

Traditionally cruise lines have always reached out specifically for seniors, primarily because they've been the major source for customers in the cruise industry. That hasn't changed, even now that the world's in an economic downturn which seriously affects the entire tourist industry. If there's any positive aspect to this uncertain era it is that, more than ever, seniors living on pensions and steady investments may still have the money and desire to buy cruise vacations. In this Spring and Summer season, seniors considering cruises may see the best bargains in decades.



There are hundreds of choices for cruise destinations, and it is worthwhile to study them all to find the best deals. However, there are some that seniors may want to avoid. For instance, the Disney Line is one of the best, but obviously its cruises are designed for families with little kids.

So, if you don't want enthusiastic little people running all over the ship and getting underfoot, forget Disney. Some ship lines offer special theme and social group cruises, such as recent ones Rosie O'Donnell and others have booked for non-traditional gay and lesbian families. They have features to include everyone from toddlers to grandparents to sail with their families. If that's your situation, you may want to participate with people with similar lifestyles.

There's also the Windjammer line and others like it with old-fashioned sailing features that attract the younger, fit, physically venturesome traveler. They're not for slowed-down 80-year-olds who can't join in on the vigorous activities. Some cruise lines specialize in attracting young lovers, honeymooners and guy-gal sex-oriented and same-sex-oriented cruises. You don't have to be young to book one of those cruises, but if you go aboard, you'd need to think and maybe act young in order to join in on the activities.

Of course, if you travel on any cruise other than those specialized ones, much of sea travel features are still designed to appeal to seniors. The economic fact that most cruise schedules are geared to seniors is simply that older people, especially those who are retired, have the spare time and money to indulge in cruising, both luxury and economy types.

Seniors are already much more relaxed and patient in their lifestyles than on-the-go younger people and families. It doesn't take much, just a little fun and luxury, to make senior passengers happy. And that's what cruise ships provide in leaps and bounds.

Cruises are the ultimate, no-hassle vacation. After the rushing and inconvenience of flying to the

ports, once passengers are aboard the ship, everything is catered to them and within steps away. The entire cruise, day and night, becomes relaxing and total enjoyment.

Seniors who don't get around well anymore can enjoy cruises. When we've cruised, we've seen many seniors aboard who were physically challenged, and throughout their voyage, they get assisted access to everything, including comfortable quarters, dining, entertainment, poolside lounging and everything else within moments of leaving their cabins.

Cruise lines continue to put forth their greatest efforts to attract seniors, and once passengers are aboard, the cruise lines usually live up to their advertised promises of exciting and enjoyable voyages. Check the internet for sites that specialize in senior cruising, or consult your friendly neighborhood travel agent.