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A BON VOYAGE ON A SHIP BY CRUISE TAKEN MAKES CRAZY FOR PLEASURE USUALLY CALLING IN AT SEVERAL PLACES

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ABSTRACT

Cruise ships are large passenger ships used mainly for vacationing. Unlike ocean liners, which are used for transport, cruise ships typically embark on round-trip voyages to various ports of call, where passengers may go on tours known as "shore excursions". Modern cruise ships tend to have less hull strength, speed, and agility compared to ocean liners. However, they have added amenities to cater to water tourists, with recent vessels being described as "balcony-laden floating condominiums".

KEYWORDS: cruise, ship, sea, ocean, voyage.

Overview: Cruise ships are large passenger ships used mainly for vacationing. Unlike ocean liners, which are used for transport, cruise ships typically embark on round-trip voyages to various ports of call, where passengers may go on tours known as "shore excursions". The concept of a cruise ship, designed specifically for leisure and pleasure voyages, is attributed to **Albert Ballin**, the director of the Hamburg-America Line (HAPAG) in the late 19th century.

He spearheaded the development of the first cruise ship, the Prinzessin Victoria Luise, which was launched in 1901. Albert Ballin (15 August 1857 – 9 November 1918) was a German shipping magnate. He was the

general director of the **Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft (HAPAG)** or **Hamburg-America Line**, which for a time was the world's largest shipping company. Being the inventor of the concept of the cruise ship, he is known as the father of modern cruise ship travel.

Albert Ballin was a risk-taker who was willing to challenge his colleagues, foreign competitors, and domestic politics in order to build a successful shipping company. He focused on British rivals and was determined to expand HAPAG's global reach, he also worked closely with the Kaiser and supported expansion of the German navy.



Figure-1: Cruise inventor and Cruise.

Prior to this, passenger ships were primarily used for transportation, not recreation. Ballin recognized a market for affluent individuals seeking luxurious travel experiences and developed the Prinzessin Victoria Luise to cater to this demand. The ship was 407 feet long, weighed 4,419 tons, and featured 120 first-class cabins. In 1891, Ballin also organized the first long-distance "pleasure voyage" on the Augusta Victoria, a transatlantic ship, sending it on a 58-day cruise to the Mediterranean and Near East. This voyage further solidified the idea of cruising as a distinct form of travel.

History of Cruise

1844: P&O begins offering leisure cruises, advertising trips to destinations like Gibraltar, Malta, and Athens.

1867: Mark Twain takes a cruise on the paddle steamer Quaker City, marking the first cruise to depart from North America.

1881: P&O converts the liner Ceylon into a cruise ship for a round-the-world voyage.

1891: The Augusta Victoria undertakes a cruise in the Mediterranean and the Near East, often cited as the first true cruise.

1900: The Hamburg-America Line launches the Prinzessin Victoria Luise, the first purpose-built luxury cruise ship.

The concept of leisure cruising, as we know it today, emerged in the mid-1800s, with the first cruises offered by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) in 1844. These early cruises were primarily mail delivery ships converted for leisure travel and offered trips around the Mediterranean. While earlier voyages existed, the first purpose-built luxury cruise ship was the Prinzessin Victoria Luise, launched in 1900 by the Hamburg-America Line.

Cruise prices from Kochi vary widely depending on the duration, destination, and type of cabin. A short, 2-hour sunset cruise can cost around ₹ 600, while a 3-night Lakshadweep cruise can range from ₹ 36,630 to ₹ 92,000 per person, according to Thrillophilia and SOTC. Longer international cruises, like those to Singapore, can be considerably more expensive, potentially costing over ₹ 1,00,000 for an 8-day trip.

Short Cruises (1-4 hours): Sunset Cruise: Around ₹ 600 per person (2 hours).

Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner Cruises: ₹ 750-₹ 2500 per person, depending on the meal and duration.

Longer Cruises (Multiple Days)

Kochi to Lakshadweep: ₹ 36,630 to ₹ 92,000 per person for a 3-night or 4-day cruise.

Kochi to Lakshadweep and Mumbai: ₹ 52,000 per person for a 3-night journey, according to Thrillophilia.

Cordelia Cruises: Can range from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 50,000 per person, depending on the package.

International Cruises (Example)

Singapore Cruise (8 Days/7 Nights): ₹ 1,00,601 per person, according to MakeMyTrip.

Duration: Longer cruises naturally cost more.

Destination: International cruises are generally more expensive than domestic ones.

Cabin Type: Ocean view, balcony, suite, and chairman's suite options have different price points.

Operator: Different cruise lines (e.g., Cordelia, Costa) have varying pricing.

Time of Year: Prices may fluctuate based on demand.

Group Size: Some lines offer discounts for larger groups.

Tips for Finding Cruise Deals

Compare prices: Check multiple websites and travel agencies.

