

Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort to Open in November

Beginning on June 26, Dollywood's second resort, **Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort**, located in the **Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee**, will accept reservations for stays from November 3, 2023.

The 302-room lodge is located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and offers accommodation options for multi-generational families and couples. Guests can choose from spacious guestrooms, including bunk rooms, themed suites and loft rooms situated in dormers. Many of the rooms also include balconies with sweeping views of the property, located just 10 miles from **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**.

The five-story resort has high ceilings, exposed beams and natural layered textures. Guests will find four-story, lantern-inspired windows in the lodge's atrium; indoor and outdoor pools; and an outdoor cove with family gathering spaces.

Dollywood's newest resort will feature new dining options in its full-service restaurant, lounge, private dining room, and **Songbird Market Grab & Go** eatery. In addition, guests can buy gifts at **Honeysuckle & Pine Storied Goods Mercantile** to take home after a visit. As an added benefit for booking at a Dollywood property, resort guests will receive priority access to Dollywood parks, as well as early park entry on Saturdays for exclusive ride time on one of Dollywood's world-famous attractions, including the park's newest and longest roller coaster, Big Bear Mountain. Resort stays also include complimentary Dollywood TimeSaver passes, door-to-door transportation and package delivery for items purchased inside the theme park.

HeartSong Lodge & Resort will open in time for Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas celebration, which will run from November 4, 2023 to January 6, 2024.



Drinks, Wi-Fi, gratuity. Save on the things you're gonna do anyway. It Pays to **Plus**

DROP & GO
Make it a (late) summer to remember on Alaska adventures (or Europe escapes)
as low as **\$329!**

7-day Alaska Voyage of the Glaciers

7/22/23 | Grand Princess® | Anchorage (Whittier) to Vancouver, B.C.

Fares from **\$329***

7-day Alaska Inside Passage

9/2/23 | Royal Princess® | Roundtrip Seattle

Fares from **\$649***

10-day Alaska Inside Passage

7/25/23 | Crown Princess® | Roundtrip Vancouver, B.C.

Fares from **\$599***



7-day Culinary Stars Themed Cruise with Spain & France

9/16/23 | Sky Princess® | Roundtrip Southampton

Fares from **\$899***

7-day Mediterranean with France & Italy

9/9/23 | Enchanted Princess® | Barcelona to Rome (Civitavecchia)

Fares from **\$1,149***

***Fares are per guest and apply to minimum lead-in categories on a space-available basis at time of booking. Fares for other categories may vary. Fares are non-air, cruise- or cruisetour-only, based on double occupancy and apply to the first two guests in a stateroom only. These fares do not apply to singles or third/fourth-berth guests. This offer has limited space. Taxes, Fees and Port Expenses of \$115 to \$315 are additional. Fares and all other values quoted in USD.**

Groups 2023-2024

SEPTEMBER 15-24, 2023—SIX NIGHT BERMUDA CRUISE ABOARD MSC'S MERAVIGLIA

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and spend three days at King's Wharf Bermuda enjoying the idyllic, pink sand beaches while imbibing a delicious rum swizzle. Experience everything the Meraviglia has to offer. Our special balcony rate includes accommodations, all current government and port taxes, gratuities, wi-fi for two devices, an upgraded beverage package for \$1,299.00 per person double. Upgrade to Aurea features for \$1,529.00.

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

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and visit Newport, RI, Boston, MA, St. John, NB, Halifax and Sydney, NS Charlottetown, PEI returning to New York by way of Portland, ME. 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 spectacular amusement area connected to an outdoor water park. Rates include cabin accommodations as 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 (includes additional amenities, room service and more).

