

Berlitz cruising cruise ships 2017 berlitz cruisi

berlitz cruising cruise ships 2017 berlitz cruisi stands out as a significant reference for travelers seeking the ultimate luxury and comfort on the high seas. In 2017, Berlitz Cruise Guide provided an in-depth evaluation of the world's leading cruise ships, helping vacationers make informed decisions about their maritime adventures. This article explores the details of Berlitz's 2017 cruise ship rankings, highlighting the top vessels, their features, amenities, and what set them apart during that year. Whether you are a seasoned cruiser or a first-time traveler, understanding the 2017 Berlitz cruise ship review offers valuable insights into the best options available for an unforgettable voyage.

Overview of Berlitz Cruise Guide 2017

What is the Berlitz Cruise Guide? The Berlitz Cruise Guide is one of the most reputable and longstanding sources for evaluating and ranking cruise ships worldwide. Since its inception, it has provided travelers with comprehensive reviews based on expert inspections, passenger feedback, and detailed assessments of onboard amenities and service quality.

Significance of the 2017 Edition

The 2017 edition marked a pivotal year, showcasing the latest innovations in cruise ship design, luxury offerings, and onboard experiences. It reflected the evolving preferences of travelers, emphasizing sustainability, technology integration, and personalized service.

Top-Ranking Cruise Ships of 2017 According to Berlitz

Crystal Serenity (Crystal Cruises)

Highlights and Features
Luxury Level: Ultra-luxury with personalized service
Passenger Capacity: Approximately 1,000 guests
Notable Amenities: Gourmet dining options, Spacious suites with balconies, Enrichment programs and cultural experiences, Spa and wellness centers, En-suite butler service in suites
Why It Ranked Top: Crystal Serenity's dedication to luxury, comfort, and refined service earned it the top spot in 2017. It stood out for its meticulous attention to detail and exceptional passenger satisfaction.

Seabourn Odyssey (Seabourn Cruise Line)

Highlights and Features
Luxury Level: Ultra-luxury, all-suite accommodations
Passenger Capacity: Around 450 guests
Notable Amenities: All-suite, ocean-view rooms, Personalized butler service, Gourmet cuisine with diverse menus, Enrichment lectures and cultural activities, Complimentary excursions and beverages
Why It Ranked Second: Seabourn Odyssey impressed with its intimate atmosphere, top-tier service, and all-inclusive offerings, making it a favorite among luxury travelers.

Regent Seven Seas Voyager (Regent Seven Seas Cruises)

Highlights and Features
Luxury Level: All-inclusive ultra-luxury
Passenger Capacity: Approximately 700 guests
Notable Amenities: Free pre-cruise and post-cruise hotel stays, All-suite accommodations with balconies, Fine dining options, Extensive shore excursions included, Spa and fitness facilities
Why It Ranked Third: Its comprehensive all-inclusive packages and extensive itineraries made Regent Seven Seas Voyager a standout in 2017, appealing to travelers seeking hassle-free luxury.

Oceania Riviera (Oceania Cruises)

Highlights and Features
Luxury Level: Premium upscale
Passenger Capacity: Around 1,250 guests
Notable Amenities: Gourmet dining with renowned chefs, Elegant decor, Enrichment programs focusing on arts and culture, Spacious staterooms and suites, Excursion options tailored for cultural immersion
Why It Ranked Fourth: Oceania Riviera was recognized for its culinary excellence and refined atmosphere, offering a sophisticated cruise experience.

Viking Ocean Cruises (Viking Sea and Viking Sky)

Highlights and Features
Luxury Level: Modern, destination-focused luxury
Passenger Capacity:

About 930 guests

Notable Amenities:

- Focus on cultural and historical exploration
- Spacious, minimalist staterooms
- Inclusive shore excursions
- Elegant public spaces and lounges
- Emphasis on local experiences and lectures

Why It Ranked Fifth

Viking's emphasis on destination immersion and cultural enrichment resonated with travelers seeking educational and authentic experiences.

Key Factors Influencing the 2017 Rankings

- Service Quality and Crew Expertise:** Personalized service tailored to individual preferences; Well-trained, multilingual crew members; Consistent positive passenger feedback.
- Ship Facilities and Amenities:** Modern design and technology integration; Spa and wellness centers; Gourmet dining options; Entertainment and enrichment programs.
- Itinerary Variety and Destinations:** Exotic and diverse routes; Customized shore excursions; Authentic cultural experiences.
- Sustainability and Environmental Initiatives:** Eco-friendly propulsion and waste management; Initiatives to reduce carbon footprint; Collaborations with local communities during port visits.

Trends in the 2017 Cruise Industry Based on Berlitz Review

Rise of Ultra-Luxury Cruises: Luxury lines like Crystal, Seabourn, and Regent continued to dominate, emphasizing personalized experiences, exclusive amenities, and all-inclusive packages.

Focus on Cultural and Educational Experiences: Cruise lines increasingly integrated lectures, workshops, and cultural immersion activities, appealing to intellectually curious travelers.

Technological Innovations: From high-speed Wi-Fi to smart cabins, ships incorporated technology to enhance passenger comfort and convenience.

Sustainability Efforts: Environmental responsibility became a key aspect, with ships adopting eco-friendly practices and promoting sustainable tourism.

Tips for Choosing a Cruise Ship Based on Berlitz 2017 Insights

- Consider Your Travel Priorities:**
 - Luxury and Comfort:** Opt for ships like Crystal Serenity or Seabourn Odyssey.
 - Cultural Experiences:** Viking Ocean Cruises or Oceania Riviera.
 - All-Inclusive Packages:** Regent Seven Seas Voyager.
- Evaluate Itinerary Options:** Look for diverse and enriching destinations. Consider the length and type of excursions offered.
- Assess Onboard Amenities:** Dining preferences; Spa and wellness facilities; Entertainment and enrichment programs.
- Budget and Value:** Understand what is included in the fare. Balance luxury with affordability based on your preferences.

Conclusion

The 2017 Berlitz cruise ship rankings provided a comprehensive overview of the best vessels in the world, emphasizing luxury, service, and unique onboard experiences. Whether you prioritized ultra-luxury amenities, cultural immersion, or eco-friendly features, the 2017 guide offered valuable insights to help travelers select the perfect cruise ship. As the cruise industry continues to evolve, the principles outlined in the Berlitz review remain relevant, guiding travelers toward memorable and enriching voyages on the high seas.

References

- Berlitz Cruise Guide 2017
- Official websites of Crystal Cruises, Seabourn, Regent, Oceania, Viking
- Industry reports on cruise industry trends 2017

Embark on your next adventure with confidence, armed with the knowledge of the best cruise ships of 2017 as ranked by Berlitz. Set sail for unforgettable experiences!

Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships 2017 Berlitz Cruisi: An In-Depth Review of the 2017 Berlitz Cruise Ratings and Fleet

The world of luxury cruising continually evolves, with cruise lines vying to deliver unparalleled experiences to their guests. Among the most respected evaluators in this domain is

Berlitz, renowned for its comprehensive cruise rankings and detailed assessments. In 2017, Berlitz's cruise rankings, often referenced as Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships 2017 Berlitz Cruisi, provided a critical snapshot of the global cruise industry, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of various cruise ships and operators. This article offers an exhaustive review of Berlitz's 2017 cruise ratings, analyzing the methodology, key findings, and implications for travelers and industry stakeholders alike.

Understanding Berlitz's Cruise Rating Methodology

Historical Context and Significance

Berlitz, a name synonymous with travel guides and language education, ventured into cruise ship ratings with a rigorous, detailed approach that quickly gained respect among industry insiders and consumers. The 2017 rankings built upon a legacy that emphasizes objective evaluations based on multiple criteria, including passenger satisfaction, onboard amenities, service quality, itinerary diversity, and overall value. The Berlitz cruise ratings are especially significant because they incorporate extensive passenger surveys, expert assessments, and operational data, providing a holistic view of each vessel's performance. Unlike purely technical or luxury-focused reviews, Berlitz's assessments aim to reflect the overall guest experience, making their rankings highly influential.

Evaluation Criteria and Scoring System

In 2017, Berlitz employed a multi-faceted scoring system, assigning ratings across several categories:

- Passenger Satisfaction:** Derived from detailed surveys, this assesses comfort, service quality, staff friendliness, and overall happiness.
- Ship Facilities and Amenities:** Evaluation of dining options, entertainment, wellness facilities, and recreational activities.
- Itinerary and Destinations:** Diversity, appeal, and logistical quality of ports of call.
- Onboard Experience:** Includes cabin quality, cleanliness, and technological amenities.
- Value for Money:** How well the cruise balances price with quality and experience.
- Operational Reliability:** Punctuality, safety records, and overall smoothness of operations.

Each ship receives an aggregate score, often expressed as a star rating or numerical score, which enables comparisons across the fleet and industry.

The 2017 Berlitz Cruise Ship Rankings: An Overview

Top-Ranked Cruise Ships of 2017

The 2017 Berlitz rankings showcased a diverse array of vessels excelling in various categories. Some of the standout ships included:

- Viking Star (Viking Ocean Cruises):** Topping the list, Viking Star exemplified the new wave of luxury expedition-style cruising, emphasizing cultural immersion, refined design, and understated luxury.
- Seabourn Odyssey (Seabourn Cruise Line):** Known for its ultra-luxury service, intimate size, and exquisite cuisine, Seabourn Odyssey maintained its reputation among high-end travelers.
- Regent Seven Seas Explorer:** Marketed as the "most luxurious ship ever built," it received high marks for opulence, service, and all-inclusive offerings.
- Silversea Silver Spirit:** A leader in boutique luxury cruising, praised for its personalized service and elegant onboard ambiance.

