

CRUISE *Options*

A COMPANY OVERVIEW

Cruise Options has been operating for close on 12 years and is South Africa's leading cruise specialist agency. Founded by Jann Porter in January 1999, the company is dedicated to providing a personalised service and advising on cruises to meet specific requirements unique to each traveller.

Cruise Option's core business is the more exclusive ships and yachts with a guest capacity of 50 to 1,200. They also specialise in discovery / exploratory cruise holidays to Alaska, Antarctica, the Arctic, Asia, the Galapagos and a host of other interesting destinations. Cruise Options also sells a selection of exclusive tours that can either enhance your cruise experience or offer you a wonderful holiday when you're looking for something different. Other options to consider are river cruises, luxury barge holidays and chartering a yacht.

Jann is based in Cape Town but flies up to Johannesburg regularly to consult with clients in making their cruise selections and bookings. Christine Parkinson is in Johannesburg and assists clients with the administrative side of their bookings which includes payments and documentation.

They have made a point of seeing as many ships as possible and Jann has cruised most of the key areas so that she is able to give informed advice on the best choice for each holiday.

The team share a passion for cruising and the wonderful opportunities that it creates for travellers to see so many different parts of the world and to experience such diverse cultures. With cruising you can experience new and varied destinations every year in the comfort and style to match your needs, all without the hassle of continuously packing and unpacking. Some areas are definitely best seen from a cruise ship, especially the fjord areas in Chile and Norway, as well as Alaska. The most popular destination for Cruise Options' clients is Europe as it offers such a broad range of beauty and culture: from the Mediterranean, to the Norwegian Fjords and the Baltic areas. It also presents a great opportunity to escape our winter and enjoy the European sunshine.

Cruise Options' strength is their knowledge of the cruise industry, strong client relationships and commitment to finding the best cruise holiday for your particular needs





“Rather than just book a cruise of a lifetime, for us it’s a long term relationship, we’d like to help plan a life-time of cruises”.



There are so many choices and Jann encourages clients to meet in person the first time and allow up to an hour for an in-depth discussion of which ships and areas could be suitable for you. The secret to the special service Cruise Options provides is not just their knowledge of the cruise industry but also the personal relationships they develop with their clients. Jann Porter notes “It’s very important for me to understand their priorities and what is important to them for this particular holiday. This varies so much from one person to the next, but people also have different priorities for different trips. Do they want to see and experience beautiful sites and different cultures, or are they really in need of some relaxing time-out together, in which case a big beautiful suite will be a must have. For some, the on board entertainment is the focus, where as others are seeking extraordinary cuisine.” One of the things Jann enjoys most about her work is sharing in her clients’ enthusiasm for travel and helping to create a holiday that is truly special.

Given the recent popularity of the movie “The Bucket List” quite a few Cruise Option clients have started putting together their own personal lists of incredible things that they want to see and do in their lifetime. Jann has spent time with many of them chatting through their dreams and challenges, and prioritising the special trips that lie ahead to ensure that they are tackled in the best possible order.

There are many misconceptions about cruising, including the fallacy that cruises are boring or expensive. But after chatting to Jann it’s clear that if you choose the right cruise for your needs, there is absolutely no way that you will be bored, as there are so many ports to visit and so much to do on the ship. Cruises are also excellent value for money, especially when compared to staying in international hotels. A cruise fare typically includes all your meals in a selection of restaurants as well as complimentary 24 hour room service. Most of the products Cruise Options sells include all drinks and gratuities too, with a few even including the shore excursions.

It is Jann’s firm belief that there is a perfect cruise to suit each individual, and after chatting to her for any length of time you cannot help but share in her great passion for cruising.

