

Secrets Playa Esmeralda: Where Luxury Meets Paradise



Secrets Playa Esmeralda is an exclusive adults-only sanctuary along the serene shoreline of Playa Esmeralda in the Dominican Republic. Opening in April, this luxurious destination will feature 500 elegantly appointed suites, each offering private balconies or terraces with views of the Caribbean's turquoise waters.

Guest accommodations range from sophisticated Junior Suites to opulent Presidential Oceanfront quarters, with many featuring swim-out access.

The resort offers multiple room categories to suit varying preferences, from tropical garden views to panoramic ocean vistas.

Guests will discover 10 distinct dining venues ranging from casual beachside fare to refined French cuisine at Bordeaux and authentic Dominican specialties at Dona Altagracia.

Seven sophisticated bars and lounges will provide ideal settings for socializing, including the atmospheric Piano Bar and the exclusive Manatees bar for Preferred Club members.

Active visitors will appreciate the resort's extensive recreation options, including tennis courts, basketball facilities, paddle courts and beach volleyball.

Unique offerings such as a trampoline and batting cage set this property apart from typical beach resorts. For water enthusiasts, the resort will provide sailing, snorkeling and scuba experiences.


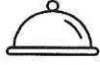





Marriott Cancun

Marriott International opened the doors of the first all-inclusive resort the Marriott Cancun, An All-Inclusive Resort, in the Quintana Roo region of Mexico. Marriott has been in the all-inclusive game for a few years with takeovers of existing hotels, but the Marriott Cancun, An All-Inclusive Resort marks the first-ever all-inclusive resort developed by Marriott from start to finish.

Free At Sea™ is now **MORE AT SEA™**

At Norwegian, we believe our guests deserve more on their vacation. That's why our signature Free At Sea™ cruising package has been restructured and renamed with new and improved additions. Our new program, More At Sea™ offers more of what our guests love with even more inclusions like more premium cocktails, more specialty dining and more Wi-Fi minutes.

Package Name	New More At Sea™																													
 <p>Unlimited Open Bar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes EVEN MORE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ MORE premium beverage brands included such as Grey Goose, Casamigos, Woodford Reserve and more! ▫ MORE variety and MORE regional sourcing ▫ Includes 45% MORE premium brands. ▫ No more \$15 beverage cap. • Over 100 cocktails to choose from! • 20% off all bottles of champagne and wine. • Unlimited soft drinks and juices. • Applicable for all 21+ guests (1-8) on the reservation when Guest 1 & 2 select the beverage package. 																													
 <p>Specialty Dining</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced with MORE specialty dining meals: <table border="1" data-bbox="391 831 1000 1209"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sail Length</th> <th>Cabin</th> <th>Meals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3 Nights</td> <td>Balcony & Above</td> <td>1 Meal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-6 Nights</td> <td>Balcony & Above</td> <td>2 Meals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Nights</td> <td>Balcony & Above</td> <td>3 Meals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8-11 Nights</td> <td>Balcony & Above</td> <td>4 Meals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12+ Nights</td> <td>Balcony & Above</td> <td>5 Meals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-7 Nights</td> <td>Studio, Inside, Oceanview</td> <td>1 Meals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8-11 Nights</td> <td>Studio, Inside, Oceanview</td> <td>2 Meals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12+ Nights</td> <td>Studio, Inside, Oceanview</td> <td>3 Meals</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plus MORE apps and desserts at each meal: order up to 3 appetizers and 3 desserts for more to enjoy. • Applicable for Guest 1 & 2. 			Sail Length	Cabin	Meals	3 Nights	Balcony & Above	1 Meal	4-6 Nights	Balcony & Above	2 Meals	7 Nights	Balcony & Above	3 Meals	8-11 Nights	Balcony & Above	4 Meals	12+ Nights	Balcony & Above	5 Meals	3-7 Nights	Studio, Inside, Oceanview	1 Meals	8-11 Nights	Studio, Inside, Oceanview	2 Meals	12+ Nights	Studio, Inside, Oceanview	3 Meals
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 <p>Wi-Fi Package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced with MORE minutes per stateroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ 3-6 Nights: 75 min (per guest) ▫ 7-11 Nights: 150 min (per guest) ▫ 12+ Nights: 300min (per guest) ▫ Applicable for ALL guests in the stateroom • Faster Wi-Fi speeds powered by Starlink. • Provides 1 login per guest that can be used on 1 device at a time. 																													
 <p>Excursions Credits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 credit per tour. • Applicable for Guest 1. 																													
 <p>Applicable Sail Dates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sailings booked on/after 10/1/24 for sailings 1/1/25 and beyond. 																													

