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THE GUIDE TO TRANSATLANTIC CRUISING

The Atlantic. The extraordinary journey. Confidence by design.

There are few journeys more evocative than crossing the Atlantic by sea. Leave Southampton behind, settle into the gentle rituals of life aboard a great ocean liner and arrive in New York with the unmistakable sense that you have travelled, rather than simply been transported.

For some, a transatlantic crossing is a lifelong dream. For others, it is a magnificent way to reach America without flying. And for travellers with significant mobility requirements, specialist equipment or concerns about air travel, it can open up possibilities that once seemed difficult to imagine.

At Inclu Travel, we see the crossing as the beginning of a personally designed journey: the right accommodation aboard, the right arrangements at either end and the freedom to make New York, or the wider Americas, part of something extraordinary.

01 | The Romance of the Atlantic

A transatlantic crossing is different from an ordinary cruise. There is no daily succession of ports and excursions. Instead, the ocean becomes the setting, and the ship becomes the destination.

Afternoon tea, lectures, music, elegant dining, quiet corners for reading and long views across the water create a rhythm that is increasingly rare in modern travel. Some guests embrace every event on the programme; others enjoy doing very little at all.

The reward is time: time together, time to unwind and time to arrive somewhere extraordinary without the rush of an airport.

02 | Queen Mary 2: The Great Ocean Liner

Cunard's Queen Mary 2 is the defining choice for a scheduled Southampton–New York crossing. Purpose-built as an ocean liner rather than a conventional cruise ship, she is designed for the open Atlantic and carries forward the traditions of one of travel's most celebrated routes.

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On board, guests can enjoy formal evenings, the renowned library, theatre and enrichment programme, spa facilities, a range of dining venues and the celebrated Grill experience in higher accommodation categories.

Queen Mary 2 is not the only vessel capable of crossing the Atlantic, but she offers the distinctive appeal of a regular passenger crossing between Britain and New York. Specific sailings, durations and accommodation categories must be checked against Cunard's current programme.

03 | Southampton to New York

The classic westbound crossing departs Southampton and normally reaches New York in approximately seven nights, although schedules vary. The ship is your accommodation for the entire passage, with no intermediate hotel changes or repeated baggage handling.

Approaching New York by sea can be one of the most memorable moments of the holiday. Depending on conditions and the ship's arrival arrangements, the skyline, harbour and bridges provide an unforgettable introduction to the city.

For travellers who would otherwise need to fly, the crossing replaces the flight with a holiday in its own right.

04 | New York to Southampton

The eastbound crossing has its own charm. It offers a memorable way to return to Britain after a stay in New York or an extended journey through North America.

Guests should consider the different daily rhythm created by time-zone changes, as well as the practical implications of boarding in New York, transport to the terminal and immigration formalities.

We design the return with the same attention as the outward journey, because the final transfer home matters just as much as the first departure.

05 | A Truly No-Fly Transatlantic Holiday

A one-way Southampton–New York crossing is flight-free in one direction, not automatically a complete no-fly holiday. To travel without flying throughout, the return must also be planned.

One option is a Southampton round-trip voyage that crosses to New York and returns to Britain. Another is to combine separate westbound and eastbound crossings, allowing time for a personally designed stay in the United States or Canada between them.

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Where the dates do not align, a longer American itinerary may be possible, but immigration permissions, accommodation, insurance, transport and the return sailing all require careful coordination.

For some travellers, the Atlantic crossing is the holiday. For others, it becomes the most elegant way to begin a Grand Tour.

06 | Choosing Your Stateroom or Suite

The right accommodation influences the entire crossing. Choices range from comfortable inside and oceanview staterooms to balcony accommodation and the elevated service of Princess Grill and Queens Grill.

An accessible designation is only the starting point. We assess the precise cabin layout, door clearances, turning space, bed height, transfer side, bathroom and shower arrangements, equipment storage and proximity to lifts and important facilities.

Balcony access must be verified rather than assumed. Similarly, a higher accommodation category is not automatically the most suitable choice for a traveller with complex access requirements.

