

# JOURNEY

 PRINCESS®

**Tokyo**  
*tales*

THE  
ULTIMATE  
GUIDE TO  
JAPAN'S  
24-HOUR  
CAPITAL

## Italy's dream coast

FROM LEMON GROVES  
TO LITERARY VILLAS  
- THE TIMELESS  
ALLURE OF AMALFI

**6** ways  
Copenhagen  
will charm you

**Win!**  
A one-week  
all-inclusive  
Mediterranean  
cruise on  
Sun Princess

Terms and  
conditions apply

**+**  
READ YOUR  
WAY AROUND  
THE WORLD  
The best books  
to set sail with

ALASKA | THE CARIBBEAN | ICELAND | PANAMA | SPAIN | SINGAPORE



# Great value all-inclusive

Want to know the cost of your holiday before you leave home? Upgrade to a Princess Plus or Princess Premier all-inclusive package and unlock great value benefits. Enjoy drinks, Wi-Fi, dining, and much more from £50pp per day<sup>^</sup>.

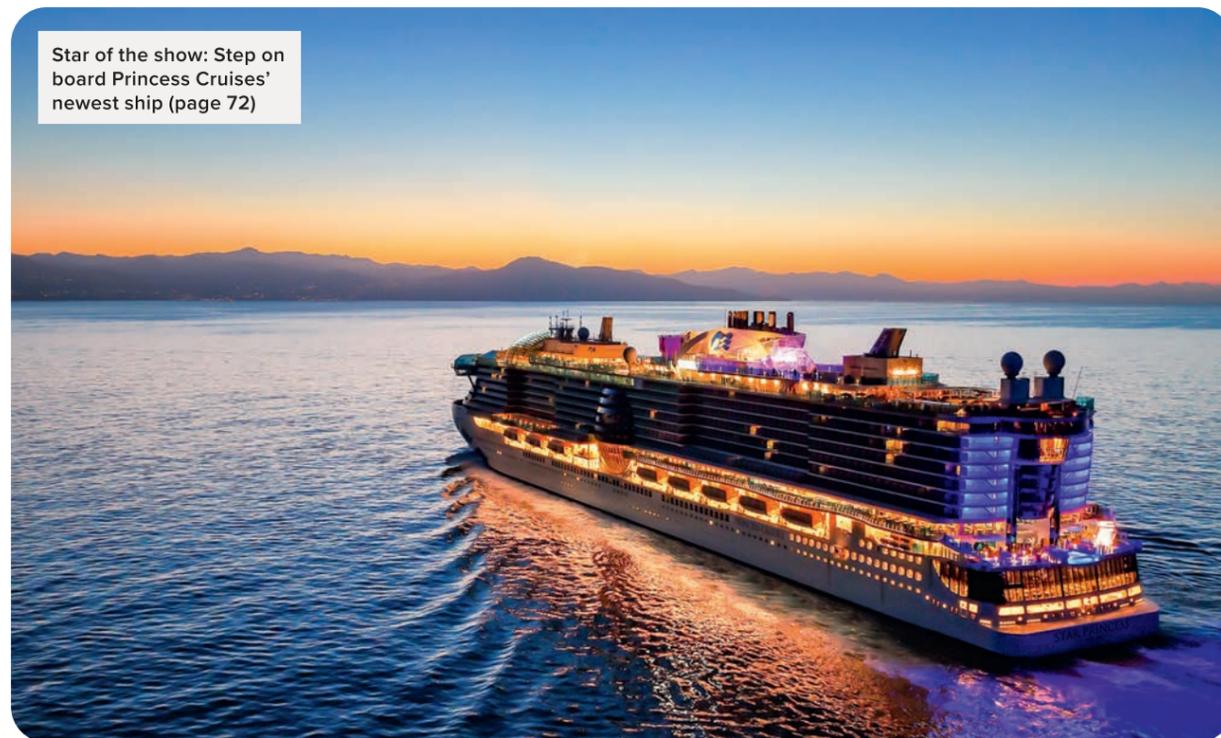


VISIT PRINCESS.COM

<sup>^</sup>Package details are correct at time of going to print.



Star of the show: Step on board Princess Cruises' newest ship (page 72)



## Get in touch

- ✉ Write to us at [journey@princesscruises.co.uk](mailto:journey@princesscruises.co.uk) or Journey, Princess Cruises, Carnival House, 100 Harbour Parade, Southampton SO15 1ST
- 📱 Alternatively, you can get in touch with us via social media – just search for *Princess Cruises* on Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and Pinterest
- ☎ Or, call us on 0344 338 8669



### FOR HEARST

Director of Licensing Lou McArthur  
 Editor Emma Justice  
 Creative Director Tanita Montgomery  
 Senior Licensing Partnership Manager Charlotte Post  
 Production Controller Jeff Pettitt  
 Sub-editor Laura Crisp

### FOR PRINCESS CRUISES UK & EUROPE

Director of Marketing & Communications Suzanne Korff  
 Senior Marketing & E-Commerce Manager Lizzy Dalby  
 Marketing Manager Heather Newman  
 Marketing Executive Keeley Davies

Portrait photograph: Russell Higham

# A year of adventure



Where would you like to set sail to next? I fell in love with Alaska recently where

I was lucky enough to see whales, bears and bald eagles in their natural habitat. Wildlife outnumbers locals in the 49th state, and I was excited to learn about the region's natural wonders from Princess Cruises' naturalist and guest speaker, Michael Modzelewski (page 26).

I also can't wait to go back to Japan (another must-do cruise destination) and spend more time in Tokyo. It's the perfect place to enjoy a pre- or post-cruise stay and I hope our handy cut-out-and-keep city guide will help you make the most of it (page 52).

Closer to home, there's so much to discover in the Mediterranean, whether it's the ancient Roman

ruins, fragrant lemon groves and secret literary villas of the Amalfi Coast (page 20), the art and architecture of Marseille (page 62) or the perfect paella in València (page 42). And what better way to toast your 2026 travels than by raising a glass in one of the world's best wine regions (page 66)?

Plus, we've included everything you need to know about the latest ship to join the Princess fleet, Star Princess (she's a beauty!), as well as all the entertainment, dining experiences and upgrades available on board (page 72).

I hope you enjoy this, my first issue as editor of *Journey* magazine, and find a voyage that suits you.

See you on board!

Emma Justice  
Editor

# Contents



## Travel moments

- 6 Ride a Vespa in Rome**  
Fun, history and style in the city
- 8 Boston's big birthday**  
Join in as the USA celebrates 250 years of independence
- 10 In the spotlight**  
The events, experiences and ports you need to know about for 2026
- 12 A sense of place... Singapore**  
Awaken all five senses with a voyage to this island nation in southeast Asia
- 14 Around the world in books**  
10 novels to inspire your wanderlust
- 17 Your journeys**  
We share your picture-perfect snaps

## Destinations

- 18 Surprising Panama**  
From its canal to its culture, what to discover on a visit to the country that connects North and South America
- 20 Secrets of the Amalfi Coast**  
Stunning villas and sunshine-soaked views on one of the world's most beautiful coastlines
- 26 Wildlife wonders of Alaska**  
Fascinating facts about seals, sea otters, bears, whales and bald eagles from a Princess Cruises expert
- 32 Caribbean gold**  
From spicy flavours to rum hotspots and blissful beaches on an island-hopping cruise
- 38 Six reasons to love Copenhagen**  
The Danish capital serves up delicious food, quirky sculptures, scenic hot tubs and world-class museums
- 42 In search of the perfect paella**  
Uncover the original recipe and taste the real deal in València, the home of Spain's vibrant national dish

- 46 Travellers' tales**  
Warring giants, well-dressed ghosts and confused frogs are just some of the myths and legends explored in destinations around the world
- 52 24 hours in Tokyo**  
A neighbourhood guide to making the most of your time pre- or post-cruise in Japan's dizzying capital city

- 58 Land of fire and ice**  
See glaciers, geysers and bubbling volcanoes in otherworldly Iceland
- 62 The art of Marseille**  
France's oldest city has had a must-see cultural makeover
- 66 On the grapevine**  
Where to learn about – and drink – the best wines in the world. Cheers!

## Onboard

- 72 A Star is born**  
The A-list launch of new Sphere Class ship, Star Princess
- 74 Peek through the portholes**  
Behind the scenes on Channel 4's new TV show starring Princess Cruises guests and crew
- 76 Let us entertain you!**  
Star Princess cruise director Dan Looney on the onboard shows he loves
- 80 'I don't see Alaska, I feel it'**  
Blind Girl Adventures influencer Sassy Wyatt sets sail on Ruby Princess
- 82 A taste of life at sea**  
Culinary Champion John Torode's favourite places to eat on board
- 84 Sail away in style**  
Five ways to elevate your next voyage with Princess and feel like a VIP
- 86 'My multi-gen cruise diary'**  
How three generations of one family found fun and adventure on a Mediterranean cruise

- 88 Win a cruise on Sun Princess**  
Don't miss your chance to spend seven nights on board this spectacular Sphere Class ship – for free!
- 89 A day in the life**  
Meet Olivia Warburton, activity manager on Diamond Princess
- 90 From the bridge**  
All the latest news from across the Princess fleet



**Cover image:** Getty Images. *Journey* magazine is published for Princess Cruises by Hearst UK, the trading name of the National Magazine Company, House of Hearst, 30 Panton Street, London SW1Y 4AJ; 020 7439 5000; hearstmagazines.co.uk. Registered in England 112955. Printed in the UK by Walstead Roche, St. Ives. Promoter is Princess Cruises unless otherwise stated. © 2026 Hearst UK. All rights reserved; reproduction of any part of this magazine is not allowed without the written permission of the publishers and the institution. Hearst UK is a member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (which regulates the UK's magazine and newspaper industry). We abide by the Editors' Code of Practice and are committed to upholding the highest standards of journalism. If you think we have not met those standards and want to make a complaint, contact [complaints@hearst.co.uk](mailto:complaints@hearst.co.uk) or visit [hearst.co.uk/hearst-magazines-uk-complaints-procedure](http://hearst.co.uk/hearst-magazines-uk-complaints-procedure). If we are unable to resolve your complaint, or if you would like more information about IPSO or the Editors' Code, contact IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or visit [ipso.co.uk](http://ipso.co.uk). *Editorial opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Princess Cruises, nor does Princess Cruises recommend or guarantee any third-party products mentioned in this publication. Errors and omissions are in no way the responsibility of Princess Cruises. All information is correct at time of going to press and subject to change, including cruises, ports and excursions. Princess Cruises is a trading name of Carnival plc, a company registered in England and Wales with company number 04039524. Registered office address: 5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE.*



## Ride a Vespa in Rome

Nothing exemplifies the Italian spirit of fun, freedom and style like a Vespa. Meaning 'wasp' in Italian (named in honour of its buzzy sound and shape), the two-wheeled icon celebrates its 80th birthday this year with a series of special events in Rome (25-28 June).

Tens of thousands of Vespa lovers from around the world are expected to gather in the city that it has become most closely associated with, despite the vehicles being 'born' at the Piaggio plant near Pisa.

It's all thanks to *Roman Holiday*, the classic 1953 movie starring Audrey Hepburn looking effortlessly chic on a Vespa beside heartthrob Gregory Peck. The scooter's appearance in the film is said to have led to 100,000 sales alone with more than 20 million purchased in 80 countries since its launch in 1946.

With Princess Cruises now offering more roundtrip Mediterranean voyages to the Italian capital, it's the perfect time to channel your inner Audrey and zoom around the Eternal City on two wheels. Hire one in your favourite colour (or match the Italian flag with red, green or white) and explore on your own Roman holiday. Or join a guided Vespa tour taking in the Colosseum, Capitoline Hill and the Trevi Fountain, where throwing a coin over your left shoulder with your right hand is said to guarantee that you'll return to Rome one day. 

**10**

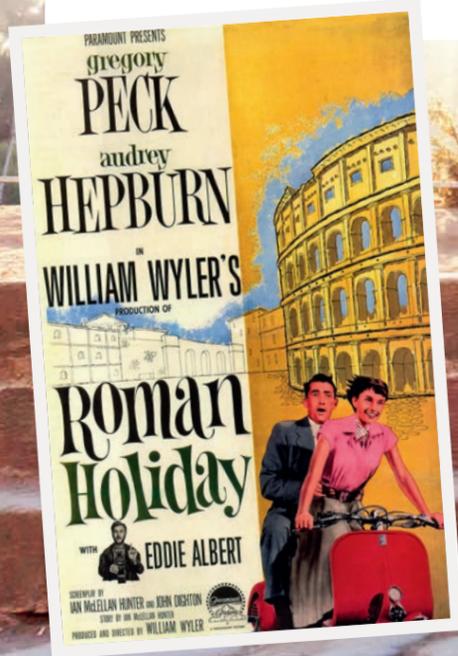
Oscar nominations for *Roman Holiday* (it won three, including Best Actress).

**2,500**

The number of Vespas you could (theoretically!) fit inside the Colosseum's arena.

**€1.5m**

The amount of money thrown into the Trevi Fountain's beautiful Baroque-style pool each year.



Words: Russell Higham  
Photographs: Alamy, AWL Images

Enjoy your own Roman holiday

7-NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN & ADRIATIC



Enchanted Princess



19 Jun 2027



This roundtrip itinerary from Civitavecchia allows plenty of time to explore Rome before, or after, your cruise



Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85



FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM

# Travel moments

**08**

BOSTON'S BIG BIRTHDAY

**14**

READ YOUR WAY AROUND THE WORLD

# Boston's big birthday

This year the USA marks 250 years of independence – and as the birthplace of the American Revolution, New England will be at the centre of the party

**S**emiquincentennial celebrations will take place all over the USA on 4 July this year so expect the fireworks to be bigger, bolder and brighter than ever. The Declaration of Independence, which ended Britain's control over the 13 American colonies and asserted universal rights to 'Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness', was formally adopted on 4 July 1776, after being signed at the Pennsylvania State House (now known as Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

Many of the historic events leading up to it – such as the Boston Tea Party – took place in Massachusetts (after the founding Pilgrim Fathers arrived there on the Mayflower more than 400 years ago), and Boston, the 'Cradle of Liberty' will be at the epicentre of this year's special celebrations. There will be walking tours, festivals and exhibitions in the city plus a special 'America 250' reading of the Declaration from the balcony of the Old State House on Washington Street.



Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market in Boston and, left, the reading of the Declaration in Boston in 1776 from the balcony of the Old State House, shortly after it was signed in Philadelphia



## Three other historic American cities to visit in its 250th year



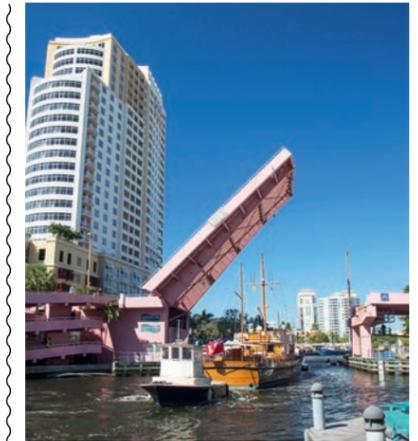
### Portland

This scenic waterfront city in Maine (which was once part of Massachusetts) played a pivotal role in the American Revolution after the British naval Bombardment of Falmouth Harbour (the town's former name) sparked a rebellion and became one of the grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence. A city-wide 'America from the Ashes' trail will feature immersive events and themed tours at historic locations such as the Tate House Museum and Portland Observatory leading up to 4 July.



### New York City

The city that never sleeps played a vital role in American Independence – nearly a third of Revolution battles were fought on New York soil. To commemorate them, the state will stage a series of events including re-enactments, tours and lectures, as well as hosting a parade of tall ships during July's 'Sail4th 250' maritime festival in New York Harbour. The 'United in Sound: America at 250' festival will highlight the diverse musical influences that have shaped American identity and include more than 35 concerts at Carnegie Hall.



### Fort Lauderdale

While the 'Golden State' stayed loyal to its colonial masters – Florida wasn't one of the 13 states seeking to overthrow British rule – Fort Lauderdale will still mark 250 years of Independence with special celebrations. The 'Venice of America', as it's sometimes called thanks to its 300-mile network of waterways, will be part of the 'US 250 Tour', a national event across all 50 states with 50 star-studded events combining patriotic shows and historical re-enactments to tell the story of the American Revolution. 🌊

## Soak up history in Boston

Explore what the city has to offer on one of these itineraries



### 7-NIGHT CANADA & NEW ENGLAND WITH SAINT JOHN

Regal Princess 18 Sep 2027

The first telephone call took place in a Boston laboratory in 1876. Alexander Graham Bell successfully rang his assistant in the next room.



### 7-NIGHT BEST OF CANADA & NEW ENGLAND

Regal Princess 9 Oct 2027

Walk the Boston Freedom Trail to visit 16 key historic sites, including museums, churches, meeting houses and battle hubs.

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT [PRINCESS.COM](https://www.princess.com) 0344 338 8669

# In the spotlight

The latest travel trends, experiences, openings and events to enjoy in 2026

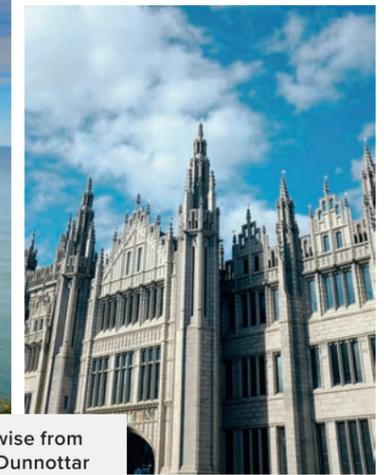


## Hollywood's new museum of the future

This year's big opening in Los Angeles is George Lucas's \$1 billion Museum of Narrative Art in Exposition Park. The five-storey, spaceship-like building, a passion project of the *Star Wars* creator and his wife Mellody Hobson, looks like it's from a galaxy far, far away and will be home to more than 10,000 pieces from his personal collection, including comics, illustrations, paintings, photographs, moving images, sculptures, and film props and costumes. Get ready to feel the force when it opens on 22 September ([lucasmuseum.org](http://lucasmuseum.org)).



## Travel moments



Clockwise from main: Dunnottar Castle; Marischal College; street art in the 'granite city'



# Amazing Aberdeen

A new port of call for Princess Cruises, Aberdeen is full of surprises, says Ashleigh Pirie from VisitAberdeenshire

There's a warm heart to the 'granite city' that offers a true Scottish experience in its own understated way. The Port of Aberdeen has been operating since 1136, but recently expanded to include the new South Harbour where Princess Cruises will make its maiden call on 24 August 2027 as part of a 16-night British Isles and Canadian transatlantic cruise.

If the sun shines (and in August it should!), guests will see the beautiful Gothic Revival buildings sparkling like silver in the light and the streets come alive.

A good place to start is the free-to-enter Aberdeen Art Gallery, home to one of the finest collections in the UK, including works by influential Scottish artists as well as Francis Bacon, Tracey Emin, Claude Monet and Barbara Hepworth. But there's art everywhere in Aberdeen so keep your eyes peeled for the international Nuart Aberdeen festival. The theme for 2026, 'Poetry is in the Streets', will bring an innovative twist and add street art to its everyday spaces.

A five-minute walk around the corner – if you can resist the temptation to buy a Mackie's of Scotland Ice Cream in Marischal Square – is Provost Skene's House. Dating from 1545 this is the oldest townhouse in the city and celebrates the pioneering people of Aberdeen. Also nearby is Marischal College, an awe-inspiring Gothic Revival masterpiece and the second-largest granite building in the world. Its crown spires and soaring facade make it one of Aberdeen's most iconic sights.

From Aberdeen, guests can explore the surrounding coastline, beginning at Greystone Bay, where the historic 19th-century Torry Battery overlooks one of the UK's best places to spot bottlenose dolphins. You can also explore the Speyside Whiskey Trail or head south to the charming seaside town of Stonehaven and enjoy a scenic coastal walk from the beachfront up to the dramatic clifftop Dunnottar Castle. *For more information go to [visitabdn.com](http://visitabdn.com)*

## New for 2026

The Macduff Marine Aquarium will reopen this May with a refreshed immersive journey through the Moray Firth's underwater world. Visitors can expect close-up encounters with local marine life, a spectacular central kelp reef exhibit and interactive displays for all ages.

Try whisky tasting at the new Inverurie Whisky Shop and The Foghouse bar in the heart of Inverurie, just a 23-minute train ride north of Aberdeen.



## FOOTBALL FEVER

With the FIFA World Cup 2026™ taking place in the USA, Canada and Mexico (11 June to 19 July), not only can you soak up the atmosphere in match city ports such as Vancouver, San Francisco and Miami, but you can sail away without missing a goal. Princess Cruises has secured rights from IMG to broadcast every match on Sport 24 Special Event channels, across all 17 ships in its fleet. Guests will be able to watch on their stateroom TVs, with select matches also shown on big screens on the Lido Decks. Now that's what we call a win!



**BINOCULARS FOR WILDLIFE SPOTTING**  
On a recent Alaska cruise these compact, NL Pure 8x32 Swarovski Optik binoculars (£2,160, [swarovskioptik.com](http://swarovskioptik.com)) helped me see bears, whales and sea otters in magnificent close-up.

**A STYLISH SUITCASE**  
I invested in this Good Housekeeping Institute-approved Hybrid Carry-On from luxury luggage brand Carl Friedrik (£445, [carlfriedrik.com](http://carlfriedrik.com)) after seeing it on TV in *The White Lotus*. It comes in five colourways and has room for all your formal-night outfits.



**A PRACTICAL DAY PACK**  
Perfect for taking on every excursion, I love this lightweight, Bergen Pro backpack from German lifestyle brand Kapten & Son (£109.90, [kaptens-son.com](http://kaptens-son.com)).



