



BEST-VALUE BERTHS

## Cabin Confidential

Every ship has its secrets. Luckily, we found several leading cruise specialists willing to spill the beans on 17 cruise lines and their biggest-bang-for-the-buck staterooms

### CARNIVAL CRUISES

*Legend, Miracle, Pride, Spirit*  
“Many of Carnival’s own reservations agents don’t even know about this, but these ships have some great connecting cabins for families with kids who are old enough to be in their own room but too young to have their own balcony. Cabins 7107 and 7108, which have verandas, connect to cabins 7105 and 7106, respectively, which are interior staterooms. This part of deck 7 is under the bridge, so it’s quiet, but you’ll also find

these balcony-inside connecting cabins on decks 5 and 6.”  
—Linda Allen, Cruises by Linda, Harrison, Arkansas (800-422-3445; [cruisesbylinda@cox.net](mailto:cruisesbylinda@cox.net))

### CELEBRITY CRUISES

*Equinox, Solstice*  
“Most of the 2C veranda cabins on the Continental Deck look onto lifeboats—but they’re not advertised as obstructed views. Instead, book a 2C cabin on the Sunrise Deck and you’ll get a



Cabin 2C on Celebrity’s Solstice.

completely unobstructed view for the same price.” —Tom Baker, CruiseCenter, Houston (800-592-3887; [tom.baker@cruisecenter.com](mailto:tom.baker@cruisecenter.com))

### CRUISE WEST

*Spirit of Yorktown*  
“The AA category contains some of the least expensive cabins on this recently renovated ship. But since they open directly onto the deck, it almost feels like you have a balcony. And it’s more private than you might think, since most passengers spend their time up on the Sun Deck’s observation areas.”  
—Margret Propper, Brownell Travel, Birmingham, Alabama (800-999-3960; [margretp@brownelltravel.com](mailto:margretp@brownelltravel.com))

### CRYSTAL CRUISES

*Serenity, Symphony*  
“While the forward and aft cabins on these ships have larger verandas than you’ll find midship, these oversized verandas have metal railings, so you can’t

see out to the water while sitting down. Some travelers prefer the bigger veranda, others the clear view.” —Mary Jean Tully, Cruise Professionals, Toronto (800-265-3838; [maryjean@cruiseprofessionals.com](mailto:maryjean@cruiseprofessionals.com))

### CUNARD LINE

*Queen Mary 2*  
“The best deals on this ship are the balcony cabins with obstructed views. These rooms still get a surprising amount of light even with a lifeboat outside. Opt for the B5 and B6 category cabins because they have glass balconies—not metal ones, like the B1 through B4 rooms—which means you can see the ocean even from a lounge chair.” —Dorothy Reminick, Reid Travel, Boca Raton, Florida (800-666-7150; [dorothy@cruiselux.com](mailto:dorothy@cruiselux.com))

### DISNEY CRUISE LINE

*Magic, Wonder*  
“The oceanview staterooms are a great buy and comfortable for a family of four. The tub and sink are separate from the toilet and a second sink, so that one person doesn’t end up hogging the bathroom. Book one of these cabins on decks 5, 6, or 7, because they have a large window rather than a porthole.” —Susan

Kelly, Travel Magic, Basking Ridge, New Jersey (800-810-2844; [ask@travelmagic.com](mailto:ask@travelmagic.com))

### HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

*Prinsendam*  
“Cabins AA196 and AA197, located aft on the Promenade Deck, have private decks on one side and, on the other, open onto a communal deck that’s so quiet and secluded you may as well have it to yourself. Did I mention there’s a hot tub out there too?”  
—Greg Nacco, Cruise Specialists, Seattle (800-544-2469; [gnacco@cruisespecialists.com](mailto:gnacco@cruisespecialists.com))

### LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

*National Geographic Explorer*  
“Cabin 201 is 23 square feet larger than other cabins that cost the same, and it’s midship, where motion is minimal, and at the dead end of a quiet corridor. If you can spend a bit more, go for cabin 221, which has a prime location at the aft of the ship so you’ll be well placed when the captain announces the sighting of a pod of dolphins.” —Michelle Bemis,

Balcony cabins on the Queen Mary 2.



