

ICELAND—THE LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

FEBRUARY 26 TO MARCH 3, 2025



OUR ANNUAL ICELAND ADVENTURE BEGINS WITH OUR FLIGHTS FROM NEWARK LIBERTY TO REYKJAVIK ON ICELANDAIR. ON ARRIVAL WE WILL START OUR HOLIDAY WITH A HEAVY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AT VIKING WORLD MUSEUM BEFORE HEADING OVER TO THE BLUE LAGOON FOR A SUNRISE COCKTAIL AND A MUD FACIAL BEFORE A SHORT CITY OVERVIEW TOUR ENROUTE TO OUR HOTEL, CENTERHOTEL MIDGARDUR WHERE WE WILL SPEND THE NEXT FOUR NIGHTS. OUR PACKAGE WILL INCLUDE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDING ALL CURRENT GOVERNMENT TAXES, A BUFFET BREAKFAST DAILY, FULL DAY PRIVATE GOLDEN CIRCLE TOUR INCLUDING A STOP AT THE KERID CRATER AND ADMISSION TO SKALHOLT ALONG WITH A TOMATO SOUP LUNCH AT THE FRIDHEIMAR GREENHOUSE WITH A VISIT TO THE STABLES TO MARVEL AT THE ICELANDIC HORSES AND THEIR ABILITIES. WE WILL VENTURE OUT IN A SHARED NORTHERN LIGHTS TOUR HUNTING FOR THE ELUSIVE NORTHERN LIGHTS. ALTHOUGH NEVER GUARANTEED, WE WILL TRY TWO EVENINGS. THERE WILL BE OPTIONAL TOURS TO THE SKY LAGOON, INTO THE GLACIER AND SOUTH SHORE (WITH BLACK SAND BEACHES AND A STOP AT VIK).

MIDGARÐUR BY CENTER HOTELS IS POSITIONED AT ONE END OF THE CITY'S MAIN SHOPPING STREET AND IDEALLY LOCATED IN SHORT WALKING DISTANCE FROM ALL THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS IN THE CITY CENTER. THE HOTEL OFFERS 170 COMFORTABLE AND MODERN ROOMS, A LIVELY RESTAURANT, BAR, MEETING ROOMS AND A SPA. THE LOBBY LOUNGE IS YOUR CASUAL PLACE TO HANG OUT AND OFFERS MINIMALIST LIGHTING AND PLANTS THAT CREATES A SOFT AND COZY AMBIANCE. THE MODERN U-SHAPED DESIGN OF THE HOTEL FEATURES A TASTEFULLY DECORATED SECLUDED GARDEN, ACCESSIBLE FOR GUESTS BOTH FROM THE LOBBY AS WELL AS FROM THE RESTAURANT. THE GARDEN INCLUDES AN OUTDOOR HOT TUB WHICH IS A PART OF THE EXQUISITE SPA LOCATED ON THE BOTTOM LEVEL OF THE HOTEL. GET A TASTE OF TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC COOKING MIXED WITH INTERNATIONAL FLAIR AT THE RESTAURANT; JÖRGENSEN KITCHEN & BAR, LOCATED AT THE HOTEL. GUESTS AND LOCALS ARE OFFERED A VARIETY OF DISHES PREPARED WITH FRESH, LOCAL, AND ORGANIC INGREDIENTS THROUGHOUT BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND DINNER. THE RESTAURANT HAS A COOL AND MODERN VIBE BUT AT THE SAME TIME IS COZY AND COMFORTABLE.

PRICE: \$2,100.00 PER PERSON DOUBLE (SINGLES +\$650.00 ADDITIONAL)*

A PASSPORT WITH SIX MONTHS VALIDITY IS REQUIRED AND INSURANCE (\$157.00-191.00) IS SUGGESTED AND MUST BE TAKEN OUT WITH DEPOSIT. OUR PACKAGE INCLUDES ROUND TRIP AIRFARE FROM NEWARK LIBERTY (INC. ALL CURRENT TAXES AND FEES), FOUR NIGHT HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, FOUR FULL BREAKFASTS AND ONE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ON ARRIVAL, ADMISSION TO THE BLUE LAGOON WITH COCKTAIL, GOLDEN CIRCLE TOUR, NORTHERN LIGHTS EXCURSION, TRANSFERS ON ALL INCLUDED FEATURES, ONE LUNCH,

*PRICE IS BASED ON MINIMUM PARTICIPATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CALL NANCY AT HOME TOWN TRAVEL

128 BARTLETT AVENUE, WEST CREEK, NJ 08092

EMAIL ME AT WWW.HOMETOWNTRAVEL@COMCAST.NET OR CALL 609-597-51090

Cruise Ship Wi-Fi: A Guide to Onboard Internet Services

More and more cruise lines are jumping on the bandwidth bandwagon by implementing next-generation Starlink internet access onboard. This improved connectivity option utilizes low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX, and the technology allows for a faster and more reliable connection in remote corners of the world.



