

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).

MIDGARDUR 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

Risotto with Mushrooms and Peas

Level: Easy

Total: 1 hr

Active: 1 hr

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

6 cups chicken broth
1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter
1/4 cup olive oil
1 cup finely diced yellow onion
8 ounces baby bella mushrooms, sliced
5 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups Arborio rice
1/2 cup dry white wine
1 1/2 cups grated Parmesan cheese
1 cup frozen peas
Kosher salt and freshly cracked multicolor pepper

Directions:

- 1 Heat the chicken broth in a medium saucepan, then cover and keep warm on low heat.
- 2 Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat and add the olive oil. Add the onions and saute, stirring occasionally, until tender and translucent, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the mushrooms and garlic and saute, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms are tender and the juices have evaporated, 10 to 12 minutes.
- 3 Next, add the rice and stir to incorporate with the vegetables, then immediately add the white wine. Cook, stirring often, until the liquid is absorbed, about 2 minutes. Add 1 cup of the broth to the pan and simmer over medium-low heat, stirring often, until the liquid is absorbed, 3 to 4 minutes. Continue to cook, adding broth by the cupful and stirring often, until the rice is tender and creamy, 28 to 32 minutes. Stir in the Parmesan and peas. Add salt and pepper to taste.



You're Not Tipping Your Hotel Housekeeper Enough

New data shows that the majority of us aren't tipping our hotel housekeepers properly. According to a recent study from The Vacationer, only 39% of people tip their housekeeping staff—meaning that 61% of people are not leaving tips. That's downright atrocious. And listen, maybe you didn't know that you were supposed to, or were unsure of the etiquette around it.

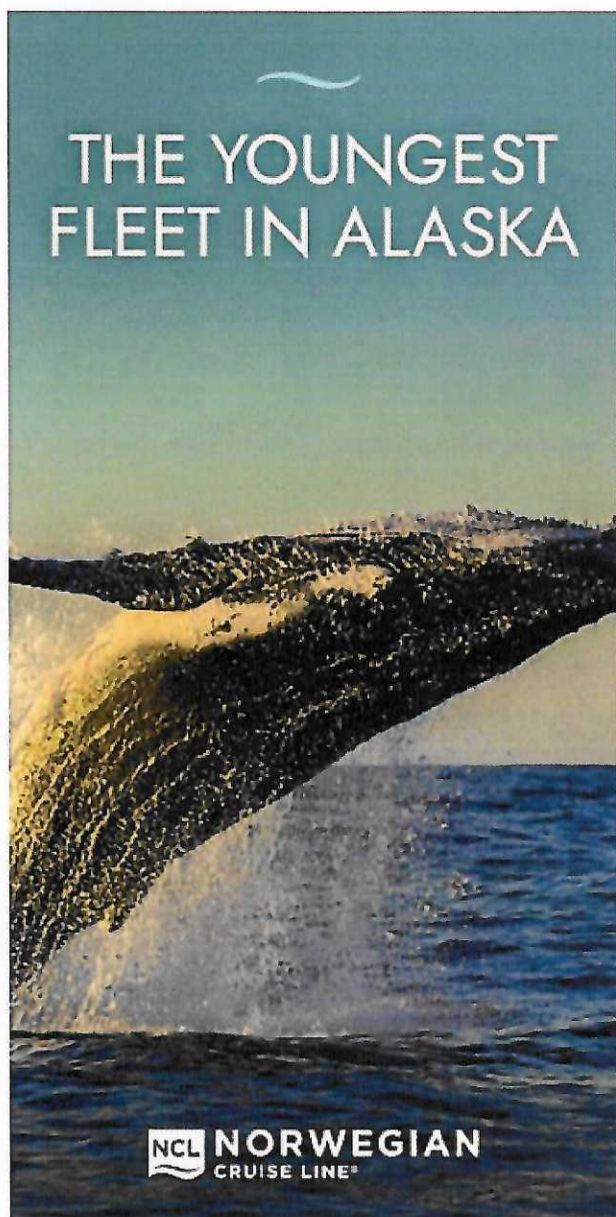
Let's clear that up, because tipping isn't a kindness or a favor—especially in a country like ours, where most of the hospitality industry relies on tips. In recent years, thanks to extensive organizing, the average wage for hotel workers has gone up. But the average April 2024 salary for hotel housekeepers, according to employment marketplace ZipRecruiter, is still just \$16 per hour, which comes out to be \$33,933 per year.

