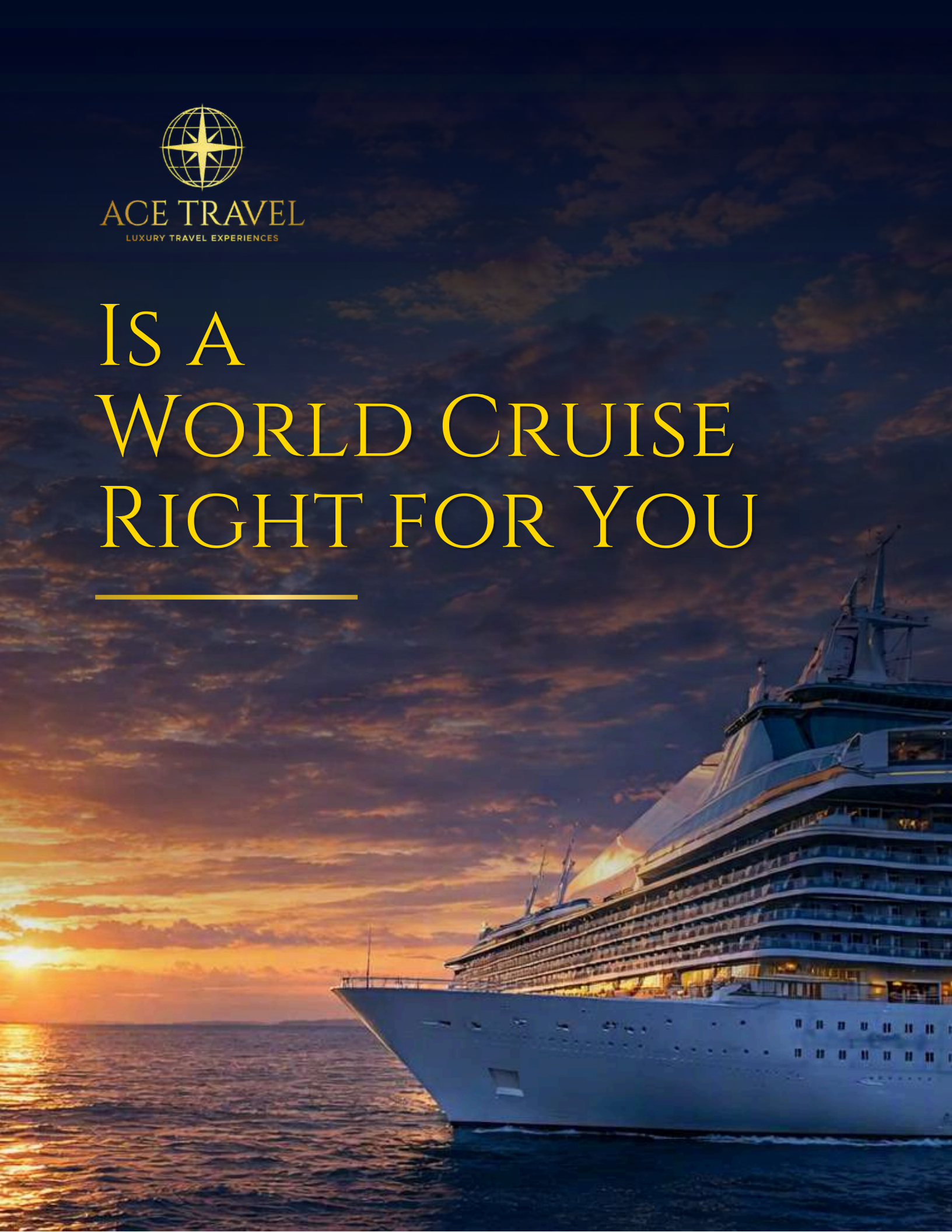
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Is a World Cruise Right for You





Is a World Cruise Right for You

Have you ever seen an ad for a World Voyage and wondered, “Is a world voyage something I would enjoy?”

This guide will give you the information you need to get clear on the answer.

We’ll look at what world voyages are, who takes them, the practicalities of being away for several months, and some of the less obvious considerations. Finally, we’ll give you a set of questions to help you decide whether a world voyage is right for you now, in the future — or perhaps not at all.

