



VANTAGE  
CRUISE LINE

## CHARTING THE EASTERN SEABOARD: COLONIAL AMERICA AND CULTURAL CAPITALS FROM BOSTON TO NASSAU

Boston • 12-night small ship cruise with Provincetown, Martha's Vineyard, Newport, New York City, Norfolk, Wilmington, Charleston, Amelia Island/Fernandina Beach • Nassau

Come aboard Vantage Deluxe World Travel's 5-star Ocean Explorer for a voyage that dives into the multifaceted roots of America. You'll journey from the crystalline waters of The Bahamas, where Columbus first set foot in the New World, and Florida's island fortifications to Virginia's earliest colonies to the plantation lands of the South — all the way to Boston's Revolutionary sites. Along the way, get in-depth historical insights thanks to an onboard Resident Lecturer, who will lead riveting talks and discussions on your destinations.

Discover the quirky charm of Provincetown on Cape Cod. Experience the coveted resort of Martha's Vineyard, where the quaint and the glamorous coexist side by side. See the opulent Gilded Age mansions of Newport. Take a bite out of the Big Apple (where you'll stay overnight). Step into the living history museum of colonial Williamsburg. Enjoy the coastal beauty and architectural grace of Wilmington, North Carolina. And visit Charleston, South Carolina, the culinary hot spot and all-around cultural charmer that has been voted the "world's best city" by readers of Travel + Leisure for six years in a row.

Seamlessly blending luxury small ship cruising and intimate cultural discovery, Vantage offers an authentic sailing experience as you chart the Eastern Seaboard. While certain ports may require tendering to and from the ship, the small size of our Ocean Explorer gives our travelers access to exclusive ports, less queuing, and more time to spend onshore in each destination. During your ocean

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journey highlighting cultural capitals from Boston to Nassau, you will be required to have the physical agility to maneuver getting on and off of tenders/Zodiac boats.

In between destinations, you'll enjoy two relaxing days at sea — time to rejuvenate and enjoy the world-class amenities of your brand-new, 5-star luxury ship. Plus, included hotel stays in Boston and Nassau provide the perfect bookends. And with fewer travelers onboard, you'll have more impactful interactions and Cultural Discoveries with locals, Tour Directors, lecturers, and more. We look forward to Charting the Eastern Seaboard: Colonial America and Cultural Capitals from Boston to Nassau with you soon!

If you're interested in this itinerary and want to revel in even more Cultural Discoveries and immersive experiences, check out our combination cruise From the Amazon to the Americas: Lima to Boston. Explore more and save.

# JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

## OCEAN EXPLORER



Discover the eastern seaboard on the Ocean Explorer, an agile and state-of-the-art small ship that can navigate to places larger ships can't

## RESIDENT LECTURER



Gain deeper insights into your destinations with talks and discussions by an onboard Resident Lecturer

## BOSTON'S REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY



Walk in the footsteps of John Adams, Paul Revere, John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and other patriots as you explore important Revolutionary sites — from Boston's Freedom Trail and Lexington to Concord and beyond

## HISTORICAL NEWPORT AND THE VANDERBILT'S SUMMER COTTAGES



Explore the most opulent of Newport's famous Gilded Age mansions, an Italianate-style residence set along famous Bellevue Avenue

## THE CHARMING MARTHA'S VINEYARD



Off of the coast of Cape Cod, this vacation spot both quaint and glamorous. See famous gingerbread houses in Oak Bluffs, the elegant enclave of Edgartown, and more

## SOJOURN IN NEW YORK CITY



Drop anchor in New York Harbor and take in the city's iconic sights like the Empire State Building, the 9/11 Memorial, Wall Street, Central Park, and more

## COLONIAL ROOTS



Explore America's earliest colonial roots in Jamestown and Williamsburg, a restored 18th-century living history museum

## HISTORIC DISTRICT OF WILMINGTON



Step aboard the World War II battleship USS *North Carolina*, which is

## CHARLESTON'S ANTEBELLUM HISTORY



Discover Charleston's stunning waterfront, exquisite architecture, and historic attractions, such as the spectacular Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

## AMELIA ISLAND



Enjoy the natural beauty of Amelia Island when you tour it on a relaxing and scenic river cruise featuring live commentary

# YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- **Purchase your airfare from Vantage** and your airport transfers, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees are included
- **Accommodations:** 12 nights aboard the 5-star *Ocean Explorer*, plus 2 nights in Nassau at the *British Hilton Colonial Hotel* (or similar) and 2 nights in Boston at the *Westin Copley Place* (or similar)
- **42 meals:** 16 breakfasts, 12 lunches, and 14 dinners, with complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks during dinner on board
- **19 included features and Cultural Discoveries**
- **The services of a Vantage Cruise Director, Program Manager, and expert Resident Lecturers,** plus shipboard commentary, experienced regional guides, and private motorcoach for excursions
- **Complimentary Vantage Deluxe Concierge Service** on board ship to assist with all your personal requests
- **Gratuities for local guides and drivers**
- **Quiet Vox headsets** — the best in the travel marketplace — to enhance your sightseeing experience during your cruise, and on extensions
- **All transfers and baggage handling overseas,** beginning with your first hotel
- **Vantage's 5% Travel Reward,** upon your return, to use toward your next Vantage journey

# SPECIAL INTEREST



**SMALL SHIP CRUISING HIGHLIGHTS** Our 5-star fleet offers an authentic sailing experience to make your journey unforgettable. While onboard, relax at the top-deck infinity pool, indulge in a relaxing massage at the spa, or try hot-rock cooking at the onboard restaurant. Then, disembark for an eye-opening visit to a local winery or a walking tour of some of the world's most iconic cities and undiscovered gems. All the while, enjoy these world-class ship amenities:

- 77 cabins, including a landmark 15 solo cabins, most of which have full walk-out balconies, for the most flexible style of travel — plus, suites designed for comfortable triple-occupancy as well as adjoining room options
- A culinary program offering gourmet dining incorporating regional fare, with wine and beer included at dinner
- Spa, massage, and hair services available at the onboard spa
- Raised infinity pool
- Sauna
- Two hot tubs
- Fitness center
- Curated lectures, programs, musical performances, and cultural events
- Low passenger-to-crew ratio, plus onboard Concierge
- Knowledgeable staff by region
- Onboard medical doctor (travelers are responsible for medical fees associated with doctor visit and medications)
- Gift Shop
- Library with over 200 titles
- Separate, intimate dining space for groups or special events (available upon request)
- Complimentary unlimited WiFi (WiFi on certain segments of trips may not be available)
- Entertainment programming with 100 movie titles
- Environmentally friendly standards with reduced emissions into air and sea and lower energy consumption
- Dynamic positioning technology
- State-of-the-art safety technology, Polar Code 6 compliant, and fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements in expedition cruising
- Rolls-Royce stabilizer system; "Safe Return to Port" technology

**NATURE HIGHLIGHTS** Experience famous as well as hidden natural treasures like these:

- Watch for whales as your ship approaches Provincetown, where humpbacks, minke, and other species can often be spotted off their feeding grounds at George's Bank

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- Celebrate the biodiversity of the Cape Cod National Seashore Park
- Enjoy the windswept beauty of Martha's Vineyard during a tour that showcases some of the island's most scenic locations
- Explore the wetlands, forests, and lush gardens of Magnolia Plantation during your tour on board the estate's Nature Train
- Take in the coastal habitats and Willow Pond Nature Trail at Fort Clinch State Park on Amelia Island
- See monkeys, flamingoes, lorikeets, and other Bahamian wildlife during your visit to Ardastra Gardens



**UNESCO & HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS** Trace the timeline of American history from colonial to modern times as you make your way southwards along the Eastern Seaboard.

- Follow in the footsteps of Paul Revere, John Adams, Samuel Adams, and other revolutionary heroes as you walk sections of Boston's famous Freedom Trail
- Revisit the very beginning of the American Revolution in Lexington and Concord, featuring Minuteman National Park
- See the elegant mansions along Newport's Bellevue Avenue, built during the Gilded Age as summer "cottages" for the families and

friends of robber barons like the Vanderbilts and Astors

- In Oak Bluffs, visit the Tabernacle and its surrounding cluster of candy-colored, gingerbread cottages. It began as a 19th-century Methodist summer retreat and is one of Martha's Vineyard's most iconic landmarks
- Pay your respects to the victims of the World Trade Center attack at the 9/11 Memorial in New York
- View some of Charleston's most historic attractions such as the Citadel, Rainbow Row, and more
- Enjoy expert guest lectures on the histories of your various destinations during your time on board the Ocean Explorer



#### **MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS**

Hear the sounds of the region during onboard performances as well as special shore activities.

