

## Travelling by Sea

Many people enjoy travelling by sea. They say it is the most *pleasant* means of travelling. They mean travelling by an ocean liner, which combines *comfort and speed*. You feel as if you are walking on good solid ground when on board the big liner. You can *enjoy fresh sea air, the sights of the sea and the sky*. No matter what the sea might be — calm or stormy, you feel *comfortable and safe* on board the big liner. But smaller ships are less comfortable, and in rough seas many passengers will be most unhappy. They get sea-sick, and then travelling by sea becomes a real torture for them.

If you have made up your mind to travel by sea you should book passage on board a modern liner. These liners are *real floating cities* with *all modern conveniences* and a wide choice of *sport and entertainment facilities*. Every modern liner has *a number of decks* with all sort of names, such as "promenade deck", "sun deck", etc. There are passenger cabins above and below deck. A cabin looks very much like a compartment of a railroad sleeping-car, but the windows are different. In a cabin they are known as portholes.

You needn't worry about your meals on board the modern liner. *Restaurants* will take care of you. In short, if you are not sea-sick the voyage will give you many moments of pleasure.

## Travelling by Sea

Human beings are very inquisitive and like discovering different places. That is why people all over the world like to travel around the globe. It is not so interesting for them to see the world on TV today. It is precious to see it by their own.

And when people come to beautiful beaches and sparkling blue waters, they understand it is really the amazing thing they wanted to see. There are *countless adventures* within reach on cruise vacation. There are many cruise companies in the world, and each of these companies can provide you a qualified service.

During the cruise people live in *comfortable cabins*. During sea days when a cruise liner is in the open sea, people can *take sunbathes, swim in the swimming pools, play fools in the slide or promenade* around the ship visiting different decks. You can rent a cabin for two, four, six persons.

Cruise companies offer different tours during which you can discover the inhabitants of a coral reef on a glass-bottomed boat, go horseback riding on the beach, go mountain biking rain forests, explore ancient civilizations as you climb mysterious pyramids or snorkel (трубка для подвод. плав.) with stingrays(скат) and dive 800 feet down in a research submarine. *Days onboard are casual but full of joy and new impressions*. But don't forget your camera and binoculars, so you don't miss a thing.

Adventures are endless in this area. People can relax on a cruise surrounded by the white-sand beaches and beautiful turquoise (бирюзовый) waters of the most beautiful islands on the earth, find and visit tropical places where nature brings striking mountains and pristine (чистый, нетронутый) beaches.

Such islands are home to rich culture and complex histories. There are archaic ruins, beaches, rain forests and many waterfalls. Here you can find new friends and buy a lot of souvenirs.

## Top 10 Reasons to Travel by Train

Long an under-appreciated part of the U.S. travel scene, train travel is making a comeback. Amtrak ferried 31.2 million passengers around the country in fiscal year 2012, an all-time record for the railroad. With the economy still slumping, train travel is looking increasingly attractive to budget-conscious travelers. Plus, a scenic train ride can even be a vacation in itself. Need more reasons to take the train? You've come to the right place.

### ★ 1. Money Savings

Trains are an increasingly cost-effective alternative to planes, particularly if you're going a relatively short distance or if you're traveling in the busy Northeast Corridor, where train service is fast and frequent.

In a recent search, we found a low airfare of \$120 roundtrip for an upcoming flight from New York to Washington D.C.; on the train, the price was just \$98 roundtrip. We saw an even more dramatic price differential on a trip from New York to Montreal: \$321 roundtrip by air versus just \$126 on the train. In both instances the train ride was longer than the corresponding flight, but for travelers looking to cut costs, the train wins out -- and you'll get to see some scenery along the way.

### ★ 2. Stable Fares

Anyone who's agonized over when to purchase airfare knows how arcane and frustrating the airlines' pricing structures can be. (We're still waiting for a logical explanation of why a [one-way ticket](#) often costs so much more than a round trip. Anyone? Anyone?) Train fares tend to be the same day after day on any particular route, whether it's Monday or Saturday, April or August, two months in advance or two days before departure. While some increases may occur (particularly at peak times or over the holidays) and occasional sales may be available, you can usually count on the stability of train fares, even at the last minute.

### ★ 3. Flexibility

Except on long-haul or infrequently traveled routes, trains tend to offer travelers a great deal of flexibility. Missed the 10 a.m. train? Just catch the 10:30 or 11 a.m. train instead. Most short trips do not require prior reservations, and you can simply show up at the station the day of your trip and grab a ticket for the next train -- without paying an exorbitant last-minute fare.

### ★ 4. More Baggage...

These days, nearly all the major airlines [charge travelers a fee](#) to check a bag or two -- and a couple now charge for carry-on bags as well. Compare these stingy policies to Amtrak's baggage allowance: two carry-on items up to 50 pounds each (as well as personal items such as purses, strollers and diaper bags) and up to four checked bags up to 50 pounds each, the first two of which are free. Third and fourth checked bags cost \$20 each.

In short, Amtrak allows you to bring 200 pounds of luggage -- plus personal items -- for free. Try bringing that on a plane!

### ★ 5. ...Less Hassle

Imagine taking a trip and not having to arrive two hours early, wait in a long security line, take off your shoes for inspection, or ration out your liquids and gels. Welcome to the world of train travel. In most cases you can arrive 30 minutes ahead of time and walk straight to your platform.

### ★ 6. Door-to-Door Convenience

Unlike airports, most major train stations are located right downtown in the heart of the cities they serve. Instead of taking an expensive airport cab ride from miles outside of town, you can step off your train and be just moments from your hotel.

### ★ 7. Eco-Friendliness

Trains are more energy-efficient per passenger mile than planes or cars, making them one of the most eco-friendly transportation options around (short of [walking](#) or [riding your bike!](#)). [Carbon emissions](#) from trains are less damaging to the environment than those of airplanes because train emissions are not released directly into the upper atmosphere. As a bonus, the relative energy-efficiency of trains means that the industry is less vulnerable to increases in fuel prices -- making train fares more stable in an unstable economy.

### ★ 8. Old-Fashioned Charm

There's something refreshingly traditional about taking a train, particularly if you're traveling over a long, multi-night route. The days of silverware and fine china in coach class may be long gone in the airline industry, but on overnight trains you'll still find dining cars with full-service meals and uniformed wait staff. During the day, many train travelers choose to read books, play cards or simply enjoy the scenery rushing by.



## ★ 9. Comfort and Relaxation

Rather than cramming yourself into an ever-shrinking airplane seat or squinting at road signs trying to figure out where to make your next turn, why not relax on a train? It's one of the least stressful forms of transportation out there: someone else does the driving, you'll have more legroom than you would on an airplane and you'll be able to move around at will -- not just when the captain turns the seatbelt sign off.

## ★ 10. Beyond Just Transportation

Unlike airplanes, which whisk you from point A to point B with barely a glimpse of what's in between, a train ride can be a destination in and of itself. Consider the California Zephyr, a dramatic route that wends its way through the Rocky and Sierra Nevada Mountains from Chicago to San Francisco. A ride on this popular Amtrak service offers spectacular scenery. During fall foliage season, try a ride on the Ethan Allen Express from New York to Vermont and enjoy the autumn colors.