**COMFY TRAINERS**  
My step count always goes up on a Princess cruise, both on board and ashore, so I always pack a pair of my favourite podiatrist-designed Vionics. These Walk Glide walking shoes (£130, [vionicshoes.co.uk](http://vionicshoes.co.uk)) will help you put your best foot forward.

## The cruise collection

Journey editor Emma Justice's packing essentials



**MEDALLION JEWELLERY**  
I love the gold Princess Medallion bracelet (\$32) I bought on my last Princess cruise. There are plenty of accessories you can purchase on board to personalise your Medallion, including watch straps, necklaces and clips.

Photographs: Adrien Olichon/Pexels, Getty Images, VisitAberdeenshire



Don't miss  
**The total solar eclipse**

Us earthlings are about to see three rare total solar eclipses (when the moon completely obscures the sun) in under two years. The first takes place on 12 August 2026 and the others follow in August 2027 and July 2028. The best viewing points along the path of totality this year include Iceland, Greenland and the Arctic, as well as eastern Spain, where Princess Cruises has three eclipse-focused European voyages. These will arrive just in time to witness this incredible event from the ocean with celebrations and astronomy lectures on board. 🌌

See the light in Singapore

12-NIGHT TREASURES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Sapphire Princess

28 Sep 2027

This itinerary begins in Singapore, so you'll have plenty of time to explore the wonders of the city before your cruise

Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM



# A sense of place... Singapore

We've found the latest ways to stimulate all five senses in this vibrant island nation at the heart of southeast Asia

A city state that's constantly changing, Singapore celebrated 60 years of independence from Malaysia last year. While it's become known for its squeaky-clean shopping malls and soaring skyscrapers, in reality Singapore is as diverse as the various nationalities that have landed here over the centuries. This cultural mix can be seen and felt in the colourful shophouses and Hindu temples of Little India, its history understood through paintings in the National Gallery and the city's future-facing spirit seen in the sci-fi spectacle of Supertree Grove, an architectural marvel 50m high entwined with live plants, which blooms with light and music each evening, left. Here's how to see, taste, smell, touch and hear the Lion City this year...



## See

The SkyPark Observation Deck atop the Marina Bay Sands building resembles a surfboard – albeit one floating 200m above the city. In the daytime, you'll get a 360° panoramic view of the skyline including Gardens by the Bay, the Singapore Flyer and cargo boats in the Singapore Strait, and after dark you'll see the Spectra Light and Water show illuminate the city beneath your feet.



## Taste

Hawker markets will give you a sizzling introduction to Singapore's street food. There are several, but Maxwell Food Centre – a recent haunt of Dua Lipa's – is best for first-timers. The rules are simple: find (or 'chope') a table, then order from any of the 100-plus stalls that appeals: Tian Tian Hainanese Chicken Rice is one of several to be awarded a coveted Michelin Bib Gourmand.



## Smell

The scent of sandalwood incense drifts around Singapore's many temples. In Chinatown there's Thian Hock Keng, built in the 1800s, and the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, which houses his left canine in a giant stupa made from pure gold. In Little India you'll find the Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, built by Indian pioneers in the 19th century and dedicated to the Hindu goddess Kali.



## Touch

For all its hi-tech slickness, Singapore is surprisingly in touch with its natural side – never more so than on its many wilderness trails, such as the elevated boardwalk that leads around a mangrove forest in the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. At the National Orchid Garden, above, you can brush past the symbolic flowers on paths that snake beneath beautiful foliage-covered arches.



## Hear

The Japanese trend for listening bars has now spread to Singapore, mixing vinyl DJs with comfy sofas and a menu of inventive cocktails and small plates. Appetite, in Chinatown, combines Michelin-style dishes with a 3,000-strong record collection, while Offtrack, above, has a spot on Asia's 50 Best Bars list thanks to its retro space in jukebox colours, top DJs and massaman curry.

Words: Rick Jordan Photographs: Alamy, Bambi Corro/Unsplash, Singapore Tourism Board

# Read your way around the world

Good Housekeeping's books director, **Joanne Finney**, on novels that inspire wanderlust and a better understanding of your next cruise destination

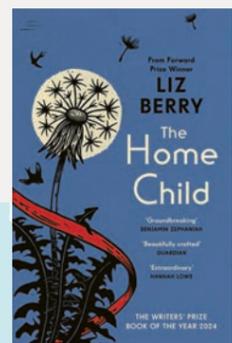
## Alaska

**The Great Alone** by Kristin Hannah  
Kristin Hannah's novels always stir up big emotions in readers and this story of survival, love and resilience is no exception. It's 1974 and the Allbright family have been offered the chance of a fresh start in Alaska but will Ernt, his wife Cora and 13-year-old Leni survive life in such an extreme location?



## Nova Scotia

**The Home Child** by Liz Berry  
Inspired by the true story of the author's great-aunt, this moving novel in verse follows newly orphaned Eliza as she boards a ship to take her from the West Midlands to rural Nova Scotia as one of the 'home children' sent to work as farm labourers and servants. Although lonely, she finds joy in the beauty of the wild landscape and in the companionship of another 'home child'.



## Stockholm

**The Hidden Beach** by Karen Swan  
The beautiful islands of the Stockholm archipelago are the setting for this twisty romance that's part mystery, part love story. Hanna, Max and their three children seem like the perfect family – until a call comes one day to say that Hanna's husband Emil has woken up from his seven-year coma and wants his wife back...

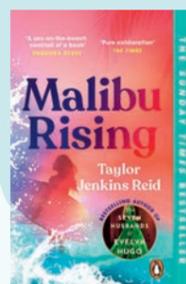
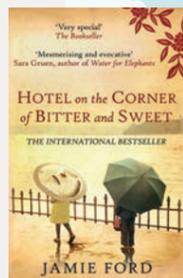


## Turn the page on board

Bookworms will love Princess Cruises' book clubs. This year's titles – all manageable within the duration of your cruise and handpicked for lively discussions at sea – include Kazuo Ishiguro's sci-fi romance *Never Let Me Go* and Elizabeth McCracken's unusual love story, *The Giant's House*. There are 30 copies available to borrow when you board each ship, with a meeting scheduled for your last day at sea. Plus, for Princess Cruises' World Cruise Book Club, titles change every 10 days and are inspired by or set in the destinations visited. Happy reading!

## Seattle

**Hotel On The Corner Of Bitter And Sweet** by Jamie Ford  
This dual-timeline saga moves between 1942 and 1986 to tell the doomed love affair between Henry, a Chinese-American, and Keiko, a Japanese-American, living in Seattle. The descriptions of the Chinatown and Japantown districts are beautifully vivid.

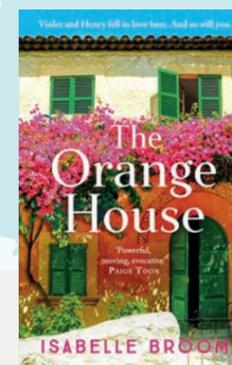


## California

**Malibu Rising** by Taylor Jenkins Reid  
Known for its surfing beaches and cliff-top mansions, Malibu is home to the four Riva children who are famous for the epic party they throw every summer. But each sibling has a secret to reveal, and tragedy looms as they gather together. This glamorous, compulsive novel is best enjoyed from your sunlounger with a cocktail in hand.

## Mallorca

**The Orange House** by Isabelle Broom  
A couple on the brink of divorce return to the house in Mallorca where they met 20 years before in this bittersweet novel. The sensitive exploration of marriage and mental health is Isabelle Broom's best work yet and thanks to her evocative descriptions of the food, sights and sounds of the island, you'll feel as though you're right there.



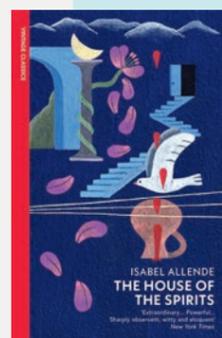
## South Korea

**The Rainfall Market** by You Yeong-Gwang  
This Korean bestseller blends magical realism and heart-warming fiction in a read that's as cosy as a thick blanket. Schoolgirl Serin is offered the opportunity to swap her life of poverty for something better, thanks to the ticket she receives to a magical market. There's one catch – if she doesn't find her new life before the end of monsoon season, she'll be trapped in the market for ever...



## Chile

**The House Of The Spirits** by Isabel Allende  
No one captures the soul of Chilean culture and the country's stunning landscape better than Isabel Allende. This epic family saga spans decades as it follows Esteban Trueba through falling in love, becoming a father and later a grandfather, against the backdrop of his country's political turmoil.



## Cape Town

**Disgrace** by J. M. Coetzee  
This modern classic is an illuminating look at post-apartheid South Africa. When David Lurie, a professor at a prestigious university in Cape Town, is dismissed after an affair with a student, he retreats to his daughter Lucy's farm. However, it's no escape as unrest grows and the threat of violence looms large.



## New Zealand

**Pet** by Catherine Chidgey  
This taut, tense psychological drama makes the most of its small-town New Zealand setting, where nothing goes unnoticed. When new teacher Mrs Price arrives at 12-year-old Justine's school, she's followed by rumours of a mysterious past. Her pupils are quickly infatuated but soon learn that becoming her 'pet' means paying a price.



# Sail on our newest ships

Don't just take a holiday — ignite your soul. Your next escape could be the story of a lifetime when you sail on Sun Princess or Star Princess. Discover the vibrant Caribbean, Alaska wilderness, historic Europe and the marvel of the Panama Canal. Onboard, enjoy panoramic scenery where every view is a masterpiece. Both ships offer the ultimate front-row seat to the world's best destinations. Elevate your holiday and experience a new era of travel.



VISIT  
PRINCESS.COM



# Your journeys

Blooming colours that you've captured on your Princess cruise



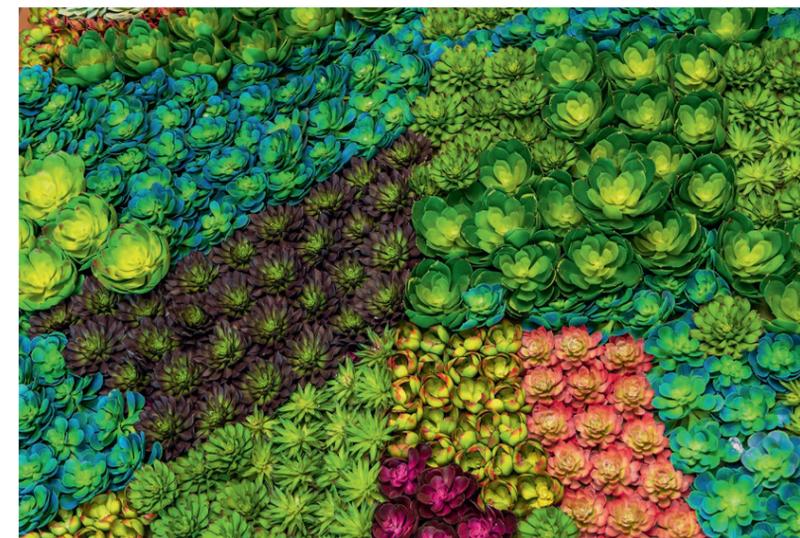
**MICHELLE KELLY**  
**Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**  
On our cruise around Asia we spotted these orchids in Ho Chi Minh City.



**ANGIE GALLACHER**  
**Halifax, Canada**  
We had a lovely day in Halifax during our cruise on Emerald Princess. The Halifax Public Gardens were well worth a visit to see these fabulous dahlias.



**SALLY SHAW**  
**Rome, Italy**  
My cruise on Sun Princess finished in Rome and I took the chance to explore the city. About 10 minutes' walk from the Colosseum I found myself in Parco del Colle Oppio and came across these beautiful wild flowers. So unexpected.



**IAN HAMER**  
**At sea on Enchanted Princess**  
These small alpine plants were spotted on one of the bulkheads aboard Enchanted Princess while on a Norway and Iceland cruise.



**KATHLEEN MAHER**  
**Cartagena, Spain**  
My postcard from Cartagena, Spain, on Star Princess.

WE'RE LOOKING SKYWARDS IN THE NEXT ISSUE WITH YOUR IMAGES OF STARS OR THIS YEAR'S TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE. EMAIL YOUR PICS TO: JOURNEY@PRINCESSCRUISES.CO.UK

## Surprising Panama

A miracle of human engineering when it opened in 1914, the Panama Canal is one of the world's most important links for global trade – as well as an iconic cruise destination. Yet there's so much more to the country than this 50-mile waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Its indigenous Emberá people live in open-air, palm-thatched huts on stilts deep in the heart of Chagres National Park, a protected area of dense tropical rainforests, mountains, waterfalls and rivers to the north of Panama City. Known for their ancient cultural traditions such as jagua (body painting) and a deeply spiritual connection to the land, you can visit traditional Emberá villages by dugout canoe. After a warm welcome by their tribal chief, guests are honoured with a ceremonial song and dance, and invited to try local delicacies such as plantain, pineapple and papaya.

One of the best ways to support the Emberá (and take home an authentic and ethical souvenir) is to buy handicrafts made by one of their many skilled artisans. Choose between intricate beadwork jewellery, colourful baskets woven out of chungá (black palm) and cocobolo wood and tagua (ivory palm) seed carvings.

**10,444**

the number of plant species making Panama such a haven for biodiversity.

**22**

days' travel saved by ships using the canal rather than sailing around South America.

**60M**

pounds of dynamite used to excavate the Panama Canal.



The thatched homes of the Emberá people, who make beautiful baskets, inset, out of palm leaves



Words: Russell Highton | Photographs: Alamy

# Destinations

Book an unforgettable voyage

16-NIGHT PANAMA CANAL – OCEAN TO OCEAN



Star Princess



3 Apr 2027



Princess ships are custom-built to be able to transit the Panama Canal locks



Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85



FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM

**26**

THE WILDLIFE WONDERS OF ALASKA

**32**

CARIBBEAN GOLD

**38**

SIX REASONS TO LOVE COPENHAGEN

# Secrets of the Amalfi Coast

From Roman ruins and literary villas to sun-dappled views along the 'path of the lemons', there's plenty to discover on one of the world's most beautiful coastlines

Words: Jane Memmler

The Amalfi Coast is seaside Italy at its most alluring – a love song to the southern European summer, its cliffs rising and falling like the notes of an aria. Winding through it is one of the world's finest coastal roads, each bend revealing a new view; of light shimmering off the Tyrrhenian Sea and 13 tutti-frutti towns – Positano, Ravello and Amalfi among them – each with its own traditions and character.

Bougainvillea-strewn walls hide lavish, lemon-scented gardens; sun-dappled village squares are arenas for people watching, while taking a scenic boat ride (a must when you're here) will reveal deep gorges, hidden grottoes and the rugged, jutting rock stacks of Capri.

Set between the Gulf of Naples and the Gulf of Salerno, the Amalfi Coast is hardly a secret, yet it manages to retain an air of old-world glamour and nonchalance, a sense of time standing still – as if Sophia Loren and Clark Gable might appear from around the corner on a Vespa at any moment.

## Find a pocket of la dolce vita to call your own

A deep sense of history is everywhere – from the nearby Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, a haunting reminder of the volcanic eruption that devastated the area in AD79, to the ghosts of English aristocrats and famous writers who made their homes here. And despite its popularity, you can still remove yourself from the crowds to find a little pocket of la dolce vita to call your own.

## Follow the narrative

The Amalfi Coast has been a creative muse to many, drawing in storytellers and leaders alike, with Winston Churchill declaring the ocean views 'the most beautiful in the world'.

The *Of Mice And Men* author John Steinbeck described it as 'corkscrewed on the edge of nothing... carefully ▶



Clockwise from top left: The fishing village of Cetara; Amalfi's 'path of the lemons'; Villa Cimbrone in Ravello; spaghetti alla Nerano



designed to be a little narrower than two cars side by side... with the sea leaning in below, buzzed by a hundred scooters... Positano bites deep,' he wrote in an essay for *Harper's Bazaar* in 1953. 'It's a dream place that isn't quite real when you're there and becomes beckoningly real after you've gone.'

Cloth-bound copies of it are still placed in every room of Le Sirenuse, Positano's finest hotel – then and now.

### Visitors make a beeline for Capri's Villa San Michele

Many of the region's grand houses were gathering places for writers, poets, actors and intellectuals – part literary salon, part garden party. The American wordsmith Gore Vidal lived for 30 years in Villa La Rondinaia, perched on a cliffside in Ravello, while DH Lawrence began *Lady Chatterley's Lover* after staying at Villa Cimbrone, a favourite of the Bloomsbury Group – Vita Sackville-West contributed to the gardens and was joined in them by her lover Virginia Woolf. Later, Greta Garbo had an affair with conductor Leopold Stokowski here – you can imagine them strolling along the wisteria-draped paths.

Where there's sunshine, of course, there's also shade. One of the most memorable books set on the Italian Riviera is psychological thriller *The Talented Mr Ripley*. Patricia Highsmith penned it while staying at the Albergo Miramare, recalling, 'All was cool and quiet, the cliffs rose high behind me... then I noticed a solitary young man in shorts and sandals with a towel flung over his shoulder. There was an air of pensiveness about him.'

Many visitors to the Amalfi Coast drop anchor on the nearby island of Capri, making a beeline for Villa San Michele, built by Swedish physician Axel Munthe in the late 19th century. His memoir conveys his deep passion for the landscape, and the building of his house on the ruins of an imperial villa. 'My house must be open to the sun, to the wind and the voice of the sea, just like a Greek temple and light,

light, light everywhere,' he wrote. Inside, rooms are furnished with artefacts, frescoes and a marble bust of Tiberius; outside are the terraced gardens where Munthe is said to have conducted his secret love affair with Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.

Those wanting to find out what life was like during Roman times should turn to *Pompeii* by Robert Harris. This historical thriller's protagonist is a young engineer called Marcus Attilius Primus, who races to repair an aqueduct as Mount Vesuvius slowly simmers and smokes. His investigation takes him from the colossal Piscina Mirabilis reservoir (which can still be visited) to tunnels beneath the volcano. Two days later Pompeii's fate was sealed.

### Work up an appetite

The simple yet vibrant dishes found on the Amalfi Coast, where the sea breeze carries the scent of rosemary and thyme and the waves supply village fishermen with their daily catch, provides one of Italy's most evocative menus.

Its most fragrant trail is the Sentiero dei Limoni (path of the lemons), which winds through lemon groves between the villages of Maiori and Minori. The distinctive, tapered Sfusato Amalfitano variety is used to make the liqueur limoncello, and pasta is tossed in its

zest and juice to make spaghetti al limone – it sounds simple, but its tangy flavour packs a punch.

Minori has been a pasta lovers' paradise since the Middle Ages, when handmade pasta first started appearing on plates. Today, Marco Della Pietra at Il Pastaio keeps the tradition alive, crafting every strand of pasta by hand. Try 'ndunderi, a pillowy ricotta gnocchi that melts in the mouth. And in the tiny village of Nerano, the signature dish of spaghetti alla Nerano has been given a Hollywood endorsement courtesy of Stanley Tucci, who tried the courgette-based pasta while filming his TV series *Searching For Italy*.

Being on the coast, seafood is, of course, another prized ingredient, from grilled swordfish to vongole, though if you have to try one shellfish dish here make it scialatielli ai frutti di mare. This Amalfi speciality is made using pasta that's thicker and shorter than spaghetti and mixed with a medley of seafood, tossed in garlic, olive oil and white wine. The pungent anchovy sauce made in Cetara is another local delicacy, first made by Benedictine monks who discovered that the amber liquid (Colatura di Alici) seeping from the salted fish was exceptional. Anchovies are pressed in wooden barrels for five months until this so-called 'liquid gold' appears. ▶

### In your suitcase

**PAPER** Made in Amalfi since the 13th century, only one working paper mill remains – the Cartiera Amatruda – but you can witness the process at the Museo della Carta before creating your own piece of exquisite paper by hand on an ancient press.

**LEATHER SANDALS** You can have a pair of bespoke leather sandals made at Safari Club Positano. Local artisans will measure your feet and ask you to choose between plain or bejewelled designs in tan or dark brown leather – all done in 45 minutes while you wait, for around £60.

**Artisans along the Amalfi Coast still fashion everything from shoes to perfume by hand, making it a great place to go shopping for souvenirs.**

**CERAMICS** Vietri sul Mare, in Salerno, is known for its hand-painted plates in vibrant blues, sunlit yellows and sun-baked reds. Try a hands-on workshop to create your own or pick up decorative plates, bowls and jugs made by the experts at Ceramica Artistica Solimene.





Clockwise from above: see Roman frescoes in the Villa of the Mysteries; one of Herculaneum's ancient statues; the Temple of Athena in Paestum



Enjoy a morning coffee with the wickedly good Sfogliatelle Santa Rosa – a pastry stuffed with semolina and ricotta, known as the ‘lobster tail pastry’ due to its distinctive shape.

### Discover ancient sites

High above the Bay of Naples is Mount Vesuvius, one of the world’s most famous volcanoes. It’s where Spartacus launched his slave rebellion; was visited by Byron and Mozart; and has been painted by numerous artists. Its defining act, of course, was the AD79 eruption. While much has been revealed in the buried Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum, rediscovered in the late 16th century, they continue to surprise.

In January 2025, archaeologists uncovered a lavish private bathhouse in Pompeii, with hot and cold rooms and a party pool – believed to be the largest in a private residence. Other discoveries include a black dining room and a small blue room where skeletons were found clutching coins and jewels, trapped in the mayhem of the eruption.

The historian Mary Beard recommends exploring at your own pace, rather than with a guide, and to go through as many open doors as you can – some of the best private houses are locked but they do open occasionally. One of the most visited parts of the site remains the brothel, where you can still see bawdy Roman graffiti on the walls.

Twenty minutes by train from Pompeii, Herculaneum is quieter and was better preserved because of the different volcanic materials that fell on each. Herculaneum has upper floors (Pompeii’s were all destroyed), shops and aristocratic homes such as Casa D’Argo with its porticoed garden. Fragile scrolls found at the site are being ‘digitally unwrapped’, revealing early philosophical texts.

