

Dear Friends,

Where does the time go? It seems like only yesterday we were talking about the spring and here we are, about to pass the longest day on June 21st! Our new June brochure is included with this Newsletter. Currently we feature no Princess, MSC, Costa or Norwegian Cruise Line cruises. Princess Cruises have yet to give us our rates for the new 2010/11 season. MSC cruises are, in some cases, published on our web site for 2009, but they are changing their offers every day, making it difficult for us to feature anything. Costa seem to be relying on selling through the large trade houses, and NCL representation to us has disappeared off the face of the earth! With Carnival having removed Med and Northern Europe for 2010 that leaves another hole. That doesn't mean though that you can't ring us with a date, ship, itinerary and the best price you've been quoted. We can appraise it and give you Cruise In's price. At least you will get a truthful answer or maybe even a choice of different cruises. I know many of you have experienced great cruises to Alaska this May with fabulous weather, a comment also received about the Constellation sailing with Steve and Julie to Scandinavia & Russia. They came back burnt to a cinder! Never let anyone tell you they are cold cruises! Both Rose and I look forward to seeing many of you on the Ultimate Danube in July as well as meeting friends from the East of England at the County Show in Peterborough on the 18th, 19th and 20th June. Just look for the brightly coloured Cruise In lorry!

PRICES FOR ALASKA SET TO RISE

An announcement by several of the major cruise lines has given a polite warning that prices will rise from 2010 due to a reduction of cruise capacity. Princess, Holland America, Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Line have announced plans to reduce the number of ships deployed to Alaska. They cite the many costs of doing business in Alaska as the main cause. This can only lead to higher prices in 2010 and 2011 with fewer ships competing for more passengers. This probably means prices of our selected cruises for 2010 in May and September have already increased in the market place. We're so lucky to have guaranteed prices until our cabins run out.

18-NIGHT CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MEDITERRANEAN SPECIAL

21 December 2010. Make a note of the date. 160,000 ton Independence of the Seas. Make a note of the ship. If you want the best possible Christmas and New Year cruise without getting out of first gear, piling on the luggage at Southampton, and being looked after for 18 wonderful nights then this is a must! In fact, I don't think it's for me...the food temptation would just wipe me out! Just look at the exciting itinerary in our brochure on page 14. Imagine Rome, Florence, Pisa and other destinations at Christmas time all without crowds of tourists. Great!

WHAT IS THE LATE MARKET SITUATION?

Sadly, not as good as everyone still waiting thought! Our website carries a sprinkling of what is left in 2009. Cruise Line offers arrive to our email every minute, every hour, every day. They often change within hours. The sheer volume of time required to sort them out makes it impractical to add or remove offers in the web every minute. So, if you are still looking for a late cruise offer, we suggest you use our website offers page www.cruisein.co.uk/offers.html to get you going. Then watch the press closely. Read travel snippets in the weekend press. Comb the cruise line websites. Just remember though, watch the small print on the ads. Prices are often based on low season dates. Ring up and enquire but do not commit even if it's Sunday when we are not open. Nearly all advertisers charge between 2% and 3% credit card charges. Beware of Newspaper Reader Offers that often take a double deposit or booking fees. Whatever you find remember the golden rule. Ring Cruise In when you have what you want with the price and the cruise. Chances are we have a better price and we don't charge for credit cards! If we can't do it we'll say so and give you the best advice possible, even to say 'don't go'!

THE CASE OF THE CAMERA CASE, SOLVED

Dear Cliff, Rose & Staff,

Thank you so much for looking after and returning my camera case, cards and battery. What a surprise it was to see my own photos printed in the May Newsletter! I didn't notice I had lost them until I was packing for our cruise from Sydney to New Zealand in mid-January and that was when the panic set in. I just presumed I had left them somewhere in Germany and had seen the last of them. After our return from the 'Down Under' cruise we suffered terribly from jet-lag so obviously didn't see the note in the February Newsletter. Thank you so much again. It's an example of the extra-special personal care that is typical of Cruise In. By the way, that Christmas Cruise was something special and we are so disappointed that it won't be available this year.

