

Travel



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In summertime, the cruising is easy

MOST OF US think of going cruising in the winter, when the cold weather grips Michigan and sun-sea-sand are the primary words of balmy seas. You might be surprised to know how much is going on at sea during the summer.

The luxury liners from the Caribbean are already on their way to Europe, and those that serve the Mexican coast in the winter months are scrubbing their decks for summer tours of the Inside Passage and Alaska.

There is a lot of adventure available for your travel dollar out there, too, from a six-week cruise through the Northwest Passage to a summer trip on one of our domestic lines.

THE S.S. Norway, the biggest cruise ship afloat, leaves the Caribbean this year for a series of summer and fall cruises in Europe. It's a bit like going home, because the Norway was born in 1961 as the S.S. France. Norwegian Caribbean Lines put her into Caribbean service in 1980.

She is 1,035 feet long and displaces 70,202 tons, compared to her nearest size-rival, the Queen Elizabeth II, which is 963 feet long and displaces 67,107 tons. Both are expensive ships to fuel and float.

The Norway will sail across the Atlantic from Philadelphia to Southampton July 18-26 and return across the Atlantic from Southampton to Miami Sept. 24 to Oct. 5, with several cruises in between.

A 14-day voyage out of Amsterdam July 26 through Aug. 11 will take passengers into the Norwegian fjords and to the land of the midnight sun around North Cape.

Several one-week cruises will follow, to the fjords, or to the great cities of northern Europe. They can be taken as individual tours or as a three-week Grand Tour.

THE M.S. VISTAFJORD is already in Europe and will stay there, cruising the Mediterranean, the Baltic, Russia, North Cape, Iceland and Spitzbergen until Nov. 4.

This year, it introduces a two-week British Isles tour and a one-week sailing between Genoa and Venice. Both



the Vistafjord and her sister ship, the M.S. Sagafjord — which cruises through the Panama Canal, up the Inside Passage and to the Orient, had expensive face lifts this year.

SEAMAR CRUISES has news this summer, too. A new ship, the Fairway, carries her first passengers this spring to the Mexican Riviera. The 38,000-ton ship will be based in Los Angeles most of the year, sailing seven-, 10- and 11-day cruises to Mexico.

During the summer, she will sail to Alaska. On eight 14-day cruises, she will take the Inside Pass to Alaska from June 2 through Sept. 8.

I haven't seen the Fairway, but Seamar promotes it as a ship with uncommonly large standard cabins. If any of you go aboard her before I do, let me know whether that's true. The June 16 and Aug. 11 cruises will go north as far as

the Columbia Glacier, the largest glacier in Alaska.

The ships I have discussed so far are big ships. They attract passengers because of their luxury and size, as well as the many facilities and events that size permits. There is another kind of cruise experience, however, in which small groups of people find their adventure in a common interest.

THE SEA Goddess I makes her maiden voyage on the Mediterranean this year, with advance publicity highlighting her small size and luxury. She goes into smaller ports with names like Puerto Banus, St. Maxime, Porto Vecchio, Troina, Kusadisi and Sorrento. Air France is selling several air/sea/land packages on that one.

Safen Lindblad Cruising has 20 adventure cruise expeditions aboard the Explorer and Polarix between now and

September. They offer unusual trips to foreign destinations, two of which are "firsts" in the cruise industry.

The Explorer will sail from Africa to Newfoundland on a 16-day cruise starting Aug. 7, and from Newfoundland through the Northwest Passage to Japan on a 43-day adventure Aug. 19.

There is a lot of adventure available for your travel dollar out there, from a six-week cruise through the Northwest Passage to a short summer trip.



1-of-a-kind traveler
Iris Jones
contributing travel editor



PHOTOS/AMICKY JONES

Rhine Line during the fall grape harvest along the Moselle and Rhine rivers in Germany.

The seven-day cruises begin in Rotterdam Sept. 21 and Oct. 14. You can also sail the Rhine all summer, as thousands of satisfied travelers have done before you.

Of course, people do still go to the Caribbean, even when it is warm at home, so check the schedules of cruise lines out of Florida if you prefer the southern sun to what we have here at home.