- Enjoy onboard performances of contemporary and folk music by talented local groups



**PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS** You'll want to have your camera ready to capture the broad spectrum of sights and scenes on this cruise tour — from the timeless monument to sweeping seascapes to intimate portraits of daily life. Here are a few tips:

- Make the most of the "golden hour," the time frame before dawn and dusk that offers warm, camera-friendly lighting that's flattering for everyone
- Don't be afraid of the dark! Exploring cities and landmarks at night offers unique new perspectives — just make sure you have a tripod and that your camera comes equipped with a night feature!
- Change your perspective. Try shooting from a different angle. For example, climb a stairwell and shoot a landscape from up high; or get low and shoot from the ground. Wherever you are, embrace artistic challenges by getting out of your comfort zone!
- Take selfies! You'll want to have some mementoes of your milestone journey
- Look beyond landmarks. Sometimes everyday scenes are more revealing of the spirit of your destination. But in deference to cultural norms here, remember to ask your subjects if they mind being photographed before snapping their picture



### ART & CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

This trip exposes you to the Eastern Seaboard's colonial and contemporary culture.

- Explore the artists' colony in Provincetown, which has drawn famous writers and artists since the beginning of the 20th century and which still boasts an array of eclectic galleries, theaters, and more
- Learn about the 19th-century religious campgrounds at Oak Bluffs, where worshippers built fanciful gingerbread cottages that are still enjoyed by their heirs today
- Admire the Gilded Age architecture of Newport, Rhode Island

- Take advantage of your complimentary Concierge services to secure tickets for a Broadway play, concert, comedy show and more in New York City
- Admire colonial craftsmanship during an artisan demonstration in Williamsburg
- Learn about Wilmington's architectural heritage during your visit to the Bellamy Mansion, a historic home and design museum



### ACTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

This journey entails sightseeing in urban, coastal and subtropical locales, often on foot. But your deluxe ship and hotels all offer plenty of soothing amenities such as pools, spa facilities and more, to help you feel refreshed. Here are some other activities you may participate in:

- Get a good workout at your ship's gym and the fitness centers of your hotels
  - Enjoy the infinity pool on board the Ocean Explorer
  - Swim at the private beach at your Nassau, Bahamas hotel
- Utilize your free time to explore destinations by foot
  - Enjoy kayaking in Wilmington or Charleston



**CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS** During your onboard meals, shore excursions and independent exploration, you'll have plenty of opportunities to taste the regional cuisines of the East Coast.

- On your own and during included meals, savor the bounty of New England — creamy clam chowder, fresh sweet lobster, flaky cod, orchard-fresh apples, Rhode Island calamari, fall squashes and more
- Whatever your tastes are, they will be satisfied by New York's nonstop culinary variety. Choose from Michelin-starred temples

of haute cuisine or grab a classic Nathan's frank from a street vendor. Try a giant Reuben sandwich in one of the Jewish delis of the Lower East Side, or go for dim sum in Chinatown. There's classic Italian in Little Italy, soul food in Harlem, superb Indian in the East village, and so much more. Your Vantage Concierge can point you in the right direction

- Savor the best of southern cooking in Charleston, one of the planet's hottest culinary destinations. From traditional Low Country favorites (think she-crab soup and hoppin' john shrimp and grits), to the innovative, farm-to-table creations of New Southern cuisine, Charleston is a foodie's paradise!



**CONCIERGE SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS** The Worldwide Concierge service will be available throughout your entire small ship ocean cruise to help you customize your journey. Here are just a few services your Concierge can provide:

- Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, family reunion or other important event you want to celebrate on board? Let your Concierge know and he or she can make all the special arrangements, whether it's a private reception in your suite, a

gathering in the lounge, and more

- Restaurant reservations. Just notify your Concierge of your interests, and he or she will be happy to make recommendations, and will call ahead to reserve your table
- Special excursions. Would you like a limo to take you for a special night in the city? Perhaps you'd like to look up long-lost relatives. Your Concierge is here to help!
- Extend your stay! Your Concierge can help modify your hotel reservations and flights if you decide to stay on
- Tickets to local concerts, exhibits, theater, sporting events, and more

Take advantage of this free, start-to-finish service by making your requests prior to your journey or during your journey. We are one of the only companies to offer this level of service! Call 1-888-982-6824 or email [Concierge@vantagetravel.com](mailto:Concierge@vantagetravel.com) to speak to a Concierge today, or simply log into My Portfolio up to two weeks prior to departure.



**SOLO TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS** On this small ship ocean cruise, independent travelers will enjoy solo-friendly features, such as:

- Onboard Concierge services to personalize your expedition
- Water-sport opportunities, depending on the location
- A lively social media night and musical performances most nights
- Solo-friendly social activities, including a Solo Connection mixer
- Onboard entertainment, lectures, and cooking demonstrations
- Health and wellness options, including onboard spa, swimming

pool, and gym

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# BOSTON TO NASSAU

DAY 1: Depart home and arrive in Boston, Massachusetts

*The Westin Copley Place Boston or similar*

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DAY 2: Discover the best of Boston and Cambridge

*The Westin Copley Place Boston or similar*

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DAY 3: Visit Lexington and Concord, then embark the Ocean Explorer

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 4: Explore Cape Cod and ride the trolley around Provincetown

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 5: See the legendary summer resort of Martha's Vineyard

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 6: Delve into history in Newport, Rhode Island

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 7: Discover the best of the Big Apple, New York City

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 8: Explore New York as you like it

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 9: Choose from three tours: Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, or Highlights of Norfolk

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 10: Cruise Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coast

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 11: Uncover antebellum life in Wilmington, North Carolina

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 12: Soak up the color and culture in Charleston, South Carolina

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 13: Tour Amelia Island on a river cruise

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 14: Cruise to the Caribbean

*Ocean Explorer >*

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DAY 15: Disembark the Ocean Explorer and get into island time in Nassau, the Bahamas

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DAY 16: Explore more of Nassau on your own

*British Colonial Hilton Nassau Hotel or similar*

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DAY 17: Return home

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**DAY 1:** Depart home and arrive in Boston, Massachusetts

Welcome to Boston. If you purchased your airfare from Vantage, a representative will meet you and arrange transfer to your centrally located hotel. Settle in and relax, or perhaps do some exploring on your own. Maybe you'll venture across the river to Charlestown to see the

historic Bunker Hill monument, or come aboard the USS Constitution or "Old Ironsides," the world's oldest commissioned naval vessel still afloat. You might browse Faneuil Hall (aka Quincy Market), a bustling pedestrian marketplace with colonial roots and a tempting food hall. Just make sure you leave some room for our Welcome Dinner tonight back at the hotel. Or, depart earlier for your pre-trip extension to Cape Ann, Salem & Boston.

Included meals: Dinner  
*The Westin Copley Place Boston or similar*

**DAY 2:** Discover the best of Boston and Cambridge

The heart of Boston is quite compact, but it packs a big wallop in terms of its cultural, historic, and touristic attractions, even compared to much larger cities. Boston has been called a

“city of neighborhoods,” and on your city tour today you’ll see some of its most charming locales.

Riding across town, you’ll pass Copley Square, ringed by architectural jewels like Trinity Church, the Boston Public Library, and the Old South Church. Continue riding through the Back Bay and see trendy Newbury Street, the Public Gardens, Boston Common, and Beacon Hill, crowned by the gold-domed, Bulfinch-designed Massachusetts State House. From here you’ll head to the Old North Church, where Paul Revere hung two lanterns in the steeple to signal that the British were coming. It sits in the middle of the North End, Boston’s historic Italian neighborhood. Take a little time to walk around and enjoy its sights, sounds, smells, and (of course) tastes. From here you’ll cross the Charles River and head across Cambridge to Harvard Square, where you’ll have time to walk around and see the campus and surrounding commercial center of America’s oldest and most prestigious university.

