

TOP 80 CRUISE SHIPS IN THE WORLD

An impressive 13 million people boarded cruise ships last year, 70 percent of them Americans. This, our eleventh annual list of the very best passenger ships, reflects the votes of thousands of *Condé Nast Traveler* readers who participated in the annual Readers' Choice Survey. Here are your top-scoring ships in four categories, including—new this year—the finest in riverboats. Anchors aweigh!

Illustrations by
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Small Ships

Small ships carry fewer than 500 passengers

	★	→	▶	👤	🚪	🍴	🏠	✳️	👤
1 Seabourn Odyssey , Yachts of Seabourn	96.1	95.5	95.2	97.7	97.7	97.7	93.0	95.5	450
2 Seabourn Spirit , Yachts of Seabourn	94.0	96.4	92.7	97.8	96.4	96.4	86.1	92.0	208
➤ 3 Seabourn Legend , Yachts of Seabourn	93.4	97.4	85.8	100	93.0	99.1	85.2	93.0	208
4 Paul Gauguin , Paul Gauguin Cruises	90.7	95.7	88.9	95.7	87.7	92.0	86.3	89.0	332
5 Seabourn Pride , Yachts of Seabourn	90.0	93.1	82.0	96.1	94.1	95.1	80.2	89.1	208
6 Seven Seas Navigator , Regent Seven Seas Cruises	88.7	90.0	78.4	92.3	94.6	90.6	83.7	91.2	490
7 Silver Whisper , Silversea	87.9	93.0	80.0	91.8	91.2	86.6	81.3	91.2	382
8 SeaDream II , SeaDream Yacht Club	87.8	92.4	79.2	97.5	82.3	92.4	83.5	87.2	112
9 Silver Cloud , Silversea	87.0	93.6	77.6	94.9	92.9	90.4	73.9	85.5	296
9 Silver Shadow , Silversea	87.0	90.9	77.1	91.6	95.2	88.6	76.5	89.1	382
11 SeaDream I , SeaDream Yacht Club	85.4	91.2	73.2	91.2	75.4	91.2	85.7	89.5	112
11 Wind Spirit , Windstar	85.4	92.6	81.5	95.4	77.8	89.7	75.7	84.8	148
13 Wind Star , Windstar	84.4	93.8	80.1	91.5	79.6	87.9	75.4	82.3	148
14 Silver Wind , Silversea	84.2	92.5	73.3	90.2	85.0	91.0	72.7	84.7	296
15 National Geographic Endeavour , Lindblad Expeditions	84.0	95.9	98.0	95.9	59.2	73.5	87.8	77.6	96
16 Wind Surf , Windstar	83.3	91.3	71.2	92.6	83.1	86.8	72.5	85.3	312
17 Celebrity Xpedition , Celebrity	81.7	90.5	76.6	90.1	78.5	79.0	77.1	80.3	90
17 Royal Clipper , Star Clippers	81.7	84.5	69.6	87.7	80.7	82.5	80.7	86.0	227
19 Star Flyer , Star Clippers	79.6	96.6	77.8	89.7	69.0	79.3	69.0	75.9	170
20 Nordnorge , Hurtigruten	77.7	89.7	79.3	86.2	72.4	75.9	62.1	78.6	457

Bold-faced scores are the highest for their criterion.

★ Overall Score → Itineraries/Schedule ▶ Shore Excursions 👤 Crew/Service 🚪 Cabins 🍴 Food/Dining 🏠 Activities/Facilities ✳️ Design/Layout 👤 Passengers

Galley Tally

Numbers don't come more mouth-watering than this: The highest score for food/dining on any of 2011's top cruise ships is 99.1, and it belongs to the **Seabourn Legend**. The only question might be, why not the **Seabourn Odyssey**, or **Spirit**, or **Pride**? The answer is, they weren't far off (all three have dining scores above 95). The menus handed to guests on the Yachts of Seabourn were created by one of America's most famous chefs, Charlie Palmer. Think crispy foie gras with a splash of port wine.

HIGH SCORE

91.7

Crew/service has the highest overall average of all component scores. Your wish is their command.



The Class of 2011

Twelve ships debut on the lists this year, representing eight different cruise lines. The top rated of these? The **Seabourn Odyssey**, at 96.1—a score that also happens to be the highest of any ship this year. Princess Cruises adds four Princesses to the list, the **Grand**, the **Diamond**, the **Star**—all mega-size, and all capable of carrying about 2,600 passengers—and the **Island**, with a capacity of 1,970. The other seven debuts: **Amadagio**, **Celebrity Equinox**, **River Beatrice**, **Star Flyer**, **Oasis of the Seas**, **Serenade of the Seas**, and Hurtigruten's **Nordnorge**.

Perfect Provence

The only ship to achieve more than one perfect score this year, Grand Circle's 46-passenger **Provence** earns 100s for itineraries/schedule and crew/service. You may wonder about the former, if only the plural, because the **Provence** has just one itinerary: From March through November, she can be found drifting through the villages and vineyards of the Rhône Valley, from Burgundy to the Côte d'Azur and back again.

