

STOWAWAY

www.cruiselates.com 's exclusive newsletter

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Explore Explorer – if you follow us.

If you enjoy keeping up with new developments in cruise you probably saw all the publicity in July this year about the christening – in Monaco, where else? - of Regent Seven Seas' long awaited 750 guest, all balcony Seven Seas Voyager, which, the company declared, was designed as 'The most luxurious ship ever built'. Reports by a number of respected cruise journalists confirmed that this was no exaggeration and the cruise line was so confident about their claim that they trademarked 'The Most Luxurious Ship Ever Built.' How's that for confidence but with five gourmet restaurants, what are claimed to be the largest verandas (transatlantic for balconies) in the world's cruise fleet, and superbly designed suites and lounges maybe they have a point.

Regent Seven Seas have a small number of suites available in two sailings in January, so if you want to escape the winter blues and enjoy what is surely a superb cruise experience south of the Equator, visit the [cruiselates](http://www.cruiselates.com) website for details of two sailings in Australasia, departing Sydney for a 15 day cruise on the 7th of January and from Auckland for 26 days later in the month on the 26th.



Talking of Australasia...

Crystal Cruises' Crystal Symphony is also in the deep south, sailing from Melbourne on the 5th of January on a 15 day cruise with a number of calls in New Zealand before returning to Sydney from where the ship then departs on the 20th of January for a 21 day cruise taking in the Great Barrier Reef and the South Pacific, returning to Sydney for an overnight stay. Full itinerary details on www.cruiselates.com.

Hapag-Lloyd's Europa 2 also offers an 18 day cruise from Auckland departing on the 17th of January and arriving in Bali. Hapag-Lloyd is a German company, recognised as providing a very high standard of travel by sea equal to the best, and it's important to note that all officers and staff speak better English than a lot of us locals!

Seven days enough?

If you prefer shorter getaways, there are several on offer during January. SeaDream Yacht Club's two 110 guest ships are based in the Caribbean during the winter, with a series of seven day cruises.

There's just one exception – and that's only ten days. Most turnaround ports are either San Juan or Bridgetown in Barbados, with just a couple disembarking in Charlotte Amalie, in St. Thomas. Full itineraries on the www.cruiselates.com website and talk to your agent to arrange air travel as fares quoted are cruise only.

Silversea's Silver Spirit also sails on seven day cruises, round trip Bridgetown. If the need for some warmth before Christmas is overpowering, the 540 guest ship sails on the 15th of December but if Christmas at sea is calling you, the 22nd of December sailing will be of interest and you can be home for the New Year celebrations.

On the subject of Christmas at sea...

Still some limited availability on board Oceania's 700 guest Oceania Sirena, a recent addition to the fleet, which sails a round trip 14 day cruise from and back to Los Angeles, departing on the 21st of this month. If Christmas at home is your thing but you wouldn't mind a few days at sea to steady your nerves before the onslaught, there's

still a chance to board the same ship for ten days, departing on the 11th of December and be back for turkey and trimmings.

Too soon? Oceania has Sirena's sister ship Insignia sailing from Miami to Honolulu, departing on the 8th of January, with a couple of Caribbean calls before transiting the Panama Canal, something all true cruise lovers should do once in their lives and Oceania's Nautica, sparkling after a recent refit, will also be at sea for the Festive season, sailing from and back to Cape Town on a 15 day cruise departing the 21st of December.

January antifreeze

Not that it won't be rather cold in the Antarctic in January, but you can fight the freeze while there on board French cruise line Ponant's Le Lyrial, sailing expedition round trips from Ushuaia and carrying just over 200 passengers in true Gallic style. Le Lyrial sails two 11 day cruises on the 4th and 14th of January with a strong focus on shore adventures on Zodiac inflatables, on board lectures by experts in the area and it's wildlife and time at sea to observe sea life in the raw.

What's not to like with Ponant's combination of fine dining, comfortable accommodations, and real immersion in Antarctica, its wildlife on land and at sea, and history of exploration? Itinerary details, as usual to be found at:

www.cruiselates.com

Cruising for singles

OK this isn't a late getaway opportunity, but we know that single passengers are often obliged to pay an irritating and expensive supplement when travelling alone and we have been advised by European Waterways, who operate intimate hotel barges on Europe's waterways that they are designating three cruises next April 2017 on Dutch waterways, on board their barge Panache, sailing from Alkmaar to Delft and offering opportunities not only to see tulip fields but also to visit the Frans Hals museum in Haarlem and the Royal Delft porcelain factory. We don't list this in www.cruiselates.com so contact European

Waterways directly at www.gobarging.com and tell them that you saw it here first!

STOP PRESS

French boutique cruise line Ponant have just advised us of an imminent sailing of their ship Le Boreal, which has sudden late availability on its November 15 departure, following the change in a group booking and Ponant have dramatically reduced fares, some by 50%. Le Boreal sails out of Ushuaia, and south to Antarctic waters, calling first in the Falklands, returning to Ushuaia some 15 days later. Book via your own agent or you might prefer to talk to Wildfoot Travel who are experienced in Antarctic travel and know Ponant ships. Email John at john@wildfoottravel.com Enjoy your travel planning and keep checking into www.cruiselates.com for getaway opportunities in considerable comfort!



Cruise reviews

We are planning to add cruise reviews to the cruiselates.com website so watch out for these. They won't be devoted only to the big names, but will endeavour over a period of time to look also at lesser known cruise lines and their ships. Watch out for these.

If you enjoy Stowaway, please pass it on to friends and tell them to contact me to go on the mailing list. Next Stowaway will look at the first Spring cruise opportunities. Happy sailing – and of course a Happy Christmas from the Stowaway team.

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