

BOOK #016

Choosing the Right Itinerary

Chapter 9 – Best Time to Cruise

The time of year you travel can have a significant impact on your cruise experience. Weather, crowds, pricing, wildlife, and special events all vary by season, making it important to choose the timing that best fits your vacation goals.

■ Spring

Spring is a wonderful time to cruise with mild temperatures, blooming landscapes, and fewer crowds in many destinations. It is especially popular for the Mediterranean and river cruises.

■■ Summer

Summer brings warm weather, school vacations, and peak travel season. It's the ideal time for Alaska cruises and family vacations but often comes with higher prices and larger crowds.

■ Fall

Fall can offer excellent cruise values and fewer travelers. It's a beautiful season for Canada & New England cruises and many European itineraries. Travelers should also be aware that Atlantic hurricane season runs from June through November, with peak activity typically occurring between August and October.

*■ Winter

Winter is perfect for escaping the cold with Caribbean cruises, Hawaii, and many Southern Hemisphere destinations. It's also the season for festive Christmas Market river cruises and holiday sailings.

Choosing the Best Time

Think about the weather you enjoy, your budget, school schedules, wildlife viewing opportunities, and any special events you hope to experience. Every season offers its own unique advantages.

■ Aimee's Travel Tip

There's no single 'best' time to cruise—only the best time for the experience you want. Whether you're chasing humpback whales in Alaska, colorful fall foliage, or sunny Caribbean beaches, I'll help you choose the season that's right for your dream vacation.