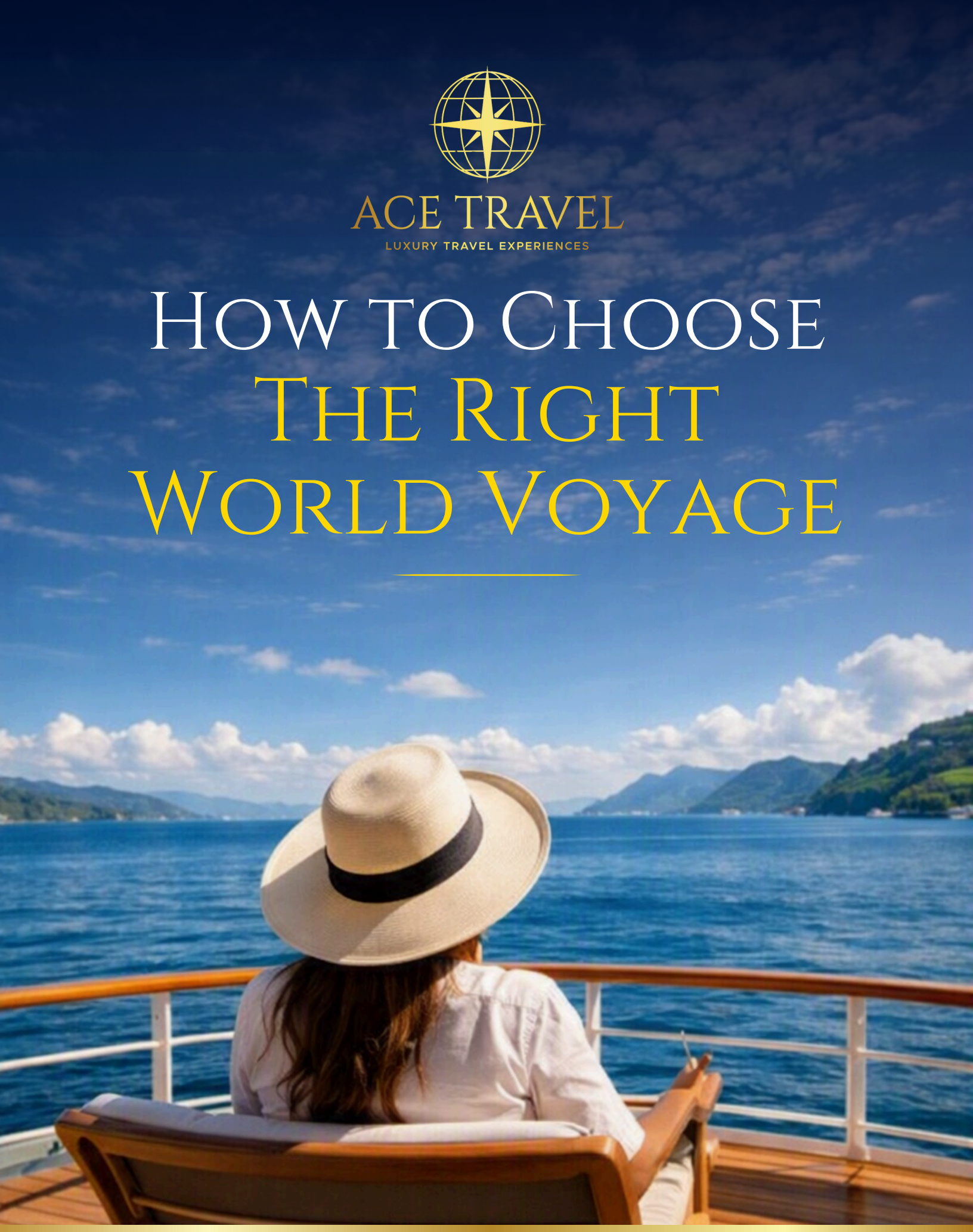
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How to Choose The Right World Voyage



A world voyage is a life-changing experience, and choosing the right one for you can be challenging and complex. In this guide, we will escort you through the decision framework we use with our clients to ensure your world voyage is the best fit for you and your lifestyle.

What Does Your Ideal World Voyage Look Like?

Choosing the right world voyage starts with you. What do you want from a world voyage? We ask our clients to start by answering these questions. You may not know all of the answers right now — and that's okay. Start with what you already know. As you work through the rest of this guide, you can add to or change your answers as you learn what matters most to you.



What are your must-haves?

- Are there specific regions or destinations you'd like to explore?
- Is there a particular onboard atmosphere or style of cruising you're looking for?
- Do you have a preference for the size of the ship?
- Are there certain amenities or facilities onboard that you absolutely must have?

What would be nice to have?

Are there some things you can put in the "would be nice, but aren't essential" category?

What are your deal-breakers?

What are your absolute non-negotiables?

Are particular destinations important?

- Is there a specific port or city you want to visit?
- A particular region?
- Or an experience, such as transiting a certain canal or sailing a particular ocean?