The balance of the afternoon and evening are free for you to explore, relax, and enjoy dinner on your own. Perhaps you’ll walk along sections of the Freedom Trail, passing the site of the Boston Massacre of 1770, Boston Common, the Old Granary Burying Grounds (where many illustrious Bostonians are buried), and more. Heading toward the renovated Seaport district, you can see a replica of the Boston Tea Party ship, where colonists protested a British tax by dumping tea into the harbor in 1773. Boston has a brisk dining, music, and theater scene, so don’t forget to ask your Vantage Concierge to help you plan your time.

#### **Included Feature:**

- Boston city tour  
Included meals: Breakfast  
*The Westin Copley Place Boston or similar*

**DAY 3:** Visit Lexington and Concord, then embark the Ocean Explorer

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and head west to discover Lexington and Concord, the battleground where the “shot heard round the world” officially triggered the American Revolution. Concord is also famous for its literary history, and was the home of the American Transcendentalist movement spearheaded by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Arriving at Lexington’s Battle Green, you will stand where the opening shots of the American Revolutionary War were fired. Your route to Concord takes you along the Battle Road Trail that Paul Revere followed during his famous midnight ride. Here you will walk on the Old North Bridge, a replica of the wooden bridge where militiamen beat back the British forces, and view the outsides of the gracious, historic homes where Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott (and the rest of her illustrious family), and others established one of America’s most formative, 19th-century intellectual circles.

Arriving back in Boston, you will then be transferred to the pier to embark the Ocean Explorer and enjoy lunch onboard. Come aboard and get settled in before this evening’s port talk and Welcome Dinner.

#### **Included Feature:**

- Tour of Lexington and Concord  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer >*

**DAY 4:** Explore Cape Cod and ride the trolley around Provincetown

Provincetown (or “P-Town,” as locals call it) was the fertile fishing ground where the Pilgrims first dropped anchor before settling in Plymouth. Set at the curving tip of Cape Cod, it still is an important fishing community that over the years has been known for its spectacular beaches and tolerant, live-and-let-live vibe. For this reason, it has been a longtime resort, artists’ colony, and popular summer haven for the LGBTQ community. Famous residents have included Tennessee Williams, Norman Mailer, Eugene O’Neill, Kurt Vonnegut, Lee Krasner, Jackson Pollock, Robert Motherwell, Julie Harris, Anthony Bourdain, and many more. You’ll get acquainted during this morning’s tour.

A tender will transport you to shore for an old-fashioned trolley to ride around the town. You’ll see the impressive Town Library, which is housed in an old, Italianate-style church built in 1860 and which also includes the Heritage Museum. At the Pilgrim Monument, you can admire the country’s tallest granite building, a 252-foot-high tower that offers commanding sea views. The museum at its base commemorates the pilgrims’ five-week sojourn here, during which time they drew up the Mayflower Compact that codified the first laws of the new colony.

The Cape Cod National Seashore boasts some of the country’s most stupendous seascapes, and at the Salt Pond Visitor’s Center, you will enjoy wonderful views of them — as well as exhibits on local flora and fauna.

After lunch, you will have free time to explore on your own. Poke around the eclectic shops and art galleries, or perhaps enjoy the bustling harbor

scene at MacMillan Pier.

**Included Feature:**

- Trolley tour of Provincetown

**Scenic Sailing:**

- Later today, bid farewell to Provincetown as you set sail toward Boston and past the Boston Harbor Islands  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 5:** See the legendary summer resort of Martha’s Vineyard

Beautiful Martha’s Vineyard is famous as an affluent summer resort, and you can certainly do some celebrity-watching here. But your eyes will also be drawn to the sweeping natural beauty, historic towns and charming architecture. If some of it looks familiar, perhaps that’s because the movie *Jaws* was filmed here.

You’ll arrive ashore via tender for today’s tour, which starts with historic Oak Bluffs, once a religious revival summer camp. Then, head along the coast to Edgartown, a quaint, white-clapboard village that was originally an important whaling center. Ride through the farmlands of West Tisbury, and the hills of Chilmark, where celebrities such as Ted Danson, Carly Simon, James Taylor, and Bill Murray have homes. Back in Oak Bluffs, you’ll have lunch and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure.

Perhaps you will explore Oak Bluffs on your own to get a feel for the laid-back charm that is synonymous with Martha’s Vineyard. You can see the colorful Flying Horses, the country’s oldest, continuously-operating platform carousel that was brought here from Coney Island in 1874. Nearby is Wesleyan Grove, better known

as the Campground. Back in the mid-1800s, Methodist families would set up tents in this 34-acre site to enjoy revival meetings and summer Bible study groups. The tents eventually gave way to cottages that are painted lovely pastel hues and adorned with elaborate millwork. Today, these lovely gingerbread cottages are part of the National Historic Register. You can also learn about Oak Bluff's history as one of the country's first resorts for affluent African Americans.

#### **Included Feature:**

- Tour of Martha's Vineyard  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 6:** Delve into history in Newport, Rhode Island

Newport is famous as the summer "watering hole" for America's wealthiest families during the Gilded Age. It is also a yachting center that hosted the America's Cup races 1930-83, and the first U.S. Open sites for tennis and golf. Less well-known is the town's colonial heritage, when it was an important whaling and trading port, notably as a center of the slave trade. Your tour points out the historic wharves, Touro Synagogue (the country's oldest synagogue), the sweeping vistas of Ocean Drive, Hammersmith Farm (Jacqueline Bouvier's childhood home, where she later held the reception for her wedding to John F. Kennedy), and more.

After breakfast onboard, you'll be transferred to the port by tender for day of discovery. A highlight of the day will be your visit to the Breakers, the opulent Italian Renaissance-style mansion that was built as a summer residence by Cornelius Vanderbilt II. Set on elegant

Bellevue Avenue, it has a vast back lawn overlooking the Cliff Walk and the sea, and is filled with lavish period furnishings and art. Your tour provides a fascinating, intimate glimpse into the lives of America's wealthiest and most powerful families during the late 1800s through the turn of the century.

The afternoon is free for you to explore Newport at your leisure. Your onboard Concierge will be able to provide recommendations based on your interests!

#### **Included Feature:**

- Newport city tour  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 7:** Discover the best of the Big Apple, New York City

Enjoy breakfast as we arrive in New York City, then set out to explore. Your tour showcases some of the city's most famous attractions and landmarks. See where world economies rise and fall on Wall Street, including the New York Stock Exchange building in the heart of the financial district. Nearby, you'll pay your respects at the 9/11 Memorial, where the victims of the World Trade Center bombing are honored. Also nearby is St. Paul's Chapel, the oldest surviving church in New York City, built in 1766. At Battery Park, you'll catch glimpses of the Statue of Liberty.

Your tour continues as you make your way towards Midtown, passing through Chinatown, Greenwich Village, SoHo, and more. Ride past the elegant New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue, and then see Rockefeller Center, Times Square, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Central Park and Grand Central Station. You'll be back on board in time for lunch and a free afternoon, with a

scintillating port talk and dinner back on board. Your evening is free; ask your Concierge in advance to help with tickets for a Broadway show, musical performances, gallery shows, and more.

**Included Feature:**

- **New York City tour**  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 8:** Explore New York as you like it

The morning is yours to delve deeper into the best of New York. There is so much to choose from, you'll be grateful for the guiding hand of your Vantage Concierge, who can help you plan your time. We'll sail on to our next destination in the early afternoon.

**Scenic Sailing:**

- Be sure to have your cameras ready as there may be no more iconic skyline in the world than New York City's. Soak up its million dollar views as you head towards your next thrilling destination  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 9:** Choose from three tours: Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, or Highlights of Norfolk

Strategically set at the core of the historic Hampton Roads region, Norfolk is surrounded on three sides by water and is home to the world's largest naval base, as well as one of NATO's two Strategic Command headquarters. After an early lunch onboard, then head out to explore the region's historic colonial roots.

Today, you'll have your pick of three tours, each

of which will inform you of the rich history of this region. You may embark on a Colonial Williamsburg tour and discover what was the capital of the first colony, Virginia. Today, the city is a living history museum, with 80% of its original layout! Or, perhaps you'll discover the Jamestown settlement and tour the recreated village. Your final option is taking a Highlights of Norfolk tour, where you'll visit the largest Naval installation in the world with a member of the Navy as your guide. Whichever way you roam, enjoy the remainder of your afternoon and evening at leisure.

