

Cruising still popular after public incidents, but is it safe?

Written by Australian Business

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Every week, thousands of people board luxury cruise ships moored in Los Angeles County and set off for an exotic destination such as Mexico or the Amazon. To those people, cruising is the ultimate vacation where they can soak up the sun on deck, enjoy lavish 24-hour buffets, go dancing into the wee hours of the morning and be pampered by staff who are always willing to serve.

Technical issues leave passengers stranded

However, there is a darker side to cruising and recent disasters have raised the question of how safe these floating hotels really are. The cruise line, Carnival Corp. has attracted a lot of negative attention for the difficulties that at least five of their ships have run into, according to International Business Times. One of these was the cruise ship, Carnival Triumph, which left passengers without food, air conditioning or proper plumbing.

Two other ships have experienced technical issues and one ship was docked in St. Maarten with 4,300 passengers when something occurred to the emergency diesel generator on board. The ship was left incapacitated and passengers had to return back to the U.S. through other methods.

Sexual assaults

Many people believe that cruise ships are relatively safe places and it seems that for the most part they are. However, according to Fox News, the real number of criminal acts and injuries may be greater than what cruise lines are reporting. For example, one professor claims that the risk of being a victim of a sexual assault is 50 percent greater on a cruise ship. Other groups claim that wording on the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety bill was changed when it comes to how cruise lines report crime, which means that crime may be underreported.

Many sexual assault cases happening on cruise ships are committed against children who are abused in their own cabins while parents are out in another part of the ship or near child activity areas. Passengers can avoid becoming a victim of crime through the following tips.-Avoid

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leaving minor children alone.-Don't leave expensive items lying out in the cabin.-Keep return tickets and cash in the ship's onboard safe.-Don't go into hallways that are dark.

If passengers feel that something doesn't seem right, they should report their concerns to the ship's purser.

Injuries

Injury is another thing that can happen on a cruise ship through staff negligence. A passenger could slip and fall on a wet floor or be struck by a falling object. When a passenger is the victim of an injury they need to understand that the cruise line will try to avoid paying any form of compensation or restitution. If you have been the victim of cruise ship negligence, you should speak with an experienced attorney for legal advice.

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