The most luxurious suite is the one in which the guest can genuinely relax, move and enjoy the voyage.

07 | Inclusivity Aboard Queen Mary 2

Queen Mary 2 offers designated accessible accommodation and facilities, but individual suitability depends on the ship’s precise configuration, the guest’s equipment and the assistance they require.

For travellers using powered wheelchairs, we examine cabin access, lifts, circulation routes, dining venues, entertainment spaces and the practical experience of moving between decks. We also consider any areas that may not be independently accessible.

For those with sensory, hearing, visual, communication or neurodivergent requirements, the assessment is equally personal: quiet spaces, predictable routines, information formats, dining preferences and onboard assistance may all matter.

An ocean crossing removes many challenges associated with repeated ports, but it does not remove the need for careful, individual planning.

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08 | Mobility Equipment and Specialist Support

Travelling by sea can eliminate the risk of placing an essential wheelchair in an aircraft hold. For many people, that is a significant benefit.

However, we still confirm the cruise line's rules for powered wheelchairs, scooters, manual chairs, powered attachments, batteries, charging, dimensions and safe storage. Mobility equipment must not obstruct escape routes, and the operator may impose particular conditions.

Where necessary, we investigate mobile hoists, shower chairs and other specialist equipment, including whether equipment can be delivered to the ship, accommodated safely and supported during the voyage.

For a traveller whose independence depends on equipment, we also consider spares, maintenance, contingency arrangements and what would happen if an essential component failed at sea.

09 | Personal Assistance and Care

Cruise-ship staff provide hospitality and assistance within the operator's published policies. They should not be assumed to provide personal care, lifting, dressing, toileting or transfers.

Where a traveller needs these services, appropriate personal assistance must be arranged independently. We consider the number of assistants, accommodation, working arrangements, privacy, insurance and any necessary equipment.

We also examine whether medical needs can be safely managed during several consecutive days at sea. The ship's medical centre is not a substitute for an individually planned care arrangement or a specialist hospital.

Confidence comes from knowing who is responsible for each part of the journey.

10 | Seven Days at Sea: Life on Board

A direct transatlantic crossing is wonderfully different because there are generally no intermediate ports. Once embarked, guests can settle into a familiar environment until arrival.

We help travellers think about the experiences that matter most: dining, entertainment, the spa, wellness, quiet time, social activities and simply enjoying the sea. Where an activity has physical or operational restrictions, those are assessed in advance.

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The crossing can be especially appealing to mixed-ability couples, families and friends. Everyone can pursue their own interests during the day and come together for the experiences they want to share.

We begin with the person whose requirements need the greatest consideration, without compromising the enjoyment of anyone else.

11 | Weather, Sea Conditions and the Seasons

The Atlantic is an ocean, not a sheltered coastal route. Conditions vary by season and sailing, and even a purpose-built liner can encounter rough seas.

We discuss motion sensitivity, cabin location, medication advice from the traveller's own clinician where appropriate, and the implications of heavy weather for comfort and movement around the ship.

Crossings are available at different times of year. There is no universally perfect season; the best choice depends on schedule, personal preference, weather tolerance and the journey planned on either side.

12 | Getting to Southampton

A seamless crossing begins before reaching the port. We can coordinate private chauffeur-driven transfers, suitable wheelchair-adapted vehicles and, where preferred, an overnight stay near Southampton.

For a traveller remaining in a wheelchair during a road transfer, we verify the actual vehicle, boarding system, equipment dimensions, safe wheelchair securement and occupant restraints.

We also plan arrival times, baggage handling, assistance at the terminal and the embarkation process. The aim is for the holiday to begin at the front door, not only once the ship sails.

13 | Arriving in New York

New York is an extraordinary destination, but arriving with a powered wheelchair or complex equipment requires preparation. Terminal procedures, immigration, baggage collection and the onward journey must all work together.