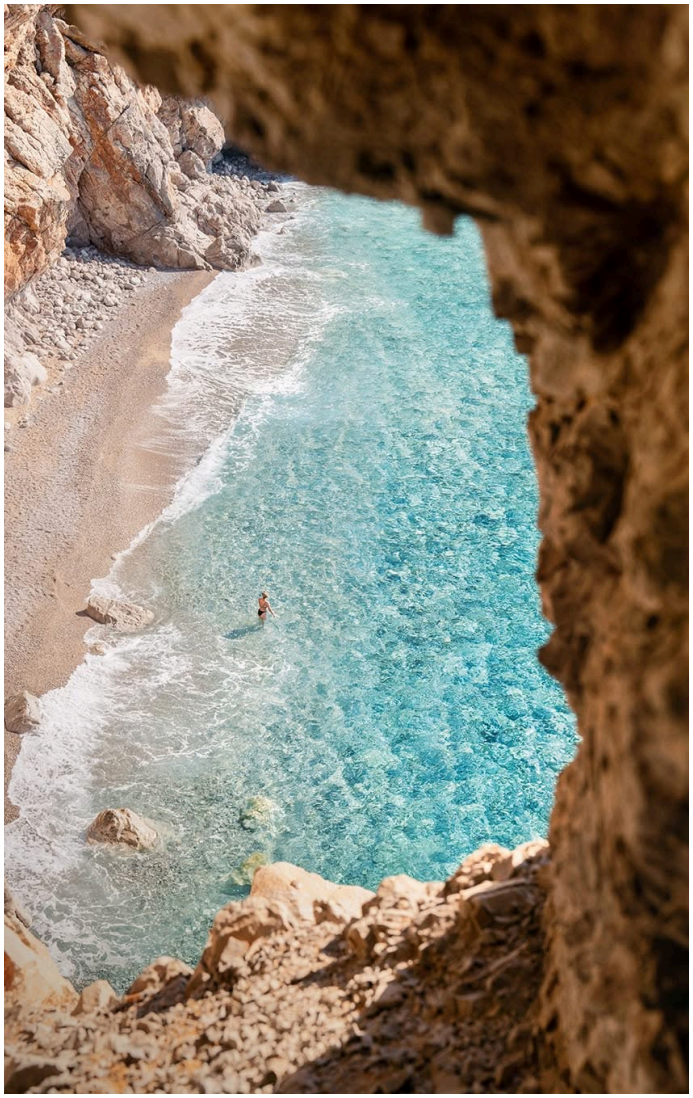


How long do you want to travel?

Most world voyages range from 110 days to 188 days, depending on the cruise line and itinerary. All of the world voyages we offer embark in the first week of January and extend through late April onwards. The longest world voyages typically disembark in late June or early July.

Is there a particular voyage length that fits your life, or are you flexible?





What do you think about sea days?

The amount of time spent at sea varies considerably across world voyage itineraries. For some travelers, sea days are a significant part of the experience — an opportunity to slow down and enjoy the ship and her activities. For others, days in port are much more of the draw.

Across all of the world voyages we have planned, sea days range from 36% of the itinerary to 65%.

What kind of onboard experience do you want?

We'll cover this in more detail in a later section, but considerations include:

- Style of cruising and service,
- Dining,
- Entertainment,
- Enrichment,
- Daily and evening activities,
- Social atmosphere,
- Formality,
- Passenger demographics and
- General onboard culture.

If you are a solo traveler, you may also want to think about how important the social environment and opportunities to meet other travelers are to you.



What level of comfort and service matters to you?

Do you prefer to be more self-reliant, or do you want opulent pampering? Is having a butler important to you, or is the service provided by a cabin steward more your style?

What are you willing to compromise on?

This is often the toughest question! Once you've answered the questions above, you may find that you have a long list of "wants" — and then discover that there isn't a world voyage that provides everything on your list. That's when we prioritize. It's all part of finding the best world voyage for you!

Let's dive in deeper, shall we?



Where do you actually want to go — and how do you want to experience it?

World voyage itineraries are complex and varied. Once you've decided that a world voyage is something you'd like to do, you start Googling and find four, five, six or seven itineraries — and suddenly feel overwhelmed. We hear this from clients all the time.

So, how do we walk our clients through deciding which itinerary works best for them?

How long is it?

The first thing we establish when we talk to clients is the length of the voyage, and whether there are any limits on how long they can be away. We covered this in more detail in our guide Is a *World Cruise Right for You?*

Most world voyages range from 110 days to 188 days, depending on the cruise line and itinerary. All of the world voyages we offer embark in the first week of January and extend through late April onwards. The longest world voyages typically disembark in late June or early July.

Depending on the year you are considering, are there any limitations on your availability? Do you have a preference for when you are away and when you'd like to be home?





What is the route?

Our golden rule is to first look at the overall route, not just the list of destinations.

- Where does it start and end?
- Where does it go?
- How long is it?

