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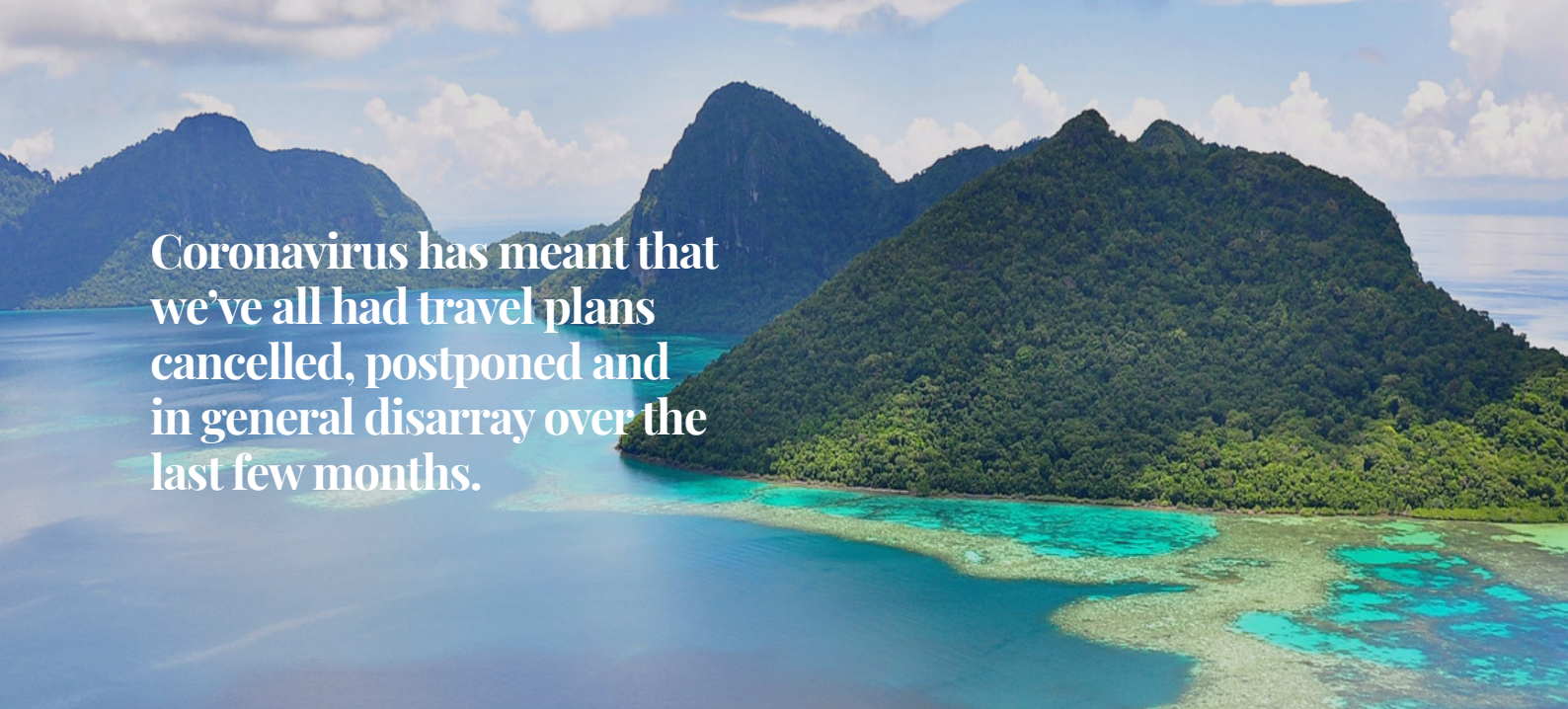
# Book With Confidence

Cruising and COVID-19

[PanacheCruises.com](http://PanacheCruises.com)







**Coronavirus has meant that we've all had travel plans cancelled, postponed and in general disarray over the last few months.**

**The good news is that it's starting to look increasingly likely cruising is readying itself to make a return, so we thought we'd answer some of your most popular questions right here...**



## **When will cruising return?**

The FCO helped us answer this recently when they gave the green light for river cruising to recommence. There was also announcement that conversations are ongoing with CLIA (Cruise Line International Association) and the ocean cruise lines, seeming to indicate that a return to the waters in the coming months was a possibility.

So what does this mean? In our view this means we will see some, very limited, river sailings commence in the next couple of months, along with some Christmas Markets itineraries, then a return to sailing in the spring.

For Ocean, we think we'll see some announcements over the coming weeks about cruise lines starting, very tentatively, to recommence sailing hopefully later this year, on a select number of ships in destinations that are deemed to be the safest.

It will take a number of months to get the worldwide cruise fleet back sailing and fully up to speed.



# What will it look like on board?



A number of cruise lines have already released their updated protocols, which are all wide reaching and as you would expect from the cruise industry are well thought through and innovative. These measures include:



- Sailing with reduced capacities to make social distancing easier;
- Enhanced cleaning in public areas and guest accommodation;
- Reduced pool, Jacuzzi and gym capacities;
- Buffet replaced with individual servings;
- Mandatory touches like temperature screening when boarding and during the voyage;
- Plus upgraded air purification systems.