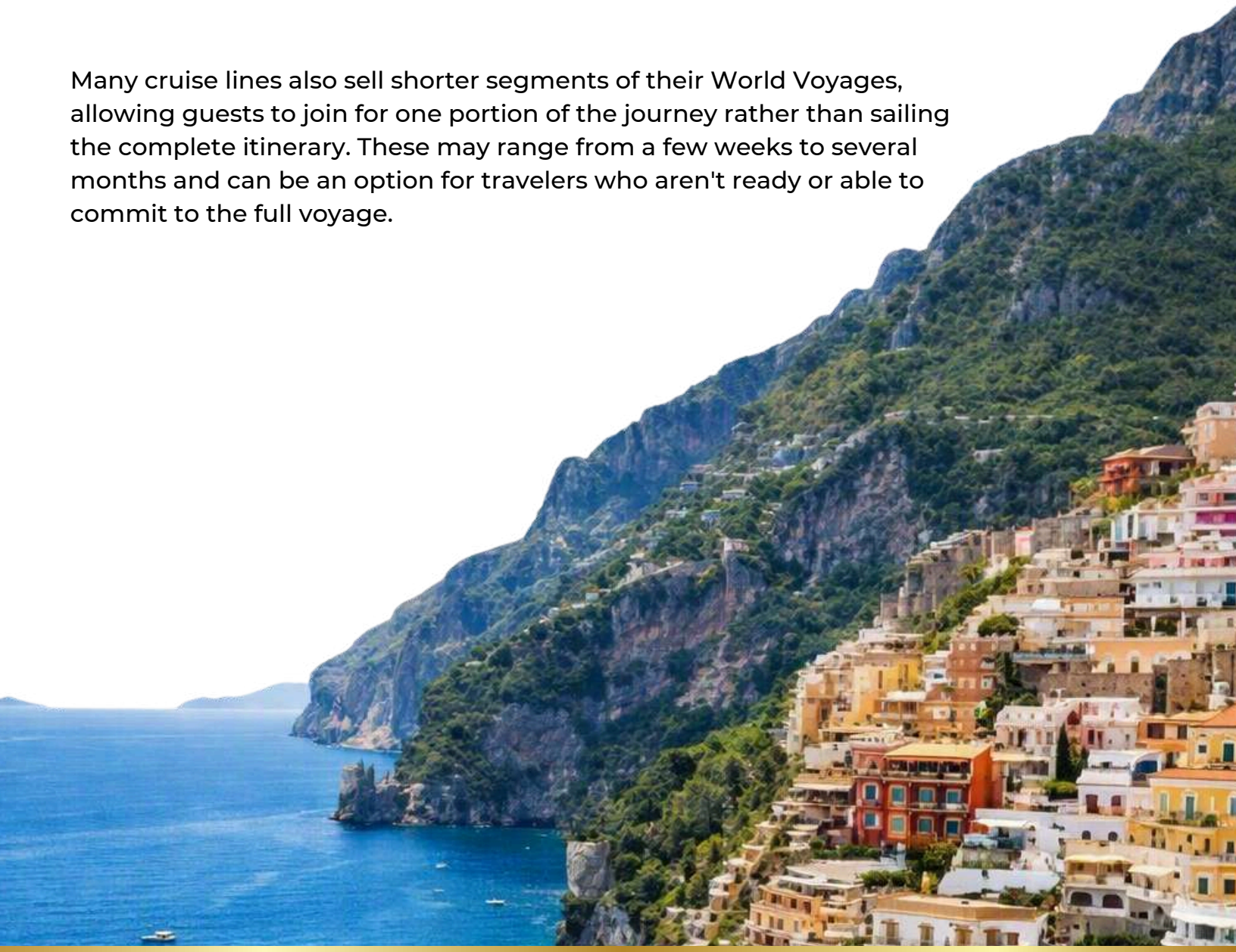
Ace Travel is a specialist boutique travel agency, and world voyages are all we do. Our goal with this guide is to share our knowledge and expertise so you can decide whether this extraordinary way of traveling is a fit for you.

Ace Travel was created from firsthand world-voyage experience and a belief that this extraordinary way of traveling deserves specialist guidance.

What is A World Voyage?

A World Voyage is an extended, continuous journey that spans multiple continents, crosses oceans, and typically lasts around 100 to 180 days. Some World Voyages circumnavigate or nearly circumnavigate the globe, while others cover a substantial portion of it, stopping at dozens of international ports. In some ports, the ship will stay overnight allowing for a much more immersive experience.

Many cruise lines also sell shorter segments of their World Voyages, allowing guests to join for one portion of the journey rather than sailing the complete itinerary. These may range from a few weeks to several months and can be an option for travelers who aren't ready or able to commit to the full voyage.



Where Do World Voyages Go?

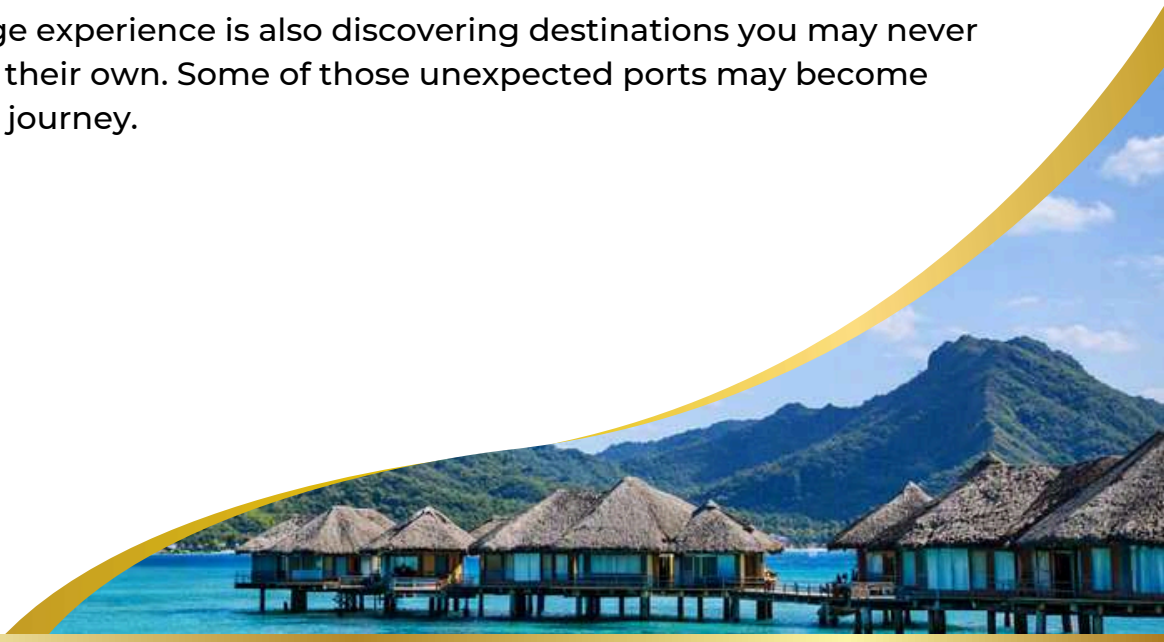
Itineraries vary in length and breadth. Some are partial world voyages that may cover half the world, crossing the Atlantic but not the Pacific, for example. Others will traverse the entire world and sail both major oceans.

Likewise, some focus more heavily on certain regions, such as the Far East or Australasia, while others spread their destinations more evenly across the voyage.

Having said that, there are some destinations that are frequently included on world voyage itineraries.

Singapore, Sydney, Hong Kong, Cape Town, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Papeete, Bora Bora, and Honolulu to name a few

Part of the world-voyage experience is also discovering destinations you may never have chosen to visit on their own. Some of those unexpected ports may become highlights of the entire journey.



Which Cruise Lines Do World Voyages?

