

CARIBBEAN CRUISE WITH NEW ORLEANS

9 days in the Western Caribbean on board *Norwegian Getaway*
January 13, 2020 - 15 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$4875 Inside Stateroom IA

\$5845 Balcony Stateroom BC

\$6145 Mini-suite MB

> Tour is exempt from GST.

> Single fares and suites on ship also available.

> **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 75 points from this tour.

Redeem **75 points** if you book by **September 12.**



* HIGHLIGHTS *

9 nights on Norwegian Getaway with unlimited beverages included

Ports: Costa Maya, Harvest Caye, Roatan, Georgetown, Ocho Rios

French Quarter guided walking tour

New Orleans School of Cooking

Laura Plantation & Oak Alley Plantation

Includes

- Transportation to/from Seattle Airport
- Non-stop flight from Seattle to New Orleans
- 4 days of coach transportation in New Orleans
- 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Locally-guided walking tour of French Quarter
- Locally-guided driving tour of New Orleans
- Maison Bourbon Dixieland Club with drink
- Mississippi River cruise with lunch on Sternwheeler Natchez
- Mardi Gras World
- New Orleans School of Cooking
- Gratuities for guides and Natchez crew
- Stateroom for 9 nights on board Getaway
- Unlimited beverages during voyage
- Specialty restaurant fees for 4 dinners
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Historic tours of Laura & Oak Alley Plantations
- Non-stop flight from New Orleans to Seattle
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **33 meals:** 11 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners

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Cruise & Tour Notes

Staterooms: Fares are quoted for insides, balconies, and mini-suites, but other categories may be available. Consider a suite or the exclusive Haven with impeccable service and many amenities.

Dinner reservations: The *Getaway* has no formal dinner sitting times. You can go to a restaurant when you are ready with your friends or book ahead for one of the specialty restaurants.

Importance of early booking: Norwegian Cruise Line has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until 4 months before sailing. However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship or even a category fills. This has occurred several times recently and we had to turn away disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the connecting motor-coach. Therefore, please don't delay booking this tour.



Tour activity level: This tour is rated as Activity Level 2 because the 3 days in New Orleans require more activity. You are taking a walking tour of the French Quarter and walking to attractions on uneven pavement on January 15 and 16, maximum 6 blocks or less than 1 km. Coaches are not allowed in the French Quarter except for arrival and departure days with luggage, so there is a one block walk to/from the coach. Touring the historic mansions usually requires some stairs and standing. The days on the ship can be rated as Activity Level 1, but you should choose shore excursions based on your abilities. There can be longer walks in Seattle and New Orleans airports; please request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense, and travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Norwegian Getaway

Norwegian Getaway was launched in 2014 and had a multi-million dollar refurbishment in May 2019. The ship carries 3,900 passengers and 1,600 crew. She is 324 metres long with gross tonnage of 145,000. She has 14 public decks and 16 elevators. Facilities include the *Getaway Theatre* for live entertainment, 15 bars and lounges, duty-free shops, beauty shop, library, games room, casino, internet access, fitness centre, and spa. Decks 15 to 18 offer many recreational facilities including 2 pools, 5 hot tubs, a ropes course, mini-golf, trampoline, *Vibe Beach Club* for adults, a climbing wall, basketball court, walking/jogging track, and 3 waterslides including the 2-deck "Free Fall" and "The Whip". There is extravagant musical entertainment on board, currently *Burn the Floor* and *Million Dollar Quartet* in the *Getaway Theatre*, plus the *Headliner Comedy Club*, *Escape the Big Top*, and *Howl at the Moon* (a rock and roll dueling piano show), all complimentary. *Cirque Dreams and Steam* and *Wine Lovers Musical* are offered at extra cost.