Look for promotions: Some operators offer discounts or deals.

Consider off-peak seasons: Traveling during less popular times may be cheaper.

Be flexible with dates: Adjusting your travel dates slightly could save you money.

Cruise ships vary greatly in length, but generally range from a few hundred feet to over 1,100 feet. According to Textbook, the largest cruise ship, Wonder of the Seas, is 1,188 feet long. Textbook also mentions that many modern cruise ships are around 1,000 feet long.

Smaller Cruise Ships: Some smaller expedition or river cruise ships can be as short as 174 feet (like the Safari Voyager).



Figure-2: International cruise.

Average Cruise Ships: The average length of a cruise ship is around 1,000 feet.

Large Cruise Ships: The largest cruise ships, often referred to as "megaships," can be over 1,100 feet long. For example, the Icon of the Seas is 1,196.7 feet long according to Wikipedia.

Examples:

Wonder of the Seas: 1,188 feet

Symphony of the Seas: 1,184.42 feet

Icon of the Seas: 1,196.7 feet

Titanic: 882 feet

RMS Queen Mary 2: 1,132 feet

Costa Smeralda: 1,106 feet

Cruise ships can be classified in several ways, including by size, type of experience offered, and the cruise line's overall positioning. Common classifications include mega-ships, ocean liners, river cruises, luxury cruises, expedition cruises, and boutique or small ships, each offering distinct experiences. Cruise lines themselves can also be grouped into categories like mainstream, premium, and luxury, with varying levels of service, amenities, and price points.



Figure-3: Cruise bedroom.

Mega Cruise Ships: These are the largest, carrying over 5,000 passengers and offering a wide array of amenities and activities.

Large Cruise Ships: These are still substantial, but carry fewer passengers than mega-ships, offering a balance of amenities and a more intimate atmosphere.

Small Cruise Ships: These cater to a more intimate experience, carrying a few hundred passengers and often exploring less-travelled destinations.

Ocean Cruise Ships: Designed for open-ocean voyages, these ships are built to withstand harsh conditions and

often offer itineraries ranging from short cruises to world voyages.

River Cruise Ships: Designed for navigating rivers, these ships offer a more intimate and scenic cruising experience, often focusing on cultural and historical destinations.

Luxury Cruise Ships: These prioritize high-end accommodations, gourmet dining, personalized service, and exclusive itineraries.



Figure-4: Cruise leisure.

Expedition Cruise Ships: Specially designed or adapted ships that can reach remote and sometimes challenging destinations, often focusing on wildlife viewing and educational experiences.

Boutique Cruise Ships: These ships offer a more intimate and personalized experience, often with a focus on unique itineraries and a high level of service.

Adventure Cruise Ships: These ships cater to travellers seeking active and adventurous itineraries, often

including activities like kayaking, hiking, or exploring remote areas.

Mainstream Cruise Lines: These offer a wide range of itineraries and appeal to a broad audience with a variety of on-board activities and entertainment.

Premium Cruise Lines: These offer a step up from mainstream, with enhanced dining, service, and amenities.

Luxury Cruise Lines: These focus on ultra-high-end experiences, with luxurious accommodations, personalized service, and gourmet dining. The best cruise in India depends on your preferences, but some popular options include the Brahmaputra River cruise, Ganges River cruise, and cruises to Lakshadweep or the Andaman Islands. For luxury experiences, consider cruises like the MV Mahabaahu on the Brahmaputra or the MV Ganga Vilas on the Ganges. If you're looking for a shorter trip, Cordelia Cruises offers various routes from Mumbai, Chennai, and Kochi.

River Cruises

Brahmaputra River Cruise: Offered by operators like Adventure River Cruises (including MV Mahabaahu) and Assam Bengal Navigation, these cruises explore the mighty Brahmaputra River in Assam, offering wildlife viewing (especially rhinos at Kaziranga), cultural experiences, and scenic views of the Himalayas.

Ganges River Cruise: Luxury cruises like the MV Ganga Vilas by Antara Cruises navigate the Ganges, showcasing heritage sites and cultural landmarks between Kolkata and Varanasi.

Kerala Backwaters: Cruises in Kerala, particularly around Alleppey and Cochin, offer a unique experience of the famous backwaters.

Ocean Cruises

Lakshadweep Cruises: These cruises offer a chance to explore the pristine beaches and water sports opportunities in the Lakshadweep archipelago.

Andaman Islands Cruises: A popular choice for those seeking a tropical getaway with rich marine life and scenic beauty.



Figure-5: Cruise toilet.

Mumbai-Goa Cruises: Cordelia Cruises offers popular routes from Mumbai to Goa, often including other destinations like Lakshadweep.

Luxury Cruises

MV Mahabaahu: This luxury vessel offers curated itineraries on the Brahmaputra River, featuring cultural performances, jeep safaris, and wildlife viewing.



