

Cruise Talk

Tom Hsiang & Bill Chiang



Agenda

- Overview (2 mins)
- Places to visit (Tom, 10)
- How to select and book a cruise (Bill, 8)
- Preparations up to boarding (Tom, 8)
- On-board activities (Bill, 8)
- Optional on-shore tours (Tom, 6)
- Questions and Answers (anytime OK)



Overview

- ▶ Tom and Bill: background, personal experiences & opinions
- ▶ Cover only large ocean cruises (may have land stay or small boat portion)
- ▶ Other types of travel not covered (land , river boats, small ocean boats/ships)



Places to visit

- Limitations: no interior visits, no in-depth travel, limited by time (port or tender), distance and traffic.
- Safety considerations:
 - Egypt, Arab world
 - Israel, Jordan
 - Africa



General Areas

- ▶ Caribbean & Bahamas
- ▶ Mediterranean (Africa), Transatlantic
- ▶ Northern Europe, British Isles
- ▶ Alaska, US east/west coasts, Canada, Mexico, Central America, Panama Canal
- ▶ Hawaii, Tahiti, south Pacific
- ▶ Asia, Australia & New Zealand
- ▶ South America

Caribbean and Bahamas

- Sunshine year-round, forests, volcanoes, blue water, white sandy beaches, coconuts, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, exotic foods
- Different languages and cultures (English, Spanish, French & Dutch; African, Mayan)
- Many different routes & islands (east, west, south), including Mexico, Central America
- Ft Lauderdale, Miami,
- Houston



Mediterranean & Transatlantic

- ◆ Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Egypt, Israel
- ◆ Barcelona, Lisbon, Venice, Florence, Rome, Athens, Monte Carlo, Istanbul, Marseilles, Canary Islands, Cairo, Jerusalem, Dubai
- ◆ Museums, churches, palaces, villages, empires (Greek, Roman, Ottoman)
- ◆ Adriatic Sea (Balkan countries)



Northern Europe

- Primarily from April through September (peak season: June-August)
- Scandinavia , Iceland, Russia, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium
- St Petersburg, Berlin, Copenhagen,
- Iceland (northern lights/Aurora Borealis, glaciers)
- Museums, churches, palaces, natural beauty



British Isles

- ▶ England, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, France
- ▶ London, Edinburg, Paris, Dublin, Belfast
- ▶ Museums, churches, palaces,
- ▶ Eiffel tower, Stonehenge,
- ▶ Buckingham Palace
- ▶ British empire, wealth, architecture
- ▶ French culture & shopping
- ▶ Irish grievances & language



