



theconnectedtraveler

we connect you to the world.



JUNE NEWSLETTER

June marks the start of summer—and it's also Pride Month, a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and the beautiful diversity that makes us all unique. Pride isn't just for one group—it's for everyone. No matter your look, color, size, or identity, Pride is about showing up as your true self and being celebrated for exactly who you are. Whether you're out and proud, quietly confident, or still on your journey, this month reminds us all to live boldly, love freely, and support one another.

As summer kicks off, so does the season of wanderlust. The days are longer, the sun is warmer, and adventure is calling. There's no better time to plan your next escape—especially as holiday cruises for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's are already filling up fast. Imagine skipping the stress of cooking and cleaning, and instead celebrating with loved ones at sea, surrounded by tropical breezes, gourmet dining, and festive memories you'll never forget.

At The Connected Traveler, we believe travel should be inclusive, joyful, and completely you. Whether you're cruising with chosen family, escaping with friends, or treating yourself to something unforgettable, we're here to help make it happen. Pride and travel go hand in hand—both are about embracing your journey and living life to the fullest. So let's get your next chapter on the calendar—before those perfect cabins are gone!

NEW

**Pricing Starts
at \$2169 pp**



FEATURED CRUISE OF THE MONTH: AZAMARA VIRTUOSO CRUISE

Join the SmokyMtnBears for an unforgettable Caribbean escape aboard the luxurious Azamara Quest, **November 15–22, 2025**. This exclusive Virtuoso Voyage begins in the lively port of Bridgetown, Barbados, and sails to some of the Caribbean's most captivating destinations, including lush Castries, Saint Lucia; historic Basseterre, Saint Kitts; vibrant Philipsburg, Saint Maarten; and the scenic beauty of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. Your journey wraps up in colorful San Juan, Puerto Rico. **Pricing starts at just \$2,169 per person**, based on double occupancy—an incredible value for a week of small-ship luxury and hosted experiences.

Azamara Cruises offers a truly elevated experience with inclusive amenities such as gratuities, select beverages including spirits and wines, cultural evening events, shuttle service in select ports, and more time to explore with late departures and overnights. You'll also enjoy the line's signature White Night Party, a festive evening of live music, dancing, and gourmet dining under the stars. With the warm hospitality of the SmokyMtnBears and the refined comfort of Azamara, this voyage promises to be more than a cruise—it's a journey filled with connection, celebration, and Caribbean magic.

**Call us at 865-973-9744 or visit us at
www.theconnectedtraveler.com**

Amazing 2025-2027 Cruises



At The Connected Traveler, we've been working hard for you—our cherished friends, chosen family, and fellow adventurers. Whether you're dreaming of crossing off a bucket list destination or looking to return to a beloved port for the fifth (or fifteenth!) time, we've been curating experiences that suit every type of traveler. Cruises are more than just vacations—they're a chance to reconnect, celebrate, and savor life—and we're here to help you do just that.

This month, we're mixing it up a bit! Some of the cruises you'll see in this newsletter are brand-new additions, and some are fan favorites that have been in the works for a while. Either way, now's the time to start planning. From luxury river cruises to short tropical getaways and grand expeditions around the globe, there's something for everyone in our lineup.

We're especially excited to highlight our Virtuoso Voyages—a collection of premium sailings with exclusive perks you won't find anywhere else. Not only are you hosted by your favorite SmokyMtnBears, Sean and Scott (yes, we're the official hosts on board), but you'll enjoy Virtuoso-only benefits like private cocktail receptions, additional onboard credit, and other VIP surprises. These are the kinds of touches that turn a great vacation into an unforgettable one.

Of course, the best way to see all of our available options is to visit www.theconnectedtraveler.com. But if you're looking for something specific—or something truly out-of-the-box—don't hesitate to reach out. Whether by WhatsApp, email, carrier pigeon, or a trusty tin can and string, Sean and Scott are always here to help you plan your dream getaway. After all, you are the reason we do what we do—and why we love every minute of it.