And if you would like to see a little of your own country from the deck of a cruise ship, ask your travel agent about American Cruise Lines or Clipper Cruise Line, both of which sail small ships along the east coast of the United States. The Mississippi Queen paddles up the Mississippi just as if Mark Twain was aboard.

Auto-theme wonderland will open in Flint



William Andrews stands next to one of the clocks in the Time Museum.

Six Flags AutoWorld, a new concept in theme parks, will debut in Flint July 4.

The \$70-million complex will have 300,000 square feet of attractions and be the largest indoor entertainment complex in the world.

Its interconnected complex of three buildings includes a 70-foot-high, geodesic-type, football-field-sized dome which will house two lavishly landscaped historic Flint streets.

The dome will serve as an entrance to the buildings of the complex.

The AutoWorld theme is the auto world. Flint, the site of several auto plants, played a historic role in the development of the auto industry.

Attractions include "total involvement" rides with animated characters, special effects shows, million-dollar computerized educational exhibits, theme restaurants and discotheques.

The restaurants will offer meals from a leisurely sit-down dinner to fast-service sandwiches at booths.

Visitors will be able to participate in many exhibits, to experience automotive technology.

Emphasis on visitor participation carries over into many rides.

The "Great Race" is a four-minute ride which involves using a dazzling array of special video effects including 3-D slides and films, special sets and musical sound and lighting.

The rider is buckled into a racing machine so that he or she can almost feel the exhilaration of bearing down the straightaway of the Indy 500, climbing Pike's Peak in Colorado, crashing through a demolition derby, screaming through the road course in the Grand Prix at Monaco, and making hair-pin turns as the crowd cheers.

UNDER THE AutoWorld dome, visitors will find

reproductions of historic Flint buildings, a flowing river complete with working water wheel, old trade shops and restaurants.

Life-size creations will show the evolution of Flint from a fur-trading and lumbering center to a carriage-making town and finally to an auto manufacturing city.

Replicas include the cabin of Jacob Smith, the area's first trader.

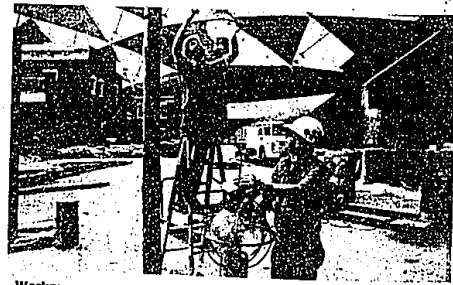
The "Auto Show" section of the exhibit includes 21 carefully-selected vintage cars highlighted by special effects, theatrical lighting and animation.

One of the most spectacular exhibits is the giant three-story working model of an automobile engine. It will be housed in the Rotunda, a building designed to showcase scientific and technical advancements in the auto industry.

VISITORS will ride on a moving musical sidewalk past animated and specially lighted recreations of various stages of auto assembly lines. The exhibit scenes range from an early crude workshop to a vision of a highly-automated car factory.

The complex will include the IMAX Cinema, which will show film on a screen six stories high and 75 feet wide. The film "Speed" will show the history of man's fascination with fast motion.

Admission charge to the AutoWorld will be \$2.95. Admission will include all exhibits and rides. The sponsors believe the average tour through the exhibit will take four to five hours to fully enjoy.



Workmen prepare one of the attractions inside the new year-around \$70-million Six Flags AutoWorld to open in Flint in July.

If you've time

You moved your clocks ahead last weekend, and chances are you forgot at least one time piece in the process, probably the clock on your stove. Put yourself in the place of William Andrews, curator of the Time Museum in Rockford, Illinois; he had to change the 3,000 clocks in the museum's collection.

If you are driving west this summer, the Time Museum is 40 minutes drive from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, at the intersection of I-90 and Business Route 26. It's open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends closed Mondays.

Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.50 for senior citizens and students, 50 cents for children. It is located in the Clock Tower Inn and Resort, so if time turns you on, you can eat or sleep while you're exploring.

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