We arrange appropriate private transport and confirm loading and securement arrangements for the actual wheelchair. Where needed, we can also organise assistance, a carefully chosen hotel and a calm introduction to the city.

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The objective is to move smoothly from ship to hotel without turning the arrival into an exhausting logistical exercise.

14 | A New York Stay, Personally Designed

For many travellers, the crossing deserves an equally memorable destination. New York offers world-class museums, theatre, architecture, restaurants, neighbourhoods and parks, alongside extraordinary places to stay.

We can design privately guided experiences around individual interests, from art and design to food, music, history and the energy of Manhattan. We assess access in practice, including vehicles, entrances, seating, bathrooms, routes and any necessary reservations.

For those seeking a more leisurely visit, we can build in time to enjoy an exceptional hotel, discover a favourite neighbourhood or simply watch the city unfold.

It is not about fitting every attraction into a schedule. It is about making the experiences that matter feel effortless.

15 | Beyond New York: An American Grand Tour

The transatlantic crossing can be the gateway to a far larger adventure. Consider New England and its coastal towns, the cultural landmarks of Washington, the landscapes of the Hudson Valley or an extended journey across North America.

Where appropriate, we can combine private touring, carefully selected hotels and suitable ground transport. Longer journeys may involve rail or other modes of travel, but their suitability must be assessed against the individual traveller's requirements.

For some, the ambition is a few unforgettable days in Manhattan. For others, it is weeks discovering the Americas before returning by sea.

Both begin with the same question: what would you love to experience?

16 | Documents, Insurance and Practical Planning

A transatlantic voyage crosses international borders and may involve different entry requirements for the United Kingdom, United States and any additional destinations. Passports, visas or electronic travel authorisations must be checked against nationality and current rules.

Insurance should cover the full journey, including cruising, the United States, any relevant medical conditions, specialist equipment and the duration of the stay. It is important to understand limitations and exclusions before committing to travel.

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We also consider medication, prescriptions, power supplies, equipment servicing, communication needs and the practicalities of travelling for several weeks rather than simply seven nights.

17 | When to Book and What to Verify

Accessible staterooms and certain suite configurations are limited in number. For travellers with significant requirements, choosing the right accommodation may be more important than choosing a particular departure date.

Before booking, we confirm the exact ship and sailing, stateroom suitability, equipment permissions, assistance requirements, terminal arrangements, transport at both ends and the viability of the complete itinerary.

For a no-fly round trip, both Atlantic crossings must be available and appropriately timed. Published itineraries and prices can change, and a listed sailing does not establish accessible cabin availability.

Our preference is to verify first and reserve with confidence, rather than discover critical limitations after a deposit has been paid.

18 | The Inclu Cruise Club Difference

Technology can display a sailing. Only people can design the complete journey.

At Inclu Travel, we bring together the ship, stateroom, specialist equipment, assistance, private transfers, exceptional hotels and personally guided experiences. Every element is considered in relation to the people travelling.

We work with a carefully managed number of clients because exceptional service requires time, attention and a genuine understanding of individual requirements.

From Southampton to New York and back again, we aim to create a journey that feels personal, considered and wonderfully free.

19 | Confidence by Design™

A transatlantic crossing can remove the aircraft from a journey to America. It can also transform the crossing itself into one of the most memorable experiences of the holiday.

But the absence of a flight does not automatically make every aspect suitable. The cabin, equipment, personal assistance, embarkation, arrival and onward journey still need to be designed carefully.

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We begin with the person whose requirements call for the greatest consideration and make sure the experience remains exceptional for everyone travelling.

Because true luxury is not simply arriving somewhere extraordinary. It is knowing the entire journey has been designed with you in mind.

THE ATLANTIC AWAITS. TAKE THE EXTRAORDINARY WAY.

Cross an ocean. Rediscover the pleasure of the journey. Arrive in New York with a story already worth telling.

Oceans of inclusive discovery.

The Luxury of Possibility.

Note: Sailings, ship facilities, accessible accommodation and operator policies are subject to change. Individual suitability and current travel requirements must be verified before booking.

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