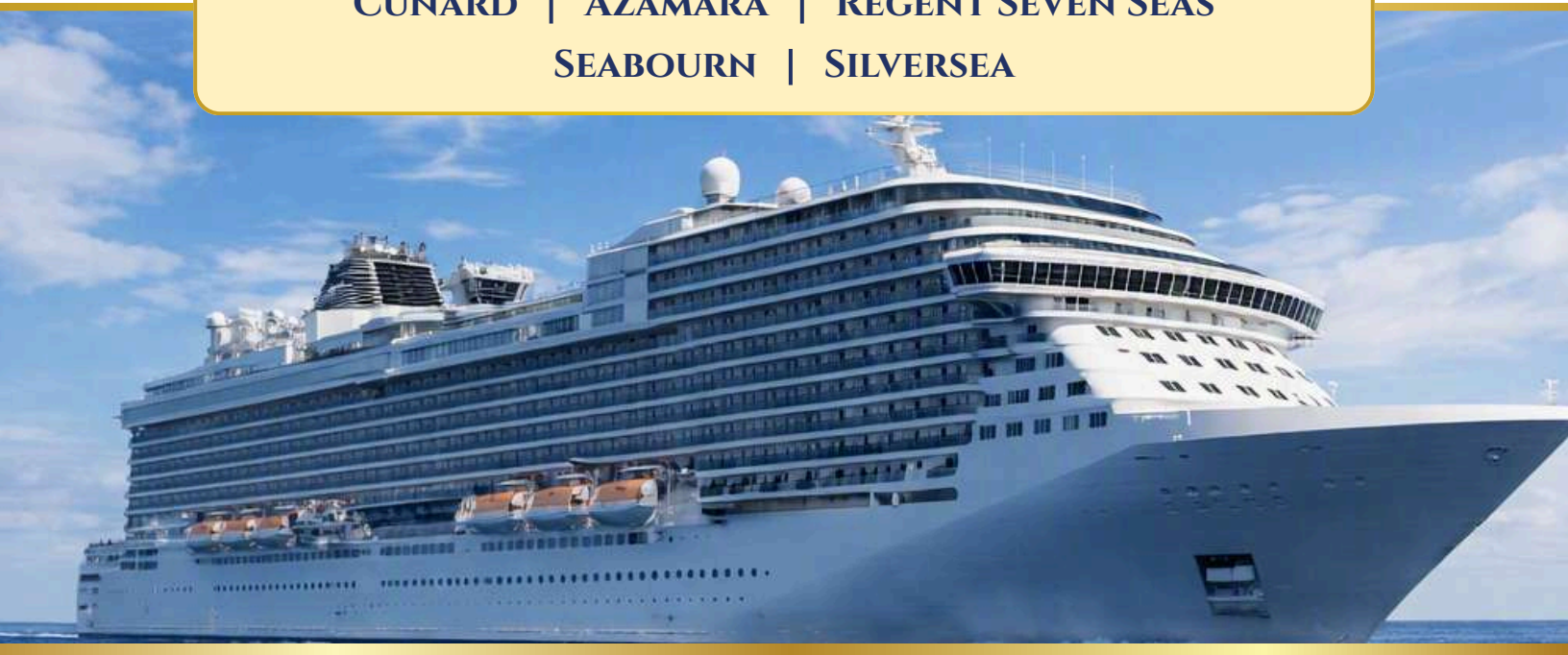
Many cruise lines offer world voyages. Some will be familiar to US travelers; others may not. Currently these cruise lines are offering world voyages:

- Azamara
- Costa Cruise Lines
- Crystal
- Cunard
- Fred Olsen Cruise Lines
- Holland America
- Hurtigruten Expeditions
- MSC
- Oceania
- P&O Cruises
- Princess
- Regent Seven Seas
- Royal Caribbean
- Seabourn
- Silversea
- Viking

At Ace Travel, we have carefully selected five cruise lines and work exclusively with

Cunard | Azamara | Regent Seven Seas

Seabourn | Silversea



Who Takes World Voyages?

Generally, world-voyage guests tend to skew older, with many aged 65+. However, with technological advances and the wider availability of high-speed Starlink internet at sea, we are increasingly seeing younger passengers who may still be working or own businesses.

World-voyage guests are more often experienced cruisers, although first-time cruisers are certainly not unknown. World voyagers also tend to be more affluent.

There really isn't a single profile of a world voyager. You'll find couples and solo travelers, seasoned cruisers and first-time cruisers, retirees and some guests who are still working. What matters far more than fitting a particular demographic is whether this style of travel fits your life — which is what we'll explore next.



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ARE YOU READY FOR A WORLD VOYAGE?

Deciding whether a world voyage is a fit for you involves more than simply deciding where you want to go.



Financial Readiness

Is a world voyage within your budget when factoring in all of the costs?

While world voyages start with published fares as low as $20,000 per person, there are other costs that can be overlooked when planning a longer voyage. Just as important as the fare itself is understanding exactly what is — and is not — included. This varies considerably by cruise line and needs careful attention.

For example, some cruise lines that offer world voyages are very much "all-inclusive" and the fare will include gratuities, WiFi, all drinks, some excursions and possibly transfers to the ship. Other cruise lines may include only some of these amenities, while others offer them at an additional cost.

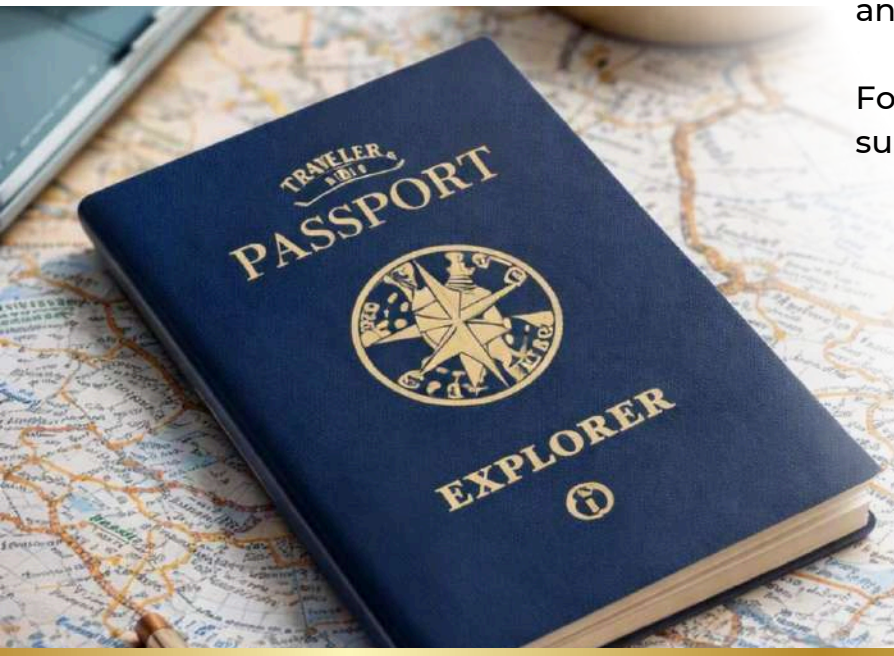
You should also factor in the cost of getting to and from the voyage, which may include flights, pre- or post-voyage hotels, transfers and luggage shipping, depending on the itinerary and what the cruise line includes.

