

#CruiseSmile Cultural Exploration Cruise Vacations

There is no better way to learn about different cultures than to experience them firsthand and taking a cruise is one of the easiest, most convenient ways to explore the world. According to more than seven out of ten (73 percent) Cruise Critic readers, the most important part of exploring different cultures on a cruise is exploring historical sites. From culinary experiences and walking tours of historic sites to the opportunity to participate in educational workshops or language classes, cruise lines help passengers explore multiple cultures in one single vacation.

Those interested in cultural immersion through a cruise vacation can discover a variety of amazing cruises with destinations around the world featured as part of the #CruiseSmile campaign. From October 7 through October 16, 2016, #CruiseSmile is showcasing nine cultural exploration cruises offering participants the chance to win one of the amazing featured cruises that best fits the winner's travel style and personality.

Featured #CruiseSmile Cultural Exploration Cruises

Cruise vacations featured during #CruiseSmile's Cultural Exploration theme period include:

October 7, 2016 – Gems of Southeast Europe on AmaWaterways' AmaSonata: Cruisers begin this seven night journey in Budapest and travel the Danube river cruise with stops in Mohács and Vukovar on the way to Belgrade. Cultural explorers will also traverse the dramatic narrow gorge known as the Iron Gates, then cruise along the Romanian-Bulgarian border before visiting Vidin, Belogradchik and Veliko Tarnovo.

October 8, 2016 -- River Cruise Paris to Normandy on Avalon Waterways' Avalon Tapestry II: Travels will embark on a seven-night cruise from Paris to Normandy's landing beaches aboard the Tapestry II. Guests can enjoy the views along the Seine from Open-Air Balconies and visit charming towns in the French countryside including Vernon, Les Andelys, Caudebec, Rouen and Conflan.

October 9, 2016 -- Exceptional Region of Bordeaux River Cruise on CroisiEurope River Cruises' MS Cyrano De Bergerac or MS Princesse D'Aquitaine: The exceptional region of Bordeaux cruise offers guests an incredible range of attractions for those who appreciate fine food and wines. Guests can sample local culinary fare and indulge in the wonders of Europe in an intimate river setting for a one –of-a-kind experience.

October 10, 2016 – Transatlantic Crossing on Cunard's Queen Mary 2: Onboard a seven day journey on the Queen Mary 2, guests will revel in extravagant musical productions in spacious theatres, stimulating cultural lectures, and gourmet dining prepared by world-class chefs. Guests can take their exploration up a notch with a journey to outer space in the only Planetarium at sea.

October 11, 2016 – Enchanting Mediterranean - Monte Carlo to Barcelona on Oceania Cruises' Riviera: This seven day voyage will provide guests and opportunity to delve into the Mediterranean's rich culinary culture and tradition. From the Michelin-starred beachfront restaurants in Saint Tropez, to the fresh fish, local cheeses, meats, fruits and vegetables at one of the largest indoor markets in Italy, the Mercato Civico di San Benedetto in Cagliari, it is a perfect trip for any epicurean traveler.

October 12, 2016 – Mediterranean Voyage on Princess Cruises' Majestic Princess: Guests can be the first to sail on Princess Cruises' newest ship in Europe with a seven day jaunt to the land of legends and kings beckoning with rich history, fabled cities and cultural beauty. Travels can explore the local culture with epic monuments and storybook towns hidden behind medieval walls.

October 13, 2016 – Blue Danube River Cruise on Tauck's ms Savor: Travelers can get an insider's view of life along the Danube on a twelve day cruise tour featuring a seven-night riverboat cruise and two-night stays in Prague and Budapest. Cruises will glide past fairy-tale castles and medieval villages while exploring Prague, Vienna, Salzburg, Cesky Krumlov, Bratislava and Budapest – plus the castle-studded Wachau Valley – taking in views of the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary.

October 14, 2016 – River Cruise in Burgundy and Provence on Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection’s SS Catherine: Cruisers can enjoy an eight day all-inclusive river cruise on the luxurious SS Catherine on the Rhone and Saone rivers from Avignon to Lyon and enjoy an inspiring landscape of sunflowers, cypress lined avenues and bountiful vineyards which bless the banks of breathtaking rivers.

October 15, 2016 – Dreams of Tahiti Cruise on Windstar Cruises’ Wind Spirit: Travelers aboard this seven-day yacht experience can experience the true wonders and culture of Tahiti. Cruisers will visit legendary islands as well as swim and snorkel in crystal-clear lagoons, meander through lush rainforests, and experience the fascinating Polynesian culture from tikis to tiare flowers.

October 16, 2016 – Paris and Normandy on AmaWaterways’ AmaLegro: Cruisers will begin their seven night voyage in Paris, the “City of Light,” to sail the river and visit the village of Giverny, where Monet lived and worked for 43 years, and Honfleur, a charming French harbor town immortalized by generations of artists. Travelers can experience an excursion in the famous Normandy beaches of WWII and stroll through Rouen, the historic capital of Normandy.

How to Enter #CruiseSmile

- Step 1:** Beginning on October 1, 2016, simply upload a “cruise smile” photo to www.CruiseSmile.org and share the #CruiseSmile entry with friends.
- Step 2:** Enter for more chances to win by posting a “cruise smile” photo directly to Twitter or Instagram, use #CruiseSmile and #Sweepstakes.
- Step 3:** Share your #CruiseSmile with friends to gain more entries into the sweepstakes.
- Step 4:** Come back to www.CruiseSmile.org each day to enter for a chance to win and discover the week’s featured cruise vacation sweepstakes prize.
- Step 5:** Follow the #CruiseSmile campaign on social channels for the latest information each day – On Twitter and Instagram: @CruiseSmile, On Facebook: Facebook.com/CruiseSmile

About #CruiseSmile

For a chance to win, participants must post a photo featuring a great “Cruise Smile” on Twitter, Instagram or the campaign landing page www.CruiseSmile.org, using #CruiseSmile and #sweepstakes from October 1 through 31, 2016. Participants are encouraged to come back each day to enter and discover new, amazing cruise vacations corresponding with the weekly themes. At the end of each theme period, a sweepstakes winner will be chosen and winners may select one of the featured cruises to best fit vacation travel preferences. A total of four cruises will be awarded over the 31-day sweepstakes period. For more information, visit www.CruiseSmile.org.

Contest entries do not roll over and entrants must upload a new photo each day to be eligible for each day’s prize. The sweepstakes is open to entrants 13 years of age or older. If a minor is selected, a guardian age 21 or over must accept the prize on their behalf. Winners will be selected at random each day in October and some blackout dates apply and are determined by cruise lines.