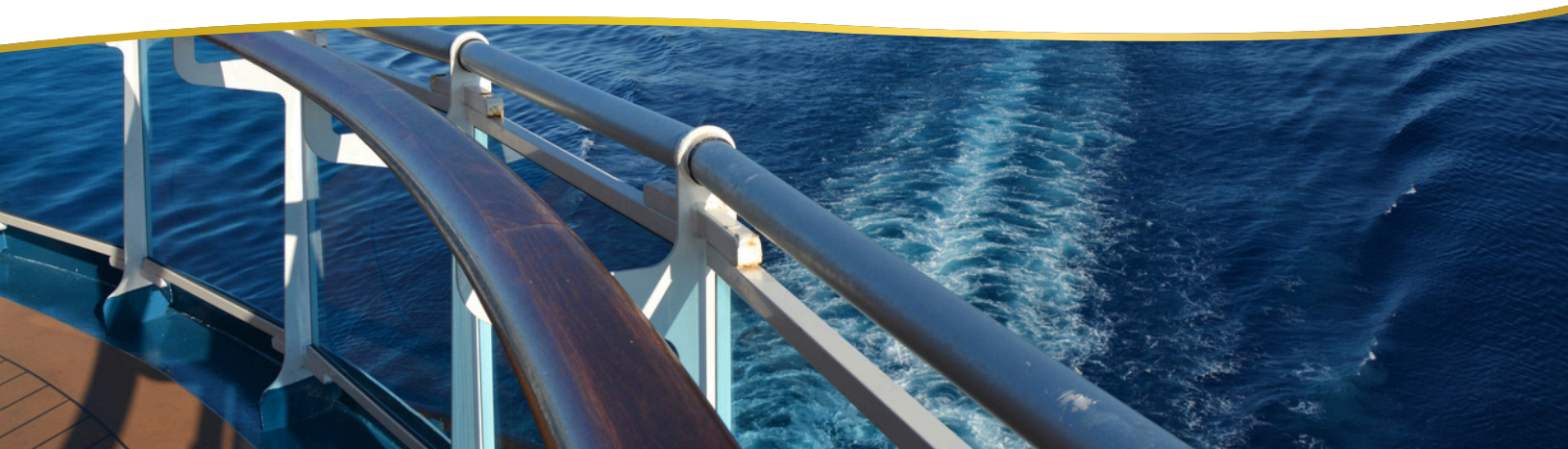
Then we start checking off boxes.

- Based on those first answers, does this itinerary stay on the consideration list or not?

Are there sea-based experiences you want to have?

For some world voyagers, sea-based experiences such as crossing the International Date Line or the Equator, or transiting the Panama Canal, are an essential part of the experience.

Do you want to sail around the Cape of Good Hope? Have you always wanted to sail the Indian Ocean? The Arctic Ocean? Is going full trans-Pacific a must-do?



Do you have a region you particularly want to visit?

Next, we ask whether there is a region, country or group of countries that you particularly want to visit. It might be as simple as wanting to see Southeast Asia without having specific countries in mind. Or you might definitely want to visit Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, for example.

If you have an answer to this question and can list regions or countries, we then ask why.

- What is it about those places that is a draw for you?
- Have you watched a movie or a television show that was filmed there?
- Do you know someone who has been?
- Are you interested in the history, geopolitics or religion(s) of the area?

The answers to these questions help with the next question: **what specifically do you want to see or experience in those destinations?** Is it a museum, a religious building, something in nature, a particular landmark, or a specific experience you want to have there?

Answering those questions allows for a closer inspection of the itinerary: how long is the ship actually in those destinations, and is there enough time for you to do what matters most to you there?





Is the destination experience a fit?

Now that you've narrowed down your must-have regions and destinations, the next questions help determine whether the itinerary gives you the depth and breadth of experience you want in each place.

- Is there enough time to do what matters most to you?
- Does the ship stay late or overnight in the ports that matter most?
- What opportunities for cultural immersion are offered in those ports?
- What shore excursions are available?

These can be more difficult questions to answer. While the cruise lines that offer world voyages each have their own signature events and shore excursion offerings, they are not the only option. Travel advisors who specialize in world voyages, or in specific regions of the world, will have partnerships with tour operators and guides in ports and cities that can offer a wider range of tours and experiences, including private and more personalized options.



Does the itinerary have sections you don't care about?

Once you have an itinerary — or several — that includes your must-have destinations, look at the other parts of the route.

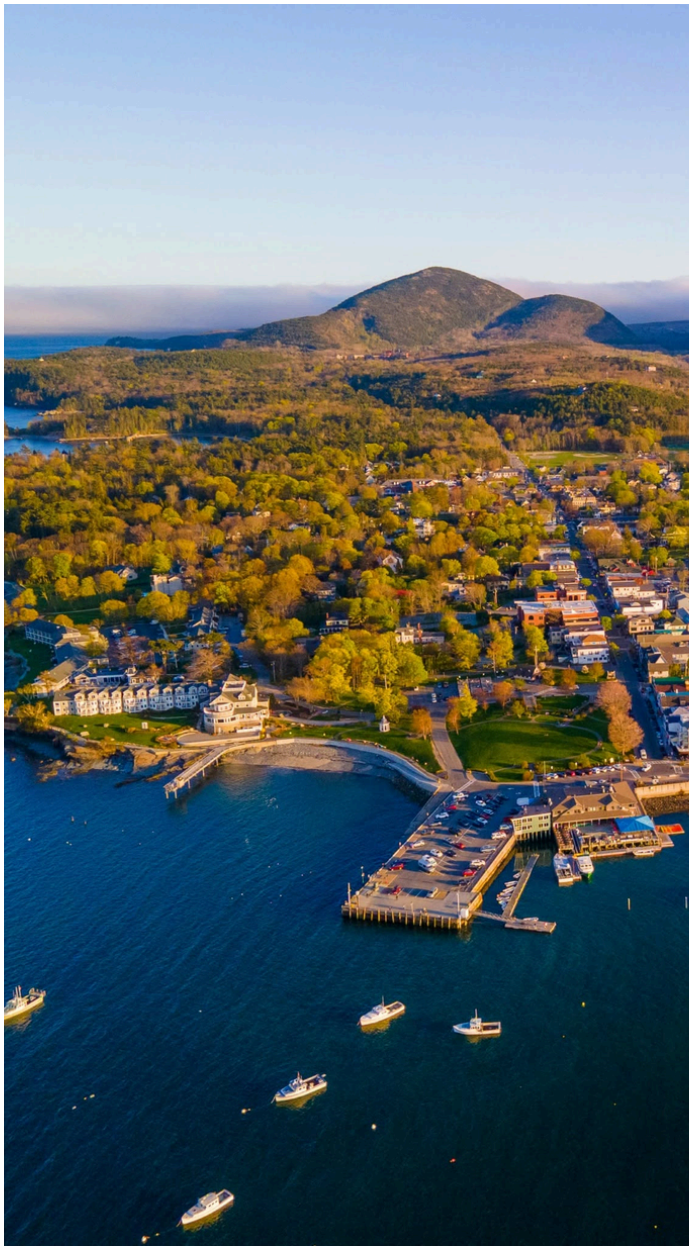
- Are there sections that don't interest you very much?
- Does that matter to you, or can you still find things you'd enjoy doing in those destinations?
- Would staying on the ship and enjoying the amenities onboard work for you?