River Ships

A cruise poll first—ships that sail the rivers of the world

	★	→	▶	👤	🚪	🍴	🏠	✳️	👤
1 River Beatrice , Uniworld River Cruises	94.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	93.3	96.7	90.0	93.1	160
2 River Duchess , Uniworld River Cruises	93.2	96.2	90.6	96.2	88.7	96.2	86.8	98.1	134
3 River Concerto , Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises	92.2	98.2	90.9	98.2	83.6	94.4	87.3	92.6	140
➤ 4 Provence , Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises	91.4	100	96.0	100	80.0	92.0	84.0	88.0	46
5 River Countess , Uniworld River Cruises	91.0	96.3	93.8	97.5	86.4	92.6	81.5	88.9	134
6 River Queen , Uniworld River Cruises	90.9	95.6	91.0	97.1	83.8	92.6	86.8	89.7	132
7 Viking Neptune , Viking River Cruises	89.9	95.7	94.3	96.9	87.0	87.5	78.8	89.3	150
8 River Baroness , Uniworld River Cruises	89.3	94.7	91.6	95.8	78.7	92.6	84.0	87.1	128
9 Chardonnay , Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises	88.9	96.6	90.0	96.7	86.7	86.7	85.7	80.0	46
10 River Harmony , Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises	88.7	95.5	94.0	95.5	76.1	88.1	86.6	84.6	140
11 River Aria , Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises	88.6	97.1	91.2	92.6	79.1	88.2	85.1	86.8	164
12 River Royale , Uniworld River Cruises	88.5	93.5	92.3	93.5	87.0	85.9	79.3	88.0	132
13 Viking Legend , Viking River Cruises	87.5	93.2	91.8	92.5	80.1	84.9	82.5	87.6	189
14 Viking Century Sun , Viking River Cruises	87.4	96.2	95.0	96.6	82.4	77.1	80.3	84.3	306
15 Viking Spirit , Viking River Cruises	87.0	95.0	90.6	94.5	82.3	85.1	77.1	84.4	150
16 River Adagio , Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises	86.6	89.7	87.4	89.7	80.2	87.2	84.7	87.2	164
16 Viking Pride , Viking River Cruises	86.6	94.9	91.8	93.9	85.4	82.7	74.7	82.3	150
18 Amadagio , AMA Waterways	86.3	91.0	86.6	90.9	89.6	85.1	76.1	84.8	150
19 Bizet , Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises	86.1	93.3	86.7	93.3	76.7	86.7	79.7	86.4	120
19 River Princess , Uniworld River Cruises	86.1	94.6	94.5	92.9	85.7	83.9	74.5	76.4	132

Bold-faced scores are the highest for their criterion.

★ Overall Score → Itineraries/Schedule ▶ Shore Excursions 👤 Crew/Service 🚪 Cabins 🍴 Food/Dining 🏠 Activities/Facilities ✳️ Design/Layout 👤 Passengers

Large Ships

Large ships carry between 500 and 2,500 passengers

	★	➔	▶	👤	🚪	🍴	🏠	✳️	👤
1 Seven Seas Voyager , Regent Seven Seas Cruises	93.4	96.3	84.9	98.0	95.7	95.7	88.6	94.5	700
2 Crystal Serenity , Crystal Cruises	92.6	93.2	87.8	96.0	87.7	95.1	92.9	95.4	1,070
3 Crystal Symphony , Crystal Cruises	91.9	93.5	87.7	94.9	88.8	93.5	91.6	93.4	922
4 Seven Seas Mariner , Regent Seven Seas Cruises	91.1	94.2	82.9	94.4	94.7	91.9	88.5	91.5	700
5 Queen Victoria , Cunard	90.2	93.0	86.8	90.0	83.1	90.1	94.3	94.4	2,000
6 Regatta , Oceania Cruises	87.2	93.9	64.9	93.4	90.9	95.8	78.6	92.4	684
7 Insignia , Oceania Cruises	87.1	96.0	70.4	93.6	87.7	93.8	77.8	90.3	684
8 Prinsendam , Holland America	86.3	96.3	80.6	92.2	82.9	91.3	79.2	81.6	835
9 Eurodam , Holland America	85.9	88.1	70.2	93.5	89.2	91.9	83.7	83.7	2,104
10 Nautica , Oceania Cruises	85.4	94.9	67.7	92.9	86.6	92.9	74.9	87.1	684
11 Celebrity Summit , Celebrity	84.6	90.1	76.7	90.4	83.4	83.7	80.5	87.1	2,034
12 Coral Princess , Princess	84.4	90.1	78.9	87.5	85.9	82.0	81.8	84.6	1,970
13 Amsterdam , Holland America	84.3	89.5	77.8	89.5	84.1	83.6	81.3	84.2	1,380
14 Celebrity Constellation , Celebrity	83.9	91.3	74.7	88.7	83.5	83.6	80.3	84.5	2,034
15 Noordam , Holland America	83.2	88.6	72.5	90.2	82.2	83.5	80.0	84.7	1,918
16 Rotterdam , Holland America	82.7	90.2	76.2	88.2	82.2	83.8	77.5	80.3	1,404
17 Veendam , Holland America	82.4	87.6	75.7	85.0	82.9	82.4	78.9	84.2	1,350
18 Westerdam , Holland America	82.3	88.0	72.3	88.5	85.0	82.1	77.5	82.3	1,916
19 Island Princess , Princess	82.2	89.1	76.8	86.3	80.9	80.9	79.6	81.4	1,970
20 Volendam , Holland America	81.6	90.0	75.8	87.7	80.8	80.6	76.4	79.8	1,432

Bold-faced scores are the highest for their criterion.

