

A photograph of a cruise ship deck during sunset. The deck is made of light-colored wood and has a white railing with a dark wooden handrail. The ship's white hull and upper decks are visible on the left. A round clock is mounted on the wall. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the calm sea. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

KIKI BARON

HELGE GRAMMERSTORF

EXCLUSIVE CRUISES

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
JOURNEYS ON RIVERS
AND ON THE HIGH SEAS

CALLWEY



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THE ART OF TRAVEL

An ocean journey follows its own rules. It does not begin with a fixed destination, but with a decision to take one's time. Passengers consciously reject the option of fast arrival, and embrace a form of travel where the journey itself has meaning.



WHY WE FOLLOW THE HORIZON

The horizon is both guidance and openness. It sets a direction without imposing restrictions. At sea, this line becomes a constant companion—always present, never within reach. It frames the view without limiting it, creating a sense of calm that has become rare in everyday life.

The sea has always held a special allure. Not because of its drama, but because of its clarity. The vastness compels reduction to the essence, in visual, mental, and emotional terms. On the water, trivialities recede, and perspectives realign. We follow the horizon not to reach it, but to use it as orientation.



THE ELASTICITY OF TIME

At sea, time loses its usual pressure. It is no longer dictated by schedules, but by daylight hours, by the rhythm of shipboard life, by recurring routines. Days at sea are often seen as interludes—yet they are precisely what defines this form of travel. A day at sea means a complete lack of obligations, creating space for both concentration and carefreeness. Reading without a ticking clock, conversations without a purpose, breaks without justification. The ship's steady glide slows perception without clouding it. Thoughts become clearer, not heavier. Time is not filled, but utilized—entirely without a plan.



THE SHIP AS FLOATING MICROCOSM

A cruise ship is a self-contained world. It is both infrastructure and retreat, precisely organized yet open to individual experiences. Its architecture follows movement, not stillness. Spaces change with the daylight, the weather, and the mood on board. A balanced structure emerges between public areas and private retreats. Be part of the action—or consciously withdraw. The ship offers both, utterly without judgment. Encounters take place casually, and are often more intense than on land because they are limited in time. Impressions, not obligations, are shared.



BOARDING

The moment of boarding marks a transition. Leaving the mainland is not a farewell, but a shift in focus. Perspectives change, priorities are adjusted. The sea becomes a constant, the ship its frame. Far more than a sequence of destinations, a cruise is thus a form of travel that creates space—for observation, for enjoyment, for concentrating on what truly matters. The following pages are dedicated to different routes and ships, landscapes and experiences, all united by the idea that travel should not be faster—but more mindful.





PEOPLE

THAT SHAPE
CRUISES

PERSONALITIES

A cruise is not defined solely by routes, ships, or landscapes. It is carried by people whose presence often remains in the background—and is all the more defining for that. They structure daily life on board, provide guidance, and build trust. Their work is part of the experience, even if it rarely takes center stage.



THE CAPTAIN *Final authority, composure*

The captain is the visible constant of a voyage. He is responsible for course, speed, and safety—and thus for far more than navigation alone. His authority is not strident, but self-evident. It is based on experience, on the ability to keep the big picture in view, and on calm and timely decision-making.

On board, the captain is both symbol and point of reference. His announcements mark transitions: setting sail, reaching open waters, approaching port. They encapsulate the reliability that builds trust. The captain is the director and the commander-in-chief. He bears responsibility for the crew, especially the ship's nautical and technical crew, and of course for the passengers—and it is precisely through this that he conveys a sense of calm.



PERSONALITIES



THE CONCIERGE

The quiet enabler

The concierge is usually behind the scenes—yet ever-present. He is thoroughly familiar with all procedures and attends to guests' requests and special needs. Often, he knows what is needed before it is even asked for. His strength lies in the combination of discretion and presence.

On board, he serves as the link between possibility and execution. From special occasions to individual needs or spontaneous ideas, the concierge ensures that options are transformed into experiences. Calm, efficient, and matter-of-fact.

EXPEDITION LEADER

Interpreter of the Landscape

They read the surroundings before others see them. Ice formations, coastlines, weather changes—everything is categorized, explained, and prepared. Expedition leaders interpret the landscape within its context, not to dominate it, but to make it understandable.

Their task is to direct attention without dominating. They point out details, throw open perspectives, and leave room for personal impressions. The quality of their work is measured by the selection of information, not its volume. They reveal what would otherwise be overlooked.



THE CHEF AT SEA

Cooking under challenging conditions

A kitchen at sea follows its own rules. Space is limited, logistics are complex, and conditions are constantly changing. The head chef is responsible for quality, rhythm, and coordination—day after day, week after week.