Beyond the bustle in Positano lies another Roman gem hidden beneath the majolica-tiled dome of Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta. The MAR Positano museum comprises a 2,000-year-old villa, part-excavated, with stunning frescoes, a mosaic floor and ornate artefacts that bring the private residence to life.

A reminder that this region was once part of ancient Greece can be found at Paestum, near Salerno, where three magnificently preserved Doric temples crown the landscape, dating back to the 6th century BC. In the museum you can see a Greek amphora that still contains honey, and the famous Tomb Of The Diver fresco. Second World War history is present here too, with a German bunker and nearby beaches where Allied troops landed. Another part of history, like Amalfi, that we’ll never forget.

## A day in Pompeii



Jessica Faye Hughes, senior lecturer in classical studies at The Open University, reveals her top sightseeing tips.

Start by heading to the Amphitheatre entrance at the lower eastern side of Pompeii – the area is also home to some well-preserved tombs and the large Palestra (gymnasium), which often hosts interesting exhibitions.

From here, head all the way up to the top western corner, my favourite part of Pompeii. This route will take you past big-hitters such as the Forum and the main Via dell’Abbondanza (there’s a café just off it which sells delicious pastries), as well as buildings such as the Fullonica of Stephanus (laundry).

Once you reach the north-west Herculaneum gate, step outside the walls of the ancient city to visit Pompeii’s villas, including the Villa of the Mysteries, with its famous frescoes, and the Villa of Diomedes, inspiration for Edward Bulwer-Lytton’s 1834 bestseller *The Last Days Of Pompeii*.

If you book in advance, you can also visit some of the newly excavated buildings – tours for up to 15 people take place at 11am weekdays. See [pompeisites.org](http://pompeisites.org) for details.

Additional words: Rick Jordan Photographs: Alamy, Getty Images, Shutterstock,

**FIND OUT MORE**  
Scan this QR code for details on the best Mediterranean cruises for cuisine and culture

## Be amazed by Amalfi

Explore this beautiful coast from the port of Salerno



**7-NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN & AEGEAN**

Enchanted Princess 12 Jun 2027

The Amalfi Coast was listed as a Unesco World Heritage site in 1997.



**14-NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN, AEGEAN & ADRIATIC**

Enchanted Princess 10 Jul 2027

Legend has it, the Amalfi lemon trees were introduced to the region by Hercules, son of Zeus.

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT [PRINCESS.COM](http://PRINCESS.COM) 0344 338 8669



# The wildlife wonders of Alaska



From eagles to whales and bears who fish in the glacial waters, naturalist and Princess Cruises guest speaker **Michael Modzelewski** gives his unique insight into the incredible creatures that call this region home

Interview: Polly Dunbar

With its ancient forests, sprawling tundra, mountains, fjords and over 100,000 glaciers, Alaska more than lives up to its reputation as one of the most awe-inspiring places on Earth.

It's also one of the most sparsely populated US states – with just 1.3 people per square mile, the wildlife outnumbers the locals. What I love about that (apart from the peace) is it allows us to see nature untouched, the food chain is intact and you learn to appreciate how every creature fits into the big picture.

I first visited the 49th state more than 30 years ago when I spent two years living on a remote wilderness island on the Inside Passage, taking care of a property belonging to a couple who were wilderness guides and had to leave temporarily.

One day, while rowing a small skiff in the ocean surrounding the island, I came across

three orcas – a male, a female and a baby – just 10 yards ahead of me. The female came up right next to the skiff and let me touch her, and as I did a spasm was sent up, almost like an electric current, under my hand. It was magical and I'm convinced she was trying to communicate with me. From that moment on I was hooked – I decided to become a naturalist, immersing myself in Alaska's wildlife so I could return again and again to write books and film nature documentaries.

Now, I try to pass on that sense of wonder by giving lectures and leading wildlife watching experiences on Princess Cruises. An Alaska voyage is unforgettable because you get to see these amazing animals all around you in the wild. These are just a taster of the extraordinary facts you'll discover about some of my favourite creatures if you come on board.

## Singing humpback whales

Immense but graceful, with spectacular breaches, humpback whales are gentle giants. Measuring up to 15 metres long and weighing up to a mighty 40 tonnes, they're among the largest animals on Earth, but they live peacefully. Not only are they not aggressive towards humans, they've also been spotted protecting seals, dolphins and even other whales from orcas.

They're amazing migrators, swimming around 6,000 miles every year to and from the warm tropical waters around Hawaii, where they give birth to their young in the winter, and Alaska, where they spend their spring and summer feasting on small fish and krill.

Best of all, they're often called the pop stars of the ocean thanks to their haunting, melodic mating 'songs', which can travel vast distances underwater. Remarkably, the songs evolve: if one introduces a new rhythm or phrase, other male whales pick it up and modify it, creating an underwater remix that spreads across the ocean. Recordings of their music were even sent into space on NASA's Voyager mission as part of humanity's message to potential extraterrestrial life. ▶





### Sharp-sighted bald eagles

I would love to have a bald eagle's high-definition eyesight. Up to eight times more powerful than a human's, it lets them detect prey from more than a mile away – even the shimmer of an eight-inch fish breaking the waves as the eagle soars through the sky. It's all thanks to their deep fovea, the part of the eye responsible for sharp central vision, which gives them extremely detailed focus, especially for moving objects. They can also see ultraviolet light, so their vision has an extra dimension. If our vision was like a bald eagle's, we'd be able to spot an ant on the ground from the 10th floor of a building.

With a height of up to one metre and a wingspan of two metres, they're majestic creatures – their razor-sharp talons are so powerful, they can swoop down and snatch fish weighing around 2kg from the sea. You might see a bald eagle thrashing about on the water – that's because it's hooked a salmon too big to fly with, and the fish is drowning the bird.

Despite being an emblem of strength and power for the United States, their calls don't quite match up to their stature. In fact, the sound we usually associate with bald eagles isn't actually them at all. Their calls are surprisingly weak and high-pitched – more like a series of feeble chirps and yelps – so film and TV producers often dub them with the louder, more commanding cry of the red-tailed hawk.

### Greedy bears

A star attraction, black and brown bears – also known as grizzlies – are widespread in Alaska. Often thought of as fierce carnivores, they're actually expert foragers, knowing exactly which plants to eat to nourish and heal them.

Every autumn, they gorge themselves on salmon and berries, and can consume up to 100,000 calories and gain up to 2lb in weight every day before winter. During their seven-month hibernation, they don't eat or drink at all, so they live off their fat. Their heart rate drops from 40-50 beats per minute to fewer than 10, and they only take a breath every 45 seconds. They're effectively in suspended animation.

By the time they emerge they're starving – but the first food they hunt for is plants including dandelions, fireweed and skunk cabbage to kick-start their digestive systems. For generations, Alaska's Indigenous people followed the bears' habits, eating what they ate, to learn which plants were safe and which had specific medicinal properties.



### Sleepy seals

Some Alaska seals can dive down to 1,800ft, holding their breath for up to 30 minutes due to extra oxygen stored in their muscles and blood. They can even 'nap' underwater by shutting down half their brain at a time, while the other half stays alert for predators.

Their whiskers have amazing powers, too: called vibrissae, they're high-tech underwater sensors. Seals actively control their whiskers by moving them back and forth – called 'whisking' – to explore their surroundings.

Their vibrissae are so sensitive that they can detect tiny vibrations in the water, helping them sense prey even in murky conditions. They can distinguish between different-sized ripples or trails of turbulence caused by the swirling motions of a fish's tail, to identify its size. Studies show they can detect and follow the path of a single fish almost 200 metres away, purely by feeling the water's movement. In Alaska's icy, often dark waters, this power is vital, enabling seals to hunt efficiently through the ice, navigate and survive in conditions where eyesight alone wouldn't be enough. ▶



### Warmth-loving sea otters

Another crowd-pleaser, sea otters are not just cute, they're also brilliantly designed to survive Alaska's freezing temperatures.

They have the densest fur of any animal, with up to one billion hairs in their pelt. The otters blow bubbles into their fur, which get trapped, creating a blanket of insulation to prevent the cold air cutting through. It's why they spend so much time grooming – to fluff up their fur and maintain that insulation. Newborn pups have extra-fluffy fur that traps so much air they float like corks, preventing them from sinking.

Every visitor hopes to spot otters sleeping holding paws, known as rafting, which they do to avoid drifting apart as they snooze. Sometimes a pair will wrap themselves in kelp too.

But my personal favourite fact is that each otter has a preferred rock that it keeps to hand to use as a mini hammer. They'll swim down to catch a clam or crab, bring it up to the surface, then roll over and, using their chest as a dining table, crack open the hard shell with their rock to get to the food. When they're not using their tool, they keep it in a fold of skin in their armpit.



**FIND OUT MORE**  
Scan this QR code for details on Alaska cruises and cruisetours plus the Great Land's glaciers, wildlife and national parks

### Super-intelligent orcas

Often called killer whales, orcas are actually among the most intelligent creatures on Earth. Their brains, which are packed with highly developed areas for emotion, memory and social learning, are five times larger than ours relative to body size.

Scientists often compare their intelligence to a human teenager's, because they show similar levels of curiosity, communication and emotional depth. They also show empathy, grieving for lost members of their pod.

When you look into their penetrating eyes, you can feel them assessing you, as though they can see into your soul. In a way they can: their sonar system, called echolocation, is so sophisticated it can detect human heartbeats. They produce clicking sounds that bounce off objects in the water, then receive the returning echoes via their lower jaws, which transmit vibrations directly to their inner ear. They can 'read' the returning echoes with incredible precision, allowing them to detect the shape, size, speed and even texture of objects – they can tell the species of fish apart just by sound. And despite decades of technological advances, their sonar still outperforms human versions. 🌊



### Plan the trip of a lifetime

Tick Alaska off your bucket list on one of these amazing itineraries



**7-NIGHT INSIDE PASSAGE (ROUNDRIP SEATTLE)**

Star Princess 5 Sep 2027

Ketchikan is known as Alaska's First City because it serves as the first port of call as you cruise north through the Inside Passage.



**7-NIGHT VOYAGE OF THE GLACIERS WITH GLACIER BAY**

Island Princess 28 Jul 2027

As you cruise through Glacier Bay National Park, rangers will join the ship to help you spot humpback whales, sea otters and bald eagles.



**9-NIGHT INSIDE PASSAGE (ROUNDRIP VANCOUVER)**

Discovery Princess 6 May 2027

Juneau is home to 280 species of birds, brown and black bears, five species of salmon, and whales (primarily humpback and orca).

FOR MORE DEPARTURES, PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT [PRINCESS.COM](https://www.princess.com) 0344 338 8669

Photographs: Alamy, Shutterstock, Stephen Meyers/Unsplash

# Caribbean gold

From magnificent stretches of sand to spicy flavours, superb snorkelling and historic wonders, Caribbean expert **Nigel Tisdall** picks his favourite experiences to enjoy on an island-hopping cruise

**T**he first thing that seduced me about the Caribbean was the warmth of its sunshine, especially in winter, as well as those dreamy, crystal-clear, calm turquoise seas. In the 25 years I've been visiting, I've fallen head over heels with its incredible landscape, charismatic people and the joy of long, lazy lunches with your toes in the sand.

This is a place where you can splash under waterfalls, climb mighty volcanoes, sail to deserted cays, swim with turtles and dance under the stars. Where hit-the-spot rum cocktails encourage you to sway to the lilting sounds of reggae drifting from a beach bar and you can see one island, whether French, Dutch or British, from the next.

These are the stepping stones of history that make the Caribbean so fascinating. My personal treasure hunt has led me to 29 states and territories from the Bahamas down to Tobago as well as along the east coast of Central America. So, whether you're new to this island paradise or returning for a second, third or even fourth time, here are the eight reasons I keep coming back for more...

## Blissful beaches in Grand Cayman

Some Caymanians like to joke that Seven Mile Beach on Grand Cayman was named by a man because if you measure it properly, it's only five-and-a-half miles long. Easily reached on a 10-minute bus or taxi ride from George Town, this superlative stretch of white sand is big enough for everyone, with water sports, wreck-diving and stingray tours available along its shores. More than 130 different nationalities reside on this safe and affluent British Overseas Territory, and the result is a mixture of cuisines worth savouring – try fish tacos or spicy chicken wings in one of the many beach bars. ▶

**PARADISE FOUND**  
Other beaches worth laying out your towel on include Grand Anse in Grenada, Eagle Beach in Aruba or Trunk Bay on St. John in the US Virgin Islands.



Swimming with stingrays in Grand Cayman. Left: Seven Mile Beach



Breathtaking Brimstone Hill Fortress, St. Kitts. Below: relax to the tropical sound of steelpanns



See Grenada's capital St. George's, left, and tuck into grilled red snapper



## World-class wonders in St. Kitts

There are more than 20 Unesco World Heritage sites sprinkled around the Caribbean but the Brimstone Hill Fortress on St. Kitts, a military citadel dating from 1690, is one of my favourites. Now a national park (take a picnic), you'll find its well-preserved buildings at 800ft high with terrific coastal views. There's plenty to discover in the museum within the Fort George citadel including weaponry, a poignant cemetery and graffiti created by bored soldiers two centuries ago. The fortress is a 30-minute taxi ride from the cruise port in Basseterre or join a shore excursion that also visits the gardens and batik factory at Romney Manor.

**THREE OTHER UNESCO MUST-SEES**  
The colonial Garrison area of Bridgetown, Barbados, the colourful centre of Willemstad, Curaçao, and the mountainous Morne Trois Pitons National Park in Dominica.

## Dance to the beat of Caribbean rhythms

I love the way musicians and dancers welcome cruise ships when they arrive in a Caribbean port and barely a day goes by without hearing reggae, steelpan, calypso or soca in a taxi, restaurant or bar. Tune into the local vibe on excursions that will have you shaking your hips to a mariachi band in Cozumel, Mexico, or twirling around to merengue in Amber Cove in the Dominican Republic. If you like to party, take advantage of the late departures that are part of Princess Cruises' More Ashore programme, which lets you enjoy Caribbean ports at night on islands such as St Thomas, Puerto Rico and Aruba. Willemstad, the capital of Dutch Curaçao, can be visited on a Southern Caribbean cruise and is particularly attractive at night when its floating Queen Emma Bridge is illuminated by pretty coloured lights. Here you can book a three-hour bar-hopping excursion that includes cocktails, or the centre is close enough for you to do your own exploring on foot.



## Taste island flavours in Grenada

Grenada's reputation as the Caribbean's 'Spice Isle' is justified – there's even a nutmeg on the national flag to prove it. Here you can drive inland to visit rural estates and learn how this aromatic seed is cultivated along with cinnamon, cloves, ginger and the cacao beans that produce the island's award-winning organic chocolate. Alternatively, take an easy walk from the cruise terminal into the island's picturesque capital, St. George's, where you can visit its bountiful sprawling produce market and enjoy a lunch of freshly grilled red snapper at a waterfront restaurant such as Sails or BB's Crabback.

**FOODIE TOURS TO SAVOUR**  
In Nassau, Bahamas, you can learn how to make conch fritters and steamed fish, or on a walking tour of Old San Juan, in Puerto Rico, discover how to make mojitos and mofongo, the island's celebrated plantain-based dish. ▶

## Live the high life in St. Lucia

St. Lucia's iconic Pitons are captivating whether seen from land or sea, and are a highlight of Eastern Caribbean cruises. Excursions from the capital, Castries, usually drive south to admire these tooth-like landmarks then sail back by catamaran, or vice versa, taking a full day with a stop in the pretty harbour of Marigot Bay to swim. Some also call into Sulphur Springs in Soufrière where you can take a dip in warm mud baths, or for adrenaline thrills head inland to the Rainforest Adventures park to ride above the trees in an aerial tram or canopy zipline.



The dramatic Pitons of St. Lucia

### MORE MAGNIFICENT MOUNTAINS

El Toro, the highest point in Puerto Rico's El Yunque National Forest, or any of the volcanic peaks in waterfall-rich Dominica, the most towering of the Lesser Antilles. There's also Mount Liamuiga on St. Kitts, which you can ride past in the double-decker carriages of its scenic railway.



The colourful reefs in Belize are a Unesco World Heritage site

## Underwater thrills in Belize

Belize, the only Central American country whose official language is English, has the second largest barrier reef in the world. If you like to snorkel, dive or just get out on the water, then this is the place for you. Excursions from Belize City often combine stops at several snorkelling sites with a barefoot lunch on a tiny, palm-dotted cay. Beneath the waves the fish and coral are as bright as a Disney film and you can see stingrays, nurse sharks and barracuda. I find the friendly Belizean guides great for pointing out camouflaged lobsters and flounder hiding on the seabed.

### OTHER GREAT SNORKEL SPOTS

Bonaire, a pancake-flat Dutch isle, has a coastline that has been protected to a depth of 200ft since 1979. Cozumel, an island just off Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, offers an excursion that includes the chance to help with reef restoration.

## Caribbean dreams

### Sunshine souvenirs

You can buy packets of spices, bottles of hot sauce, fruit-based jams, woven baskets and handmade jewellery everywhere in the Caribbean so my advice is to keep an eye out for specialities unique to where you visit. Examples include coffee from Jamaica's Blue Mountains, silver from Mexico, chocolate from Grenada and batiks from St. Kitts. A good gift to take back for loved ones is beauty and skincare products featuring aloe vera. The Dutch island of Aruba is a major producer and the Royal Aruba Aloe Museum and Factory, on the outskirts of Oranjestad, will tell you everything you need to know about this miracle plant. 🌿



Look for unique handicrafts in the colourful local markets

## Be charmed by the Caribbean

Soak up the sunshine island-hopping on one of these fabulous itineraries



### 10-NIGHT EASTERN CARIBBEAN WITH ST. KITTS

- Enchanted Princess 6 Jan 2027
- Originally named Liamuiga ('fertile land'), St. Kitts is home to 44 unique varieties of mango.



### 12-NIGHT SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN WITH PANAMA

- Caribbean Princess 28 Mar 2027
- Grand Cayman, the largest of the three Cayman Islands, is just 22 miles long.



### 14-NIGHT EASTERN/WESTERN CARIBBEAN ADVENTURER

- Sun Princess 28 Feb 2027
- Amber Cove is named after the translucent gemstone found on its shores.

FOR MORE DEPARTURES, PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM 0344 338 8669

## Get in high spirits on a rum tour

We all know the Caribbean runs on rum with Barbados claiming to be the birthplace of the spirit – to find out why pop along to the Mount Gay Visitor Centre, a 30-minute walk from the cruise port in Bridgetown. Almost every island has its own version – the rums from St. Lucia and Trinidad are particularly impressive – but I find the most interesting is the rum agricole produced on the French island of Martinique. While most rums are distilled from molasses, which is a by-product of sugar production, here it's made directly from pressed sugar cane. This results in a tippable that has a more authentic relationship with the land, leading to an earthier taste that's not as sweet as the more common rums. Many distilleries around the island offer tours, museums and tasting rooms – a popular one is Rhum Depaz in Saint-Pierre which can be visited on a shore excursion where you'll also get to see the island's tremendous volcanic scenery.



Visit Barbados or Martinique for some of the best rum in the Caribbean



Photographs: Nigel Tisdall, Alamy, Getty Images, Frank Fell, Robert Harding, Paul Seheult/Robert Harding, Shutterstock

# Six reasons to *love* Copenhagen

From Michelin-starred restaurants to recycled wooden trolls and the world's second oldest amusement park, local **Justine Gosling** explains why the bike-friendly Danish capital has so much to offer both on and off the water



## 1 Electric pleasure boats are perfect for picnics

Hire a boat in Christianshavn and see the city from the water while enjoying a floating picnic. Copenhagen's electric boats hold up to eight people, are easy to manoeuvre and have a table in the middle to serve traditional Danish smørrebrød (open-faced sandwiches) on. In just a few hours you can glide quietly past colourful Nyhavn, the Royal Danish Opera House, Amalienborg, where the Danish royal family live, and Christiansborg Palace, home of the Danish parliament.



## 2

### Trolls hide in plain sight

Trolls hold a special place in Danish culture and there are giant sculptures of them 'hidden' all over the city. Created by the artist Thomas Dambo, they're made entirely of reclaimed wood and include Little Tilde, left, in the woods by Vallensbæk Mose (look out for the 28 birdhouses hidden inside) and Oscar Under the Bridge in Ishøj Strandpark. Hire a bike and go hunting for them on two wheels using Dambo's downloadable troll treasure map ([trollmap.com](http://trollmap.com)).

## 3 The museums are world class

Copenhagen has its own Cultural District, an area in the heart of the city with 19 museums within a 10-minute walk. It includes Glyptoteket, founded by the Carlsberg brewer Carl Jacobsen, which displays works by Rodin, Greek sculptures, right, and French Impressionist paintings; The Black Diamond Royal Danish Library; and Gammel Strand, a canal-side townhouse full of contemporary art. Don't miss Nikolaj Kunsthal, the most atmospheric art gallery of them all thanks to its setting in a deconsecrated Gothic church. ▶



## 4 There are scenic hot tubs by the sea

If you're a fan of Scandi wellness trends and urban spas, Copenhagen boasts fire-heated outdoor hot tubs as well as floating saunas along the canals and within the harbour. Locals bravely plop in and out of the chilly (but clean) water before warming up inside in this popular health-boosting hot and cold therapy ritual. In summer, you can join locals swimming in the many free-floating harbour baths.



## 6 There's a vintage amusement park

Don't miss the icon that is Tivoli Gardens, Denmark's most visited attraction. Dating back to 1843, it's one of the world's oldest amusement parks and a charming place to while away a few hours. Inside you'll find classic wooden rollercoasters, beautiful gardens (more than 24,000 tulips burst into life come spring), live performances (don't miss the Pantomime Theatre with its fabulous peacock curtain) and a resident marching band. A playground for young and old alike, its fairytale atmosphere even inspired Hans Christian Andersen and Walt Disney.



