

A Cruise for Every Ocean Across the Globe...

Picture this, you're relaxing on your balcony with a book in one hand and a gin in the other, watching the sun set over the magnificent Pacific Ocean. Meanwhile, across the globe, a fellow cruiser is embarking on an intrepid expedition across the Arctic Ocean in search of the mighty polar bear. Moving over to the opposite pole, the Antarctic Peninsula is hosting a group kayaking trip in the Southern Ocean. Any cruising devotee will quickly tell you that as much as they love visiting a variety of destinations, it is also the journey there that makes their cruise holiday truly unforgettable.

1. The Arctic Ocean

Situated approximately 66 degrees north of the Equator, the Arctic Circle encompasses the vast Arctic Ocean, the islands within and the lands that fringe it. Cruises to this unique area of the world feature a variety of destinations including Alaska, Russia, Greenland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Canada, plus myriad island chains. During the summer, visitors can enjoy 24-hour daylight in this 'Land of the Midnight Sun'. Whilst during the winter months, guests can go in search of the majestic Aurora Borealis, a true bucket list experience. Nature lovers can look forward to seeing reindeer and musk oxen grazing the plains, whilst on the coast polar bears, seals and walrus can be marvelled at. At sea, whales are bountiful, as are a wide variety of coastal and sea birds with half of the world's species residing in the Arctic Circle. All in all, the Arctic Ocean is nature's playground, and invites any guest to play in this winter wonderland.

2. The Atlantic Ocean

Sailing the Atlantic Ocean will have you following in the steps of Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan and Francis Drake. Bordered by Africa and Europe to the East, the Americas to the west, and sprawling as far as the Arctic and Antarctic oceans, the Atlantic Ocean is the second largest in the world. Its name, derived from Greek mythology, means the "Sea of Atlas" – quite apt, we think. Many cruises sail the Atlantic Ocean en route to their destinations, but this magnificent body of water offers many impressive views from the top deck of a ship, including the numerous coasts indented by bays, gulfs and seas including the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. Cruising to the Atlantic Islands sees you following in the footsteps of many intrepid explorers. Scattered across the ocean, these little pieces of paradise provided a welcome stop for many explorers and, as you can imagine, they offer even more for your cruise itinerary.

3. The Indian Ocean

Tranquillity. Escapism. Paradise. The Indian Ocean offers all of these and so much more to those lucky enough to sail its pure waters. Renowned the world over as the epitome of beauty, the Indian Ocean can just as comfortably host a honeymoon as it can a fun-filled adventure holiday. Known for its utopian islands - the Seychelles, Mauritius and the Maldives - the Indian Ocean offers visitors exceptional experiences from cultural and gastronomic, to nature-bound experiences cultural. There are so many more layers to its flawless façade than one can discover on a cruise alone, and spending time ashore exploring these vibrant islands is as enjoyable as spending time on your balcony, enjoying the views or basking under the sun in the ship's swimming pool. The Indian Ocean is also home to many endangered species such as sea turtles, seals and dugongs (also called sea

cows) – we suggest that you take your camera with you just in case you're lucky enough to see any of these animals in their natural habitat.

4. The Pacific Ocean

As the largest and deepest ocean on Earth, spanning 60 million square miles from California to the Philippines, the grand Pacific Ocean teems with activity. From the Antarctic in the south to the Arctic in the north and nestled between the continents of Oceania or Australasia, there are few cruise ports that the Pacific Ocean doesn't touch and, if you're embarking on a cruise, the chances are that you'll dip a toe in the waters of the great Pacific at some point. It is also home to the Great Barrier Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which stretches more than 1,429 miles and is home to the world's largest coral reef – an absolute must for those on Australian voyages across the Pacific Ocean. Named by Ferdinand Magellan who called the ocean 'mar pacific', meaning peaceful sea, this enormous body of water is ideal for spending time relaxing on your ship as you cruise leisurely towards your next destination – be that Hawaii, French Polynesia, New Zealand or Mexico.

5. The Southern Ocean

Granted ocean status in 2000 by the International Hydrographic Organisation, the Southern Ocean may be the newest kid on the block, but it is well versed in granting visitors' access to one of the most spectacular areas of the world – the Great White Continent. Time spent sailing the cool waters of the Southern Ocean is just as valuable as time spent ashore in Antarctica and much of Antarctica's best highlights can be seen from atop your cruise ship. Majestic glaciers, sublime icebergs and crystal-clear waters set the scene for guests' exploration – ashore or on board – whilst opportunities for wildlife spotting are endless. Many species of penguin including Emperor, King, Gentoo, Chinstrap and Adelie can be found here, as well as whales, seals and impressive birdlife. The Southern Ocean is a place for exploration and expedition, as such, many cruise lines offer kayaking or Zodiac tours on Antarctic waters and some even offer the incredibly unique opportunity to sleep out in the open on the ice – an experience not to be missed, if you can bear the cold!