



the cruising insider™

YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS CRUISING

CRUISEGUIDE™

2009

The information you need
to
Cruise With Confidence in 2009

Packed with:
Cruise tips - What to expect in 2009 - Port Information
Cruise Line Information
Ways to save big on your next Cruise Vacation

Plus:
Our original Cruise Packing List – Exclusive access to our Computer Wallpapers
and more!

Kim and Johnnie Rhodes

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Foreword

Cruising is a vacation option like no other. Cruising allows you see so many places around the world, knowing that all of your needs and wants are covered – such as quality lodging, top notch meals, and world-class entertainment every night. Once you're aboard, you've got all this and more, and you never have to worry about getting from destination to destination. And the kicker is, even though cruising offers a world-class vacation, if you plan it right, you can have all this for as low as \$50 a day!

When we were considering our first cruise, we felt a lot like a fish out of water. We had talked to a few people over the years who had taken cruise vacations, but, because cruising is so different from any other vacation, we weren't sure where to start. We knew that a cruise vacation would be an amazing experience, if we could get the information we needed to prepare as necessary.

So we researched everything we could find. We found lots of information scattered here and there around the internet, but weren't satisfied with what we found from a new cruiser's perspective. Still, once we had a general idea of what was available, we prepared as much as we could, and left the rest to chance.

That first cruise vacation was an amazing one. We were alone together – for a change – as a couple (we almost always bring our kids now), and we experienced our first international vacation together. We took a few first-timer 'bumps' and learned from them,

but for the most part, it was the trip of a lifetime.

Returning home, we shared the story of that voyage with our non-cruising family and friends. It wasn't long before many of them were planning their first cruise, and, of course, they had lots of questions to ask. They too felt as though they were in a vacuum of information, looking for whatever tips they could find.

That's when we began to get the idea of forming a website about cruising. One that, for a change, would be built specifically around the idea of providing relevant information for the new cruiser, in a simple to follow format. The result was a simple personal web page, known as *Kim's Cruise Tips* (named after my wife). As the site grew in popularity, we felt the need to shift toward a more full-bodied, commercial website, and along came the name change to *The Cruising Insider*.

We have thoroughly enjoyed the feedback our site has gotten from the cruising community, and appreciate the many questions we get regularly from cruisers. The website has truly now taken on a life of its own. This CruiseGuide is designed to cover many of the points that our website offers, plus what's offered to our newsletter subscribers, and then goes beyond all that. As a matter of fact, the information we reveal here includes money-saving tips that may save you many dozens of times the cost of this CruiseGuide!

We hope you find the 2009 CruiseGuide both entertaining and informative, and would appreciate any comments or suggestions you could offer.

Why go on a Cruise Vacation?



Cruising is a unique experience among vacation options. Unlike flying or driving to a vacation destination, on a cruise getting there is half the fun! Once you get to the cruise terminal and board your ship, the work for you is over...you don't have to worry about...

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