Then there is travel insurance — something we consider an absolute necessity.

In addition, there may be extra costs incurred at home while you are away such as additional home insurance or paying for a service to monitor your home and vehicles.

You'll also want to budget for souvenirs and additional experiences while in port.

For solo cruisers, there may be a single supplement cost.



For more details on financial planning for a world voyager, check out our other guides in the resources section of our website, acetravel.biz.

Health & Physical Readiness

Mobility and Accessibility

A multi-month voyage with multiple port days can be physically demanding. Your ability to walk, climb stairs and move comfortably plays a role in how easily you can navigate both the ship and the destinations you visit.

While on the ship, there will be elevators and assistance. However, even small luxury ships are still large vessels that require significant movement during the day.

Some destinations may not offer the same level of accessibility accommodations available in the US. While the cruise lines do their best to offer excursions that cater to all levels of mobility, there will sometimes be ports that are more challenging and not as accessibility-friendly for guests who may not have stability or use mobility devices.

In addition, at some ports the ship will anchor offshore, requiring guests to transfer to land by tender.

The important question isn't simply whether you can travel, but whether the itinerary and the experiences that matter most to you are compatible with your level of mobility.

Managing Medical Conditions

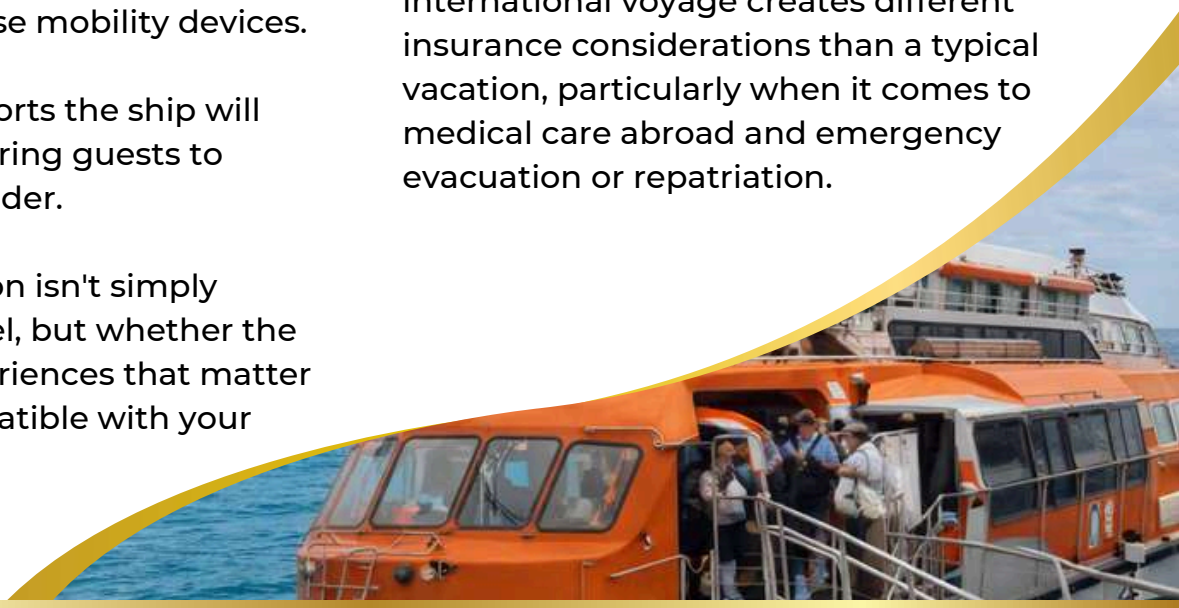
Having a medical condition does not necessarily rule out a world voyage. The more important consideration is whether the condition is stable and can be confidently managed for several months while traveling internationally.

Medications

You'll need enough medication for the entire length of your voyage. Depending on the medication, this can create both insurance and packing challenges and requires advance preparation.

Illness abroad

While uncommon, illnesses and accidents do happen and need to be planned for. We strongly recommend quality travel insurance. A multi-month international voyage creates different insurance considerations than a typical vacation, particularly when it comes to medical care abroad and emergency evacuation or repatriation.



Time, Home and Life Readiness

Can your life accommodate you being away for several months?

If you still work, can your role be covered while you are away, or will you need to continue working from the ship? Part of this is a technology question, but there are lifestyle considerations too. How much of your voyage are you willing to structure around work commitments? Will you need to be available during US working hours when you may be 14 hours ahead? What happens on port days?

Even if working from the ship is technically possible, consider how much of the world-voyage experience you are willing to miss or structure around your work commitments.

If you are retired, do you have memberships, volunteer commitments or board responsibilities that you can step away from for the length of the voyage?

Who will manage your home and vehicle(s) while you are away, and how? Do you have a neighbor, or is there a service provider nearby, who can check on your house, start and drive your car and check your mail? How will you pay your bills? Will there be any bills that will require special attention while you are away?





For anyone, other considerations include

- Family responsibilities — Is your family comfortable with you being away for several months? Are there family celebrations or important events while you're away? Do you have aging parents, grandchildren or anyone else who relies on you for regular care or support?

- Travel companion — If you're traveling with a partner or companion, can they also step away from work, family or health needs for the same length of time? A voyage works best when both travelers are equally able — not just equally excited — to commit.

- Pets — Do you have pets that will need care while you're away?

