

# Cruisin'

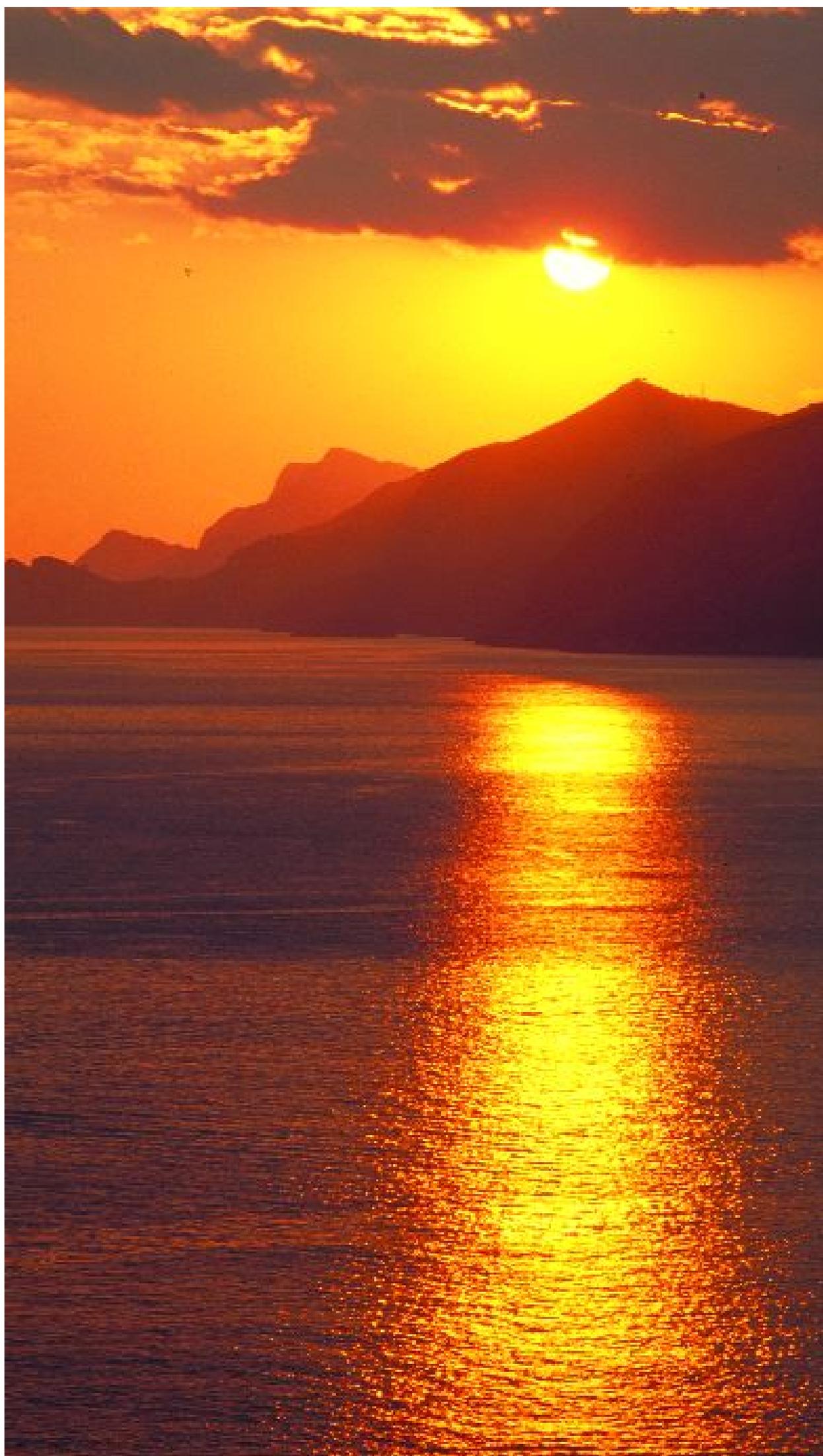
by Jesse Nash and Susan Granger

To call the Caribbean a tropical paradise is an understatement. Nowhere else in the world will you find such an endless array of islands with sun-kissed beaches, coral reefs and turquoise waters under bright blue skies. Island after island is packed with adventure and beauty. But before you choose a Caribbean cruise, there are two important questions to ask yourself. What kind of a trip are you planning? And who's going?

If you're looking for a family vacation, consider Disney or the Voyager-class mega-ships of Royal Caribbean. If you're planning a special getaway trip, consider Celebrity Cruises or Crystal Cruises. And if you're most comfortable on a smaller, more luxurious ship, choose Radisson Seven Seas or Seabourn.

