



# theconnectedtraveler

we connect you to the world.



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

It's December, the magical season of Christmas cheer, goodwill, and peace. As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible adventures and connections we've shared with you, our beloved Connected Traveler Family. 2024 has been a truly amazing year, filled with journeys that have taken us to breathtaking destinations and brought us closer as a community. From exploring the hidden gems of the Caribbean to marveling at the wonders of the rainforest (bugs and all!), every experience has been made richer by your enthusiasm and support.

This year, we were honored to be invited by several cruise lines to tour and showcase their newest ships, including the Utopia of the Seas, Explora Journeys, and the Sun Princess. We attended travel conferences to strengthen relationships and bring you the very best deals and experiences. Together, we celebrated milestones, like group birthdays on Virgin Voyages' Adriatic Sea Gems and French Daze & Ibiza Nights itineraries. And as we prepare to ring in 2025 aboard Resilient Lady, we're reminded how grateful we are for each of you. From the bottom of our SmokyMountainBear hearts, THANK YOU for being part of our family. Here's to many more adventures in the year to come!



## **FEATURED CRUISE OF THE MONTH: QUEEN MARY 2 SO EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE!!! VIRTUOSO HAS ASKED US TO HOST CUNARD'S QUEEN MARY 2.**

We are honored that Virtuoso asked us to host the last remaining ocean liner, Cunard's Queen Mary 2, for an unforgettable transatlantic voyage from New York to Southampton, July 8 - 15, 2025. Join us on this Virtuoso Voyage! Experience the epitome of elegance and sophistication as you sail across the Atlantic in unmatched luxury, with suites starting at just \$2,704.

Your fare includes exquisite dining options, from breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the main restaurants tailored to your stateroom grade, to casual meals and snacks in the Lido or Kings Court buffet. Indulge in Cunard's renowned Afternoon Tea with sandwiches, cakes, and pastries served daily. With 24-hour access to tea, coffee, and juice, as well as room service, every culinary need is covered.

Entertainment on Queen Mary 2 is second to none, with captivating productions at the Royal Court Theatre, live music performances ranging from jazz to classical, and even planetarium shows exclusive to this ship. Dance the night away in the Queens Room, enjoy quizzes and board games, or explore the extensive onboard library. For wellness enthusiasts, enjoy swimming pools, whirlpool spas, a fully equipped gym, and various sports activities, from tennis to basketball.

This is not just a voyage, but it is a Virtuoso Voyage, where luxury meets personalized service and curated experiences. As your dedicated travel host, we'll be on board to ensure your cruise is nothing short of extraordinary. You'll enjoy exclusive Virtuoso perks, including a private cocktail reception and special onboard amenities. This is more than a vacation—it's an elevated travel experience designed to create memories that last a lifetime. Reserve your spot today and sail in style!

**Call us at 865-973-9744 or visit us at  
[www.theconnectedtraveler.com](http://www.theconnectedtraveler.com)**

# 2026

Get ready for an incredible 2026! It's shaping up to be another unforgettable year for travel, filled with breathtaking destinations and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. At The Connected Traveler, we've been busy curating an exciting lineup of adventures that promise to inspire and delight. Be sure to visit us at [www.theconnectedtraveler.com](http://www.theconnectedtraveler.com) to see everything we've got planned for the year ahead.

From the stunning landscapes of Japan to the rugged beauty of Alaska, to the paradise of Hawaii, Tahiti, and Bora Bora, the possibilities are endless. Sail into history with the LA MerMaiden voyage on Brilliant Lady, or witness the wonders of the cosmos on one of our exclusive Solar Eclipse cruises. Whether you're seeking relaxation, exploration, or a bit of both, 2026 is the year to make it happen. Let's turn those bucket-list dreams into reality together!

# 2027

At The Connected Traveler, we're always planning ahead to bring you unforgettable experiences, and we're already hard at work on our 2027 trips! Whether it's exotic new destinations, iconic bucket-list adventures, or revisiting those special places that stole your heart, we're here to make your travel dreams a reality.

We'd love to hear from you! Share your bucket-list ideas, favorite destinations, or places you've been longing to explore again. Your input helps us create tailored itineraries that match your wanderlust. Together, let's make 2027 a year of incredible journeys and cherished memories. Reach out to us today at [info@theconnectedtraveler.com](mailto:info@theconnectedtraveler.com) and let's start planning!

