



THE GUIDE TO SIX-STAR CRUISING

Exceptional ships. Extraordinary service. Confidence by design.

The world's finest ships. The right one for you.

There are journeys where the ship is as extraordinary as the destinations. Beautifully appointed suites, dining that rivals the world's finest restaurants, intuitive personal service and the freedom to travel at a gentler pace are among the defining pleasures of ultra-luxury cruising.

But true luxury is personal. A celebrated suite is of little value if its bathroom does not work for you. An exquisite private-island call means little if the only way ashore is by an unsuitable tender. At Inclu Travel, we consider the complete experience, from the moment you leave home until you return.

Six-star service does not automatically mean six-star inclusivity.

01 | What Does Six-Star Cruising Really Mean?

"Six-star" is a widely used description for the highest reaches of luxury cruising, not an independently regulated or universally agreed star rating. Operators differ in ship size, suite accommodation, dining, inclusions, atmosphere and service philosophy. A higher fare does not automatically produce a better experience for every traveller.

For some, luxury means the intimacy of a yacht, a familiar crew and the freedom to retreat to a beautiful suite. For others, it is a larger ship with more dining choices, greater circulation space and facilities that work for everyone travelling. The right answer depends on the individual.

02 | The Leading Luxury Cruise Experiences

Regent Seven Seas Cruises — All-Inclusive, All-Suite Luxury

Regent is renowned for elegant all-suite ships, exceptional dining and a broad range of included elements, which can make the overall experience feel particularly seamless. Its ships offer a traditional but contemporary interpretation of ultra-luxury, with destination-rich itineraries across the world.

Inclusivity matters: Regent publishes details of designated accessible suites on selected vessels. The precise door clearances, bathroom layout, balcony arrangements and transfer spaces must be checked against the traveller's requirements. Included excursions should never be assumed to offer wheelchair-adapted transport.

Silversea — Intimate Ships, Personalised Service

Silversea combines a refined atmosphere, butler service in its suites and a remarkable geographic reach. Its ocean fleet includes newer ships such as Silver Nova and Silver Ray, alongside smaller vessels with their own distinct character. Silversea's expedition programme is a different proposition and requires separate assessment.

Inclusivity matters: Accessible-suite provision varies by ship and category. Ship size, lift arrangements, gangways and tender reliance may affect suitability. Butler service is not a substitute for personal care or trained physical assistance.

Seabourn — Understated Elegance

Seabourn appeals to travellers who value small-ship intimacy, relaxed sophistication, high-quality dining and a less formal approach to luxury. Its ocean-going ships can feel almost residential, with a strong emphasis on personal recognition and service.

Inclusivity matters: Designated accessible accommodation is limited and varies significantly in configuration. The availability of roll-in showers, transfer arrangements and wheelchair access to balconies must be confirmed for the actual suite. Tender operations and excursion accessibility require particular attention.

Explora Journeys — Contemporary Oceanfront Luxury

Explora Journeys brings a spacious, contemporary, resort-style interpretation to luxury ocean travel. Ships such as EXPLORA I and EXPLORA II offer generous oceanfront accommodation, varied dining, wellness facilities and an informal yet highly considered atmosphere.

Inclusivity matters: Published accessible-suite categories provide a useful starting point, including selected Ocean Terrace and larger suites. Exact measurements, bathroom configurations and access throughout the ship must still be verified, along with tender and shore arrangements.

Crystal — Classic Luxury Reimagined

Crystal Serenity and Crystal Symphony offer an established style of luxury cruising built around generous public spaces, attentive hospitality, enrichment and an emphasis on life aboard. They appeal to travellers who value the ship as much as its itinerary.

Inclusivity matters: Accessible accommodation exists in selected categories, but its number and configuration are limited. Personal-care assistance is generally outside the crew's role, and tender or shore access may restrict participation.

The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection — Yacht-Inspired Travel

Evrima, Ilma and Luminara present a more intimate, residential expression of luxury, combining refined design, destination-led itineraries and the atmosphere of a private yacht. This can be exceptionally appealing for travellers seeking privacy and a quieter scale.

Inclusivity matters: The smaller scale of a yacht does not necessarily mean easier access. Designated accessible accommodation, deck circulation, embarkation arrangements, tender use and port infrastructure must be checked in detail. A beautiful yacht may not be suitable for every mobility profile.

Aman at Sea — An Emerging Proposition

Aman's planned yacht experience promises a distinctive approach to private, serene luxury at sea. As a newer proposition, its practical operating history and accessibility arrangements should not be assumed from the reputation of its land-based properties.

Inclusivity matters: We would only recommend a particular voyage after reviewing verified ship-specific accommodation, facilities, embarkation and shore arrangements once these are available.

03 | Which Luxury Experience Is Right for You?

Regent may appeal to those who appreciate a comprehensive all-inclusive approach. Silversea and Seabourn suit travellers who value intimate ships and deeply personal service. Explora offers a contemporary, spacious and relaxed onboard environment. Crystal appeals to lovers of classic ocean hospitality. Ritz-Carlton offers yacht-inspired exclusivity.

These are distinctions in character, not a ranking of suitability. A ship with fewer passengers can be more intimate yet more restrictive for a large powered wheelchair. A newer ship can provide improved circulation but still have an unsuitable suite or inaccessible tender itinerary.

04 | The Suite: Where Luxury Must Become Practical

The suite is central to the luxury cruise experience. We look beyond its category name and square footage to understand whether it truly works for the traveller.

That means establishing entrance and internal door widths, turning space, the approach to the bed, bed height, transfer side, shower access, toilet position, grab rails, basin clearance and the availability of appropriate equipment. Balcony thresholds and outdoor circulation are also important.