The Best Banana Bread

We have a lot of requirements when it comes to banana bread and we finally created a recipe that ticks all the boxes. It's moist, tender, a little tangy and perfectly sweet—all around our favorite one. The best part is that it's even better the next day (if it lasts that long). Try toasting the bread and slathering with a little salted butter. We're pretty sure you'll never need another banana bread recipe.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup melted unsalted butter or vegetable oil, plus more for greasing pan
- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour (see Cook's Note)
- 1 cup toasted pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon fine salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup buttermilk, sour cream or yogurt
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 4 soft, very ripe, darkly speckled medium bananas, mashed (about 1 1/2 cups)



Directions:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly butter one 9-by-5-inch loaf pan.
- 2 Whisk together the flour, pecans, granulated sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg in a large bowl. Whisk together the eggs, melted butter, buttermilk, brown sugar and vanilla in a medium bowl; stir in the mashed bananas. Fold the banana mixture into the flour mixture until just combined (it's OK if there are some lumps).
- 3 Pour the batter into the buttered pan and lightly tap the pan on the counter to evenly distribute the batter. Bake until browned and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out completely clean, about 1 hour. Let the bread cool for 10 minutes in the pan, then turn out onto a rack to cool completely.




SAINT LUCIA
LET HER INSPIRE YOU

Travel Nonstop

TO SAINT LUCIA THIS WINTER

UNITED AIRLINES

**NEWARK (EWR)
TO (UVF)**

**FARES
from
AS LOW AS
\$313
Round Trip**

“W” IS FOR WHAT?

MANY PEOPLE HAVE SOME VERY CREATIVE INTERPRETATIONS WHEN IT COMES TO SPELLING CONFIRMATIONS ON THE PHONE IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE LETTERS BEING USED. SURELY THERE ARE READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER THAT HAVE CONFUSED THE SOUND OF AN “F” AND AN “S”, OR A “T” AND A “V” ON THE PHONE. THERE REALLY DOES EXIST AN AGREED-UPON INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR WORDS THAT REPRESENT EACH LETTER. THIS IS CALLED THE NATO PHONETIC ALPHABET. WHY NATO? THE NATO PHONETIC ALPHABET WAS DEVELOPED IN THE 1950’S TO BE INTELLIGIBLE (AND PRONOUNCEABLE) TO ALL NATO ALLIES IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE. THE LIST FOLLOWS:

A—Alpha	N—November
B—Bravo	O—Oscar
C—Charlie	P—Papa
D—Delta	Q—Quebec
E—Echo	R—Romeo
F—Foxtrot	S—Sierra
G—Golf	T—Tango
H—Hotel	U—Uniform
I—India	V—Victor
J—Juliet	W—Whiskey
K—Kilo	X—X-ray
L—Lima	Y—Yankee
M—Mike	Z—Zulu

THE NEXT TIME YOU FIND YOURSELF NEEDING TO SPEAK TO ANYONE REGARDING YOUR RESERVATIONS, TRY USING THE CHART ABOVE, AND MAKE LOCATING YOUR RESERVATION EASIER ON ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.

LET’S SEE IF YOU REMEMBER THEM.



St. Kitts



St. Kitts is a Caribbean gem, rich in history, natural beauty, and immersive experiences. Visitors can explore the island’s lush rainforest, relax on golden and black sand beaches, and take in panoramic views from the scenic Brimstone Hill Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From snorkeling in crystal-clear waters to savoring local flavors at beachside restaurants, St. Kitts delivers a blend of adventure, culture, and relaxation—perfect for travelers seeking an authentic Caribbean escape.



Our clients enjoyed finding out more about Sandals and Beaches at our Wine and Cheese presentation. Tara, Kelly (from Sandals) and Nancy enjoyed visiting with our clients while exploring the new properties and destinations.