To keep track of Starlink's growing reach in the cruise industry, we've created a guide of which cruise lines and corporations are (or are not) offering Starlink, and what exactly their service options are, including if its free or for a cost.

American Cruise Lines—As of 2023, American Cruise Lines has added Starlink to its entire fleet of domestic riverboats and coastal ships, from vessels visiting Alaska and the Florida Keys to the Mississippi River and California's Napa Valley. Best of all, the Wi-Fi connection is free for all guests.

Atlas Ocean Voyages—Atlas Ocean Voyages utilizes Starlink onboard vessels World Traveller and World Navigator, and its forthcoming World Voyager, will offer connectivity, as well. Every cruise guest is provided with 1 GB of complimentary data.

Carnival Corporation—Carnival has successfully installed Starlink on its worldwide fleet, first on the Carnival Cruise Line and Aida Cruises brands, then on Cunard Line, Holland America Line (HAL), Princess Cruises and Seabourn, as well as Costa Cruises and P&O Cruises in Australia and the United Kingdom. As of now, Carnival has three tiers of internet plans available for purchase, while Cunard and Holland America offer two purchasable options; HAL also includes internet access in its "Have It All" package.

Cunard is the latest Carnival Corp. brand to implement Starlink. The fleet rollout began in June 2023. The new Queen Anne will also receive the SpaceX internet connectivity when it launched in May 2024.

On **Seabourn**, unlimited complimentary basic access is provided for one device per guest, or passengers can upgrade to a premium plan for streaming on up to four devices — note that this perk is included for Penthouse and Premium suite categories, as well as Seabourn Club members who have Diamond-level status or higher. Seabourn Venture and Seabourn Pursuit were the first ships in the luxury fleet to use Starlink.

Princess is unique for featuring its proprietary MedallionNet internet service, which combines multi-orbit satellite constellations — geostationary Earth orbit (GEO), mid-Earth orbit (MEO) and low Earth orbit (LEO or Starlink) — with 5G terrestrial networks. Plans can be purchased per device. Passengers with Princess Plus or Premier have MedallionNet already bundled in.

Now that the Carnival brand has added Starlink across its entire fleet, the line has announced that its new Carnival Jubilee will feature 5G mobile connectivity via Wireless Maritime Service, as well.

Hurtigruten Expeditions (HX)—Hurtigruten Expeditions uses Starlink onboard and offers the service for free to guests and crew. The adventure line's entire fleet, except its ship in the Galapagos, utilizes the new internet connection in collaboration with long-time partner Speedcast.

MSC Cruises employs both Starlink and SES O3b for its internet connections. Currently, two-thirds of the MSC fleet (including its U.S.-based ships) utilize Starlink, with the rest scheduled to do the same by May 2024. Packages can be purchased per device for basic browsing only, or browsing and streaming, each with no data restrictions. MSC Yacht Club guests receive the browse package for two devices at no charge.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. — comprised of Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL), Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises — plans to employ Starlink across its corporate fleet in phases. Access on Norwegian Breakaway will come first, followed by seven more ships through 2024, including Norwegian Viva, Oceania's Vista and Regent's Seven Seas Grandeur. Specific to NCL, the line offers various package tiers for a charge, or bundled as a part of its "Free at Sea" promotions.

On **Oceania**, one login per cabin is included in the cruise fare, but guests can upgrade to the line's premium Wavenet Prime streaming service for a fee. On **Regent**, guests get free unlimited basic Wi-Fi, but a streaming plan costs extra. The line provides one login/device per suite, whereas gold-level and higher members of the Seven Seas Society and passengers in Concierge Suites and above receive up to four logins/devices per suite.

Royal Caribbean Group—Under Royal Caribbean Group is **Celebrity Cruises, Royal Caribbean International** and **Silversea Cruises**. Celebrity utilizes Starlink on its ships, with the exception of Celebrity Flora in the Galapagos. Basic Wi-Fi either costs extra or comes included for passengers who have purchased an all-inclusive package. Those who buy access can also upgrade to a premium level of service for more bandwidth.

Despite the line's smaller size, **Star Clippers** also boasts Starlink across its fleet: Royal Clipper, Star Flyer and the Star Clipper itself. Guests on all three vessels can purchase Wi-Fi service according to data usage and timed tiers (1GB for seven days, 3GB for 14 days or 5GB for 21 days).

