

COME WITH US, THE WORLD HASN'T BEEN THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

American Queen Charms of the South

October 3-11, 2021

See the USA—This cruise starts with a pre-night in New Orleans and ends in Memphis visiting Nottoway Plantation., St. Francisville, Natchez and Vicksburg, MS. Outside staterooms with verandah start at \$3,599.00 per person double. Rate includes, pre-night hotel, beer and wine with lunch and dinner, hop on, hop off shore excursions, internet and 24 hour room service.

St. Francis Ireland with Father Kevin

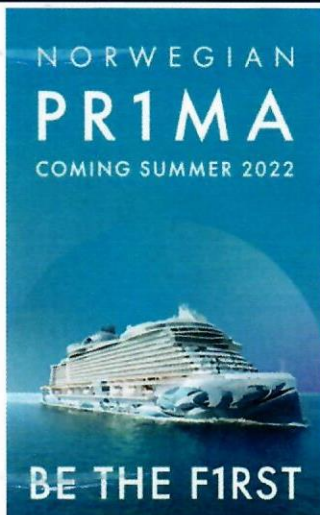
October 21-29, 2021

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-Dublim) 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. **We still have six seats left. Please call for more information.**

Royal Caribbean on Anthem of the Seas Thanksgiving Cruise

November 21st-28th, 2021

Set sail on a seven-night Thanksgiving cruise from Cape Liberty, with a full day stop on Coco Cay. Conquer the tallest waterslide in North America or snap a shoot 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 through the island (no extra charge) or find a spot in the shade at Chill Island. Other ports include Orlando (Port Canaveral) and Nassau. A rate of \$1179.00 per person double occupancy includes: all current taxes and port fees, plus a \$50.00 on board credit per cabin. Additional room categories available. Please call Nancy with more information.



Start thinking about 2023. We have two new groups on Norwegian Cruise Line on the Brand new Norwegian Prima and the Norwegian Getaway, doing a Transatlantic from NYC to Iceland and a 9 night Copenhagen doing Russia, Germany and Scandinavia. Last week's newsletter went into depth on both cruises. Remember, to get those spectacular deals, you must book and deposit by July 1, 2021.

Royal Caribbean Becomes First Large-Ship Cruise Line to Return to Alaska



Royal Caribbean became the first large-ship cruise line to sail to the "Last Frontier" with guests since September 2019, with the *Serenade of the Seas* departing on a first of a series of seven-night cruises from **Seattle** on July 19.

The resumption of cruising to Alaska comes as a huge relief for the state, which had significantly been impacted by the absence of all cruise tourism. Normally, Alaska gets more than 60 percent of its visitors from cruises, generating upward of \$3 billion for its economy each year.

The itinerary for *Serenade* will include visits to classic cities and quaint towns like **Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan** and **Icy Strait Point, Alaska**, as well as the **Endicott Arm fjord** and **Dawes Glacier**. The ship will be joined by *Ovation of the Seas* in Seattle starting August 13, rounding out Royal Caribbean's Alaskan comeback in 2021.

Serenade is the cruise industry's first ship to return to Alaska and the second in Royal Caribbean's fleet to welcome back guests in the **U.S.** after *Freedom of the Seas* set sail from **Miami** for a celebratory **Fourth of July** weekend. Ninety-seven percent of the entire onboard community on *Serenade of the Seas* is fully vaccinated, Royal Caribbean said.

Thirteen Royal Caribbean ships will be sailing around the world by the end of August, including *Ovation of the Seas*, which is set to sail on seven-night adventures to Skagway, Sitka and Juneau, Alaska and through the **Inside Passage**. The cruise line recently extended *Ovation's* Alaska season into October with four additional sailings.