It is very clear from speaking with the cruise lines that they will only commit to sailing when the onboard experience is as exceptional as it has always been.



# Is my money safe?

The major cruise lines we work with have raised £billion's to ensure that they have more than enough money to cope with the pandemic situation and could, if needed, survive for many months if not a couple of years, without generating any revenue. They have approached the financial situation with caution and been exceptionally prudent when it comes to stockpiling cash.

Granted, they have taken some time to refund customers who have requested monies back but this, in my opinion, is largely down to volume of cancellations and the logistics rather than lack of funds.

However, the cruise lines have introduced some very attractive deposit schemes, deposits from just 5%, to ensure that any perceived financial risk is minimised for anyone booking a cruise.

## But what happens if I want to cancel?

Much credit has to be given to the cruise lines who have almost without exception changed and developed their booking conditions to cater for customers' understandable lack of complete confidence in whether they will want to go on the cruise they have booked, when the time comes.

An example being, you can book a cruise now and if you choose not to go, within 14 days of departure, for any reason, you can cancel and get a 100% credit, no questions asked.

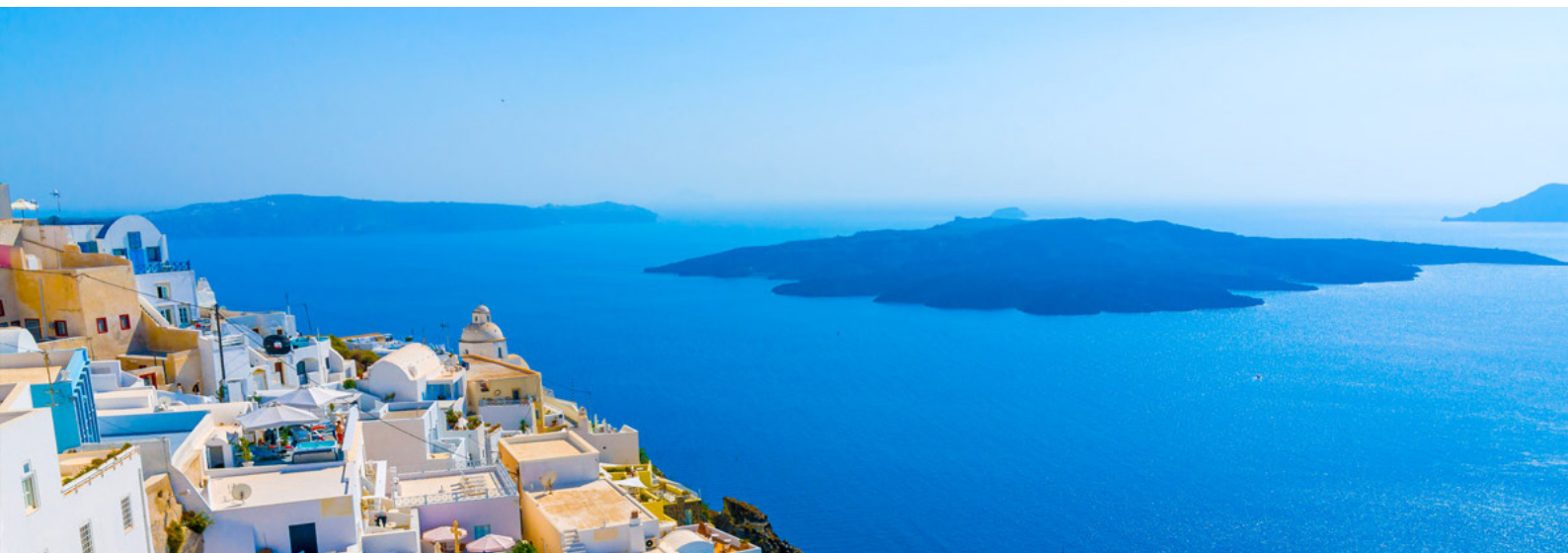


# How good are the offers out there?

Quite simply, they are the best that we've have seen in decades.

A recent price analysis found that the average savings for a 2021 cruise versus a similar cruise for 2020 were over £561 per person.

Whether the cruise line is offering \$1,000 onboard spend, free Wi-Fi, drinks packages or straight price reductions, there are some very attractive deals to be had



## Conclusion: We've never had it so good!

When we re-read our findings we were genuinely surprised



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- Fewer guests on each ship
- Significantly more health protocols in place, more than any other holiday alternative
- Only a small commitment is needed to secure a 2021 or 2022 cruise.
- If you want to cancel you can, for whatever reason

The deals are the best that they have ever been, EVER!

Our conclusion is **WE HAVE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD!** If you are a cruiser and love cruising, why wouldn't you book a cruise?

Do you agree with the above? Are you ready to make your next cruise booking?

If you have had issues or are having issues with your current retailer, we can give you helpful advice too and we are more than happy to accept cruise credits/certificates issued by the cruise lines.

Our team of helpful and friendly Cruise Connoisseurs are here to discuss, chat and find your next perfect cruise holiday, you can call them between 9am and 7pm on **0161 513 8203**. There is no obligation to buy, we'd just be delighted to hear from you and always happy to help.



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