- Health routines and requirements — Do you take medications that cannot be refilled for the entire length of the voyage due to prescribing or insurance restrictions? Will you need medical appointments while you're away? Can alternative arrangements be made?



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WOULD YOU ACTUALLY ENJOY A WORLD VOYAGE?



This may seem like an odd question.

A world voyage immediately sounds romantic and inspiring. And they are! We truly believe that a world voyage is one of the best ways to see the world.

However, there are aspects of living aboard a ship for several months that many people may not consider beforehand.

Travel Experience

World voyagers come with a wide variety of travel experience. Some are avid international travelers who have visited many countries and stayed in many types of accommodations. Others may be well-traveled in one region of the world but have little experience in the regions their chosen voyage will explore.

Some have already taken extended trips lasting several weeks or months, while others have not. And some may be experienced travelers with relatively little experience traveling by ship.

We invite you to consider all of these factors to ensure that any world voyage you consider will be the one that best matches you, your preferences and your expectations.



Questions to ask

1. Have you done long trips of multiple weeks or months before? If so, how did you feel about being away from home for that long?
2. What degree of international travel experience do you have?
3. How much previous ship travel do you have?
4. What is the longest cruise you have ever done?
5. What is your preferred travel style? Luxurious, comfortable, laid back, formal?
6. What is your packing style?

Is Your Temperament Ready for a World Voyage?

This may seem like an odd question, but when we have asked first-time world voyagers what surprised them, we often hear the same things. We'd like to share them with you.

Sea Days and "Slow Travel"

While itineraries vary, world voyages can include significant stretches of time at sea while traversing the world's oceans. For some, this slow-paced, repetitive time is an absolute joy. Others find it more challenging. Do you enjoy slower travel?

Routine vs Novelty

Some people love routine, others love to do something different every day. World voyages most certainly cater to both types of people, and everyone in between, but we advise giving this some consideration prior to sailing. What will you do every day? What hobbies do you want to continue to do - or start?

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Social Dynamics

We find that this is often overlooked prior to a world voyage.

- How do you feel about living among the same people for months at a time?
- Are you excited to meet new people?
- How are you at making new friends and keeping boundaries?
- Are you an introvert or an extrovert?
- How much time do you need alone?
- What do you prefer when it comes to dining?
- Would you enjoy a shared table, prefer a table just for you and your travel companion(s), or want the flexibility to choose from day to day?



Space requirements

World-voyage accommodations range considerably in size, and some very large suites are available. However, your cabin will still likely be a much smaller space than your home, and you'll be living in it for several months. How does that make you feel?

Is Your Relationship Ready?

Who are you traveling with? Have you traveled together for extended periods before? When you travel, do you tend to do things together or separately?

A world voyage can mean spending far more time together than you do at home.

You don't need to enjoy all of the same activities, but it helps to be comfortable doing some things independently and giving each other space. Consider how you handle disagreements, different energy levels and different ideas about how you want to spend your days.

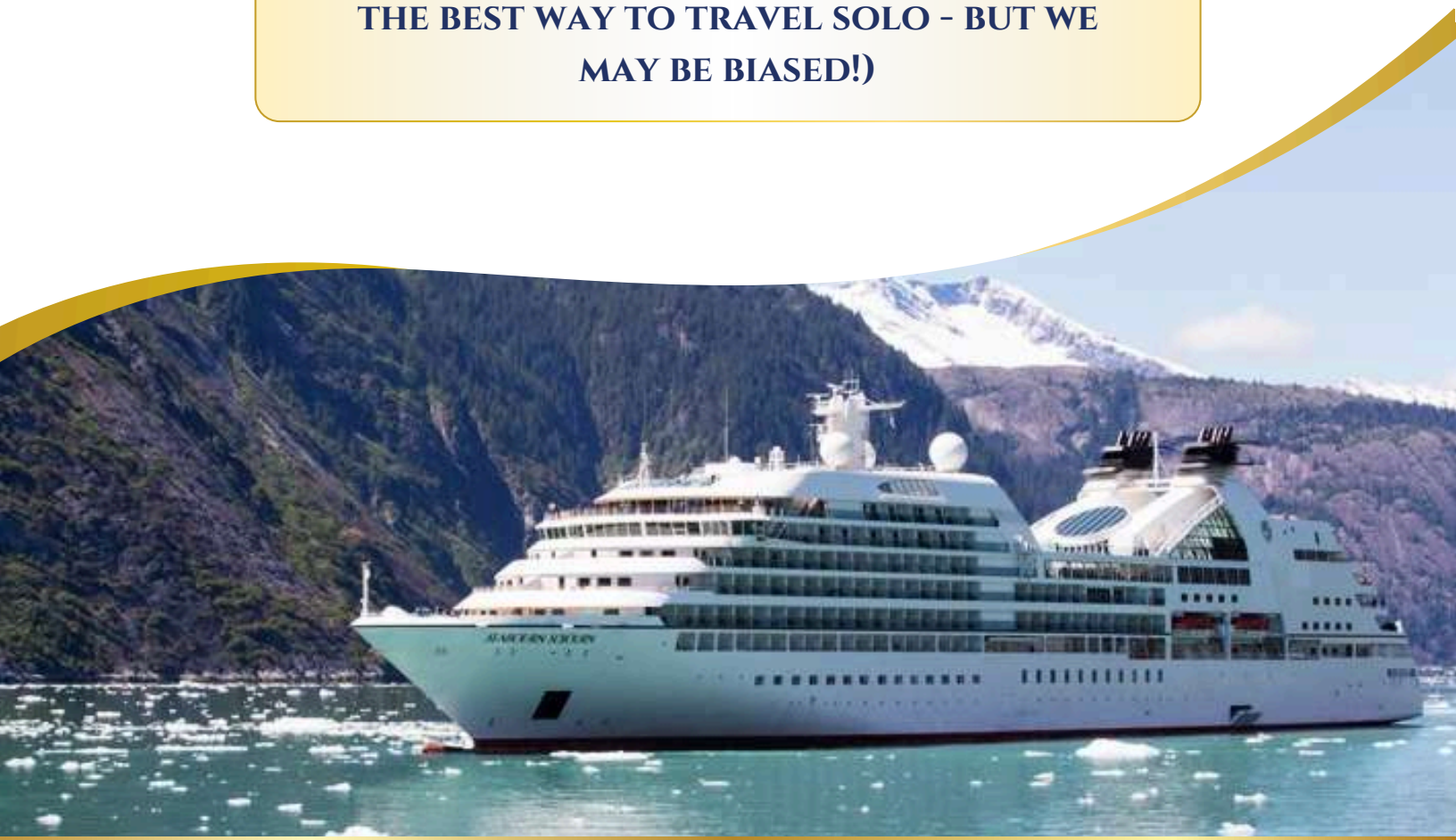


Are You Considering a World Voyage Solo?