Cape Town to Mombasa Virtuoso Cruise

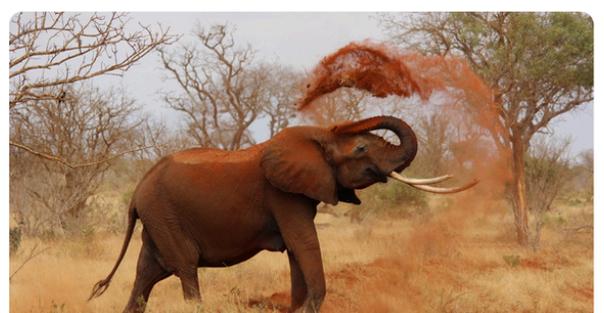
WOW!



Cape Town to Mombasa -December 23, 2025 to January 5, 2026

Set sail on a once-in-a-lifetime journey aboard the ultra-luxury Crystal Symphony as it cruises from Cape Town, South Africa to Mombasa, Kenya. This all-inclusive voyage explores the breathtaking eastern coast of Africa from November 2025, delivering a seamless blend of culture, nature, and refined comfort. With Crystal Cruises, you'll enjoy exceptional service, Michelin-inspired dining, enrichment programs, shore excursions, premium spirits, gratuities, and Wi-Fi—all included. Begin your adventure in Cape Town, where iconic Table Mountain towers over vineyards, penguin-filled beaches, and the storied Robben Island. Then travel onward to coastal gems like Mossel Bay, Port Elizabeth, East London, and Durban, where you can spot whales, go on safari, and dive into South Africa's rich cultural tapestry. **Pricing starts at \$6130 per person.**

As the Symphony glides further north, discover the wild beauty of Richards Bay and Zululand, the colonial-meets-modern vibrancy of Maputo, Mozambique, and the spice-scented shores of Zanzibar and Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. End in the colorful port city of Mombasa, Kenya, where history, beaches, and the option of a post-cruise safari await. This sailing is more than a cruise—it's a curated cultural immersion through the heart of East Africa, made even more extraordinary with Crystal's signature elegance and immersive experiences.



Mombasa to Mumbai

Virtuoso Cruise



Mombasa to Mumbai-January 5-18, 2026

Embark on an unforgettable voyage aboard the luxurious Crystal Symphony as you sail from Mombasa, Kenya to Mumbai, India—an itinerary rich in culture, natural beauty, and exotic charm. Begin in Mombasa, where the echoes of Swahili history come to life in the narrow alleys of Old Town and the storied walls of Fort Jesus. From there, cross the Indian Ocean to Mahé in the Seychelles, a paradise of granite peaks, turquoise waters, and lush rainforest. Lounge on the powdery sands of Beau Vallon Beach, explore local markets in Victoria, or hike through Morne Seychellois National Park. Then it's on to Malé, the bustling capital of the Maldives, where coral reefs, seaplane tours, and cultural landmarks await. **Pricing starts at \$5,370 per person.**

As your journey continues, discover the vibrant rhythms of Colombo, Sri Lanka, where colonial architecture and Buddhist temples offer a fascinating contrast to the city's modern energy. Visit temples, markets, or take a day trip to Kandy or Pinnawala. In Goa, India, immerse yourself in a laid-back coastal lifestyle with Portuguese-influenced churches, colorful spice markets, and stunning beaches. Your voyage concludes in the dynamic city of Mumbai, a kaleidoscope of history, culture, and urban excitement. With Crystal's signature all-inclusive luxury—gourmet dining, curated excursions, fine wines, gratuities, and exceptional service—this journey offers an extraordinary way to explore the Indian Ocean in comfort and style.



