

NO BRAG, ALL FACT: Cruise Lines Offer Adventure Excursions to Remember Forever

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MIAMI, Jan. 8, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Cruise passengers set sail for many reasons. They may want to journey to a white sand beach to relax, explore the history of a region, delve into local culture or admire the scenery and wildlife. Then, there are those who see a cruise vacation as opportunity to try something completely new for a thrill of a lifetime.

Adventure shore excursions organized by cruise lines at ports around the world provide the kind of experiences that will have you telling your friends back home, "Yes, I did that on my vacation."



On a cruise vacation you can get an adrenaline rush with such brag-worthy shore experiences as riding St. Maarten's Flying Dutchman, the world's steepest zipline. (Photo courtesy of Carnival Cruise Line)

In Ocho Rios, Jamaica, guests on Carnival Cruise Line ships might ride the Mystic Mountain Sky Explorer chairlift up 700 feet through the forest and then feel the adrenaline rush as they **race 3,280 feet on a bobsled ride** inspired by the famous Jamaican Olympic team. Continue the adventure flying through a tree **canopy on a zipline**.

For aerial fun at Mahogany Bay in Roatan, Honduras, hop on the **Magical Flying Beach Chair** that takes guests to the beach via a six-minute ride across nearly 1,200 feet of suspended cables. If that seems too tame, take a leap of faith on the more **extreme zipline and beach adventure**, traveling up to 70 feet above lush jungle, ravines and water. Or head off on an adventure park excursion that combines a 12-line zipline, eight suspension bridges and two **superman ziplines** – where you are attached in the middle of your back, spread your arms, and "fly."

At the Rainforest Adventures St. Maarten - Rockland Estate, an eco-park attraction, get a rush on the **Flying Dutchman**, the **world's steepest zipline**, reaching speeds of up to 56 miles per hour as you drop 1,050 feet in elevation. The St. Maarten adventure experience begins with a ride on the Soualida Sky Explorer chairlift that gets you up Sentry Hill. For added exhilaration, **slide down the mountain on an inner tube**, twisting and turning on a specially designed track.

Cozumel is the most visited cruise destination in the Caribbean, and from the Puerta Maya pier, cruise passengers might book an excursion to snorkel with **30-foot-long whale sharks**, the world's largest fish. Or boast about your experience as you **helmet dive to the world's first underwater oxygen bar**, the Clear Lounge Cozumel.

Sun-seekers on Mexican Riviera itineraries, such as one-week cruises from Long Beach on Carnival Cruise Line's new 4,008-passenger Carnival Panorama, may want to consider "The Greatest Outdoor Adventure" excursion. From Puerto Vallarta, the unforgettable experience includes a turn on a **new rollercoaster zipline** that combines the free-flying sensation of a zip line with the twists and turns of a roller-coaster. That's not all. You also ride an inflatable speedboat, head off-road in a 4x4 and climb aboard a mule, then switch to additional ziplines and rappelling into natural pools.

In Cabo San Lucas, adventure types will want to experience **off-road driving** in Baja, taking the wheel of a UTV to tear it up on canyon terrain that includes rocks, hills and a brook, plus drive across what's billed as the longest suspension bridge in the world, a 1,082.67-foot expanse, 162 feet above the ground at its lowest point. Or travel into the heart of Boca de la Sierra, one of UNESCO's protected biosphere reserves, to traverse seven breathtaking ziplines, the highest of which (at 4,000 feet) is **Mexico's fastest and longest superman zipline**.

Europe has its own share of adventure tour experiences. From Vigo, Spain, guests on the ships of British line P&O Cruises might choose to experience the thrill of **white-water rafting** on the rapids of the Mino River, traveling with experienced guides on inflatable rafts. In western Norway, adventures include taking the scenic Flåm railway into the mountains with a stop at the roaringly impressive Kjosfossen waterfall, then riding the **longest zipline in Scandinavia**, zooming down some 4,500 feet.

Or you can **jump off a cliff into the sea**, with German line AIDA Cruises, which takes passengers to the spectacular "Baía d'Abra" on the Portuguese island of Madeira for a walk and climb over impressive rocks with opportunity for intrepid travelers to cliff jump (there's also the option of dipping in the Atlantic without the jumping part).

On Baltic sailings that visit Stockholm, an option for guests of lines including Italy-based Costa Cruises is a fun tour that explores the city via its rooftops. You wear a safety harness and helmet and hook

on to steel cables to **walk on rooftops some 108 feet above the ground** for views. From Akureyri in northern Iceland, you might put on a helmet and carry a flashlight to explore the underground ice caves of Lofthellir, with their breathtaking natural ice sculptures.

Guests of AIDA Cruises visiting the Middle Eastern Country of Bahrain might explore the world of **Formula 1 racing and off-road action**, visiting the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC). The tour of the track includes a chance to drive a 4x4 car on an adventure course, with different obstacles along the way.

P&O Cruises Australia appeals to adventurous types with a wealth of experiences taking in the natural surroundings. From Cairns, experience "Rooster Tail," "Cheese Churn" and "Hells Gate" on the Barron River in Queensland on a **wild rapids ride**. It's an adrenaline rush as you swoosh through gorges and past stunning waterfalls and lush rainforest.

Guests enjoying a P&O Cruises Australia vacation to the South Pacific island of Vanuatu can test their adventurous streak on a **zipline suspended in the treetops** at Summit Hill, with the valley floor some 262 feet below.

In Alaska, an adventure experience is a must-do, with a myriad of options such as **flightseeing, mountain biking, kayaking, ATV riding, ziplining and fishing tours** to catch salmon or halibut. You can put on a dry suit or wetsuit and **snorkel in Alaska** to see multicolored sea urchins, sea cucumbers and other fascinating sea life.

On Princess Cruises, Holland America Line and Cunard – which will do its first full season of cruises in Alaska in 2020 – take a deluxe tour that involves **helicoptering to the top of a glacier for a dogsled ride** with a professional musher. In addition to the thrill of being on a sled and seeing amazing scenery you'll learn about the care the huskies receive.

Seabourn, with its Ventures by Seabourn program, adds opportunity to get close to nature on exciting private **zodiac, hiking and kayaking tours** led by the line's experienced expeditions team. You might follow a pod of whales, while admiring eagles overhead. In addition to Alaska, the Ventures program is available in such places as Antarctica, Norway and the Amazon.

Princess Cruises, with its partnership with Discovery™ and *Animal Planet*, has adventures such as whale watching or visiting a dog sled camp, with special activities that would appeal to kids ages 3 to 12. For grownups and kids age 12 and up, a once-in-a-lifetime Discovery-recommended Helicopter Glacier Trek has you landing on a glacier in the Juneau Icefield and putting on crampons to go **trekking on the blue ice**.

Holland America Line has such extraordinary shore experiences as hele-hiking, rock climbing and riding on the historic White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad for a **snowshoe adventure** in the snowy upper reaches of the Tormented Valley in northern British Columbia. These are the sorts of excursions that will have you breathing deeply and thinking, "Wow, it's good to be alive."

Recommendation: Make sure you read any fitness requirements, age and weight requirements before booking an adventure excursion. You'll want to reserve a tour in advance of your cruise, as these small group experiences are very popular.

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