All **Viking** riverboats and ocean ships offer free Wi-Fi internet access, and the line's seagoing and expedition ships utilize Starlink.

Virgin Voyages does not specify its service provider, but unlimited basic Wi-Fi is included for guests, and premium internet is available as an upgrade for a daily fee. Either plan allows for two connected devices per person.

Windstar Cruises has aimed to implement Starlink across most of its fleet by now, midway through 2023. Wind Spirit will get the service once it is available in French Polynesia. The technology supports the line's existing geostationary satellite service, Anuvu. Windstar's paid internet packages are based on data usage, increasing in cost from an email-optimized option to a surfing plan before reaching an unlimited one, which is also bundled in the line's all-inclusive fare option. Packages permit only one connected device at a time.

ROYAL CARIBBEAN'S ALLURE OF THE SEAS SET FOR MAJOR RENOVATION

Royal Caribbean International has announced a significant renovation for its Allure of the Seas, with plans to debut the upgraded vessel in April 2025. The project, estimated to cost over \$100 million, will introduce new features and experiences for passengers sailing in the western Mediterranean.

The renovated Allure of the Seas will offer 7-night itineraries from Barcelona, Spain, visiting ports such as Marseille, France; La Spezia and Rome, Italy; and Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Key additions to the ship include a redesigned Caribbean-themed pool deck with resort-style pools and various seating options; new water attractions, including The Perfect Storm waterslides and Splashaway Bay for younger guests; the Pesky Parrot

Tiki Bar featuring fruit-based cocktails; Playmakers Sports Bar & Arcade; The Mason Jar Southern Restaurant & Bar; the Ultimate Abyss, a 10-story dry slide; a new Royal Escape Room experience; Laser Tag in the Studio B ice rink; and upgraded spaces for children and teens.

The renovation is part of Royal Caribbean's Royal Amplified program, which began in 2018. After its Mediterranean season, Allure of the Seas will relocate to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in November 2025 for Caribbean itineraries.



NEW JERSEY Did You Know?

It's where high-tech labs meet bustling boardwalks. Where small businesses and local farms thrive. Where the next generation of pharma and biotech innovators save lives. Where students shine in nationally ranked public schools and world-class universities.

It's where green rolling mountains sprawl just a few miles from vibrant, diverse cities and family-friendly towns. Where 2 million acres of serene woodlands open up to 130 miles of pristine coastline.

It's open spaces. It's wineries. It's stadiums. It's a place for dreamers and groundbreakers. Hard workers and folks who tell it like it is. Rock stars and skilled workers. Story-tellers and legends in the making. This is New Jersey. You can do anything here.

New Jersey is a hotspot for top talent. Nearly 40% of New Jersey residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher — that's why we were named the smartest state in America.

Sports fans can cheer on teams like the New Jersey Devils, New York Giants and Jets, and the New York Red Bulls and NJ/NY Gotham FC. Leaving NJ? Newark Liberty International Airport offers 521 total domestic and international nonstop flights every day.

Lazy Sausage, Mushroom and Sweet Potato Rice

Your rice cooker can do more than just steam up a batch of rice. This recipe puts it to work to get a full meal on the table in a fun, fast and nearly hands-free way. A peeled and halved sweet potato gets soft enough during the cooking process so it can be mashed into the rice for an instantly sweet, almost creamy sauce for the pilaf. Italian sausage, fennel, wild mushrooms and sage add big flavor for a hearty, comforting meal.

- 12 ounces bulk sweet Italian sausage
- 1 cup long-grain white rice
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 8 ounces mixed wild mushrooms
- 1 fennel bulb, cored, halved and thinly sliced, fronds reserved for garnish
- 2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh sage
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, cubed
- 1 small sweet potato (about 8 ounces), peeled and cut in half lengthwise
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan



Cook the sausage in a medium nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, breaking up the pieces with a wooden spoon until no longer pink in the middle and cooked through, 6 to 7 minutes.

Add the rice, bouillon cube, 2 1/4 cups hot water, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt and a few grinds of black pepper to a 10-cup rice cooker. Put the mushrooms, fennel, garlic, sage, butter and cooked sausage on top. Place the sweet potatoes halves on top of everything, pushing them down into the other ingredients just a bit. Close the lid and cook according to the manufacturer's directions.

Once cooking is complete, open the lid and use a wood spoon to smash the sweet potatoes into the rice mixture. Add the Parmesan and stir until the ingredients are well incorporated and the cheese is melted. Transfer to a serving bowl and garnish with the fennel fronds.



CHECK OUT THESE ITINERARIES AND DISCOUNTS.