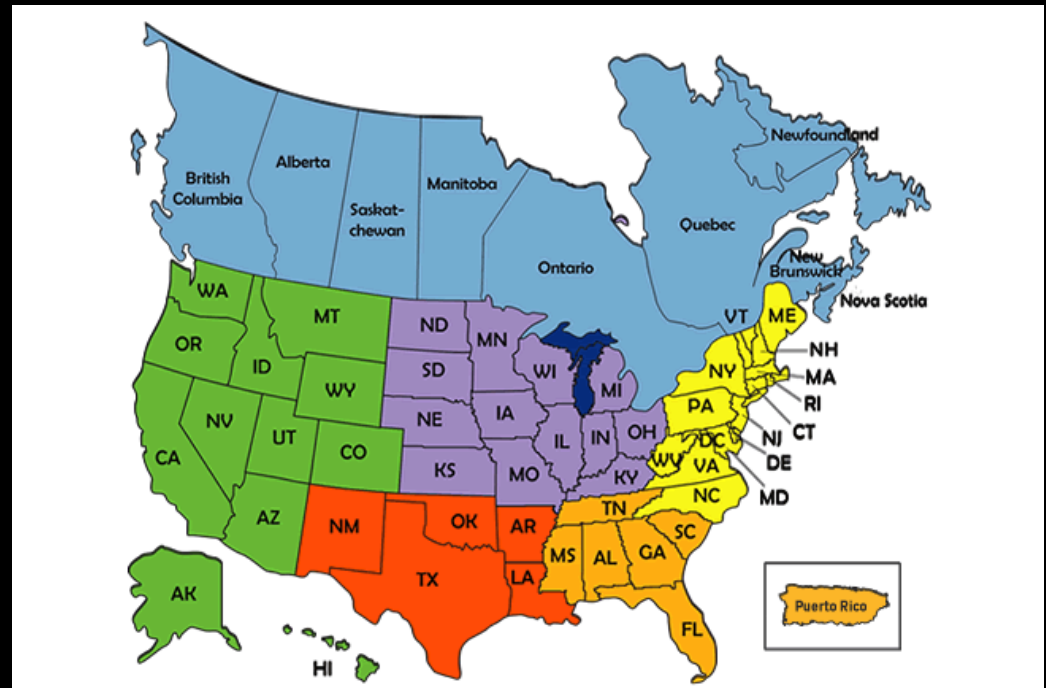
Alaska

- ◆ Glaciers & natural beauty
- ◆ Seattle, Vancouver, Anchorage
- ◆ Salmon runs, whale watching, seals, walruses, caribous, bear sighting
- ◆ Denali National Park
- ◆ Scenic train ride



US west & east coasts, Canada

- San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Francisco
- Portland (Maine), Boston, New York
- White Mountains (New Hampshire)
- Quebec, French, sightseeing
- Lobsters, clams



Mexico & Central America

- ▶ Panama Canal locks
- ▶ Mayan ruins (Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico)
- ▶ Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Cartagena of Columbia
- ▶ Cost Rican rain forests & exotic animals (sloths)



Hawaii, Tahiti

- Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Big Islands
- Kilauea Volcano & Pearl Harbor
- Coconuts, blue water, sandy beaches, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, mountains, sceneries



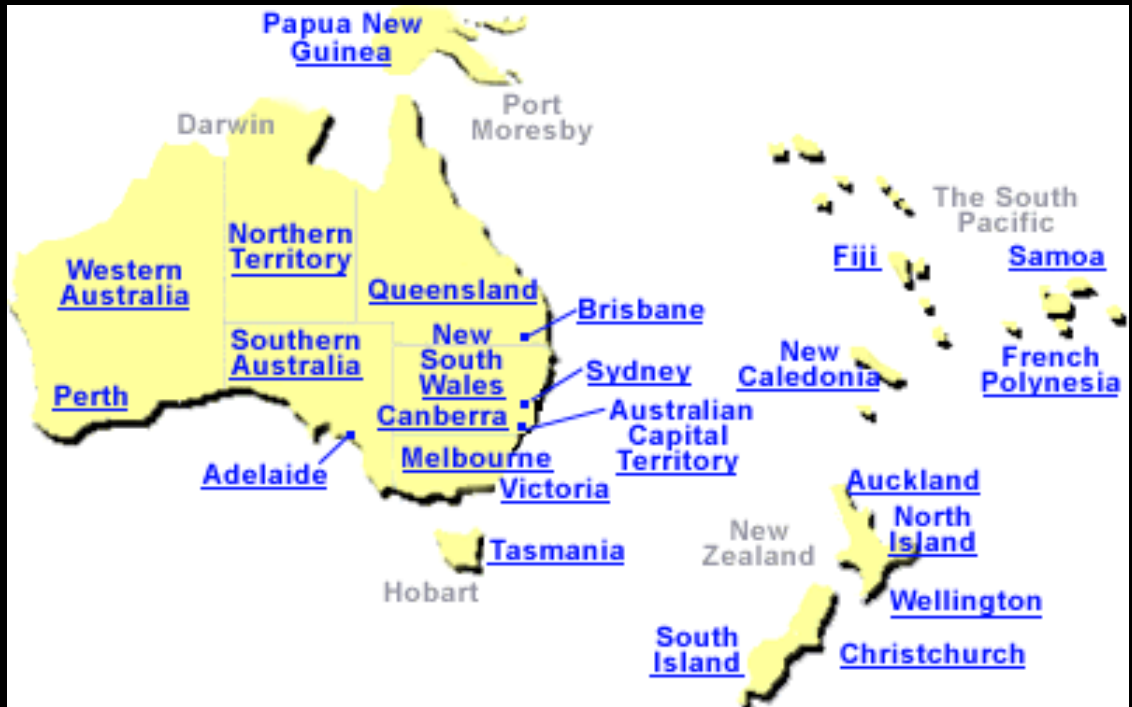
Asia

- China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia (Bali)
- Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City
- Komodo dragons, Angkor Wat temples



