

Cruising Isn't Just for Adults Anymore

Leisure cruising continues to reach unprecedented levels of popularity among vacationers, as nearly 30 million Americans will likely cruise within the next three years. This according to a 2004 Market Profile Study projection conducted for the Cruise Lines International Association. The reasons for this explosive growth in cruising; most passengers say cruising provides more guest pampering, offers more fine dining opportunities, provides more opportunities for relaxation, and are easier to plan and arrange when compared to other vacation types.

So perhaps you've been thinking of taking a cruise, but you're not sure if cruising is family friendly. Well, the good news is that cruising is becoming more and more attractive to the family market. Cruise lines are finding that keeping the kids happy is a key factor in making sure that their adult passengers have an enjoyable experience and with this in mind, they are continuing to add programs and activities for children of all ages.

Though Disney Cruise Line, Carnival and Royal Caribbean are consistently ranked the top three for family cruising, most other cruise lines do offer excellent programs for children. Here's a run down of what each of the top lines currently offer:

- Carnival Cruise Lines – Supervised daily activities for ages 2 – 15 free of charge. Group baby-sitting is offered between the hours of 10PM and 3AM for ages 4 months to 11 years at a cost of \$6 per child, per hour.
- Celebrity Cruises – Supervised daily activities for ages 3 – 17 free of charge. Group baby-sitting is offered between the hours of 10PM and 1AM for ages 3-12 at a cost of \$6 per child, per hour. Private baby-sitting is available between the hours of 8PM and 2AM for ages 6 months to 12 years at a cost of \$8 per child, per hour.
- Disney Cruise Line – Supervised daily activities for ages 3 – 17 free of charge. Group baby-sitting is offered for children ages 3 months to 3 years at a cost of \$6 per child, per hour until midnight. For ages 3 – 12, playrooms are open until at least midnight at no extra charge.
- Norwegian Cruise Line – Supervised daily activities for ages 2 – 17 free of charge. Group baby-sitting is offered for ages 2 – 12 years at a cost of \$5 per child, per hour between the hours of 10PM and 1AM.
- Princess Cruises – Supervised daily activities for ages 3 – 17 free of charge. Group baby-sitting is offered between the hours of 10PM and 1AM for ages 3 to 12 at a cost of \$5 per child, per hour.
- Royal Caribbean International – Supervised activities for ages 3 – 17 free of charge. Group baby-sitting is offered between the hours of 10PM and 1AM at a cost of \$5 per

child, per hour. Private baby-sitting is offered for children ages 6 month to 12 years at a cost of \$8 per child, per hour between the hours of 8PM and 2AM.

With the ever-increasing number of options available to you, chances are there's sure to be a cruise to fit your budget and lifestyle.

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