

Grace's Cruises – Insider Travel Tip

Repositioning Cruises: One of Cruising's Best-Kept Secrets

What if you could take a longer cruise, visit an unusual combination of destinations, enjoy plenty of relaxing days at sea, and often pay less per day than you would on a traditional cruise?

Welcome to the world of repositioning cruises!

These unique voyages happen when cruise lines move their ships from one part of the world to another for a new sailing season. Instead of moving the ship empty, they turn the journey into a cruise, often creating fascinating itineraries you simply won't find during the regular season.

And for the right traveler, they can offer *some of the best value in cruising*.

What Exactly Is a Repositioning Cruise?

Cruise ships follow the seasons. A ship spending the summer in Europe may move to the Caribbean for winter, while another might travel between Alaska and Asia, Australia and the South Pacific, or Europe and South America.

These seasonal moves create one-way voyages known as repositioning cruises.

Some common routes include:

- Europe → Caribbean or Florida
- Caribbean/Florida → Europe
- Alaska → Asia
- Alaska → California or Hawaii
- Europe → South America
- Asia → Australia
- Australia → Asia or the South Pacific

Transatlantic voyages are probably the best-known examples, but repositioning cruises can be found all over the world.

Why Can Repositioning Cruises Be Such Great Value?

One of their biggest attractions is often the price. Because these cruises typically include more sea days and don't follow the usual round-trip itinerary, demand can be different from traditional sailings. Cruise lines may offer very attractive fares to fill the ship during its seasonal move.

You may find:

- ✓ Longer cruises at surprisingly reasonable fares
- ✓ Lower per-day pricing than many traditional itineraries
- ✓ More days onboard to enjoy everything your ship has to offer
- ✓ Unusual combinations of ports and destinations
- ✓ Opportunities to turn the cruise into a much larger vacation

For travelers who have flexibility with dates and enjoy longer journeys, the value can be exceptional.

The Itineraries Can Be Incredible

This is where repositioning cruises get REALLY interesting.

Instead of visiting several ports within one small geographic region, you might begin in Rome and finish in Fort Lauderdale, sail from Vancouver through Hawaii to the South Pacific, or travel from Japan across the Pacific to Alaska and Vancouver.

You aren't simply cruising around a destination. You're actually traveling from one part of the world to another by ship. That can make the journey itself feel like part of the adventure.

Expect More Days At Sea

This is either one of the BEST parts of a repositioning cruise... or the reason it may not be right for you! Crossing an ocean naturally means more sea days. Some itineraries may have several consecutive days without a port.

For travelers who love:

- ✓ Relaxing by the pool
- ✓ Reading and unwinding
- ✓ Spa days
- ✓ Specialty dining
- ✓ Lectures and enrichment programs
- ✓ Simply watching the ocean go by

...those uninterrupted days can be wonderful, but if your favourite part of cruising is waking up in a different port every morning, carefully check the itinerary before booking.

Don't Forget About One-Way Airfare

There is one important consideration: repositioning cruises usually begin and end in different cities, sometimes on different continents. That means your flights require a little more planning.

The cruise fare may be fantastic, but always look at the total vacation cost, including airfare, hotels and transportation, before deciding whether you've found a bargain.

They're Perfect for Extending Your Vacation

One of my favourite things about repositioning cruises is how easily they can become part of a much bigger trip. If you're already flying across the Atlantic or Pacific, why not spend a few days exploring before or after your cruise?

You could add:

- Several nights in Rome, Barcelona or Lisbon
- A European land vacation before sailing home
- Time in Tokyo before a transpacific crossing
- Extra days exploring Vancouver, Sydney or another embarkation city

Suddenly, your repositioning cruise becomes the centerpiece of a much larger adventure.



When Can You Find Them?

Repositioning cruises generally appear when cruise seasons change.

- Spring often brings ships toward Europe, Alaska and other summer destinations.
- Fall frequently sends ships back toward the Caribbean, South America, Asia, Australia and other warmer-weather regions.

Because these voyages only happen when ships need to relocate, a particular itinerary may be offered only once that year.



Who Are Repositioning Cruises Best For?

They can be an excellent choice for travelers who:

- ✓ Have flexible vacation time
- ✓ Enjoy longer cruises
- ✓ Love relaxing days at sea
- ✓ Want to visit multiple regions in one trip
- ✓ Prefer a slower pace
- ✓ Are looking for excellent cruise value
- ✓ Enjoy the journey just as much as the destination



Final Thoughts from Grace

Repositioning cruises aren't for everyone, but for travelers with the time and flexibility, they can offer exceptional value, unique itineraries and a wonderfully relaxed way to travel.

Just remember to look beyond the cruise fare and consider the total vacation cost, including one-way airfare, hotels and transportation. If you enjoy sea days, longer journeys and experiencing the journey as much as the destination, a repositioning cruise may be one of cruising's best-kept secrets, and well worth adding to your travel wish list.

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