**NEW**

**Effective January 8, 2025, all U.S. citizens transiting through or traveling to the United Kingdom for tourism, family visits, business meetings, conferences, or short-term study for 6 months or less will require an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) prior to travel. U.S. citizens can apply for ETAs beginning on November 27, 2024. Information on the new requirements and how to apply can be found on the [UK Government website](#)**



*Jan 22-26, 2025*

*Fire & Sunsets Soiree*

*Starting at \$1752 per cabin*



*Miami • Key West • Bimini Beach Club • Miami*

*Feb 14-21, 2025*

*A Journey to the Playground of the Mayas*

*Starting at \$3116 per person*

*Miami • Costa Maya • Belize City • Cozumel • Key West*



*Feb 28-March 3, 2025*

*3 Night Caribbean & Bahamas*

*Starting at \$219 per person*

*Miami • Freeport • Ocean Cay*



*March 22-31, 2025*

*Caribbean Journey Voyage*

*Starting at \$1599 per person*

*Bridgetown • St. Johns • San Juan • Miami*



*April 11-18, 2025*

*7 Night Ensenada, Cabo, Vallarta*

*Starting at \$567 per person*

*Los Angeles • Ensenada • Cabo • Puerto Vallarta*



*April 12-19, 2025-NEW SHIP*

*7-Night Caribbean & Bahamas on World America*

*Starting at \$779 per person*

*Miami • Puerto Plata • San Juan • Ocean Cay*





*May 18-29, 2025*

*Virgin Voyages Celebration  
Cruise-Miami*

*Starting at \$1690 per cabin*

*Miami • Cozumel • Beach Club at  
Bimini • Miami*



*May 18-29, 2025*

*Virgin Voyages Celebration  
Cruise*



*Join the SmokyMtnBears -  
Starting at \$3960 per cabin*



*Athens • Istanbul • Kusadasi  
(Ephesus) • Mykonos • Rhodes •  
Santorini • Chania, Crete • Athens*



*May 24-31, 2025*

*Danube River Cruise*

*Starting at \$2895 per person*

*Passau • Budapest • Vienna • Linz*



June 24-30, 2025



The historic charm of Cartagena and celebrate love and diversity at Medellín Pride

Starting at \$5200 per person

*Land Tour • Cartagena • Medellín*



July 18-29, 2025

11 Night Europe

Starting at \$2651 per person

*South Hampton • Edinburgh • Invergordon • Stornoway • Dublin • Belfast • Amsterdam • Zeebrugge • Le Havre • South Hampton*

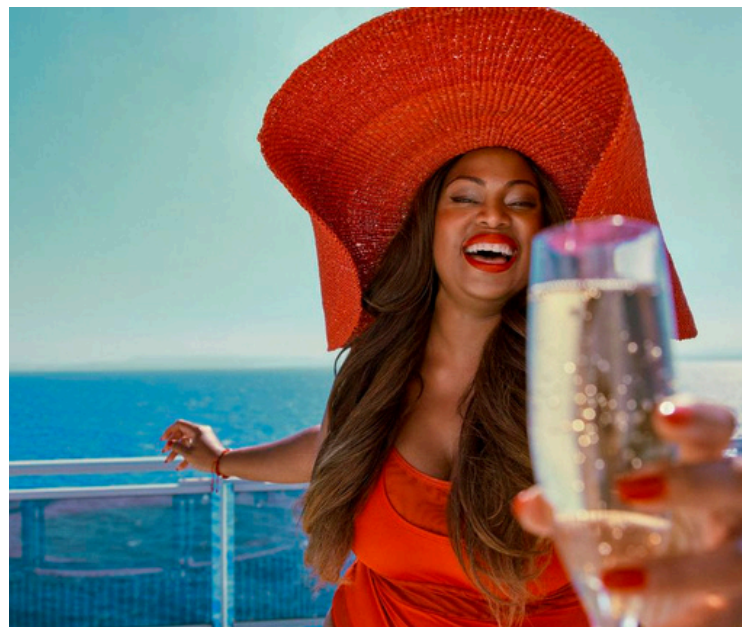


July 22-27, 2025

*Virgin Voyages Celebration*

Starting at \$1491.80 per cabin

*Lisbon • Leixoes • La Coruna • Portsmouth*



*July 27-Aug 6, 2025*

Portsmouth to Iceland and Norway

Starting at \$6750 per cabin

*Portsmouth • Amsterdam • Bergen •  
Lerwick • Akureyri • Isafjordur •  
Reykjavik*



