

CRUISES:

Mainstream cruise companies in order of least expensive to most expensive:

- Carnival
- Norwegian
- Royal Caribbean
- Princess/Holland America/Celebrity

Premium Cruise lines:

- Seabourne
- Sea Dream Yacht Club
- Regent Seven Seas
- Crystal

Specialty Cruise lines:

- Orient
- Windstar
- Paul Gauguin

European River cruises:

- Avalon
- AMA Waterways
- Uniworld

There are many, many more.

Destinations

- Caribbean – Western, Eastern, Southern
- Bermuda
- Alaska
- Panama Canal – full or partial transit
- US/Canada East Coast
- US/Mexico West Coast
- Mediterranean
- South Pacific
- European rivers
- Black Sea
- Transatlantic
- Basically – wherever there is water!

Times of year:

- Caribbean – year round
- Bermuda – April through October
- Alaska – May through September
- Panama Canal – year round
- Mediterranean – year round
- European Rivers – mostly April through October
- Antarctica – November through February

Itinerary

- Generally, when choosing an itinerary for a square dance cruise, you want several days at sea in order to organize dance sessions. When a ship is in port, people want to go out and explore and go on excursions (as do the callers!). Some may want to dance, but usually not enough to go ahead.
- On a 7-day cruise, try to arrange for an itinerary with 3 port days and 3 sea days. If you can only find one with 2 sea days, see if you can find a port day where you are only in port for half a day. That way, you can arrange dancing for the time you are at sea.

Dance Times

- I find that dance sessions are most successful when the ship is not approaching or leaving a port. People will be distracted, in those cases.
- Don't arrange a dance time too close to supper time. People will be thinking about getting ready for dinner.
- Ask your group coordinator for as many dance sessions as you can and ask for 2-hour sessions. I find that I never get as many as I want, and sometimes you will only get 1 ½ hours.
- Make sure you specify that you need a wooden dance floor, or else a very flat carpet.

Cabin Assignments

- When you block space on a cruise, you will generally have at least 3 cabin categories: inside, oceanview, and balcony. The cruise line will not guarantee that your cabins will be side by side. If you want to be as close together as possible, cabins will have to be assigned at time of deposit. Ask your travel agent to take care of that.

MOTORCOACH TOURS

- Obviously, you can't dance while on the bus between cities! But you can arrange for dancing at each hotel each night. However, to me, the point of a motorcoach tour would be to travel to places where there are dance clubs that will host you while you are in town.
- To do this, you would need a customized tours. That can easily be arranged – you will definitely need a Travel Agent to work with you to set this up.
- Motorcoach tours are also a great way to travel within the US or Canada to a special event; to a National, or to a weekend Festival, or to a square dance resort – like Pride RV Resort.

RESORT STAYS

- Get away in the winter to a resort in the Caribbean and dance as much as you want! Just make sure you find a place with meeting space that you can reserve for your dance times.

SUMMARY

Work with a Travel Agent. Let them do what they're good at – arranging travel. YOU concentrate on what you're good at – calling and getting the dancers to join you on your trip!