

HELLO SAILOR

**Ahoy me boys!
QX's man-overboard ADRIAN
GILLAN takes you on a maiden
voyage of all-male discovery.
Get frigging in that rigging!**

GAY and Lesbian Cruising's come of age - whether for groups, couples or singles. You unpack just the once yet call at every port. Moreover, cabin, meals and entertainment are included in the price. Genuinely gay-male-only ships exist for those man enough to try; or - for those anxious they might just feel too queer-queasy - more commonly, just one section of your boat turns pink!

But whatever floats your log - marooned with hundreds of marauding manly mariners for days on end - it'll definitely be like some cross between

Carry on Cruising, Shipwreck and Murder on the Nile! Steady as she blows!

ATLANTIS EVENTS

ATLANTIS (www.atlantisevents.com) offers a range of gay 1-2 week cruise packages worldwide - hosting 15,000 gay guests annually in dedicatedly queer sections of mixed ships - claiming to "create a relaxed community with an emphasis on friendship and camaraderie". Cruise from Barcelona to sunny Athens via Ibiza, Italy, Istanbul and Mykonos; from

Events

Vancouver to icy Alaska to spot glaciers, whales and the midnight sun; from San Diego along the sun-kissed Mexican Riviera; from Miami to the Western Caribbean; from Fort Lauderdale to the Eastern Caribbean; or from Buenos Aires to Rio. Prices start from as little as around £450 (exc. flights and taxes). Many Atlantis packages are also available via Amro Holidays (see over), often at discount rates.

AQUAFEST

AQUAFEST (www.aquafestcruises.com) claims to offer discount bulk-bought packages, again using queered sections on mixed ships, featuring "accommodation, meals and shipboard entertainment at one low price" where you can "choose to do it all or nothing at all... for the most active and most passive traveller". They provide gay shows and films, plus "themed dances", gay beach parties and special "get-togethers" for singles or couples. Cruise Alaska's famous "Inside Passage" on a round trip from Seattle; take the 4-port Halloween cruise from New Orleans to the Western Caribbean and Yucatan Peninsula, including a spooky Costume Gala Ball with cash prizes for the scariest frocks; sail from Texas down to Mexico's Costa Maya; or do the Mediterranean cruise, taking in Croatia, Corfu, Malta and Rome - to name a few. Available on a range of dates, from as little as around £250 (exc. flights and taxes). Many Aquafest packages are also available via Amro Holidays (see over), often discounted.

RSVP

IF you fancy yanks RSVP (www.rsvpcrises.com) is the operator for you! With some 95% of their customers being Americans, you can guarantee a distinctly US-style experience. Not quite as hectic as more party-orientated cruises, they are nonetheless hugely experienced in making your trip an enjoyable one having serviced the gay cruising industry since 1989. Take in the Caribbean delights of Barbados, Tobago Cays, Grenadines, Bequia, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent; or perhaps savour the Mexican Riviera stopping off at Los Angeles, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas on a truly fabulous ship with 2,600 other like-minded travellers. European schedules cover Ireland tours and shorter Mediterranean breaks (from Athens to Istanbul and back), with other destinations including Tahiti and Peru. Manaround work closely with RSVP offering great deals on packages and flights. Prices vary depending on length and destination of cruise.



400 GAY GUYS

Alternative Events

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

WAITLIST
for some room types
BOOK NOW

ONE HOT FABULOUS WEEK

- Every night entertainment, DJs until dawn
- Foam party, costume party, fireworks and fire eaters
 - Sweat in the sauna, work out in the gym
 - Sensational snorkelling and deep sea diving
 - Cocktails at sunset and movies at midnight
- Aqua aerobics and a chocolate 'mousse' massage
- Spa treatments, Island cycling, cruising and sailing

ONE LUXURY ISLAND RESORT

- Cool and contemporary, spacious with seaviews
- A fusion of fine food from fresh fish to perfect pasta and pastries • Bars by the pool, in the restaurant and nightclub • Visit Vineyards and Temples, play in grottoes and gardens
- History and sightseeing; relaxing and rejuvenating

From

£347

per person (based on four sharing)

18-25 September
faivignana,
sicily

info@alternative-holidays.com

For booking and information call

020 8902 7177

www.alternative-holidays.com



FRUIT FANTASY ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES....

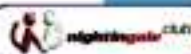
ANTHEM

Sunday - Kandi Kane's Welcome Party Anthem - Yacht cruise with Wayne G

Monday - Pink Foam Party with Hom swimwear. Dance til dawn.

