



Cruise Groups

JUNE 16-23, 2023—SEVEN NIGHT PERFECT DAY BAHAMAS CRUISE ABOARD RCCL'S OASIS OF THE SEAS

When school is out for the summer, the thrills are in full session aboard Royal Caribbean's Amplified Oasis of the Seas. Set sail from Cape Liberty and visit Port Canaveral (Orlando), Nassau and their private island Perfect Day at Coco Casy. This Oasis Class favorite will introduce even more thrills for couples and kids of all ages with upgraded ways to soak up the sun or enjoy the shade, more delicious dining options to elevate date night and buzzworthy new spots to light up the evening. The Broadway hit *Cats*, the high diving AquaTheater show and the *Frozen In Time* ice skating show are just some of the excitement available on board while Up, Up and Away helium balloon ride, Daredevil's Tower waterslide and Thrill Waterpark await you at Perfect Day at Coco Cay. Sail in a balcony cabin, including all current port and government taxes and gratuities for \$1,179.00 per person double.

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

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and spend three days at King's Wharf 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 port and government taxes, gratuities, wi-fi for two devices, and an upgraded beverage package for \$1,299.00 per person. Upgrade to Aurea features for \$1,529.00 each.

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).

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 hot air balloon over the Nile while cruising and visiting these ancient sights? Spend two nights in Cairo visiting 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 Nile 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 US. Breakfast daily and full board while cruising, lunch while on Old Cairo tour. Airfare will be available soon. Rate per person, based on a minimum of 15 passengers is \$3,988.00 per person double. A limited number of singles will be available at a surcharge of \$985.00

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

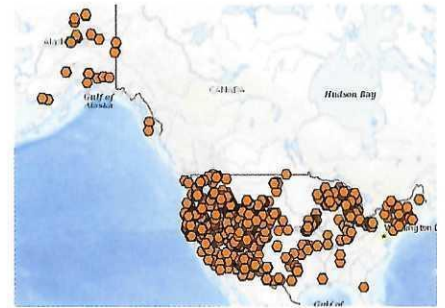
Cruise round trip from Ft. Lauderdale in a balcony cabin visiting Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Martinique, St. Kitts & Nevis. Our special, always included package incorporates accommodations, all current taxes, all meals (except specialty restaurants), beverage package, wi-fi, gratuities, spectacular entertainment and a \$300 on board credit. The special rate of \$1,850.00 per person is subject to availability and must be booked by November 30, 2022. There are a limited number of cabins at this rate. Call before they are gone!

The U.S. Just Renamed 650 Sites Around the Country—Here’s Why It Matters

Nearly 650 waterways, mountains, and other geographical features recently received new names as part of a U.S. government effort to remove a racist and misogynistic slur for an Indigenous woman.

The project to remove the word “squaw”—a term that many Native Americans find derogatory—from sites on federal land was brought forth by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Indigenous person to lead a cabinet agency, in November 2021 and recently wrapped up at the beginning of September 2022.

“I feel a deep obligation to use my platform to ensure that our public lands and waters are accessible and welcoming,” said Interior Secretary Haaland in a press release. “That starts with removing racist and derogatory names that have graced federal locations for far too long.”



The list of new names has since been published on the Interior Department website and reflects a months-long effort by the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force (which included 13 representatives from the various government offices ranging from the National Park Service to the Bureau of Indian Affairs). During that time, the Task Force fielded thousands of recommendations from local communities and nearly 70 tribal governments before eventually voting on the replacement names.

The majority of the newly named sites are concentrated in the western United States (66 are in Arizona alone, and another 70 are in California). Some new names are relatively nondescript, like a new East Lake in Wisconsin and a Sheep Meadow in Idaho. Others are named after something that happened there, like the newly named Olympic Valley in California (referring to the site of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games). And more still have been rechristened to incorporate names from local tribal languages or to recognize an important Indigenous person (like Mestaa’êhehe Mountain in Colorado, which honors Owl Woman of the Cheyenne).

Typically, the renaming of sites on federal land is done on a case-by-case basis. However, this isn’t the first time there’s been an overhaul—the Interior Department also altered various place names in 1962 to remove derogatory terms for Black people and again in 1974 to expunge insulting labels for Japanese people.

