. River cruises are typically on smaller, more quiet and intimate ships. They average 190 passengers on board and spend longer time in ports-of-call.
- c. Different types of ships also offer different types of accommodations depending on your family's needs.

How Many Days Do You Have and Who Is Going?

- a. You can take a long weekend cruise, a week-long cruise or spend several months on longer voyages.
- b. Are you a family of four or taking a group multi-generation trip like a family reunion? There's a perfect ship for all sizes of family vacations.

What Do You Want to Do?

- a. The activity options on cruises can be endless. Thinking about what you want to do on your cruise can also help determine the best ship and itinerary.
 - i. Do you want to see lots of destinations, simply relax or have a mix of both? Do you want to enjoy fine wine and dining?
 - ii. Are you looking for tons of activities for the kids, including kids' clubs? Are the kids older and looking for exciting destinations and excursions?
 - iii. Is your goal to see more in a location? Some cruises stay longer in their ports so you can explore more and some cruises specialize in exploring culture, history and behind-the-scenes experiences.

What's Your Budget?

- a. Cruising is an excellent value for your family vacation. Cruise costs include accommodations, sailing between ports-of-call, all meals and onboard entertainment.
- b. As a member of AAA, you enjoy great benefits such as shipboard credits, free spa treatments, discounted cruise packages or other amenities, depending on the cruise you select.

Tapping into your kids' and grandkids' interests and hobbies is great place to start planning your trip. Make sure you know their likes and dislikes and plan accordingly from food to activities. Get them involved in the trip's details and give them responsibilities like mapping a route and ordering their own meals. Last but not least, have fun and bend the rules a bit. That's what time with you is all about.

There are so many cruise adventures for you and your family to choose from. Adventure awaits!