

Here is one of our Mississippi River guests favorite dishes  
from our Executive Chef Kevin Cottle

American Cruise Lines

## Shrimp and Andouille Etouffee

Serves 4-6 people

### Ingredients:

6 ounces butter unsalted, ½ cup flour, 2 cups onion (minced), 1 cup green bell pepper (minced), 1 cup celery (minced), 2 tablespoons garlic (minced finely), 8 ounces tomato (canned/diced), 2 bay leaves, 1 teaspoon of salt, 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper, 1 tablespoon creole seasoning, 1 quart shrimp stock, 2 pounds 21/25 shrimp, peeled and deveined with tail shell off, 1 pound.

**Directions:** 1. Melt butter in pan set over medium heat. 2. Add the flour and stir continuously to make roux. Stir the roux over medium heat until the color of peanut butter, 5 to 7 mins. Add the onions, bell pepper, celery, and garlic to the roux and cook stirring often, for 10 mins. 3. Add the tomatoes to the pot and season with the bay leaves, salt, cayenne and ½ tablespoon or creole seasoning. 4. Cook the tomatoes for 2 to 3 minutes and then whisk in the shrimp stock 5. Bring the mixture to a boil and reduce to simmer. 6. Cook the Etoufee on low heat, stirring occasionally for 45 minutes. 7. Season the shrimp and Andouille with the remaining ½ tablespoon of creole seasoning and add them to the pot, stirring to evenly distribute. 8. Cook the shrimp for 5 to 7 minutes, or until they are cooked through. 9. Finish by adding the chopped parsley to the pot and stir and serve over rice



### Latest Travel Requirements Update:



**Status:** Open for travel with restrictions.

**COVID-19 test entry requirement:** The Government of Aruba requires all visitors to undergo a Molecular SARS-CoV-2 test based on a nasal or oral swab within 72 hours before entering Aruba. Children aged 14 and under are exempt.

**Other entry requirements:** All visitors are required to complete an online Embarkation/Disembarkation card and be approved in order to gain entry to Aruba, face masks are required at the airport. The new ED card process is available online at: [aruba.com](http://aruba.com) Additional information may be required based on the country of origin, check this link to confirm. Aruba Visitors Insurance is a mandatory insurance that helps protect visitors against incurred medical and non-medical expenses if testing positive for COVID-19 during their stay in Aruba. For detailed information on the Aruba Visitors Protection Plan please visit [www.arubavisitorsinsurance.com](http://www.arubavisitorsinsurance.com)

**Destination Health & Safety Updates:** [aruba.com](http://aruba.com)



**Status:** Open for travel with restrictions. All incoming travelers are subject to a 14-day mandatory quarantine upon arrival. Quarantine opt-out is possible if travelers present proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

**COVID-19 test entry requirement:** Beginning October 15, all travelers aged five (5) and over are now required to take a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) from a certified Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) lab in order to bypass the State of Hawaii's 14-day mandatory quarantine. The State of Hawai'i will accept test results ONLY from Trusted Testing and Travel Partners. The test will need to be taken no more than 72 hours before your flight departure time.

**Other entry requirements:** Face mask and social distancing is required throughout the Hawaiian islands including all airports, passenger temperatures are checked via thermal screening, and travelers must complete a health & travel questionnaire before arrival.

**Destination Health & Safety Updates:** [hawaii.covid19.com](http://hawaii.covid19.com)

# SPECIAL GROUP DEPARTURES

## Freedom of the Seas

**September 16<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Currently this 9-night cruise to Canada and New England round trip out of Cape Liberty has been paused until a decision has been made regarding cruise travel to Canada. **Balcony cabins starting at \$1,245.00** per person including all port and government taxes, plus a \$50.00 on board credit. Deposits are fully refundable. If you would like to be placed on a waitlist or want more information, please call. A determination of sailing will be made by Royal Caribbean will be made in the next few weeks.

