

DECK CHAIR CRUISING



# 69 Fun Cruising Facts

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# 69 Fun Facts and Statistics about Cruising

## CRUISING IN NUMBERS

1. Around 12 million people in the world go on a cruise holiday every year.
2. Of these 12 million, 1 million are children.
3. These figures are on the rise, with 14.3 million people going on a cruise holiday in 2010. This was a 6.3% increase over 2009.
4. A third of all cruise passengers are under the age of 40.
5. Of these 12 million, 75% of cruisers travel with their spouse, 25% with their children and 23% with friends.



6. The average length of a cruise is 7 days.
7. Large cruise ships generate over 200,000 gallons of sewage and 8 tonnes of solid waste every week. Eww!
8. This is most likely the result of going through 18,000 rolls of toilet paper in an average cruise week.
9. Approximately 2,555 gallons of gray water and 35,000 gallons of black water are dumped into the ocean by the cruise industry every day.
10. There are around 300 sea-going cruise ships in operation across all major international cruise lines. This number is increasing annually.
11. There are over 2000 ports of call around the world that cruise ships can visit.
12. Of the 2000 ports of call, the three most popular destinations to depart on a cruise from are Miami, Port Canaveral and Fort Lauderdale, with over half of all cruise guests beginning their journey here.
13. There are approximately 1,000 crew members onboard an average cruise ship at any one time to cater to the needs of the passengers.
14. If you were to fill every cruise ship across the world to capacity with passengers, the number would add up to over a quarter of a million people.



**15.** The average cruise ship has more than 16-miles of sprinkler piping, 5,000 sprinkler heads, six-miles of fire hose, five firefighting teams, 4,000 smoke detectors and 500 fire extinguishers.

**16.** The largest cruise ships afloat hold more than 5,400 passengers and around 2,000 crew members.

**17.** This means that on average around 1,700 beds need to be made up every day.

**18.** When it comes to entertainment, cruise ships know how to put on a show. Up to 300 colourful feathered and sequined costumes can take to the stage every week.

**19.** Passengers after something a little mellow can take part in bingo. It's so popular, an average of 4,000 bingo books are sold in one week.

**20.** 62% of all cruisers work full-time. A cruise provides that much needed break.

**21.** Once you cruise, you never look back! Around 60% of people on any cruise have cruised before.

**22.** Today, almost 90% of all cruises are sold through travel agents.

**23.** An average cruise ship travels only 9.5 meters on 1 litre of fuel.

**24.** The average horsepower of a ship is about 50,000.

**25.** The world's fastest cruise ship is the Queen Mary 2, which is owned by Cunard. The official top speed of the Queen Mary 2 is 28 knots, although it has been told she can travel at up to 30 knots.



**26.** Each cruise ship in the industry has more than 60 safety, environmental and health inspections each year.

**27.** On a three-day Disney cruise, approximately 6,525 pool towels will be used and washed. Amazingly, this is enough to handle every athlete from the Olympic swimming team of every country any given year.

**28.** The world's largest cruise ship, the Oasis of the Seas, uses more than 3,000 miles of electrical wiring. This could literally stretch right across the United States – coast to coast.



**5,400 passengers**  
**2,000 crew**



## Food and Alcohol

**29.** The \$220 spent on board daily is likely to go towards the 3,400 bottles of wine, 200 bottles of champagne, 200 bottles of gin, 290 bottles of vodka, 350 bottles of whiskey, 150 bottles of rum, 45 bottles of sherry, 600 bottles of assorted liqueurs and 10,100 bottles and cans of beer that are provisioned for an average 7-day cruise. And that's not even including pre-mixed drinks!

**30.** Water consumption aboard a standard cruise ship averages 282 litres per person, per day.

**31.** The average passenger aboard a cruise ship will spend around \$7 per day on food.

**32.** During a 10-day cruise an average of 50,000 eggs, 3,125kg of fish, 1,231kg of watermelon and 1,125kg of cheese will be prepared and consumed.

**33.** Of these 5,000 eggs every day, 1,956 are scrambled, 552 are served sunny side up, 480 are eaten soft boiled, 984 are used in omelets and 976 are made into other dishes.

**34.** Cruisers tend to be big meat eaters. For any average 7-day cruise approximately 24,236 pounds of beef, 5,040 pounds of lamb, 7,216 pounds of pork, 4,500 pounds of veal, 1,680 pounds of sausage, 10,211 pounds of chicken and 3,156 pounds of turkey is provisioned for passengers.

**35.** Over the course of a 7-day cruise, approximately 600 gallons of ice-cream will be consumed by passengers.



**36.** Approximately 17 tonnes of fruit will be consumed on any average 7-day cruise.

**37.** All this food consumption means that approximately 12,500 plates, 10,000 glasses and 15,000 items of cutlery need to be washed up every day.