He cooks for many, yet remains largely anonymous to guests. Menus must be planned precisely, and workflows meticulously coordinated. At the same time, the sea demands flexibility; weather, sea conditions, and routes may all require adjustments. Here, cooking becomes organization, leadership, and daily discipline.



THE CREW

The Constant of the Journey

The crew is the backbone of the ship. They come from different countries and speak different languages, yet share a common daily life. Their routines are what structures life on board—unobtrusive, reliable, continuous.

For guests, the crew is often the first point of contact, the final farewell, and the constant companion between ports. Here, courtesy is no mere lip service, but is integral to the mindset. It creates a sense of familiarity for a while, and shapes the travel experience more profoundly than can be realized in the moment. The cruise director is a key member of the crew, with duties that focus on organizing entertainment, activities, and other events both on board and occasionally ashore.



TYPOLOGY

SHIP TYPES &
TRAVEL

TPOLOGY

Not every cruise tells the same story. Ships differ not only in size, technology, or route, but above all in their character. They shape the pace, perception, and nature of the journey. This typology is not intended as a decision-making aid, but as a guide—an invitation to explore different ways of traveling on the water.



EXPEDITION & DISCOVERY

Expedition ships are built for regions where the destination is not a given. In environments of ice, remote coasts, and largely undeveloped river courses, it is the experience, not the arrival, that takes center stage. The ships are functional, state-of-the-art, and designed for flexibility. Their strength lies in their adaptability.

On trips of this kind where weather, light, and nature set the pace, there is no rigid schedule. Along the way, experts on board provide context and insights without dominating the experience. An expedition requires attention to be paid to landscapes, to details, to unpredictable events. Comfort is often deliberately sidelined in favor of a more immersive experience.

TPOLOGY

OCEAN LINER & TRADITION

The ocean liner is a form of travel steeped in history. It stands for continuity, for ritual, for a philosophy which turns the journey itself into the destination. Transatlantic crossings, set mealtimes, formal evenings—this is travel that is characterized by structure and reliability. Ocean liners tell of a time when sea voyages marked transitions: between continents, stages of life, whole eras. They preserve this spirit even today, slowing the pace of life without falling into nostalgia, and offering a form of elegance rooted in repetition and ritual.



RIVER & PROXIMITY

River cruises are journeys in motion—slow, continuous, close to the daily life of the regions. The landscape does not simply pass by, but unfolds. Cities, villages, and riverside landscapes are at eye level, within reach at all times. River vessels are manageable in size, with a calm rhythm. The closeness to the land influences the experience as profoundly as the closeness of the guests. River journeys invite passengers to take a closer look: at architecture, at culture, at the liminal areas where city blends into countryside. While they may be less spectacular, they always leave a lasting impression.



YACHT & PRIVACY

Yachts embody closeness—to the water, to the surroundings, to the fellow souls on board. With few passengers, the atmosphere recalls private travel, with flexible schedules, personal encounters, and excursions in small groups. These ships operate off the beaten path, able to anchor in bays, call at small ports, and stay longer. Yacht travel need not follow a fixed itinerary, but conjures a sense of relaxation and individuality where the sea is no mere backdrop, but a direct companion.



MEGASHIPS & WORLDS OF EXPERIENCE

Megaships are floating cities. They combine dining, entertainment, architecture, and infrastructure on an impressive scale. Diversity is their central promise, with a range of different restaurants, sports activities, workshops, events all possible at the same time. This form of travel is aimed at people who value choice and seek variety. The sea provides the backdrop, not the focal point. Megaships operate regardless of route or weather. They create self-contained worlds of experience—and in doing so, define a unique form of travel.

LUXURIOUS ADVENTURES AT SEA



Exclusive Cruises is more than just a book—it's an invitation to unforgettable experiences at sea. It takes you into the fascinating world of 30 extraordinary cruise experiences that combine the thrill of adventure with luxurious travel. From majestic ocean cruises to intimate river journeys, each route offers remarkable highlights and an insider look at the industry's leading names. Opulent ships, exceptional service, and culinary creations by renowned chefs invite travelers to embark in style. Inspiring images and valuable insider tips covering attractions and activities ashore make this Callwey book the perfect companion for anyone looking to explore the world in a luxurious setting.

UNIQUE CRUISE EXPERIENCES FOR
EVERY TASTE

DIVERSE ROUTES FROM THE FJORDS OF
NORWAY TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

INSIDER TIPS AND CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR
AN UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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