

The Iconic Boeing 747 Ends Its 50-Year Run



The Boeing 747 jetliner, the bulbous-nosed behemoth that effectively kicked off the era of mass tourism, has left the building.

But the ending, when it came, was a bit anticlimactic. Boeing hadn't produced a passenger version of the widebody in several years, and the last model that rolled off the assembly line in Seattle earlier this month was a freighter version built for cargo line Atlas Air.

Out of a total of 1,574 747s built over its lifetime, just around 100 are still in service. Most airlines had retired their 747 fleets in favor of a new generation of long-haul aircraft, which carry fewer people than the 450-passenger giant, and, with just two engines versus the 747's four, burn less fuel.

Still, few airplanes have ever generated the kind of excitement that the 747 did when it debuted in 1970. It was, after all, the world's first widebody passenger aircraft, and international travelers accustomed to the cramped confines of planes like the single-aisle 707 were wowed.

Some airlines have stoked the nostalgia factor even as they were parking their own 747s. Take United, which once had a sizable fleet of the jumbos that it acquired from Pan Am, the original launch customer for the plane. In announcing the plane's retirement in 2017, United promoted a farewell tour, along with commemorative souvenirs and amenities kits.

The fact that the aircraft entered service on storied, but now defunct, carriers like Pan Am, TWA, and Braniff, also plays into the notion of it as a symbol of the supposed "golden age of air travel," as opposed to the crowded planes and flight disruptions most of us associate with air travel these days.

Holland America Becomes Latest Cruise Line To Increase Gratuity Fees

Now that pandemic-related restrictions are mostly a thing of the past and cruise-goers are heading back to the high seas in [record numbers](#), they're likely to notice that the overall cost of cruising has gone up a bit—well, just like everything else right now.

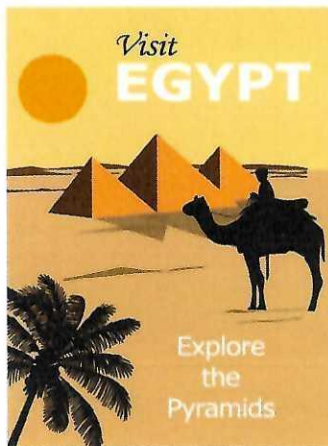
[Holland America Line's](#) (HAL) latest pricing announcement reveals it to be the latest of multiple major cruise lines to raise its gratuity fees in early 2023.

In fairness, HAL's newly announced price hike is only an increase of 50 cents for both suite and non-suite staterooms, bringing the charge up to \$17.50 and \$16.00, respectively. The change in its 'Crew Appreciation' charge amount is set to take effect on February 1, 2023.

Crew appreciation charges are automatically applied to each guest's onboard account at a fixed daily rate through the end of their voyage. In one sense, it's certainly convenient for customers, taking the time and confusion out of tipping the various staff members who serve them throughout their stay.

Crew appreciation—as well as service charges applied to the products, services and amenities not included in a guest's cruise fare—are collected from all guests aboard every cruise, and pooled funds are distributed to both customer-facing crew members and those who work behind the scenes, "to recognize the efforts of a wide variety of crewmembers who contribute to the experiences of all our guests," HAL explained in its notice.

the adjustment to cruise lines' daily gratuity charges isn't the only recent increase in cruise costs, and that price hikes are also being applied to other onboard items, such as Wi-Fi and beverage packages, as well as at non-inclusive dining options.



EGYPT 2023

TOUR FEATURES (October 11-19, 2023)

- Round trip air on Egyptair from JFK (also including domestic air CAI-LXR and ASW-CAI)
- All transfer in Cairo (CAI), Luxor (LXR) and Aswan (ASW)
- 2nts accommodation at Conrad Cairo hotel 5* or similar based on bed & breakfast basis
- 4nts accommodation on board of the H/S Nebu or similar on full board basis starting with lunch & ending with breakfast
- 1nt accommodation at Intercontinental City Stars or similar on bed & breakfast basis
- Full Day tour including the Pyramids, Sphinx, Museum, Old Cairo including lunch in a local restaurant while touring
- Camel ride and balloon ride over the Nile
- Visits on board of the boat : Karnak & Luxor Temple West Bank : Valley of Kings, Hatshepsut & the colossi of Memnon
- Edfu, Kom Ombo
- Aswan : Philae temple, the High Dam & Obelisk
- Felucca around Kitchener islands
- Farewell traditional dinner at El Azhar Park
- English speaking guide throughout

NOT INCLUDED: Visa (approx. \$25 USD on arrival) and gratuities

PRICE: \$4,935.00 per person (based on a minimum of 15 passengers).