Repeated ports

Some itineraries will have repeat visits to the same ports. Often this is for logistical reasons, such as taking on supplies and facilitating crew changes.

A repeat visit can give you the opportunity to explore somewhere you missed the first time — or somewhere you only discovered after hearing about it from a fellow passenger.





Unusual or hard-to-reach destinations

While there is significant overlap between world-voyage itineraries, some smaller ships can visit unusual or harder-to-reach destinations that larger ships cannot. If those destinations matter to you, they are worth considering.

Port intensity

When studying world-voyage itineraries, port intensity is worth considering. Some parts of a voyage may include six or seven consecutive port days. That can be demanding, depending on your mobility, energy levels and how much you want to do ashore. Look not only at how many port days a voyage has, but also at how they are grouped together.



Sea Days vs Port Days

How do you feel about days at sea?

For some travelers, sea days are a significant part of the experience — an opportunity to slow down and enjoy the ship and her activities. For others, days in port are much more of the draw.

Across all of the world voyages we have planned, sea days range from 36% of the itinerary to 65%.





Sea Day Stretches

How do you feel about consecutive days at sea? Even travelers who love sea days may have a limit on how many ***consecutive*** days they'd prefer. For some, it might be three or four. For others, six or seven consecutive sea days are bliss!

Most stretches at sea are fairly short. In our analysis of world voyage itineraries, the average stretch was just over two consecutive sea days, and nearly three-quarters were one or two days. But some itineraries included stretches of up to eight consecutive days at sea.

Embarkation and Disembarkation Ports

Do the ports where you embark and disembark matter to you? Do you prefer the simplicity of round-trip flights, or are two one-way journeys perfectly acceptable? Would you rather join the ship at a domestic port, or does beginning your voyage internationally appeal to you?

Embarking at an international port can involve some additional logistics, such as flight and baggage arrangements, but these can usually be planned for.

Accessibility and Mobility Considerations

For travelers with accessibility or mobility needs, the itinerary requires an additional layer of consideration. Accessibility can vary considerably from one destination to another.

If accessibility or mobility is important to you, look beyond the ship itself. Consider the ports, transportation, shore excursions and whether any must-see destinations require tendering. The important question is whether you'll be able to experience the parts of the itinerary that matter most to you.



Itinerary Mistakes People Make

In our experience, there are a few common mistakes future world voyagers make when comparing itineraries.

- Don't be swayed by the number of countries and ports alone.
- Don't assume a bucket-list port means you'll have enough time there.
- Don't overlook overnights and late departures.
- Don't compare sea-day percentages without looking at consecutive sea-day stretches.
- Don't ignore parts of the route that don't interest you.
- Don't forget the logistics of where the voyage starts and ends.
- Don't choose a four-month voyage solely because of one port you can't bear to miss.

Itineraries do change

It is important to remember that world-voyage itineraries can change. Weather, operational issues and events around the world can all affect where a ship is able to go.

World travel, even on a world voyage, requires a certain amount of flexibility and adaptability. The itinerary may be one of the biggest factors in choosing your world voyage, but it shouldn't be the only one.

And that's exactly where we're going next.



How Do You Want to Live for Several Months?

For a future world voyager, the itinerary is without doubt the most important part of the decision. Where am I going and what will I see?

But we advise giving equal consideration to the cruise line you choose to sail with. Each has its own unique style, and they aren't all a fit for everyone. If you are going to be living on the ship for between four and six months, it is important that it is comfortable for you and your lifestyle.

We've divided this section into areas that we believe deserve separate reflection.





What do you want your world voyage to feel like?

- What style of cruising feels like you?
- Refined and traditional? Relaxed and informal?
- Intimate and ultra-luxurious?