Many thanks,

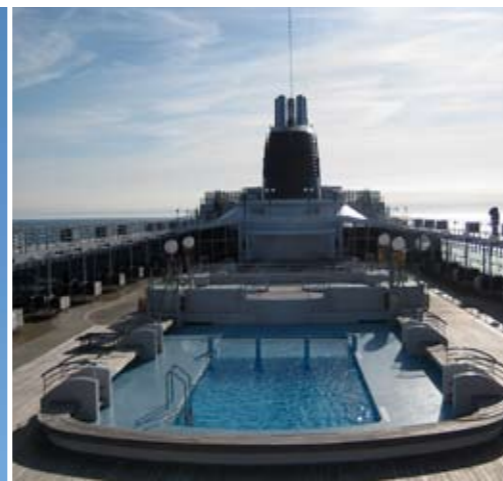
Sheila Morgan, South Wales



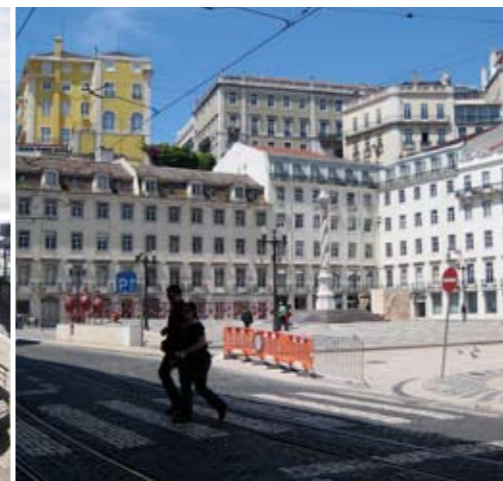
The 59,000-ton MSC Opera in Lisbon.



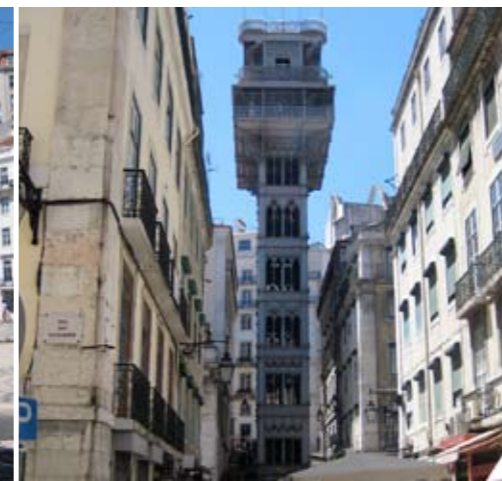
Flying the flag for Portugal.



Sunset, empty pools, full restaurants.



Praca do Municipio, the town hall square.



Going up - the elevator of Santa Justa...



...going past the Praca de Dom Pedro.

FORGET APRIL IN PARIS, TRY LISBON IN MAY

It begins with V, has five letters, and ends with E. What is it? Value! It's the first word that comes to mind to describe our four-night cruise on MSC Opera with three nights pre-cruise in Lisbon. We knew, when we brochured the offer in October 2008, the price was bonkers: from £369 including the outward flight! Without the stay in Lisbon it was from only £249! Crazy money! The phone never stopped and we were sold out in no time. Mr & Mrs Marketing hadn't been to Lisbon, so they jumped at the chance. And what a beautiful city! Lisbon is the Barcelona of Portugal. Everywhere you look there are sights to delight. The mixture of old



Stiletto worn at your own risk.

and new architecture, jumbled as if at random with not a planner in sight, is just brilliant. It would give the Prince of Wales a definite pain in the carbuncles. The tiled buildings and the distinctive 'tiled' pavements are unique. Our three-day 'city-break' brought home, not just the value of cruising, but the convenience. On a cruise, everything's taken care of for you. On a 'city-break' you have to do your own planning; where to go, what sights to see, where to lunch, where to dine? Cruising takes care of all that. And by the time we'd paid for everything on land, we could almost have bought another cruise! It was a brilliant holiday. The Lisbon weather was Scorcho! but

with a delicious breeze to keep you cool. The tourist buses were also great value at 11 euros - call it £11 - for two people for two days. We hopped on and off like rabbits, all over town. At one corner the driver seemed to be struggling with the wheel. Mrs Marketing, who can be a bit forward, said out loud: 'Go on big boy, you can do it!' The driver turned and said: 'You behave yourself! I'm from London!' Oops! We don't speak much Portuguese and in one restaurant we doubted if we spoke much English. The translation of a main course dish read: *Squids and opossums, attacked in the butter, filet fish pig grilled in the plate on cooked vegetables, folloied of gravy of pequilos pimentos.* I've no idea what it was, but it was delicious. I ate it with relish. I would have eaten it with ketchup, but I didn't like to ask. I was worried what might appear. Yet at that dinner, unlike on a cruise, once again we were dining alone, lovingly glaring at each other like we do every night of the year. One morning we visited the coolly beautiful Gulbenkian Museum of Modern Art. A famous British painter once described modern art as 'pictures of people with three eyes and a halibut on their head'. Unfair I think, but we couldn't help noticing



Spot the star in Compostela.

lots of locals giving the paintings a miss and heading straight for the excellent food in the café. Trams! You must ride the trams. Sit near the doors so you can watch the local urchins hitching a ride on the boarding step, clinging on by their fingertips. As for the trains, they're cheap, cheerful, clean and punctual. We took one to Estoril, and then walked along the promenade to Cascais. It was gorgeous. Scorcho! I even paddled with 'the bottoms of my trousers rolled'. Lunch on a terrace overlooking the sea; I tell you, marketing is a tough life. And we hadn't reached the cruise yet. When we did, it couldn't have been better. The Santa Apolónia Metro station is so close to the ship you walk up the escalator almost on to the gangplank. MSC Opera was super,



The 'Stone Bible'.



Stone me!