OCTOBER 11-19, 2023—EGYPT AND NILE CRUISE ABOARD THE BRAND NEW H/S NEBU

Have you always wanted to take a camel ride by the Pyramids or a hot air balloon ride over the Nile while cruising and visiting these ancient sights? Spend two nights in Cairo and visit the new and exciting National Museum, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the enigmatic Sphinx along with a camel ride? Visit Old Cairo. Fly to Luxor and board the H/S Nebu for a four night cruise visiting Karnak & Luxor Temple, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut, Edfu, Kom Obo and more. Return to Cairo for a farewell dinner and your return to the U.S. Breakfast daily and full board while cruising, lunch while on Old Cairo tour. Rate per person, based on a minimum of 15 passengers is \$4,935.00 including air from JFK. Single supplement \$985.00

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 3, 2023—HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN DUBLIN AND GALWAY'S CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Enjoy this unique getaway visiting the Christmas Markets in Dublin and Galway. Included in this package is round trip airfare from Newark, a professional tour director for the duration of the trip, four breakfasts (including morning of arrival), two hotel dinners and one traditional Pub dinner, a walking tour of Galway, tour of Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, Clonmacnoise, Newbridge Silver Factory, St. Patrick's Cathedral and Guinness Storehouse. Rate \$2,249.00 per person double occupancy. Minimum participation of 15 is required. Call Tara for more info and reservations.

FEBRUARY 7-12, 2024—TENTH ANNUAL ICELAND WEEKEND GETAWAY

Explore the 'Land of Fire and Ice' witnessing spectacular waterfalls, boiling geysers and spend a few hours relaxing with a cocktail while watching the sunrise in the Blue Lagoon. A visit to Thingvillar National Park is not to be missed; called the Grand Canyon of Iceland because it is where the tectonic plates of North America and Europe merge creating an awesome sight. There is always the opportunity of seeing the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. Our package includes round trip air from Newark on Icelandair, four nights hotel with a full buffet breakfast daily and a continental breakfast at Viking World Museum on the morning of arrival, all current taxes. Optional tours will be available. Rate is \$1,998.00 per person double. A valid passport is required and insurance is highly recommended.

NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 3, 2024—ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS CRUISE ABOARD AMA WATERWAYS AMA LEA

Depart USA on the evening of November 23 flying to Prague where you will board the AMA LEA for your seven night Christmas Market cruise. The intimate AMA LEA was built in 2018 and sails with a maximum of 156 passengers. Sail the Continental Divide and visit Passau, Melk and Vienna enroute to Budapest. Cruise only rates start at \$3,799.00 per person double including port taxes. Single cabins surcharge range from 125 to 150%. Pre and post nights along with airfare will be available at the end of this year. Call Nancy for information and reservations.

DECEMBER 7-14, 2024—SAIL THE CARIBBEAN ON STRA CLIPPERS ROYAL CLIPPER

Details will be available soon

Which Airlines' Premium Economy Is Worth It?

A little bit of an upgrade can go a long way on some flights. Here's when it's worth it to shell out a bit extra to go from economy to Premium Economy.

Economy class is exactly what it sounds like: a standard airplane seat with very few frills. Basic Economy has even fewer. A lot of times that's OK—we'll put up with it just to get where we're going. But sometimes we travelers want a little bit more, say, a little extra legroom and some dignity. That's where Premium Economy comes in.

American Airlines



For its Premium Economy, American uses seats similar to those in domestic first class; they come with about six more inches of space than what you'll find in the main cabin, plus a footrest and a larger entertainment screen. I value the extra room, but sometimes, it's the little touches that make the difference, like the Casper-branded blanket and plump pillow (both of which are more substantial than the unbranded ones in the main cabin) and the upgraded meal service (proper dishware, cutlery, a tablecloth, and different menu options from economy). It's also nice to have a small table at the end of the armrest to place the free drinks that American offers all customers on most long-haul, international flights.

Delta Airlines

Delta's Premium Select adds some space and comfort without breaking the bank. An entertainment screen as large as 13.3 inches, extra legroom (as much as 38 inches of pitch, which measures the point between a seat in one row and the same point in the next, depending on the aircraft), memory-foam pillow and wider armrest add up on long flights. I've found that it's worth the extra mileage or cash upgrade if you need to work on the flight. Those without a higher tier of Medallion status benefit from Sky Priority for faster check-in and boarding lanes. The meals are upgraded from the Economy menu, there's an amenities kit with tiny tubes of Grown Alchemist products, and beer, wine, and most cocktails are free.