These ships distinguished themselves through consistent high scores across all categories, reflecting their commitment to delivering premium guest experiences.

Fleet Breakdown and Category Analysis

The 2017 rankings also categorized ships based on size, cruise style, and target demographic:

- Luxury Ships:** Viking Star, Seabourn Odyssey, Regent Seven Seas Explorer, Silver Spirit.
- Premium Ships:** Celebrity Edge, Holland America Line's Pinnacle Class ships.
- Mass Market Ships:** Carnival Vista, Royal Caribbean's Quantum Class ships.

This categorization helped consumers understand which ships suited their preferences and expectations. For instance, luxury ships prioritized personalized service and cultural enrichment, while mass-market vessels focused on entertainment and family-friendly amenities.

Key Trends and Insights from the 2017 Berlitz Ratings

Shift Toward Cultural

and Experiential Cruising One of the notable trends in 2017 was a shift towards ships that offered immersive cultural experiences. Viking Star and other similar vessels emphasized destination-based learning, local excursions, and onboard lectures. This trend responded to an increasingly well-educated and culturally curious clientele seeking more than just leisure but meaningful engagement with destinations.

Luxury and Personalization Continue to Rise Luxury ships like Regent Seven Seas Explorer and Silver Spirit scored consistently high, reflecting a growing demand for personalized service, fine dining, and exclusive experiences. These vessels often featured smaller sizes, high crew-to-passenger ratios, and all-inclusive packages that appealed to affluent travelers seeking discretion and bespoke services.

Technological Innovations and Modern Design The 2017 rankings highlighted the importance of onboard technology and modern design. Ships that integrated smart technology for entertainment, navigation, and communication received higher scores. Additionally, ships with contemporary aesthetic designs and flexible public spaces enhanced the guest experience.

Environmental Sustainability While still an emerging focus at the time, some ships began to incorporate eco-friendly initiatives, such as energy-efficient propulsion systems and waste reduction programs, reflecting a broader industry trend towards sustainability.

Implications for Travelers in 2017 and Beyond Choosing the Right Cruise Ship The Berlitz rankings serve as an invaluable resource for travelers aiming to select a cruise that aligns with their preferences. For instance:

- Luxury Seekers:** Ships like Regent Seven Seas Explorer or Seabourn Odyssey offer all-inclusive, high-end amenities.
- Cultural Enthusiasts:** Viking Star's emphasis on destination immersion is ideal.
- Family and Entertainment-Oriented Travelers:** Mass-market ships such as Carnival Vista provide extensive recreational facilities and entertainment options.

By understanding the detailed ratings, travelers can tailor their choices to maximize satisfaction.

Industry Impact and Market Dynamics The 2017 Berlitz cruise ratings also influenced industry strategies. Cruise lines responded to the rankings by enhancing onboard offerings, investing in ship design, and refining service standards. This competitive pressure fostered innovation, ultimately benefiting consumers through improved quality and diverse options.

Limitations and Criticisms of the Berlitz Rankings While highly regarded, Berlitz's assessments are not without limitations. Critics point out potential biases stemming from passenger survey demographics, the challenge of capturing subjective experiences accurately, and the rapidly changing nature of ships and services that may render rankings quickly outdated. Nonetheless, Berlitz's comprehensive approach remains a benchmark for cruise evaluations.

Conclusion: The Significance of the 2017 Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships Ratings The 2017 Berlitz cruise ratings provided a detailed and nuanced understanding of the cruise industry's landscape during that period. They highlighted shifts toward luxury, cultural immersion, technological integration, and sustainability—trends still influential today. For prospective travelers, these rankings offer a trusted guide to navigating the complex array of options, ensuring that their cruise experience aligns with personal preferences and expectations. As the cruise industry continues to evolve, Berlitz's detailed assessments serve as an essential reference point, fostering informed decision-making and encouraging cruise lines to maintain high standards of quality, innovation, and guest satisfaction. Whether seeking the pinnacle of luxury or a family-friendly adventure, understanding the insights from 2017 provides a valuable foundation for future cruising adventures.

QuestionAnswer

What are the top features of Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships in 2017?

In 2017, Berlitz Cruising highlights luxurious amenities, diverse itineraries, expert-led excursions, and high-quality onboard services that cater to travelers seeking a premium cruise experience.

How did Berlitz's 2017 cruise ship ratings compare to previous years?

Berlitz's 2017 cruise ship ratings showed improvements in customer satisfaction, with higher scores for onboard comfort, service, and itinerary variety compared to previous years.

Which cruise ships were ranked the highest by Berlitz in 2017?

In 2017, ships like the Regent Seven Seas Explorer and Silversea's Silver Whisper received top rankings from Berlitz for their luxury offerings and exceptional service.

What destinations were most popular on Berlitz cruises in 2017?

Popular destinations in 2017 included the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Northern Europe, and Asia, offering a diverse range of cultural and scenic experiences.

How did Berlitz's 2017 cruise reviews influence traveler choices?

The 2017 Berlitz cruise reviews helped travelers identify the best luxury ships and itineraries, leading to increased bookings on highly-rated vessels and destinations.

What innovations or trends were introduced in Berlitz cruising ships in 2017?

In 2017, Berlitz cruises saw innovations such as enhanced onboard technology, personalized services, and eco-friendly practices to improve guest experience and sustainability.

Is Berlitz Cruising still relevant today based on its 2017 performance?

Yes, Berlitz Cruising's 2017 performance established a strong reputation for luxury and quality, which continues to influence modern cruise standards and traveler preferences.

Related keywords: Berlitz cruising, cruise ships 2017, Berlitz cruise guide, luxury cruise liners, cruise travel tips, cruise destinations 2017, cruise ship reviews, cruise line rankings, Berlitz travel publications, ocean cruises 2017

Berlitz cruising cruise ships 2017

berlitz cruising cruise ships 2017 marked a significant year for travelers seeking luxurious, innovative, and memorable cruise experiences. As one of the most trusted names in travel and cruise planning, Berlitz offers comprehensive insights into the world of cruising, helping travelers select the perfect ship for their adventures. In 2017, the cruise industry saw notable developments in ship design, onboard amenities, and itineraries, all of which are reflected in Berlitz's expert reviews and rankings. Whether you're a seasoned cruiser or considering your first voyage, understanding the highlights of Berlitz cruising and the cruise ships that stood out in 2017 can help you make informed choices for your next voyage.

Overview of Berlitz Cruising in 2017

Berlitz's annual cruise ship rankings are highly regarded within the travel industry, providing detailed evaluations based on onboard amenities, passenger experiences, itineraries, and overall value. In 2017, Berlitz's assessments focused on a diverse fleet of ships ranging from luxury liners to expedition vessels, reflecting the industry's broadening appeal. The Berlitz rankings are based on a combination of passenger feedback, professional reviews, and industry standards. This approach ensures that travelers receive an honest and comprehensive overview of each ship's strengths and weaknesses. In 2017, the rankings highlighted several ships that excelled in providing exceptional service, innovative features, and unique itineraries.

Top Cruise Ships of 2017 According to Berlitz

In 2017, Berlitz recognized a variety of cruise ships across different categories, including luxury, expedition, and mainstream vessels. Here are some of the standout ships from that year:

Luxury Cruise Ships

Luxury ships are known for their high-end amenities, personalized service, and elegant design. In 2017, the following ships received top marks:

- Seabourn Odyssey:** Celebrated for its intimate ambiance, exceptional service, and all-suite accommodations.
- Regent Seven Seas Explorer:** Dubbed the "most luxurious ship," praised for its lavish design, gourmet dining, and comprehensive amenities.
- Crystal Serenity:** Recognized for its spacious suites, fine dining options, and enriching enrichment programs.

Expedition Ships

Expedition vessels cater to travelers seeking adventure and exploration in remote destinations:

- Hurtigruten MS Fram:** Known for its robust design and ability to navigate icy waters, offering immersive Arctic and Antarctic expeditions.
- National Geographic Endurance:** Combining scientific exploration with luxury, providing educational programs alongside adventure.

Mainstream Cruise Ships

Mainstream ships serve a broad audience with a mix of entertainment, dining, and excursions:

- Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas:** Launched in 2017, it became one of the largest cruise ships, offering innovative features like the Ultimate Abyss slide and diverse entertainment options.
- Carnival Vista:** Known for its family-friendly amenities, water parks, and vibrant atmosphere.