**FIND OUT MORE**  
Scan this QR code for details of the northern Europe cruises featuring Copenhagen, sights to see in the city and the best excursions to book



## 5 You can eat well all over the city

Noma, voted the best restaurant in the world five times, may have closed its main fine-dining doors (there are still Noma pop-ups, a food lab and private dining there) and Copenhagen's reputation as a gourmet destination remains. The city has 18 restaurants boasting over 30 Michelin stars between them including Alchemist, an immersive, multi-sensory venue that serves a theatrical 50-course tasting menu over seven hours (book it before or after your fly-cruise). There are affordable bites to be had in Reffen, left, northern Europe's largest street food market, and Kødbyen, Copenhagen's Meatpacking District, once a wholesale centre for butchers, now a creative neighbourhood teaming with trendy bars, galleries and restaurants.

## Discover the charm of Copenhagen

Visit the Danish capital and explore more of the region on one of these brilliant itineraries



**8-NIGHT BALTIC ADVENTURER**

Regal Princess 29 May 2027

The Danish flag, or Dannebrog, holds the Guinness World Record for the oldest continuously used national flag.



**10-NIGHT EUROPEAN CAPITALS**

Majestic Princess 2 Jul 2027

Copenhagen's magnificent Kronborg Castle was immortalised by Shakespeare as the setting for his tragedy, *Hamlet*.



**12-NIGHT NORWAY, DENMARK & SWEDEN**

Caribbean Princess 10 Aug 2027

This roundtrip Copenhagen itinerary means you have plenty of time to enjoy the city before and after your cruise.

FOR MORE DEPARTURES, PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM 0344 338 8669

Photographs: Alamy, AWL Images, Elizabeth George/Unsplash, Thomas Dambo, Visit Copenhagen

# In search of the perfect paella

For an authentic taste of Spain's much-loved national dish there's only one place to go – València, the city where paella was born. **Gemma Tipton** discovers its history, culture and secret ingredients

Ripe local tomatoes and vivid saffron, two of the staple ingredients in an authentic paella, can be found in the Mercat Central

**R**ich, delicious and comforting, paella is Spain on a plate, a colourful dish consisting of saffron-infused rice and meat now known and loved all over the world. Yet there's only one city that serves the real deal – the almighty paella Valenciana – and it tastes nothing like the paella you get elsewhere.

So important is it to local culture that, since 2021, it's been protected by the government to preserve its authenticity – and with good reason.

As any Valencian will tell you, a genuine paella includes white and green beans, rabbit, chicken and even the odd snail, all cooked in a wide flat pan using short-grain bahia or

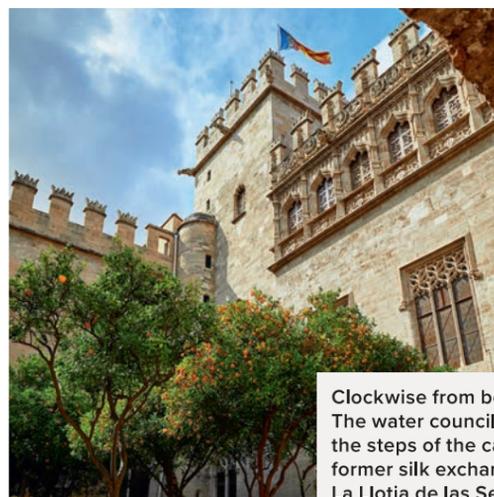
sènia rice grown in nearby Albufera.

'Traditionally paella is only ever eaten at lunchtime and mixing seafood and meat is forbidden,' says local food expert and writer, Vicent Marco, who knows first hand how seriously locals take the dish, originally cooked by farmers to feed their families in the mid-19th century.

'Staple ingredients include tomato, paprika, garrofó [white beans], and bajoqueta [flat green beans] as well as saffron to give it that distinctive yellow colour,' adds Marco.

Another unwritten rule is that it can only be served for two or more to share and must be completely dry, with no water left in the pan, called a paella ▶





Clockwise from below left: The water council meets on the steps of the cathedral; former silk exchange La Llotja de las Seda; paella Valenciana; Colón market; LaLola restaurant



in Valencian, hence the dish's name.

According to Marco, true paella never has chorizo, peas, onion, carrot or too much decoration on top. 'Paella Valenciana knows its own worth, it doesn't need dressing up,' he explains proudly.

That said, many restaurants in València, especially around the port and cathedral, will still serve it with seafood, to solo diners *and* after the sun goes down – although locals will always demand the real deal.

### Oranges and silk

València's food culture runs deep and is unique thanks to its waves of invaders. The Romans settled in the city in 138 BC, naming it Valentia to commemorate their victories. Later, in the 8th century, the Moors took over. One of the few visible remains of the Moorish era are the orange trees which line the streets. Planted for fragrance rather than taste (don't eat them, they're bitter!), they're also integral to paella

as Valencian chefs like to cook it over an orange-wood fire.

Moorish traders also brought silk, and La Llotja de la Seda, the former silk exchange in the old quarter of the city, is well worth a visit. Built between 1482 and 1533, it's one of the most beautiful secular buildings of its time, not just in Spain but in all of Europe. Look out for the gargoyles and carvings around its doors – some may make you blush...

Another Moorish innovation connected to the development of paella is the irrigation system – because it was this which enabled the growth of rice in the region. To this day, in a tradition established in the 1200s, the Water Council meets every Thursday on the steps of the cathedral. Made up of eight farm workers dressed in traditional black shirts, they settle disputes and decide how to share this precious resource.

Go inside the cathedral and you'll see two paintings by Francisco Goya as well as the Holy Chalice, the cup said to have been used by Jesus at the Last Supper. While there are numerous chalices dotted around the world making the same claim, València's has been endorsed by Popes John Paul II

and Benedict XVI. A new museum is being built to house it, but for now, you can admire it in a quiet chapel.

### A feast of flavours

Food matters in València, and the squares around the cathedral are lined with cafés and restaurants serving a great value *menú del día* (a fixed price three-course lunch). But for paella you have to venture down one of the side streets.

LaLola, a bright, buzzy restaurant on a quiet bougainvillea-filled lane, is owned by Jesús Ortega, a passionate chef who explains that the secret to his excellent paella lies in using authentic, local ingredients.

'València takes its flavours from the land, and they're justly proud of their produce. The local Perelló tomatoes, for example, are grown in sand, which adds a delicate fullness to their taste. At LaLola we serve them uncooked, with thin slivers of cured tuna,' he says. If Ortega's there when you visit (look out for his chihuahua snoozing in the shade), ask him to pair a glass of Albariño with your paella and tell you what's in season.

Another great place to get a taste of

#### DID YOU KNOW?

20 September is World Paella Day. Scheduled to coincide with the rice harvest, València celebrates with hotly contested cooking competitions and tastings city-wide, with the main action taking place at La Marina de València.

the city is at one of its many daily (except Sunday) markets. Each district has its own and all of them sell an array of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, olive oils, spices and wines. Mercat Central de València in the old town is the biggest and a joy to browse, if only for the riot of aromas. Further out in the Ensanche district you'll find Colón, a beautifully restored art nouveau market now home to more cafés and restaurants than stalls. In the morning you'll see locals drinking Horchata, a refreshing, slightly sweet juice made from ground tiger nuts. In the afternoon, it's Agua de València, a heady cocktail of cava, vodka, orange juice and gin.

But it's the paella Valenciana that you'll remember most about the city – and it's what will have you coming back for more.

Photographs: Alamy, David Rotay/Visit València, Guillem Garey/Visit València, Mike Water/Visit València, Joyce Romero/Unsplash, Stuart Black/Robert Harding



### Take a trip to the home of paella

14-NIGHT SPAIN, FRANCE & PORTUGAL WITH TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Sky Princess

24 Jul 2027

Also visit the likes of Barcelona, Cartagena and Lisbon on this epic Mediterranean adventure

Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM

## Where to eat in València

**LaLola** cooks authentic paella Valenciana, which they recommend you order in advance.

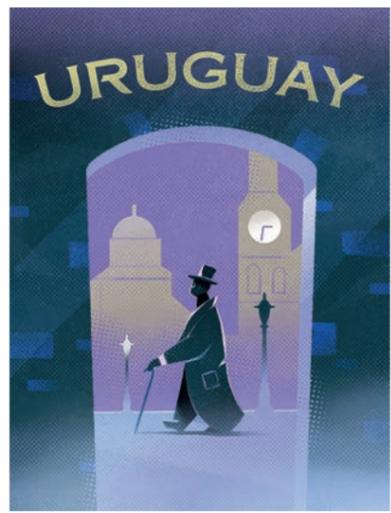
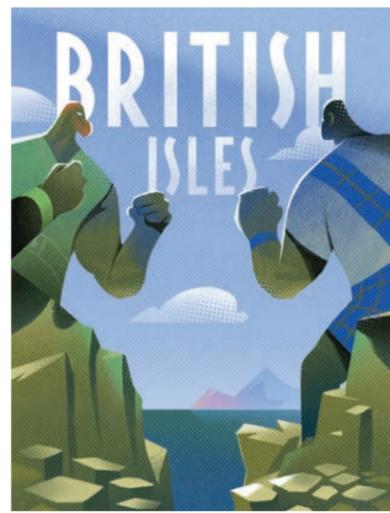
It takes at least 30 minutes to prepare from scratch, but that time is well spent enjoying a glass of cava and some tasty tapas. There's a gluten-free menu, too. Find it at Pujada del Toledà.

**Restaurante Yuso**, run by Valencian chef Raül Cerdà, has two locations in the old town at Calle de la Cruz and Plaza del Carmen. Go there for paella, fideuà and black rice flavoured with squid ink.

Head towards the coast and you'll find **Casa Carmela**, where the paella is cooked over traditional orange-wood

fires. Originally a beach shack, this València institution has been in the same family for four generations.

**Goya Gallery**, a Michelin Guide restaurant, has been serving up paella since 1950 to the likes of Italian film director Bernardo Bertolucci. You'll find it on Carrer de Borriana in the buzzy Ensanche district.



# Travellers' tales

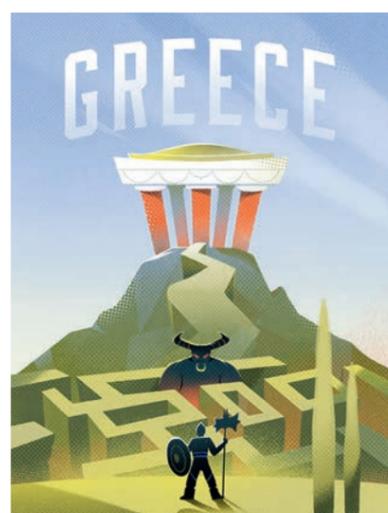
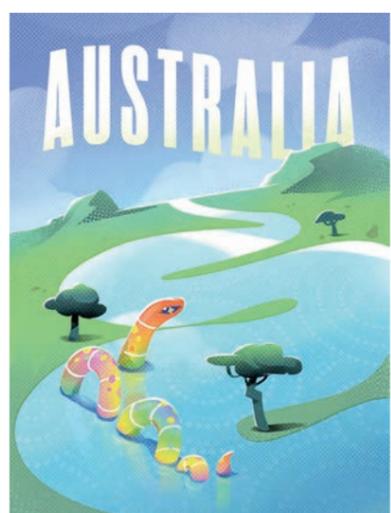
From warring giants to well-dressed ghosts, **Russell Higham** reveals some of the world's greatest myths and legends and the destinations that inspired them

Illustrations: **Paykhan**

**W**e all love a good story and one of the world's oldest is set to hit the big screen this summer. *The Odyssey*, an epic Greek poem written by Homer somewhere between 725 and 675 BC, is being released as a film by Christopher Nolan (director of *Oppenheimer*, *Inception* and *Interstellar*). Starring Matt Damon, Robert Pattinson, Zendaya and Anne Hathaway, this ancient myth, about King Odysseus's 10-year journey home to Ithaca after the Trojan War, will have us all booking a Greek cruise and wishing we'd listened more in our English lit classes.

Even Princess Cruises' logo, the 'Seawitch', is based on Circe, one of the mythical enchantresses featured in *The Odyssey*. The daughter of sun god Helios and sea nymph Perse (played by Charlize Theron in the film), she famously turned Odysseus's men into pigs (but don't worry, Hermes eventually persuaded her to change them back).

But Circe is not the only Greek goddess to have inspired us to pack our bags and set sail. Here are some of the world's most captivating legends – and where to go and find out more...



## Myths and legends

See the best of the British Isles

8-NIGHT IRISH COUNTIES & SCOTTISH SHORES

Regal Princess

25 Jun 2027

On this roundtrip sailing from Southampton, the Giant's Causeway is easily accessible from Belfast

Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM



### Giant's Causeway

Follow in the footsteps of giants at this dramatic Unesco World Heritage site along Northern Ireland's Atlantic coast. Formed of more than 40,000 interlocking basalt columns – some of which are up to 39ft high – the Giant's Causeway attracts up to a million visitors a year. As well as being wild and striking, what really captures the imagination of visitors is the story behind these enormous stepping stones.

According to legend, they were made when a giant, Finn MacCool, was challenged to a fight by his rival, Benandonner, a Scottish ogre from across the water. In order to reach him, big Finn MacCool tore up chunks of the County Antrim coastline and hurled them into the sea to create a path – the Giant's Causeway.

Of course, geological science tells us the real reason for the impressive stones is a volcanic eruption more than 60 million years ago. But that doesn't stop us preferring the idea that it was made by fighting giants. ▶





### The Man in the Top Hat

In Uruguay's coastal capital, Montevideo, a tall, dark, bearded stranger is said to stalk the ancient, cobblestoned streets on mist-shrouded

nights. Locals say he's often spotted at 3.33am near the Puerta de la Ciudadela (Gateway of the Citadel) or in the alleyways behind the Teatro Solis (the country's most famous theatre). This elegantly dressed gentleman, whose face is always hidden, is believed by some to be the ghost of a 19th-century merchant who made a bargain for eternal life. Perfectly harmless (unless you look him in the eye or ask the time...), you can avoid him by taking a stroll along the world's longest continuous sidewalk, relaxing on one of the sandy city beaches or indulging in delicious grass-fed beef – the steaks here are amazing.



### The Two Frogs of Osaka and Kyoto

There's always been a friendly rivalry between the modern port city of Osaka

and the traditional, former Imperial capital of Kyoto, and most tourists visit both if they can. Now connected by bullet train (in 15 minutes), it's easy to do and means you won't make the same mistake as the two frogs... According to legend, they were friends – one living in Kyoto, one in Osaka – who decided to visit each other to compare their hometowns. Meeting halfway, they stood on their hind legs to get a clearer view, forgetting their eyes were on the back of their heads so they were looking back at their own cities. Disappointed that Osaka appeared to be the same as Kyoto and vice versa, neither frog completed their journey, not realising their mistake. The moral of the story is perspectives are different depending on where you stand and no two places are the same – something you can't fail to discover on a cruise around Japan. ▶



### See Osaka & Kyoto for yourself

11-NIGHT  
CIRCLE JAPAN  
WITH HAKODATE  
MINATO FESTIVAL

 Sapporo Princess

 24 Jul 2027

 This itinerary also calls at Nagoya, Kochi and Hakodate, where you can enjoy the local festivities with more time ashore

 Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85

 FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT [PRINCESS.COM](http://PRINCESS.COM)

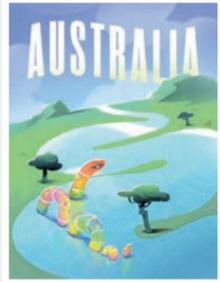


### The Mermaid of Edam

The pretty Dutch town of Edam, 11 miles north-east of Amsterdam, is famous for more than just cheese (although it's worth visiting for that alone). It's believed to be where the Mermaid of

Edam was discovered washed up following a huge storm in 1403. Milkmaids attending their cows are said to have spotted the wild sea creature with the body of a woman and the tail of a fish, searching for food in the Purmer Lake (in Dutch folklore she's also referred to as the Purmer seawoman). The lake has now been drained but you can still walk around Edam's charming 17th-century streets and see an image of the mermaid in the stained glass of St. Nicholas Church also known as the Grote Kerk (big church).





## Wagyl, creator of the Swan River

According to Aboriginal mythology, the Wagyl (or Waugal) is a rainbow-coloured serpent who helped shape the land during creation time. As the creature slithered from the hills to the ocean, he carved out the Swan and Cannon Rivers, and when he shed his scales they became beautiful

woodlands. You can show your respects to him and the Noongar people (who remain custodians of the land) at Boyagin Rock, a nature reserve just over 100 miles from Perth. Said to be Wagyl's final resting place, throwing a handful of sand into the water shows you come in peace – just don't say his name because it's meant to make it rain. The Swan River still divides Perth into north and south and the design of the Matagarup suspension bridge is said to represent the mythical creature that created the waterway beneath.

## An Aussie adventure awaits

22-NIGHT  
ROUND AUSTRALIA

  
Grand Princess

  
8 Mar 2028

  
Departing Adelaide, this itinerary includes 6 ports, along with 2 scenic cruising days, before finishing in Sydney

  
Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85

  
FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT [PRINCESS.COM](https://www.princess.com)

## Myths and legends



## The Minotaur of Crete

One of the most fascinating monsters in Greek mythology, the Minotaur was born with the body of a man and the head of a bull. He was believed to be the result

of a curse placed on King Minos, ruler of Crete, and his wife by the sea god Poseidon, and was condemned to live in an elaborate maze called the Labyrinth. Want to know the rest of the story? Head to the Palace of Knossos on Crete where the Labyrinth was believed to have been. About 20 minutes south of Heraklion, it dates back almost 4,000 years and is Crete's largest and most important archaeological site. No doubt many visitors come in search of the mythical Minotaur who (spoiler alert) was slain by Theseus. And if, like Theseus, you want to find your way out of the Labyrinth, we recommend packing a ball of string. 

Photographs: Alamy, Getty Images, Jane Sweeney/Robert Harding, Karol Kozłowski/Robert Harding, Melissa Kuhnell/Robert Harding

# 24 hours in Tokyo



Make the most of a pre- or post-cruise stay in Japan's dizzying megalopolis with our expert's guide to not getting *Lost In Translation*

Words and photographs: Mark Parren Taylor

**Y**ou never forget your first time in Tokyo. From its traditional incense-filled temples to the rush-hour crush and futuristic neon-lit nightlife, it's mesmerising and disorientating all at the same time. But with some insider knowledge and a few top tips, it's not as indecipherable as it can initially seem.

When I first visited the city over 20 years ago, just after the Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson movie *Lost In Translation* was released, I found it as

overwhelming as they did on screen. But having returned numerous times since, I've got a much better understanding of its secrets – from the best places to eat soba noodles to where to buy manga.

You can't expect to 'do' all of Tokyo, the world's largest city (by population at least), in a day. My advice is to break it down into a patchwork of villages, each with its own colour, style and feel, as I have in this handy cut-out-and-keep city guide. *Tokyo 2026: The City Guide* by Mark Parren Taylor is available on Apple Books

Map for illustrative purposes only. Not to scale

## Best for: Temples and tradition

### Asakusa 浅草

**VISIT:** In the morning before the crowds arrive

A historic district beside the Sumida River, Asakusa has been a bustling 'downtown' for centuries, since the days when Tokyo was known as Edo. At its heart, Sensoji Temple, right, protects a 7th century Buddhist relic reputedly netted by two brothers fishing in the nearby river. As well as the crimson-lacquered main hall, the Sensoji complex has an elegant five-storey pagoda and two ceremonial gates. One, the imposing Kaminarimon ('Thunder Gate'), stands 400m in front of the main hall, at the start of busy Nakamise-dori shopping street. Asakusa is also home to Japan's oldest amusement park, Hanayashiki, which has a vintage rollercoaster, merry-go-round and other nostalgic rides.

#### INSIDER TIP

The view from the rooftop of **Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Centre**

combines old (the Sensoji Temple immediately below) with new (the futuristic **Toyko Skytree**, 1.3km away across the Sumida river). At 634m tall, this broadcasting and observation tower is the third tallest structure on the planet.

The information centre also offers free 90-minute guided walking tours of the district at 10.30am and 1.15pm each day (limited spaces, check in with the front desk 15 minutes ahead

of time). Alternatively, sit back and enjoy a **rickshaw ride** from one of the peddlers around Kaminarimon gate. Expect to pay about ¥10,000 (approximately £50) for a 30-minute circuit for two.

#### WALK TO

The Ryogoku district's **Kokugikan arena**, 2km (1.25 miles) south along

**Good to know**  
Shrines have water fountains by the entrance – use the ladle to 'purify' your hands (devotees splash their lips too).



the Sumida River, which hosts sumo tournaments every January, May and September. Many of Tokyo's sumo 'stables' are nearby, so don't be surprised to bump into these supersized wrestlers as they go about their daily lives.

#### SHOP FOR

Lightweight, easily packable Tenugui are elegant, multipurpose scarf-like cloths. **Kamawanu** (on Orange Street, parallel to Nakamise-dori) showcases a vast range of designs – and provides a handy guide to how to tie and use one. Just a minute around the corner, look out for **Yonoya**, a shop renowned for its exquisite boxwood combs and hairpins, and **Kanaya**, left, which focuses on artisan-made brushes for every occasion – from old-school horse-hair toothbrushes to

specialist tools for cleaning computer keyboards, golf clubs and even cats.