A passport with a six month validity is required. A deposit of \$500 per person is required for deposit along with insurance.

Single surcharge of \$985.

Get your reservation booked as soon as possible. Call Nancy

OCTOBER 4-15, 2023—11 NIGHT NEW ENGLAND AND CANADA CRUISE ABOARD MSC'S MERAVIGLIA

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and visit Newport, Rhode Island, Boston, Massachusetts, St. John, New Brunswick, Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, PEI, returning to New York by way of Portland, Maine. The Meraviglia is packed with extraordinary features for the perfect experience at sea. Enjoy gourmet dining, out of this world entertainment with new panoramic areas, an innovative ocean lounge, a two-deck high inside promenade with an LED dome and a spectacular amusement area connected to an outdoor water park. Rates include cabin accommodations selected, all current port and government taxes, beverage package for drinks up to \$9, wi-fi for two devices and gratuities. Ocean view \$1,277.00, Premium Balcony \$1,487.00 and Aurea Balcony \$1,877.00 (additional amenities including the solarium, spa discounts, 24 hour room service and more).

NOVEMBER 2-12, 2023—10 NIGHT ULTIMATE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN ABOARD THE CELEBRITY REFLECTION

Cruise round trip from Ft. Lauderdale in a balcony cabin visiting Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Martinique, St. Kitts & Nevis. Our special, always included package incorporates accommodations, all currents taxes, all meals (except specialty restaurants), beverage package, wi-fi, gratuities, spectacular entertainment and a \$300 on board credit. The special rate of \$1,850.00 per person,

Almost-Famous Broccoli-Cheddar Soup

The bakery-café chain Panera Bread is famous for its bread bowls, but insiders know that the real treat is the stuff inside. The company's broccoli-cheddar soup practically has a cult following, which explains why Betty Ling from Arcadia, CA, and other readers keep writing to us for the recipe. Spokespeople at Panera's Missouri headquarters wouldn't tell us how they make the extra-creamy soup, but they did confirm that it's a bestseller: Their stores ladle out more than 50 million cups of it every year, blowing through five million heads of broccoli in the process. Chefs in Food Network Kitchens went through their own big batch of broccoli to nail down this perfect imitation.



Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups half-and-half
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 4 7-inch sourdough bread boules (round loaves)
- 4 cups broccoli florets (about 1 head)
- 1 large carrot, diced
- 2 1/2 cups (about 8 ounces) grated sharp white and yellow cheddar cheese, plus more for garnish



Directions:

- 1** Melt the butter in a large Dutch oven or pot over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until tender, about 5 minutes. Whisk in the flour and cook until golden, 3 to 4 minutes, then gradually whisk in the half-and-half until smooth. Add the chicken broth, bay leaves and nutmeg, then season with salt and pepper and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook, uncovered, until thickened, about 20 minutes.
- 2** Meanwhile, prepare the bread bowls: Using a sharp knife, cut a circle into the top of each loaf, leaving a 1-inch border all around. Remove the bread top, then hollow out the middle with a fork or your fingers, leaving a thick bread shell.

- 3** Add the broccoli and carrot to the broth mixture and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Discard the bay leaves. Puree the soup in batches in a blender until smooth; you'll still have flecks of carrot and broccoli. Return to the pot. (Or puree the soup in the pot with an immersion blender.)
- 4** Add the cheese to the soup and whisk over medium heat until melted. Add up to 3/4 cup water if the soup is too thick. Ladle into the bread bowls and garnish with cheese.



Lucky Bamboo

A cuter, more portable bamboo plant than what pandas eat – or what makes up for scaffolding – Lucky Bamboo is particularly popular for Chinese New Year. As the name suggests, this baby attracts all the good luck you need. The bamboo stalks curl and twist into interesting shapes, almost like loopy straws, and are great for novice gardeners to take care of. You can even add red ribbons and lucky ornaments on it for even better feng shui.

WINDSTAR CRUISES 180° FROM ORDINARY™

Windstar Cruises Voted Porthole's Most Romantic Cruise Line

The votes are in from the Readers' Choice Awards 2022, and we are so proud and honored to receive 2022's Most Romantic Cruise Line!