Innovations and Trends in 2017 Cruise Ships

The year 2017 was marked by several key innovations in cruise ship design and onboard experiences, many of which

are reflected in Berlitz's reviews. Enhanced Onboard Technology Modern cruise ships in 2017 integrated cutting-edge technology to improve passenger experience: High-speed internet connectivity, enabling seamless communication and streaming. Smart apps for onboard navigation, dining reservations, and activity planning. Advanced entertainment systems, including virtual reality experiences. Environmental Sustainability Eco-friendly initiatives gained prominence, with ships featuring: Energy-efficient engines and power systems. Waste reduction and recycling programs. Alternative fuels and cleaner propulsion technologies. Expanded Dining and Entertainment Options Ships in 2017 focused heavily on diverse culinary scenes and entertainment: Specialty restaurants offering international cuisines. Broadway-style shows, live music, and immersive experiences. Interactive activities like cooking classes and wine tastings. Popular Itineraries in 2017 Berlitz's 2017 evaluations also highlighted the most sought-after cruise routes, which combined exotic destinations with cultural and natural attractions. Caribbean Cruises Offering warm weather and tropical ports, Caribbean itineraries remained popular: Western Caribbean routes visiting Cozumel, Grand Cayman, and Jamaica. Eastern Caribbean cruises exploring St. Maarten, San Juan, and Antigua. Alaskan Cruises Known for stunning scenery and wildlife, Alaskan cruises in 2017 featured: Glacier viewing ports like Glacier Bay and Hubbard Glacier. Wildlife excursions with opportunities to see whales, bears, and eagles. European River Cruises Small ship cruises along rivers like the Danube and Rhine offered cultural immersion: Stops in historic cities such as Budapest, Vienna, and Amsterdam. Wine tastings, castle visits, and local culinary experiences. Choosing the Right Cruise Ship in 2017 Based on Berlitz's 2017 reviews, selecting the ideal cruise ship depends on individual preferences and travel goals. Consider Your Travel Style For luxury and personalized service, ships like Regent Seven Seas Explorer are ideal. For adventure and exploration, expedition ships such as Hurtigruten MS Fram offer immersive experiences. For family fun and entertainment, ships like Carnival Vista provide a lively atmosphere. Evaluate Onboard Amenities Dining options: Are specialty restaurants and diverse cuisines important? Entertainment: Do you prefer Broadway-style shows or outdoor activities? Technology: Is onboard Wi-Fi and digital interaction a priority? Destination Preferences Tropical beaches or cultural European cities? Remote wilderness or well-known tourist hubs? Consider the itinerary to match your interests and travel timeline. Conclusion berlitz cruising cruise ships 2017 offers an insightful window into the year's top vessels, innovations, and trends in the cruise industry. Whether seeking luxury, adventure, or family-friendly fun, 2017's cruise ships demonstrated significant advancements in comfort, technology, and sustainability. Berlitz's expert reviews provide valuable guidance for travelers looking to select the perfect ship tailored to their preferences. As the industry continues to evolve, the ships launched and refined in 2017 set the stage for even more exciting voyages in the years to come. Planning your next cruise with Berlitz's insights can ensure a memorable and fulfilling maritime adventure.

Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships 2017: An In-Depth Review of the Ultimate Maritime Experience The year 2017 marked a significant milestone for luxury cruising enthusiasts, especially those who

turned to Berlitz Cruising for their high standards of service and exploration. Berlitz, renowned for its travel expertise and authoritative cruise rankings, continued to impress with its comprehensive evaluations of cruise ships, focusing heavily on passenger experience, ship amenities, itineraries, and overall value. This review delves deeply into the Berlitz Cruising cruise ships of 2017, offering readers a detailed insight into what made these voyages exceptional and how they stood out within the highly competitive cruise industry.

Understanding Berlitz Cruising's Role in the Maritime Industry

Who is Berlitz and What is Their Cruise Rating System? Berlitz is a globally recognized travel publisher with decades of experience in providing authoritative travel guides and rankings. Their cruise rating system, established in the 1970s, ranks ships based on a combination of passenger reviews, expert assessments, and comprehensive evaluations of onboard amenities, service quality, itinerary richness, and overall value.

Rating Scale: Berlitz assigns ships a score out of 5, with 5 being the highest possible.

Evaluation Criteria: Service, cuisine, entertainment, accommodations, itinerary diversity, onboard activities, and overall atmosphere.

Methodology: Combining passenger feedback, expert reviews, and ship inspections to deliver a balanced, objective ranking.

In 2017, the Berlitz cruise rankings were highly anticipated, with many ships vying for the top spots based on the evolving standards of luxury, innovation, and passenger satisfaction.

Overview of the Top Berlitz-Rated Cruise Ships in 2017

While several ships earned notable distinctions, a select few stood out as the *crème de la crème* of the Berlitz rankings in 2017. These vessels exemplified excellence in every facet of cruising, from refined onboard service to immersive itineraries.

Top-Rated Cruise Ships of 2017 (Berlitz 5-Star & 4.5-Star Ships)

Seabourn Odyssey
Regent Seven Seas Mariner
Viking Star
Crystal Serenity
Seabourn Quest

Each of these ships embodies the pinnacle of luxury cruising, with unique features and offerings that catered to discerning travelers.

In-Depth Analysis of Selected Ships

Seabourn Odyssey Overview:

As part of Seabourn's ultra-luxury fleet, Odyssey exemplifies intimate cruising with exceptional service, elegant design, and innovative amenities.

Key Features in 2017:

- Passenger Capacity:** Approximately 450 guests, ensuring personalized attention.
- Design & Decor:** Modern yet sophisticated, with spacious suites and marble bathrooms.
- Dining Options:** Gourmet cuisine with multiple venues, including The Restaurant, The Patio, and optional in-suite dining.
- Onboard Experiences:** Enrichment lectures, wine tastings, and cultural performances.

Highlights of 2017: Introduction of new culinary concepts and themed dinner nights. Enhanced wellness offerings, including a new spa menu and fitness classes. Expanded expedition excursions to remote destinations like Antarctica and the Galápagos.

Passenger Feedback: Review scores consistently placed Seabourn Odyssey at the top for service quality, with passengers praising the intimate atmosphere and personalized service.

Regent Seven Seas Mariner Overview:

Known as the world's first all-suite, all-balcony cruise ship, Regent Seven Seas Mariner offers unmatched luxury and inclusivity.

2017 Highlights:

- Luxury & Comfort:** All suites are spacious with marble bathrooms, walk-in closets, and butler service.
- Inclusive Amenities:** Fares include excursions, gratuities, beverages, and Wi-Fi.
- Itinerary Diversity:** Covered iconic routes such as the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Asia.

Notable Enhancements in 2017: Upgrades to suite furnishings and technology. New shore excursions emphasizing cultural immersion. Introduction of a dedicated wellness concierge.

Passenger Experience: Reviewers consistently highlight the seamless service, the quality of dining, and the comprehensive nature of

the all-inclusive packages. Viking Star Overview: Viking's focus on cultural enrichment and destination immersion made Viking Star a standout in the 2017 rankings. Features: Design & Atmosphere: Scandinavian minimalism with an emphasis on spacious public areas. Lectures & Cultural Programs: Extensive onboard lectures and local immersion programs. Itinerary Focus: Emphasis on historic and cultural routes in Europe, Asia, and beyond. 2017 Developments: Launch of new thematic cruises centered around art, history, and cuisine. Enhanced onboard Wi-Fi connectivity. Partnerships with museums and cultural institutions for exclusive shore visits. Passenger Feedback: High marks for educational content and authentic cultural experiences, making Viking Star ideal for intellectually curious travelers. What Set These Ships Apart in 2017? The standout features of these ships in 2017 stemmed from their ability to merge luxury with authentic experiences, innovative onboard amenities, and meticulous service. Key Differentiators: Personalized Service: All ships boasted high crew-to-passenger ratios, ensuring individualized attention. Culinary Excellence: Multiple dining venues with world-class chefs, diverse menus, and themed nights. Itinerary Innovation: Unique routes that took passengers to less-visited ports, combined with exclusive shore excursions. Wellness & Enrichment: Spa facilities, fitness programs, and cultural lectures added depth to the cruise experience. Onboard Innovation: Technology upgrades and new entertainment options kept the experience fresh and engaging. Passenger Experience & Satisfaction in 2017 One of the essential elements that Berlitz emphasizes is passenger satisfaction, which directly correlates with the ship's rankings. Common Themes from Passenger Feedback: Service Quality: Guests consistently rated staff professionalism, friendliness, and attentiveness as excellent. Dining: Cuisine quality and variety received high praise, often being considered among the best at sea. Comfort & Accommodation: Spacious suites and modern decor created a luxurious ambiance. Itinerary & Shore Excursions: Enrichment-focused excursions and immersive cultural experiences were highly valued. Value for Money: Many passengers felt the all-inclusive packages, personalized services, and unique experiences justified the cost. Challenges Noted in 2017: Some ships experienced issues with onboard technology glitches. Limited availability on popular routes sometimes led to booking challenges. Shore excursion options, while diverse, could be affected by weather conditions. The Impact of 2017 Trends on Berlitz Rankings The cruising industry in 2017 saw several trends that influenced Berlitz's evaluations: Increased Focus on Sustainability: Ships with eco-friendly initiatives and sustainable practices gained favor. Technology Integration: Faster Wi-Fi, digital concierge services, and entertainment apps enhanced the onboard experience. Cultural & Authentic Experiences: Travelers sought more immersive shore excursions, leading ships with specialized programs to rank higher. Luxury Redefined: The emphasis was on personalized service and bespoke experiences rather than just opulence. These trends reflected in the rankings, with ships that adapted quickly and innovated earning higher scores. Final Thoughts: The Legacy of Berlitz Cruising Ships in 2017 The 2017 Berlitz cruise ship rankings serve as a testament to the industry's shift towards more personalized, immersive, and environmentally conscious experiences. The ships that emerged at the top of these rankings did so because they consistently delivered excellence across all categories—service, cuisine, itinerary, and onboard amenities. Key Takeaways: The most highly-rated ships combined luxury with authentic cultural immersion. Personalized service and attention to detail remained the gold standard. Innovation in

technology and sustainability became crucial differentiators. Travelers in 2017 appreciated ships that offered comprehensive and inclusive packages, enhancing the overall value. As a result, the Berlitz Cruising rankings of 2017 provided a valuable guide for discerning travelers seeking the best maritime experiences. Whether cruising for relaxation, cultural discovery, or adventure, these ships set the benchmark for excellence, inspiring cruise lines to elevate their offerings continually. In Summary: The Berlitz Cruising cruise ships of 2017 exemplified luxury, innovation, and authentic enrichment, earning their places on the prestigious Berlitz rankings. For anyone considering a voyage that blends comfort with cultural exploration, these ships remain a benchmark of excellence and a testament to the evolving standards of the cruise industry.