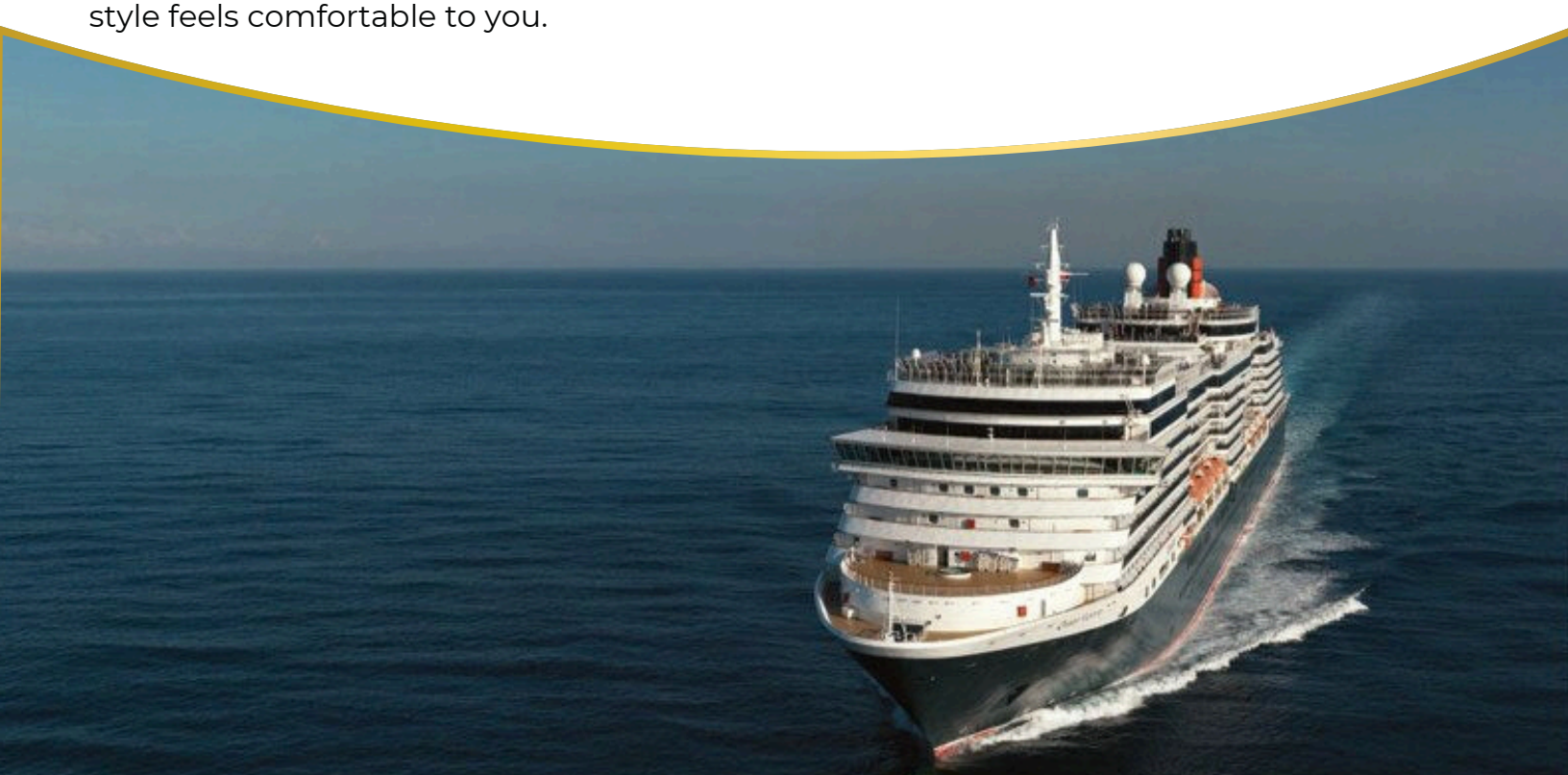
Each cruise line has its own personality.

Think of it as the overall **feel** of life onboard — something that's difficult to understand from a list of amenities, but that you'll notice every day when you're living on the ship for four months.

- Is refined elegance with a British legacy your style?
- Would you prefer something relaxed and destination-focused?

Perhaps you're looking for a more intimate, ultra-luxury experience where personalized service is central to life onboard.

There isn't a right or wrong answer. The important question is whether the cruise line's style feels comfortable to you.



How formal — or informal — do you want to be?

- How formal do you want to be?
- Do you enjoy getting dressed up for black-tie and gala nights?
- If you do, how often would you enjoy doing that over four to six months?
- Or do you prefer an elegant onboard experience with a more relaxed approach to dress?

Dress codes and the level of formality vary considerably between cruise lines. What feels like a wonderful part of the world voyage experience to one traveler can feel restrictive to another. Over a voyage of this length, it is worth considering what will feel comfortable for you — not just for one special evening, but as part of your everyday life onboard.
Cunard, for example, typically has around two Gala Evenings per week. Over four months, those add up. For those that love to dress up, it's a highlight of the voyage.



How important is dining to you?

How important is dining variety to you?

On a week-long cruise, eating in the same few restaurants may not matter. Over four to six months, you may feel very differently. Consider not only the number of restaurants onboard, but the variety of food and dining experiences available.

- Do you enjoy a traditional main dining room experience, or do you prefer more flexibility? How important are specialty restaurants?
- Do you like casual options?
- Do you enjoy room service options?
- Would you enjoy having different places to choose from depending on your mood?



Also consider how you like to dine. Do you prefer a table for two, or is sharing a table and meeting other passengers part of the experience for you? Do you like set routines, or would you rather decide when and where to eat each day?

How Do You Want to Spend Your Time Onboard?

You're going to spend a significant amount of your world voyage onboard the ship, particularly on sea days. So think about how you would genuinely enjoy spending that time — during the day and in the evening.

- Are you interested in guest speakers, lectures and destination talks?
- Do you enjoy live music and theater? Would you take part in dance classes, arts and crafts, choir, trivia or card games?
- Is fitness important?
- Do you prefer to do fitness solo or in a class?
- Would you enjoy dressing for an evening of ballroom dancing, or are you more likely to find a quiet lounge with live jazz or a corner with a book?





This is an area where the cruise lines can offer some very different experiences.

Cunard, for example, has a strong tradition of ballroom dancing. Queen Mary 2 has the largest ballroom at sea, with dancing in the Queens Room and dance hosts available for guests without a dance partner. Cunard also has a particularly strong enrichment program, with guest speakers, masterclasses and activities ranging from watercolor painting and wine tasting to fencing and ballroom dance classes.