#### EAT & DRINK

**Nakamise-dori** is home to sweet and snack sellers offering griddled sponge cakes, rice crackers or meaty menchi croquettes – some have glass walls or open kitchens so you can watch them being made. At the temple end of the street, **Kokonoe** makes crispy fried doughnut-like buns (from ¥200, about £1) stuffed with traditional bean paste as well as chocolate, strawberry or curry, and in spring, cherry blossom-flavoured cream. For more than a century the **Namiki Yabusoba** restaurant (two minutes south of Kaminarimon), has been hand-making soba noodles every morning (¥900 or £4.50 for a portion with zesty dipping sauce). ▶



Best for: Upscale shopping

**Ginza** 銀座

**VISIT:** In the afternoon, before rush hour

Ginza is named after its 17th century 'silver mint', and the area is still a money-maker today. One of the city's busiest shopping destinations, you'll find designer boutiques, upscale eateries and flagship stores for Japanese brands such as Uniqlo along high-rise-lined Chuo-dori (central) avenue. But Ginza's real charm lies in the grid of back alleys on either side of it, home to noodle shops, art galleries and antique dealers.

**INSIDER TIP**

Do your shopping under one roof at the **GINZA SIX** centre, right, on Chuo-dori. There are nine storeys to explore including two floors of dining plus an open-air roof garden with great views over the hubbub below. Or within earshot of the hourly chimes of the Wako Building clock, **Mitsukoshi Ginza**

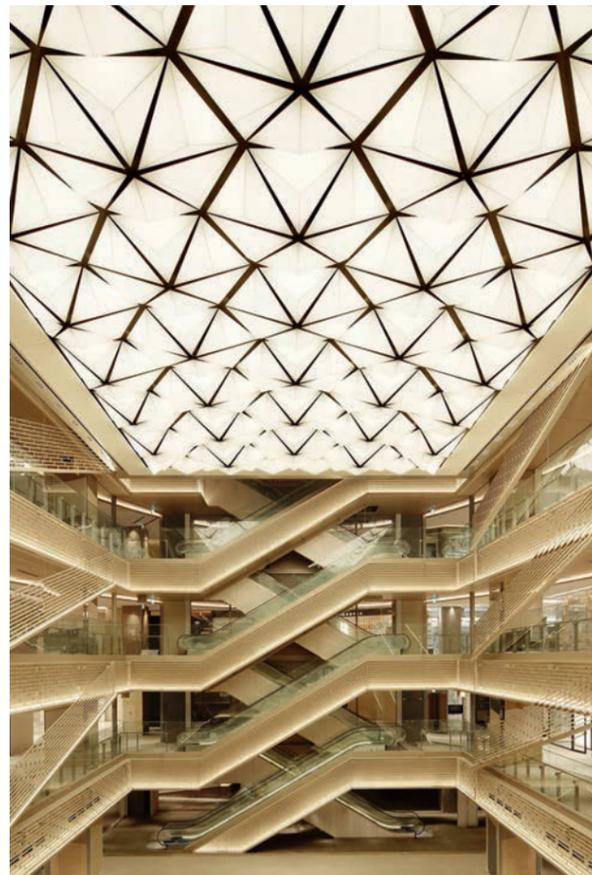
department store has a rooftop garden with a shrine, an exceptional basement food hall and everything from a shoeshine and nursery to a kimono department.

**WALK TO**

The **Kabuki-za** Theatre, 300m east of Mitsukoshi, the city's principal venue for traditional Kabuki performances. Highly dramatic, these can last for hours and start as early as 11am. Don't miss seeing the audience arrive wearing their finest kimonos.

**EAT & DRINK**

Coffee gives Ginza its buzz. **Café Paulista** (on Chuo-dori) is a good spot for a coffee



and pancake pick-me-up (¥2,000/£10). It's been going strong since 1911 when the founder and coffee importer Mizuno Ryu helped transport the first immigrant families to São Paulo (now home to an estimated 1.6 million Japanese-Brazilians) on his

cargo boat. On the street behind, atmospheric **Café de l'Ambre** (since 1948) is an old-school kissaten (coffee shop) serving aged-bean brews, a coffee enriched with egg yolks or a **Café Royal**, complete with a hearty splash of cognac.

**Good to know**

At the weekend, Ginza's main street, Chuo-dori, is pedestrianised every afternoon with tables, chairs and impromptu entertainment.

**Ginza for gourmets**

Retail therapy can work up an appetite – and Ginza has plenty of places to satisfy hungry shoppers



**TSUBO-YAKIIMO FOR YAKIIMO**

An autumn and winter go-to, hot sweet potato (yakiimo) is baked to perfection in Tsubo-yakiimo's earthenware pots. Best eaten immediately while still steamy and crisp-skinned. In summer, opt for the frozen variety which is fudgy and smooth like ice cream.



**HAKKOKU FOR SUSHI**

One of Tokyo's finest sushi and sashimi restaurants, Hakkoku delivers an omakase (chef's choice) experience of around 25 courses of handmade heaven featuring the catches of the day. The English menu will tell you whether you're eating tuna, cuttlefish, crab or sea urchin.



**MITSUKOSHI FOR WAGASHI**

Wagashi taste as good as they look. These palm-sized sweets are made from coloured bean paste and often represent the fruit, flowers or leaves of the season. Some top-tier confectioners present their latest creations in Matsuya Ginza food hall.



Best for: Pop culture

**Shibuya** 渋谷

**VISIT:** At weekends, when the fashion tribes gather

If one place brings Tokyo daydreams to life, it's Shibuya. Elegant but streetwise, bustling yet strangely quiet when the crowds disperse, it's a tomorrow-world steeped in tradition. Walk (or is that catwalk?) with the weekend crowds through this district of extremes: sashay over the famed Scramble Crossing, above, hip-hop through Harajuku, tiptoe through Meiji Shrine and roam the backstreets of Omotesando.

**INSIDER TIP**

If you can't resist the urge to join the Lolita, Fairy Kei or Rockabilly fashion tribes head to **Shibuya 109** (130m west of the Scramble Crossing) where more than a hundred boutiques over 10 floors provide everything that's necessary for a head-to-toe transformation. Harajuku's **Takeshita Street** is the place to go if you want to show off your outfit and see what everyone else is wearing.

**WALK**

Across Shibuya's legendary **Scramble Crossing** of course. Up to 3,000 pedestrians are estimated to join the organised chaos every time the lights change. Don't miss the small statue to Hachiko – a faithful dog who returned to look for its dead owner here every day for a decade.

**EAT & DRINK**

**Cat Street**, a winding lane connecting central Shibuya with Harajuku, is sprinkled with quirky boutiques and restaurants. At the north end, **Harajuku Gyoza** serves two types of gyoza (boiled or pan-fried – ¥340/£1.40 for six), while **Tamawarai**, five minutes south of Cat Street, is an award-winning soba noodle restaurant. Try matcha in everything (think ice cream, lemonade and cookies) in **The Matcha** (the clue's in the name).



**Good to know**

For bird's-eye views of the famed **Scramble Crossing**, the Tokyo skyline and on a clear day **Mount Fuji**, head to 229m tall **Shibuya Sky** – sunset tickets are best bought in advance.

**Green-line gardens**

Tokyo's Yamanote loop (the 'green line') stops at some of the city's finest traditional parks



**MEIJI JINGU Station: Harajuku**

Planted a century ago, this sacred forest surrounding Meiji Jingu shrine is a calm and quiet sanctuary – on hot summer afternoons, paths are splashed with sunlight and you'll see the Inner Garden (¥500/£2.50) awash with vibrant irises.



**SHINJUKU GYOEN Station: Shinjuku**

Japan's national garden (¥500/£2.50) is divided into English landscape, French formal and traditional Japanese, with greenhouses, lakes, meadows and 1,500 cherry trees that burst into delicate pink blossoms in spring.



**RIKUGIEN Station: Komagome**

One of Japan's most beautiful gardens, Rikugien (¥300/£1.50) is a delight at any time of year but the crowds flock here at the end of November to see the leaves turn to rich reds, golds and bronzes. ▶

## Best for: Neon nightlife

# Shinjuku 新宿

**VISIT:** After dark, to see the lights glow

Shinjuku is home to big business and even bigger nights out. This hectic corner of Tokyo can seem overwhelming but the experience is always worth it. The best bars and eateries are often tiny (though they rarely have a queue) – Omoide Yokocho, close to the station's west exit, is lined with pint-sized yakitori grills and izakaya bars, some with seats for just six customers.

**INSIDER TIP**  
Start your evening the way locals do by hitting the high notes in a private karaoke room. Look out for chains **Pasela** (there's one on Yasukuni-dori avenue next to the nightlife district of Kabukicho) or **Big Echo** (near Musashino Street, by the station). A 30-minute

session costs about ¥1,000 (£5pp) including a drink.

**EAT & DRINK**  
The humble sardine takes centre stage in the satisfying **Nakajima** lunch sets (from just ¥1,100/£5.50) including yanagawa nabe (¥1,320/£6.75), a baked hotpot. **Yuta** is a welcoming izakaya (bar

with food) in the buzzy Sancho district serving tapas-style yakitori grilled meats and veggies (¥200-700 per plate/£1-3.50) with a menu in English. For drinks, **Golden Gai** is a ramshackle collection of 200 bars, noodle counters and bistros across six narrow lanes. Look out for **Open Book**

(lane 5) and try its signature Lemon Sour, or visit nearby **Albatross** for eye-popping maximalist decor.

**Good to know**  
Shinjuku Station is the busiest in the world – 3.6 million people pass through every day – so avoid it during the 8am rush hour.

## 4 day trips from Shinjuku

There's a good reason why Shinjuku Station is so busy: it connects Tokyo inside and out. Here are four of the best places to explore if you have time



### MOUNT TAKAO

55 minutes on the Keio Line  
A chairlift and funicular help cut short the climb to the summit – and the walk through the forest at the top passes viewpoints, temples, shops, restaurants and a Monkey Park (entry ¥500/£2.50). Be rewarded at the very top with an inspiring panorama all the way to Mount Fuji, the symbol of Japan.



### ODAWARA

85 minutes on the Odakyu Line  
Odawara Castle is a charm in the springtime when its surrounding cherry trees are loaded with blossom. Don't miss having a seafood feast in one of the easygoing fish restaurants by the harbour, a 15-minute walk away. Buses from here will take you to Motohakone on Lake Ashi, where you can also see beautiful Mount Fuji.



### KAWAGOE

1 hour on the JR Saikyo Line  
Kawagoe evokes Tokyo as it once was – its Koedo (old town) is a charming district of traditional kurazukuri warehouses, merchants and restaurants. Look out for the kimono hire shops (such as Koto, where day rental costs from ¥3,000/£15) and swish down Kashiya Yokocho, a lane lined with stores selling vintage-style cakes and sweets.



### NIKKO

2 hours on the JR Limited Express Nikko Line  
A Unesco World Heritage site in mountainous Tochigi, Nikko is renowned for its temple and shrine complex, Shinkyo, one of Japan's most beautiful bridges, and sprawling Tamozawa Villa. Restaurants here focus on regional produce, from sweet strawberries to deep-fried tofu skin. This service runs once a day.



## If you're staying longer... These are the districts to head for when you have more time



### Tsukiji

**FOR FOOD**  
The legendary Tsukiji Fish Market may have moved to Toyosu Island in 2018, but its Outer Market of restaurants, fishmongers and street-food stalls is still going strong (1km from Ginza). Go in the morning for spot-on sushi, moreish fish burgers and the fluffy tamago-sando (the egg sandwich so beloved by Anthony Bourdain) at Shouro.



### Roppongi

**FOR NIGHTLIFE AND THE TOKYO TOWER**  
Some of the city's most celebrated restaurants and bars are here as well as upmarket shopping and the Mori Art Museum on top of Roppongi Hills skyscraper. If you can't face the Skytree, ascend the 250m tall deck of the mid-century Tokyo Tower, left, which has views over the twinkling city nightscape.



### Akihabara and Jimbocho

**FOR ANIME AND BOOKS**  
Akihabara is the hub of otaku (obsessive) culture where gamers, anime and manga fans head. Just 1.5km west, Jimbocho was named the world's coolest neighbourhood in 2025. Enjoy its second-hand book stores, old-school coffee shops and Maruka, home of Tokyo's best – and possibly cheapest – udon noodles.



### Odaiba

**FOR FAMILY FUN**  
Odaiba is Tokyo's new entertainment centre, built on a man-made island and reached via the Rainbow Bridge or Yurikamome train. Its attractions, including an indoor rollercoaster at Joypolis, an amphibious bus tour, and a 64ft Gundam, left, guarding the DiverCity Mall, all surrounded by plenty of green spaces.

## Discover the magic of Japan

Explore the wonders of Tokyo and beyond on one of these Japanese itineraries



### 9-NIGHT HOKKAIDO CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Diamond Princess 20 Apr 2027

Hokkaido's Matsumae Park, home to Japan's northernmost castle, boasts around 10,000 cherry trees and 250 different blossom varieties.



### 10-NIGHT JAPAN EXPLORER WITH KUMANO FIREWORKS

Diamond Princess 16 Aug 2027

A unique opportunity to take in the 300-year-old annual Kumano Grand Fireworks Festival from the deck of Diamond Princess.



### 11-NIGHT CIRCLE JAPAN WITH SUMMER FESTIVALS

Sapphire Princess 4 Aug 2027

The Akita Kanto Festival features a spectacular night display of glowing lanterns held high on bamboo poles paraded through the town.

FOR MORE DEPARTURES, PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM 0344 338 8669

Additional photographs: Ajay Murthy/Unsplash (Shinjuku), Kuan Yu Huang/Pexels (Odaiba), Satoshi Shigetani (GINZA SIX), Tokyo map illustration: Tamita Montgomery, Freepik

# Land of

# fire

From hot springs and bubbling volcanoes to lava tubes, glaciers and geysers, Iceland's dramatic landscape is like nothing else on Earth

Words: **Meena Thiruvengadam**,  
co-author of *Lonely Planet Iceland*

Iceland is the only place on the planet where you can swim between continents, walk across glaciers, hike active volcanoes and soak in geothermal waters – all on the same day.

This incredible island nation, just south of the Arctic Circle, is home to the world's oldest parliament (founded in AD930), at least 10,000 waterfalls and fewer than 400,000 people, making it the most sparsely

populated country in Europe (not to mention one of the northernmost inhabited places in the world).

It's a mystical island where mountains and volcanoes rise from the sea, North Atlantic waves crash on to black sand beaches, and stories of elves and Norse legends abound. There truly is no other place like it, or a better way to experience it than through the four elements which shaped it. ▶

# & ice

From left: Vatnajökull; inside a vast ice cave at Vatnajökull; Silfra Fissure in Þingvellir National Park; Gullfoss waterfall



### Forged by fire

Iceland's fiery volcanic eruptions – on average there's one every four years – have given the country its untamed reputation and stark landscape. One of the best places to get a sense of this is on Snæfellsnes peninsula, Iceland's westernmost tip. It's home to Snæfellsjökull, the 700,000-year-old glacier-capped stratovolcano that Jules Verne immortalised in his 1864 novel *Journey To The Center Of The Earth*. And while it's one of Iceland's 32 active volcanic systems, don't worry, it last erupted about 1,800 years ago.

To see any active volcanoes (safely, of course), you'll need to visit the Reykjanes Peninsula, a Unesco Global Geopark. Several of Iceland's most recent volcanic eruptions have happened here including a small fissure eruption on the Sundhnúkur crater near Grindavik in July and August 2025 and the infamous (and virtually

unpronounceable) Eyjafjallajökull eruption in 2010, which created an ash cloud so big it grounded flights across Europe for weeks.

### Encased in ice

Glaciers cover about 11% of the island's landmass, making it literally a land of ice. More than 250 glaciers have been named, and several are open to visitors,

### You'll feel like you've landed on the moon

although specialist off-road vehicles are required to access them.

You can drive up the side of Snæfellsjökull on a snowcat to see the peak of the glacier but hiking into the 'centre of the earth' can be challenging. For an easier path into the icy depths,

head southeast to Skaftafell Nature Reserve in Vatnajökull, Iceland's largest National Park and a Unesco World Heritage site. With lush valleys, thundering waterfalls and startling ice formations in every shade of blue imaginable, Vatnajökull is Europe's largest glacier by volume. A constantly changing ice cap which covers about 8% of the country, its deep crevasses, jagged ridges and ice caves will make you feel like you've landed on the moon.

### Surrounded by water

Iceland is the only place in the world where it's possible to cross the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates in moments. You can swim, snorkel or dive across it (in extremely clear glacial meltwater) through the Silfra Fissure in Þingvellir National Park or walk across in the Almannagjá gorge. On the Reykjanes peninsula you can do the same via the Leif the Lucky Bridge, built in 2002 to symbolise the connection between Europe and North America.

Þingvellir is one of the key stops on Golden Circle tours, a scenic 190-mile loop which includes the magnificent Gullfoss waterfall, where 100,000 litres of glacial water plunge 100 feet into a gaping canyon every second, steaming hot springs, and hissing and spitting geysers that erupt every 4-10 minutes.

Cruise around Iceland's coastline to see whales in summer (although orcas can also be spotted near Snæfellsnes year-round) and orange-beaked puffins nesting in the cliffs from late April to August.

To bathe in Iceland's skin-healing silica-rich water, head to the Blue Lagoon, its best-known geothermal spa, just outside Reykjavik. Or for

a less crowded soak, try the Forest Lagoon outside Akureyri, on the edge of the Arctic Circle.

### Down to earth

Some of Iceland's most interesting features are underground, where molten lava has carved tunnels large enough for people to walk through. Raufarhólshellir, one of the longest and best-known lava tubes, is 30 minutes from Reykjavik and well worth a visit.

Foodies should try hverabrauð (hot-spring bread cooked by the earth) in Laugarvatn Fontana, a bakery just

### Swim, snorkel or dive across the tectonic plates

over an hour's drive from Reykjavik. Sweet and almost cake-like, it's cooked underground for 24 hours in metal pots heated by a hot spring. Geothermal energy is also used to ripen the tomatoes grown in Friðheimar, a nearby farm which has a restaurant – serving tomato soup, of course – inside its vast greenhouse. 🌊

### Book an Icelandic adventure

Explore the land of fire and ice on one of these itineraries



**10-NIGHT ICELANDIC FJORDS & SCOTTISH ISLES**

Regal Princess 20 Jul 2027

The colours on the Icelandic flag are symbolic; red represents the volcanic fires, white the snow and glaciers, and blue is for sky and sea.



**14-NIGHT ICELAND & NORWAY**

Majestic Princess 18 Jun 2027

Icelanders are pioneers in the use of geothermal energy for heating, with 90% of Icelandic households heated with geothermal water.

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM 0344 338 8669

Photographs: Alamy, Asa Steinarsson/Unsplash, Blanca Fazacas/Unsplash, Davide Cantelli/Unsplash, iStock, Mike Berna/Unsplash

Clockwise from top left:  
Cathédrale de la Major  
over Mucem; Van Gogh's  
The Courtyard of the  
Hospital at Arles; Norman  
Foster's L'Ombrière;  
colourful Le Panier



# The

# ART



# of



# Marseille

France's oldest city has had a revamp, turning it into a cultural hub for world-class architecture, striking murals and priceless modern art ▶

Words: James March

Fanning out from Provence's glittering Mediterranean coast, Marseille is one of Europe's oldest cities, having been founded around 600 BC by Greek settlers from Phocaea in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey).

Chosen for its strategic position and harbour, its population quickly grew as the fishing port expanded. Now France's second-largest city after Paris, it's giving the capital a run for its money when it comes to art and design.

From its spectacular Notre-Dame de la Garde cathedral to the mural-splashed streets of Le Panier, Marseille is never afraid to express itself, and just like its people, the city is a hearty bouillabaisse of things to see and do.

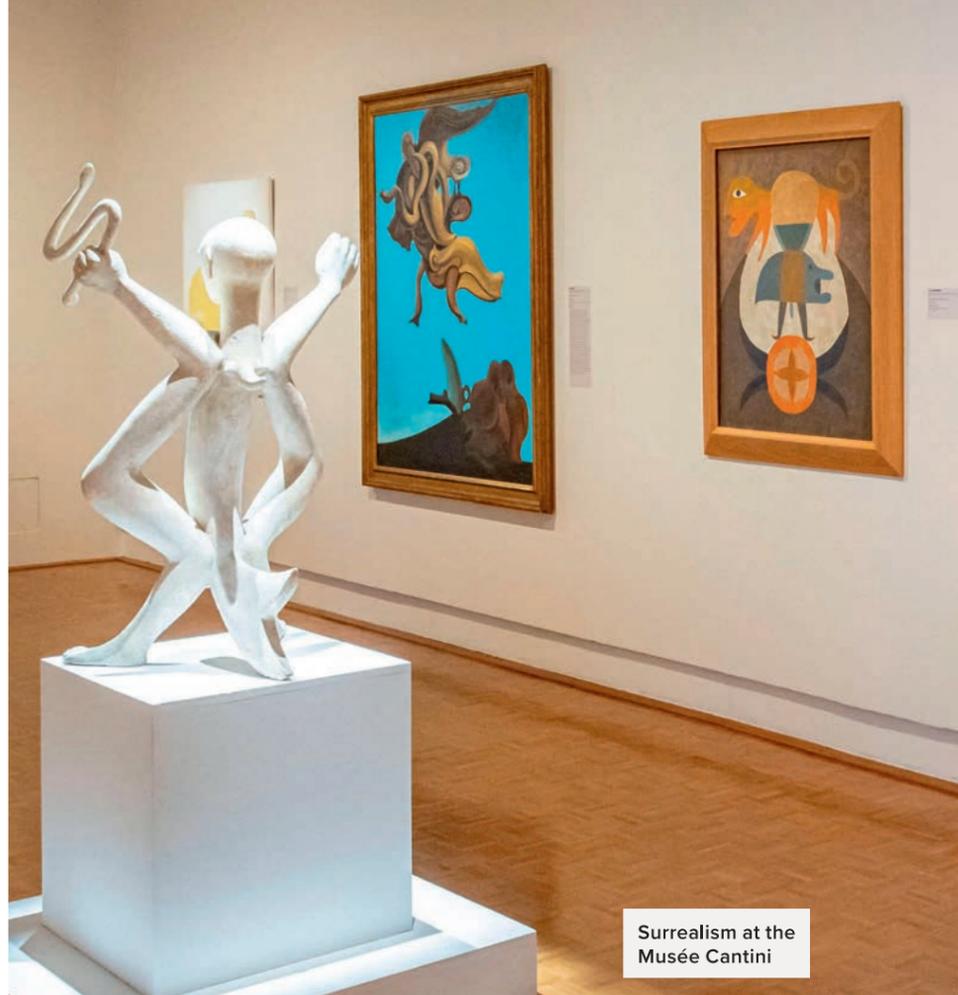
## Ancient and modern

Sailing into Marseille's mast-strewn Vieux Port is to immediately witness two different sides to the city – the old and the new. To the south, there's the 19th century Notre-Dame de la Garde, its neo-Byzantine orange stripes and curved arches perched 150 metres up a limestone hill. Look north, and you'll spot Mucem, the strikingly modern Museum of European and Mediterranean culture, clad in what looks like glass and black concrete lace. Built in 2013 when Marseille celebrated being the designated European Capital of Culture, its three exhibition floors offer a buccaneering history of conflict and trade across 2,000 years.