QuestionAnswer

What were the main features of Berlitz Cruising's 2017 cruise ship offerings?

In 2017, Berlitz Cruising highlighted ships known for their luxury amenities, unique itineraries, and high customer satisfaction ratings, emphasizing cultural experiences and onboard comfort.

Which cruise ships operated by Berlitz Cruising in 2017 received the highest ratings?

Ships such as the MS Europa and MS Amadea were highly rated in 2017 for their exceptional service, elegant accommodations, and enriching itineraries.

How did Berlitz Cruising's 2017 cruises compare in popularity to other cruise lines?

In 2017, Berlitz Cruising was recognized for its premium offerings and personalized service, making it a popular choice among travelers seeking upscale and culturally immersive cruise experiences.

What destinations did Berlitz Cruising focus on for their 2017 cruise ships?

In 2017, Berlitz Cruising primarily featured destinations in Europe, including the Mediterranean, Baltic, and Northern Europe, along with selected global itineraries.

Were there any notable innovations or changes in Berlitz Cruising's 2017 fleet?

Yes, 2017 saw enhancements in onboard technologies, dining options, and themed excursions aimed at enriching passenger experiences aboard Berlitz Cruising ships.

How did customer reviews influence Berlitz Cruising's 2017 reputation?

Customer reviews in 2017 consistently praised Berlitz Cruising for its personalized service, cultural immersion, and luxurious amenities, positively impacting its reputation.

Is Berlitz Cruising still a relevant choice for cruise travelers based on their 2017 offerings?

Yes, Berlitz Cruising's 2017 focus on luxury, cultural experiences, and high-quality service continues to make it a relevant and sought-after option for discerning travelers.

Related keywords: Berlitz cruise rankings, cruise ship reviews 2017, Berlitz travel guide, top cruise lines 2017, cruise ship ratings, luxury cruises 2017, Berlitz cruise comparison, best cruise ships 2017, cruise vacation tips, Berlitz travel rankings

Berlitz cruising cruise ships 2016 berlitz cruise

berlitz cruising cruise ships 2016 berlitz cruise offers a comprehensive overview of the most acclaimed luxury cruise ships evaluated and rated by Berlitz in 2016. As one of the most recognized authorities in travel and cruise ratings, Berlitz's assessments provide valuable insights for travelers seeking exceptional cruise experiences. This article delves into the details of the 2016 Berlitz cruise rankings, exploring the top ships, their features, amenities, itineraries, and what makes them stand out in the competitive cruise industry.

Understanding Berlitz's Cruise Ship Ratings

What is the Berlitz Cruise Rating? The Berlitz cruise rating system is a renowned evaluation method that assesses cruise ships based on various criteria, including onboard amenities, service quality, itinerary diversity, passenger experiences, and overall value. Established over decades, the Berlitz cruise ratings help travelers make informed decisions and compare ships across different cruise lines.

In 2016, Berlitz published its annual rankings, highlighting the top cruise ships globally. The ratings are particularly valued for their comprehensive approach, combining passenger feedback with expert assessments to produce an objective score.

How Are Ships Rated? Berlitz's evaluation process involves:

- Passenger Surveys:** Collecting feedback from thousands of cruise travelers regarding their onboard experiences.
- Expert Inspections:** Conducting inspections and assessments by travel industry specialists.
- Criteria Analysis:** Examining aspects such as ship design, facilities, entertainment, dining options, crew professionalism, and itinerary offerings.
- Scoring System:** Assigning ratings on a scale, with the highest-rated ships earning the title of "Berlitz Cruise Class" or "Best of the Year."

The Top-Rated Cruise Ships of 2016 According to Berlitz

Leading Cruise Lines in 2016 In 2016, several cruise lines distinguished themselves through excellence in service and amenities. The top-ranking ships included vessels from:

- Regent Seven Seas Cruises
- Silversea Cruises
- Crystal Cruises
- Seabourn
- Viking Ocean Cruises

These ships were celebrated for their luxurious accommodations, personalized service, and unique itineraries.

Highlights of the 2016

Berlitz Cruise Rankings Overall Top Ship: Regent Seven Seas Voyager earned the highest ratings for its all-inclusive luxury experience. Best Small Ship Cruise: Seabourn Odyssey was recognized for its intimate setting, exceptional service, and innovative itineraries. Best Large Ship: Queen Mary 2 from Cunard was praised for its classic elegance and transatlantic crossings.

Features of the Top-Rated 2016 Berlitz Cruise Ships

- Luxury Accommodations: Most ships rated highly by Berlitz offer: Spacious Suites and Staterooms, Elegant Decor and Premium Bedding, In-room Amenities like Wi-Fi, Flatscreen TVs, and Minibars.
- Gourmet Dining: A key aspect of luxury cruises is dining excellence. Top ships feature: Multiple Specialty Restaurants, Gourmet Menus Crafted by Renowned Chefs, Flexible Dining Schedules.
- Onboard Facilities and Entertainment: Passengers can enjoy: State-of-the-Art Fitness Centers and Spas, Theaters with Live Performances, Enrichment Programs and Excursion Options.
- Itinerary Diversity: The best ships offer: Unique Destinations and Ports, Cultural and Adventure Tours, Longer and Shorter Cruise Options to Suit Different Preferences.

Why 2016 Berlitz Cruise Ratings Matter

Guidance for Travelers: The 2016 ratings serve as a valuable resource for discerning travelers looking for:

- High-Quality Service
- Unique and Diverse Destinations
- Value for Money

Industry Benchmarking: Cruise lines use Berlitz's evaluations to benchmark their services, aiming to improve standards and enhance passenger satisfaction.

Popular Cruise Ships in 2016 According to Berlitz

- Regent Seven Seas Voyager ? Known for its all-inclusive luxury and personalized service, it topped the 2016 rankings.
- Silversea Silver Spirit ? Recognized for its intimate atmosphere and exceptional dining experiences.
- Cruise Ship: Crystal Serenity ? Praised for its elegant design and extensive amenities.
- Seabourn Odyssey ? Celebrated for its boutique style and high crew-to-passenger ratio.
- Viking Ocean Cruises: Viking Sea ? Noted for its destination-focused itineraries and modern amenities.

Comparison of Key Features

Ship Name	Passenger Capacity	Suites & Staterooms	Dining Options	Special Features
Regent Seven Seas Voyager	700	Spacious Suites, all with balconies	Multiple gourmet restaurants	All-inclusive luxury, shore excursions included
Seabourn Odyssey	450	Suites with verandas	Gourmet dining, open bars	Highly personalized service, boutique atmosphere
Viking Sea	930	Veranda Staterooms and Suites	Regional cuisine, specialty venues	Destination-focused itineraries

The Evolution of Cruise Ship Luxury Since 2016

While the 2016 Berlitz ratings highlighted some of the most luxurious ships of that era, the cruise industry continually evolves. Recent innovations include:

- Enhanced technological integration for onboard entertainment
- Sustainability initiatives reducing environmental impact
- Expanded wellness and spa services
- The rise of expedition cruises to remote destinations
- Greater emphasis on personalized experiences

Choosing the Right Cruise Ship Based on Berlitz Ratings

Factors to Consider When selecting a cruise ship, consider:

- Your preferred destination and itinerary
- The size and layout of the ship
- Onboard amenities and entertainment options
- Price and included services
- Passenger demographics and atmosphere

How to Use Berlitz Ratings in Planning

- Review the overall scores and detailed assessments
- Compare ships within your preferred cruise line or destination
- Read passenger reviews for firsthand insights
- Contact cruise agents for tailored recommendations based on Berlitz's evaluations

Conclusion

The 2016 Berlitz cruising cruise ships ranking provides a valuable snapshot of the pinnacle of luxury cruising during that year. From the opulence of Regent Seven Seas Voyager to the intimate charm of Seabourn Odyssey, these ships set benchmarks for excellence in the cruise industry. Whether you're a

seasoned traveler or planning your first voyage, understanding Berlitz's ratings can help you choose a cruise that matches your expectations for comfort, service, and adventure. As the cruise industry continues to innovate, staying informed about past top-rated ships ensures travelers can make choices rooted in proven quality. For 2016, these ships exemplified the very best in cruising, offering unforgettable journeys across the world's most fascinating destinations.

Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships 2016 Berlitz Cruise is a term that resonates deeply within the world of maritime travel, especially among seasoned travelers seeking premium cruising experiences. The 2016 Berlitz Cruise rankings and reviews serve as a benchmark for evaluating the quality, service, and overall experience offered by the world's leading cruise lines. In this comprehensive analysis, we delve into the intricacies of Berlitz's cruise ship ratings for 2016, examining the factors that influence their evaluations, the top-ranked ships, and the broader implications for travelers considering a voyage during that period.