Going forward, the department will work with the newly formed Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names to identify any other natural features with offensive names (or are named for persons with troubling histories, like Mount Evans, named for former Territorial Governor of Colorado John Evans, who was responsible for the murder of Indigenous people) and solicit replacement names.

“Our nation’s lands and waters should be places to celebrate the outdoors and our shared cultural heritage—not to perpetuate the legacies of oppression,” Secretary Haaland said.

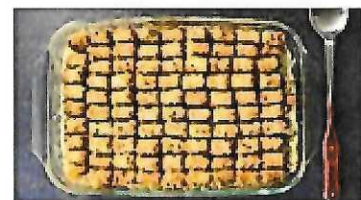
Chicken Pot Hotdish

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 carrots, chopped into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- Kosher salt
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 cups whole milk
- Chicken soup mix for 3 cups broth (about 1 tablespoon)
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, chopped into 1/2-by-3/4-inch pieces
- 3/4 cup frozen peas
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 pounds frozen tater tots
- Ketchup, for serving, optional

1 Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

2 In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add the carrots, onion and a pinch of salt and cook, stirring, until soft, about 10 minutes. Stir in the flour until combined and then cook for 1 minute. Add half the milk and cook, whisking continuously, until thickened, about 5 minutes; repeat with the remaining milk. Stir in the chicken soup mix and then add the chicken, peas, thyme and a few turns of pepper. Simmer, stirring often, until the chicken is cooked through and no longer pink, 10 to 15 minutes. Taste the mixture and adjust the seasonings if desired.



3 Transfer the mixture to an 8-by-11-inch baking dish (or other 3-quart oven-safe dish) and then cover with the tater tots. Make them snugly and neat. Bake until the tots are golden brown; begin checking for doneness at 30 minutes. Let cool slightly and serve with ketchup, if desired.



Stats: The Worst Airports for Holiday Travel



Per airport officials and industry analysts, passenger traffic for the Thanksgiving holiday through New Year is set to reach or exceed 2019 levels. While airports are racing to staff up, airlines still face a shortage of pilots and other workers. Not just that, winter weather in the U.S. and the usually increased demand for flying during the six-week holiday window may add to travelers' woes.

According to the study, **Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport** is the most likely to add to travelers' woes over the holiday season with almost 30 percent chance of delays. It was ranked the most likely for delays in three of the seven categories including aircraft arriving late (7.1 percent), cancellations (3 percent), and security (1.8 percent). It was also second most likely for system delays (8.3 percent)—only beaten by **Newark Liberty International Airport** with 12.2 percent.

This may be because Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is ranked the fourth largest cargo airport globally, due to its strategic location between **North America** and **Asia**, so the airport is fast becoming a central e-commerce hub.

Newark Liberty International follows close as the second most-likely airport to have delays over this holiday season, with more than 23 percent. It's deemed the most likely to have delays due to its system delays (12.2 percent) and fourth highest for cancellations (1.7 percent). Only recently it was revealed more than one in three flights arrived or departed late at **Newark** this year, ranking among the worst airports in America for delays. It missed out on being the number one airport for delays over the holiday season due to its low security delays (0.04 percent) and weather delays (0.28 percent).

— CYBER MONDAY SALE —

UP TO **40%** OFF + **FREE** DRINKS & WI-FI
PLUS, UP TO \$200 ONBOARD CREDIT





INTRODUCING THE NEW ICON OF THE SEAS

The first Icon Class ship, redefining adventure and setting a new bar for extraordinary.

First-in-class, Icon of the Seas, raises the bar for family vacations. Packed with thrills, chills, and wows, this is more than just a cruise. It's the vacation of a lifetime filled with new adventures, including new spaces built for families. This is Icon of the Seas— the Icon of Vacations - arriving early 2024.

From catching thrills on firsts like the biggest waterpark at sea to choosing between seven pools, the most ever at sea, there are countless ways to soak up the sun. And at night, they'll enjoy world-class shows in venues that push the limit of your imagination with awe-inspiring screens, robotics, and an incredible waterfall.