Mean, moody, magnificent, that's MSC.

sparklingly clean, good food, roomy cabin and, most important, great company at our dinner table. We liked the ports of call too. Vigo was beautiful. We went for a wander and found ourselves in the Marco Contemporary Art Galley, near C&A. The sculpture installation was unlit and included wooden pallets and cables lying around. It was so post-modern we weren't sure if the show was open. One doesn't wish to disparage, but we could have done with a few more eyes and some extra halibuts. At La Coruña we took the day tour to Santiago de Compostela. It was pricey, but included a four-course lunch with wine in the magnificent refectory. It was a pilgrimage we won't forget. On a personal note, some of you might like to know that since our return Mrs Marketing, and her friends, completed the overnight half-marathon charity Moon Walk in 3 hrs 50 minutes. She was tired though. Her look said, 'don't ask', so I didn't. I just said: 'Congratulations, how's your belly off for spots?' and left it at that. *Jim Kelso*



So that's what a hedge fund's for.



Watching our own birdie.



At Santiago de Compostela.



The marketing department at work.



'Wave, don't even think about it!'



His diet seems to be working.



The writing's on the wall.



The writing's on the windscreen.

WHERE DO WE LEAVE OUR LUGGAGE?

It's one of the most common questions we're asked. At the end of a cruise, if your flight is leaving in the late afternoon or evening and you disembark early in the morning, you need to park your bags. First of all, we should point out Royal Caribbean, Celebrity and Azamara will expect you to be off by 8.30am. This might seem unkind, but remember, on embarkation they always aim to get you on board hours before any other cruise lines. So, where do leave your luggage? It would help us, and fellow cruisers, if you'd tell us if you've experienced this and come up with any solutions, especially at our regular departure/arrival ports.

BARCELONA

There are three baggage storage places in Barcelona; Sants Train Station, Barcelona Nord bus station, and Barcelona international airport. The Spanish word for bag storage is 'Conseignas' and the symbol is either a suitcase or a key and bag sign. All lockers have the same rules and you store luggage for up to 24 hours. Barcelona Sants Station is a little outside the central area but it is very quick by Metro to the centre and there's a direct train to the airport every 20 minutes. Barcelona Nord Bus Station: These lockers can be found opposite the station within the outside bus area. There are roughly 50 white lockers in total and three different sizes. Prices are: €3.50 to €5.0 for 24-hours. Barcelona International Airport: You can securely store bags at Terminal B. There are small, medium and large lockers from €3.80 to €4.90 for 24-hours. Machines accept €5, €10 and €20 notes only, not coins or credit cards.

VENICE

The natural place to store luggage following your cruise is in the cruise terminals. The baggage storage office is normally open from 9am to 5.45pm but often closes between noon and 3pm for a short lunch break! You need to check, before depositing luggage, the exact time they go home for a late dinner! Santa Lucia Railway station has a left luggage office between platforms 1-14 and 5-23. The arrival and departure points for buses and taxis, called Piazzale Roma, also has storage facilities. Look for 'deposito bagagli' opposite the ACTV ticket office next to the Pullman bar.

MALAGA

Malaga Railway station is two kilometers from the port and has a left-luggage office open from 06.00 to 23.30. It's manned all day as they eat late! A suburban train service operates to the airport 9 km away.

HELLO JOANNE AND ALL AT CRUISE IN,

Just to let you know we had a fantastic cruise on Serenade of the Seas to Alaska on 1 May 2009. Our flights both ways were exactly on time. Each port of call was great, Astoria and Victoria giving us the opportunity to meet up with friends who were delighted to show us around. We do love the laid back towns. We noticed in Skagway there were a few stores closed down, sad!! We took Cliff's advice and went to the local bar beside the ship's moorings to have the wonderful fresh halibut and chips and we weren't disappointed. But in Ketchikan a couple of days before, right on the port side, there was a little kiosk selling sea food. We had halibut and chips there which we thought had the slimmest edge on being better! Maybe it was the buzzing atmosphere that did the trick. Our evening dinner table company was fantastic; three sisters from Houston, Texas, a husband and wife from Essex and another married couple from California. All nine of us said it was the best table ever and the cruise wonderful. We loved our little cabin, 8592. So all in all you can see we had a great cruise. Hopefully in the not too distant future we'll be getting in touch with you folks again at Cruise In. Many thanks to you, especially Joanne, putting up with all our phone calls and being so helpful each time..... Kind regards, Olga and Billy Green



INDEPENDENCE OF THE SEAS

It's brilliant news for cruisers who don't fly, to be able to cruise out of Southampton 12 months a year and on, currently, the largest cruise ship in the world. Not only have we featured the fabulous Christmas Cruise 2010, but we have taken the 11-night Spain & Canary Islands cruise on 18th November 2010, 25th March and 16th April 2011, at prices starting from £739 per person including \$100 per person onboard credit. More information on the website.

Regards and best wishes from Cliff and the Crew at Cruise In.



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01264 350750 • www.cruisein.co.uk • 01264 350750 • www.cruisein.co.uk

Cruise In Limited, 8 Westmarch Business Centre, River Way, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1NS Tel: 01264 350750 Fax: 01264 361222