MUST GO

Brilliant Lady LA Mermaiden

**BOOK
NOW**



LA Mermaiden-April 7-12, 2026

Join the SmokyMtnBears for an exhilarating adventure aboard Virgin Voyages' Brilliant Lady on her La Mermaiden voyage, sailing roundtrip from the vibrant city of Los Angeles. This unforgettable cruise will take you to the charming coastal towns of Santa Barbara and San Diego, where sun, surf, and laid-back vibes await. You'll also explore the cultural richness and culinary delights of Ensenada, Mexico—perfect for a day of discovery and indulgence before returning to the City of Angels.

This 5-night voyage is more than just a getaway—it's a celebration of community, exploration, and the magic of the open sea. With Virgin's signature adult-only experience, elevated dining (all included), and next-level entertainment, every moment promises fun and connection. **Plus, pricing starts at just \$1,790 per cabin**, based on double occupancy, making this Mermaiden sailing a stylish and accessible escape. Don't miss your chance to be part of history and set sail with the SmokyMtnBears on this coastal California and Baja getaway!

Coming Soon-More information on Justice for Mermen and Pre Cruise Hotel & Party Information





Japan to Alaska



Japan to Alaska-May 9-21, 2026

Embark on an extraordinary transpacific voyage aboard the Azamara Pursuit, sailing from the vibrant city of Tokyo, Japan, to the breathtaking wilderness of Alaska. This one-of-a-kind journey begins in Japan's cultural heart, with a stop in Aomori—a city steeped in tradition and beauty. Here, you can explore ancient temples, admire the colorful Nebuta Festival floats, stroll through Hirosaki Castle Park, or visit the tranquil shores of Lake Towada. As cherry blossoms bloom and modern art meets historic heritage, Aomori sets the stage for a journey filled with discovery. **Pricing starts at \$3,289 per cabin**, based on double occupancy, offering exceptional value for a cruise that spans continents.

As the ship sails across the vast Pacific Ocean and crosses the International Dateline, you'll experience a rare and exciting moment in time. The adventure continues in Kodiak, Alaska, known as “Alaska’s Emerald Isle” for its lush landscapes and rich wildlife. Explore rugged coastlines, spot brown bears, hike scenic trails, or enjoy world-class fishing in this remote and beautiful destination. Your journey concludes in Whittier, Alaska, surrounded by the dramatic fjords and glaciated mountains of Prince William Sound. With Azamara’s intimate ship size, immersive shore excursions, and inclusive amenities, this transpacific voyage is the perfect fusion of cultural exploration and natural wonder.



Greece, Turkey & Italy

PRIDE Cruise



June 15-26, 2026

Get ready to sail with pride! Join The Queer Nomads on an unforgettable 11-night Pride Cruise aboard the spectacular Celebrity Ascent, one of the newest ships in Celebrity's luxury Edge Series. Departing roundtrip from Rome, this voyage is more than a cruise—it's a celebration of community, connection, and unapologetic joy. With visits to breathtaking destinations like Crete, Ephesus, Istanbul, Santorini, Mykonos, and Naples, this journey blends rich culture, ancient history, and stunning coastlines with an inclusive, festive atmosphere that welcomes all LGBTQIA+ travelers and allies.

Pricing starts at just \$1,873.76 per person, based on double occupancy—making it the perfect opportunity to join a global celebration of Pride while exploring the world. **Plus, we've got you covered before and after the cruise with pre- and post-cruise travel options to extend your adventure.** Whether you're dancing in Mykonos, wandering through ruins in Ephesus, or sipping wine at sunset in Santorini, this cruise promises unforgettable memories, specially curated events, and a vibrant community ready to welcome you aboard. Let the countdown to Pride at sea begin!



Your Hosts
The Queer Nomads

America's 250th Celebration

Virtuoso Cruise

**HOT
DEAL**

MUST GO



Queen Elizabeth 2 Sailing-July 3-10, 2026

Step into a world of refined relaxation with Cunard's well-appointed inside staterooms—your personal sanctuary at sea. Thoughtfully designed for both comfort and function, these elegant retreats offer everything you need to unwind in style. Sink into your luxurious Cunard bed draped in soft, sumptuous linens as you enjoy a good book, your favorite film, or reflect on the day's adventures. Each stateroom features an invigorating shower and a selection of Penhaligon's luxury toiletries to help you refresh and recharge.