Solo travelers are a growing portion of world voyagers, and the cruise lines usually arrange dedicated solo-traveler events and meetups.

Being comfortable traveling independently is only part of the question. Think about whether you would actually enjoy months of making your own plans, choosing when to socialize and when to spend time alone, and building new connections along the way. Consider your previous solo travel experience, including how you felt about both the independence and the potential for loneliness, and how that might translate to life aboard a ship.

(We think solo travel on a ship is the best way to travel solo - but we may be biased!)



Expectations and Reality

Travel can be magical. Awe-inspiring. Filled with wonder. It can also be mundane and unexpectedly hard.

For many, sea days aren't boring — they're magical, particularly if you enjoy stillness and slow travel. For others taking their first long voyage, extended stretches at sea can be challenging.

Visiting new destinations, experiencing different cultures, meeting people and seeing the sights can be magical. And port fatigue is a real thing for some. On some itineraries, there can be sections where there are several adjacent days in port. These days can be hectic and energetic, emotionally thrilling and draining at the same time. For extroverts, an hour or more on an excursion bus is heaven, for introverts it can be more of a trial.

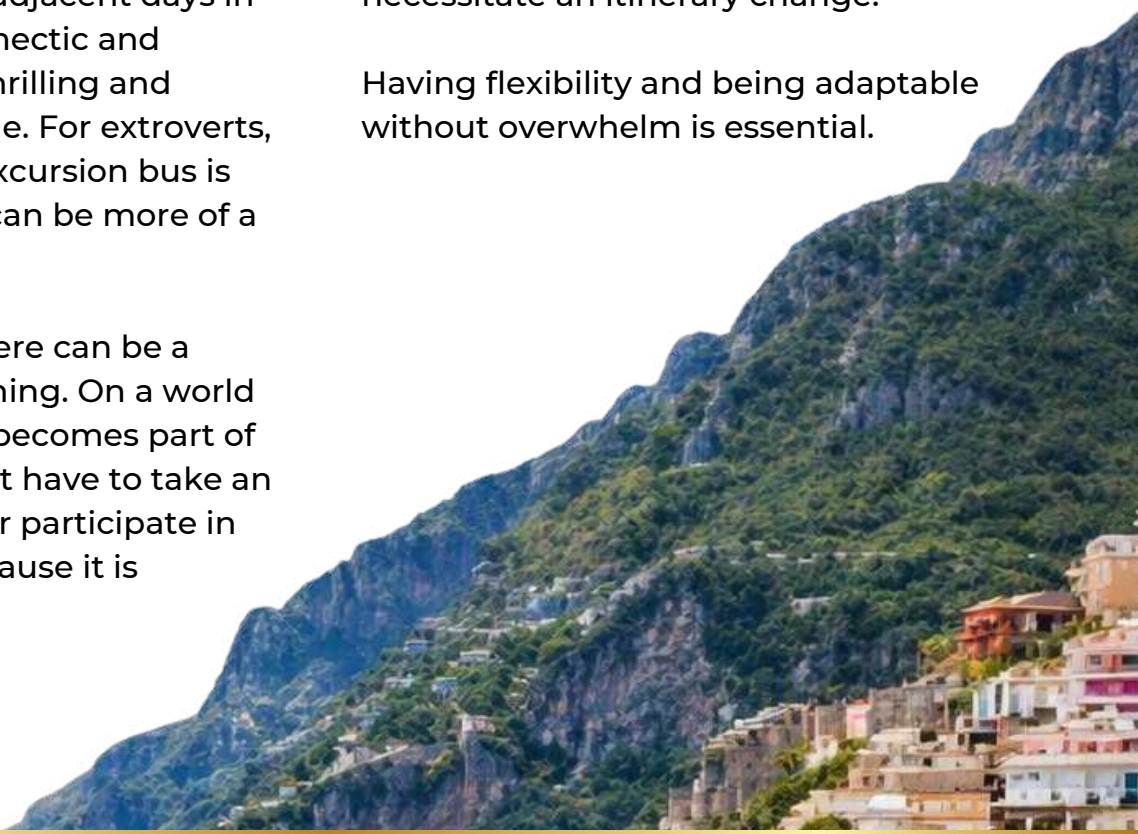
On a shorter vacation there can be a temptation to do everything. On a world voyage, pacing yourself becomes part of the experience. You don't have to take an excursion in every port or participate in every activity simply because it is available.

In the middle of all of the daily entertainment - the quizzes, choir, lectures, crafts, card games, deck games etc. - mundane tasks still have to be attended to. Laundry must be done. Bills must be paid. Family must be contacted.

Things may go wrong and need to be managed. Weather may mean a port cannot be entered or a departure may be delayed. Excursions may get cancelled, or the operator may be forced to make amendments.

Geopolitical events may happen and necessitate an itinerary change.