Australia & New Zealand

- Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin
- Animals: kangaroos, koala bears, Tasmania devils, etc.
- New Zealand north & south islands
- Natural beauty, all terrain scenery
- Great Barrier Reef
- Fiji islands



South America

- Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay
- Rio, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Patagonia, Lima (Spanish & Portuguese)
- Brazil: fruits, churrascos, samba, carnivals
- Argentina: steaks, tango, gauchos
- Peru: Inca temples, Machu Picchu
- Galapagos Islands Amazon
- Peak season: Mar-Nov





How to select a cruise

- ▶ Time and duration for the cruise vacation
 - 3 days to 30+ days
 - Add 1-2 days for international travel
- ▶ Budget; air+sea, gratuities, on-board expenses, shore excursions, shopping, etc.
- ▶ Itinerary
 - Departing port
 - Climate on the region and route
 - Personal preference; cultural, history, scenery, arts, kids, water sports, physical limitations, etc.

Itinerary selection examples





Cruise companies

• Popular cruise lines

- Disney, Royal Caribbean, Holland America, Celebrity, Princess, Norwegian, Costa, MSC, Carnival

• Luxury cruise lines

- Silversea, Regent Seven Seas, Oceania, Crystal, Cunard, Seabourn, Azamara

• Differences between the two group

- Price, amenities, on-board activities, guest count, etc.



Search for the best match

- ▶ On-line search;
 - Cruise.com, Vacations To Go, Cruise Direct, Cruise Critic, Cruise Complete, etc.
 - Input your preference for; time, duration, itinerary, cabin choices, etc.
- ▶ What is included in the price package
- ▶ Last minute deals
- ▶ Beware of scams; deep discounts, cash in front for club membership, free cruise, etc.



Ready to book

- ▶ Choice of cruise ships and sail dates
- ▶ Select the cabin
- ▶ Select the dinner time; 6:15 pm or 8:30 pm
- ▶ Discounts and on-board credits
- ▶ Deposit and payment terms
- ▶ Invoices and confirmations from the cruise company
- ▶ Cancellation policy
- ▶ Travel insurance



Preparations up to Boarding

- Visa requirements for land stays
- Book flights and hotels if necessary
- Complete cruise check-in, get passes/tags, pre-book optional on-shore tours (discount)
- Vaccinations (malaria, tetanus, etc.)
- Check list, important documents & copies, money (cash, credit cards) (waist secure pouch & light backpacks)
- Medicines (duplicate supplies)



Luggage

- ▶ Travel light with layer and quick dry clothes (wash on board)
- ▶ Formal attires, dance/gym clothes
- ▶ Swimming, snorkel, reading & listening material & equipment
- ▶ Water bottles, sun/rain/bug protection (hats, gloves, sunglasses, sun screen; umbrellas, ponchos; bug repellent)
- ▶ Canes, good shoes, I-phones, I-pads, cameras, watches, flash lights, whistles



Things to do before leaving

- ▶ Share cruise itinerary and contact information with relatives
- ▶ Inform credit card companies of your trip & pay all bills due or soon to be due
- ▶ Ask your neighbors to watch over the house (yard sprinkler system) & take mail
- ▶ Shut off air conditioning, thermo bottle, computers, lights (keep some exterior ones on with light sensor for shut-off)
- ▶ Close & lock all doors and windows



On-board activities – first day

- Playing safe; plan to get on board around 1:00 PM
- Luggage handling
- Buffet lunch is provided on first day
- Get familiar with the surroundings
- Your expenses are handled by your Cruise Card that is also the key for your cabin door.
- Cruise safety; passport, safe, etc.



