

Erik the Travel Guy's Tips for Cruising During Hurricane Season

NEW YORK (Sept. 4, 2019) — As Hurricane Dorian demonstrated, tropical cyclones can be devastating and deadly. Our hearts and support go out to the victims of the worst hurricane on record to strike the Bahamas.

Dorian also disrupted the vacations of thousands of cruise vacationers, but does that mean you shouldn't plan a cruise vacation during hurricane season? The annual hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, but with some planning and awareness, there's no reason NOT to take a cruise during those six months.

I just spent three days onboard Carnival Horizon, Carnival Cruise Line's newest ship. From interviewing the captain and officers, I learned a lot about how cruise lines deal with hurricanes and why a cruise ship is one of the safest places to be during a tropical cyclone.

Cruise lines have shoreside state-of-the-art fleet operations centers that keep track of every ship in their fleet. They know exactly where each vessel is and what the local weather conditions are. They also have an inside line on weather forecasts and the latest hurricane tracking information so they can alter itineraries to avoid storms., as necessary

Modern cruise ships have operating speeds of 18 to 22 knots, or 20 to 25 mph. That's up to four times as fast as most hurricanes move, which gives ship captains plenty of speed to outrun even the fastest storm to keep passengers safe and seek out sunny skies.

Usually, the worst thing that can happen is that you'll have to stay aboard for an extra day or so until the storm has passed and your ship can return to its port of embarkation. The second worst thing is that you miss a scheduled port of call or two. So, instead of stopping at Nassau, Bahamas, you end up at Cozumel, Mexico, or you spend a day or two at sea instead of going ashore. Hey, you're still on a cruise vacation!

Here are a couple of my tips for cruising during hurricane season:

- Book your cruise vacation through a travel advisor. It won't cost extra, you might get a better price and you'll have someone on your team looking out for you who has access to important information before it's available to you.
- Buy travel insurance. You've saved up for your vacation, and you should protect your investment in case your cruise is cancelled due to a hurricane or other weather event.

- Add a buffer. Plan to arrive at your port of embarkation the day before your cruise is scheduled to depart. If your flight is delayed or it takes longer to reach the port, you'll have a better chance of catching your cruise.
- Keep a weather eye out. Download a weather app to your smart phone and monitor conditions in the region you will be cruising.
- Finally, don't worry — be happy! There is a whole team of smart, talented folks onboard and ashore who are looking out for you, so enjoy your vacation!

“Erik the Travel Guy” Hastings is available to be interviewed about any and all things travel related. Contact Buck Banks at buck@newmanpr.com or 305-461-3300 to set up a time.

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About Erik the Travel Guy

Veteran travel expert Erik Hastings is the Emmy-winning host of the Emmy-winning public television show “Beyond Your Backyard.” Distributed by the National Educational Telecommunications Association, “Beyond Your Backyard” inspires viewers to get up, get out and experience the world. Down-to-earth, funny, smart and full of infectious energy, Hastings reveals the “soul” of North American cities. Every episode educates viewers about history and culture, unique experiences, delicious food, famous attractions and off-the-beaten-path local haunts. “Beyond Your Backyard” is nationally syndicated on public television and the CREATE Network and is seen on 328 broadcast channels in 161 markets in 48 states in the United States. The show also can be streamed on Amazon Prime Video. Visit Erik's [website](#).