With pricing starting at just \$1,899 per person, based on double occupancy, this is timeless luxury at an exceptional value—especially on itineraries that include scenic ports like Newport, Rhode Island and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Your voyage experience is elevated with thoughtful amenities such as complimentary robes and slippers, in-room tea and coffee service, and the indulgent option of breakfast in bed. Whether you're watching the sunrise over Newport's historic harbor or exploring the maritime charm of Halifax, your dedicated steward ensures every detail is flawlessly handled. Cunard's inside staterooms offer a tranquil retreat that pairs beautifully with your days of exploration—making it the perfect blend of elegance, comfort, and unforgettable destinations.





Experience "Mystical Maya" A Luxury LGBTQ+ Valentine's & Palentine's Cruise



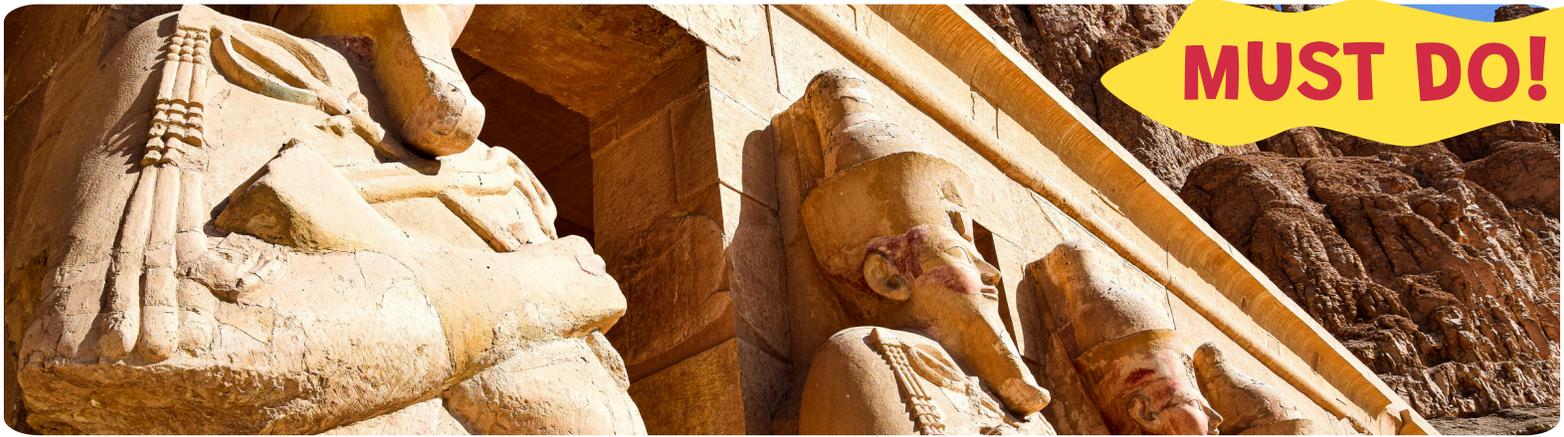
The Connected Traveler is thrilled to announce an extraordinary collaboration with The Queer Nomads, Lexie Shaibu-Lenoir and Aisha Shaibu-Lenoir, for an unforgettable luxury Valentine's cruise aboard Regent Seven Seas' Grandeur. Set sail on February 9, 2027, this exclusive journey, titled "Mystical Maya," will immerse guests in the wonders of the ancient Mayan world while providing an elegant and welcoming space for LGBTQ+ travelers. Designed to celebrate community and connection, the voyage will feature exclusive events, enriching excursions, and world-class luxury aboard one of the most stunning cruise ships at sea.