On-Board daily activities

- ◆ Gym; exercise machines and classes
- ◆ Lectures, ship tours
- ◆ Games and sports
- ◆ Pools and Jacuzzis
- ◆ Spa, spa service package
- ◆ Shopping, art auctions
- ◆ Casino
- ◆ Day time and evening time shows



On-board food and drink

• Restaurants

- Buffets and regular restaurants
- Dinner time; 6:15 or 8:30 pm? With friends?
- Formal dinners
- Specialty restaurants

• Beverages

- What is included
- Drink costs
- Policy to bring alcoholic beverage on board
- Buy a beverage package



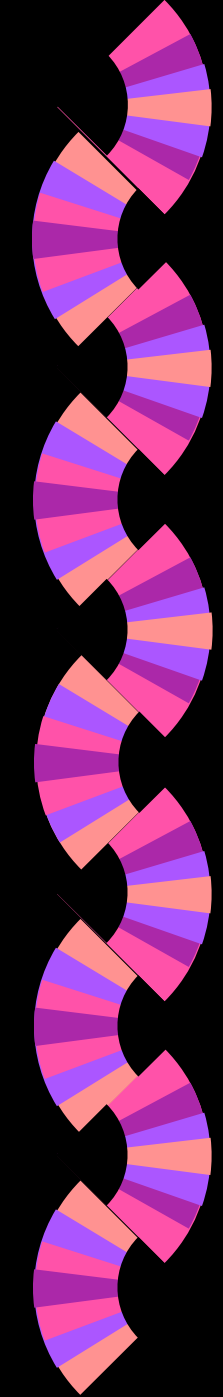
On-board phone and internet connections

- ▶ Switch off your cell phone's cellular data roaming function
- ▶ Internet connections are charged around \$1 per minute. Downloading is very slow!
- ▶ Package deals are available
- ▶ Tips; get internet connection when you are on port or shore; many local restaurant and coffee shops offer free Wi-Fi for customers.



On-board – other needs

- ▶ Youth and teen programs
- ▶ Games; bring your mahjong set
- ▶ Laundry services
- ▶ Shore excursion booking
- ▶ Medical assistance, seasickness, etc.
- ▶ Settle the bills, gratuities on last day
- ▶ Disembarkation logistics; allowing plenty of time to catch your return flight



Optional On-shore Tours

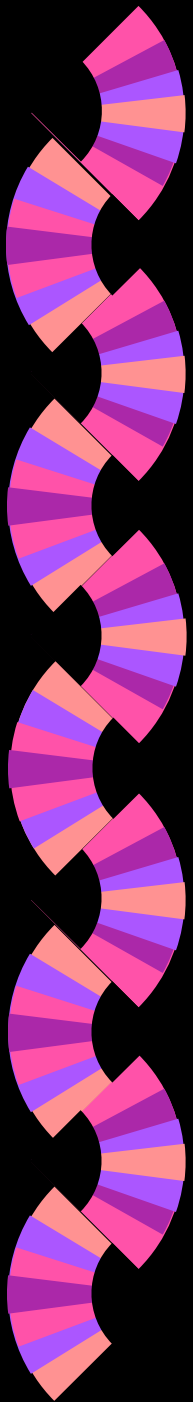
- ▶ Book desired ones before boarding for discount
- ▶ Consider time constraint when booking
- ▶ Port versus tender (more time-consuming)
- ▶ To secure better seats: Try to get on bus early (stay close at exit in group waiting area after getting your group tags)
- ▶ Have small bills for tips
- ▶ Have local currency (get on-board or on-shore)



Self-negotiated On-shore Tours

- Can get a taxi or van (depending on the group size) at the port and negotiate daily rate & places to visit (language permit)
- Can buy hop-on/hop-off ticket to tour the city
- Must return early to get on board
- Watch out for your own safety
- Can be more economical, more venturous, faster visits

