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Cruise Lines International Association Uncovers the Best Unexpected Cruise Experiences

(WASHINGTON, DC)— Cruise travel takes people to some of the most exciting destinations in the world and as part of Plan a Cruise Month, the cruise industry has revealed the top five most unexpected things travelers can do while on a cruise vacation. Cruise Lines International Association reported that **24 million** passengers have or will set sail this year, and each will have a chance to participate in a wealth of unique and unexpected experiences while cruising.

“From reaching new heights in a skydiving simulator to rock climbing while on the open sea, cruise travel offers more diverse and unique things to do than ever before,” said Cindy D’Aoust, president and CEO, CLIA. “Traveling by cruise ship to beautiful and unique corners of the world has never been easier and the list of ways to stay entertained on a cruise vacation continues to grow.”

The Top Ten Unexpected Cruise Activities

- 1.) **Did you know you could journey to the South Pole on a cruise?** - Cruisers looking to head for colder temperatures can set their sights on the South Pole. For instance, Seabourn takes cruisers to the Great White Continent and offers the chance for travelers to embark on an adventure and enjoy technical climbs and ski tours.
- 2.) **Did you know you could walk on water on a cruise?** - Adrenaline junkies and thrill seekers can find plenty of options to get their heart racing on board a cruise ship, but what about walking on water? MSC Cruises’ MSC Seaside ship is set to feature three outdoor catwalks. These catwalks are complete with glass railings and a glass floor, extending beyond the edge of the ship to give guests the feeling of walking on water.
- 3.) **Did you know you could take a legendary dive with the son of Jacques Cousteau?** - Ocean enthusiasts and scuba lovers alike can revel in the beauty of the ocean with famed experts by their side. For example, onboard Paul Gauguin Cruises, cruise travelers have an opportunity to hear lectures from legendary oceanographer and environmentalist Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of famous diver Jacques Cousteau. On select dives, travelers will even have a chance to scuba dive along Cousteau.
- 4.) **Did you know you could visit a planetarium at sea?** – Cruises offer more than just majestic views of Earth, but also spectacular views of the sky. For instance, Cunard’s Queen Mary 2 has the only Planetarium at sea complete with astronomy lectures and virtual reality movies.
- 5.) **Did you know you can celebrate your passions on a cruise?** –Cruisers who want to indulge their passions can find itineraries with once-in-a-lifetime niche experiences that can completely engulf travelers in what suits their fancy, be it music or fitness or food. Tauck, for example, offers music-loving cruisers the chance to follow in the footsteps of historic icons like Beethoven and Mozart. Guests visit their homes, concert halls, and performance spaces while accompanied by maestros that will play the musicians’ greatest hits.

- 6.) **Did you know cruise experiences and itineraries could be personalized?** - The days of seeing culture from afar are long gone. Travelers have never had more options to immerse themselves in a destination's local culture through meals, music, or land excursions and now that immersion can be more personal than ever before. Azamara Club Cruises offers guests the chance to customize land tours in any destination with their Private Journeys program. Through the program, Destination Insiders travel experts create a completely customized itinerary that is unique to each cruiser.
- 7.) **Did you know you can attend concerts at sea?** – Music-themed cruises offer travelers an opportunity to attend concerts and music festivals while on onboard. Royal Caribbean International hosts music-themed cruises for a variety of audio preferences from country to rock to reggae. Travelers can cruise with headlining musicians or listen to a variety of acts in a musical genre.
- 8.) **Did you know you could enjoy spa pampering without leaving your cabin?** – Many cruises offer world-class spa experiences and professional pampering onboard, some without ever having to leave their room. Regent Seven Seas Cruises offers a plethora of decadent in-suite spa services in partnership with Canyon Ranch SpaClub.
- 9.) **Did you know you could ride a bike in the sky on a cruise?** - Cruisers can now enjoy the sky while out on the water and reach brand new heights, literally. Carnival Cruise Line now offers SkyRide, an aerial attraction that gives adventure-seeking cruisers a chance to pedal recumbent-style cycles at speeds of up to 18 miles an hour across an elevated 800-foot-long track, while enjoying panoramic views to the sea 150 feet below.
- 10.) **Did you know you could challenge your mind and body on a cruise?** - Cruises offer a wealth of activities for all age groups and now travelers can unleash their inner 007 with things like onboard obstacle courses and laser mazes. On the Costa Diadema from Costa Cruises, guests can practice their spy skills in the Star Laser area, a high-tech activity space. Travelers try to complete a laser maze without touching any beams like a super spy.

For more information about cruise travel or how you could enter to win a cruise of choice from October 1-31, 2016, please visit www.cruisemile.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 23 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 or follow Cruise Lines International Association on CLIA [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.