# Condé Nast Traveler

HOW TO TIP  
 A GREAT TRIP

McCabe World Travel, McLean, Virginia (703-762-5049; michelle@mccabeworld.com)

## MSC CRUISES

*Fantasia, Poesia*

"The triple and quad cabins on these ships are a great value because kids sail free on every cruise. A family of four could sail for a week for less than \$2,000, including tax and port charges." —Brad Anderson, America's Vacation Center/American Express, Miami (888-487-9021)

## OCEANIA CRUISES

*Insignia, Nautica, Regatta*

"At 160 square feet, these ships' inside cabins on decks 7 and 8 are only 5 square feet smaller than some more expensive outside cabins. Since they're all midship, you don't have to worry about feeling the movement of the ship, and several will accommodate up to four travelers." —Angela Turen, Churchill & Turen, Naperville, Illinois (630-717-7777; aturen@traveltruth.com)

## PRINCESS CRUISES

*Coral Princess, Diamond Princess, Golden Princess, Island Princess, Pacific Princess, Sapphire Princess, Sea Princess, Star Princess*

"On cruises to Alaska's Glacier Bay, opt for a portside balcony cabin so that you can step outside to see the glacier and hear the naturalist. You'll want to be toward the front since that's where they're spotting wildlife. The staff will even bring breakfast to your balcony." —Margret Propper (see Cruise West)

## REGENT SEVEN SEAS CRUISES

*Voyager*

"Even the least expensive cabins on this ship are 306 square feet, including a balcony. Of these, cabins 643 and 644 are the most midship, which means less motion.



A deck 7 cabin on Silversea's Prince Albert II.

For a bit more money, cabins 673 and 674 have windows on two sides and the ship's largest balconies—331 square feet, more than four times the size of standard balconies." —Richard Turen, Churchill & Turen, Naperville, Illinois (630-717-7777; rturen@traveltruth.com)

## ROYAL CARIBBEAN

*Enchantment of the Seas, Grandeur of the Seas, Legend of the Seas, Rhapsody of the Seas, Splendour of the Seas, Vision of the Seas*

"The Vision class of ships has some secret cabins that every client goes gaga over: cabins 8088 and 8588, which come with enormous balconies. These cabins typically sell out about 18 months in advance." —Linda Allen (see Carnival Cruises)

## SEABOURN CRUISE LINE

*Legend, Pride, Spirit*

"Some cabins on these ships have mini balconies. They aren't wide enough for a chair, but you get floor-to-ceiling views, ocean breezes, and the sound of the sea. Among these cabins, numbers 204 to 223 on deck 5 are almost \$620 less per cabin for an 11-day Norwegian Fjords cruise than the identical rooms a deck above." —Leslie Fambrini, Personalized Travel Consultants, Los Altos, California (650-949-0111; leslie@personalized-travel.com)

## SEADREAM YACHT CLUB

*SeaDream I, SeaDream II*

"Since you'll spend more time outdoors on these yachts than you might on larger ships, you should be perfectly comfortable in the smaller (and less expensive) of the two cabin categories. Cabins 201 and 202 are well positioned—low and midship—which is important on a small vessel, especially if you're prone to seasickness. One caveat: These cabins have portholes instead of picture windows." —Leslie Fambrini (see Seabourn Cruise Line)

## SILVERSEA CRUISES

*Prince Albert II*

"This luxury expedition ship is great for multigenerational family groups: Deck 7 has only six cabins, so if a single family of up to 16 books them all, they'll feel like they have their own private area. And there are two sets of connecting rooms—great for younger kids and parents." —Mary Ann Ramsey, Betty Maclean Travel, Naples, Florida (800-865-8111; maryann@bettymacleantravel.com)

## UNIWORLD

*River Beatrice*

"On this riverboat, cabin categories 1 through 3 are the same size and all have French balconies. You'll pay more to be on the higher deck and more centrally located, but it doesn't matter where you are since the boat is so small. By booking a category 3 cabin, you see the same view but save \$400 on a nine-day cruise." —Margret Propper (see Cruise West) □

A Seabourn Balcony Suite.