

A New Era in Luxury Ocean Travel

At Explora Journeys, they believe that travel should be joyful, and that each moment of one's journey holds the potential for renewal, whether through discovery, connection, relaxation, or adventure.

Last year, EXPLORA I set sail for the first time, bringing to life an entirely new way to experience luxury ocean travel. Gazing out at the mysterious, endless sea, the horizon awakens something that we call the 'Ocean State of Mind' – a sense of pure possibility, a transformation from being caught up in everyday life to a state of relaxation and openness.

This month brings even more possibilities to transform whilst at sea, with the introduction of our second ship, EXPLORA II.



Both ships are exceptionally guest-focused, with space, choice, privacy, design and service framing the onboard experience.

Every suite is oceanfront and has a private terrace, luxurious furnishings, ample storage space including a walk-in closet, and is inherently soothing and relaxing – a home at sea.

For those who want to stay connected, our complimentary high-speed WiFi, available throughout the entire ship, is seamless, with some travelers, including those on a working holiday, telling us it's the best they've experienced at sea.

Service feels natural yet exceptional, drawing its roots from the refined gold thread of European excellence and our owner family's Italian heritage.

Cuisine on our ships is a journey in itself, with a tantalizing range of distinctive, globally influenced dining experiences included for every guest, with no set dining times. The experience and artistry of our culinary and beverage experts gives your clients immersive dining experiences such as Sakura's Pan-Asian cuisine, Fil Rouge's French-inspired international cuisine, Marble & Co. Grill's redefined European steakhouse experience, and more. Beyond what's included, guests can also experience Anthology's elevated Italian cuisine in an unparalleled gastronomic adventure, and culinary classes at Chef's Kitchen.

More than 12 indoor and outdoor bars and lounges – and all included dining venues – offer complimentary fine wines, spirits, beers, sodas, specialty coffees, teas and other non-alcoholic options – offering the ease of true luxury. Guests are treated to an in-suite welcome bottle of champagne complemented by sweet treats. The suite's minibar is restocked daily, and included.

When it comes to entertainment, a diverse program of enriching events designed to connect guests, hosts and luminaries offers a sense of discovery and spontaneous moments of joy. Intimate, engaging entertainment and enrichment is brought to life in smaller, cozy venues. The idea is for travelers to feel the right vibe at the right time, and to feel encouraged to explore their curiosity, even if it means dipping in and out as they like.

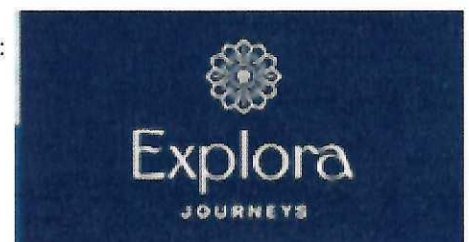
Ocean Wellness, inspired by the sea and its natural healing properties, aims to nurture a sense of well-being and foster rejuvenation, through spa treatments, the thermal spa, and individual and group fitness opportunities.

Our itineraries are thoughtfully planned to give travelers the opportunity to go deeper and linger longer in some of the world's most beguiling destinations – well-loved and lesser-known ones alike.

En route, guests can draw closer to the sea from their own private terrace or at any of three outdoor pools (including one that's exclusively for adults) private cabanas and open sunbed and lounge chair areas, expansive windows in restaurants, bars and lounges (and outdoor options for some of those), bring the sea into nearly every perspective.

On EXPLORA I, and, now, on EXPLORA II, at the heart of every journey is the truest luxury: feeling free. As the everyday falls away, serenity descends, making way for the transcendental experience of being fully present.

As simple as that sounds, when it happens in close proximity to the magical, mystical open horizon, it brings your clients closer to joy – to their Ocean State of Mind





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– Carol Doherty, VP Global Sales, CIE Tours



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- ✿ Enjoy Ireland's countryside and scenic treasures including the Cliffs of Moher and the Ring of Kerry.
- ✿ See the Book of Kells, the ancient manuscript handcrafted by monks and possibly Ireland's finest cultural treasure.
- ✿ Walk in the footsteps of saints and scholars among the picturesque ruins of Glendalough.
- ✿ Explore eight centuries of history at the opulent Kilkenny Castle.
- ✿ Discover the history of colorful Kinsale, a hub for foodies and art lovers.
- ✿ Meet artisan and traditional food producers along the Cork Tasting Trail.
- ✿ Encounter magnificent birds of prey at a falconry demonstration at stately Russborough House.
- ✿ Meet and feed champion racehorses at the Irish National Stud & Gardens.