The *Getaway* has 17 places to eat. The complimentary dining rooms include *Savour*, *Taste*, *Tropicana*, *O'Sheehan's Pub*, *Shanghai's*, and *Garden Café* buffet. Six specialty restaurants such as *Cagney's Steakhouse*, *Le Bistro*, *Moderno*, *La Cucina*, *Teppanyaki*, and *Wasabi Sushi* have different themes and gourmet menus. Your tour fare includes the extra fee for four dinners in these specialty restaurants. You can also dine in the privacy of your stateroom by ordering from the room service menu 24 hours a day (\$8 charge may apply). You can enjoy a different venue for each of your nine dinners on board. You may wish to reserve in advance, or just show up when you are ready.

Staterooms have TV, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink, and shower or bathtub. Every day on board has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, board games, trivia, and fitness classes.

Unlimited alcoholic beverages included

On this cruise, unlimited complimentary beverages are offered. Order your favourite drink such as wine, beer, a mixed beverage, or a soft drink, and relax with friends in a lounge or your stateroom. Maximum value is \$15 per drink. Specialty coffees or teas and bottled water are not part of this beverage package. Please be aware that this offer could be withdrawn by Norwegian at any time.

Itinerary

Monday, January 13:

Transportation is provided to Seattle Airport and we stay overnight at the Embassy Suites. Get acquainted with your fellow travellers tonight during the hotel's complimentary reception.

Tuesday, January 14:

Meals: B

Our non-stop Alaska Airlines flight to **New Orleans** leaves about 10 am. Welcome to Louisiana! Our coach meets us at the airport. We stay three nights at the Wyndham Hotel, located in the French Quarter on Royal Street and a block off Canal Street. It has a restaurant, free wi-fi, indoor pool, and fitness centre.

Wednesday, January 15:

Meals: D

This morning, a local guide takes us on a walking tour of the **French Quarter** where we hear the fascinating 300-year history of characters who built this city. Some highlights are the Cabildo Museum, the Spanish Quarter, St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square (where the original Louisiana Purchase is kept), Louis Armstrong Park, and Bourbon Street. During this leisurely walk, we stop for a New Orleans tradition of coffee and beignets at **Café Du Monde**. There is free time for lunch at the Historic French Market. Then we board the coach for a driving tour of the city: the Lower Ninth Ward where most of the damage occurred during Hurricane Katrina; Audubon Park; **St. Louis Cemetery**, an above-ground cemetery known for its voodoo history; Tulane and Loyola Universities; **St. Charles Avenue**, lined with gracious mansions and trees; and the central business district beside the Mississippi River. Our Welcome Dinner is at **Court of Two Sisters**, the largest courtyard in the French Quarter and a New Orleans institution. The two sisters, Emma and Bertha Camors, born in 1858 and 1860, belonged to a proud and aristocratic Creole family. Their "rabais" or notions outfitted many of the city's elite women with formal gowns, lace, and perfumes imported from Paris. Afterwards, we cross Bourbon Street to enjoy a drink and jazz show at the **Maison Bourbon Dixieland Club**.

Thursday, January 16:

Meals: L,D

At 11 am, we board the **Natchez Riverboat**, one of the few sternwheeler vessels left on the Mississippi River. There is a jazz band on board and a buffet lunch. During the two-hour cruise around the Crescent Bend of the Mississippi, we pass downtown highrises, the Domino Sugar Refinery, and the site of the Battle of New Orleans during

the War of 1812. Next, we visit **Mardi Gras World**, the famous float-making studio where 90% of the floats used in New Orleans' Mardi Gras parades are made. We tour the many carnival dens and observe artists and sculptors as they create the world's largest fleet of floats. Try on elaborate costumes and view an exciting Mardi Gras video presentation. The rest of the afternoon is free time to stroll the streets of the French Quarter. Tonight, savour a unique experience at the **New Orleans School of Cooking**. We learn how to prepare the taste of Louisiana, Cajun and Creole with recipes provided. After a full meal from our culinary prowess, we are entertained with history, trivia, and tall tales. The general store has a great variety of Louisiana products.

Friday, January 17:

Meals: L,D

We board the **Norwegian Getaway** and an embarkation buffet lunch is served in the Garden Café. The afternoon is free time to get familiar with the ship. We sail at 4 pm with a festive "Farewell to New Orleans" deck party as we head down the Mississippi River for 150 km to the Gulf of Mexico. Enjoy your first wonderful dinner in one of the many restaurants, followed by a lively stage show or many other evening activities.