Tipping is, unfortunately, the difference between a living wage and poverty wages. While housekeepers across the country are demanding better pay from their employers, that battle is far from won. Until everyone in the country is guaranteed living wages, tipping is not only the right thing to do, it is a necessary part of the service industry and our economy.

Anytime you check out of a hotel, motel, resort, or any type of facility that A) provided you lodging, and B) employs cleaning staff, remember to leave a separate tip for housekeepers in your room—and not just give one lump sum to the front desk (that tip will go to various other hotel employees, but probably not the housekeepers). If you disagree with this, go argue with someone else.

So, now that we've established that you should be tipping your housekeeper, here are the details to make sure you are doing it right.

According to the American Hotel and Lodging Association, housekeepers should be tipped between \$1 and \$5 per day.



GROUP DEPARTURES 2024, 2025 AND 2026

DECEMBER 7, 2024-ROYAL CLIPPER (round trip Barbados)

Would you like to climb the mast to the crow's nest 75 feet above the deck or visit the open bridge where you can help sail the vessel? If so, this tall ship adventure is your ticket. Casual and relaxes with top notch dining and less than 250 passengers. Have a tropical drink while you relax in the bowsprit netting while listening to a steel drum band on deck. Visit Grenada, St. Vincent, Bequia, Martinique and St. Lucia. Rate per person for an outside cabin, including current taxes, is \$2,475.00. Our special pricing also includes pre-paid gratuities and an on-board credit of \$200.00 per person.

FEBRUARY 26 to MARCH 4, 2025-ICELAND

Our annual Iceland adventure begins with flights on Icelandair round trip from Newark Liberty Airport to Keflavik. We will begin with a stop at the Viking World Museum for a heavy continental breakfast before heading to the Blue Lagoon for a sunrise cocktail. Our package includes four nights at Midgardur Center Hotel with a buffet breakfast daily, full day Golden Circle tour with a tomato soup lunch at Fridheimar Greenhouse, shared Northern Lights tour, optional tours will be available to the glacier and South shore black sand beaches and Sky Lagoon. Price per person double \$2,100.00 included all current air and government taxes. A few singles are available at a surcharge of \$650.00. Insurance is recommended and a valid passport is required.

MARCH 24-30, 2025, SOUTHERN CHARM (with Collette Vacations)

Explore warm southern hospitality in America's southeast. Come to know its rich history and deep traditions on this tour highlighted by stays in Charleston, Savannah and Jekyll Island. Included are round trip transfers from Home Town Travel to Newark airport, six breakfasts and three dinners, professional escort for the duration of the trip, all accommodations and entrance fees. The rate per person, based on double occupancy is \$3,799.00. Cancel for any reason insurance is optional at the rate of \$429.00

MAY 18 to 25, 2025, BERMUDA CRUISE ABOARD THE CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE

Start next summer off right; especially if you missed this year's Bermuda group. Enjoy all that Bermuda has to offer while enjoying your beverage package and wi-fi relaxing on your balcony as you sail from Cape Liberty (Bayonne, NJ) passing the Statue of Liberty enroute to the beautiful pink sand beaches this beautiful island has to offer. Your special group rate includes your balcony accommodation, all current port and government taxes, beverage package and wi-fi for \$1,859.00 per person double.