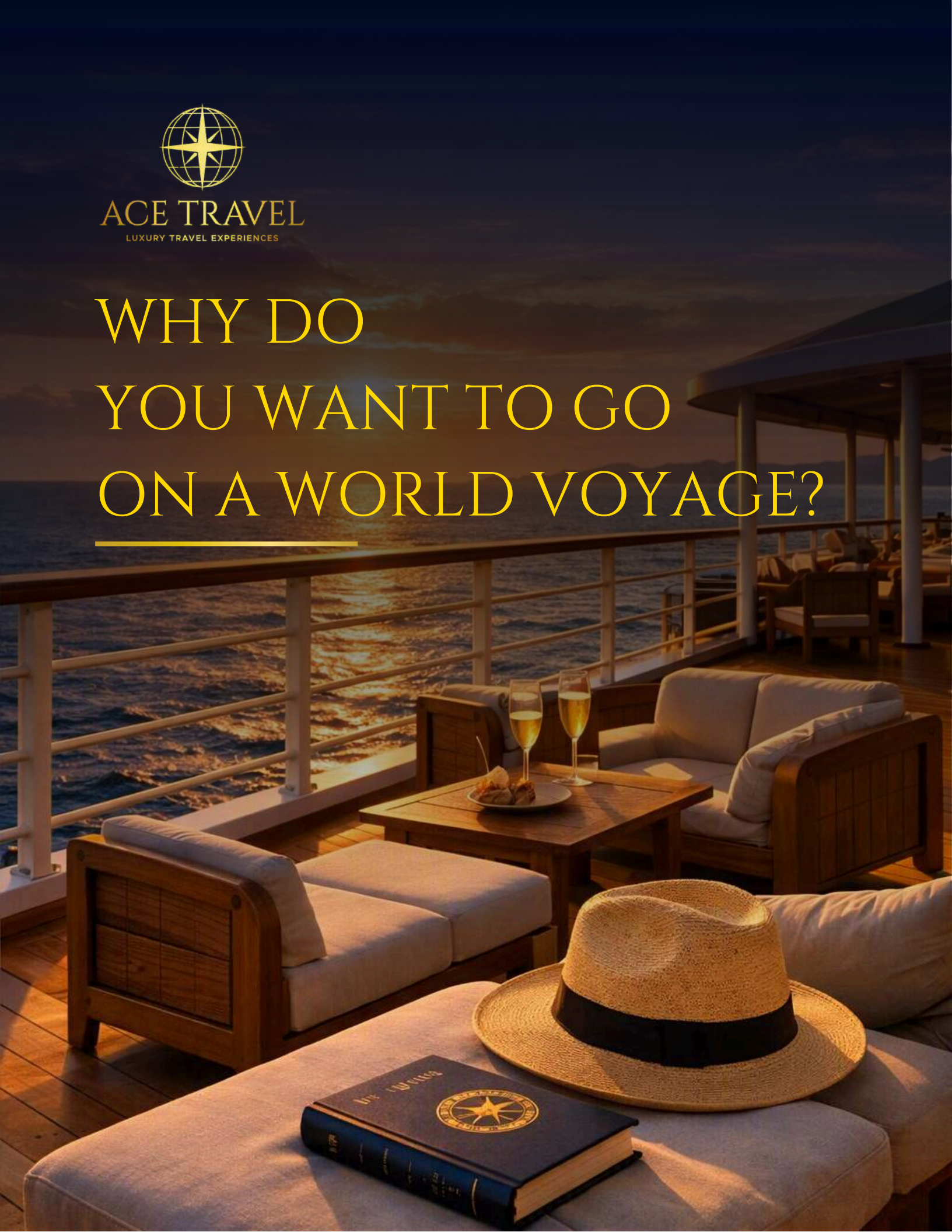
Having flexibility and being adaptable without overwhelm is essential.



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WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO ON A WORLD VOYAGE?



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What appeals to you about a world voyage? The destinations? Being at sea? Socializing? Something specific about one of the cruise lines that offers a world voyage?

We believe travel should be transformational. It should leave you changed in some way and create memories and emotions that stay with you. A world voyage can be life-changing.

A world voyage is a big endeavor and a significant commitment of time, energy and money.

1. Why do you want to take a world voyage?
2. What are you hoping this journey gives you?
3. What do you want to experience?
4. What memories do you hope to create?
5. What would make this voyage feel worthwhile?



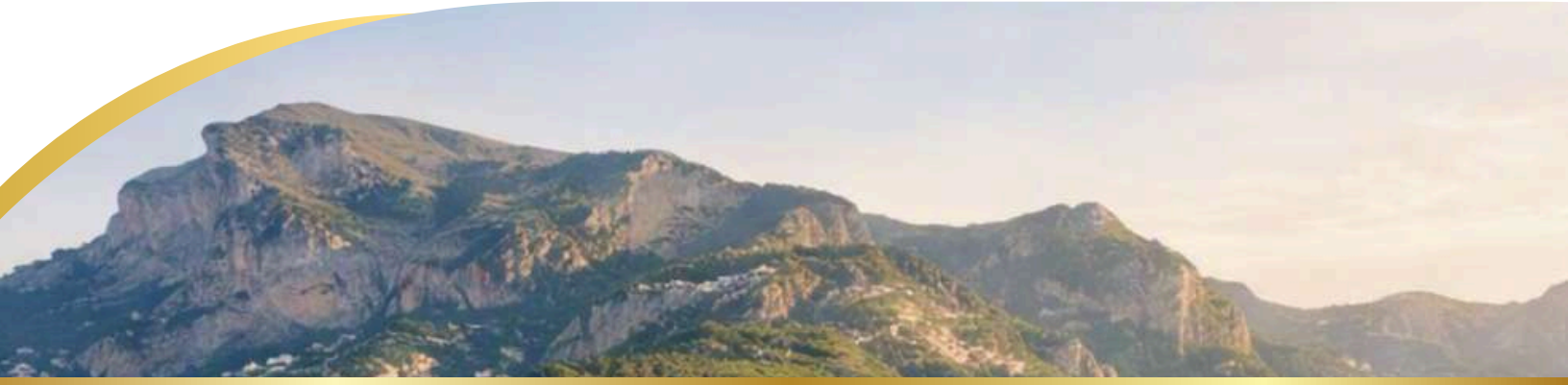
IS A WORLD VOYAGE RIGHT FOR YOU?

We hope this guide has given you a better sense of what a world voyage truly involves — and whether this extraordinary way of traveling might be right for you.

To bring it all together, we've put together a set of questions that we believe will help you answer the question "Is a world voyage right for me?"

Could This Work for My Life?

1. Can I comfortably be away from home for three to six months?
2. Can I afford the voyage and the extra costs without financial stress?
3. Can I manage my home, pets, bills and other responsibilities while I'm away?
4. Are there people who depend on me who would make a long absence difficult?
5. Is my health and mobility compatible with extended international travel?
6. Can I confidently manage my medications and healthcare needs while traveling?
7. If I'm traveling with someone, are we both genuinely comfortable with this commitment?
8. If I'm traveling solo, am I comfortable handling the practical side independently?