Equally bold is L'Ombrière, a huge mirrored canopy at the Quai des Belges. Designed by the British architect Norman Foster, it's a special place to take a unique upside-down selfie.

The heady mix of old and new doesn't end at the harbour. Emerging from a warren of tight medieval streets just north of the Vieux Port, Cathédrale de la Major is another imposing neo-Byzantine structure, while the arcing colonnades, grand staircases and elaborate fountains of the Palais Longchamp resemble the ornate facades you'd find in Paris or Rome.

Lovers of modernist architecture should head to Marseille's southern suburbs to see La Cité Radieuse (Unité d'Habitation). This blocky residential building, designed by the



Surrealism at the Musée Cantini

legendary architect Le Corbusier in the 1950s, became a Unesco World Heritage site in 2016.

## Art through the ages

Go back to the very beginning at the Musée d'Histoire de Marseille which explains the city's long history through treasures such the wrecked hull of a Roman ship dating back to the 2nd century. It also explores how immigration from North Africa in the 20th century has come to characterise modern Marseille.

## Marseille feels like one big sunlit open-air canvas

The city's oldest museum, the Musée des Beaux Arts, sits in the baroque exterior of the Palais Longchamp, a reservoir and park. Inside the hushed, high-ceilinged rooms you'll find work from the likes of Peter Paul Rubens as well as sculptures by Auguste Rodin.

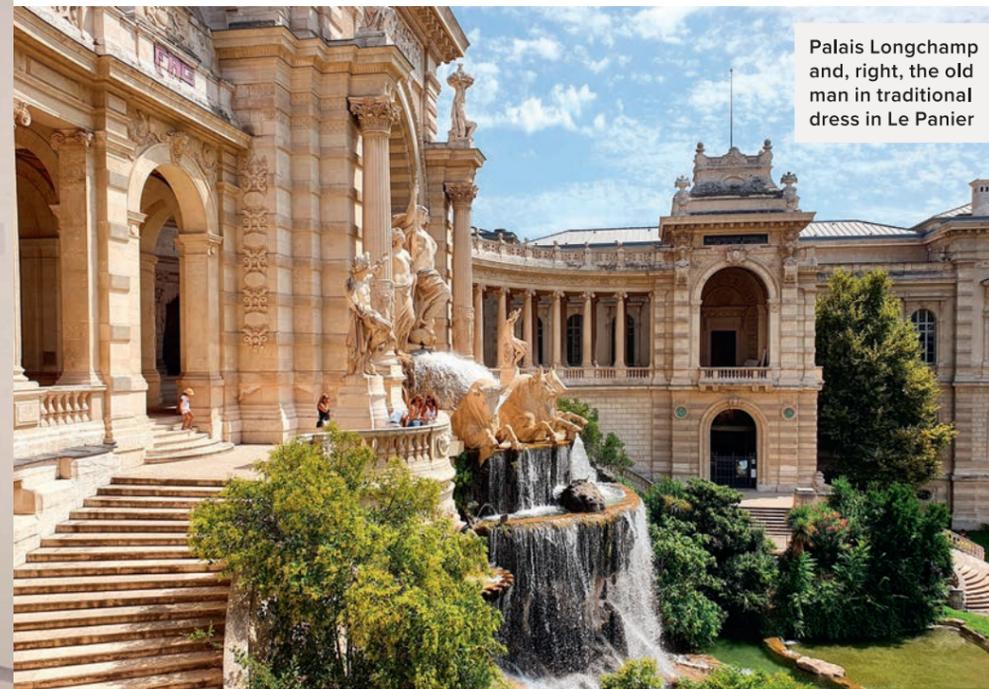
Back in the dense web of hilly streets

south of the port is the Musée Cantini, a modern art gallery housed in a former private mansion, with a fascinating collection of post-impressionist and surrealist paintings.

## A painted city

There's so much colourful street art in Marseille that it feels like one big sunlit open-air canvas. And rather surprisingly, it's Marseille's oldest district, Le Panier, that has some of the most impressive works. Its pastel shutters, undulating cobbled streets and criss-crossing bunting make the neighbourhood a picturesque place to wander and its ever-changing murals are reflective of the people who live there. Look out for the old man in traditional dress painted on the corner of Rue Puits Baussenque.

High up on the hill behind the Old Port is the Cours Julien neighbourhood, characterised by quirkier hip-hop-inspired graffiti – think bug-eyed cartoons and mind-bending patterns. But keep your eyes peeled in every direction as street art has been spotted on the pavements recently, too.



Palais Longchamp and, right, the old man in traditional dress in Le Panier



To get a clearer picture of what you're looking at and an idea of each artist's distinct style, take a two-hour guided tour by the Musée des Arts Urbains à Marseille. Banksy fans won't want to miss his recent work, a stencil of a lighthouse on Rue Félix Fregier near Plage des Catalans, which has a view of the sea and nearby Frioul Islands.

## In the footsteps of Van Gogh

Although Van Gogh never quite made it to Marseille (his brother Theo said he

had planned to move there), the Dutch post-impressionist spent more than a year in Arles, 90km away (around 90 minutes by car). He was attracted, like many painters of the late 19th century, by the unique light, azure skies and sun-kissed landscape of Provence, which he called the 'Japan of the South'.

The artist painted more than 200 of his most iconic works in Arles and the settings for many of them still exist – including the yellow-fringed café in the Place du Forum (immortalised in Café Terrace at Night) and the exact

spot where he painted Starry Night Over the Rhône. While you can't see the 'Yellow House' where he lived (it was demolished after the Second World War) or any of his original Provence paintings, you can visit Espace Van Gogh, the hospital where he was treated after cutting off his ear, now a cultural centre, and the Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles, where rotating exhibitions display work by contemporary artists who've been influenced by him. 🌊

## Marvel at the art in Marseille

Visit the creative French city on one of these stunning Mediterranean itineraries



**7-NIGHT WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN WITH ITALY**

Sun Princess 15 Aug 2027

In Marseille, access to the municipal museums' permanent collections is free all year round.



**10-NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN WITH GREEK ISLES & ITALY**

Sun Princess 15 Jul 2027

Thanks to its photogenic backdrop, Marseille is France's second most-filmed city, just behind Paris.



**18-NIGHT THE BEST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Sun Princess 6 Jun 2027

With around 300 days of sun a year, Marseille claims to be the sunniest city in France.

FOR MORE DEPARTURES, PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM 0344 338 8669

Photographs: Alamy, AWL Images, Marseille Tourist Office, Q/Unsplash

# On the grapevine

Love wine and want to learn about it, as well as drink it? There's no better place to raise a glass than among the vines in one of these beautiful wine-producing regions

Words: Laura Millar

## Marlborough, New Zealand

Nearest port: Picton

As New Zealand's largest wine-growing area, Marlborough is synonymous with some of the new world's best Sauvignon Blancs. Crisp and refreshing with explosive tropical flavours, the green-skinned grapes grow well in the sunken valleys of the South Island set against stunning sea and mountain landscapes.

One of the most iconic wineries in the region is Cloudy Bay, which burst on to the global wine scene in the 80s and is now owned by luxury goods group LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy). Wine tours in the region include vineyards in the Wairau and Southern Valleys, followed by a visit to their Founders Cellar and that all-important tasting. Other notable Marlborough producers include the Villa Maria Estate, which makes Pinot Noir and Chardonnay as well as Sauvignon Blanc, and Yealands Estate, which offers a self-guided 'White Road' tour beginning at their cellar door and winding through the unique scenery around their coastal vineyard.



## Sanur, Bali

Nearest port: Tanjung Benoa

Not many people – or even dedicated oenophiles – know that there's a small but growing wine industry in Bali. Focused around the north of the island, where the climate is tropical, humid and warm year-round, there are multiple harvests as the grapes grow almost continuously.

One of the leading producers is Hatten Wines, founded in 1994 by Pak Gus Rai whose family have been producing arak and Balinese rice wine on the island since 1968. 'Our wines reflect Bali's vibrant character – fresh, expressive and one of a kind,' he says. 'We grow international and heritage grape varieties in volcanic soil in the northern villages of Seririt and Sanggalangit, which you can taste at our cellar door in the seaside village of Sanur.'

Initially, Hatten Wines used a French table-grape variety called Alphonse Lavallée for their rosé and red wines, but more recently they've introduced and experimented with 'noble' international varieties including Syrah, Chenin Blanc and Malvasia Nera. We say cheers (or *bersulang* in Indonesian) to that. >

### Say cheers to New Zealand

14-NIGHT NEW ZEALAND

Grand Princess

18 Nov 2027

As well as Picton, call at the likes of Auckland, Tauranga and Lyttelton (for Christchurch) on this itinerary

Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM



### Skåne, Sweden

Nearest port: Malmö

While Sweden might not be the first place you think of for wine, the Skåne region in southern Sweden has quietly become home to a number of award-winning vineyards thanks to its long summer daylight hours and mild climate. There are 20 or so producers along the local wine route (Vinvägen), many of them using biodynamic or sustainable growing methods, and offering guided tours and tastings. Check out wineries like Thora Vingård, where founder Heather Öberg and her husband Johan specialise in sparkling and still wines made from cool-climate varieties like Solaris, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc. ‘The Bjäre Peninsula in southwest Sweden offers a truly unique microclimate,’ explains Heather. ‘Our vineyards overlook the sea, so the salty breeze helps keep the grapes healthy while enhancing their expression.’

Nearby, there’s Kullabergs, which has its own wine bar, Skänken, where you can sip delicious white, rosé and sparkling wines, or the family-run Hällåkra Vingård, which also produces sweet dessert wines.



### A world of wine

**Andy Clarke, Culinary Champion for Princess Cruises, says:** The diversity in wine styles around the world is remarkable and one of my favourite producing areas is Sicily. The sun-drenched Italian island produces some of the best Vermentino in the world with fragrant aromas of grapefruit and lemon inviting you in, and sumptuous stone fruits peach and apricot on the palate. The ideal companion to fresh shellfish pasta overlooking the waves.

Another favourite region of mine is in the Santa Ynez Valley in California, where Pacific breezes meet west-coast sunshine to produce some stunning reds. I love their take on classic French red blends from the Rhône Valley. Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre give dark fruit, rich spice and peppery notes with a twist of Californian coastal freshness. Perfect to enjoy on that romantic steak night dinner.



### Santa Ynez Valley, California, USA

Nearest port: Santa Barbara

More accessible to ocean cruisers than the Napa Valley, Santa Ynez is best known for its bold Cabernets, expressive Rhône blends, and cool-climate Pinot Noirs. It’s all thanks to the variation of different soil types and micro-climates found across the 120 or so wineries in the renowned Santa Barbara wine region. Most wineries offer curated tastings and guided vineyard walks, with one of the most popular being at the Bridlewood Estate Winery thanks to its picturesque mission-style architecture and world-class Syrahs. At the Roblar Winery you can order estate wine flights – big, gutsy Cabernet Francs and Cabernet Sauvignons – served with a wood-fired pizza on their shaded patio with views of the vines. Alternatively, try a sidecar tour through the region’s rolling hills or sign up for a vineyard yoga class among the gnarled oak trees. ▶

### Escape to the sun

7-NIGHT CLASSIC CALIFORNIA COAST



Crown Princess



31 Oct 2027



Visit San Francisco, Santa Barbara and San Diego, plus Ensenada in Mexico, on this roundtrip cruise from Los Angeles



Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85



FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM

## Sicily, Italy

Nearest port: Catania

Sicily's smouldering, sleeping giant Mount Etna is responsible for some of the island's best wines. Etna's vineyards climb to 1,000m and beyond, making them some of the highest in Europe and it's the black, volcanic soil – rich in minerals and constantly renewed by eruptions – that gives the wines their signature earthy depth. Look out for grapes such as the red, cherry-like Nerello Mascalese, Etna's signature, as well as whites including Carricante and Catarratto, which have crisp, citrus and saline notes.

Vineyards such as Tenuta delle Terre Nere and Tenute Nicosia offer tours and tastings where you'll wander along terraced vineyards with walls made out of lava stones.



## Todos Santos, Baja California Sur, Mexico

Nearest port: Cabo San Lucas

Not to be confused with Baja California's other wine-producing region, Valle de Guadalupe, which is inland, at Todos Santos, on the Pacific coast, you can do an organic, off-the-beaten track wine tasting. There's only one boutique estate here, Las Tinajas, which grows grape varieties including Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Grenache, Tempranillo, Nebbiolo and Chardonnay. On a Princess Cruises tasting tour you'll stroll through the colourful streets of Todos Santos and enjoy a guided tour of the vineyard and production areas before sipping on a white, a rosé and a red. Known as a 'Pueblo Mágico' or 'Magic Town', this former sugarcane capital now attracts artists and surfers who come to ride the waves – and drink the wine.



The colourful town of Todos Santos on Mexico's Baja California peninsula

### Get a taste for Mexico

11-NIGHT MEXICAN RIVIERA

Ruby Princess

27 Oct 2027

Sailing from San Francisco, this Mexican adventure includes an overnight stop in Cabo San Lucas

Get great value with our all-inclusive packages. See more on page 85

FOR PRICES & AVAILABILITY VISIT PRINCESS.COM

Photographs: Emma Berto, Ray Kachatorian, Getty Images, Glow Images/Robert Harding, Emily M Wilson/Robert Harding, Dalia Dalprat/Pexels, Jenna Duffy/Unsplash.



## Say cheers on board...

Princess Cruises' onboard wine programme features more than 250 curated labels from leading regions such as France, Italy, Argentina and New Zealand, making it the most expansive wine list at sea. Highlights include award-winning vintages (16 ships earned the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence in 2025), celebrity collaborations and an inspiring range of organic, biodynamic, vegan and female-produced wines. Guests can join guided tastings with expert sommeliers, enjoy elegant evenings at the Vines Wine Bar with rotating wines and gourmet tapas, or indulge in the Caymus Vineyards Winemaker's Dinner, pairing fine vintages with a bespoke multi-course menu. Wine lovers can also take advantage of Princess Plus and Princess Premier Packages, offering wines by the glass, bottle discounts and exclusive dining access.

## A Star is born

Who would you want your godparents to be? Hannah Waddingham, perhaps? Catherine, the Princess of Wales? Or how about Camila and Matthew McConaughey? Princess Cruises has bagged all four for ships in its fleet, with Camila and Matthew being the latest famous faces to sign up to the role.

The Hollywood couple became godparents of Star Princess, Princess Cruises' newest and most innovative ship, at a glittering celebration in Fort Lauderdale.

This incredible Sphere Class ship, sister to Sun Princess, was officially named last November when, in a maritime tradition dating back centuries, Camila and Matthew broke a bottle – not of Champagne, but of Pantalones Organic Tequila, the brand they co-founded – on the bow of the ship to wish it good fortune.

'It's an honour to follow in the footsteps of past godparents and welcome Star Princess into the Princess fleet,' said the couple. 'We're excited to share this moment with the guests who step aboard – coming together with family and friends, making new memories and sharing a Pantalones cocktail or two.'

Pantalones Organic Tequila is featured across the Princess fleet in the Love Line Premium Liquors Collection and in drinks such as the popular 24K Gold Margarita.

The celebrations continued with a special performance by nine-times Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow and a drone show in the heavens above. You can step on board and follow in the stars' footsteps (while sampling a Pantalones cocktail, of course) during the ship's debut season in Alaska this summer.

**2,157**

The number of staterooms on Star Princess including more than 1,000 with balconies.

**21**

Decks making the ship 200 feet high and 1,133 feet long.

**30+**

Restaurants and bars on board including Love by Britto and The Catch by Rudi.



Matthew and Camila McConaughey toast the launch of Star Princess, above, while Sheryl Crow performs at the naming ceremony, right

# Onboard

**76**  
LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

**84**  
SAIL AWAY IN STYLE

**88**  
WIN A CRUISE ON SUN PRINCESS

Words: Emma Justice

Discovery Princess sails through Endicott Arm in Alaska

# Peek through the portholes



Princess Cruises takes the starring role in the new Channel 4 series, *Cruising To The Ends Of The Earth*. Journey editor Emma Justice goes behind the scenes to give you a sneak preview

This year, you'll be able to sail around the world on a Princess voyage without leaving your sofa. In the eight-part TV series, *Cruising To The Ends Of The Earth*, available on Channel 4 to stream from spring, viewers are taken from the icy wilds of Alaska to the sun-soaked shores of the Mediterranean and around the magical coastlines of Japan and South Korea. Eight one-hour episodes were filmed on board four ships in the Princess fleet, giving viewers a special insight into some of the planet's most awe-inspiring destinations as well as showing how life unfurls for guests and crew.

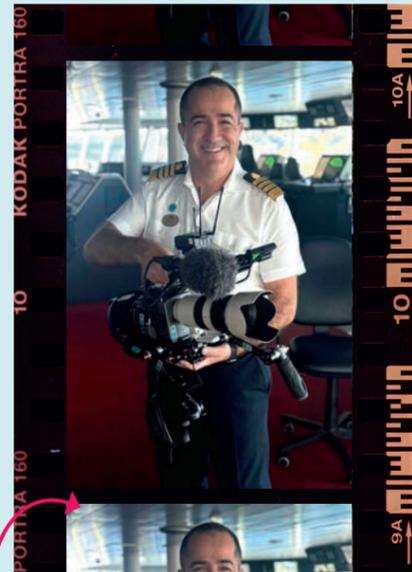
Royal Princess and Discovery Princess were filmed in Alaska where soaring snow-capped mountains and more than 100,000 glaciers provide the background to incredible wildlife encounters. On Diamond Princess the stars of the show find themselves immersed in the colourful traditions

of South Korea and Japan, while on a Sun Princess cruise around the Mediterranean, we see guests discover the region's historical treasures as well as hike across the smoking crater of Sicily's Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes.

All of the Princess crew members featured in the TV series (see who's who, right) were delighted to be involved as it gave them an opportunity to show just how passionate they are about their jobs as well as travelling. As Sky Princess cruise director Chesney Fawkes-Porter says: 'After a year-and-a-half in the role I've made friends from all over the world which is magical.'

Eithne Williamson, vice president of Princess Cruises UK and EMEA, adds: 'Through the magic of TV, viewers can explore inspiring destinations, enjoy the joys of cruising, and have a glimpse into the incredible work our crew do every day.'

For anyone who loves travel, this is a series that's not to be missed!



**Lights, camera, action**  
Captain Tony Ruggero swaps roles with the film crew in Alaska and tries his hand at filming on the bridge of Discovery Princess.

Watch *Cruising To The Ends Of The Earth* on Channel 4 from spring, when it will also be available to stream.



**Say cheese!** The crew and stars of Discovery Princess snap a selfie on deck between takes.

**Dressing the part**  
While in Japan, guests on Diamond Princess (pictured below departing from Yokohama near Tokyo) are encouraged to try on a yukata (a lightweight summer kimono) from the Princess clothes rail.



**Time at the bar** Head sushi chef Alfredo prepares dinner for crew members Charlie and Annie's date night at Kai Sushi by Makoto on Diamond Princess.



Photographs: Chris Trantina, Annie Spratt/Unsplash

## Meet the stars of the show



**Craig Street, captain**  
Craig, whose father was in the Royal Navy, has worked for Princess Cruises for 35 years and is now captain of Sun Princess.



**Palma Arpino, first officer**  
Palma has been working for Princess Cruises for 15 years, starting her career as a deck cadet because she wanted an 'adventurous, exciting life'.



**Josh Tevendale, magician**  
Josh loves performing his magic and illusion show, Smoke & Mirrors, on Royal Princess.



**Millie Coulson, suite experience concierge**  
Millie from Devon met her boyfriend on board and says the crew are like her second family.



**Josh Lowman, dancer**  
Josh, who joined Princess Cruises a year ago, brings Percy Pigs on board to remind him of home.



**Amanda Cook, guest services director**  
Amanda remembers watching *The Love Boat*, which featured Percy Pigs on board, with her grandmother as a child and loves working with people from all around the world.



**Chesney Fawkes-Porter, cruise director**  
Chesney, activity manager on Sky Princess when the series was filmed, has been promoted to his dream role.



**Jessica Wallace-Warby, dancer**  
Performing for Princess guests and waking up in a new port each day is a dream come true for Jessica.