Taste the essence of Egypt on this 8 day/7 night itinerary, this tour will take you through the mystical Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx and old Cairo, enjoy the perfect blend of touring Egyptian sights with a leisurely sailing on this Egypt tour with Nile cruise that you are sure to cherish for a lifetime. Cruise the Nile where you will experience the new top of the line cruise ship, the H/S Nebu. Cruise past the pharaonic temples of Luxor to the Nubian treasures of Aswan. You will see the Aswan High Dam and the Colossi of Memnon, two 75 feet tall 1000-ton statues that once guarded an ancient mortuary, Sail along the Nile towards Luxor, and the Valley of the Kings, famed for its tombs and royal burial chambers with hieroglyphic writings along the walls said to tell the buried king's soul how to join the gods and ascend to eternal life. Travel by horse-drawn carriage to the best-preserved temple in Egypt, the Temple of Horus. Your trip to Egypt gives you firsthand insight into the luxurious history that this magnificent country holds.

Sightseeing including licensed Egyptologist and all entrance fees, as follows: - Cairo tour including: Pyramids, Sphinx, NMEC Museum, and Old Cairo - Nile Cruise sightseeing including: Aswan, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Esna and Luxor. Experience a camel ride by the pyramids and a balloon ride over the Nile. Both international (Egyptair from JFK) and domestic air from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo are included, breakfast daily, five lunches and four dinners, all transfers in Egypt, two nights at the Conrad Cairo and one night at the Intercontinental City Stars (5* or similar), sightseeing as mentioned, and an English speaking guide throughout. Not included is an Egyptian visa (purchased on arrival for approx. \$25 USD) and gratuities. Air and ship upgrades will be available at an additional charge. \$4,795.00 per person double, single surcharge \$985.00 Call Nancy for more information.

Grand Canyon Rafting Opens Bookings For 2024



The river rafting season on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon runs from April into September. The longer six- and seven-day trips with the thrills of class III-V rapids are open to guests as young as 12. The minimum age is nine for three- and four-day trips that come with class II-III rapids. Western's exclusive **J-Rig** raft provides accessibility for first-time rafters on even the largest white-water rapids in the Grand Canyon. Rafting trips include plenty of hiking in the Grand Canyon, allowing travelers access to waterfalls, slot canyons, native ruins and geologic wonders that the five million or so casual hikers from the rim will simply never see.

For details on the trips, Western River Expeditions offers complimentary expedition guides. The comprehensive guides include river maps, overviews, full itineraries, camping and weather information, details on physical requirements, packing lists and more.

Grand Canyon trips are always in high demand and fill quickly. The National Park Service regulates the number of rafting participants traveling through the Grand Canyon each year, creating space limitations. However, there are comparable (but perhaps lesser known) rafting destinations throughout the West such as **Cataract Canyon** and **Desolation Canyon** in Utah. For families wishing to experience a river rafting trip, Desolation Canyon is considered one of the best rafting destinations.



April 8, 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the death in 1973 of Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, one of the most important figures in Modern Art. To celebrate his work and artistic legacy, 42 exhibitions are currently planned around the world. Seven are taking place in notable museums in the United States, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, the Hispanic Society and Brooklyn Museum in New York; the Cincinnati Art Museum in Ohio; and the Mint Museum in Charlotte, N.C.

At the same time, 16 exhibitions will take place in Spain at venues around the country— from the Guggenheim in Bilbao and Museo de Belas Artes in A Coruña in the north, to the Casa Natal Picasso, Museo Picasso and Centre Pompidou in southern Malaga, to the Museu Picasso and Museu del Disseny in Barcelona, and of course, the Prado, Thyssen-Bornemisza and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (home to Picasso's *Guernica*) in Madrid.

Picasso
Celebration
— 1973.2023

Direct Flights Daily to Picasso Destinations: Most U.S. carriers—including American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta—offer daily non-stops to Madrid and Barcelona from major U.S. cities. With United's recent announcement that its 2023 summer schedule will include new direct service to Malaga, Spain, from New York/Newark, reaching Picasso's old stomping grounds will be easier than ever.