SET YOURSELF APART IN LOS CABOS

At the tip of the Baja Peninsula, land ends and the Gulf of California and Pacific Ocean begin. Sparkling waters, jagged cliffs, desert landscape, and rugged mountains all come together in a wash of vibrant color in **Los Cabos** with endless activities:

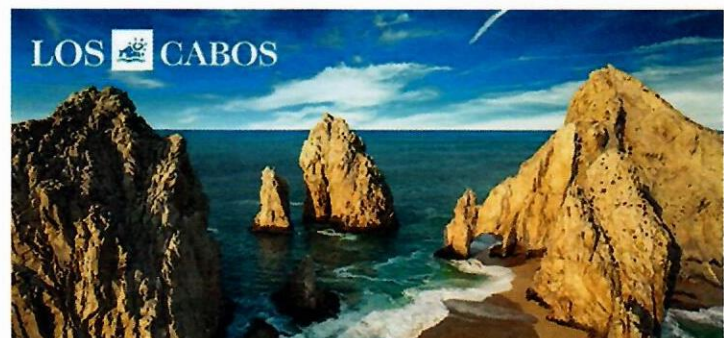
Explore the art galleries of San José del Cabo

Enjoy a magnificent sunset by the beach

Paddleboard up to the iconic Cabo Arch

Mountain bike or camel ride in the outback

 **APPLE VACATIONS**



SPOTLIGHT ON STAR CLIPPER'S COSTA RICA SAILINGS



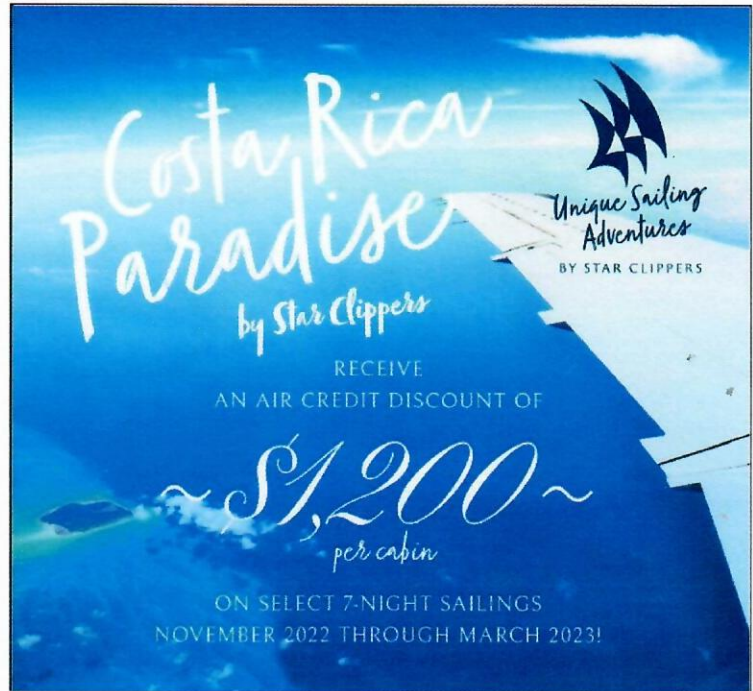
Star Clipper's new Costa Rica itineraries have been called "Jungle meets the Sea" because of the ability to see this incredibly varied country easily by way of an authentic sailing ship. As one of the most biodiverse destinations in the world, Costa Rica boasts nearly half a million species inhabiting its lush tropical forests. Let's take a look at a few of the magnificent stops in that you can enjoy on these exotic journeys.

Costa Rica is a land of volcanoes, rainforests and cloud forests, huge waterfalls and mighty rivers, and Star Clippers will take you there in the most effortless way—onboard a majestic authentic sailing vessel. Choose your 7-night Costa Rican adventure today and receive an **Air Credit discount of \$1,200** per cabin on select 7-night sailings departing November 2022 through March 2023!