This one-of-a-kind experience will include tailored social gatherings, immersive cultural excursions, and engaging discussions led by The Queer Nomads. Guests can look forward to a welcome mixer, a Queer Nomads panel sharing inspiring travel stories, private themed parties, and expert-led tours to iconic Mayan sites like Chichén Itzá and Cozumel. With Regent Seven Seas' renowned all-inclusive service, travelers will enjoy gourmet dining, luxury accommodations, and unparalleled hospitality throughout the journey. **Deposits as low as \$500 per cabin**, and bookings are already open, with spaces expected to sell out quickly. Pricing is MUCH CHEAPER than online. This is the time to try this ALL INCLUSIVE (INCLUDING SHORE EXCURSIONS) LUXURY CRUISE.

We are honored to collaborate with Lexie and Aisha of The Queer Nomads to create a truly unique and inclusive experience for the LGBTQIA+ community. Regent Seven Seas' Grandeur provides the perfect backdrop for a journey that celebrates diversity, connection, and the beauty of travel. Similarly, Lexie and Aisha Shaibu-Lenoir emphasized the importance of creating safe and joyful spaces for LGBTQ+ travelers, where they can celebrate their identities and forge lasting connections. Don't miss this opportunity to sail in style, embrace new adventures, and celebrate love and inclusivity. Visit theconnectedtraveler.com to secure your spot today!



A Grand Journey from Egypt's Secrets to Mediterranean & Aegean Adventures



Egypt - March 18-25, 2027

Embark on an unforgettable journey aboard Explora II with Explora Journeys, where all-inclusive luxury meets immersive discovery on a stunning itinerary from Luxor, Egypt to Athens, Greece. This voyage offers the perfect balance of ancient wonders, cultural exploration, and indulgent relaxation—all from the comfort of one of the most elegant ships at sea. Your journey begins in Luxor, home to the majestic temples of Karnak and the Valley of the Kings, then continues to the tranquil port of Ain Sokhna, gateway to the Red Sea and the legendary Pyramids of Giza. **Pricing starts at just \$3,044.50 per person, based on double occupancy.**

Sail through the iconic Suez Canal before visiting Rhodes, where medieval streets and sun-drenched beaches await. Then, head to Kuşadası, your access point to the extraordinary ruins of Ephesus—one of the most well-preserved ancient cities in the world. The voyage concludes in Athens, Greece, where the Parthenon rises above a city rich in history and modern charm. Onboard Explora II, enjoy spacious suites, curated dining experiences, premium beverages, gratuities, and access to wellness and enrichment programs—all included. This is more than a cruise—it's a luxurious cultural odyssey unlike any other.



Japan Intensive: Kyoto, Hiroshima & Busan



Japan Intensive-April 22-May 3, 2027

Set sail on an unforgettable 14-night journey through the Land of the Rising Sun aboard the Azamara Pursuit, a boutique-style ship offering a luxurious and intimate cruising experience for just under 700 guests. With its smaller size, Azamara Pursuit accesses ports that larger ships cannot, allowing you to explore both iconic cities and off-the-beaten-path treasures. This Japan Intensive Cruise features extended stays and overnights in vibrant ports such as Tokyo, Kobe, and Hiroshima—giving you the time to truly immerse yourself in Japan’s rich culture, world-renowned cuisine, and captivating history. **Pricing starts at \$4,599 per person, based on double occupancy.**

Your voyage includes signature Azamara experiences designed to elevate your journey. One standout is the chic and festive “Dress in White Night,” where guests celebrate under the stars in elegant white attire. You'll also enjoy an AzAmazing Evening—an exclusive, complimentary cultural event created just for Azamara guests, such as a traditional Japanese performance or private after-hours museum tour. From the ship’s exceptional personalized service to curated shore excursions and enriching onboard moments, this cruise is the ultimate way to experience Japan in comfort, style, and depth.