**Included Feature:**

- Half-day tour of Colonial Williamsburg OR Jamestown OR Norfolk Highlights

**Cultural Discoveries:**

- Demonstration of colonial cooking and crafts  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 10:** Cruise Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic coast

A full day to relax and enjoy the 5-star amenities of your Deluxe ship. Perhaps you'll take a soak in the hot tubs, join a yoga class, or enjoy a soothing massage. During an onboard lecture, you can learn about the rise and fall of plantation life — a wonderful preparation for your upcoming discoveries in Wilmington and Charleston.

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 11:** Uncover antebellum life in Wilmington, North Carolina

If you're up on deck this morning, take in the beautiful coastal scenery as your ship makes its way up the wide Cape Fear River to Wilmington. This historic port city boasts a beautifully

restored waterfront, and exquisite architecture which you'll see on today's tour.

This morning's tour spotlights Wilmington's National Register Historic district, some 230 blocks worth of beautifully preserved architecture from many different eras. You'll also learn about the many movies and television shows filmed around here. In fact, Wilmington has the country's largest full-service filming studio outside of Hollywood. A highlight will be your visit to Historic homes in Wilmington. You'll visit either of these three: Bellamy Mansion, Burgwin-Wright House or the Latimer House. Afterwards, you'll revisit a different era when you step aboard the World War II battleship USS North Carolina, which is permanently docked in Wilmington.

After your tour you'll have free time to enjoy this pretty city on your own. Take a stroll along the Riverwalk, a waterfront promenade lined with parks, shops and cafés. If you are a craft beer enthusiast, Wilmington boasts many well-regarded microbreweries. It also boasts many fine nearby beaches such as Carolina Beach, known for its colorful boardwalk. You can also visit the Railroad Museum, or perhaps borrow one of the kayaks on board your ship to explore the Cape Fear area.

#### **Included Features:**

- Guided tour of the Historic mansion houses of Wilmington
- Guided tour of the *USS North Carolina*  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 12:** Soak up the color and culture in Charleston, South Carolina

For the past six years in a row, Charleston was

voted the "#1, best city in the world" by readers of Travel + Leisure. Once you experience its stunning waterfront setting, exquisite Georgian architecture in every color of the rainbow, historic attractions, fine beaches and of course, some of the best cuisine in North America, you will agree that the title is well-deserved. A moderately-timed tender ride (approximately 15 minutes) will deliver you ashore to begin your day of exploration with a panoramic city tour of some of Charleston's most important attractions. You'll see the Battery, the Citadel, Old City Market, and Hampton Park, and enjoy spectacular views of Fort Sumter, Castle Pinckney, and the Sullivan Island Lighthouse.

From downtown Charleston you'll proceed to Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, named one of "America's Most Beautiful Gardens" by Travel + Leisure magazine. The house was built in 1676, and the garden is the oldest in the country, created in 1680. You'll explore the manor house, filled with priceless antiques; and also see the Conservatory, where many plants native to Barbados are cultivated. There is also a petting zoo, wildlife observation tower, a Biblical garden, Audubon Swamp Garden, and a horticultural maze. A highlight will be your 45-minute "nature train" tour, which takes you by tram through the plantation's wetlands, lakes, forests, and marshes. Naturalist guides will help you spot alligators, turtles, egrets, and herons, and provide the backstories of the slaves and indigenous people who once lived in the cabins and woodlands surrounding the main house.

Back in Charleston, spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring at your leisure. You might visit the Old Slave Mart Museum, a moving

museum depicting the city's notorious role in African-American history. Or, browse the shops along King Street to find Charleston souvenirs like a Brackish bowtie made entirely of feathers or a handcrafted Gullah sweetgrass basket. Along the way, get a taste of Charleston's famed shrimp and grits or Low Country bouillabaisse!

**Vantage Exclusive:**

- Visit Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

**Included Feature:**

- Historical tour of Charleston  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 13:** Tour Amelia Island on a river cruise

This morning your ship drops anchor in Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, Florida's northernmost barrier island. After breakfast you'll set out on a tour of the island, which draws visitors with its dramatic history as the only United States location to have had eight flags flown over it. Today's tour happens on a relaxing and scenic river cruise, and you'll cruise by Fernandina's shrimping boats, the historic Old Towne, and Fort Clinch, all while enjoying live commentary. At Cumberland Island, we'll be on the lookout for wild horses that frequent the area.

**Included Feature:**

- Amelia Island river cruise

**Scenic Sailing:**

- Fernandina Beach's stunning coastline comes into sight as you arrive on Amelia Island  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 14:** Cruise to the Caribbean

Relax with a day at sea: refresh, renew, and

relish in your ship's Deluxe amenities. Perhaps you'll join a morning workout class, or lounge by the pool. You could enjoy a facial at the spa, meet friends in the lounge for a game of bridge, attend a lecture on the history of the Bahamas, or simply soak in the hot tub with the cocktail of the day — the choice is yours!

**Scenic Sailing:**

- It will be a beautiful day at sea so take the time to be outside and breathe in the fresh air and delightful breezes  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*Ocean Explorer* >

**DAY 15:** Disembark the Ocean Explorer and get into island time in Nassau, the Bahamas

You'll know you're in the Bahamas as the water gets bluer and brighter. In fact, the Bahamas lays claim to the clearest water on Earth. Enjoy the views as you approach Nassau, the capital of this beautiful archipelago. After breakfast you'll disembark ship and then enjoy a sightseeing tour that acquaints you with the history and laid-back culture of the island, which is called New Providence.

In downtown Nassau, you'll see Rawson and then Parliament Square, with its pink stucco Georgian neo-classical buildings that house the Supreme Court, Senate Chambers, and House of Assembly. Then, cross the Sir Sidney Poitier Bridge to Paradise Island to get a look at the spectacular Atlantis Hotel Resort & Casino. Leaving here, you'll pass the Queen's Staircase, 66 limestone steps that connect Fort Fincastle to the lower town. It was carved out of the sheer rock by slaves in 1793. You'll also see the Government House and Graycliff, a stunning mansion built in 1740 that is now a famous hotel.

After a photo stop at historic Fort Charlotte, you'll pass other landmarks such as the College of the Bahamas, Sir Harry Oakes Monument and Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, and others. You'll also pass colorful Arawak Cay, a jumble of multicolored shacks and cafés that are collectively known as "Fish Fry." You'll have some time at your leisure before heading to your hotel, with lunch on your own — perhaps you'll come back to enjoy the famous conch fritters, fried chicken, and tropical conch salad, and to hear a local storyteller share some Bahamian lore.

During your tour you'll stop at the historic 1789 Buena Vista Estate, home of the John Watlings Distillery where you will enjoy a self-guided tour and rum tasting. Upon departing the distillery you'll visit Aradastra Gardens, a lush tropical setting where you'll be introduced to some local denizens such as monkeys, flamingos, snakes, lorikeets, flamingoes, and other native species. The rest of your day is free. Unwind and sample the little luxuries of your Deluxe hotel, the only one in Nassau to boast its own private sandy beach.

**Included Feature:**

- Nassau city tour

**Cultural Discoveries:**

- Tour with rum tasting at John Watlings Distillery
- Exotic animal encounters at Aradastra Gardens

Included meals: Breakfast

*British Colonial Hilton Nassau Hotel or similar*

**DAY 16:** Explore more of Nassau on your own

A full day of leisure to explore and relax as you like. Your hotel is within walking distance of

downtown Nassau, so everything is within easy reach. Perhaps you'll visit the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, or shop for handicrafts at the Straw Market. If you're feeling adventurous, there are spectacular dive sites, and plenty of opportunities to swim with dolphins, feed sharks, or enjoy water sports, from kayaking to jet skiing and more. At the Pirates of Nassau museum, you can learn about infamous privateers like the notorious Blackbeard through fun, interactive exhibits and performances. You might also join an excursion to the Atlantis Resort, where you will find an Aquaventure water park, walk-in aquariums, 11 pools, the largest open-air marine habitat, a golf course, casino and more. Be back in time for this evening's Farewell Dinner at your hotel, where you will join your travel mates to toast your discoveries.

Included meals: Breakfast & dinner

*British Colonial Hilton Nassau Hotel or similar*

**DAY 17:** Return home

After breakfast you'll transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Included meals: Breakfast

**Please Note:** Ocean cruising is not the same experience as river cruising; as such, you may experience fluctuating tides and weather patterns that may involve some rocking of your vessel. Itineraries will include all activities as planned except in extreme cases that can't be controlled by your shipboard crew. Day-by-day itineraries are preliminary and therefore subject to change. If changes occur while on tour, you will be notified by your Cruise Director or regional expert.