STARTING FROM

~\$1,560~
per person

OFFER EXPIRES AUGUST 31, 2021



MSC Meraviglia Completes Three-Day "Test Cruise" from PortMiami



MSC Meraviglia recently completed a "test cruise" from PortMiami. // Photo by MSC Cruises

MSC Meraviglia has completed a three-day "test cruise" from **PortMiami** to both **Nassau** and its private island, **Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve**, in the **Bahamas**.

Conducted under the watchful eye of the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, **MSC Cruises** is seeking a **CDC Conditional Sailing Order (COS)** as it plans to begin revenue cruises from **PortMiami** on **August 2**. Completion of that simulated voyage marks a key milestone toward the company's resumption of cruises from the **U.S.** In addition, **MSC Cruises** says it's part of a global plan to put more than half of **MSC Cruises'** fleet back at sea by the end of summer 2021.

Guests participating in the test cruise experience by adhering to **MSC Cruises'** health and safety protocol. That included mask-wearing indoors, social distancing, enhanced sanitization and more.

With **MSC Cruises'** test sailing successfully completed, **MSC Meraviglia** plans to resume cruising from the **U.S.** on **August 2, 2021**, beginning with three- and four-night cruises to **The Bahamas**, featuring **Ocean Cay**. The ship then expects to add seven-night cruises on **September 18** to the **Bahamas** and the **Caribbean**.

Costa Rican Black Bean Soup (Sopa Negra)

~FROM STAR CLIPPERS' GALLEY~

DIRECTIONS

Wash beans and place in large stockpot

Cover with water and bring to a boil

Boil for 3 minutes; turn off heat, sit for 1 hour

Sauté onions, celery, carrot, peppers, once softened, add garlic

Drain and rinse beans and return to pot

Add broth, sauteed vegetables and ginger, salt, pepper and cilantro

Bring to a boil, turn down heat, partially cover and simmer until beans are tender (2-3 hours)

Garnish with dollop of sour cream, a slice of avocado, chopped green onions, sliced radishes and hard cooked egg

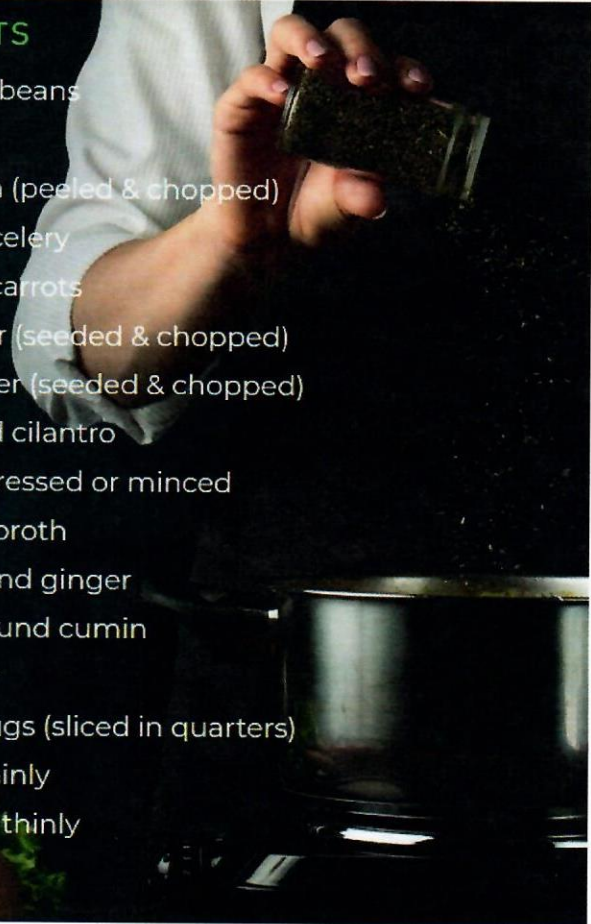
Serve with warm tortillas



STAR CLIPPERS

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. dried black beans
1 tablespoon oil
1 medium onion (peeled & chopped)
1 cup chopped celery
1 cup chopped carrots
1 red bell pepper (seeded & chopped)
1 jalapeno pepper (seeded & chopped)
1/2 cup chopped cilantro
2 cloves garlic pressed or minced
8 cups chicken broth
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
Salt and pepper
2 hard-boiled eggs (sliced in quarters)
1 radish sliced thinly
1 avocado sliced thinly
Sour Cream



Eiffel Tower reopens after eight-month COVID closure

The Eiffel Tower reopened on Friday after an eight-month shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic, its longest closure since World War Two.