Holiday Season Poll: 52% of Americans Likely to Travel for Leisure

Fifty-two percent of Americans plan to travel overnight for leisure in the next four months, and hotels remain the top lodging choice for both leisure (45 percent) and business travelers (59 percent), according to a new survey commissioned by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA).

Sixty-six percent of Americans are more likely (25 percent) or equally as likely (41 percent) to stay in a hotel this fall or winter compared to a year ago.

Additionally, the survey found that 32 percent of Americans are likely to travel overnight this year for Thanksgiving, while 34 percent are likely to travel overnight for Christmas, a repeat of last year's numbers for both holidays.

Millionaire's Mac and Cheese

You don't have to be a millionaire to make this mac and cheese, but after just one bite you might feel like one. Sharp aged cheddar, creamy fontina and melty Gouda blend to make it irresistibly rich and gooey, and a topping of truffled brioche breadcrumbs make it a golden masterpiece. It's decadent enough for your Thanksgiving spread, but quick enough for a weeknight dinner.

Level: Easy

Total: 40 min

Active: 30 min

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Ingredients:

Truffle Breadcrumbs:

- 8 ounces brioche, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 4 tablespoons truffle butter, melted
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan
- Kosher salt

Mac and Cheese:

- 1 pound medium shell pasta
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon mustard powder
- 4 cups half-and-half
- 8 ounces aged white Cheddar, grated (about 2 cups)
- 8 ounces fontina, grated (about 2 cups)
- 8 ounces Gouda, grated (about 2 cups)
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped tarragon, optional

Directions:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment.
- 2 For the truffle breadcrumbs: Toss the brioche with the melted truffle butter in a large bowl. Add the Parmesan and 1 pinch salt and toss to coat. Spread onto the prepared baking sheet in a single layer. Bake for 7 minutes, then stir and return to the oven. Bake until the breadcrumbs are dark golden brown and the Parmesan crisps on the pan, 5 to 7 minutes longer.
- 3 Meanwhile, for the mac and cheese: Bring a large pot of generously salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to package instructions. Reserve 1/2 cup of pasta water. Drain the pasta well and set aside.
- 4 Return the large pot to the stove and melt the butter over medium-high heat. Sprinkle the flour over the butter and cook, whisking frequently, until it is dark blonde and has a nutty aroma, about 1 minute. Stir in the mustard and 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt. Slowly whisk the half-and-half into the flour mixture (be careful because it will bubble up). Continue to cook, whisking frequently, until the mixture thickens, about 8 minutes.
- 5 Stir in the Cheddar, fontina and Gouda, stirring until the cheese is melted and smooth. Add the reserved pasta water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until the sauce is smooth and perfectly creamy. Season with pepper.
- 6 Fold the cooked pasta into the sauce until it is completely coated. Taste and adjust the seasoning with more salt and pepper if needed. Spoon the shells into serving bowls. Sprinkle the breadcrumbs and tarragon (if using) over each bowl and serve immediately.



United Airlines Signs Deal with Starlink for Free Inflight Wi-Fi

United Airlines has signed an agreement with SpaceX to bring Starlink's Wi-Fi to its fleet starting next year, the first major U.S. airline to do so.

United says that it will add Starlink to its 1,000-plus jets over the next several years, with testing starting in early 2025. The first passenger flights featuring the service are expected to launch later in 2025.

The Starlink Wi-Fi will be free for all of United's guests, giving passengers the option to live stream movies and live TV, game, shop online, and work across multiple devices at once, with no extra charge. They'll also be able to use Starlink to connect to a United customer support agent via the United app, allowing them to get real-time info on connection or make flight changes inflight.

Passengers will be able to use the service either through their own personal devices, or through seatback screens.

"Everything you can do on the ground, you'll soon be able to do onboard a United plane at 35,000 feet, just about anywhere in the world," said United CEO Scott Kirby. "This connectivity opens the door for an even better inflight entertainment experience, in every seatback – more content, that's more personalized. United's culture of innovation is, once again, delivering big for our customers."

United Airlines is now texting its travelers links to local, live radar maps during weather delays.