# YOUR VANTAGE TEAM

## EXPERTS TO SERVE YOU, SHIP TO SHORE

During your cruise you'll be well taken care of, including with daily briefings about upcoming ports conducted by your Cruise Director. Your Cruise Director is also the point person for coordinating social and cultural activities on the ship, and the person who will ensure that your experience is the best it can be. Lectures on your journey will be conducted by handpicked Resident Lecturers. To lead your included shore excursions, we've selected the best regional guides. If your program includes a land stay (or if you've chosen an optional extension), you'll also enjoy the service of a Program Manager to steward your journey to its very end.

## CRUISE DIRECTORS MAKE YOUR TRIP "SMOOTH SAILING"

Your Vantage trip will be led by a seasoned Cruise Director who will ensure your comfort and satisfaction. Think of him or her as your onboard "host" — the person to turn to with questions about your itinerary, updates on the day's activities, reservations for optional tours, and so much more.

### Kathi Cullin

Working in travel for most of her life, Kathi is excited to show Vantage travelers the wonders of the United States — and she's been to all 50. She loves highlighting the different characteristics of the Great Lakes and America's national parks, each boasting a distinct personality and beauty. With her insider's knowledge, Kathi enhances every city tour, museum visit, and lighthouse view with in-depth regional history and local expertise. "I love going on adventures with a new group — you just never know what's going to happen, what might stand out as the most memorable part of the tour, or how travelers are going to react," she said.

## FROM START TO FINISH, PROGRAM MANAGERS ARE THERE

To ensure your fullest satisfaction, you'll also enjoy the services of a dedicated Program Manager to coordinate shore activities, organize entertainment programs, and oversee operations, including embarkation and disembarkation. When you're traveling on a pre- or post-trip extension, your Program Manager will also join you to make sure your experience is top-notch from start to finish.

### Ruby Gatins

When she was just 5 years old, Ruby traveled with her family throughout Europe, with an emphasis on France. "When I was 6 years old, I already knew French, English, and Spanish, so it was a natural consequence for me to work on the tourism field," she says. "I got my bachelor's degree in journalism and communications, which gave me a strong base for working independently and having a lot of confidence in myself — qualities that are necessary to be a guide." When it comes to traveling with Vantage, Ruby loves "seeing the excitement of guests when they're having a wonderful trip and I love knowing that I'm contributing to this," she says.

## NEW! ENHANCED COMPLIMENTARY WORLDWIDE CONCIERGE SERVICE

Before your cruise, during your cruise, our worldwide Concierge is here to assist. If you have a special request or personal interest you'd like to pursue during your journey, let our worldwide Concierge work for you — and best of all, it's complimentary for all travelers. If your cruise is still months away but you'd like to plan a party, track down a bit of your family's heritage in one of your destinations, secure restaurant reservations, and beyond, we'll get to planning early. Or, if you're onboard and want to visit the spa, make hotel reservations, organize a pub crawl for family and friends, your onboard Concierge service can make your travel dreams come true.

To request Concierge service prior to your journey, simply log in to MyPortfolio, submit a pre-trip request

to [Concierge@vantagetravel.com](mailto:Concierge@vantagetravel.com), or call 1-888-982-6824 and you'll have your answer from our Concierge within two business days.

Kathleen Fitzgerald

With more than 30 years in the travel industry, Kathleen is something of a jack of all trades. "I've held roles in tour operations, sales and marketing, meeting and event planning, and more," she says. But a few years ago, she decided to become a full-time guide. A self-dubbed "actress and a natural storyteller," Kathleen enjoys sharing with others the places she loves and teaching Vantage travelers about the destinations that have intrigued her, including America's national parks, Brazil, Germany, and the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. "I have a boundless sense of curiosity," she adds. "I enjoy bringing a new place to life for my guests with information on history, current events, flora and the fauna, and geology."

#### RESIDENT LECTURER

We've handpicked these regional experts to join you on your journey and oversee your historical and cultural enrichment specific to your destinations. Through them, you'll gain a deeper understanding of major chapters in world history and other, in-depth subjects relevant to your travels.

#### REGIONAL EXPERTS IN EACH PORT

No one knows a destination better than an insider, so in addition to your Cruise Director, you'll enjoy the services of experienced, English-speaking regional experts to lead your included excursions on shore. Their deep command of regional history will certainly enrich your viewing of important attractions. But these "insiders" go a step beyond, sharing insights on behind-the-scenes aspects of local culture that ordinary tours overlook. How do families in this area get by? What are some of the local legends? What do the decorations on a particular house mean? Your regional experts are eager to bring it all alive for you.

# ACCOMMODATIONS



## Ocean Explorer

### Quick facts

**Launch:** 2021

**Length:** 104.4 Meters

**Max Capacity:** 162 guests — 134 for polar expeditions

**Cabins:** 77, including a landmark 15 solo cabins — 80% of all cabins feature a private veranda

The intimate *Ocean Explorer* is the cruise industry's newest and most premier small ship built for global exploration. Accommodating just 162 guests (134 guests on expeditions), the ship is outfitted with the latest satellite, sustainability, and navigation capabilities, including SOLAS "Safe Return to Port" requirements and ULSTEIN X-BOW® technology, a significant enhancement for smooth sailing in polar seas.

On all Vantage small ship cruises, education is an essential component of the journey. Enjoy talks from notable scholars, onboard historians who travel alongside you, and handpicked regional experts. On polar expeditions with Vantage, you'll attend lectures, lessons, and activities offered by a 17-member Expedition Team of experts in fields ranging from biology to oceanography.

In your downtime, you'll find relaxation and luxury aboard the *Ocean Explorer*. Visit the gym or onboard spa for a facial, massage, even a haircut. Soak in the hot tub after a rewarding day of sightseeing. Enjoy gourmet fare for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus outstanding culinary experiences built into your journey. And because there's no more than 162 fellow travelers onboard, (134 guests on expeditions) you'll enjoy small group outings by day and share meals, stories, and fun with new friends by night.

- 77 cabins, including a landmark 15 solo cabins
- The latest satellite and navigation capabilities, including ULSTEIN X-BOW® technology
- State-of-the-art safety technology, Polar Code 6 compliant, and fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements in expedition cruising in Antarctica and the Arctic

Reserve Today! Call Toll-Free **1 800 322 6677** - [WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/EBN23](http://WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/EBN23)

- Environmentally friendly standards with reduced emissions into air and sea and lower energy consumption

**Amenities:**

- A culinary program offering gourmet dining and regional fare, with wine and beer included at dinner
- Hot-rock cooking restaurant
- Multistory lounge and lobby
- Three bars and various lounges
- Top deck observation deck for gatherings, lectures, performances, and more
- Spa, massage, and hair services available at the onboard spa
- Raised infinity pool
- Sauna
- Two hot tubs
- Fitness center
- Curated lectures, programs, musical performances, and cultural events
- Low passenger-to-crew ratio, plus onboard Concierge (not available on expeditions)
- On expeditions, enjoy the services and curated lectures of a 5- or 17-person Expedition Team, comprised of experts in their field
- Knowledgeable staff by region; expedition cruises will be led by an experienced Expedition Team
- Onboard medical doctor (travelers are responsible for medical fees associated with doctor visit and medications)
- Gift Shop
- Library with over 200 titles
- Separate, intimate dining space for groups or special events (available upon request)
- Complimentary unlimited WiFi (WiFi on certain segments of trips may not be available)
- Entertainment programming with 100 movie titles

*Ocean Explorer Gallery*



## British Colonial Hilton Nassau Hotel ★★★★★

As the only hotel in Nassau to boast a central downtown location as well as a waterfront setting, the British Colonial Hilton Nassau gives you the freedom to explore the city at length or simply soak up the sun on the private sand beach. The comfortable guest rooms are air-conditioned and feature a high-definition, flat-screen television, high speed Internet access, minibar, coffee-maker, and hair dryer. A fitness room, as well as paddleboard and kayak rentals, are available for your recreational use.