Introduction to Berlitz Cruising and Its Significance in 2016

What is Berlitz Cruising? Berlitz, renowned for its language learning programs and travel guides, expanded its expertise into the realm of cruise ship ratings in the mid-20th century. The Berlitz Cruise Guide has become a trusted resource, offering detailed evaluations based on rigorous criteria such as onboard amenities, service quality, itinerary diversity, entertainment options, and overall passenger satisfaction. The 2016 Berlitz Cruise Guide continued this tradition, providing travelers with an independent and comprehensive assessment of the world's leading cruise ships. Unlike other industry ratings driven by sales or promotional interests, Berlitz's rankings are rooted in impartial reviews, often incorporating passenger feedback, expert observations, and standardized assessment procedures.

The Relevance of 2016 Ratings The 2016 rankings offer insights into the trends, innovations, and shifts in the cruising industry during that period. They reflect how cruise lines adapted to evolving passenger expectations, technological advancements, and competitive pressures. For travelers, these ratings serve as an invaluable tool for making informed decisions, especially when considering luxury, expedition, or traditional cruise experiences.

Criteria and Methodology of Berlitz Ratings in 2016

Evaluation Parameters Berlitz's assessments are multifaceted, encompassing a broad spectrum of factors:

- Ship's Design and Aesthetics:** The visual appeal, interior decor, and layout.
- Cabin Quality:** Comfort, amenities, and space.
- Service Excellence:** Staff professionalism, attentiveness, and hospitality.
- Dining Options:** Food quality, variety, and dining experiences.
- Entertainment and Activities:** Onboard entertainment, excursions, and enrichment programs.
- Itinerary and Destination Quality:** Ports visited, tour options, and overall travel experience.
- Technology and Innovation:** Wi-Fi, onboard technology, and sustainability efforts.
- Passenger Satisfaction:** Feedback from previous travelers and overall ratings.

Each of these parameters contributes to a comprehensive score, culminating in an overall ranking that identifies the top-performing vessels.

Assessment Process The process involves a combination of on-site inspections, passenger surveys, and expert evaluations. Berlitz's team visits ships, assesses their facilities firsthand, interviews crew members, and compiles passenger reviews to ensure a well-rounded perspective. This meticulous approach lends credibility and objectivity to the ratings,

making Berlitz's guide a trusted benchmark in the industry. The Top-Ranked Cruise Ships of 2016

Leading Ships and Their Standout Features

The 2016 Berlitz Cruise Guide highlighted several ships that stood out due to their exceptional qualities. These vessels were lauded for their blend of luxury, innovation, and passenger satisfaction.

Crystal Serenity (Crystal Cruises)

Highlights: Known for its elegant design, personalized service, and extensive amenities, Crystal Serenity topped many categories. Its spacious suites, gourmet dining options, and high-quality entertainment made it a favorite among discerning travelers.

Passenger Feedback: High marks for attentive staff and seamless onboard experience.

Regent Seven Seas Explorer

Highlights: Dubbed the "Most Luxurious Cruise Ship," it offers all-inclusive luxury, including fine dining, excursions, and premium beverages.

Unique Selling Point: Extraordinary level of comfort, with suites that rival luxury hotel rooms.

Seabourn Odyssey

Highlights: This vessel is celebrated for its intimate atmosphere, exceptional service, and innovative design.

Special Features: All-suite accommodations, personalized butler service, and a focus on culinary excellence.

Viking Star (Viking Ocean Cruises)

Highlights: A leader in expedition cruising, Viking Star impressed with its modern Scandinavian design, cultural enrichment programs, and destination-focused itineraries.

Passenger Satisfaction: High ratings for educational activities and immersive experiences.

Silversea Silver Spirit

Highlights: Combining luxury with innovative technology, Silver Spirit offers a refined, all-inclusive experience, appealing to travelers seeking exclusivity.

Key Factors Driving 2016 Ratings and Trends

Luxury and Personalization

One of the dominant trends in 2016 was the emphasis on luxury and personalized service. Ships like Regent Seven Seas Explorer and Silver Spirit exemplified this, offering all-inclusive packages, butler services, and tailored excursions. This focus on bespoke experiences significantly influenced their high ratings.

Design and Innovation

Modern design elements, technological advancements, and sustainable practices played a pivotal role. Viking Star's contemporary Scandinavian aesthetic and eco-friendly initiatives were recognized as differentiators, aligning with passenger preferences for responsible travel.

Destination-Centric Experiences

The importance of immersive destination experiences grew, with ships providing cultural tours, local interactions, and authentic excursions. This approach appealed particularly to adventure and cultural travelers, boosting the appeal of ships like Viking Star.

Onboard Experience and Entertainment

High-quality entertainment, varied dining options, and wellness facilities contributed to overall passenger satisfaction. Ships that offered diverse activities, such as the Crystal Serenity, received favorable reviews.

Implications for Travelers in 2016

Choosing the Right Ship

The Berlitz 2016 ratings serve as a practical guide for travelers seeking specific experiences:

- Luxury Seekers:** Opt for Regent Seven Seas Explorer or Silver Spirit for all-inclusive, opulent voyages.
- Cultural Enthusiasts:** Viking Star offers rich cultural and educational programs.
- Intimate and Personalized Service:** Seabourn Odyssey provides a boutique-style experience with high staff-to-passenger ratios.
- Family or Adventure Travelers:** While Berlitz's focus is more on luxury, some ships also cater to active explorers with tailored excursions.

Balancing Cost and Quality

High-rated ships tend to come with premium pricing. Travelers should weigh their budget against desired amenities and experiences, using Berlitz ratings as a benchmark for value.

Anticipating Industry Trends

The 2016 ratings highlight a shift toward more personalized, immersive, and sustainable cruising options. Passengers increasingly prioritize authentic experiences combined with comfort and

luxury. Conclusion: The Legacy and Continuing Relevance of Berlitz Ratings The 2016 Berlitz Cruise Guide exemplifies a comprehensive and authoritative approach to evaluating cruise ships. Its emphasis on quality, passenger satisfaction, and innovation offers valuable insights for travelers navigating the complex world of cruise options. While the industry continues to evolve with newer ships, enhanced technology, and changing consumer preferences, the core principles established by Berlitz remain relevant. For those considering cruises in 2016 or beyond, the Berlitz ratings serve not only as a historical benchmark but also as a guidepost for understanding what makes a cruise truly exceptional. As the industry advances, the standards set in 2016 continue to influence ship design, service quality, and overall passenger expectations, ensuring that the cruising experience remains a luxurious, enriching journey for all who embark. In summary, the 2016 Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ship ratings provide a detailed snapshot of the best vessels, highlighting the importance of design, service, and destination immersion. Whether for luxury aficionados or cultural explorers, these rankings remain a valuable resource for making informed, satisfying cruise choices.

Question Answer

What are the top-rated Berlitz cruise ships in 2016 according to the Berlitz Cruise Guide?

In 2016, Berlitz ranked ships such as Seabourn, Silversea, and Regent Seven Seas as some of the top-rated cruise ships based on luxury, service, and overall passenger experience.

How does the Berlitz Cruise Guide evaluate ships in 2016?

The Berlitz Cruise Guide 2016 evaluates ships based on factors like destination options, onboard amenities, service quality, cuisine, entertainment, and overall passenger satisfaction.

Were there any new cruise ships introduced in 2016 that gained high ratings in the Berlitz Cruise Guide?

Yes, in 2016, several new ships like the Seabourn Encore and the Crystal Esprit received high ratings for their innovative designs and luxury offerings.

What distinguishes Berlitz cruise rankings from other cruise review sources in 2016?

Berlitz rankings are renowned for their comprehensive and unbiased assessments, focusing heavily on service quality, destination variety, and passenger experience, setting them apart from other review sources.

Did the Berlitz Cruise Guide 2016 include any new categories or criteria for ranking ships?

While the core criteria remained consistent, 2016 saw increased emphasis on onboard wellness options, sustainability efforts, and personalized service in the Berlitz rankings.

Which cruise lines topped the Berlitz Cruise Guide 2016 for luxury and service?

Seabourn, Silversea, and Regent Seven Seas consistently topped the Berlitz Cruise Guide 2016 for their exceptional luxury and personalized service.

How can travelers use the Berlitz Cruise Guide 2016 to choose a cruise ship?

Travelers can consult the Berlitz Cruise Guide 2016 to compare ships based on ratings, onboard amenities, destinations, and reviews to select the cruise that best matches their preferences.

Are there specific cruise itineraries highlighted in the 2016 Berlitz Cruise Guide?

Yes, the guide highlights popular and highly-rated itineraries such as Mediterranean cruises, Antarctica expeditions, and Southeast Asia voyages in 2016.

What impact did the 2016 Berlitz Cruise rankings have on cruise line reputations?

High rankings in the 2016 Berlitz Cruise Guide helped enhance the reputation of top-rated cruise lines, attracting more discerning travelers seeking premium experiences.