Beach, Caribbean



Snorkel, Caribbean



Blue Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey



Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel



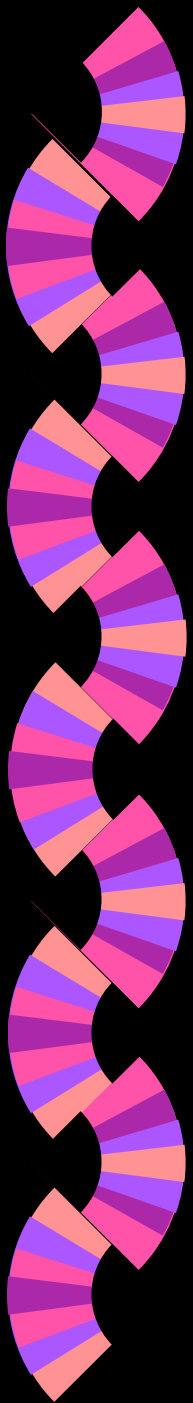
Canary, Madeira, Portugal



Pyramid, Egypt



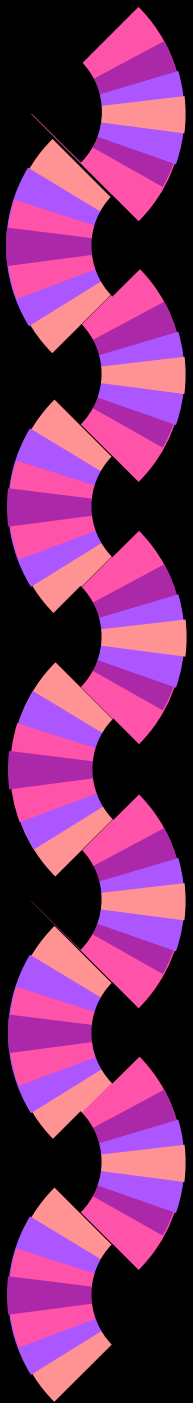
Cape Town, South Africa



Scenic Train Ride, Alaska



Mayan Temple, Guatemala



Fruit, Costa Rica



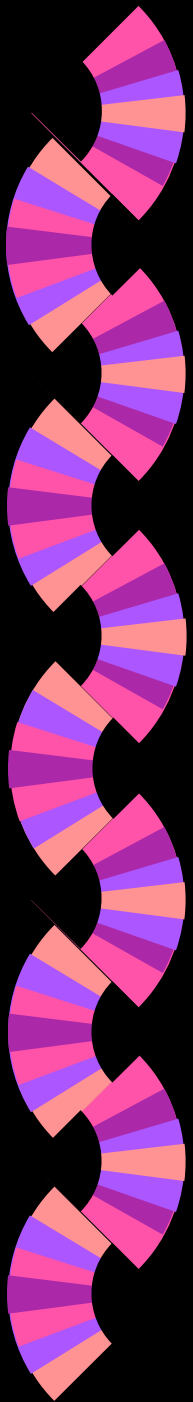
Sloth, Costa Rica



Machu Picchu, Peru



Sands Hotel, Singapore



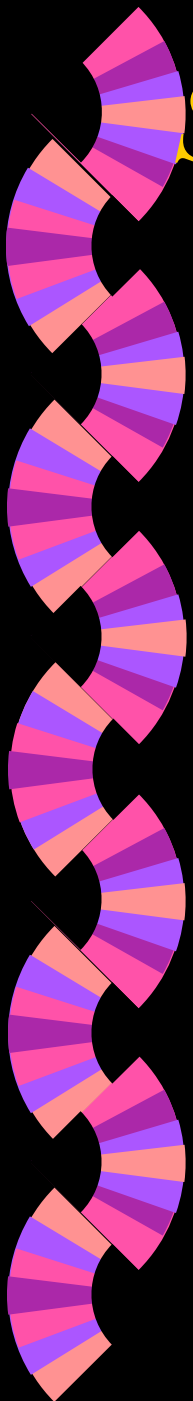
Sydney Opera House, Australia