ORANGE

Tuesday - Bling Bling Bling with Laquisha Jonz. Orange - PA by Therese.



Wednesday - 'Beauty and the Beast' Fancy Dress Ball, Nightingale entertains - with Phil Oldershaw

Thursday - Fleurettes, Winners of Drag Idol, Milk and Sugar - Holland's hot club.

CRASH

Friday - Pool Party, Rocky Horror and fireworks. Crash - with Steve Pitron.

BEYOND

Saturday - Sunset Tea Dance, Diva Explosion, Beyond.



Alternative Events

► **ROMEO-N-ROMEO**

ROMEO-N-ROMEO (www.romeo-n-romeo.com) claims to be the first cruise line to cater exclusively to homo hands. Romeo-N-Romeo wholly-owns the ships used for its different cruises, enabling it to create "the perfect Gay ambiance". Additionally, its staff have been "hand picked to ensure you get the service and attention you deserve". The line's flagship 10,000-tonne, 210 cabin 4 star M/V Romeo is large enough to hold all the amenities you would expect on a cruise ship; yet small enough to ensure that you

never feel lost and that you get to know everyone, and not just by sight! "Party, play, enjoy, indulge or relax," urges Romeo! Explore the decks, check out the gym, visit the boutiques, soak up the sun around the pool or on shore on a fine secluded beach, kick back cocktails in one of the lounges and bars or try Lady Luck at the casino. After dinner in one of the restaurants, enjoy performers and DJ's from around the world who will entertain 'til the wee small hours. A typical 9-10 day Romeo cruise starts at Gran Canaria, calling at Cadiz, Malaga, Almeria and Cartagena, and ending up at Ibiza and Majorca. Available on a range of dates, from as little as around £550 (exc. flights and taxes). Many packages are also available via Amro Holidays (see below) often - as ever - at bargain basement bucket booty rates.



> **Also: Keep 'em peeled on the horizon for smaller gay-chartered clothing-optional yachts and schooners that may float into view!**

► **TOP TEN CRUISE TIPS...**

> **Cabin location:** If you get seasickness, book a cabin on a lower deck mid-ship - midway 'twixt bow and stern. Pitch, roll, and yaw will be far less noticeable there. If you book an outside cabin, check your view of the sea isn't blocked by a lifeboat.

> **Make space:** Take a hanging shoe organiser for the closet. Folding or inflatable travel hangers are handy to dry out laundry or Speedos in your cabin - a practice often frowned upon in public spaces.

> **Be polite:** Don't be a deck-chair hog. It's inconsiderate to put towels and personal belongings on poolside lounge chairs to 'save' them unless you are actually swimming in the pool. If the cruise is all-male, then only strip in the nude areas. If you're on a larger cruise that includes non-gays with whom you may occasionally mingle, don't be obnoxious and heterophobic; likewise, do report any incidents of homophobia - whether from staff or fellow voyagers.

> **Be firm:** Where seating is planned, don't let table-mates ruin your cruise. You will know within the first five minutes of chatting if your fellow diners are going to bore the pants off - or annoy the shit out of - you. Don't worry about what they think. You'll never set eyes again after the final port of call.

> **Be popular:** Most larger ships oper-

ate an onboard credit account system - which you can prime up front with a card or cash. So carry lots of loose change or small notes - generally euros in the Med, dollars in the Americas - to tip porters, staff, chefs etc. That could make for a smoother trip.

> **Fashion fuck-ups:** Captain and first mate hats look cute on kids, not on adults - not even on fully-grown queers. When dining: 'Formal' means tux or dark suit and tie; 'Semi-formal' means blazer or sport coat and tie; and 'Casual' means polo T-shirt and slacks. At least have the latter two categories on posher trips - so you don't lower the tone or get barred below hatches.

> **Copies of ID:** Make two copies of your passport and credit cards. Leave one set in a safe place on your ship. If the ship's purser holds your passport - as is often the case, to expedite clearing the ship in foreign ports - carry the passport copy ashore with you. Leave the other copies with an easily contactable friend or family member at home.

> **Beat the queues:** Make land excursion reservations - and any onboard spa or salon appointments - as soon as you can, to avoid disappointment. Check the balance of your onboard account the day before the end of your cruise so you can straighten out any discrepancies in advance and avoid a long queue

of querying queers at the Purser's Desk on that last morning when final bills arrive.