Related keywords: Berlitz Cruise Guide, cruise ship rankings, cruise reviews 2016, luxury cruise lines, cruise ship destinations, cruise itinerary planning, cruise ship ratings, Berlitz travel guide, cruise vacation planning, cruise ship amenities

Berlitz cruising cruise ships 2019

berlitz cruising cruise ships 2019 was a significant year for travelers seeking luxury, comfort, and educational experiences on the high seas. As one of the premier cruise brands globally, Berlitz has long been associated with providing exceptional cruise experiences that blend cultural enrichment, world-class amenities, and innovative itineraries. In 2019, Berlitz continued to elevate its offerings with a fleet of impressive cruise ships, each designed to cater to diverse traveler preferences. This article explores the key aspects of Berlitz cruising cruise ships in 2019, including the fleet overview, notable ships, itineraries, amenities, and what made 2019 a standout year for Berlitz cruise

enthusiasts. Overview of Berlitz Cruising in 2019 Berlitz, renowned for its language and cultural education programs, expanded its cruise operations in 2019 to include a variety of destinations and ship experiences. The brand's commitment to cultural immersion and high-quality service made its cruises particularly appealing to travelers seeking more than just leisure—those interested in learning, exploring, and engaging with new cultures. During 2019, Berlitz's fleet featured a combination of small to mid-sized ships designed to access ports that larger vessels might not reach, allowing for more authentic and intimate travel experiences. The ships operated on a mix of classic and contemporary routes, including destinations in the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, the Caribbean, and beyond.

The Berlitz Cruise Fleet in 2019 In 2019, Berlitz's fleet comprised several notable ships, each with unique features and itineraries. While the company primarily partnered with reputable cruise lines, it also operated its own branded ships and collaborated with others to deliver specialized cultural cruises.

Key Ships Operating in 2019 Berlitz Cruise Lines' flagship ships: Known for their elegant design, these ships offered immersive cultural experiences with onboard lectures, language classes, and destination workshops.

Partnership ships: Several cruises were operated in partnership with major cruise lines such as Azamara, Oceania, and Regent Seven Seas, bringing Berlitz's educational programs aboard larger vessels.

Customized vessels for special itineraries: Some ships were specially chartered for thematic cruises, including culinary tours, historical explorations, and language immersion voyages.

Notable Berlitz Cruise Ships of 2019 Some of the most prominent ships involved in Berlitz cruises in 2019 included:

- Azamara Journey and Azamara Quest** Known for their boutique cruise experience, these ships offered intimate atmospheres and authentic port visits. Amenities included luxurious suites, specialty dining, and enriching cultural programs.
- Oceania Marina and Riviera** These mid-sized ships provided refined luxury with a focus on culinary excellence and destination immersion. Berlitz partnered with Oceania to enhance onboard learning experiences.
- Regent Seven Seas Voyager** Recognized for ultra-luxury travel, these ships featured all-inclusive packages, personalized service, and extensive cultural excursions.

Popular Destinations in 2019 Berlitz cruises in 2019 spanned a wide array of destinations, emphasizing cultural immersion and authentic experiences.

- Mediterranean:** Including Italy, Greece, Spain, and Turkey, with a focus on historical sites and local cuisine.
- Northern Europe:** Scandinavia, the Baltic States, and Russia, offering stunning fjord views and medieval architecture.
- Caribbean:** Exotic islands, vibrant cultures, and tropical landscapes.
- Asia and the Pacific:** Japan, Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, emphasizing rich history and indigenous cultures.

Onboard Experience and Amenities Berlitz cruises are celebrated for their blend of luxury and education. In 2019, the ships were outfitted with amenities designed to enhance learning, comfort, and entertainment.

Educational Programs Language classes tailored to all levels. Cultural lectures and seminars by expert speakers. Destination workshops on history, art, cuisine, and local customs. Interactive activities such as cooking classes, language practice sessions, and cultural performances.

Luxury Amenities Spacious suites and cabins with modern amenities. Gourmet dining options featuring international cuisines. Spa and wellness centers for relaxation and health. Fitness centers and outdoor pools. Enrichment lounges and libraries for learning and leisure.

Special Features for 2019 Cruises Themed cruises focusing on specific topics like culinary arts, historical exploration, or language immersion. Small-group excursions allowing for personalized cultural

experiences. Partnership with local guides and experts to provide authentic interactions. Why Choose Berlitz Cruising in 2019? Travelers choosing Berlitz cruises in 2019 benefited from a unique combination of luxury, education, and cultural exploration. The brand's focus on immersive experiences meant that passengers were not mere spectators but active participants in the destinations they visited. Key reasons to select Berlitz cruises in 2019 include: Expert-led educational programs enriching your understanding of local cultures. Access to exclusive ports and off-the-beaten-path locations. Personalized service and luxurious onboard amenities. Opportunities to learn new languages or improve existing skills in an immersive environment. Variety of itineraries catering to diverse interests, from history and art to cuisine and adventure. Summary and Looking Back at 2019 Berlitz cruising cruise ships in 2019 represented a pinnacle of culturally focused travel. The combination of elegant ships, enriching onboard programs, and carefully curated itineraries made it an attractive choice for travelers seeking meaningful and luxurious adventures. The year also marked continued innovation in onboard experiences, with a focus on personalized learning and authentic cultural engagement. For those who traveled with Berlitz in 2019, the experience often extended beyond typical sightseeing, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the places they visited. As the cruise industry evolves, Berlitz's commitment to education and cultural immersion remains a defining feature, ensuring its cruises in 2019 left lasting impressions on its guests. In conclusion, Berlitz cruising cruise ships in 2019 were characterized by their dedication to providing a rich, educational, and luxurious travel experience. Whether exploring the historic sites of the Mediterranean, the icy fjords of Scandinavia, or the vibrant cultures of the Caribbean, passengers enjoyed a journey that was both enlightening and indulgent. This year continues to be remembered as a standout period in Berlitz's storied history of innovative and culturally immersive cruising.

Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships 2019: An In-Depth Look at the Top Vessels and Trends Berlitz cruising cruise ships 2019 marked a pivotal year in the luxury and expedition cruise industry, reflecting evolving traveler preferences, technological advancements, and a focus on immersive experiences. As the global cruise market expanded rapidly, Berlitz's renowned ranking system provided travelers with a trusted gauge of ship quality, service excellence, and destination offerings. This article delves into the key highlights of Berlitz's 2019 cruise ship rankings, analyzing the most prominent vessels, emerging trends, and what these mean for cruise enthusiasts and industry stakeholders alike. The Berlitz Cruise Ship Rankings: An Overview Berlitz's annual cruise ship ranking is a long-standing benchmark in the industry, combining passenger feedback, expert reviews, and operational metrics to produce a comprehensive assessment of ships worldwide. The 2019 rankings continued this tradition, shedding light on the best vessels across different categories?luxury, expedition, river cruising, and more. Methodology Behind the Rankings Berlitz's evaluation process involves: Passenger surveys capturing overall satisfaction, onboard amenities, staff friendliness, and itinerary quality. Expert assessments considering ship design, innovation, and environmental sustainability. Operational metrics such as safety records and crew-to-passenger ratios. This

multi-faceted approach ensures a balanced perspective, giving travelers confidence in the vessels recognized. Top Performing Ships of 2019 The Leading Luxury Cruises Luxury cruise ships dominate Berlitz's top spots, characterized by high-end amenities, personalized service, and exclusive itineraries. In 2019, ships like the Seabourn Quest, Regent Seven Seas Explorer, and Viking Ocean Cruises vessels consistently scored high. Features that define luxury ships in 2019: All-suite accommodations with spacious layouts and ocean views. Gourmet dining options curated by renowned chefs. Enrichment programs including cultural lectures, private excursions, and wellness offerings. Technological innovations like seamless Wi-Fi connectivity and smart cabin controls. Commitment to sustainability, with initiatives to reduce environmental impact. Expedition Ships Making Waves Berlitz's rankings highlight the rising prominence of expedition ships, designed for intimate, adventure-focused voyages to remote destinations such as Antarctica, the Arctic, and the Galápagos. Notable expedition vessels in 2019: National Geographic Endurance ? Known for cutting-edge ice navigation and environmental research collaborations. Lindblad National Geographic Explorer ? Combining scientific exploration with luxury comforts. Hurtigruten MS Roald Amundsen ? Pioneering hybrid propulsion technology for eco-friendly cruising. Expedition ships emphasize immersive experiences, with experts onboard guiding passengers through pristine wilderness regions. Trends in Berlitz Cruising 2019 A Shift Towards Sustainability and Eco-Conscious Voyages One of the defining trends of 2019 was increased emphasis on environmental sustainability. Many ships incorporated hybrid engines, reduced single-use plastics, and adopted advanced waste management systems. Key initiatives included: Hybrid propulsion systems, reducing carbon emissions. Shore power connections to minimize engine idling in port. Use of biodegradable onboard products. Partnerships with conservation organizations. This shift reflects the growing consumer demand for responsible travel and the cruise industry's commitment to minimizing its environmental footprint. Technology Integration for Enhanced Passenger Experience 2019 saw a surge in technological innovations aimed at improving comfort and convenience: Mobile apps for onboard services, dining reservations, and excursion bookings. Facial recognition for faster embarkation and disembarkation processes. Virtual reality experiences showcasing upcoming destinations. High-speed Wi-Fi across ships, enabling seamless connectivity. These advancements have transformed traditional cruising into a more interactive and personalized experience. Diversification of Destinations and Itineraries Cruise lines expanded their portfolio to include less-visited, authentic destinations, appealing to adventurous and culturally curious travelers. Popular new routes in 2019 included: Southeast Asia's hidden gems. Remote Pacific islands. Arctic expeditions focusing on climate change awareness. Cultural immersions in South America's lesser-known ports. This diversification aligns with travelers' desire for unique, off-the-beaten-path experiences. Notable Ships and Their Unique Offerings Seabourn Quest Ranked among the top luxury ships in 2019, the Seabourn Quest epitomized elegance and service excellence. Its key features included: All-suite accommodations with verandas. Personalized butler service. Gourmet dining options from Michelin-starred chefs. Itinerary flexibility with access to secluded beaches and private islands. Regent Seven Seas Explorer Dubbed the "Most Luxurious Ship Ever Built" by Berlitz, it offered: Spacious, meticulously designed suites. All-inclusive pricing covering excursions, gratuities, and Wi-Fi. Enrichment programs with world-class lecturers. Diverse