While texting updates to gates and departure times has become standard in the travel industry, United is now the first carrier to go as far as to text its passengers real-time weather maps during delays.

United Airlines Will Now Text Passengers Live Weather Radar

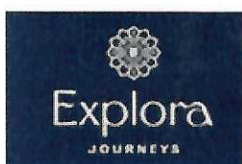
The maps, which will also be accessible in the United app under flight status, will show weather details across flight paths, and show how weather in one part of the country might be impacting flights elsewhere.

Passengers won't be able to do anything about the weather, but the hope is that it gives them more details and allows them to stay informed as to what's happening so they are better able to adjust plans, if need be.

The update comes just ahead of the July 4 holiday, which is expected to be one of the busiest travel weeks of the year for many in the U.S.. United, for its part, is expecting more than five million passengers flying between June 28 and July 8, up more than 7% compared to last year.

"With more people traveling this summer than ever, we wanted to give our customers an easier way to stay connected to real-time information about their flight and texting was the simplest solution," said Jason Birnbaum, United's Chief Information Officer.

"We know customers appreciate transparency and by combining innovative technology-enabled tools with people power, we can give more people, even more in-the-moment details about their flight."



EXTENDED JOURNEYS SAVINGS UP TO 20%
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A Guide to Pacific Coastal Cruises

When most people think of cruises, they picture the Caribbean, Alaska or Europe. But other cruise destinations can be just as rewarding, for a fraction of the price -- and Pacific coastal cruises are no exception.

Sometimes called Pacific Northwest or California Coastal cruises, these Pacific coast voyages are just that -- explorations of some of the great ports along the Pacific coast of North America, from Los Angeles to Victoria, Astoria to Vancouver, and everywhere in between.

Should you consider a Pacific coastal cruise?

Pacific coastal cruises come in several varieties: short roundtrip sailings; quick repositioning voyages between ports; and longer explorations that can stretch from Mexico, the United States and Canada -- all on the rugged West Coast.

Typically offered at the start or end of the traditional Alaska cruise seasons from Vancouver, Canada and Seattle, Washington, Pacific Coastal cruises could come in the form of a one-night sailing between Vancouver and Seattle, or a three-or-four night sailing that travels to Victoria, Astoria, or even Ketchikan, in Alaska.

They're quick, they're inexpensive (generally) -- and Pacific Coastal cruises are packed with value for those who are short on time and tight on budget.

Pacific Coastal cruises offer a one-two punch when it comes to value.

First, these sailings are typically under a week in duration, from one-night repositioning sailings to three- and four-night tours of the Pacific Northwest. They're great "taster" sailings that provide a good cruise experience featuring a variety of ports in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California and, yes, even Alaska.

Second, these sailings tend to be value-priced. One night repositioning voyages between Vancouver and Seattle can often run for less than \$100 per person, while four and five night cruises can be as little as a few hundred dollars -- all-in.

That adds up to cruises that are not only unique, but economical on both budget and vacation days. If you've been curious about the Pacific Northwest, if you live locally, or if you're looking to add a cruise to part of a larger overland tour, these quick getaways do not disappoint. These sailings cruise the waters of the Pacific Ocean, from the splendor of the Inside Passage to the Juan de Fuca Strait that runs between Vancouver Island and Washington State.

As an added bonus: these short sailings can be a great way to try a cruise without committing to the time -- or financial -- cost of a weeklong sailing.

Cruise lines sailing to and from Alaska are the biggest operators of Pacific Coastal voyages, and among these, Holland America Line and Princess Cruises offer the most sailings, departures and variety.

Other lines offering occasional Pacific Coastal and Pacific Northwest cruises include Celebrity, Cunard, Disney Cruise Line, and Norwegian Cruise Line. Luxury cruise lines, lines focused on small-ship expedition sailings, and those that don't sail to Alaska typically do not offer short voyages along the Pacific.

For all the benefits they offer, Pacific Coastal cruises are limited when it comes to departures. The bulk of these cruises will sail in April, May, September, and October as vessels reposition to and from Alaska, though some lines offer sailings outside of these timeframes.

California Coastal cruises are typically offered in the winter months between November and March, but not every line offers these. Princess Cruises, however, offers a healthy selection of California Coastal sailings during the winter months, sailing from ports like Los Angeles (San Pedro) and San Francisco.