Saturday, January 18:

Meals: B,L,D

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea. The ship's daily newsletter keeps you informed about scheduled activities like stage shows, movies, bingo games, group fitness, and game times in lounges. Book a treatment at the Spa. Get some advice on a workout plan at the Fitness Centre. Sidle up to the wine tasting bar and sample wines from around the world. There may be a cooking class offered. The choices are many.

Sunday, January 19:

Meals: B,L,D

We dock at **Costa Maya**, Mexico, from 11 am to 6 pm. The name actually refers to a 60-km stretch of beach, but cruise ships began arriving regularly after construction of a long pier. Since then, the isolated village of Majahual has grown rapidly and a new village of shops has been built next to the pier.

Monday, January 20:

Meals: B,L,D

The **Getaway** arrives at **Harvest Caye**, NCL's private island resort off southern Belize. Development of the island has cost \$50 million since 2013 and it opened to great fanfare in 2016. It features an

expansive pool, seven acres of sandy beach, a shallow lagoon for water sports, and private luxury cabanas. A 40-metre tower is the start of a zipline across the island and a parachute drop. The ship stays at Harvest Caye from 8 am to 5 pm.

Tuesday, January 21: *Meals: B,L,D*
We arrive at the **Island of Roatan, Honduras**, at 7 am and depart at 3 pm. The island is 60 km long and 8 km wide, and is the largest of seven islands collectively called Islas de la Bahia. It is located about 80 km off the north coast of Honduras. Columbus stopped here during his fourth voyage in 1502-1504. The British occupied the island periodically from 1550 to 1700, and the first permanent settlers arrived from the Caymans in the 1830s. Shore excursions can be purchased for a variety of experiences on the island.

Wednesday, January 22: *Meals: B,L,D*
The *Getaway* arrives at **Grand Cayman Island** at 11 am and we take a short tender ride from the ship into George Town, the capital. The flat coral island is only 35 km long and best known for its turtle farms, Seven Mile Beach, and liberal banking laws. Many tourists enjoy mailing a letter from the tiny post office of Hell. We sail away at 6 pm.

Thursday, January 23: *Meals: B,L,D*
Our last port of call is **Ocho Rios** on the north coast of Jamaica. It is a small city of 16,000, made famous by two James Bond films and Cameron's film *Piranha II*. The *Getaway* is here from 9 am to 5 pm.

Friday, January 24: *Meals: B,L,D*
Saturday, January 25: *Meals: B,L,D*
We have two days at sea while we cruise north from Jamaica across the Gulf of Mexico. Enjoy all the activities and entertainment on board!

Sunday, January 26: *Meals: B,L*
During the night, we travel up the Mississippi River and dock in New Orleans at 7 am. After disembarking, we drive the River Road alongside the **Mississippi River**, viewing splendid plantation homes and sugar cane fields at every turn. Today is devoted to learning about life in rural Louisiana, from the perspectives of both the entitled and the workers. Our first stop is **Laura Plantation**, once owned by one of the early Creole settlers. The house was built in 1805 and is surrounded by sugar canes and 12 Historic Register buildings. The slave cabins are where West African folktales of Br'er Rabbit were first recorded. **Oak Alley Plantation**, the Grand Dame of the River Road, is next. A 400 metre long canopy of giant live oak trees, believed to be 300 years old, forms an impressive avenue leading to the classic Greek-revival style antebellum home. Lunch is included on the grounds, followed by the house tour. Our Alaska Airlines flight leaves at 5:30 pm and is non-stop to Seattle. We stay overnight at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport.

Monday, January 27: *Meals: B*
Transportation is provided to Victoria and your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due September 12, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 15 seats and \$100 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 12.

Cancellation Policy: Up to August 12, 2019 your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From August 13 to September 12, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From September 13 to October 15, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. From October 16 to November 12, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 12, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the cruise line, airline, and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo credit: Norwegian Cruise Lines

E-points: This tour earns 75 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until September 12.

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