itineraries spanning every continent. Lindblad National Geographic Explorer Blending adventure and education, this vessel provided: Zodiac expeditions for close wildlife encounters. Onboard scientists and naturalists. Focus on conservation and scientific research. Customizable itineraries for active travelers. The Impact of 2019 Trends on the Cruise Industry The trends observed in 2019—sustainability, technological innovation, and diversification—set the stage for future developments. Cruise lines began investing heavily in eco-friendly ships, recognizing the importance of environmental stewardship. Meanwhile, digital tools became standard, enabling more efficient and engaging voyages. Furthermore, the focus on authentic, culturally immersive experiences reflected a broader industry shift away from mass tourism towards personalized journeys. These trends have influenced ship design, onboard amenities, and destination planning, creating a more holistic cruising experience. Challenges and Opportunities While 2019 was largely a successful year, it also posed challenges: Environmental concerns and regulatory pressures required ships to innovate rapidly. Overcrowding in popular ports necessitated new port management strategies. The need for health and safety measures, especially in the context of global health awareness, prompted investments in sanitation and medical facilities. Opportunities lay in expanding into emerging markets, leveraging technology for operational efficiency, and deepening sustainability commitments. Conclusion: The Legacy of Berlitz Cruising Ships in 2019 Berlitz cruising cruise ships 2019 reflected a mature industry focused on delivering exceptional, responsible, and innovative travel experiences. The top-ranked vessels demonstrated a commitment to luxury, adventure, and environmental stewardship, shaping the expectations of modern cruise travelers. As the industry moves forward, the lessons learned from 2019—embracing technology, prioritizing sustainability, and diversifying offerings—continue to influence new ship designs and itineraries. For travelers, this means more personalized, meaningful journeys that combine comfort with purpose. Whether seeking the opulence of a luxury liner or the thrill of exploring remote wildernesses, 2019's cruise ships set a high standard, inspiring a new era of thoughtful, immersive, and responsible cruising.

QuestionAnswer

What were the main destinations offered by Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships in 2019?

In 2019, Berlitz Cruising cruise ships primarily traveled to popular destinations such as the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Northern Europe, and Alaska, offering passengers immersive experiences in these regions.

How did Berlitz Cruising rank in the 2019 cruise ship safety and service reviews?

In 2019, Berlitz Cruising ships received high marks in safety and service, often ranking among the top cruise lines for customer satisfaction and onboard amenities, according to industry reviews and passenger feedback.

What amenities and activities were available on Berlitz Cruising ships in 2019?

Berlitz Cruising ships in 2019 offered luxurious accommodations, gourmet dining, enrichment programs, cultural excursions, and entertainment options, catering to a diverse range of passenger interests.

Were there any notable new features or ships introduced by Berlitz Cruising in 2019?

While Berlitz Cruising primarily focused on well-established vessels in 2019, the company emphasized enhancing onboard experiences through upgraded amenities and new cultural programming, rather than launching entirely new ships.

How did Berlitz Cruising ensure passenger safety and health during 2019?

In 2019, Berlitz Cruising adhered to strict safety protocols, including regular maintenance, trained crew, and comprehensive health measures, aligning with industry standards to ensure passenger well-being.

What was the customer feedback like for Berlitz Cruising in 2019?

Customer feedback in 2019 generally highlighted positive experiences with attentive service, enriching excursions, and luxurious accommodations, though some passengers noted areas for improvement in itinerary diversity.

How did Berlitz Cruising's 2019 itineraries compare to other luxury cruise lines?

In 2019, Berlitz Cruising was known for its culturally immersive itineraries and personalized service, often compared favorably to other luxury cruise lines for its focus on educational and enriching experiences.

Related keywords: Berlitz cruising, cruise ships 2019, luxury cruise reviews, cruise line rankings, Berlitz cruise guide, cruise ship destinations, cruise ship ratings, 2019 cruise trends, cruise industry news, cruise travel tips

Berlitz cruising cruise ships 2014 berlitz cruise

berlitz cruising cruise ships 2014 berlitz cruise is a notable topic within the realm of luxury travel and maritime excellence. In 2014, Berlitz, a renowned name in travel and language services, expanded its prestigious cruise ship rankings, providing travelers with insightful evaluations of the world's most luxurious and well-equipped cruise ships. This article delves into the details of Berlitz's 2014 cruise ship rankings, exploring what set these ships apart, the criteria used for evaluation, and how travelers can leverage this information for their next voyage.

Understanding Berlitz's Influence in the Cruise Industry

Who is Berlitz? Berlitz has long been recognized for its language instruction programs and travel guides. By 2014, the company had extended its expertise into the cruise industry, offering comprehensive evaluations of cruise ships based on various parameters. Their rankings are highly regarded because they emphasize quality, service, and passenger satisfaction, making them a trusted source for discerning travelers.

The Significance of the 2014 Berlitz Cruise Ship Rankings

The 2014 Berlitz cruise ship rankings are particularly significant because they offer an updated snapshot of the best ships available at that time. They serve as a benchmark for luxury, onboard amenities, service quality, and overall passenger experience, helping travelers make informed decisions.

Criteria Used in the 2014 Berlitz Cruise Ship Rankings

Evaluation Parameters Berlitz's rankings are based on a comprehensive set of criteria, which include:

- Service Quality:** Attentiveness of crew, personalized services, and overall passenger care.
- Ship Facilities and Amenities:** Availability of pools, spas, theaters, dining options, and recreational activities.
- Cabin Quality:** Comfort, size, design, and amenities provided in staterooms and suites.
- Entertainment Options:** Quality and variety of onboard entertainment and enrichment activities.
- Cuisine and Dining:** Food quality, restaurant variety, and dining experiences.
- Ship Maintenance and Condition:** Upkeep, cleanliness, and modernity of the vessel.
- Itinerary and Destinations:** The ports visited and the overall cruise experience.

Methodology

Berlitz's methodology involves expert evaluations, passenger reviews, and, occasionally, undercover assessments to ensure an accurate and balanced ranking. The combination of subjective and objective data ensures that the rankings are credible and useful for prospective cruise travelers.

Top-Ranked Cruise Ships in 2014 According to Berlitz

Leading Cruise Lines Featured in 2014 The 2014 Berlitz rankings highlighted several premium cruise lines, including:

- Regent Seven Seas Cruises
- Crystal Cruises
- Seabourn Cruise Line
- Silversea Cruises
- Viking Ocean Cruises

These lines consistently topped the rankings due to their exceptional service and luxurious offerings.

Highlights of the Top Cruise Ships

Below are some of the standout ships from the 2014 rankings:

- Regent Seven Seas Voyager:** Known for all-inclusive luxury, excellent personalized service, elegant suites with butler service, and outstanding dining options.
- Crystal Serenity:** Modern design with spacious cabins, rich enrichment programs, and entertainment.
- Seabourn Odyssey:** Intimate, boutique-style experience with high crew-to-passenger ratio and luxurious suites with verandas.
- Silversea Silver Spirit:** All-suite vessels with ocean-view verandas, exceptional cuisine, and service.
- Global itineraries:** Visiting exotic ports.
- Viking Ocean Cruises:** Elegant design and cultural enrichment.
- Focus on destination immersion:** Inclusive amenities and Wi-Fi.

What Made These Ships Stand Out in 2014?

Luxurious Accommodations: The ships ranked highly in 2014 offered expansive, beautifully appointed suites with modern amenities. Many featured private verandas, walk-in closets, and personalized butler services, elevating the onboard experience.

Exceptional Service: Crew-to-passenger ratios were notably high, ensuring personalized and attentive service.

Staff training emphasized hospitality, attention to detail, and cultural awareness, which contributed to outstanding passenger satisfaction. Dining Excellence Gourmet cuisine was a hallmark of these ships, with multiple dining venues offering diverse menus, from regional specialties to international cuisines. Many ships featured renowned chefs and flexible dining options. Enrichment and Entertainment Passengers enjoyed a variety of enrichment programs, including lectures, cultural performances, and hands-on workshops. The entertainment options ranged from live music and theater productions to casino gaming. Innovative Design and Maintenance Modern, sleek designs combined with rigorous maintenance schedules ensured ships remained in pristine condition. The focus on comfort and aesthetics created a luxurious ambiance onboard. Why Travelers in 2014 Chose Berlitz-Recommended Cruises Trust and Credibility Travelers valued Berlitz's impartial reviews and comprehensive evaluations, making these rankings a go-to resource for luxury cruise planning. Guidance on the Best Experiences The rankings provided insight into the best ships for specific preferences, whether seeking adventure, cultural immersion, or pure relaxation. Enhanced Planning and Expectations Knowing which ships excelled in service, amenities, and overall experience allowed travelers to set realistic expectations and plan their cruises confidently. Impacts of the 2014 Berlitz Cruise Ship Rankings on the Industry Influence on Cruise Line Improvements Cruise lines often used these rankings as benchmarks, leading to investments in newer ships, upgraded amenities, and staff training. Consumer Decision-Making Travel agents and consumers relied on Berlitz's evaluations to select ships that matched their preferences, thus shaping booking trends. Promotion of Luxury Travel The rankings reinforced the appeal of luxury cruises, emphasizing quality, exclusivity, and personalized service as essential components. How to Use the 2014 Berlitz Cruise Rankings for Planning Your Trip Identify Your Priorities Determine which aspects are most important: luxury accommodations, destinations, onboard activities, or dining experiences. Review the Top-Ranked Ships Use the rankings as a starting point to explore ships that align with your preferences. Consult Additional Resources Complement Berlitz's rankings with recent reviews, customer testimonials, and cruise line websites for the latest updates. Book with Confidence Select ships with high ratings and positive feedback, ensuring a memorable and satisfying cruise experience. Conclusion The 2014 Berlitz cruise ship rankings serve as a comprehensive guide to the world's most luxurious and well-regarded cruise ships. By evaluating ships based on service, amenities, design, and overall passenger experience, Berlitz provided travelers with invaluable insights to choose their perfect voyage. Whether seeking an all-inclusive luxury experience with Regent Seven Seas or culturally immersive journeys with Viking Ocean Cruises, the 2014 rankings highlight the best options available at the time. For modern travelers, understanding these rankings also offers perspective on the evolution of cruise ship standards and the relentless pursuit of excellence in maritime hospitality. Meta Description: Discover the top cruise ships of 2014 according to Berlitz. Explore detailed rankings, criteria, and insights into luxury cruises that defined the year.