# Let us entertain you!



Olivier Award-winning producer Dan Looney, now cruise director on Star Princess, tells the story behind his new one-man revue on board and highlights the other not-to-be-missed shows



It might sound like a cliché but seeing *Fame* in the West End as a 15-year-old was what made me want to be a performer. I remember watching the singers and dancers wide-eyed, thinking, ‘This is what I want to do with my life.’ After appearing in as many school productions as I could (including *Fame*), I applied to do a degree in musical theatre at Andrew Lloyd Webber’s school, ArtsEd. As soon as I graduated, I got an agent and eventually landed my first big West End role in *The Book of Mormon*. I loved being a part of the cast, but having enjoyed producing at college, as soon as that finished, I started to work behind the scenes bringing other shows to life.

During my twenties I produced six West End musicals and five major UK and Ireland tours, winning an Olivier Award for Best Revival for the musical *Company*. But my career highlight was taking home the WhatsOnStage Best New Musical award for *Bonnie &*

*Clyde*. I’d been involved with that production from the start, working on it throughout the pandemic, so the accolade meant a lot to me.

## SHOW BOAT

I took a step back from the West End after struggling with my mental health (more of which later), and it was at that point a friend said, ‘Have you ever considered being a cruise director?’

At first, I dismissed the idea because although I’d been on cruises before,

**We keep guests entertained from the moment they step on board**

I’d never worked on one, so I just didn’t think I had the right experience. But my interview with Princess Cruises went so well they offered me a job. I came straight into the company as cruise

director in 2024, starting on Crown Princess, then joining Star Princess as the inaugural head of entertainment. My team have even nicknamed me the ‘untraditional cruise director’ because I didn’t climb the usual career ladder. But arriving via a more unconventional route means I look at the shows in a different way. I see them as a regular guest, and that means I challenge how things have always been done. On any Princess ship, we have to keep guests entertained from the moment they step on board. They haven’t bought a ticket or travelled to see our shows and that means there’s nothing stopping them getting up and walking out if they don’t like them!

We work hard to ensure there’s never a lull in the entertainment and if a guest tells me at the end of their holiday that they ‘couldn’t manage to see everything’ then I’ve done my job. We ensure all of the venues are bursting with amazing acts and experiences, with everyone’s tastes catered for. I want people to leave

the ship feeling they’ve got the most out of all the things available to see and do.

## OPENING ACT

Seeing all the brilliant guest entertainers do what they do best inspired me to perform again myself. So I’ve written a show, exclusive to Princess, based on my own experiences – there have been highs as well as lows in my career – and it includes storytelling as well as some of my favourite songs. I also wanted to be honest about my mental health struggles because I think so many people experience them.

What’s surprised me is how therapeutic it’s been to open up to audiences as well as how well they’ve responded to it. We don’t talk enough about it in this day and age, and certainly men don’t, so to be able to start that conversation at sea is a wonderful thing.

The first time I performed my show I was petrified, partly because it’s so personal but also because some of the songs, like *Lately* by Stevie Wonder, are really challenging to sing. As the cruise director, I’m constantly talking to guests so never have time to rest my voice. But the most nervous I’ve been was when my mum was in the audience. She’s been there for me at my lowest and is extremely protective as a result. She’s now joined the Star Princess Facebook group so she can see what guests are saying about me – thankfully it’s all good! Overcoming my fears to perform the show twice in the same night, once a week, is one of the things I’m most proud of.

## THE WORLD AT SEA

The most wonderful thing about being part of the crew on Star Princess is that it makes you feel like you’re in the United Nations. We’ve got every religion, every nationality and every demographic represented, and we get along as one big, happy family. In a disjointed world, our ship proves that we can all live in peace and harmony, with acceptance, no matter what our situations might be on land. I feel like everyone should work on a cruise ship at some point, just to understand how similar we all are.

## It’s showtime!

Dan’s guide to the entertainment on Star Princess



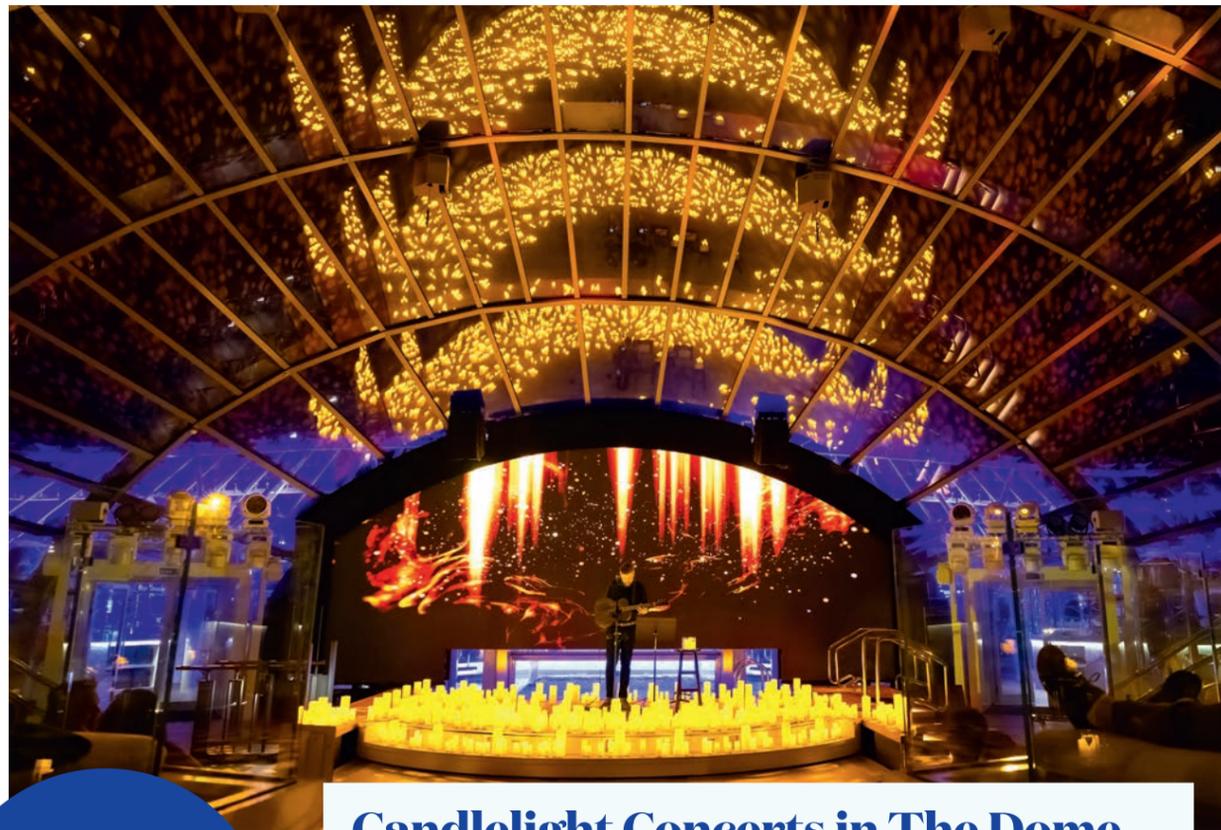
### Viva La Musica

This fun, Latin-inspired show in the Princess Arena is choreographed by Liz Imperio, who has worked with Jennifer Lopez, Madonna and Gloria Estefan, and features well-known tunes like Camila Cabello’s *Havana* and Santana’s *Oye Como Va*. It’s a spectacular show that will have you dancing in the aisles.



### Illuminate

Illuminate is this crazy, circus-style show, also in the Princess Arena, that combines traditional with modern acrobatics. It’s everything you think you’re going to see at the circus – with some surprises thrown in. It’s called Illuminate because there are some amazing light effects and lasers – and it’s very funny, too. ▶



**1,000**  
ELECTRIC  
CANDLES ARE LIT  
FOR EACH ONE OF  
THE STARGAZING  
CANDLE  
CONCERTS

### Candlelight Concerts in The Dome

I love candlelit concerts and there's something extra special about experiencing one at sea. This new series of classical concerts in The Dome are ethereally beautiful because the flickering lights reflect around the curved glass to create a dazzling glow while the musicians play. I think it's my favourite thing to do on Star Princess and a lovely setting to perform in. I've gatecrashed a few just so I can sing on stage!

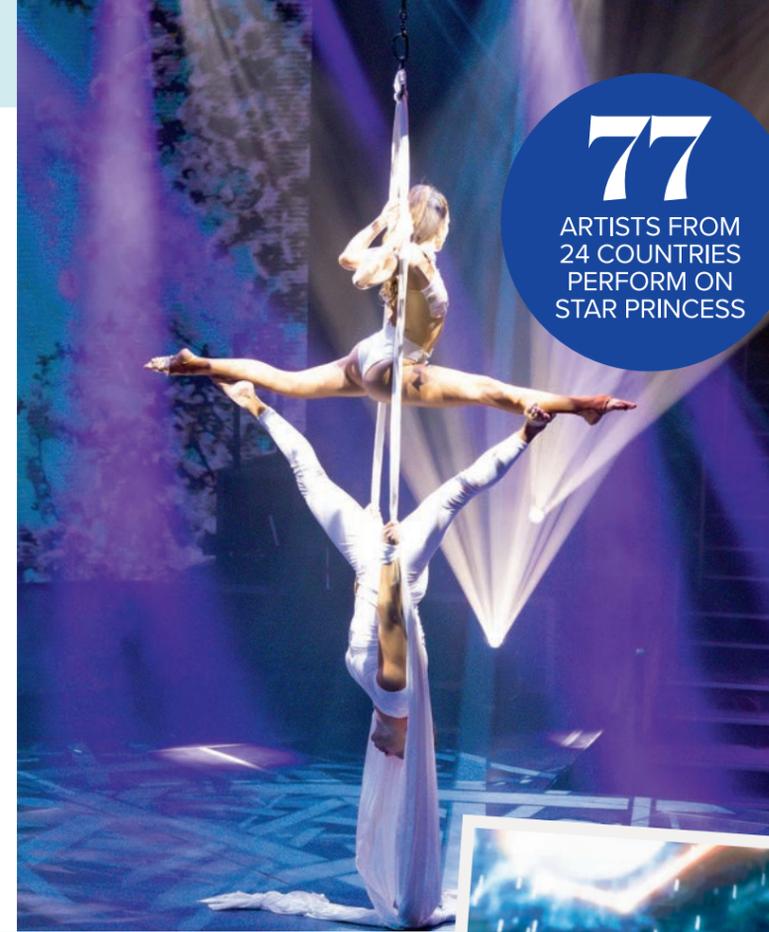
### Princess Jamz

This 45-minute sound spectacular is what happens when two of our biggest bands get together in The Piazza. They create a party atmosphere, and the guests can't help but dance and sing along to the hits. The musicians and singers in the Princess World Orchestra are incredibly talented.



### Meridian

The third show in the Princess Arena, one of the most technologically advanced theatres at sea, is Meridian. It's a love story set aboard Celestial, a grand ship much like Star Princess but from the Golden Age, and features wonderfully romantic music, dancing and costumes. Set to an original score with a few re-imagined chart-toppers thrown in, it includes masked balls and the roar of the engine room.



**77**  
ARTISTS FROM  
24 COUNTRIES  
PERFORM ON  
STAR PRINCESS

### The Celestial Champagne Soirée

A step-up from the usual Champagne waterfall, it takes place on the first formal night of every cruise, and is a way for the guests to meet the captain. We've added aerial acrobats and a dazzling multimedia display with immersive light, sound and visual storytelling to elevate, enhance and modernise the tradition. It's a unique way to welcome everyone on board.



### Dan's top tips for guests

**PRIORITISE**

What do you want to see? When do you want to have dinner? How late do you want to stay up? Once you've decided what's most important you can start to devise a cruise schedule that works for you and includes everything you want to see and do.

**GET ORGANISED**

When you get the daily Princess Patter delivered to your stateroom each evening, look at the timetable for the next day and circle the things you'd like to do. I'd recommend setting an alarm for anything you want to go to, so you don't get distracted and miss it.

**BOOK AHEAD**

Some shows, such as Spellbound by Magic Castle, need booking as there are four a night between 6pm and 9pm (they cost an extra \$45pp but that includes two cocktails as well as the show).

**ARRIVE EARLY**

To bag the best seats in the Princess Arena, I advise guests to get there at least 15-30 minutes before showtime.



### Spellbound by Magic Castle

This magical theatrical experience happens in a speakeasy-style bar hidden away on deck eight of the ship. Created in partnership with Hollywood's iconic Magic Castle™, it features a mind-boggling magic show, amazing cocktails and an incredible venue to explore that's got so much going on decor-wise. There are all these surprises for guests to discover – such as eyes that move in paintings and a piano that plays itself. I won't give away any more because it's fun finding them for yourself. Some of the elements were inspired by the legendary Welsh magician The Great Cardini and his daughter helped curate the space. It's also one of only three places in the world you can see magicians from The Magic Castle™ perform – the others being on Sun Princess or in The Magic Castle™ itself.



Interview: Sarah Ivens Photographs: Ade Roberts, Ray Kachatorian



# I don't see Alaska, I feel it'

Travel lover and accessibility influencer Sassy Wyatt shares her experience of sailing around Alaska as a blind woman



Glacier Bay announces itself through sound. A deep crack rolls across the water, followed by a low groan as the ice begins to give way. Then comes the sudden, immense roar as tons of glacier ice collapses – or calves – into the sea. Wrapped up warm on the deck of Ruby Princess, my husband Grant beside me, I don't need sight to understand the scale of what's unfolding. The stillness that follows paints me a picture that's just as vivid as one taken with a camera.

From the moment we step on board in San Francisco, crew members greet us

by name, and the ship starts to make sense through touch and sound. At the lifts, call buttons are in Braille and deck numbers announced as the doors open.

I find it easy to find my stateroom because each one has a raised number and Braille sign as well as an electronic display, and when you approach yours, the clever Princess Medallion you carry around unlocks it automatically.

Stepping on to our balcony and feeling the wind on my face – as the ship glides out beneath the Golden Gate Bridge – is an iconic way to set sail. We soon settle into life on board, and I'm

impressed by how simple the ship is for me to navigate. Accessibility isn't just an afterthought – it's built into the design of the ship. There are accessible toilets everywhere, hoists are fitted at pools and hot tubs, and on port days, the bridge crew announce accessible entry and exit points so I know exactly where to disembark.

I'm also impressed by how considerate the Princess crew are. Our lovely cabin steward Leonard makes sure he puts everything back exactly as it was when he cleans our suite (so I never lose my perfume or makeup),

## My spirit of adventure ignited, I try axe throwing

and in the Da Vinci restaurant, staff ask before tucking in my chair or putting a napkin on my lap. When a cocktail arrives, it's placed with a simple 'at your 12 o'clock' and the menus are read out loud. It's thoughtful things like this which give me a sense of independence on board.

Technology supports me, not just via the wearable Princess Medallion, which stores all my dietary and accessibility information, but through the Princess

app. I can use my screen reader to convert the information on the app to sound and check exactly where I am on the ship, order a drink or even find Grant if he's wandered off.

When we get to Skagway, I sign up for ziplining above a spruce forest. The cold hits first, sharp and clean, as the harness tightens and the trees drop away beneath me. The zipline sends me forward, wind rushing past, my laughter echoing around the mountains. I might not have seen the view, but I definitely felt it.

Spirit of adventure ignited, in Ketchikan I try my hand at axe throwing. Feet planted, axe in hand, I focus on stance and release. The crack of metal meeting wood is so satisfying,

I find myself grinning with pride.

I know that seeing whales in the wild is another highlight for guests in Alaska and it was for me too. We go whale watching in Prince Rupert, where out on the water everything slows. Then suddenly I hear breath break the stillness. A whale blows beside the boat, close enough for me to feel its spray – and even though I don't see it, I experience its force.

Alaska stays with me long after we leave for its power and its presence, and for how fully I was able to experience it – not just as a blind person, but as a traveller like everyone else.

You can follow Sassy Wyatt's Blind Girl Adventures @sassywyattofficial and by visiting [blindgirladventures.com](http://blindgirladventures.com)

Additional photographs: Grant Puckett, Richard Young/Unsplash, Shutterstock



**Have breakfast on your balcony**

It's such a treat to order room service and not have to go anywhere in the morning. You can just chuck on your fluffy robe, head outside to your private balcony and sip coffee (or fizz!) with a great view of the ocean, while feasting on smoked salmon and poached eggs. No alarm, no rush, just a warm breeze and the sound of the waves.



**Watch chefs cook**

At Umai Teppanyaki, a speciality restaurant on Sun Princess and Star Princess, you get to sit in front of a hot plate and see these brilliant – and very funny – chefs make you a Japanese meal from scratch. They throw eggs in the air, juggle with cutlery and get everyone around the table involved – challenging you to do things like catch prawns with your chopsticks! Plus, you get to have conversations with guests you wouldn't usually meet. Don't miss it.



**Go on a date night**

Love by Britto is one of the speciality restaurants on Sun Princess and Star Princess. You pay a little extra to eat here, but it's well worth it to be in such a beautiful space with great views. It's the result of a collaboration between street pop-artist Romero Britto and Rudi Sodamin, head of Princess culinary arts and the fleetwide executive chef. Almost everything served is heart-shaped – from the pumpkin ravioli to the butter – and you have to try the Heart of Glass cocktail, served, you guessed it, in a heart-shaped glass!



**Ring for Champagne**

I love the way Princess like to keep innovating by introducing new experiences in places like the Sanctuary Club. It's a private area with a pool and cabanas, and there's this green wall by the entrance where, for a couple of hours in the late afternoon (as well as in the morning on sea days), you can ring a bell and have a glass of fizz served to you by a waiter wearing a pair of white gloves. The gloves pop out mysteriously through the plants to serve you in style. Cheers! 🍾



**Have a magical cocktail**

The best drink I had on board was in Spellbound by Magic Castle, where nothing is as it seems. You enter through a secret door and the cocktails look like magic potions with smoke billowing out of them. The magic show we saw there was mind boggling, too.

Interview: Sarah Ivens

# A taste of life at sea

John Torode, a Princess Cruises Culinary Champion alongside his wife Lisa Faulkner, reveals his favourite places to eat and drink on board

**F**ood always tastes better on holiday and on a Princess cruise you're spoilt for choice. I love the variety of fabulous restaurants – you can get homemade pasta in Sabatini's Italian Trattoria and great seafood in The Catch by Rudi – and I also love that Princess is committed to making dining at sea more sustainable by sourcing ingredients in the places they visit, reducing waste and expanding their range of plant-based dishes.

I've always enjoyed cruising, as does my wife Lisa. It's wonderful being transported to a new destination while you sleep and getting a different perspective of a country from its coastline. Our most recent Princess cruise was last summer

to the Mediterranean where we walked hand in hand through the cobbled lanes of Marseille, stopping for warm pastries and café au lait, before tucking into the most incredible pizza in Naples. The Mediterranean has never felt so easy, or full of flavour. But the magic didn't stop when we stepped back on board. In fact, some of our favourite meals happened at sea. One highlight was dinner at Crown Grill, a proper steakhouse serving USDA prime cuts, aged to perfection, with lobster tails, Parmesan truffle fries, and melt-in-the-mouth desserts. We came away feeling full of love, full of stories and very well fed. Here are my insider tips for what and where to eat on board.



# Sail away in style

Whether it's with an all-inclusive package, Sanctuary Collection suite or exclusive dining experience, there are plenty of ways to upgrade and enhance your next voyage. Here's how to take your Princess cruise to the next level...

## 1 Suite dreams

If you're looking for more space, travelling with family or just want to live a life of luxury at sea, Princess Cruises has a wide range of premium suites to choose from. You'll find them in the Sanctuary Collection, available exclusively on Sun Princess and Star Princess, and the Reserve Collection, available on the rest of the fleet. The biggest are Sky Suites, which have an extra-large 1,000-square-foot balcony, two bedrooms (sleeping up to five), two bathrooms (with eco-friendly Beekman 1802 toiletries) and light-boosting floor-to-ceiling sliding doors. Guests who reserve a suite in the Sanctuary Collection also get access to the Sanctuary Club, an adults-only retreat with a bar, pool and private cabanas, the two-storey Signature Suite Lounge and Sanctuary Restaurant.

Grand, Vista, Signature, Penthouse, Premium, Window and Owner's suites in the Reserve Collection also have more space, a complimentary mini-bar and private venue for breakfast, dinner in a speciality restaurant plus a glass of bubbles on embarkation day, priority disembarkation at tender ports and at the end of the cruise, exclusive access to an indoor Concierge Lounge with personalised service, and a Suite Experience manager who can deal with all your reservations and special requests.



## 2 Upgraded packages

Save on the things you love most – like dining and drinks – by booking a Princess Plus or Princess Premier all-inclusive package. With Princess Plus (from £50pp per day) you get 15 drinks per day (up to \$15 each) as well as 12 bottles of water and unlimited speciality coffees and teas, plus four casual dining meals and fees waived on OceanNow and 24-hour room service delivery. You also get super-fast MedallionNet Max Wi-Fi on one device and crew appreciation included. Go up a level to Princess Premier (from £75pp per day) and you'll get unlimited drinks (up to \$20 each), unlimited casual and unlimited speciality dining, Wi-Fi on four devices, a shore excursion credit of between \$100 and \$300 depending on the length of your voyage, reserved theatre seating, crew appreciation and all the digital images taken by onboard photographers you want, plus three prints. There's no better way to feel like a VIP.

## 3 Free expert advice

Princess Personal Cruise Specialists (call 0344 338 8661) can help you plan and book your best-ever cruise holiday. They offer advice on everything from the latest money-saving promotions to the best destinations, ships, excursions and on and off-board activities, as well as flights, hotels and transfers, tailoring everything to suit you.



## 4 Dine differently

Why not celebrate a special occasion onboard with a unique dining experience? Anyone with a stateroom balcony can enjoy Ultimate Balcony Dining for breakfast (\$27.50pp) or dinner (\$57.50pp); 360: An Extraordinary Experience will take you on a multi-sensory, seven-course culinary journey on Discovery Princess or Enchanted Princess (\$149pp); while Chef's Table Lumière (\$155pp) is an intimate evening of fine dining meticulously prepared by the executive chef and available on the six Royal Class ships – Discovery Princess, Enchanted Princess, Majestic Princess, Regal Princess, Royal Princess and Sky Princess.