Azamara brings much more of the destination into the onboard experience. Its programming includes local performers, destination speakers and Stories Under the Stars, with talks about the folklore and culture of the places you're visiting. Its White Night parties also create a very different kind of social evening onboard.



Seabourn offers Seabourn Conversations, bringing experts in areas such as arts, science, culture and current affairs onboard — and those experts may also dine and socialize with guests. Its Shopping with the Chef experience takes guests ashore with the ship's chef to visit local markets, connecting onboard life with the destination.

There are also the everyday things that may matter enormously to you. Do you exercise regularly? Play bridge or cards? Love live music or theater? Would you join a choir, take an art class or spend every afternoon by the pool? Perhaps you'd be perfectly happy with a great library, a comfortable chair and a good book.

The important thing isn't which cruise line offers the longest list of activities. It's whether the cruise line offers enough of the things you will actually enjoy doing again and again for four to six months.





How social do you want your world voyage to be?

A world voyage can become a very social experience. You are living alongside many of the same people for several months, and friendships can form through shared meals, activities, excursions and simply seeing the same familiar faces around the ship every day.

But the social atmosphere can feel different from one cruise line to another. Some deliberately create a strong sense of community, while others may suit travelers who prefer a little more independence and privacy.

Seabourn, for example, deliberately describes its ships as having a private-club atmosphere. Its smaller ships, open-seating dining and Seabourn Conversations program — where guest experts don't simply give talks but may also dine and socialize with guests — can create opportunities for guests to interact naturally.



Azamara also places a strong emphasis on shared experiences. Events such as its White Night party bring guests together onboard, while its smaller ships and destination-focused experiences can mean repeatedly exploring and socializing with the same group of travelers.

Cunard offers a different kind of social environment. Traditions such as ballroom dancing, hosted activities, trivia, enrichment programs and shared tables at dinner can provide plenty of opportunities to meet other guests — but on a much larger ship such as Queen Mary 2, you can also choose to retreat into your own routine.

So ask yourself: *Do you want to become part of a close onboard community? Do you enjoy meeting new people and joining group activities? Or would you rather have plenty of opportunities to do your own thing?*

There is no right answer. What matters is choosing an environment where the amount — and **style** — of social interaction feels comfortable to you.

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How much service do you want?

The level and style of service can vary significantly between cruise lines, and more service isn't necessarily better if it isn't something you value.

Silversea, for example, provides butler service for every suite, while **Regent** includes personal butler service in its higher suite categories. **Seabourn** focuses on highly personalized, intuitive service, with a high crew-to-guest ratio and staff getting to know guests' preferences throughout the voyage.

For some travelers, that level of attention is an important part of the luxury experience. Others may be perfectly happy with excellent cabin-steward service and prefer to be more independent.

Ask yourself: *How much do you actually want to be looked after?*

How inclusive do you want your fare to be?



World voyage fares can vary considerably in what they include. Some cruise lines bundle many of the extras into the fare, while others allow you to pay separately for more of the services and amenities you choose to use.

For example, **Regent** includes a particularly broad range of amenities and services in its fares, while **Cunard** takes a more traditional approach, with more items available at an additional cost. Other cruise lines fall somewhere in between.

Neither approach is automatically better. If you value having drinks, Wi-Fi, gratuities, shore excursions and other services included, a more inclusive fare may appeal to you. If you won't use many of those inclusions, they may hold much less value.

We'll look at this more closely in the next section, and in our separate guide to *Planning Your World Voyage Budget*.

Who will you be sharing the ship with?

On a world voyage, your fellow passengers become part of the experience. You will be sharing the ship with many of the same people for several months, so it is worth considering the type of onboard community in which you will feel most comfortable.

Passenger demographics can vary between cruise lines — including age, nationality and the mix of couples and solo travelers. **Cunard**, for example, attracts a particularly international audience with a strong British influence, while the smaller ultra-luxury lines may attract a different mix of experienced luxury travelers.

But demographics only tell you so much. Think about the community you want around you.

- Do you enjoy meeting people from around the world?
- Would you prefer a lively, sociable group or something quieter and more private?
- How important is it to you to feel that you have found “your people”?



Solo Traveling

If you're traveling solo, the cruise line you choose can have an even greater impact on your world voyage experience. You're not just choosing a cabin for one — you're choosing the community you'll be living in for several months.

Look at how each cruise line supports solo travelers socially.

- Are there hosted solo gatherings?
- Opportunities to share tables at dinner?
- Activities that make it easy to meet people?
- Are there dance hosts if you enjoy ballroom dancing?
- Does the overall atmosphere make it easy to join in when you want company?

Also consider the practical side. Some ships offer dedicated solo accommodation, while others may require solo travelers to book a double-occupancy cabin or suite and pay a single supplement.

A world voyage can be a wonderful way to travel solo — but the right cruise line can make a big difference to how connected and comfortable you feel onboard.

What Are You Actually Getting for Your Money?

When it comes to the cost of a world voyage, comparing the offerings from different cruise lines takes some skill. The initial price doesn't provide the full picture. Cruise lines differ considerably in what is included — and excluded — from the published fare, and there may also be different fare options available for the same voyage.

Generally speaking, world voyage fares fall somewhere on a spectrum from a more traditional cruise fare to a much more all-inclusive experience.

At the more traditional end, the published fare covers the voyage itself, taxes and port fees, accommodation, meals in included dining venues, basic beverages such as water, tea or coffee, and onboard entertainment. Other services — such as alcoholic beverages, specialty coffees, Wi-Fi, specialty dining and shore excursions — may cost extra.