Berlitz Cruising Cruise Ships 2014 Berlitz Cruise offers an intriguing glimpse into the world of luxury

and adventure on the high seas, as evaluated by the renowned Berlitz Cruise Guide. Known for its comprehensive assessments, the 2014 edition of the Berlitz Cruise Guide provides detailed insights into the fleet, service levels, itineraries, and overall passenger experiences associated with Berlitz's curated selection of cruise ships. For travelers seeking a blend of cultural exploration, comfort, and sophisticated service, this guide serves as an invaluable resource, highlighting what makes Berlitz cruises distinctive in a competitive industry.

Overview of Berlitz Cruising in 2014

The 2014 Berlitz Cruise Guide emphasizes the company's focus on delivering culturally enriching voyages combined with luxury amenities. Unlike mass-market cruise lines, Berlitz prides itself on catering to a discerning clientele eager for an intimate, educational, and refined cruising experience. The ships evaluated in this edition span a variety of sizes and styles, from classic ocean liners to small expedition vessels, each offering unique itineraries and onboard atmospheres. The guide's assessments are based not only on ship amenities but also on the quality of service, culinary offerings, onboard enrichment programs, and overall ambiance. For 2014, Berlitz's fleet includes several notable ships that have garnered praise for their navigation routes and passenger satisfaction, making it a compelling choice for travelers with an eye for culture and comfort.

Highlights of Berlitz Cruise Ships in 2014

The Fleet and Its Signature Ships

Berlitz's cruise lineup in 2014 comprises a variety of vessels, each with its distinctive charm:

- Larger Ocean Liners:** Known for their classic elegance, these ships often carry fewer passengers, emphasizing personalized service.
- Small Expedition Ships:** Designed for adventure and exploration, providing access to remote destinations with a focus on education.
- Specialty Cruises:** The company also offers themed voyages, such as cultural immersions, historical journeys, and naturalist expeditions.

Notable Ships Reviewed in 2014

- MS Europa:** Recognized for its luxury and opulence, this vessel offers an intimate atmosphere paired with high-end amenities.
- MS Amadea:** Praised for its elegant decor, superb service, and diverse itineraries across Europe and beyond.
- Star Clipper:** A traditional tall ship that combines the romance of sailing with modern comforts, ideal for those seeking a nostalgic maritime experience.
- National Geographic Explorer:** An expedition vessel emphasizing educational content, perfect for adventure travelers interested in natural history and remote landscapes.

Service and Hospitality

One of the primary strengths of Berlitz cruises, as highlighted in the 2014 guide, is the exceptional level of service provided across its fleet. The staff often comprises well-trained professionals, many with backgrounds in hospitality or cultural education, enabling a personalized approach to guest needs.

Pros:

- Attentive, multilingual crew
- Personalized service with high staff-to-passenger ratios
- Enrichment staff offering lectures, workshops, and cultural briefings
- Small ship environments foster intimacy and tailored attention

Cons:

- Higher price point compared to mainstream cruise lines
- Limited onboard entertainment options outside of educational programming

Culinary Excellence

Berlitz ships are lauded for their culinary offerings, often featuring regional cuisines reflecting the destinations visited. The guides note that the ships' dining experiences emphasize freshness, quality ingredients, and attentive service.

Features:

- Multiple dining venues, from formal restaurants to casual cafes
- Themed dinners focusing on local flavors
- Excellent wine and beverage selections

Onboard Atmosphere

The atmosphere aboard Berlitz ships tends to be sophisticated yet relaxed, attracting travelers interested in cultural exploration rather than party-centric environments. The ships often feature elegant lounges, libraries, and observation

decks for leisurely enjoyment.

Itinerary Diversity and Destinations

A key aspect of Berlitz cruises in 2014 is their diverse and carefully curated itineraries, which appeal to culturally curious travelers. Highlights include:

- Mediterranean explorations** emphasizing historic sites and local traditions
- Northern European voyages** visiting Scandinavia, the Baltic States, and Russia
- Transoceanic crossings** with a focus on onboard enrichment
- Expeditions** to remote regions like Antarctica, the Galápagos, and the Arctic

Pros: Emphasis on cultural and historical sites
 Opportunities for educational enrichment during voyages
 Access to lesser-visited ports and remote destinations

Cons: Longer durations may not suit all travelers
 Some itineraries may involve extensive sea days

Passenger Experience and Satisfaction

Based on the 2014 Berlitz guide, passenger reviews generally praise the quality of the onboard experience. Guests often emphasize the intimacy of the ships, the knowledgeable staff, and the enriching programming.

Strengths: High guest-to-staff ratio ensures personalized attention
 Enrichment programs enhance the voyage experience
 Comfortable accommodations with elegant decor
 Focus on cultural immersion and learning

Areas for Improvement: Limited onboard entertainment for those seeking lively nightlife
 Higher prices may limit accessibility for casual travelers
 Smaller ships can mean fewer amenities like pools or large theaters

Comparative Analysis: Berlitz vs. Other Cruise Lines

In 2014, Berlitz ships distinguish themselves from mainstream cruise lines through their emphasis on education and cultural immersion. While large cruise operators often prioritize entertainment, shopping, and casual socializing, Berlitz's approach is more refined and intellectually stimulating.

Advantages: Smaller ships fostering intimate environments
 Focused itineraries with cultural depth
 Highly personalized service

Disadvantages: Fewer onboard amenities and entertainment options
 Higher costs reflecting luxury and exclusivity
 Less variety in casual or family-oriented experiences

Conclusion: Is Berlitz Cruising 2014 Right for You?

The 2014 Berlitz Cruising cruise ships offer a unique blend of luxury, education, and cultural exploration. Ideal for mature travelers, history buffs, and those seeking a more refined and meaningful cruise experience, Berlitz's fleet stands out for its focus on personalized service, enriching itineraries, and elegant ambiance. While the higher price point and limited entertainment options may not appeal to all, the quality of the experience—particularly the opportunities for cultural immersion—makes Berlitz cruises a compelling choice for a discerning clientele. The 2014 Berlitz Cruise Guide effectively captures these qualities, providing prospective travelers with detailed insights to help them select the voyage that best suits their interests and travel aspirations.

In summary:

Pros: Personalized service, cultural depth, elegant ships, diverse itineraries

Cons: Costly, fewer onboard entertainment options, smaller ships may lack some amenities

For those who value quality over quantity and seek a voyage that combines comfort, education, and cultural discovery, Berlitz Cruises in 2014 remain a distinguished and rewarding choice, embodying the timeless spirit of exploration and learning on the high seas.

QuestionAnswer

What was notable about Berlitz Cruise Ship Ratings in 2014?

In 2014, Berlitz released its annual cruise ship rankings, highlighting the top-rated ships based on passenger experiences, onboard amenities, and overall service quality, helping travelers make informed choices.

How did Berlitz evaluate cruise ships in their 2014 report?

Berlitz evaluated cruise ships in 2014 primarily through passenger surveys, focusing on aspects such as service quality, ship amenities, dining options, entertainment, and overall cruise experience.

Which cruise lines topped the Berlitz 2014 rankings?

In 2014, cruise lines like Crystal Cruises, Regent Seven Seas, and Seabourn often ranked highly in the Berlitz ratings due to their luxury offerings and high customer satisfaction.

Are Berlitz cruise ship ratings in 2014 still considered reliable for choosing a cruise today?

While Berlitz's 2014 ratings provide valuable historical insights, cruise ships and services evolve over time. It's recommended to consult the latest rankings and reviews for the most current information.

What factors contributed to a cruise ship being considered top-rated in the 2014 Berlitz cruise review?

Factors included exceptional service, luxurious accommodations, diverse dining options, enriching activities, and positive passenger feedback, all of which contributed to higher Berlitz ratings in 2014.

Related keywords: Berlitz cruise guide, cruise ship reviews, cruise destinations 2014, luxury cruise lines, cruise ratings Berlitz, cruise travel tips, Berlitz cruise rankings, cruise ship itineraries 2014, cruise industry news, Berlitz travel guides