> **Save money:** Consider off-season cruises. November and December mean a glut of ships in places like the Caribbean, often yielding 50% cuts off summer prices - but avoid hurricane season, June - November! Consider cruising Alaska in May or late August.

> **And finally:** There is no such thing as a bad cruise; just a cruise that's not right for you. Find out exactly what you're about to book and learn from past experiences -what you know you rate or hate. If a first timer, you may even learn you abhor cruises - however gay or straight; posh or common! But - like skiing - you'll never know unless you try.

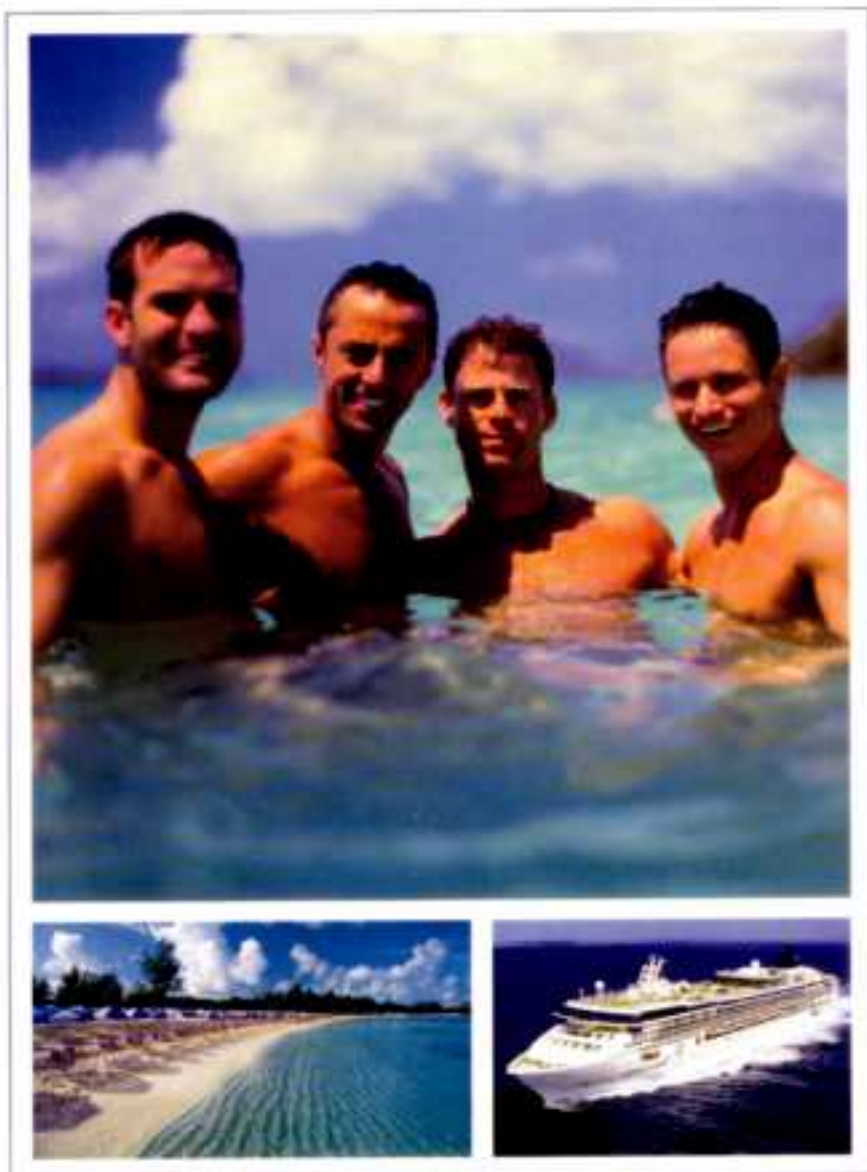
What's generally included in a cruise package: All meals entertainment and accommodations aboard ship for the duration of the cruise.

What's generally not included in a cruise package: Tipping; items of a personal nature; alcoholic beverages; gift shop and spa purchases; gambling; optional shore excursions; airfare to/from ports; air and port taxes; local transfers to the port of embarkation/disembarkation. Budget them Bacardis!

> **Book now! Try the following gay-owned tour operators that offer prices often lower than those that cruise operators can quote themselves:**

> **Manaround offer amazing deals and packages to a huge range of international destinations. Tel: 020 8902 7177**

> **Amro Holidays is a gay owned and operated holiday agent that can tailor and price breaks to suit your requirements. Tel: 0870 990 7404**



2005 Holidays

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