## The Westin Copley Place Boston ★★★★★

A downtown location in the celebrated Back Bay neighborhood makes this upscale hotel the perfect base from which you can explore Boston. Back Bay Station and the Boston Public Library are a 4-minute walk away, while the boutiques and restaurants of Newbury Street are 0.5 miles from the hotel. Each spacious room features contemporary interiors with city or river views, flat-screen TVs, minibars, and coffee/tea service. Suites add living areas. Room service is available 24/7. Other amenities include an on-site fitness studio and spa, and four dining options including a bar and a Brazilian...

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## EXPLORE MORE

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### Cape Ann, Salem & Boston, MA (POST)



#### **FROM \$1,299 PER PERSON | 3 DAYS | \$433 PER DAY**

Arrive a little earlier to soak up more of New England's beauty and colonial heritage. Two extra nights in Boston give you a chance to enjoy the city's lively cultural scene. Then, enjoy a full-day excursion to the North Shore region, visiting seafaring Salem during Halloween festivities, when the city's witchy history is on full display, and colorful Gloucester, a hard-working fishing village and artists' colony that typifies the Yankee spirit. Plus, an additional free day in Boston lets you delve more deeply into its sophisticated culture. Beautiful scenery, harvest fare, and fresh seafood. Come see what makes Massachusetts so special!

#### **Your Price Includes:**

- **2 nights' accommodations** at the Deluxe *Westin Copley Place* (or similar)
- **3 meals:** 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner
- **Tour of Gloucester and Salem**
- **All transfers and baggage handling** (where permitted)
- **Services of local guides and Cruise Director**
- **Tipping for drivers and local guides** (excluding Cruise Director)
- **Complimentary Vantage Deluxe Concierge Service** to plan celebrations, activities, or provide regional expertise. Log in to My Portfolio and submit a request, or send an email any time up to two weeks prior to your departure at [Concierge@vantagetravel.com](mailto:Concierge@vantagetravel.com)

# Cape Ann, Salem & Boston, MA (PRE)



## **FROM \$1,299 PER PERSON | 3 DAYS | \$433 PER DAY**

Arrive a little earlier to soak up more of New England's beauty and colonial heritage. Two extra nights in Boston give you a chance to enjoy the city's lively cultural scene. Then, enjoy a full-day excursion to the North Shore region, visiting seafaring Salem during Halloween festivities, when the city's witchy history is on full display, and colorful Gloucester, a hard-working fishing village and artists' colony that typifies the Yankee spirit. Plus, an additional free day in Boston lets you delve more deeply into its sophisticated culture. Beautiful scenery, harvest fare, and fresh seafood. Come see what makes Massachusetts so special!

### **Your Price Includes:**

- **2 nights' accommodations** at the Deluxe *Westin Copley Place* (or similar)
- **3 meals:** 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner
- **Tour of Gloucester and Salem**
- **All transfers and baggage handling** (where permitted)
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# DINING

## Inspired Cuisine — Every Day of Your Trip

Your *Ocean Explorer* expedition features an onboard culinary program offering gourmet dining that incorporates regional fare — just another way to immerse you in the traditions and culture of a destination. Some excursions feature curated culinary experiences; see your itinerary for exact days and additional information. There will also be special Captain's Dinners during your cruise. All dinners aboard the ship include unlimited nonalcoholic drinks, beer, and wine.

Although all meals are included aboard *Ocean Explorer* during your cruise, you do have opportunities to go out on your own and sample the cuisine in local restaurants. Your Concierge or Cruise Director can recommend restaurants and menu options that you may want to try and assist you with reservations. If you wish to make Michelin-starred restaurant reservations or dine at a popular restaurant that books quickly, please make a request to your Concierge at the time of booking to secure reservations in advance.

## Healthy Choices at Every Meal

Along with the regional and international fare, you'll also find some choices for the health-conscious. We are happy to accommodate special dietary requests, such as vegetarian, gluten-free, lactose-intolerant, and allergy-specific concerns, provided your requests are received at the time of booking.

# ACTIVITIES AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

## This trip is rated Moderate

Most walks on this tour are easy to moderate, with short coach rides for sightseeing at places of interest. As there are busy markets, narrow cobbled streets, and some steps, this program is not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties or wheelchairs.

## Onboard Enrichment

Your *Ocean Explorer* expedition has been curated to immerse you into the culture, traditions, and cuisine of each destination — that's why you'll experience an onboard lecture series that will enhance your discoveries on land, savor regional dishes aboard the ship, and be delighted by a series of onboard performances, in addition to cultural activities and immersion during your shore explorations.

## Explore the World and Stay Healthy

With Vantage, discovery is not just a spectator sport. We build in activities that let you experience culture hands-on, try something new, and even enjoy a little exercise while you're at it. The *Ocean Explorer* offers myriad wellness options on board, including a spa, swimming pool, and gymnasium, as well as active gear like kayaks and paddleboards.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Embark upon the extraordinary — Your comprehensive spa experience

At Vantage, exploring the world and staying healthy are perfect travel mates

While cruising aboard our 5-star ocean fleet, you'll find myriad wellness options to complement your global discoveries, including spa and salon services, swimming pool and hot tubs, and a fitness center, as well as active gear like kayaks and paddleboards.

## First-class indulgence

Sometimes a little rejuvenation is needed, even at sea. Whether indulging in an aromatherapy facial or a relaxing body massage, or even enjoying manicure and pedicure options, our professional wellness therapists will help revitalize you — mind, body, and spirit — just in time for your next port of call.

## Get picture-perfect at the onboard salon

Perhaps you've got reservations in town, or maybe you just need a quick trim and a blowout to stay photo-ready on your voyage? At our onboard salon, you can make every outing an unforgettable occasion. Need a more

personal touch? Let our master stylists come to you and perform their beauty magic in your stateroom. From haircuts to coloring and more, we'll keep you refreshed and looking your best throughout your journey.

Awaken your senses entirely

Pamper yourself with a blissful spa day and let our wellness therapists tend to you, head to toe. With a menu of spa packages to choose from, you can make a day of it or spread your services out over the course of your cruise — whatever you prefer!

## SHOPPING

### Preferred Shopping Partners

The best memento from your trip has a story to tell. Be sure your purchases are unique, locally made and long-lasting. And Vantage's local trip partners will steer you in the right direction. Here's how:

- All shops are handpicked by Vantage experts, ensuring you a quality experience
- We negotiate Vantage-only discounts and special customer service assistance on your behalf
- Ease of shopping with English-speaking merchants so nothing gets lost in translation
- We give preference to merchants who make it easy for you to ship and receive items back home

Vantage has every confidence in the merchants we select for our Preferred Shopping Partners program. Our shops guarantee your satisfaction with any item you purchase, and in the very unlikely event that you have a problem with a purchase, we'll stand by that guarantee and assist you in resolving the issue.

As a tour company, it is our goal to ensure our team delivers the best buys in quality shops that offer safe and secure purchases. So come prepared with your color swatches and with carpet and clothing sizes converted to local measurements — and your mementos will be telling their stories for years to come.

# WHAT TO EXPECT

## ACTIVITY LEVEL

Takes into consideration the physical requirements for each of the trips, walking, hiking, climbing in and out of safari vehicles etc.

●●● *Moderate*

Travelers should be able to climb 60 stairs consecutively, plus walk at least 3 miles over some steep slopes and loose or uneven surfaces without difficulty. Walks typically last for 3 or more hours at a time. Altitude can range from 5,000 to 7,000 feet.

## PACING

Takes into consideration the length of bus rides, flights, number of destinations in the number of days

●● *Moderately Easy*

Moderately paced, and may include some early morning hotel departures, one or two on-tour flights, and extended motorcoach travel.

# BEFORE YOU GO

### Planning your trip

Your trip will be here before you know it! Here's some information specific to the destinations you'll be visiting to help you prepare for your journey.

### Travel Documentation

A passport is required for this trip. **Your passport must be valid for at least six months after the scheduled return date of your vacation.** Bring with you a photocopy of the pages of your passport that contain your personal information and extra passport photographs, or take a photo on your phone. These are useful in the event of loss.

### Passport and Visa

The following information applies to U.S. citizens only. Those traveling on other than a U.S. passport must

contact the embassies or consulates of the countries to be visited for further information and special requirements.

Country	Passport	Visa
United States	N	N
Bahamas	Y	N

Should the above requirements change, you will be notified in a mailing prior to departure. All visa, entry requirements, and fees are subject to change without advance notification by action of the government and port authorities. Vantage is not responsible for any additional charges resulting from such changes.