**38.** The food is eaten off 8,000 table cloths, with 16,000 linen napkins used to wipe up all the food that doesn't quite make it to your mouth.

**39.** An average of 4,000 cups of coffee is served on a cruise ship every day.

**40.** Carnival Cruise line alone places more than 10 million chocolates on passenger pillows every year.

**41.** In addition to this, around 500 kilos of chocolate is consumed on a week-long cruise. And that's not even including the delightful after-dinner mints you find on your pillow.

**42.** The Cunard Cruise line is the world's largest single buyer of caviar. They spend around \$500,000 on it a year.

**43.** The unwritten rule called "Ward's Third Law of Gluttony" claims that cruise passengers will take around twice as much food as they need from breakfast and lunch buffets, than add a lettuce leaf or two at dinner time to justify the guilt complex brought on by over-consumption.

**44.** The average weight gain of passengers on a seven-day cruise is 5 pounds (2.26kg). Why not lose this much weight before you head off so you won't feel guilty about adding kilos.



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## Money, Money, Money!

- 45.** The average passenger spends approximately \$220 per day aboard a cruise ship. That's a LOT of booze.
- 46.** The world's most expensive cruise to take is on The Annaliese, a \$90-million super yacht owned by Greek entrepreneur, Andreas Liveras. If passengers are willing to spend \$113,760 per day they will be able to enjoy the onboard spa, including a marble Roman bath, saunas and steam rooms, Jacuzzis, a full size movie theater, a business center and a helicopter landing pad. Phew!
- 47.** Cruisers spend, on average, approximately \$1,770 per person, per week for their cruise.
- 48.** Around half a billion US dollars is needed to build and prepare a cruise ship before passengers can board!

## Cruising History

- 49.** The first vessel built exclusively for the purpose of pleasure voyaging was the Prinzessin Victoria Luise, and was designed by Albert Ballin and completed in 1900 in Hamburg.
- 50.** While swimming pools are now common place on most cruise ships, the very first to introduce the craze was White Star Line's "Olympic" back in 1910.
- 51.** Princess was the first line to promote cruises as ideal for single travellers. They were inspired by the TV series, "The Love Boat".
- 52.** Since 1980 the cruise industry has experienced an average annual passenger growth rate of approximately 7.4% per annum.



## Size Matters!

- 53.** The largest luxury cruise ship in the world is the "Oasis of the Seas", which is owned by Royal Caribbean. At a building cost of \$1.4 billion, it is the length of 3 football fields, the height of the Eiffel Tower and travels at a speed of 22.6 knots. It can accommodate 5,400 passengers and has 2,165 crew members on board.
- 54.** The world's largest ship, the "Oasis of the Seas" is a whopping 5 times bigger than the HMS Titanic and 3 times bigger than the QE2.

## Ship Building

- 55.** Ship building production is most prominent in South Korea with 12,400,000 GT. It is followed by 8,400,000 GT in China and 1,400,000 GT in the European Union.
- 56.** A cruise ship can take anywhere from two to four years to build.

## Random Facts

60.

Half of the world's ships depart from Florida, US.

58.

Contrary to what people may think, passenger cabins are not below water. In fact, all decks on cruise ships are above the water line.

63.

Cruise ships are now the environmental leader in the marine industry, with dedicated environmental officers aboard many of today's cruise ships.

57.

Aquaphobia is a "morbid fear of water or of swimming" and is actually common with a lot of cruisers. Fear not though, as every cruise ship provides a sufficient number of lifeboats to hold all passengers aboard.

59.

The world's most popular destination to cruise is the Caribbean.

61.

Around two thirds of the world's cruise passenger capacity is controlled by three major cruise lines: Carnival, Royal Caribbean and Star/NCL.

62.

The cruise industry is the fastest growing travel sector in the world.

## Cruising at the Movies

64. The first of the great disaster movies of the 1970's was "The Poseidon Adventure" which saw a group of cruise passengers struggle to escape and survive when their ship completely capsized at sea.

65. Regarded as one of the worst film sequels of all time, "Speed 2: Cruise Control" was about a cruise ship that got hijacked and set speeding on a collision course into a gigantic oil tanker.

66. Cruising was used as a theme in the horror genre in the 2002 film, "Ghost Ship". In this movie, a 1962 passenger ship was discovered floating lifeless in a remote region of the Bering Sea by a salvage crew and while exploring it "strange things" happen.

67. The highest grossing film about a cruise is "Titanic", bringing in over \$1.8 billion at the box office. It remained the highest grossing film for 12 years, before "Avatar" knocked it off its throne.

68. It was the success of the 1970's television show "The Love Boat" that caused a spike in cruise bookings and led to the manufacture of a number of new cruise ships.

69. French cruise ship, Ile de France, was the first ship to have a real carousel in the children's area. It was consequently used in the 1960 film, "The Last Voyage".



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