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**Five Reasons to Book a Cruise Vacation with a Travel Agent**  
*Travel Agents Offer Expertise, the Best Deals and a Stress-Free Experience*

**WASHINGTON, DC, September 28, 2017** — Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community, and the international cruise industry are celebrating Plan a Cruise Month this October. To highlight the vital role travel agents play in helping travelers navigate the sea of cruise vacation options, CLIA is revealing five reasons to book a cruise with a travel agent.

“Travel agents play an important role in the vacation experience for both new and seasoned cruise travelers and can help cruisers create the most unique and personalized trip,” said Cindy D’Aoust, president and CEO, CLIA. “Agents are an integral part of the cruise industry and those interested in cruising will find working with an expert leads to the best overall experience and vacation satisfaction.”

**The Top Five Reasons Use a Travel Agent to Book a Cruise Vacation:**

1. **A Totally Tailored Trip:** Today, there are more cruise vacation choices and experiences than ever before making it possible for travel agents to tailor trips to each client’s travel preferences. For example, Francophiles with a penchant for cuisine? An agent can help book a perfect Parisian cruise and maybe even provide tips for finding the best crepes and macarons during onshore excursions.
2. **In Expert Hands:** Travel agents are a wealth of information with plenty of real world travel experience. Agents can provide incredible advice for making the most of a cruise like the best onboard cafes or cruise ship activities for children as well as expertise on travel insurance, dining times and cabin location.
3. **Deals & Discounts:** Many travel agents have access to deals and discounts that aren’t available to consumers booking directly. Agents sometimes have the ability to book in bulk so clients are privy to lower pricing for booking through an agent.

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4. **Perks & Personalized Travel:** There really are more perks when working with travel agents! Many agents can offer clients incredible perks like complimentary bottles of wine, vouchers for free specialty meals, prepaid gratuities, and onboard spending money. In addition to fun extras, agents can also arrange personalized travel details for cruisers like gluten-free dining or post-cruise travel back home.
  
5. **A Stress-Free Travel Experience:** For a stress-free travel experience, contact a CLIA Certified Cruise Agent. These accredited cruise counselors are committed to providing the best travel experience for every client every time. Go to [www.cruising.org](http://www.cruising.org) to find a CLIA Certified Cruise Agent.

To connect with a CLIA-certified cruise specialist to book a cruise vacation, consumers can visit:

<https://www.cruising.org/cruise-vacationer/cruise-travel-guide/clia-agent-finder>.

For more information about Plan a Cruise Month, visit: [www.Cruising.org](http://www.Cruising.org).

### **About Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) – One Industry, One Voice**

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is the world's largest cruise industry trade association, providing a unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community. The association has 15 offices globally with representation in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australasia. CLIA supports policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy and sustainable cruise ship environment for the more than 24 million passengers who cruise annually and is dedicated to promote the cruise travel experience. Members are comprised of the world's most prestigious ocean, river and specialty cruise lines; a highly trained and certified travel agent community; and cruise line suppliers and partners, including ports & destinations, ship development, suppliers and business services. The organization's mission is to be the unified global organization that helps its members succeed by advocating, educating and promoting for the common interests of the cruise community. For more information, visit [www.cruising.org](http://www.cruising.org) or follow Cruise Lines International Association on CLIA [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

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