Please visit Generation Visa at [www.genvisa.com/vantage](http://www.genvisa.com/vantage) for up-to-date requirements and application fees.

**NOTE:** *Non-U.S. citizens or passport holders, it is your responsibility to contact your local embassy or consulate for requirements which will vary from above.*

### U.S. Customs Information

If you are traveling internationally, it is important to understand U.S. Customs regulations including required documents that are valid at least six months following your departure date, rules for bringing back items, and duty-free exemption. Please click the link below to visit the U.S. Customs website and read their helpful info, "Know Before You Go."

View "Know Before You Go"  
(*Link opens new browser window.*)

**Please Note:** This is a U.S. based itinerary operating under the jurisdiction of Jones Act. The Jones Act prohibits all ships of Non-U.S. registry from embarking and disembarking guests at two different U.S. ports. This means that guests are not permitted to permanently disembark this journey at a secondary U.S. port of their choice, as this would be a violation of the law. **Any guest who insists on disembarking the ship in a port which violates the Jones Act will be**

**responsible for any resulting penalties.** For more information on the Jones act, [click here](#).

### **Gratuities**

*We know that you'll want to reward great service, so we've included the following guidelines for gratuities:*

- **Now including gratuities for local guides and drivers**
- **Porterage:** Gratuities are included, except in Customs areas; porterage is included at hotels
- **Outside Dining:** Varies according to local customs; your Expedition Team will advise

### **Vantage Cruise Director, Concierge, Ship Staff & Crew:**

- A gratuity of \$20 per traveler, per day, will be pre-charged to your credit card and can be adjusted at the end of the cruise or modified to cash gratuities
- Shipboard gratuities are shared among the whole crew, including the Cruise Director and Concierge

### **Trip extension gratuities:**

Tips for City Hosts and/or Program Managers on trip extensions: \$5-7 per person per day

**Please note:** It is strongly recommended that you contact your credit card company and/or your bank to advise them that you will be traveling, and credit card charges will be posted from foreign countries. For onboard expenses, you may see charges from Cyprus, where our credit processing company is based.

### **Ship to Shore: The Vantage Safe Travel Initiative**

We've planned our journeys around memorable destinations and experiences with your health, safety, and security always in mind. Following guidance from the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, local foreign governments, and our partners from around the world, we're taking it to the next level. We've implemented vital health & safety assurances on all our journeys. Learn more about **Vantage's Safe Travel Initiative**.

### **Briefing sessions**

Prior to arriving at most ports, your Vantage Cruise Director will conduct an informative briefing concerning

the daily schedule, local customs, and the included features of the program. It is strongly advised that all tour members attend the briefings.

### **Vaccinations**

All travelers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 — including a booster shot — at least 14 days prior to the departure of their journey. Travelers will be required to show proof of vaccination displaying their name, date of doses, and vaccine type to embark. Travelers who cannot produce proof of vaccination will have to return home at their own expense.

### **Specific entry requirements for your chosen destination**

To ensure that you have a smooth travel experience, you will need to know the requirements for both your specific airline carrier and the country you'll arrive in prior to your departure. We've listed some considerations below to help you plan.

- Entry into most countries will require you to show proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test. For country-specific information about entry requirements and COVID-19 status, visit the U.S. Department's COVID-19 Country Specific Information page
- Vantage will facilitate onsite PCR tests for border crossings and re-entry into the United States
- We highly recommend that you contact your air carrier prior to departure to confirm what their requirements are for take-off and landing

At this time, further vaccinations are not required for your tour; however, we advise that you check with your personal physician to verify your particular needs. For more information on health related issues while traveling overseas, contact the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by visiting <http://www.cdc.gov/travel> or by calling toll-free 1 (800) 232-4636.

### **Onboard Internet Availability**

Internet connectivity may be limited or unavailable depending on ship location, signal availability and volume of onboard usage.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

## Money Matters

Country	Unit of Currency	
United States	US Dollar	Get Exchange Rate
Bahamas	Bahamian Dollar	Get Exchange Rate

### Bahama's Currency & Exchange Rate

The unit of currency in the Bahama is the Bahamian Dollar divided into 100 cents. Banknote and coin denominations are as follows:

- Banknotes:** \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100
- Coins:** \$1, \$20, 1c, 5c, 25c, 50c

## WHAT TO PACK

### What to Pack

You may find the packing information below helpful as you begin to prepare for your upcoming journey.

#### Electronic devices

Bring your iPad, Kindles, and/or smart phones. This way you will have access to city guides, post trip survey and trip information while on tour. This will also allow you to take pictures and communicate with friends and family easier.

#### Travel Light

Most travelers pack much more than they really need. We recommend that you start packing a few days before your trip, so you have time to remember everything that you need — and to decide what is essential and what is not. And don't forget to leave room for souvenirs and gifts you may purchase during your trip.

Besides the basic necessities and the items covered below, you'll want to pack sunglasses, a hat or visor, and sunscreen for daytime use. You might also want to bring a small alarm clock, pocket tissues, travel pack of soap powder, needle, thread, safety pins, and personal face cloth. In many countries, your washcloth is

considered to be of intimate usage and is not provided by hotels.

Depending on your destination, you may also want to bring insect repellent (we recommend repellent with a high "deet" content). Binoculars are also handy when traveling to areas where flora and fauna may be observed.

Some tours may also require an overnight bag for optional overnight excursions.

### Casual Dress

Dress on tour is generally casual and smart casual. Gentlemen may wish to bring a sport jacket. Formal clothing is not necessary, unless you are traveling on an ocean cruise that has formal nights or one of our popular President's trips. Jeans and shorts are not allowed in the dining room at dinner. Your travel wardrobe should be planned according to the climate of the areas you will be visiting and the length of your stay. Average high and low temperatures for the destinations visited listed under "Climate". A HELPFUL HINT — plan to avail yourself of the laundry services available at an additional fee.

### Warm Clothes

Weather is never predictable so be sure to be prepared for just about anything. You'll want to take along a sweater or jacket for cool evenings. It's a good idea to dress in layers, which will allow you to adjust to changes in temperature.

### Rain Gear

We suggest a practical raincoat or waterproof shell with a hood, and/or a fold-up umbrella. The shell could also be worn with other layers in lower temperatures.

### Good Walking Shoes

One of the most important items you'll need for any vacation is, of course, comfortable walking shoes for touring. We suggest you refrain from purchasing new walking shoes just prior to departure — it's best to wear a broken-in pair that you know are comfortable.

### Pool and Sauna Apparel

On many programs, accommodations will feature pools. So if you plan to use them, bring along a swimsuit, pool slippers, and a swimming cap.

### **Cameras and Film**

Be sure to test the working order of your camera before you leave home, and to insure your equipment against loss and damage. It is also important to take along an ample supply of film. Film can be expensive and specific kinds of film may not be available in certain areas. Some airport x-ray equipment may harm valuable film. For utmost protection, film should be packed separately in hand luggage. Also, be sure to bring at least one extra battery for your camera. If you are using a digital camera, check on how many images you can take on your memory card at the resolution you are using. You may wish to bring along an extra memory card so you will not run out of memory half way through the trip. Bring along the battery charger, but remember you may need a voltage converter. The alternative is to carry a spare charged battery with you.

### **Valuables**

Please remember that it is not wise to bring valuables with you when you travel. If you decide to do so, please carry them on your person when flying. Make sure to use hotel safe deposit boxes or safes to ensure the safety of possessions that you may want to have with you.

### **What to Leave Behind**

Do not pack aerosol cans; they tend to leak during air travel. Also avoid packing glass bottles; use plastic containers instead. Leave at home any credit cards and checkbooks that you don't anticipate using on your trip; valuable jewelry; brand-new shoes (instead pack your most comfortable walking shoes); and, in general, anything that you would hate to lose.

### **Electric Current**

If you wish to take along an electric iron, razor, or hair dryer, be sure they are adaptable to different currents, volts, and cycles. Most appliances will require an adapter plug and/or an electrical converter/transformer which are available for purchase at most department

stores or luggage shops. These kits are available for electrical settings in countries outside the United States.

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

### **Flight Information**

When planning your flights, Vantage considers each airline's reputation for quality, service, and routing options to the destination. Vantage selects flights that both serve our groups' needs and ensure the best balance of quality and cost. Our flight team members will do their utmost to select flights that will get you to your destination as quickly and easily as possible.