United Premium Plus

For United loyalists, the airline's Premium Plus seats are a welcome addition to the airline's fare options. Available on transatlantic, transpacific, a handful of long-haul domestic routes (such as Newark to San Francisco), and a few routes in South America, it feels akin to a business-class seat on most of its other routes: large chairs with 38 inches of legroom, 38 inches of pitch, six-inch recline, and adjustable footrests; different meal options than Economy; complimentary alcoholic beverages; and an amenity kit. While you may occasionally find a good deal when purchasing it outright, it's most worth it if you can score an affordable upgrade option—if it's under \$300 to upgrade or you can book or upgrade with miles, I'd generally go for it.



Joshua Tree National Park

For a diverse experience, head to Joshua Tree National Park, where you can perform any level of activity. Reach new heights as you hike by day, then sit back and relax as you stargaze at night. The chair is yours.



Visit California

Visit California's goal is to remind travelers of the vast experiences that await in California. The Golden State boasts a variety of trip options, from laid-back luxury to outdoor adventures, and Visit California is the ultimate resource to guide the way.

Strawberry Shortcake Doughnut Ice Cream Sandwiches



We fill doughnuts with strawberry ice cream, then dunk the whole thing in a vanilla bean glaze. A sprinkle of crushed freeze-dried strawberries adds vibrant color and flavor. Once frozen, enjoy them right away or wrap them up for a last-minute grab-and-go dessert.

Ingredients:

- 8 unglazed cake doughnuts
- 2 pints strawberry ice cream, softened
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1/3 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon vanilla bean paste
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup freeze-dried strawberries, lightly crushed

Directions:

- 1 Line a baking sheet with parchment. Slice the doughnuts in half horizontally, like a bagel. Add a large scoop of the ice cream to the bottom half of each doughnut and use an offset spatula to spread the ice cream to the edges. Press on the top halves of the doughnuts. Place the sandwiches on the prepared baking sheet and freeze until the ice cream is firm, at least 4 hours and up to overnight.

- 2 When the sandwiches are frozen, place a cooling rack inside a second baking sheet. Whisk the confectioners' sugar, buttermilk, sour cream, vanilla bean paste and salt in a large measuring cup or high-sided bowl or cup deep enough to fully submerge each sandwich. Working with 1 sandwich at a time, dunk it into the glaze, making sure the entire doughnut is covered with the glaze. Use a slotted spoon to remove from the glaze, gently tap the spoon so the glaze drips off a little and transfer to the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining sandwiches and glaze. Sprinkle the doughnuts with the freeze-dried strawberries. Freeze until the ice cream is very firm and the glaze is set and no longer shiny, at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

- 3 Enjoy the sandwiches immediately or wrap them individually in foil and freeze until ready to eat.



What Not to Do at Cruise Ship Disembarkation

It's disembarkation day. You've had an excellent cruise, so don't let a mistake on your very last day drag the entire experience down. From unexpected charges and forgotten items to empty stomachs and overweight suitcases, cruise ship disembarkation can be riddled with pitfalls. But if you avoid these rookie mistakes, you can hold on to your happy cruise buzz for just a little longer.

Here are nine things disembarking cruise ship passengers should never do.