NOVEMBER 5-16, 2025, OLD WORLD SICILY AND MALTA (with Collette Vacations). This is a small group departure for Home Town Travel with a maximum of 24 passengers on this adventure. These legendary isles are nestled amongst the deep blue water of the Mediterranean. Discover how ancient traditions blend into modern society as you travel along timeless Italian Maltese and Sicilian towns. This eleven-night tour begins with a four-night stay in Malta with a ferry to Sicily where you will stay three nights in Ragusa and three nights in Taormina. This package includes round trip transportation to Newark airport from our office, round trip air from Newark airport with an overnight flight to Malta, 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners, professional escort throughout the trip and all accommodations and entrance fees. The rate per person based on double occupancy is \$5,399.00. Cancel for any reason insurance is optional and at a rate of \$549.00. Please call for more information.

NOVEMBER 25, 2025-ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS ABOARD AMA REINA (Nuremburg to Budapest)

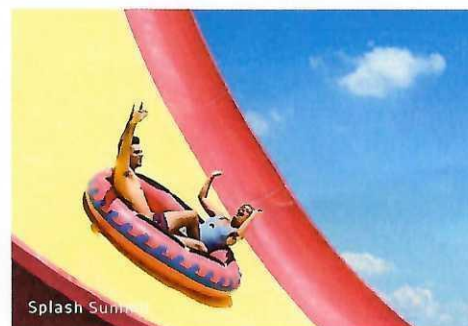
Travel back through centuries as you walk along cobblestone streets through grand cities and historic towns bedecked with twinkling Christmas trees and lined with wooden huts gleaming with handcrafted treasures. Nuremberg's festive Christkindlemarkt, the largest and oldest Christmas market in Germany, Regensburg's Artisan Christmas Market, one of Bavaria's most beautiful and romantic, Vienna with its impressive Christmas Market and Budapest where most products are handmade. Revel in a feast for the senses: sparkling lights, festive sounds of children dressed as angels singing carols and the enticing smells of hot-mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, sausages, and sweet treats of every kind. Rates start at \$3,699.00 per person double occupancy. Air fare and pre and post stays are optional and will be available in January 2025.

MARCH 13-26, 2026—TWELVE NIGHT VIETNAM & THAILAND CRUISE ABOARD THE CELEBRITY SOLSTICE

This bucket list trip starts in Hong Kong and visits Hanoi (Halong Bay), Hue/Danang, Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), Bangkok/Laemchabang and Ko Samui Thailand, and disembarking in Singapore. Pre and post land packages will be available. Cruise includes balcony accommodations (V1), all current port and government taxes, beverage package, gratuities, and Wi-Fi. SAVE OVER \$1,500 PER CABIN. Rate per person based on double \$3,350.00. A deposit of \$900/cabin is required to reserve your cabin. Final payment is not due until December 1, 2025.

**REMEMBER-IF YOU FIND SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU, BOOK EARLY SO YOU WILL NOT TO BE DISAPPOINTED.
OUR SPECIAL RATES TEND TO SELL OUT AND PRICES ARE NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL DEPOSITED.**

SHORT GETAWAYS ON GAMECHANGING SHIPS



Not all weeks are created equal. Max out every minute on game changing ships — *Allure of the Seas*® and *Independence of the Seas*®. Tropic trek to sun-kissed shores. Take your taste buds on a delicious globetrotting tour. Conquer record-breaking thrills and discover epic ways to chill at the award-winning Perfect Day at CocoCay. Feel the burn as you race to the summit of the Rock Climbing Wall, refuel with the finest dining options, and turn up the heat on the dance floor. Come Seek the Royal Caribbean®.

4-NIGHT SHORT CARIBBEAN SAILINGS DEPARTING IN 2024 - RATES WON'T LAST

Allure of the Seas®

Sailing from Miami, FL

starting from **\$107** per person per day

Independence of the Seas®

Sailing from Miami, FL

starting from **\$87** per person per day

NO SUPPRISES. PRICES SHOWN NOW INCLUDE TAXES AND FEES!

