

## Shipshape: Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Seven Seas Explorer

Written by Leslie K. Hughes

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**With the motto “The Most Luxurious Ship Ever Built,” you may fear that you are being set up for disappointment. However, you will likely feel “The Most Luxurious Ship Ever Built” is an understatement once you set foot on board the Regent Seven Seas Cruises’ Seven Seas Explorer.**

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“Welcome aboard! Would you like a glass of Champagne?” is certainly getting a trip off to a great start. And that just scratches the surface of the luxury treatment you will be spoiled with until your return to reality upon disembarkation.

As the newest addition to Regent Seven Seas Cruises' fleet of luxurious ships, Seven Seas Explorer really takes the idea of luxury and runs with it. Seven Seas Explorer is proudly a suite-only—and balcony-only—ship, and an exclusive one at that: with room for only 750 guests onboard, you will feel the extra space and the extra VIP experience.

The suites on board are far from what you would imagine a cruise ship's quarters to look like. In fact, Seven Seas Explorer's rooms are nothing short of a five-star hotel's. Decorated in a classic, yet modern style, the ship's surprisingly spacious suites have every amenity you could ever need. But there's more—step outside your suite onto your private balcony. Yes, every suite on the ship has its own balcony that provides you with a perfect view throughout your entire voyage. And this is not just an ordinary cruise ship balcony (if there is such a thing); Seven Seas Explorer's balconies are the largest at sea.

If you're feeling like your suite is quite roomy, you have yet to see the Regent Suite—truly the most stunning suite at sea. Measuring in at 4,443 square feet, the Regent Suite has two bedrooms, a private in-suite spa, three walk-in closets, a custom Grand Maroque piano designed by Dakota Jackson for Steinway & Sons and much, much more. But you know what really seals the deal on this suite? The free unlimited in-suite Canyon Ranch SpaClub services. There is no need to leave your room when you're living at this level of luxury.

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However, you have plenty of reason to want to leave your room in order to explore all that the ship has to offer. And for non-Regent Suite guests, the exploration starts with the spa. Known to be the most luxurious spas in existence, it's no surprise that the Seven Seas Explorer has a Canyon Ranch Spa on board. If you're not already feeling on cloud nine, an Aquavana Hydrothermal experience at the spa will certainly take you there.

What better way to continue the post-spa high than a specialty cocktail in the Observation Lounge? Floor-to-ceiling windows allow you to take in the gorgeous ocean views while you revel in luxury. If you're looking for a late-night drink or a live DJ and dancing, the Observation Lounge is

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your spot to truly unwind on the high seas.

Next on the list of musts aboard the Seven Seas Explorer is to experience the dining. It seems impossible for such a variety of culinary options to exist aboard this modestly-sized ship, but Regent has made the seemingly impossible possible. Certainly a highlight of the ship's dining experiences is its Compass Rose restaurant where Versace is not only worn, but also served upon via the designer's plates. And if you're in the mood for a meal in the comfort of your robe and bed, in-suite dining via room service is available 24 hours a day.

Not only will you love indulging in the food aboard the ship, you will also love learning to cook some of it on your own in the Culinary Arts Kitchen cooking class. Culinary workstations provide you with all the tools, ingredients and confidence you need to cook up a delicious meal. Led by a ship chef, the culinary class will take you through a hands-on experience of cooking—an experience, of course, accompanied by wine.

Though there is still an unbelievable amount of other fabulous things on the ship—including The Casino where you can gamble in true Monte Carlo style, The Library where you can get lost in gorgeous books for hours, the Connoisseur Club where you can sink deep into a leather chair while puffing on a stogie, just to name a few—Regent also has activities that await you off of the ship.

When docked in harbors along your journey, you have the option to partake in some carefully selected and truly fantastic experiences in the local areas, called Shore Excursions. Regent has hand-picked the top tours and activities at each stop so that guests can engage in authentic experiences while on shore. Though it may be hard to leave the ship of luxury, you won't regret signing up for a Shore Excursion. Ranging from scuba diving, to exclusive tours of popular sights, and much more in between, these excursions are completely free.

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No detail aboard the Regent Seven Seas Explorer was left out during its two-year construction. The art, the furniture, the entertainment—absolutely everything has been perfected beyond what seems plausible. And one area of the ship whose perfection shines incredibly brightly is the staff. Jason Montague, president and CEO of Regent Seven Seas Cruises, says that of everything that went into building the ship, and everything that goes into keeping it going, he is “most proud of the staff.” In fact, Montague referred to the Seven Seas Explorer team as the “most luxurious fleet.” And while on board, you will definitely share Montague's feelings. Never in your way but always there to make your journey as wonderful as possible, the staff of this ship is unlike any other. Every member of the ship's team works with such joy, genuine care and attention, leaving you truly feeling like royalty.

It is an impossible feat to cover all of this absolutely incredible ship's offerings. With the exception of the spa services, the Regent Seven Seas Explorer is an all-inclusive ship (except the boutique), allowing you to leave your wallet and worries behind and indulge as deeply in everything as your heart desires. And indulge you will.

The only disappointment you'll experience on this ship is saying goodbye when your voyage comes to an end. By completely re-defining luxury to mean far more, Regent Seven Seas Explorer has truly created heaven on Earth.

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