## Exclusive excursions

Whether you go for one that's foodie-focused, history, art or culture-based, pre-booking a Princess Cruises shore excursion in each port will help enhance your voyage. Tours offer authentic, immersive experiences in every destination with local experts who can take you to the heart of the places you visit. Plus, the Guaranteed Return to Ship promise means you can step ashore confident that you won't be left behind if the tour gets back late.

Words: Emma Justice Photographs: Ray Kachatorian, Grant Puckett Prices and inclusions correct at time of going to press

# My multi-gen cruise diary

Dentist and mum-of-four Katie Woods, from Leeds, explains why a Mediterranean cruise with Princess proved the perfect way to keep everyone in her big family – aged from 9 to 81 – entertained

**M**y husband Chris and I had been wanting to go on holiday with our extended families for a while. The problem is there's a gang of 12 of us including my sister Jenny and her husband Carl, all our respective children, and our mum and dad, Marg and Ben. Villa holidays are the most obvious solution for such a big group, but you can end up arguing over who gets what room, and feeling as if you're cooking and cleaning all the time. We looked at booking a hotel but none of us could agree on the same one. That's when we thought about going on a cruise together. My parents love setting sail, so I knew they'd like it, although Jenny and I were slightly dubious at first. But when I discovered how much there is for the kids to do on board, we soon booked a seven-night round-trip voyage from Rome on Sun Princess. We also bought a Princess Premier package which meant drinks were included as well as speciality dining, room service and Wi-Fi (essential for the kids) and that helped us keep track of our holiday spending – it can get dangerously out of control with six hungry kids!



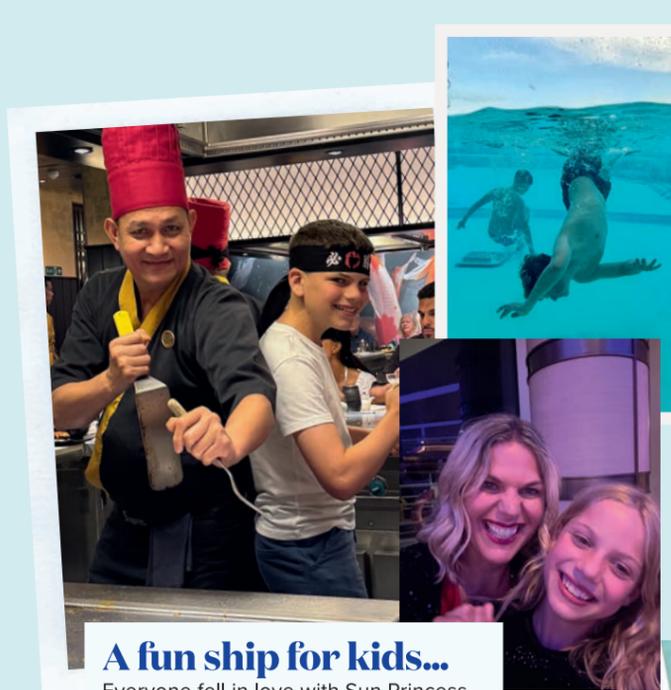
## Who's who?

We're a noisy lot, spanning three generations. There's Mum and Dad in their 80s, Jenny and Carl in their 40s and 50s, like us, and the three 15-year-old boys – my twins, Felix and Max, and Jenny's eldest, Digby. There's also Jenny's youngest, Roscoe, 12, and my youngest two – Toby, 11, and Dottie, 9. We booked four Deluxe Balcony staterooms between us and loved the extra outdoor space and sea views.



## Our voyage

From Rome, Sun Princess took us to Naples, Crete, Istanbul and Mykonos, and we all loved the novelty of waking up in a new place. When it came to choosing excursions, my parents loved the open-top bus tours. We felt more adventurous so went on a guided tour of Herculaneum, visited a market in Istanbul, walked around the Colosseum in Rome and wandered the whitewashed streets of Mykonos.

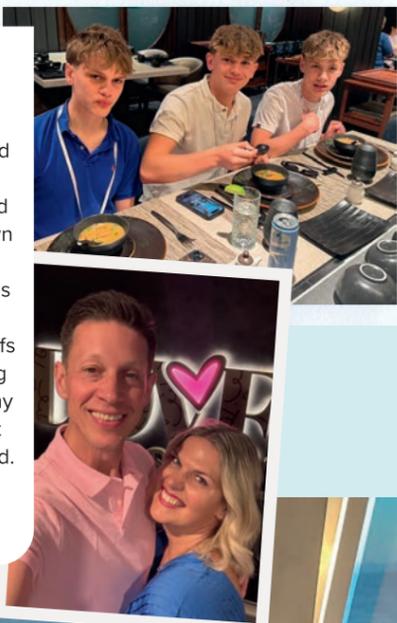


## A fun ship for kids...

Everyone fell in love with Sun Princess and months later we're still talking about her. My 9-year-old daughter, Dottie, couldn't wait to go to the Kids Club each morning and there were plenty of pools and activities like basketball to keep the younger teens busy. The older boys made new friends to hang out with. We enjoyed knowing everyone was safe and that we could find them via their Princess Medallion if we needed to.

## Delicious dining

I still dream about some of the dishes served on Sun Princess, like the Chilean sea bass served with crispy kale and shiso miso in Makoto Ocean. I also enjoyed Sabatini's Italian Trattoria, Crown Grill and Love by Britto, but our favourite speciality restaurant as a family was Umai Teppanyaki. The kids loved the way the chefs interacted, singing and cracking jokes while they cooked, and my mum left saying it was the most memorable meal she'd ever had. The older teens also loved the fact they could order 24-hour room service for free!



## ...and for adults

We've all got quite different tastes but there was something for everyone – from Movies Under the Stars to theatre shows, karaoke, quizzes and dancing until the early hours. My favourite thing was to have a margarita with my husband in The Piazza, where we'd usually spot someone in the family wandering past. Everyone could just do their own thing.



## Holiday memories

We made so many memories together because it was such a great escape. Going away with a big group of relatives of different ages can be hard work and I'm genuinely surprised we all got on so well. It's thanks to choosing the right kind of cruise and the best ship for all ages, with lots to do on board, exciting destinations to explore, and wonderful food and drink. We won't forget it – I think we're all dedicated cruisers now.



Win

# a seven-night all-inclusive Mediterranean cruise on Sun Princess

Sail on our spectacular Sphere Class ship in 2027



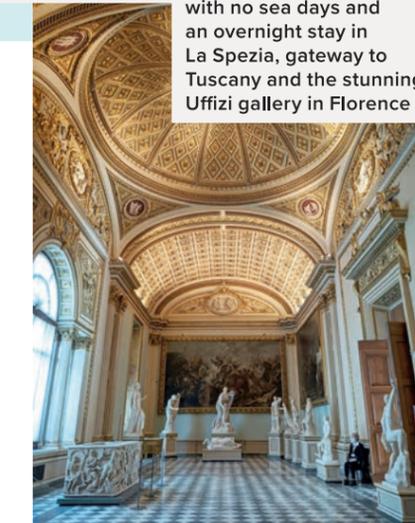
Set sail on Sun Princess and relax in The Dome on board



LAST ENTRY IS ON 31 DECEMBER 2026



Make the most of this destination-rich cruise with no sea days and an overnight stay in La Spezia, gateway to Tuscany and the stunning Uffizi gallery in Florence



We're giving you the chance to win an all-inclusive seven-night Western Mediterranean with Italy cruise for two people on our Sphere Class ship, Sun Princess, in 2027.

Departing from Barcelona on Sunday 23 May 2027, this port-rich sailing will call at Marseille and Corsica before heading to Italy for Genoa and excursions to Cinque Terre, then an overnight stop in La Spezia – gateway to Tuscany and the sights of Florence and Pisa – and finally Civitavecchia, for all the wonders of Rome.

The winner and their guest will not only be able to take in these spectacular destinations, but will also get to experience one of our newest ships. Launched in 2024, Sun Princess showcases modern, sleek

design along with the new Princess Arena theatre, speciality restaurants including Love by Britto, Umami Teppanyaki, The Butcher's Block by Dario and Makoto Ocean, pampering in the Lotus Spa and events in The Dome, a magnificent glass-enclosed deck with an indoor-outdoor pool.

The prize includes economy flights from London or a regional airport to Barcelona and return flights from Rome, a Deluxe Balcony stateroom, all main meals on board (excluding speciality restaurants, for which a cover charge will apply), entertainment and our Princess Plus package, which includes drinks, Wi-Fi on one device and more dining options. The winner will also enjoy our innovative MedallionClass technology. For full details, visit [princess.com](https://princess.com).



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT THE ENTRY PAGE

**Terms & conditions:** 1) The promoter is Carnival plc trading as PRINCESS CRUISES, Carnival House, 100 Harbour Parade, Southampton SO15 1ST (Promoter). 2) The terms and conditions which apply to this Prize Draw are available at: [www.princess.com/journey](https://www.princess.com/journey). By entering this Prize Draw, you will be deemed to have read and understood these terms and conditions and to have agreed to be bound by these terms. **How to enter:** 3) The Prize Draw will run from 11 March 2026 (Opening Date) until 11.59pm 31 December 2026 (Closing Date) inclusive. 4) To take part in this Prize Draw you must visit: [www.princess.com/journey](https://www.princess.com/journey) after the Opening Date and complete and submit the entry form available there. 5) All entries must be received by the Promoter no later than 11.59pm on the Closing Date. All entries received after the Closing Date are automatically disqualified. 6) Only one entry to the Prize Draw is permitted per person. If you enter the Prize Draw more than once, any entries you have submitted will be disqualified. 7) No purchase is necessary to enter the draw. **The Prize:** 8) One prize is available. The prize is a cruise for two adults (aged 21 and above) sharing a Deluxe Balcony stateroom on board ship Sun Princess during cruise number U721 which departs from Barcelona on 23 May 2027 and lasts for 7 nights. 9) The Prize includes flights from London or a preferred regional airport to Barcelona and return flights from Rome, up to the value of £400pp, accommodation, onboard main meals (excluding speciality restaurants for which a cover charge will apply), entertainment and most facilities onboard, plus drinks, unlimited Wi-Fi (one device) and pre-paid gratuities as part of the all-inclusive Princess Plus Fare. 10) The Prize does not include travel insurance, parking, pre- or post-cruise hotel stays, shore excursions, spa treatments, personal expenses, casino, additional gratuities, transportation to and from the winner and/or their guest's homes to the airport, luggage fees, or purchases made on board. 11) It is the responsibility of the prize winner to ensure they and their guest have valid passports and travel insurance, meet all required travel requirements, and obtain any vaccinations and visas required to take part in the Prize. The winner and their guest are required to have adequate travel insurance as a condition of travel. 12) The promoter's booking conditions will apply to the Prize. These can be viewed at: [princess.com/passagetravel](https://princess.com/passagetravel). 13) The Prize is non-transferable, non-exchangeable and no cash alternative is available. 14) Should the Prize become unavailable a substitute of equal value shall be provided by the Promoter. The Promoter reserves the right, at their discretion, to replace the Prize (or part thereof) with an alternative prize (or part thereof) of equal or higher value. Such alternative prize may take place on board a different vessel or during different dates if circumstances outside the Promoter's control require, such circumstances including but not limited to the cancellation or restriction of the Prize in accordance with any government-issued guidelines. **Winners:** 15) One winner will be randomly selected from all valid entries received by the Promoter before the Closing Date. 16) The Promoter will contact the winner as soon as practicable following the Closing Date using the details provided when entering the Prize Draw. 17) Should the Promoter be unable to contact the winner within 5 working days of the Closing Date or should the winner be unable to accept the Prize, the Promoter reserves the right to award the Prize to an alternative winner, drawn in accordance with these terms and conditions. 18) By entering the Prize Draw you agree to the collection, retention, usage and distribution of your personal information in order to process and contact you about your competition entry. **Eligibility:** 19) The Prize Draw is only open to all UK residents aged 21 or over except the following persons: a) Employees of the Promoter (or any of their associated or group companies), b) Employees or agents of any suppliers to the Promoter, or c) Employees of any partner to the Promoter acting in connection with the Prize Draw, including The National Magazine Company Ltd, or d) members of the immediate family or households of the persons shown at 19 a), b) and c) above. 20) No bulk or third-party entries will be accepted. The Promoter will not accept entries that are automatically generated by computer, illegible, have been altered, reconstructed, forged or tampered with or are incomplete. **Limitation of liability:** 21) There are certain things for which the Promoter does not accept any liability to you. The Promoter cannot exclude or limit its liability for death or personal injury caused by its negligence, or loss caused by a false statement when the statement is made fraudulently. Otherwise, the exclusions described at clause 22 and 23 will apply. References to the "Promoter" in these paragraphs include all of the Promoter's associated companies, agents or any other third parties involved in the Prize Draw. 22) The Promoter will not be responsible for (and will have no liability in connection with) the following occurrences, to the extent that they occur for reasons beyond the Promoter's reasonable control: a) any postponement or cancellation of the Prize Draw, b) any changes to Prize(s) or the way in which they can be used; c) any act or default of any third-party supplier. 23) The Promoter does not accept responsibility for network, computer, hardware or software failure of any kind, which may affect the sending, receipt or processing of your entry. **Personal data:** 24) The Promoter will use the personal data you provide for the purpose of administering this Prize Draw and to facilitate the redemption of prizes. If you have also elected to receive news and information on offers from the Promoter you agree that the personal data you provide will also be used for this purpose. Personal data will be processed in accordance with the Promoter's privacy notice available at [www.princess.com/legal](https://www.princess.com/legal). 25) The surname and country of the prize winner will be available from the Promoter by sending an email including the name of the competition to [Journeys@princesscruises.co.uk](mailto:Journeys@princesscruises.co.uk). If you object to any or all of your surname, county and winning entry being made available, please contact the Promoter at [Journeys@princesscruises.co.uk](mailto:Journeys@princesscruises.co.uk). In such circumstances, the Promoter must still provide the information and winning entry to the Advertising Standards Authority on request. **General:** 26) If the Promoter has grounds to suspect any entrant or third party of cheating, deception or fraudulent or sportsmanlike conduct of any kind (including, without limitation, manipulating the Prize Draw, choice of prize winner or any entry) the Promoter reserves the right (in its sole discretion) to disqualify any entrant, entry or person it reasonably believes to be responsible for, or associated with, such activity. The Promoter's decision in such matters shall be final. 27) The Promoter reserves the right at any time and from time to time to modify or discontinue, temporarily or permanently, this Prize Draw with or without prior notice due to reasons outside its reasonable control. 28) These terms and conditions shall be governed by English law, and the parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

Photographs: Chris Tramitina, Matteo Bartolomi/Unsplash, Tzenik/Unsplash

# A day in the life

We speak to Olivia Warburton, activity manager on Diamond Princess

Illustration David Despau



**How did you come to work for Princess Cruises?**

I'd always wanted to work on a cruise ship as I grew up cruising with my family. I was about to graduate from my theatre and business degree at the University of Leeds when I heard Princess were auditioning for entertainment staff and thought it was a great opportunity. Straight after university in July 2024, I began my first job on Island Princess, cruising the Mediterranean. I'm very outgoing so it suits my personality perfectly.

**What does your role entail?**

I'm the activity manager so I help schedule and deliver all the daytime and evening events and oversee the activity staff. There's a huge range of entertainment – from dance classes to trivia games, comedians and magicians – which involves a lot of careful planning and coordination. I also teach Zumba, one of the most popular activities, and love seeing as many as 200 people learning the steps and having fun.

**Describe your typical working day**

It starts at 8.45am with a Zumba class, then I'll check my emails, shower and change into my daytime uniform. Then I host the Officers vs Guests event, a fun games competition which runs throughout the cruise. After lunch and some admin time, I enjoy a short break, taking in the views or relaxing by the crew pool. The afternoon usually involves a trivia quiz before preparing for the evening's programme, which tends to include a game show such as Marriage Match, where couples answer questions about their relationship. The night ends with a party set, so I'll dance with the guests before turning in.

**What's your favourite part of the job?**

Undoubtedly, connecting with the guests. They come from every corner of

there was one which involved me dressing up in a traditional yukata robe. I also got to visit the city of Aomori during its famous summer festival, when there are big firework displays and colourful parades. The experience was even more memorable because we were being filmed for the eight-part Channel 4 series *Cruising To The Ends Of The Earth*. (Read more about it on page 74.)

**What's your favourite cruise destination?**

As a beach girl who loves swimming in the sea, I enjoy the white sands, palm trees and laidback atmosphere of the Caribbean.

**What's your biggest cruise indulgence?**

On every Princess ship there's an unbelievable variety of restaurants catering to every taste – from steak to sushi. So when I can, I love enjoying a great meal onboard with the members of my team.

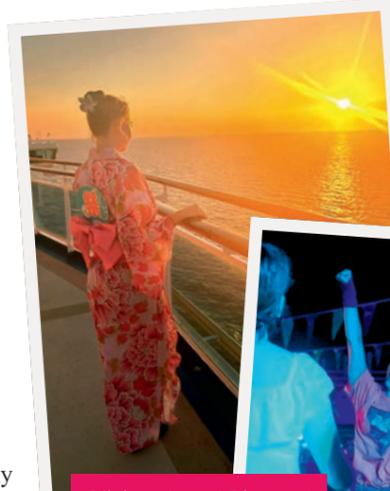
## Olivia's stats

Age: 23  
Time working for Princess: 8 months  
Lives: Cheshire  
Number of countries visited: 50

the world and it's always fascinating getting to know them. Outside the activities, I enjoy the small day-to-day interactions – stopping to ask people how their day ashore was or having a coffee with them.

**What's been your favourite moment on board?**

I've had so many, especially in Japan on Diamond Princess last year. The onboard activities we organise as part of the Japan Explorer cruises really immerse guests in Japanese culture and



Olivia onboard Diamond Princess in traditional Japanese dress, above, and hitting the dancefloor, right



# From the bridge

News and insights from across the Princess fleet



From left: Explore Tallinn, Estonia's medieval capital, on Regal Princess

## New European itineraries for 2027

There will be 48 incredible UK and Europe voyages setting sail between 17 April and 6 August next year, taking in 54 destinations across 18 countries. The 3,560-guest Regal Princess will join five other Princess ships in the region (Sun Princess, Sky Princess, Enchanted Princess, Majestic Princess and Caribbean Princess) and form part of an expanded programme of itineraries which can be combined to include voyages of between seven and 64 nights. These combinable roundtrip and open-jaw sailings depart from Southampton, Copenhagen, Reykjavik, Helsinki and Fort Lauderdale, visiting destinations across northern Europe, Ireland, Scotland and the Mediterranean.

The most immersive European voyage is the 64-night 'Ultimate European Journey', which sails round-trip from Southampton on 30 April 2027 and includes Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Scotland and Ireland. Plus, guests can connect more deeply with the places they visit through Princess-exclusive and guest-favourite excursions. In Tallinn, Estonia, for example, the small-group walking tour gives guests the chance to see the medieval Unesco World Heritage site and shop for Baltic souvenirs, including glassware, quilts and hats, from local artisans. While in Ireland and Scotland, Princess-exclusive excursions include a Cork City Sights and Jameson Whiskey Experience with a Jameson ambassador and the chance to meet the gardener at Cawdor Castle.

## A Majestic home port

Newly refurbished 3,560-guest Majestic Princess will be sailing from Southampton this summer and next, offering voyages around the British Isles and to destinations in northern Europe including Norway, Denmark and Iceland. With a Hollywood Pool Club on board – including a glass dome covered indoor pool – Majestic Princess is the perfect ship to be on if the Great British weather isn't kind.



## A WINNING READER

Ms Karen Latiff, pictured with Sun Princess captain Craig Street, was the lucky winner of our competition to win a seven-night Mediterranean cruise last year. For your chance to win an all-inclusive cruise, turn to page 88.



## Be inspired

The 2026-2028 Princess Cruises Destination Collection brochure is out now with plenty of ideas for your next voyage. Download your copy on [princess.com](http://princess.com) or look out for one in selected branches of Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsbury's.



## Congratulations to us!

This year we've added three top gongs to our awards shelf including the Cruise Critic Best in Cruise Awards for Best Digital Experience and Best for Couples as well as Best Large-Ship Ocean Cruise Line at the Telegraph Travel Awards. Hurrah!

Words: Emma Justice Photographs: Shutterstock



# Journey through Japan like never before

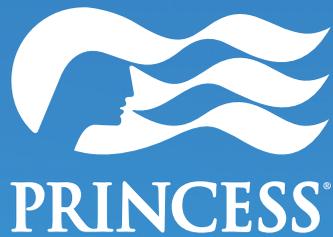
Discover the beauty of Japan in 2027 as both Diamond Princess and Sapphire Princess sail the region for the first time together. With 50 unique itineraries and 45 destinations, experience a perfect blend of vibrant cities, sacred sites and natural wonders – from the energy of Tokyo to the breathtaking view of Mount Fuji. Onboard, enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine, cultural performances, and thoughtful touches that reflect the spirit of the region.

Every stop reveals a deeper side of Japan, rich in culture, charm and wonder.



VISIT [PRINCESS.COM](http://PRINCESS.COM)





# Take luxury to a new level

Discover Sanctuary Collection, found exclusively onboard Sun Princess and Star Princess. Step into a new world of curated amenities, private spaces and personalised service including Princess Premier, our most comprehensive all-inclusive package, fine dining at the Sanctuary Restaurant, access to the adults-only Sanctuary Club and beautifully appointed suites and staterooms. Every detail delivers a seamless blend of relaxation and sophistication.



VISIT  
PRINCESS.COM