## American Queen Charms of the South

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

This nine-day itinerary starts in New Orleans with a pre-night hotel stay and ends in Memphis visiting ports of call: Two full days in New Orleans, Nottoway Plantation, St. Francisville, LA, Natchez, MS, Vicksburg, MS, Port of the Mississippi Delta, one full day of river cruising. Outside stateroom with veranda starts at \$3599.00 per person and includes pre-cruise night hotel stay, beer and wine with dinner, hop-on hop-off shore excursions, internet service and 24-hour room service. **Proof of vaccination will be required.** Please call for more information

## St. Francis Ireland with Father Kevin

**October 21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Father Kevin will escort a private journey to Ireland with Belfast and Giants Causeway. Round trip airfare on United from Newark (including all current government fees and taxes), seven hotel nights (2-Westport, 1-Donnegal, 2-Belfast & 2-Dublin) with private facilities and full Irish breakfast; including day of arrival. Six dinners including Taste n' Tour Belfast and a dinner show at Taylors Three Rock. Highlights include: Cliffs of Moher, Achill Island, Mass at Knock Shrine, Giants Causeway, Guinness Brewery, and Titanic Belfast along with a city tour there, Dublin and Derry. **DOUBLES: \$3,499.00 PLUS INSURANCE AND ONLY ONE SINGLE ROOM CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT A SUPPLEMENT OF \$600.00**

## Hawaii, Round-trip Honolulu

**October 30<sup>th</sup>-November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Teachers Break in NJ)**

Immerse yourself in the rich culture, incredible landscapes and delicious cuisine of Hawaii on this one of a kind seven-day cruise from Honolulu on **NCL's Pride of America**. You can explore a different island every day of your vacation—from the lush, fragrant vegetation of Kauai to the Big Island's dramatic volcanos and the famous surfing beaches all over Hawaii. You will enjoy overnight stays in both Maui and Kauai

giving you even more time to discover the best the islands have to offer. Each day is spectacular and every night is legendary. This is how you Hawaii! Rates will include all port fees and taxes, beverage package including gratuities, \$50/cabin excursion credit per port, 250 internet minutes along with third and fourth passengers (in the same cabin) sail for free (excluding taxes). Interior cabins start at \$1,790.00 per person. Amenities are subject to change.

## **Royal Caribbean Anthem Of the Seas**

### **Thanksgiving Cruise**

**November 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Set sail on a seven-night Thanksgiving cruise from Cape Liberty, with a full day stop on Royal Caribbean's Coco Cay. Conquer the tallest waterslide in North America or snap a shot from a height of 450 ft. in a helium balloon. Grab a drink at the swim-up bar, grab a bite at five new dining venues throughout the island (no extra charge) or find a spot in the shade at Chill Island, where there are plenty of beach chairs for everyone. Other ports include Orlando (Port Canaveral) and Nassau. A rate of \$1179.00 per person double occupancy includes all current government taxes and port fees, plus a \$50.00 on board credit per cabin. Additional room categories available. Please call Nancy for more information.

## **ICELAND GETAWAY – THE LAND OF FIRE AND ICE**

**February 1<sup>ST</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

A bucket list trip. Fly from Newark on a flight that is about the same amount of time as Las Vegas. Because of the jet stream, the weather about that time averages above 32 degrees with sunrise about 10 a.m. and sunset is 5:30 p.m. Upon arrival we will have breakfast at the Viking World Museum before heading to the warm, thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. Cover yourself with the healing mud and leave looking years younger. The not to be missed, full day, Grand Circle Tour will have you visit magnificent waterfalls and geysers along with a stop at Thingvillar National Park, Iceland's Grand Canyon and the home of the oldest Parliament building in Europe. We will also try to see the Northern Lights (never guaranteed) and if nothing is spotted the first time, we will try again the next night. One additional day for your own pursuits where you can visit the black sand beaches of the south shore or visit the interior of a glacier (the only one in the world); amazing! Our package includes round trip air on Icelandic Air from Newark, four nights hotel accommodations at the FossHotel Reykjavik with taxes and government fees, four Iceland breakfasts at the hotel plus one continental breakfast on arrival, stable visit, and greenhouse soup lunch while on Golden Circle tour, Blue Lagoon entrance and Northern Lights tour. Rate: \$1,699.00 per person double. A limited number of singles are available at an upcharge of \$350.00. Insurance is recommended and a passport is required. Price is based on a minimum of 20 passengers.