HOME TOWN TRAVEL

NANCY OR TARA



*Features vary by ship. Prices are per person, cruise only, based on double occupancy in interior stateroom and in U.S. dollars. All itineraries are subject to change without notice. Prices are subject to availability and change without notice. Certain restrictions apply. Price is per person, in USD, for cruise only on select sailings and stateroom categories, based on double-occupancy, reflects any promotional savings, and is subject to change and availability. Taxes, fees, and port expenses are included. Bookings made under the Non-Refundable Deposit Program are subject to a \$100 USD change fee per guest for ship or sail date changes. Price includes non-commissionable cruise fare. Additional restrictions apply, including the terms and conditions of any promotions and pricing programs. © 2024 Royal Caribbean. Ship's registry: Bahamas

How to Find and Revel in Luxury in Cancún

Cancún, a tropical jewel on Mexico's Caribbean coast, has evolved into a haven of luxury that beckons travelers seeking opulence, pampering, and unforgettable experiences. From lavish resorts to upscale dining and indulgent spas, here's how to find and revel in luxury in Cancún.

Luxurious Resorts:

Cancún is renowned for its lavish resorts that cater to every desire. Along the iconic Hotel Zone, clients will discover a string of high-end properties that offer unparalleled oceanfront views, private beaches, and personalized service. These resorts boast lavish suites and all-inclusive options with cutting-edge amenities. There's a resort to match everyone's preferred level of luxury.

Exclusive Amenities:

The hallmark of luxury resorts in Cancún lies in their exquisite amenities. Infinity-edge pools that blend seamlessly with the Caribbean Sea, private cabanas, and personalized butler service are just the beginning. Some resorts offer exclusive beachfront lounges, world-class golf courses, and yacht charters for a truly indulgent experience.

Culinary Delights:

Luxury dining is an integral part of the Cancún experience. The city's culinary scene marries gourmet cuisine with breathtaking ocean views. Michelin-starred chefs and talented culinary teams craft diverse menus that showcase both local and international flavors. Whether savoring freshly caught seafood or sipping on fine wines, every meal becomes a lavish affair.

Spa Escapes:

Cancún's luxury extends beyond the sandy shores to its world-class spas. You can rejuvenate your senses with indulgent spa treatments inspired by ancient Mayan rituals and modern wellness techniques. Imagine unwinding in a serene spa sanctuary overlooking turquoise waters as skilled therapists provide pampering treatments and holistic therapies.

Underwater Wonders & Ecotourism Adventures:

Cancún is a paradise for divers and snorkelers. The Great Mesoamerican Reef, the second-largest barrier reef in the world, provides a vibrant underwater ecosystem to explore. The waters are teeming with colorful coral formations and diverse marine life, including tropical fish, rays, and even whale sharks in the right season.

Beyond the beaches, Cancún offers a range of eco-adventures. Visitors can explore the otherworldly cenotes—natural sinkholes with crystal-clear waters that were considered sacred by the Mayans. They can go zip-lining through the lush jungles, embark on ATV tours, or take part in guided eco-park experiences that showcase the region's biodiversity. Arrange personalized itineraries that allow clients to enjoy Cancún's wonders at their own pace.

Nightlife and Entertainment:

Evenings in Cancún are a showcase of luxury entertainment. From upscale bars serving handcrafted cocktails to glamorous nightclubs hosting world-renowned DJs, the city offers a sophisticated nightlife scene that caters to discerning revelers. If guests never want to leave the resort, there are many great all-inclusive options that provide nonstop entertainment within walking distance of their room!

Cultural Enrichment:

Luxury in Cancún goes beyond material indulgence. Visitors can immerse themselves in the local culture by attending exclusive art exhibitions, live performances, and cultural festivals; engage with local artists and craftspeople to gain a deeper appreciation for the region's heritage; and join immersive experiences offered right on-site at many resorts and learn about their sustainability practices.

Timeless Relaxation:

The ultimate luxury often lies in the simplest of pleasures: a tranquil sunrise over the Caribbean, the soothing sound of waves crashing against the shore, and the sensation of warm sand between your toes. Cancún's natural beauty provides the backdrop for moments of serenity and relaxation that money simply can't buy.