Windstar and romance go together as naturally as beaches and sunshine. The romance of being under sail, the intimate yachts, special touches. Whether you are planning a wedding, a first or second honeymoon, a vow renewal, an anniversary or a vacation surprise, Windstar's Romance Packages provide romantic moments and special amenities. Depending on the destination, excursion add-ons can be purchased for those of you seeking ultra-romantic moments.

THE STATE WITH THE MOST MISERABLE WINTER (according to thrillist.com)



NORTH DAKOTA

A lot of states have broken all-time-low records recently but not North Dakota. No, North Dakota is just always that cold. In fact, it ranks as the coldest state in the lower 48. July and August are the only months when it hasn't snowed here. Every year sees temperatures in the minus 20s (and a few days in the minus 30s!). Once in the 1930s, it even dipped down to minus 60 degrees. This is just normal here.

The Canada-adjacent state is also the flattest of the Great Plains states, meaning there's nothing to stop the winds from whipping across all that bare land, stripping you of any residual body heat, blocking all visibility on roads, and shutting down the only two major highways during blizzards.

But it isn't just the freezing temps and soul-piercing winds that put the home of Fargo at the top of our list: In neighboring polar vortex-stricken Midwestern states, you can at least cozy up in a lakeside cabin and sip a beer while looking out at gorgeous wintry forests, lakes, and shorelines. In North Dakota, all you'll get is prairies, grasslands, and wetlands—all buried in endless snow to the horizon—and nowhere to hide.

America's 20 Most Beautiful Skylines

In the 130-plus years since the world's first skyscraper—a 10-story, iron-framed structure in Chicago—was built, cities across the world have taken the concept and continued to reinvent it to create skylines so impressive, they've become reason enough to visit. Across the US, you'll find skyscrapers of all shapes and sizes—although now they're characterized less by the number of floors and more by height, meaning anything taller than 492 feet. And these high-rises are not only landmarks, they're architectural feats. From the iconic Space Needle and Empire State Building to some of the lesser-known, statement-making skyscrapers, here are 20 of the most stunning skylines across the US.

Working our way to the top, we have Houston, Honolulu, Boston, Miami, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Washington, DC, St. Louis, Nashville, San Diego, Cincinnati, New York, Dallas, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Chicago and Seattle.

What is your favorite?



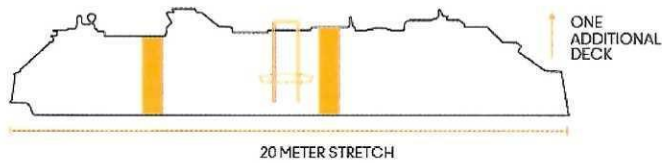
CELEBRITY BEYOND FAST FACTS

Inaugural date: MARCH 2022
Ship's registry: Malta

Designed entirely
in 3-D

TONNAGE	LENGTH	BEAM	DRAUGHT	CRUISING SPEED	CREW	STATEROOMS	GUESTS
140,600	1,073 ft	128 ft	27 ft	21.8 kts	1400+ from 60 Countries	1,646	3,260

HOW WE MADE EXTRAORDINARY EVEN BETTER



- Longer, taller, sleeker profile
- 179 more suites and staterooms
- More of The Retreat® with a 40% larger sundeck
- More Resort Deck with expanded open-air spaces
- More restaurants, bars, and lounges to enjoy
- Now 17 decks



All Suites. All Exclusive. All Included.

The Retreat® has been taken to another level with an expanded two-story sundeck and stunningly redesigned exclusive spaces that are all adjacent to create a true resort-within-a-resort.



ROOFTOP GARDEN

With cantilevered float pools that extend over the water's edge, our reimagined Rooftop Garden is a stunning collaboration between designer Kelly Hoppen, CBE, and architect Tom Wright, of WKK.



Grand Plaza

Design firm Jouin Manku has made the social epicenter of the ship even more dramatic than before with a new, organic shape, LED chandelier, and redesigned Martini Bar.



MAGIC CARPET

No rush can compete with the endless views 15 decks above the sea on our cantilevered Magic Carpet®. Float across the horizon as you drink, dine, or simply relax on this feat of engineering that transforms into different experiences.



EDEN

Chillful. Playful. Wonderful.

Awaken all your senses in this three-story venue wrapped in panoramic views, featuring daytime activities, Wonder at Eden thematic experiences each night, Eden Bar, Eden Café, and our delicious Eden Restaurant.