Figure-6: Cruise bar.

MV Ganga Vilas: The world's longest motor vessel river cruise, offering a unique perspective on the Ganges.

Other Luxury Options: Companies like Oberoi (MV Vrinda cruise) also offer luxury river cruises in India.

Things to consider when choosing a cruise:

Destination: Decide if you prefer river cruises, ocean cruises, or a combination.

Duration: Consider the length of the cruise and whether it fits your schedule.

Budget: Luxury cruises will be more expensive than standard cruises.

Interests: Choose a cruise that aligns with your interests, whether it's wildlife viewing, cultural immersion, or relaxation. The Titanic is not bigger than modern cruise ships. Modern cruise ships are significantly larger in terms of length, width, and passenger capacity. While the Titanic was a marvel of its time and the largest ship of its era, modern cruise ships like the Icon of the Seas have surpassed it in all dimensions.

Here's a comparison

Titanic

Length: 882 feet, Passenger Capacity: Around 2,400 passengers, and Gross Tonnage: 46,328.

Modern Cruise Ships (e.g., Icon of the Seas): Length: 1,198 feet, Passenger Capacity: Over 7,600 passengers, and Gross Tonnage: 250,800.

As you can see, modern cruise ships have a much larger capacity and overall size compared to the Titanic.

The cruise industry has evolved from early passenger steamships to the modern era of mega-ships, with significant milestones in the 19th and 20th centuries. Early cruises focused on mail and passenger transport, then transitioned to leisure travel with dedicated cruise ships. The industry saw a boom in the late 20th century, fueled by the popularity of television shows and the construction of larger, more luxurious ships.

Early Ocean Travel (1800s – Early 1900s)

1815: The firm Wilcox and Anderson (later P&O) was established for trade between England and the Iberian Peninsula.

1835: Companies began offering cruises on ships primarily used for mail transport.

1844: P&O introduced leisure cruises to the Iberian Peninsula and the Mediterranean.

1867: The Quaker City made the first cruise from New York to Europe.

1880: The SS Ravenna, built by P&O, was the first ship with a 100% steel superstructure.

1889: The SS Valetta was the first ship to use electric lights.

1891: The German ship Augusta Victoria carried 241 passengers on a cruise, expanding the market.

1900: The Prinzessin Victoria Luise, the first purpose-built cruise ship, was launched by the Hamburg America Line (HAPAG).

The Golden Age of Ocean Liners (1900s – 1950s): This period saw the rise of iconic ocean liners, many of which also offered leisure cruises.

Birth of Modern Cruising (1950s – 1970s): Older companies began to focus on cruising, and new companies like Princess Cruises (1965), Norwegian Cruise Line (1966), Royal Caribbean (1968), MSC (1970), and Carnival Cruise Lines (1972) emerged. These companies offered more affordable cruises, driving industry growth.

The Cruise Boom (1980s – 2000s): The television show *The Love Boat*, set on the MS Pacific Princess, is credited with popularizing cruising. Royal Caribbean launched the first megaship, MS Sovereign of the Seas, in 1987, capable of carrying almost 3,000 passengers. Competition led to the construction of even larger ships with more amenities.

The 21st Century: Luxury, Sustainability & New Destinations: Cruise lines continue to build larger and more luxurious ships, offering a wide range of on-board activities and destinations. There is increasing focus on sustainability and environmental responsibility.



Figure-7: Cruise bath & entertainment.

CONCLUSION: A cruise ship is a large passenger ship used primarily for vacations, offering round-trip voyages with multiple ports of call. They are essentially floating hotels with various amenities like restaurants, swimming pools, and entertainment venues. Cruise ships differ from

ocean liners, which are typically used for transportation across seas and oceans.

Vacation focus: Cruise ships are designed for leisure and recreation, with itineraries that allow passengers to explore different destinations.

Round-trip voyages: Passengers typically embark on round-trip cruises, returning to the original port of departure.

Multiple ports of call: Cruises often include stops at various destinations, where passengers can participate in shore excursions.

Extensive amenities: Cruise ships offer a wide range of amenities, including restaurants, bars, swimming pools, entertainment venues, and more, resembling floating hotels.

Hospitality staff: Cruise ships have a complete hospitality staff to cater to passengers' needs.

Examples of cruise lines

Carnival Cruise Line: A popular cruise line known for its fun and lively atmosphere, according to Global Data.

Royal Caribbean International: A large cruise line with a diverse fleet and itineraries, according to Global Data.

MSC Cruises: A European cruise line with a focus on modern ships and unique on-board experiences, according to Global Data.

Norwegian Cruise Line: Known for its freestyle cruising concept, according to Global Data.

Disney Cruise Line: Offers family-friendly cruises with Disney theming and entertainment.

REFERENCE

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruise_ship