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Would I Actually Enjoy It?

1. Do I enjoy sea days and a slower style of travel?
2. Am I comfortable with routine and some repetition?
3. Could I happily live in a cabin for several months?
4. How do I feel about sharing my environment with many of the same people for months?
5. Am I comfortable making new connections while also creating my own space when I need it?
6. How well do I handle itinerary changes, uncertainty and things not going exactly to plan?
7. Could I cope with occasional homesickness, travel fatigue or simply having an off day?
8. If I'm traveling solo, am I comfortable spending some time alone and making my own social connections?
9. Do my expectations match the reality of living aboard a ship, rather than simply taking a very long vacation?
10. Am I comfortable occasionally choosing rest over seeing or doing everything available to me?

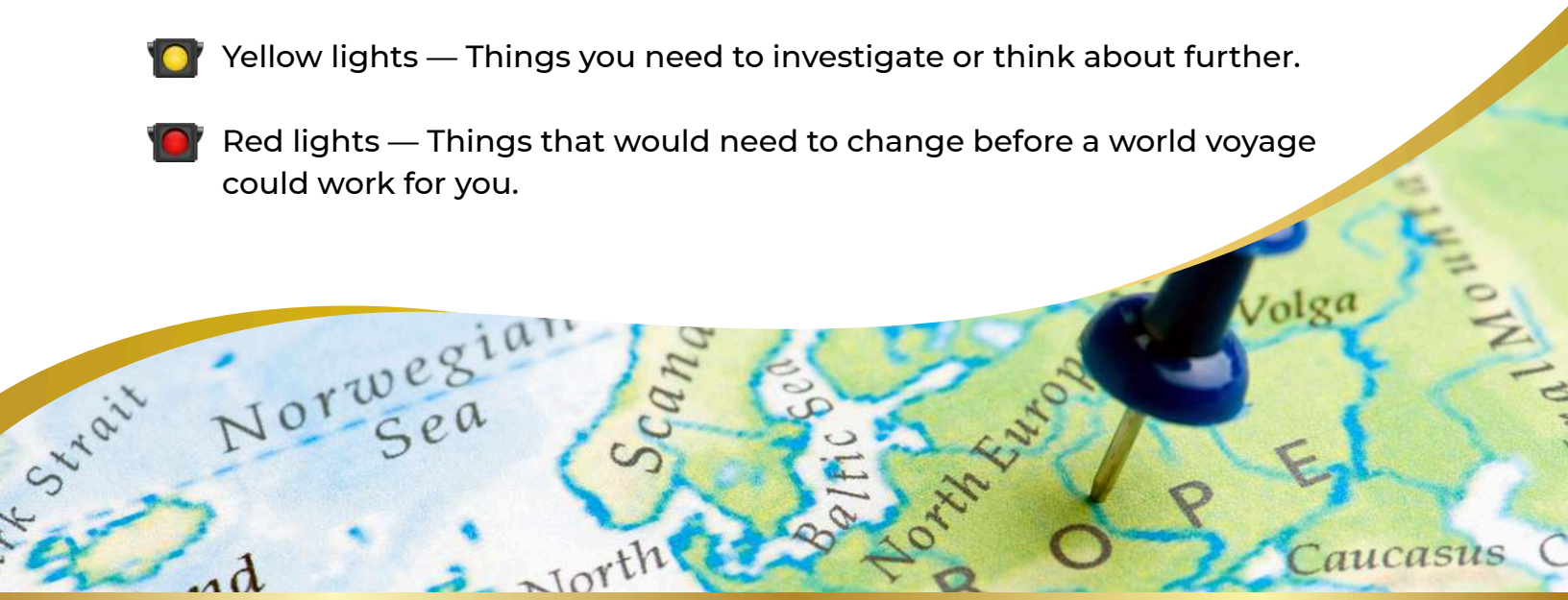


Why Do I Want to Go?

1. Why do I want to take a world voyage?
2. Why now?
3. What am I hoping this experience will give me?
4. What parts of the experience matter most to me?
5. What memories or experiences do I hope to come home with?
6. Would this still feel worthwhile if some ports changed, some days were mundane, and not every moment was extraordinary?
7. When I imagine being away for several months, do I feel mostly excited — or mostly anxious about what I'm leaving behind?
8. If I decided not to do it, would I feel relieved or disappointed?

Now that you've read through those questions, we invite you to “traffic light” them.

- 🟢 Green lights — Things that suggest a world voyage could be a great fit.
- 🟡 Yellow lights — Things you need to investigate or think about further.
- 🔴 Red lights — Things that would need to change before a world voyage could work for you.



WHAT'S NEXT?

So what now? What did those questions tell you about whether a world voyage is a fit for you?

Is it:

1. ### *No, it's not for me*

   Then this guide was of great value, and we're glad you found it!

   But what did it tell you about the kind of travel you do enjoy? If you ruled out a world voyage, what did you rule in?

   Where will you go next and how will you get there?

2. ### *Maybe*

   What questions do you still have? What didn't we answer? Look back at your yellow lights. Those are the areas to investigate next — and they may be questions about the voyage itself, or things in your own life that need a little more thought.

3 *Probably, but not now*

What obstacles do you have to overcome to be able to move forward?

What needs to happen for this to move from "maybe" to "yes"? Health, finances, family timing, work — whatever it is, world voyages are typically booked 18 months to two years ahead, with itineraries published up to three years out. That means you likely have more runway than you'd expect to work through what's in the way. A no-pressure planning conversation can help you map what needs to be true for this to become possible, and flag which voyages and cabin categories to keep an eye on for when the time is right. You can reserve one here.

4 *Yes, let's go!*

You've done the reflection — now it's time to find your voyage. World voyages are booked 18 months to two years in advance, and the most sought-after itineraries and cabin categories go first, so the sooner you start looking, the more choice you'll have. Let's get you on a complimentary planning call to find the right voyage, cruise line and cabin for you. Reserve your consultation here.



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Get in touch with our travel specialists.

contact@acetravel.biz

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Book Your Consultation