At the other end, more inclusive fares bundle many of those additional services into the price and, particularly on full world voyages, may also include benefits such as flights, transfers, hotels, laundry or shore excursions.

At first glance, this can make the price difference between two voyages seem substantial. But once you compare the inclusions and likely additional costs side-by-side, that gap may become considerably smaller.

This is where your own preferences can make a big difference between price and value. Regent Seven Seas Cruises, for example, includes a wide range of amenities and services in its fare. But if you don't drink alcohol and will rarely use the internet onboard, how much value do those particular inclusions have for you? Would you prefer a cruise line where you pay separately for more of the things you choose to use?

To make those differences easier to see, we've compared some of the major inclusions across the world voyage cruise lines we work with. Start with this quick at-a-glance comparison:



	Azamara	Cunard	Regent	Seabourn	Silversea
Gratuities	✅	❌	✅	✅	✅
Drinks	🚫	❌	✅	✅	✅
Wi-Fi	✅	❌	✅	✅	✅
Specialty dining	✅	🚫	✅	✅	🚫
Room service	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅
Shore excursions	💲	❌	✅	❌	💲
Laundry	✅	🚫	✅	✅	✅
Transfers	✅	❌	✅	✅	❌
Flights	✅	❌	✅	✅	❌
Pre-cruise hotel	✅	❌	✅	✅	❌
Luggage shipping	✅	🚫	✅	✅	✅

✅ Included | 🚫 Some/partially included | 💲 Credit included | ❌ Additional cost

But the details matter. “Included” doesn't always mean exactly the same thing from one cruise line to another. The tables below take a closer look at what each cruise line provides.



Onboard Inclusions	Azamara	Cunard	Regent	Seabourn	Silversea
Single Supplement	175%	200%	200%	125%	125%
Gratuities/ service charges	Included	Additional	Included	Included	Included
Beverage packages / drinks included.	Basic alcohol included. Premium additional	Additional	Included	Included	Included
Wi-Fi/internet	Included	Additional	Included	Included	Included
Specialty dining charges	Included (Suite guests receive preferred seating)	Additional	Included	Included	Included except Chef's Table
Room Service	Included	Included for all guests before 10AM. Fully included for Britannia Club, Princess Grill, and Queens Grill Suites	Included	Included	Included
Butler/Suite Service	Included for suite guests	Butler included for Queen Grill guests. Concierge Service for Princess Grill	Penthouse and above	Personal Suite Host included	Included

Destination Experiences	Azamara	Cunard	Regent	Seabourn	Silversea
Shore excursions	Shore excursion credit	Additional	Unlimited included. Some enhanced/ premium tours carry additional charge	Additional	Shore excursion credit
Overland/multi-day excursions	Additional	Additional	Additional	Additional	Additional
Cruise-line signature/special events	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included
Port shuttle	Included where available*	Included	Included	Included	Included when required by destination

*Azamara Port Shuttle: If a port is within easy walking distance, or local municipal/port authorities prohibit private cruise shuttles, a complimentary bus may not operate.

Spa, Fitness & Personal Services	Azamara	Cunard	Regent	Seabourn	Silversea
Spa/salon services	Additional. Top-tier suites have complimentary access to the Thalassotherapy Pool terrace	Additional	Additional. Access General onboard wellness areas, such as the sauna, steam rooms, and relaxation areas, is included for all guests	Additional	Additional except one Otium spa treatment per guest
Fitness classes/ personal training	Complimentary group fitness classes included are yoga, Pilates, cycling and spin classes, core workouts and stretching, nutrition and wellness classes	Additional	Complimentary classes typically include yoga, Vinyasa stretching, mat Pilates, indoor cycling/spinnin, HIIT/circuit training, guided meditation, breathwork and stretch sessions	Complimentary group classes include yoga, mat Pilates, Tai Chi, stretching and select core/cardio workouts. Many wellness classes included	Select group classes included
Laundry/ dry cleaning/ pressing	Included	Self-service included for all guests. Limited complimentary laundry for higher tier loyalty program guests.	Included	Included	Included

Pre- and Post-Travel	Azamara	Cunard	Regent	Seabourn	Silversea
Transfers	Airport transfer included on World Voyages	Additional	Included depending on fare/air/hotel package	Complimentary private car transfers home to local departure airport (100-mile radius)	Complimentary private car transfers home to local departure airport (50-mile radius)
Flights	AirFare Credit included on World Voyages	Additional	Business Class included on World Voyages	Included. Available from certain gateway airports	Business Class included on World Voyages
Pre-cruise hotel	One night included on World Voyages	Additional	Included for Concierge Suites and above	Two-night stay included on World Voyages	Included on World Voyages
Post-cruise hotel	Additional	Additional	Additional	Additional	Additional
Luggage shipping/ service	$500 Luggage Reimbursement per Stateroom included on World Voyages	Additional. 10% Discount for Cunard World Club members	Included on World Voyages	Included on World Voyages	Included on World Voyages

What Do You Need From Your Home at Sea? What will YOU actually use for 100+ days?

Another consideration is the ship itself. Will it provide the amenities and facilities you will need for a hundred or more days? Things that may seem trivial or mildly inconvenient on a short cruise can become significant when you're living onboard for several months.

We guide clients to think about the specific spaces and facilities they will need or prefer. For example, do you prefer somewhere to read quietly that isn't your cabin? Would you like a library with comfortable seating to read for extended periods?