*July 30-Aug 6, 2025*

New York to New York

Starting at \$1440 per person

*New York • Newport • Hamilton •  
St. George*



*Aug 17-30, 2025*



*Portsmouth to Ireland, Scotland  
and More-with the  
SmokyMtnBears*



Starting at \$4136 per cabin

*Portsmouth • Amsterdam •  
Zeebrugge • Kirkwall • Stornoway •  
Greenock • Belfast • Dublin*





*Aug 18-22, 2025-NEW SHIP-AQUA*

New York to Bermuda

Starting at \$699 per person

*New York • Bermuda*



*Sept 10-15, 2025-New Ship*

Brilliant Lady New York  
Mermaiden with the  
SmokyMtnBears



Starting at \$3206per cabin

*New York City • King's Wharf •  
New York City*



*Sept 16-29, 2025*



*Spain Intensive Voyage*

Starting at \$4619 per person

*Bordeaux • Bilboa • Ferrol • Lisbon  
Seville • Gibraltar • Malaga •  
Cartagena • Valencia • Barcelona*



*Sept 20-27, 2025-NEW SHIP-World America*

7-Night Caribbean & Bahamas on World America

Starting at \$865 per person  
*Miami • Costa Maya • Isla de Roatan • Cozumel • Ocean Cay*



*Oct 5-11, 2025*

6-Night Western Caribbean

Starting at \$539 per person

*Galveston • Cozumel • Roatan • Puerto Costa Maya*



*Oct 12-19, 2025-NEW SHIP-Aqua*

Caribbean: Great Stirrup Cay and Dominican Republic

Starting at \$1541 per person

*Miami • Puerto Plata • St. Thomas • Tortola • Great Stirrup Cay • Miami*



*Oct 26-Nov 2, 2025-NEW SHIP-Star of the Seas*

Halloween with the Bears: Eastern Caribbean & Perfect Day

Starting at \$1898 per person



*Orlando · CocoCay · San Juan · Philipsburg*



*Nov 10-15, 2025-NEW SHIP*

Caribbean Getaway with Star Princess

Starting at \$593 per person

*Ft. Lauderdale · Amber Cove · Grand Turk*



*Nov 18-23, 2025-NEW SHIP*

Maiden Voyage: Bahamas & Mexico

Starting at \$873 per person

*Ft. Lauderdale · Bimini · Cozumel*



Nov 22-29, 2025



7 Day Easter Caribbean & Bahamas  
over Thanksgiving

Starting at \$3116 per cabin

*Ft. Lauderdale • Princess Cays •  
Amber Cove • Grand Turk • Ft.  
Lauderdale*



Dec 13-20, 2025

Prague Advent Magic

Starting at \$2495 per person

*Prague • Melnik • Litomerice • Bad  
Schandau • Dresden • Meien •  
Wittenberg • Magdeburg • Genthin  
• Potsdam • Berlin*



Dec 26-Jan 5, 2026

Glorious Southeast Asia

Starting at \$3399 per person

*Singapore • Saigon •  
Sihanoukville • Ko Kood • Ko  
Samui • Bangkok*





*Dec 27-Jan 3, 2026*

7 Day Mexican Riviera Holiday

Starting at \$1189 per person

*Los Angeles • Cabo San Lucas • Mazatlan • Puerto Vallarta • Los Angeles*



*Dec 27-Jan 3, 2026*

Valiant New Year's Ahoy

Starting at \$3993 per cabin

*San Juan • Philipsburg • Basseterre • Castries • Bridgetown • St. Croix • San Juan*



Stay connected with us on Facebook at [The Connected Traveler](#)! Be sure to like our page, engage with our posts, and share your thoughts in the comments. Let's keep the travel inspiration flowing!