GROUPS FOR 2025-2026

UTAH'S MIGHTY FIVE AND THE ROCKIES, SEPTEMBER 9-17, 2025, with Collette Vacations, Highlights include Rocky Mountaineer, Glenwood Springs, Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park ending our tour at Paris Hotel Las Vegas. The tour includes round trip transfers to/from Newark, airfare, air taxes, fees and surcharges. Insurance is available at \$429.00. Book now and save \$200 per person. Rates \$6,549.00 (double), \$7,749.00 (single) and \$6,449.00 (triple) and must be booked by January 20, 2025.

OLD WORLD SICILY AND MALTA, NOVEMBER 5-16, 2025, 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 of 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. **ONE CABIN LEFT.**

MARCH 8, 2026 to APRIL 8, 2026—31 DAY PANAMA CANAL, INCA & SOUTH AMERICAN DISCOVERY ABOARD HOLLAND AMERICA'S OOSTERDAM.

Holland America's first Vista-class ship, the Oosterdam recently emerged from dry dock with exciting updates including completely refurbished suites and new lounge, dining and entertainment venues, such as Music Walk with Lincoln Center Stage, B.B. King's Blues Club and Billboard on board. Guests can choose from delectable specialty restaurants, hone culinary Skills with America's Test Kitchen and thrill to BBC Earth experiences. Embark in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires where pre-cruise packages will be available soon. Visit the penguins in Patagonia as you get ready to sail past Cape Horn and the Straits of Magellan. We then sail from Ushuaia and cruise the dramatic coast of Chile with stops in Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas. Sail through Glacier Alley enroute to a full transit of the Panama Canal. Inside cabins start at \$4,999.00 per person double. Available additions include Holland America's "Have It All" package which includes beverage package, three specialty dining venues, \$300 per person shore excursion credit, wi-fi and \$250 per person on board credit. This package is available for \$55 per person/per day. Prepaid gratuities are available at \$17/day. Other categories are available. Call for other rates and more information.

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

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Cultural Treasures of Japan with Collette Vacations April 2026

Welcome to Japan, the “Land of the Rising Sun.” Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty This amazing 14-day tour will include airfare from Newark, transfer to and from Newark airport from Home Town Travel, 18 meals, all accommodations, sightseeing with entrance fees, transportation within Japan and a professional tour escort thorough the trip. Some of the highlights of this tour will include: Tokyo, Asakusa, Sensoji Shrine, Tea Ceremony, Ginza, Lake Ashi Cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Takayama, Sake Tasting and Hida beef dinner, Kyoto, bullet train and Hiroshima. Exact dates and rates will be out shortly. For more information, please call the office.

Netherlands, Belgium & France with Collette Vacations September 2026

From iconic Dutch windmills and cozy Belgian streets to the world-renowned Champagne region and the “City of Light,” experience the essence of three European countries. This 12-day tour will include airfare from Newark, transfers to and from Newark airport from Home Town Travel, 16meals, all accommodations, transportation through out your journey, sightseeing with entrance fees and a professional escort. Some of the highlights of this tour will include: Amsterdam, Canal Cruise, Kinderdijk, Bruges, Reims, Route du Champagne, Paris Parisian Bakery Workshop, Parfum Workshop, Le Marais, Ile de la Cite, Seine River Cruise and Eiffel Tower dinner. Exact dates and rates will be out shortly.

We will be having an informative Wine and Cheese with Collette tours in April with all the information on promoted tours. Please make sure to RSVP early, date will be confirmed and will be in our news blast.

Princess Cruises Goes Country with New Music Partnership

Princess Cruises, in partnership with the Academy of Country Music (ACM), is bringing country music to the high seas with the ACM Live from the Red Barrel Lounge concert series. On Caribbean voyages departing Galveston, Texas, between Feb. 9 and March 17, guests aboard Regal Princess will enjoy live performances from some of country music's most exciting emerging artists, including chart-topping singer and ACM Award nominee Kameron Marlowe, reigning ACM New Vocal Duo or Group of the Year Tigirlily Gold, and America's Got Talent breakout stars Chapel Hart, along with other rising acts across several cruises sailing out of Galveston in early 2025 voyages. (Pictured above: Maddie & Tae being interviewed live from the Princess Stage at the 59th ACM Awards Show.)

As part of the series, six ascending country music acts will perform two, 45-minute concerts in the Princess Theater and interact with guests during Meet & Greet sessions.