Do you enjoy a coffee-shop-style venue where you can meet and socialize? If you enjoy card or board games with friends, is there somewhere comfortable to play?

Do you enjoy being outside and walking? Does the ship provide the space to do that? Are you a regular gym-goer? Does the gym provide the equipment and services you would need to maintain your fitness routine for several months? Do you swim regularly? Would the size of the pool matter to you? Would you prefer an indoor pool?

What are your dining preferences? Do you prefer a variety of dining venues offering different cuisines, or are you content with dining in the main dining room most evenings? Do you have any special dietary needs that would need to be accommodated?

Do you enjoy using a spa facility, and are there certain services you would find essential?

Will you be working while onboard? Will you need reliable high-speed internet and a comfortable place to set up a laptop?

Do you prefer a larger ship or a smaller ship? If you're not sure, think less about the number of passengers and more about what the ship's size means for your everyday life — the amount of space, number of venues and facilities available, and how easy it is to get around.





Sometimes a single feature can make a difference. Queen Mary 2, for example, has a wraparound promenade deck for those who enjoy walking outdoors and an indoor pool for swimmers who want that option regardless of the weather. Some Seabourn ships have a retractable marina that provides direct access to watersports when conditions allow.

Are there any facilities or services you actually **need** onboard? Do you have accessibility or mobility needs that must be accommodated? Will you require access to particular medical support while onboard?

What genuinely doesn't matter to you? As you look at deck plans, what do you see that you know you won't use?

The question we ask our clients to answer is: **"What do you want and need for your everyday life now, and how much of that must be available on the ship?"**



What Do You Need From Your Personal Space?

Your stateroom will be your personal space for four to six months, so think carefully about what will make that space comfortable for you. How much room do you prefer? Is having your own outdoor space important? Will you use your stateroom primarily for sleeping and getting ready, or do you want somewhere you will genuinely enjoy spending time?
The question isn't simply what each category costs, but which features and level of space will add meaningful value to your experience for four to six months.
Some simple questions we ask our clients are:

- Do you need natural light? If so, would an oceanview stateroom satisfy you, or is having a balcony important?
- Do you want your own private outdoor space? How much would you actually use a balcony or veranda?
- Do you have any motion sickness concerns?
- Do you have any mobility concerns that might make a more central location easier for getting around the ship?
- Would you prefer to be close to a particular facility, such as the dining room or gym?



- How much time will you realistically spend in your stateroom? Do you value having somewhere private to retreat to, or are you likely to spend most of your time elsewhere on the ship?
- Are you sailing solo? Does the ship offer dedicated solo accommodation, or will you be paying a single supplement for a double-occupancy stateroom?
- Will the stateroom provide enough storage for the way you pack and live for several months? There are several ways to make the most of the storage available, and our **Guide to Packing for a World Voyage** has helpful suggestions.

What Are You Willing to Give Up?

It's unlikely that the ***perfect*** world voyage exists — one that gives you exactly what you would prefer across every area we've covered so far.

At this stage in the search for the best world voyage for you, we ask our clients to consider what they're willing to trade — and what remains non-negotiable.

Some of the most common trade-offs future world voyagers may need to consider are:

- Preferred cruise line vs stronger itinerary
- Favorite destinations vs a route with more new places
- More countries/ports vs more time in each destination
- Bucket-list ports vs a better overall route
- Longer voyage vs a shorter voyage that fits your life better
- Convenient embarkation/disembarkation vs stronger itinerary
- Smaller, more intimate ship vs larger ship with more facilities and venues
- Preferred ship vs stronger itinerary
- More inclusive fare vs paying separately for the things you actually use
- Larger suite/stateroom vs spending more on other parts of the voyage
- Preferred stateroom vs preferred voyage
- Ideal stateroom location vs preferred accommodation category

This is where we weigh what matters most to you and narrow the options down to one or two for final consideration.

Which Voyages Best Match You?

At this stage, you've probably narrowed your options down to two or three world voyages that **seem to be** the best fit for your desired experience.

We advise clients to run through this checklist for each remaining voyage. You can use a simple YES/NO, or give each factor a score out of five. At the end, you should have a much clearer picture of which world voyage is the best fit for you.

Not every factor has to carry the same weight. A five out of five for something that barely matters to you shouldn't outweigh a lower score on one of your non-negotiables. **Consider ranking the checklist first, based on what matters most to you.**

- Dates and length
- Route
- Must-have destinations/experiences
- Time in destination/overnights
- Sea-day balance and stretches
- Embarkation/disembarkation
- Cruise line/vibe/culture
- Dining
- Onboard activities/enrichment
- Social environment
- Service level
- Ship
- Must-have ship facilities
- Stateroom
- Fare
- Major inclusions
- Overall value
- Biggest advantage
- Biggest compromise



Once you've completed the checklist, look at the voyages that rise to the top. Which one best delivers the things that matter most to you — with compromises you're comfortable making?

Before You Make the Final Decision

We strongly recommend one last sanity check before booking. Ask yourself these seven quick “gut check” questions:

1. Does this voyage meet your real priorities?
2. Can you picture yourself living aboard this ship for this long?
3. What are you compromising on?
4. Are you comfortable with those compromises?
5. Have you compared the **true cost and value** of your finalists?
6. Are there unanswered questions?
7. Is there anything you need a specialist to investigate before you commit?

If you’re still uncertain, we’d love to help. We offer a complimentary World Voyage consultation, and there is no additional cost to book your voyage through us.

Ready to Find Your World Voyage?

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