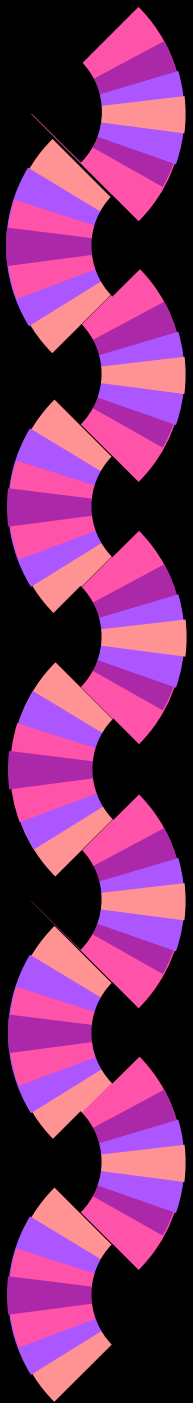
Tango, Argentina



Samba, Brazil



Cormorant, Galapagos



Sea Turtle/Egret, Galapagos



Land Tortoises, Galapagos



Lion, South Africa



Salar, Bolivia

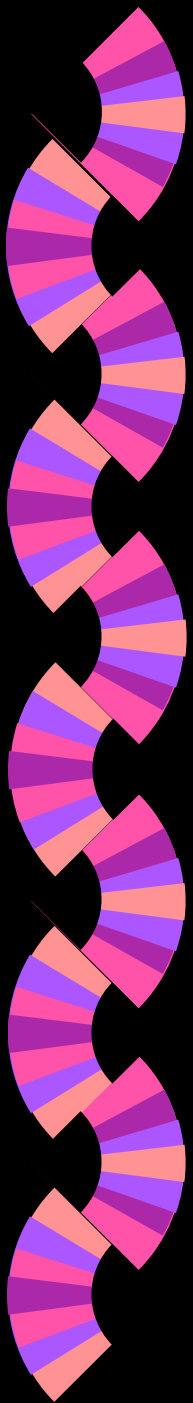




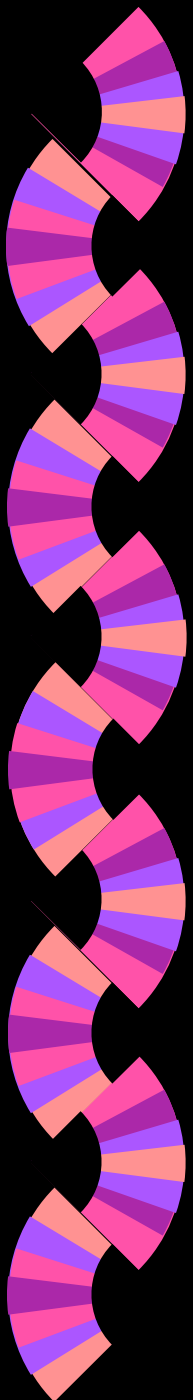
*Geiranger
Fjord,
Norway*



West Wall, Jerusalem, Israel



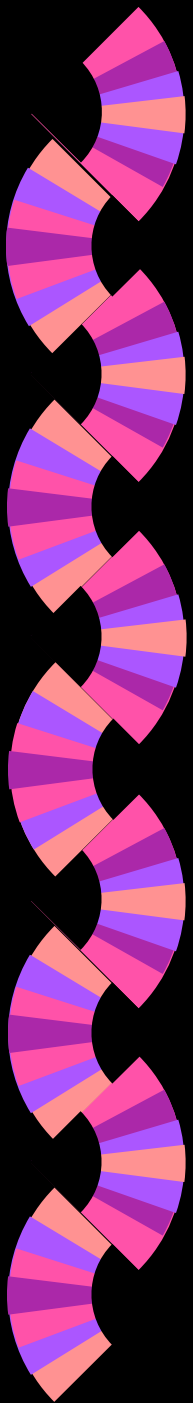
Blue Lagoon, Iceland



Volcano, Bolivia



Santorini, Greece



Milford Sound, New Zealand



The largest cruise ship of the world
Allure of the Seas; 16 deck levels, 6000 passengers

