Travel



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Disney promotes family cruises

A Cruiser's diary from the Starskip Rojule:
It is noon on Tuesday and we are pulling into the cruise docks at Nasau. Bahamas. The cruise ships Emerald Sea, Sunward Two and Mardi Gras are all here, their high-mast lines rising above the carved roof-tops of the town. The most visible ship at Prince George's Wharf, however, is the bright red Starship Oceanic, bigger sister ship to the Starship Royale, which is our home for this four-day trip. The tugboat nudging the Royale closer and closer to the dock is apropriately called "Grouper," the fish caten on all 700 of these Baham in Islands and most Islands of the Caribbean.

The Oceanic and the Royale are

ian Islands and most Islands of the Caribbean.

The Oceanic and the Royale are the two crues ships of Premier Cruise Lines, founded by two former executives of Norwegian Caribbean Lines during the slump of the early 1980's and now a subsidiary of the Greyhound Corporation. Premier doesn't offer any exotic timeraries, just three and four day cruises every week from Port Canaveral, Fla., to Nassau and back. Both ships follow identical tituraries.

The four-day cruise starts Monday afternoon. The ships sail overnight to Nassau, include a day at play on Sait Cay, spend one full day at sea and return to Port Canaveral Flow ording the Canaveral Prior to Sait Cay, spend one full day at sea and return to Port Canaveral Prior to Sait Cay, spend one full day at sea and return to Port Canaveral Prior to Monday morning. The three-day cruise the day at sea, and is home Monday morning the three-day cruise the day at sea, and is home Monday morning in the following the day and is home Monday morning in the said the said of the said that the following the said that the said that



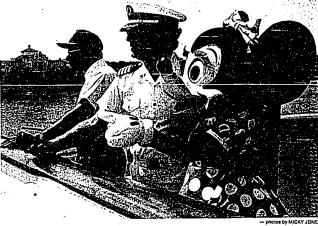
Mouse and her Irlends also are aboard. To understand what that means to a cruise line, consider these numbers — 2.5 million people a year take cruises out of American ports; 13 million people a year take cruises out of American ports; 13 million people a year go to Walt Disney World.

This connection certainly provides one of the best deals in the cruise market for those who are the right customers for Premier, especially cruise, which starts at \$495 a person double occupancy, Includes three days at Walt Disney World, three days at Walt Disney World, three days hetel accommodation in Orlando, and a rental car for the week.

This means you can fly to Orlando (the cruise line offers round trip lights from Dertoit for \$185 but you might do better) pick up a car, go to with the country of the person of the orlando airport after the ship docks. If you buy this package before Dec. 19, you can add two free nights in an occamiront hotel and keep the car for 10 days.

I noticed that Carnival Cruise Lines also offers a cruise and three days at Walt Disney World for a very low price, so check it out.

These rock-bottom prices get you the least expensive room, which might be a room, on a lover deck, with two single beds and pul-outper bunks for another two people. It might also be a small cable with a queen-sized bed on a ligher deck. About \$650-700 will get you a spin a spin cable, and spin cable, prices go as high as \$950 cable, prices go as \$100 cable, prices g



Minnie Mouse helps the captain of the Royale bring the cruise ship into Nassau harbor.

This is our one full day at sea, so the casinos and shops are open early, and a lot of shipboard activities are listed on the daily newsletter slipped under our cabin doors. There is shuf-decard on the Bridge Deck, a children's masquerade in the afternoon and an adult masquerade at night.

There is entertainment every might. The main dinner seating starts at 6, the late seating at 8:15, so a show in Club Universe follows each seating. On our cruise it was Kalpin and Valerie Matrino on Monday inght, and our cruise it was Kalpin and Valerie Matrino on Monday because of the Nassau shows, Little Anthony

Wednesday night and the masquerwed Thursday night.

You also can attend regular movles, dance or disco, sing at the plano
bar, and otherwise amuse yourself
aboard.

Inevitably, you find yourself at the
final gala dinner. The waiters have
finished singing "America the Beatiful." I faming bakee Admentionhand, balloons bursting, applause,
horas blowing. It all sounds easy
enough until you remember than the
waiters are from the Philipplines,
Mexico, Honduras etc. and none of

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(Top)Passengers ride to shore for a day in the sun as the Royale lies anchored off the Bahama island of Salt Cay. (Bottom) if you want to spend a day on an uninhabited Bahama Island, it's on the agenda for Premier Cruise ship passengers



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Making good cruise decisions

Here are some tips on how to make good cruising decisions. Pick the right ship by comparing various cruise lines for lineary, price and cruising style. Whether you want a very casual or a very population of the property of

THE OCEANIC was the old Frederico C of Home Lines. It was returnished and introduced by Premier in April, 1986. The Oceanic is twice the size of the Royale: 40,000 tons, 74 feet long, with a total passenger capicity of 1,500 and a double occupancy capacity of 1,500 and a double occupancy capacity of 1,500 and a found the company of 1,100. Twice the size, but not twice the number of passengers, which means the public rooms are bigger. Cabins are only slightly larger, although the

In choosing cabins, passengers generally find the prices are higher as the deck gets higher.

least expensive rooms are higger than on the Royale.

I personally would pick the Oceanie personally would pick the Oceanie personally would pick the Oceanie personally supported that the second may have better nightly entertainment. The Royale featured Little Anthony on night the Oceanic had the Fifth Dimension. On the other hand, some people prefer the intimacy of the Royale.

CABIN CHOICE: Prices generally are higher as the deck gets higher. We were in P31 on Promenade deck, which had two narrow single bets against opposite walls, a three-foot-wide passage between and another four-foot-wide passage leading to the closets and bathroom. That was C Class, porthele to promenade deck, and costs \$695 on the supervalue season package I described; \$795 off season and \$335 in season. Your travel agent will give

season. Your travel agent will give you a booklet containing all that

info.

They refurbish some cabins each year, and newer ones have queensized beds. The \$495 cabins are inside, no porthole, usually on lower decks, although P37 and P38 on my decks, although P37 and P38 on my deck were small cabins with queen beds, a three-foot wide passage, the usual bathroom and a bunk that pulls down if you bring another person. Some people reason that all they do is sleep in the cabin anyway, all the

other public facilities, activities, meals, etc. are the same for every-

one.

These are not luxury ships, so they are not luxury cabins. The one lowest-fare inside cabin I saw on the Oceanic was as large as our cabin, had two narrow beds against the walls, the usual bunks that pull down

from the wall and more walking space than we had on the Hoyale. Higher-priced rooms were not neces-sarily much larger on the Oceanic.

THE PIREMER starships are family ships, so there may be as many as 400 children on the Oceanic in season. Your children will be supervised much of the time, but don't assume that you won't have to care for them during large blocks of the day, especially off-season. Finally, do you pick a three or four day cruise. The four-day attracts families and slightly older passengers.



Come join us Thursday evening, Nov. 6, as representatives from Royal Caribbean, NCL, and American Hawaii Cruises preview the exolic ports and shoreside excursions in store for the 1987 ocean cruising season.

Loarn about cruise accommodations, what to wear, and

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