Here's why: Disney Cruise Line caters to families with young children. You can choose to sail the Western Caribbean for adventures in Key West, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. Or explore the Eastern Caribbean islands of St. Maarten and St. Thomas with excursions to nearby St. John. The Seven-Night Land and Sea Vacation begins with a three-or-four-night stay at the Walt Disney World Resort, then off to the Bahamas. Every Disney Caribbean Cruise includes a stop at secluded Castaway Cay, Disney's private island paradise, a wondrous place filled with pixie dust.

Kids will delight in specially created programs that pair them with kids their own age. If your kids are 12 and under, you'll be given a pager when you drop them off, so you're always a beep away. For moms and dads, that means the flexibility to be together when you want or to go your separate ways. On board, your Disney vacation package price includes almost everything - from stateroom and meals to snacks and ice cream. All onboard programming and entertainment are included, except for spa visits, internet and phone calls, video games, soft drinks (other than those served at meals) and alcoholic beverages. Departing from Port Canaveral, Florida, Disney offers spectacular ships that become floating showplaces, specializing in casual yet magical family fun.



For families with older children, try Royal Caribbean, which departs from a variety of US cities. There are weekend getaways to Nassau and CocoCay which serve as great initiations for those who have never taken a cruise before. The four-or-five night short vacations entice with exploring in Grand Cayman, Key West and Ocho Rios on Jamaica or the ports of Cozumel and Costa Maya. On a 7-day cruise, you can choose to visit the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize City and Costa Maya, along with the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. You can even set sail to Bermuda from New York City. The 10 and 11-night vacations allows you to experience the phenomenal ports of Roatan, Grand Cayman, Montego Bay, Aruba, Curaco and Progreso. Land options include snorkeling, touring ancient ruins and attending local festivals. Since a 16 year-old's idea of fun is far different from a 5 year-old's, Royal Caribbean offers a five-category Adventure Ocean Youth Program designed with that in mind.

The huge Voyager-class ships from Royal Caribbean International add a whole new dimension to Caribbean cruising. On Voyager-class ships, there are "first-ever" features like a rock-climbing wall, miniature golf course and an ice-skating rink.

On Celebrity Cruises, you will sail on a ship as enchanting as the destinations you'll visit. And those ports include unusual places like Arica, Chile, an oasis bordered by desert sand dunes and valleys fed by melting snow from the Andes; Basseterre, St. Kitts, which once served as a trading center for sugar; Belize with its mystic Mayan grounds at Lamani; Bridgetown, Barbados, often called "Little England" in the tropics; and Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica, with its unspoiled rain forests filled with exotic birds and butterflies. Celebrity shore excursions are led by knowledgeable guides who offer insight into the history, culture, wildlife and geology of each destination. Celebrity also offers family programs with supervised activities and play areas. Special Sea & Stay packages can extend your vacation at hotels in the Florida Keys, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Orlando and Tampa, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York, New York; and Santiago, Chile.

Crystal Cruises are chosen by many as the Caribbean's most luxurious large-ship cruise line. Its refined style, combined with a relaxed atmosphere, appeals to seasoned adventurers and discriminating travelers. Crystal offers a variety of special interest theme cruises, including Yoga, Health & Fitness, Big Band, Jazz, Opera, Classical Music, Wine & Food Festival, Film Festival and Musical Theater. Your guest lecturer might be a prize-winning journalist, a politician, a film director, or even the author of the new book you're reading.

Radisson Seven Seas ships cruise the latitudes of tropical America but you won't find crowds. Each ship holds from 350 to 700 guests in total comfort. These ships offer all ocean-view staterooms or suites, the majority with private balconies. Single, open-seating dining in a choice of restaurants is standard fare, while the cuisine sets high standards for creativity. Complimentary fine wine is poured nightly and gratuities are always included.



On the elegant yachts of Seabourn, luxury and value are not mutually exclusive. Leading travel authorities cite Seabourn as "the best of the best" in ultra-luxury cruising. Charmingly intimate and lavishly appointed, each of Seabourn's three all-suite yachts is a private pleasure craft for just 104 couples. A complimentary massage on deck? French champagne any time? No problem. There's virtually one staff member for every guest with an unmatched level of service and access to places other ships can't touch. Seabourn goes to Mayreau in the Grenadines and the chic French enclave in St. Barts, playground of the jet set. And no other cruise line offers "Caviar in the Surf," a lavish china-and-silver service barbecue on a secluded beach in Virgin Gorda.

To find out more about any of these Caribbean cruises, consult your travel agent or try the cruise sites online at:  
[www.disneycruise.com](http://www.disneycruise.com)...[www.royalcaribbean.com](http://www.royalcaribbean.com)...[www.celebrity-cruises.com](http://www.celebrity-cruises.com)...[www.crystalcruises.com](http://www.crystalcruises.com)...[www.rssc.com](http://www.rssc.com)...  
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