A beautifully photographed bathroom may have an impractical shower seat. A large suite may not provide sufficient space for a mobile hoist. We seek the measurements and operational detail needed to make a confident recommendation.

05 | A Beautiful Ship Must Work Beyond the Suite

Luxury cruising is about the freedom to enjoy the whole ship: restaurants, lounges, theatres, observation decks, pools, spas and wellness spaces. We examine routes between these spaces, lift access, door thresholds and any areas reached only by steps.

Pool hoists, spa treatment accessibility, gym equipment and individual onboard experiences vary widely. They must be confirmed rather than inferred from the presence of accessible accommodation.

06 | The Tender Question

Some of the world's most beautiful luxury ports require tendering: a smaller vessel carries guests from the anchored ship to shore. For wheelchair users who cannot stand, step or transfer independently, this can be the defining limitation of an itinerary.

Operator policies vary by vessel, tender design, weather, sea state, equipment type and crew procedures. Even where assisted tender boarding is offered, there may be weight or mobility restrictions, and access may be withdrawn for safety reasons.

A ship may be suitable. The itinerary may not be.

We review tender calls before selecting a voyage and explain where remaining aboard may be necessary. We do not promise access simply because an itinerary includes a desirable destination.

07 | Shore Experiences Worth Travelling For

Six-star cruising is often sold on the quality of its shore programme. Yet included or premium excursions may rely on standard coaches, steps, uneven terrain or transfers that are unsuitable for some guests.

Where possible, Inclu Travel can design privately guided experiences around the individual party, including appropriately adapted vehicles, carefully considered routes and experiences that are rewarding for everyone. Availability varies greatly by destination, particularly in remote ports and islands.

A privately arranged experience should not be merely a reduced version of the standard tour. It should reflect the travellers' interests, pace and ambitions.

08 | Personal Service Is Not Personal Care

Exceptional hospitality can make a journey feel effortless, but luxury crew members are not automatically authorised or trained to provide intimate personal care, manual lifting, toileting support or specialist clinical assistance.

Where a traveller requires personal assistance, we establish what support is needed, who will provide it and how arrangements will work in the cabin and ashore. We also check any cruise-line requirements concerning companions, emergency evacuation and independent mobility.

The aim is to create genuine freedom and confidence without making assumptions about what a ship's crew can safely deliver.

09 | Mobility Equipment and Specialist Requirements

Powered wheelchairs, manual chairs, powered attachments, scooters, mobile hoists, shower chairs and other equipment each have different implications for shipboard travel. We consider size, weight, charging, battery specifications, storage, safe use and whether the equipment can be taken ashore.

Where equipment must be hired or delivered, we seek operator approval and supplier confirmation in advance. On longer voyages, we also consider spares, maintenance and a practical response if something fails.

Essential equipment is not an optional accessory. It is part of the traveller's independence and must be treated with the same seriousness as the suite itself.

10 | Luxury for Travellers Beyond Mobility Requirements

The most considered hospitality also recognises sensory, communication, hearing, visual, cognitive and neurodivergent requirements, as well as allergies, dietary needs and individual preferences.

Some travellers value a smaller, quieter ship and predictable routine; others welcome a broad range of dining and entertainment. We consider lighting, noise, wayfinding, communication support, private spaces and the ease of obtaining assistance.

The question is never simply whether a ship is “accessible”. It is whether the complete experience feels right for the person.

11 | Choosing the Itinerary

The Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Caribbean, Alaska, Asia and longer ocean crossings offer very different experiences. The itinerary must be assessed for its balance of sea days, berth versus tender ports, accessible ground transport, climate and physical demands.

Some guests dream of the iconic sights of a great city. Others want quiet coastal beauty, exceptional food and time aboard. The destination should fit the people travelling, not the other way around.

12 | From Home to Ship, and Home Again

For many travellers, the difference between a wonderful cruise and a difficult one lies in the journeys before and after the ship. We can coordinate suitable private transfers, wheelchair-adapted vehicles, accessible hotels, airport or port assistance and equipment logistics.

If flying is involved, we consider the implications for powered mobility equipment, transfers and support. If the voyage begins in Britain, we may be able to create an entirely flight-free experience. Every journey is considered as a whole.

13 | Travelling Together, Beautifully

Six-star cruising is often chosen for milestone celebrations, families, couples and groups of friends. We begin with the person whose requirements demand the greatest consideration, but we do not allow those requirements to diminish the enjoyment of anyone else.

The goal may be a shared dinner, a private cultural visit, a special celebration ashore or simply the pleasure of everyone having the freedom to enjoy the ship in their own way. Thoughtful design creates possibilities for the whole party.

14 | The Inclu Cruise Club Difference

We do not begin with the most prestigious ship or the most expensive suite. We begin with the traveller: their dreams, interests, preferences and practical requirements.

We then consider the ships and itineraries most likely to work, verify the accommodation and operational details, and bring together the arrangements that turn a cruise booking into a personally designed journey.

Our role extends beyond the cabin, from private transfers and equipment to experiences ashore and the human support that gives travellers confidence.

Technology can plan an itinerary. Only people can design a journey.

15 | Confidence by Design™

The promise of six-star cruising is extraordinary service. Our ambition is to ensure that the experience behind that promise is genuinely extraordinary for the people travelling.

Luxury is not simply the finest suite, the most attentive butler or the most beautiful ship. It is also the confidence that comes from knowing you have been understood.

We do not claim that every ship, port or experience can be made suitable. We identify what is possible, explain what is not, and design around the opportunities that matter most.

The world's finest ships. The right one for you.

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