MUST BOOK BY AUGUST 26TH

SIRENA	Oct 23, 2024	Scandinavia & N. Europe	British Isles Passage	AMSTERDAM to AMSTERDAM	20%	11
INSIGNIA	Nov 08, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Island Anthology	NEW YORK to ORANJESTAD	20%	14
MARINA	Nov 15, 2024	Transoceanic	Atlantic Horizons	LISBON to MIAMI	25%	12
SIRENA	Nov 19, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Island Voyager	NEW YORK to MIAMI	20%	15
VISTA	Nov 20, 2024	Transoceanic	New World Horizons	ROME to MIAMI	20%	15
INSIGNIA	Nov 27, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Antillean Delights	ORANJESTAD to BRIDGETOWN	25%	15
VISTA	Dec 05, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Tropical Connoisseur	MIAMI to MIAMI	25%	12
REGATTA	Dec 08, 2024	S. Pacific, Australia & N. Zealand	Kiwi & Aussie Majesty	AUCKLAND to SYDNEY	25%	14
INSIGNIA	Dec 12, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Caribbean Chorus	BRIDGETOWN to MIAMI	20%	10
NAUTICA	Dec 13, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Caribbean Chic	CARTAGENA to MIAMI	25%	10
SIRENA	Dec 21, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Mangroves of the Maya	MIAMI to BRIDGETOWN	25%	14
REGATTA	Dec 22, 2024	S. Pacific, Australia & N. Zealand	Wonders of Australia	SYDNEY to PERTH	25%	20
INSIGNIA	Dec 22, 2024	Caribbean, PC & Mexico	Festive Caribbean	MIAMI TO MIAMI	20%	14

The Finest Cuisine at Sea®, Destination Specialists and Small & Luxurious Ships are the pillars that define Oceania Cruises' five-star product, positioning the line as the cruise company of choice for travelers seeking a truly refined and casually elegant travel experience. Featuring a fleet of small, luxurious ships, Oceania Cruises offers a vacation experience renowned for its gourmet culinary program inspired by Master Chef Jacques Pépin and its array of destination-rich itineraries spanning the globe. Seasoned world travelers are drawn to Oceania Cruises' diverse voyages, which call on more than 400 ports across Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and the Americas.

HAWAII ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

© Information that is good for all Hawaii visitors to be in the know about...

Planning Your Hawaiian Vacation

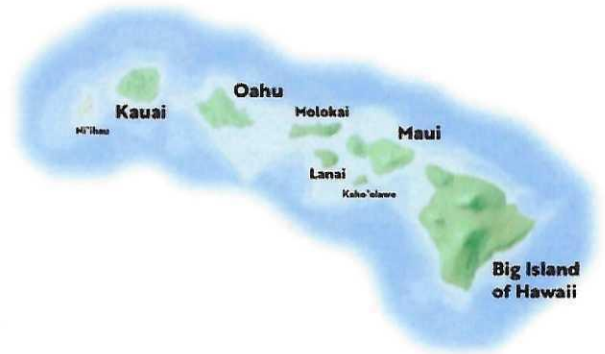
Hawaii 101 - Get Started Here

So you're thinking about Hawaii and here you are at our website. Now what? If you're still on the fence about Hawaii, then hopefully we'll convince you along the way it's one of the most amazing places you could ever visit.

1.) Select Your Island(s) to Visit

Six Unique Islands - Which one is for you?

You've got several options here, so how do you go about choosing that perfect island for your own trip? In fact, why choose just one?



2.) Determining When to Visit

Selecting the Best Time of Year

Honestly, there isn't a 'bad time' to go to Hawaii. Visiting Hawaii is a dream come true for many visitors, and who can blame them? It's a remarkable, unique, & beautiful paradise.

3.) Choose your interests

Sights, Beaches, Trails, Activities, and more...

If you've decided on the island(s) your going to visit, then you're set to begin your planning. The next step is to consider your interests. One could spend years in Hawaii and never see everything, so carefully narrowing down your favorites is worth the time and effort now, ahead of time.

4.) Learn beyond the basics

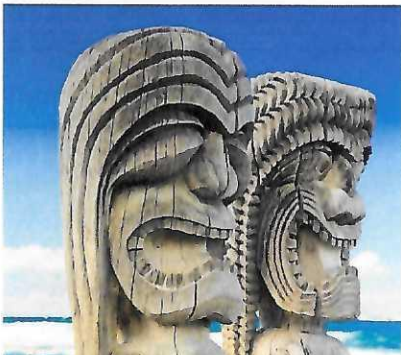
Educate yourself on Hawaii's history, weather, our Safety tips, & more

OK, once you've nailed down a list of your favorite places you can get to the nitty-gritty of 'Beyond the Basics.' Some of this may seem irrelevant, but we highly encourage visitors to read as much as they can on the islands before visiting. Hawaii is like no other places in the United States, and quite honestly, is very much like visiting a foreign country.