# CLIA Calls for CDC to Lift Framework for Conditional Sailing From US Ports

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), which represents 95 percent of global ocean-going cruise capacity, called on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to lift the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order (CSO) and allow for the planning of a phased resumption of cruise operations from U.S. ports by the beginning of July. The early-July timeframe is in line with President Biden's forecast for when the United States will be "closer to normal."

Over the past eight months, a highly-controlled resumption of cruising has continued in Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific—with nearly 400,000 passengers sailing to date in more than 10 major cruise markets. These voyages were successfully completed with industry-leading protocols that have effectively mitigated the spread of COVID-19. Additional sailings are planned in the Mediterranean and Caribbean later this spring and summer.

According to CLIA, the very small fraction of reported COVID cases (fewer than 50 based on public reports) is dramatically lower than the rate on land or in any other transportation mode. This is a testament to the industry's unparalleled expertise, gained over more than half a century, in coordinating movements of guests and crew, efficiently organizing complex embarkations and excursions, and designing vessels that are more technologically advanced and operationally agile than any other mode of transportation.

Following the cruise industry's voluntary suspension of operations last March, cruise lines have been prevented from operating in the U.S. by a series of "No Sail Orders" issued by the CDC. The CSO was issued last October, but since then the CDC has not released any further guidance, as called for in the order, to support the resumption of U.S. cruise operations. The lack of any action by the CDC has effectively prevented all sailings in the largest cruise market in the world. Cruising is the only sector of the U.S. economy that remains prohibited, even as most others have opened or continued to operate throughout the pandemic.

The outdated CSO, which was issued almost five months ago, does not reflect the industry's proven advancements and success operating in other parts of the world, nor the advent of vaccines, and unfairly treats cruises differently. Cruise lines should be treated the same as other travel, tourism, hospitality, and entertainment sectors.

According to CLIA, restarting cruises as part of the broader travel industry recovery will provide a much-needed boost to the U.S. economy—with the cruise industry supporting nearly 450,000 American jobs and contributing over \$55.5 billion annually, prior to the pandemic. Based on economic modeling by research firm BREA, more than 300,000 jobs have been lost in the United States due to the suspension of cruises.

So what's the CDC's reaction to requests by CLIA and ASTA to have the CSO lifted? Initially, it appears the CDC is remaining firm on not changing it until the Nov. 1, 2021. One report said the CDC says the current framework for resuming cruising will remain in place, though another report says it is working to update the order. Returning to passenger cruising is a phased approach to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, the CDC told one media outlet. Details for the next phase of the CSO are currently under interagency review.

## [YOU CAN NOW CRUISE FROM PORTS OTHER THAN DEPARTURES ORIGINATING IN THE US](#)

### NEW SEVEN NIGHT CELEBRITY SAILINGS FROM ST. MAARTEN

The moment has arrived when you can finally turn your vacation dream into your dream vacation with Celebrity's new Caribbean sailings beginning June 5th on the revolutionized Millennium. Your long awaited escape begins in Celebrity's new homeport of St. Maarten and includes three more sparkling islands in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean.

#### **Aruba, Curacao and Barbados**

1. Depart from Philipsburg St. Maarten at 10:00pm
2. Day at Sea
3. Willemstad, Curacao 8:00am to 6:00pm
4. Oranjestad, Aruba 8:00am to 6:00pm
5. Day at sea
6. Bridgetown, Barbados 8:00am to 6:00pm
7. Day at Sea
8. Arrival into Philipsburg at 6:00am

#### **BVI, St. Lucia and Barbados**

1. Depart from Philipsburg, St. Maarten at 10:00pm
2. Day at Sea
3. Tortola, BVI 8:00am to 6:00pm
4. Day at Sea
5. Castries, St. Lucia 8:00am to 6:00pm
6. Bridgetown, Barbados 8:00am to 6:00pm
7. Day at Sea
8. Arrival into Philipsburg at 6:00am



## ANTARCTICA

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-Jim and Patti Rahn



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