As a countdown clock at the foot of the tower turned to zero, there were cheers and applause from visitors queuing to get in, a brass band started playing and people starting filing through the entrance.

Because of lingering concerns about the virus, masks remain compulsory for anyone over 11 years of age, and each elevator car will only carry half the normal number of visitors.

From July 21, visitors will need to show a French government "health pass" to demonstrate they are either vaccinated or have had a recent negative test for COVID-19.



Where can Americans travel in Europe?

We have compiled information on countries that are currently open to U.S. visitors, as well as some major destinations that we expect to open in the near future; we expect to add more information as it becomes available. And as the regulations are shifting, it bears repeating that advisors should stay abreast of the rules by visiting the CDC website, Reopen Europe and individual U.S. embassy and tourist office websites.

The Czech Republic opened to U.S. residents with no Covid test or quarantine required as of June 21.

Denmark is open to American travelers, regardless of vaccination status.

Updated: Finland is lifting restrictions on Americans entering the country as of July 12. To be eligible, travelers must present proof of vaccination 14 days prior to arrival or proof of recovery from Covid-19 within six months of arrival.

Updated: France is now open to vaccinated and unvaccinated American travelers. Unvaccinated travelers need to present a negative PCR test of less than 72 hours or a negative antigen test of less than 48 before boarding.

Germany reopened to U.S. travelers on June 20.

Greece is officially open to U.S. tourists.

Iceland was one of the first European countries to open its doors to Americans. Travelers who have been vaccinated or who can show proof of prior infection have been able to enter the country without testing or quarantining since April.

Ireland will begin welcoming U.S. tourists, vaccinated or not, on July 19.

Generally speaking, Americans are free to visit Italy for tourism, but the rules may vary by region and are in flux.

U.S. residents can travel to the Netherlands with no negative test requirements and no self-quarantine on arrival.

As of June 15, Portugal opened to nonessential travel for U.S. nationals.

As of June 24, Spain opened to all travelers from the U.S., regardless of vaccination status.

Switzerland welcomed fully vaccinated North American guests as of June 28. Quarantine and a negative Covid-19 test will not be required to enter the country.

The U.S. is on the amber list for the UK, which means that while visitors can enter, testing and quarantines are still in effect. In addition, passengers need to fill out a pre-entry form. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the country will delay by four weeks the next relaxation of in-country Covid restrictions to enable the country to continue a vaccination drive to combat the delta variant.

Canada lifting cruise ban on Nov. 1

The date effectively means that cruising won't begin in Canada until spring 2022 since the summer Alaska season and the summer/fall Atlantic Canada season will be over by November.

In February, Canada extended its cruise ship ban for one year, until February 2022, on cruise ships carrying more than 100 people. The ban put this year's Alaska cruise season in doubt because the United States' Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA) mandates foreign-flagged ships to call in at least one foreign port on any U.S. itinerary, which is why large cruise ships either begin, end or call in Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., as part of Alaska itineraries.

That problem was solved when Congress approved temporary relief from the PVSA for passenger ships sailing in Alaska this summer. The legislation stipulates that the PVSA waiver terminates when Canada drops its cruise ban or on March 31, 2022.

Government agency Transport Canada said on Thursday that the cruise ship prohibition would no longer be in effect for operators that are able to fully comply with public health requirements.

The government of Canada continues to advise Canadians "to avoid all travel on cruise ships outside the country until further notice."