

## 7 Reasons To Use A Travel Agent To Book Your Cruise

*Seven out of ten travellers use a travel agent to plan and book cruise vacations.*

Travel professionals work equally well with new-to-cruise travellers and veterans of the seas and rivers. Long-time cruise lovers wouldn't have it any other way. They understand the amazing value and benefits of working with a knowledgeable cruise agent.

**Here are 7 reasons why a travel professional should be your first port of call when considering a cruise vacation.**

**Oceans of Knowledge:** Travel agents take regular training in all aspects of cruising as well as products and destinations. They have answers to everything from, "Which type of cruise ship is best for my family of four?" to "Will the chef know to prepare gluten-free entrees?" Cruise professionals are experts and can help you plan your ideal vacation, from a vast sea of choices.

**The Real Deal:** Cruise travel agents plan and oversee multiple cruise vacations every week. They have a finger on the pulse of the industry and are aware of the best deals and discounts. They often have access to discounts unavailable to direct bookings. And in most cases, there is no cost for the service. Where else can you get professional advice for free?

**More Than Just \$:** In addition to finding the best rates, travel agents save clients another valuable resource: time. By all means research the type of cruise and the destinations that strike your fancy. But there is no need to spend hours on the web looking for the best deal. Agents have the most up-to-date offers and information. Let them do the legwork, from finding the perfect cabin to suggesting awesome excursions.

**Concierge Service:** By using a travel agent, you can plan out many of your trip's little details prior to boarding the ship. Instead of waiting in line at the surf-simulator or having to rush to the ship spa to book an appointment, when there's an agent planning your trip you can enjoy a nearly hands-free experience where the details have been taken care of in advance.

**Got Your Back:** Stuff happens. Travel agents are the best resource when it comes to trouble-shooting unforeseen travel glitches like lost luggage, cancelled excursions or travel delays. If a flight is missed or an excursion cancelled, an agent has the knowledge and tools to efficiently handle refunds and re-booking, so you can quickly get back to vacation mode.

**Your Ship, Your Trip:** A travel agent can create a perfect travel experience based on your preferences, tastes and travel dreams. They're always armed with the most current information on how to find the right ship, right itinerary, right cabin and right cabin location.

**Up-to-Date Updates:** Travel agents are privy to a cruise line's updates in real time and know the fastest ways to get up-to-date information. This can range from anything from new spa offerings to changes in the ship's itinerary. They'll help you take advantage of the latest onboard offerings or onshore excursions – and handle any last-minute concerns.