Walk off Without Checking Your Bill

Buy Photos

Leave Your Stuff in the Safe

End up in PJs or Slippers

Forget Your Keycard in the Cabin

Take the Bathrobe

Skip Breakfast

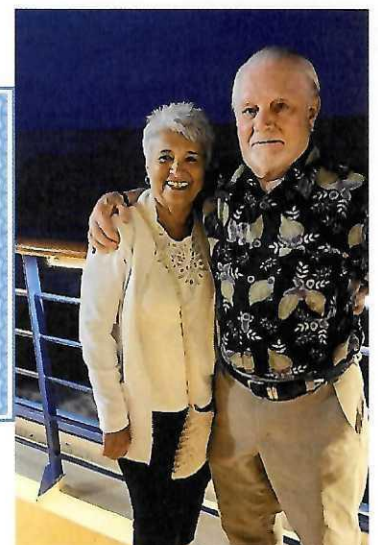
Linger Where You Shouldn't

Opt for Self-Assist Disembarkation if You Can't Handle Your Luggage

Thank you Nancy!

We had a wonderful time aboard the Celebrity Summit with our friends from Ohio.

Sally and Tom Cornell



8 Costliest Cruise Mistakes



Whether you've sailed hundreds of times before or you're new to cruising, mistakes are all too easy to make. There is a myriad of decisions to make when planning a cruise and just as many factors to consider while onboard -- and if you make the wrong call, it could cost you. From practical planning to ensuring you don't lose track of time in port or spend unnecessarily onboard, take note of our advice to avoid these costly cruise mistakes.

Scheduling a Flight too Close to Your Embarkation Date—There are several things that could go wrong, including flight delays and cancellations, and while your airline will do whatever they can to get you on the next available flight, there is no guarantee that flight will get you to the ship on time -- or even depart that day. And that is going to cost you your cruise.

Not Checking Your Passport's Expiry Date or Not Applying for a New Passport in Time — If you're required to have a valid passport to cruise -- and almost all cruise lines do require this (with the exception of some closed-loop cruises) -- whatever you do, don't turn up to the airport or cruise terminal with an expired or imminently-about-to-expire passport.

Forgetting to Purchase Travel Insurance or Taking the Wrong Coverage- — Make sure the cover you opt for includes health-related risks, too, such as travel interruptions and medical assistance. You will also need to declare any pre-existing medical conditions, from hip replacements to heart conditions and high blood pressure, to ensure your potential medical needs are fully covered.

Returning Late to Your Cruise Ship in Port — There are many great reasons to take off independently when in port, including saving money and exploring a destination at your own pace. But if you ignore the ship's port departure time and return late, you will be making a costly blunder.

Typically, cruise lines require passengers back onboard at least one hour before departure. The return-to-ship time given by your cruise line is not a guide, it's a strict instruction. If you ignore it, you could delay the ship's departure -- and that would be highly embarrassing and downright rude -- or you could end up watching your cruise ship sail off into the sunset from land.

Skipping the Part About Cell Phone Data Fees — Using a cell phone at sea can be costly, especially if you haven't pre-purchased your at-home cellular provider's cruise plan or paid extra for a cruise line package. T-Mobile, Verizon and AT&T all offer plans that cover data usage, calls and texts. Cruise line packages vary but do check what deals are available if you plan on streaming, using social media or making calls back home while at sea.

Skipping the Onboard Cruise Program — Your cruise program, either the paper version, the onboard app or both, is your best friend -- providing daily listings of social events, activities and venue operating hours -- helping you to maximize your cruise vacation. Specialty dining deals, cocktail offers and spa packages are also typically listed in the ship's daily cruise program. If you plan on splurging on any of these extras during your cruise vacation, scan the cruise program each day to make sure you're clued up on the daily deals

Getting too Familiar with the Cruise Ship Bar the Night Before a Planned Day in Port — Pace yourself. Especially if you have an active day in port planned the following day, consider taking it easy the night before so you don't miss out on pre-booked (and paid for) excursions and memory-making moments.

Not Following Hygiene Protocols — It should not take a pandemic to encourage cruise passengers to thoroughly wash hands after using the bathroom and before dining. Pack a travel-size hand sanitizer and make use of the dispensers placed outside of all dining venues to reduce the risk of spreading viruses such as COVID-19 and norovirus -- this goes for time spent on land, at airports, cruise terminals, too, since they spread just as easily ashore as they do at sea.