5.) Packing your bags

What to pack & What NOT to pack...

Regardless of how much you've traveled in the past and where you've been, there is one good rule to follow when coming to Hawai'i, leave as much as you can at home! Seriously, bring only what you'll need during your stay and nothing more. Chances are a pair of shorts, and a nice Aloha shirt is all you'll need for even some fine dining. Leave the formal wear back home. And please don't bring your passport if you're a U.S. citizen (you'd be surprised how many folks do). A light jacket and a long pair of pants might also be helpful for those visits to higher elevations around the islands.



With the motto, 'less is more' in mind, here are a few other items to bring. Sunblock (the UV on Hawai'i is typically 14+ in the spring, summer, and fall), a backpack (for any hikes) and a water bottle, slippers (flip flops, shower shoes, zoris), mask, snorkel, and fins (or rent locally instead), two bathing suits (one to wear while the other dries) and a cover-up, camera and film (or digital cards), lightweight raincoat or poncho (it's tropical here), bug spray with DEET (for any forest hikes), flashlight (for just in case), hiking boots / hiking rods (even if you're not a hardcore hiker, it's not a bad idea to bring proper footwear for some trails), and most importantly a list of all your troubles to leave behind. Seriously, we enforce that last one!

Princess Cruises Sails to Prime Viewing Spot for 2026 Total Solar Eclipse in Europe

Astrotourism is top of mind for travelers making special trips for phenomenal experiences in the sky—and with the recent “take-your-breath-away” total solar eclipse, thousands of cruisers onboard Emerald Princess and Discovery Princess off the coast of Mexico caught a glimpse of the astounding total darkness event.

The next, not-to-be-missed total solar eclipse takes place on August 12, 2026, and once again a Princess cruise ship will be perfectly positioned, this time in northern Spain, to witness this bucket list event – two minutes and 18 seconds of totality. The 3,660-guest Sky Princess departs Southampton August 8, 2026, on a 14-day Mediterranean cruise, highlighted with total eclipse viewing while the ship is in its path at sea off the coast of Spain.

The Total Eclipse Sky Princess Voyage goes on sale May 23, 2024, with rates starting at \$2,199* per person. During the eclipse, Sky Princess guests will gather on the top decks with Princess safety glasses for viewing, as well as enjoy lectures from astronomy experts, themed treats and drinks, stargazing at night, solar system trivia and more.

This incredible, 14-day Mediterranean cruise sailing takes place August 8-22, 2026, roundtrip from Southampton (London), and visits seven historical and vibrant ports, including:

Cherbourg, France – one of France’s greatest ports with art and history museums, its basilica, the Ravalet castle and the Cité de la Mer maritime museum.

Bilbao, Spain – located in northern Spain, Bilbao is surrounded by green mountains and is the de facto capital of Basque Country, with a skyscraper-filled downtown. It’s famed for the Frank Gehry–designed Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.

Malaga, Spain – famous as Picasso’s birthplace and the gateway to Spain’s Costa del Sol, Malaga mixes warm vacation vibes with Andalusia’s indomitable spirit.

Cartagena, Spain – founded by the Carthaginians around 220 B.C., the city boomed during the Roman period. Among its many Roman ruins are a 1st-century B.C. theater and Casa de la Fortuna, a villa with murals and mosaics.

Gibraltar – this British Overseas Territory and headland is located on Spain’s south coast. It’s dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar, a 1,398-foot limestone ridge.

Lisbon, Portugal – the capital and largest city of Portugal, Lisbon is mainland Europe’s westernmost capital city and the only one along the Atlantic coast.

La Coruña, Spain – in the Galicia region of northwest Spain, it’s known for its Roman lighthouse, the Tower of Hercules, which has sweeping coastal views.

*Taxes, Fees and Port Expenses not included



Explore the country with the USA Rail Pass

The USA Rail Pass is your ticket to tour the country. Take 10 rides (segments) over 30 days to your choice of over 500 destinations. At just \$499, that’s less than \$50 per segment.



Craving some adventure for semester breaks or vacation? Hop from town to town across the country. Or maybe you just want to spend your long weekends away. Go from downtown to out-of-town as soon as the workday ends. Whether you’re looking to discover hidden gems or just want to visit some friends in the next city over, the USA Rail Pass makes it easy to get more getaways.