### **First and Business Class Airfare Upgrades**

Many of our programs offer first and/or Business Class upgrades, for more information, please visit our FlightChoice page.

Vantage encourages you to check current airport security regulations well in advance of travel, as rules may have changed since your last trip. For the latest information on airline security guidelines and boarding procedures, please visit the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) web site.

## **WHILE ON TOUR**

The information below applies in general to Vantage expedition cruises and small ship ocean cruises. Although everything is planned well in advance of your departure, the day-by-day itinerary is subject to change depending on local conditions. If any significant changes occur in advance of your departure, Vantage will notify you by phone or by mail. If changes occur while on your trip, your Vantage Cruise Director or local representative will notify you.

**Please note:** Ocean-cruising is not the same experience as river cruising; as such, you may experience fluctuating tides and weather patterns that may involve some rocking of your vessel. Itineraries will include all activities as planned except in extreme cases that can't be controlled by your shipboard crew.

### **Briefing sessions**

Prior to arriving at most ports, your Vantage Cruise Director will conduct an informative briefing concerning the daily schedule, local customs, and the included features of the program. It is strongly advised that all tour members attend the briefings.

### **Extending Your Trip**

Vantage offers specially arranged pre- and post-extensions on many of our expedition cruises and small ship ocean cruises. See specific expedition cruises and small ship ocean cruises for details.

Additionally, if you would like to do some exploring on your own, either before or after your cruise, Vantage can help arrange the details. In most cases, your flights can be adjusted for an earlier arrival date or a later return date. A non-refundable administrative fee will be assessed, plus any additional costs that may apply to the air ticket and hotel. Transfers to and from your hotel are not included when traveling independent of a Vantage group. Please ask a Vantage Sales Representative for additional details. Note also that some airline contracts may exclude changes to routing. NOTE: Should you wish to make any changes to your plans to extend your trip, please do so no later than 60 days prior to your scheduled date of departure. Change and cancellation penalties apply to changes made after airline tickets have been issued.

### **Your Health & Comfort**

Vantage wants you to have a safe, healthy, and happy journey. Our expedition cruises and small ship ocean cruises are planned to combine just the right amount of activity and leisure.

For personal medical attention while on your expedition cruise or small ship ocean cruise, your Vantage Cruise Director can refer you to reliable physicians in the cities on your tour.

Please note that Medicare and U.S health insurance are generally not accepted in foreign destinations. If you have an insurance claim, it should be made upon your return to the USA and filed through your health insurance provider or through the Vantage Travel Protection Plan if you have purchased it. Keep relevant receipts and doctors' reports for processing your claim.

### **Jet Lag Precautions**

When you cross several time zones to reach your destination, you often lose many hours of regular sleep.

Upon arrival your body must quickly adjust to new sleeping and eating patterns. The result is jet lag. Its symptoms may include fatigue, irritability, and vague disorientation. You cannot completely avoid jet lag but you can minimize it. Here's how:

- Try to sleep on overnight flights
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before - and during - your flight
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner

### **Pace of the Journey**

Vantage journeys are planned to provide a well-balanced mix of activities and free time. Certain journeys, however, may prove to be more challenging than others, particularly for passengers with physical limitations.

Passengers with physical difficulties or concerns about the pace of the travel program should contact their Vantage Customer Relations Representative for tips on which travel programs best suit their individual needs and abilities. See also Medical Issues, below.

### **Your Personal Safety**

Please keep in mind that in any tourist destination, you need to be aware of your surroundings. We recommend that you use a money protector that can be worn around your neck. Flashy jewelry should be left at home. Never place your camera or purse down, or hang it on the back of your chair. Although incidents of theft and pickpocketing while on tour are rare, it is important to be cautious and aware.

### **Medical Issues**

Click [here](#) to read important information about travelers with physical, emotional, or mental conditions that may require professional attention or the use of special equipment. "Medical Issues" information also appears in the "Tour Participation Agreement - Terms and Conditions" found on our website and printed on the back of your Vantage invoice.

### **Hotels**

If your Vantage journey includes a stay in a hotel, please note that Vantage makes every effort to reserve only hotels that offer well-appointed rooms and a convenient location. We remind you that quality of accommodations may vary from destination to

destination. Vantage strives to provide the best hotels available that meet our standards of quality.

### **How We Rate Our Hotels**

While some tour companies devise their own ratings systems (based on their particular standards), Vantage ranks hotels based on the industry-accepted classifications published by the Hotel & Travel Index—the travel industry standard.

**Deluxe/Moderate Deluxe \*\*\*\*\*** Outstanding accommodations in every way, offering superior service, facilities, and location.

**Superior First-Class \*\*\*\*+** Above average accommodations, with many special amenities, including more restaurants, shops, and usually a fitness center.

**First-Class/Moderate First-Class \*\*\*\*** Comfortable, well-equipped standard rooms with private bath and attractive public areas and amenities.

Please Note: In some areas where the hotels aren't rated, it's often due to the fact that the hotel may be too new, too remote, or too small. However, the hotel where you stay has been inspected and approved by Vantage personnel.

### **Religious Services**

At Vantage, we count individuals from all walks of life and all religious denominations among our customers. Although we do not offer religious services on our travel programs, services may be available in the cities and towns you visit while on tour. Your Vantage Cruise Director can advise you when religious services are available. Please keep in mind that not all religious denominations have a presence in every travel destination. We cannot guarantee the availability of religious services.

### **Shopping**

Shopping for local merchandise is always a part of the travel experience. We are aware that local guides do recommend shops on their tours. Always keep in mind that a purchase is between the buyer and the seller. Always keep receipts and credit card copies. Shipping should always include insurance in the event of breakage. Some credit cards such as American Express also include insurance protection for purchases, but it is best to check with your card issuer for any insurance that may be included when you use your card.

### **Sightseeing & Cultural Connections**

Vantage offers a variety of included sightseeing tours and special cultural events to enrich your travel experience and bring you "closer to the world." Our tours are specially designed for Vantage travelers. They let you feel the atmosphere, gain a cultural understanding, and become a part of the area you are visiting. They include all transportation and the services of expert local guides.

### **Optional Excursions**

Vantage makes every effort to provide the right balance of both included activities and time for exploring on your own. We've found, however, that many of our passengers prefer an additional guided activity in lieu of free time. For that reason, some of our expedition cruises and small ship ocean cruises may include a limited number of optional tours and activities, which you may choose to take at a moderate fee. In no case do we replace an included sightseeing tour with an optional tour. Optional tours are strictly voluntary, providing you with the opportunity to visit an attraction that you may not see otherwise.

### **Transfers**

If you have purchased your flights from Vantage, roundtrip transfers between the airport and your hotel or your cruise ship's pier are included. Vantage pre-arranges transfers either via a private transportation company and/or hotel airport shuttles.

If you have not purchased your airfare from Vantage, you may still purchase round-trip international airport transfers to and from your base tour ship or hotel for \$120 per person.

Otherwise, you will be responsible for arranging your own airport transfers. Bear in mind that hotel check-in times vary and, depending upon your flight arrival, your hotel may not be available for early check-in.

### **Travel Itinerary**

Each Vantage cruise tour is planned with two criteria in mind: It must be an interesting destination and the tour must offer good quality at an exceptional value. Although everything is planned well in advance of your departure, our ultimate goal is to ensure that each departure is enjoyable, interesting, and safe. Therefore, the day-by-day itinerary provided is subject to change depending upon local conditions. If any significant

changes occur in advance of your departure, Vantage will notify you by phone or by mail. If changes occur while on tour, your Vantage Cruise Director or local representative will notify you.

#### **Your Vantage Cruise Director**

During your expedition cruise or small ship ocean cruise, you'll be accompanied by an experienced, English-speaking Vantage Cruise Director. You will also benefit from the insights of Regional Expert guides. Both your Cruise Director and Regional Experts can give you suggestions on the best restaurants, shops, and local sights; help coordinate optional tours and excursions; and assist in any manner possible.

#### **Vantage Hospitality Desk**

For your convenience, a Vantage Hospitality Desk will be available during scheduled hours aboard your ship (staffed by an experienced team of local travel professionals or by your Vantage Cruise Director). The desk hours vary, depending on your daily scheduling. Tour members will be advised of the desk.

#### **Laundry Services**

Laundry and pressing services are available onboard for an additional fee.

View list of services and prices [here](#).