- ★ Overall Score
- ➔ Itineraries/Schedule
- ▶ Shore Excursions
- 👤 Crew/Service
- 🚪 Cabins
- 🍴 Food/Dining
- 🏠 Activities/Facilities
- ✳️ Design/Layout
- 👤 Passengers

Mega Ships

Mega ships carry more than 2,500 passengers

	★	➔	▶	👤	🚪	🍴	🏠	✳️	👤
1 Disney Magic , Disney	91.0	90.4	84.2	96.1	90.4	86.1	94.7	94.7	2,400
2 Disney Wonder , Disney	89.6	86.9	80.6	96.0	92.2	83.9	92.9	94.6	2,400
3 Celebrity Solstice , Celebrity	88.2	89.3	73.2	92.9	93.7	86.2	86.5	94.1	2,850
4 Celebrity Equinox , Celebrity	87.7	89.2	70.0	93.2	93.2	87.8	87.8	91.9	2,850
5 Independence of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	84.2	88.4	79.7	82.6	86.0	77.9	84.9	89.4	3,634
6 Serenade of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	83.8	90.2	79.8	89.7	79.4	76.9	83.6	86.9	2,501
7 Sapphire Princess , Princess	83.5	89.7	79.5	86.8	83.4	79.8	81.4	83.8	2,670
8 Queen Mary 2 , Cunard	82.6	86.8	72.4	83.2	84.9	81.4	83.8	84.1	2,620
9 Ruby Princess , Princess	82.1	90.2	77.5	86.7	84.4	73.3	77.4	84.3	3,150
➔ 10 Oasis of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	82.0	66.7	67.1	88.2	82.8	81.7	91.4	92.5	5,400
11 Adventure of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	81.3	89.1	78.1	83.9	77.3	74.8	82.5	83.6	3,114
12 Emerald Princess , Princess	81.1	90.1	75.2	86.2	82.2	74.0	78.3	81.5	3,080
12 Mariner of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	81.1	82.9	71.5	86.4	80.3	78.4	83.0	84.8	3,114
14 Liberty of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	80.9	80.2	76.3	84.6	80.3	74.7	85.0	85.1	3,634
15 Diamond Princess , Princess	80.2	88.5	75.6	85.2	79.0	74.5	78.8	79.7	2,670
16 Crown Princess , Princess	79.4	87.5	72.2	83.8	80.8	75.5	77.0	78.4	3,080
16 Grand Princess , Princess	79.4	87.3	71.9	82.6	78.8	77.6	78.1	79.6	2,594
18 Navigator of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	79.3	81.5	71.7	84.4	78.7	70.4	83.1	84.6	3,114
19 Freedom of the Seas , Royal Caribbean	79.1	82.7	73.4	82.7	76.6	73.3	81.5	83.3	3,634
20 Star Princess , Princess	78.9	86.2	72.8	83.5	77.1	74.1	78.4	80.3	2,600

Bold-faced scores are the highest for their criterion.

- ★ Overall Score
- ➔ Itineraries/Schedule
- ▶ Shore Excursions
- 👤 Crew/Service
- 🚪 Cabins
- 🍴 Food/Dining
- 🏠 Activities/Facilities
- ✳️ Design/Layout
- 👤 Passengers

"LOW" SCORE

81.4

Shore excursions has the lowest overall average of all component scores—if you can call 81.4 low.



Rapt at Sea, Wrapped in Seaweed

This year, nine ships earn scores above 90 for their spa treatments, with or without kelp cocoon: the **Crystal Serenity** and the **Crystal Symphony**, the **Disney Wonder**, the **Eurodam**, the **Liberty of the Seas**, the **Seabourn Legend**, Oceania's **Regatta**, the **Silver Shadow**, and the **SeaDream II**.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS

1,218

Covering all 80 ships in the poll.

Liberty of the Seas + Volendam + Paul Gauguin Equals...

The math is absurd, of course, but if you added the passenger capacities of those three ships—one mega, one large, and one small—you still wouldn't fill the **Oasis of the Seas**, which has a capacity of 5,400. The **Oasis** was joined in December by her equally enormous sister, the **Allure of the Seas**. Together, they could carry the entire population of Ojai, California, and Coopers-town, New York.

METHODOLOGY

Condé Nast Traveler readers rated 377 cruise ships on a 100-point scale. Only ships that received a required minimum number of responses were eligible to be included in these rankings. Each ship was judged on seven criteria:

- Activities/Facilities
- Cabins
- Crew/Service
- Design/Layout
- Food/Dining
- Itineraries/Schedule
- Shore Excursions