

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Oct. 23, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Whether cruising to Tahiti or Tanzania, Argentina or Antarctica, there's no better way to enjoy seasonal merriment than getting away with family and friends for a celebration at sea.

Following is a sampling of cruises from the North American fleet of Cruise Lines International Association for Christmas and New Year's guaranteed to bring tidings of comfort and joy with familiar traditions in far-flung locations:

- **Go where few will ever venture.** Have a winter wonderland Christmas as **Seabourn** sails to Antarctica for the first time this fall. On December 11, the *Seabourn Quest* 24-day cruise departs from Santiago, Chile, sailing to Buenos Aires, Argentina

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, with a Christmas Day landing on the "White Continent"; enjoy two days at South Georgia Island, with its vast rookeries of king penguins and other seabirds, as well as breeding elephant and fur seals.

Crystal Cruises'

new 17-night

Antarctica

cruise on the

Crystal Symphony

, departs

December 21

, visiting

Argentina

,
Uruguay

,
Chile

,
Falkland Islands

, Drake Passage, Cape Horn and the Chilean Fjords, offering chances to fly, hike and zodiac over and on the icy continent and to view the gorgeous glacial scenery of both

King George

and

Ardley Island

.
- **Celebrate ancient traditions.** Holiday markets, with hand-crafted toys, crafts and festive holiday food and drinks are a tradition dating back centuries and a special treat on many northern European cruises between November and January.

Avalon Waterways

invites travelers to spend Christmas in

Prague

and

New Year's

in

Vienna

on its 9-day "Christmastime on the Danube" voyage departing

December 25

. Experience charming Christmas markets with

AmaWaterways

, which is offering four land-and-cruise itineraries on the Danube River, the Rhine and the legendary canals of

Amsterdam

.

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

is offering seven holiday cruises ranging from 8 to 13 days, taking travelers along Europe's

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great rivers. And

Hurtigruten

offers itineraries with a chance to experience

Norway's

natural beauty and holiday traditions such as indulging in local foods, visits from "

Norway's

Father Christmas" and the chance to see "The Northern Lights" of the Aurora Borealis.

- **Discover delightful regional differences.** Experience the holiday spirit—southern or **American Cruise Lines.** The

Cajun style with

seven-night "Historic South &

Golden Isles

" cruise, departing from

Jacksonville, Florida

on

December 21

, features a holiday decor tour of

Charleston's

famous mansions and a traditional Sapelo Island holiday oyster roast on the beach, while the

December 28

New Year's Eve

sailing, departing from

Charleston, South Carolina

, features fireworks over Savannah.

The seven-night "Cajun Christmas" cruise on the Lower Mississippi River, departing from

New Orleans

on

December 21

, features Oak Alley Plantation in its holiday finery, Christmas

Eve bonfires along the levee lighting the way for Santa and a traditional Reveillon-style feast. Or

celebrate Christmas and

New Year's

in Hawai'i with hula and ukuleles on

Norwegian Cruise Line's

Pride of America

seven-day Hawai'i cruise, departing

December 21

and

December 28

from

Honolulu

.

- **Find serenity on the South Seas.** A seven-night Tahiti & the Society Islands voyage with **Paul Gauguin Cruises** onboard the *m/s Paul*

Gauguin

on

departs

Dece

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ember 21

and features a holiday celebration while the

New Year's

voyage, departing

December 28

, picks up the tempo with rock 'n' roll classics, jazz and original compositions played by musician

Robert Thomas

as well as a lecture and wine tasting led by vintner

Judy Jordan

of J. Vineyards & Winery.

Holland

America Line

features in-depth cultural experiences as part of its new fleet-wide "On Location" immersion program on a 28-day "

New Zealand

and Pacific Treasures Collector Holiday" cruise on the

ms Oosterdam

departing

December 8

from

Sydney

that explores

New Zealand

,

Fiji

and

New Caledonia

.

- **Experience exotic Asia and beyond.** A14-night Myanmar, Malaysia and Sumatra voyage with

Azamara Club Cruises

departing

December 23

from

Singapore

combines a festive Christmas at sea with exotic ports and a relaxing

New Year's Day

on the beaches of

Phuket, Thailand

.

SeaDream Yacht Club

offers a seven-night journey departing from

Singapore

on

December 21

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on its elegant mega-yacht

SeaDream II,

featuring golfing, diving and beach time.

Oceania Cruises'

30-day Lands of Grandeur sailing aboard

Nautica

departing on

December 8

from

Dubai

visits ports in

Oman

,
India

, the

Maldives

and

Seychelles

as well as

Kenya

,
Tanzania

,
Madagascar

,
Mozambique

and

South Africa

.
- **Home for the holidays.** Why stay at home when CLIA-member cruise lines are bringing the holidays to you onboard? Each in its own way, cruise ships are incorporating the traditions and decor of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and New Year's Eve into

decor, dining and activities. For example:

Carnival Cruise Lines

has occasional "snowfalls" in the ships' atriums,

Regent

Seven Seas Cruises

is known for its magnificent gingerbread house displays,

American Cruise Lines

has ornament making as well as gift giving and

Celebrity

Cruises

will hold pre-Christmas trunk shows in its boutiques, which are tax- and duty-free. Starting with November 9 departures,

Disney Cruise Line's

"Very Merrytime" Cruises feature a "deck the deck holiday party" with Disney friends. In addition to holiday themed entertainment, many cruise lines offer special concerts, caroling and festive receptions as well as religious services.

Princess Cruises

features a tree lighting ceremony and a holiday themed variety show. For families, most lines feature special holiday crafts sessions, parties for kids along with visits from Santa and surprise gifts.

- **'Tis the season to book early.** Many cruise lines offer early booking specials and discounted pricing on select holiday cruises. For instance, for bookings through December 31

Oceania Cruises

offers 2-for-1 cruise fares, free airfare from 26 North American gateways and bonus savings up to

\$4,500

per stateroom and

Uniwold Boutique River Cruises

is waiving or reducing its single supplement on select holiday cruises to make your Christmas vacation even merrier.

For expert advice, travelers can turn to a CLIA Cruise Agent, who stays current on the latest offerings and trends and is an expert in helping clients select a cruise of their dreams. To find a CLIA Cruise Agent or Agency in your area, visit www.cruising.org and click on Vacations and use our Cruise Expert Finder.

About CLIA

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is the world's largest cruise industry trade association with representation in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australasia. CLIA represents the interests of cruise lines, travel agents, port authorities and destinations, and various industry business partners before regulatory and legislative policy makers. CLIA is also engaged in travel agent training, research and marketing communications to promote the value and desirability of cruise holiday vacations with thousands of travel agency and travel agent members. CLIA's Associate Member and Executive Partner program includes the industry's leading providers of supplies and services that help cruise lines provide a safe, environmentally-friendly and enjoyable holiday vacation experience for millions of passengers every year. For more information on CLIA, the cruise industry, and CLIA-member cruise lines and travel agencies, visit

www.cruising.org

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