

Condé Nast readers pick their favorites

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best hotels. The Langham was closed for two years while it underwent a \$200 million renovation during the height of the pandemic, reopening in 2021. The ultra-luxury Raffles Boston opened last year in the Back Bay and came in fourth on the ranking. The remainder of the list was populated by familiar names such as XV Beacon and the Boston Harbor Hotel.

Top Boston hotels

The Langham, Boston
InterContinental Boston
Four Seasons Hotel One Dalton Street
Raffles Boston
Boston Harbor Hotel
XV Beacon
Kimpton Marlowe Hotel (Cambridge)
Omni Boston Hotel At The Seaport
Revere Hotel Boston Common
The Liberty

The eight-room Weston hotel, located in Weston, Vt., can claim superiority over all Boston hotels. It was the only New England hotel to make the list of best hotels in the world. The exterior may look like a standard Vermont inn, but inside you'll find William Morris wallpaper, Frette linens, a gym, and a spa equipped with a steam room and sauna, plus a bocce court outside. The Beatrice, which opened in 2021 in the 1887 Exchange Building, was the only Providence property to make the list, landing at number 13.

Top New England hotels

The Weston
The Vanderbilt, Newport
Westin Portland Harborview, Portland, Maine
White Elephant, Nantucket
The Wentworth Inn Jackson, N.H.
The Chanler at Cliff Walk, Newport
The Porches Inn at MASS MoCA, North Adams
Castle Hill Inn, Newport
Harborside Hotel, Spa & Marina Bar Harbor
Harbor View Hotel, Martha's Vineyard

Condé Nast readers named Winvian Farm in Litchfield Hills, Conn., the number two destination spa in the world, and the number two spa in the United States.

Luxury names also dominated in the resort category. Condé Nast readers split their votes between the mountains and the sea. Chatham Bars Inn was named the best spa in New England, with perennial favorites such as Twin Farms in Barnard, Vt., and Wequasset Resort and Golf Club in Harwich.

Top New England resorts

Chatham Bars Inn
White Barn Inn, Kennebunk
Weekapaug Inn, Westerly
Mayflower Inn & Spa, Washington, Conn.
Woodstock Inn & Resort, Woodstock, Vt.
Hidden Pond, Kennebunkport
Twin Farms, Barnard, Vt.
Wequasset Resort and Golf Club, Harwich
The Lodge at Spruce Peak, Stowe, Vt.
The Mansion at Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club, Brewster

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the Reader's Choice Awards came in the list of top airports. The much-maligned LaGuardia was named the second-best airport in the country. It's a far cry from the days when it was an easy punchline. Most of the favorite airports on the list are located in smaller, secondary cities. T.F. Green in Providence and Bradley in Hartford sat at the number seven and eight spots on the list.

Another aviation surprise came on the list of best domestic airlines. JetBlue, which has been facing slumping satisfaction scores, was ranked the number two airline behind Delta.

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POSEIDON EXPEDITIONS

Celebrating its 25th anniversary year, Poseidon Expeditions has opened reservations for May 2025 through September 2026 cruises.

By Niecee Regis

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The 2025 cruise season is rapidly approaching, racing full speed ahead with new ships and destinations that aim to satisfy the varied interests of cruise lovers. From food-centric trips to educational lectures to simply kicking back and enjoying the scenery, this overview of what's new might inspire you to climb aboard.

Foodie love in the Mediterranean: Oceania Cruises

Considered a leading culinary- and destination-focused line, Oceania Cruises is debuting new Mediterranean sailings highlighting European cities, holiday islands, and lesser-known ports. With sailings ranging from six to 34 days, the line's newest and refurbished ships — Vista, Allura and Marina — offer true ultimate foodie immersion in the epicurean arts thanks to hundreds of culinary-focused shore excursions, an array of dining venues, guest lectures, and demonstrations, and a hands-on cooking school at sea. Memorable dining on Marina begins with open-seating, with no dining surcharges, and includes Toscana's authentic Italian dishes, Polo Grill's steakhouse fare, continental cuisine in the grand dining room, Jacques French bistro, Red Ginger's contemporary Asian cuisine, made-to-order American favorites in the Terrace Café, and the addition of two new dining options, the wellness-inspired Aquamar Kitchen, and the al fresco evening Pizzeria, serving pizzas, burrata, and more with stunning sea views.

And the destinations? With Oceania Cruises' extensive set of small-group, immersive shore excursions, guests can rediscover previously-visited favorites through a new lens, or discover new places for the first time. For example, the 1,250-guest ship Marina's Soul of Civilization 9-day voyage (May 26-June 4) travels from Barcelona to Athens with stops in Malta, Rhodes, Ephesus, Istanbul, and Mitilini (Lesbos). Rates from \$2,699 per guest. 855-623-2642, www.oceania-cruises.com

Up-close Galapagos wildlife: Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic

The pioneering expedition cruise brand Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic has added two additions to its fleet: the 16-guest National Geographic Delfina and the 48-guest National Geographic Gemini. Designed to provide an immersive experience while exploring the wild Galapagos archipelago, the two purpose-built expedition vessels will embark on their inaugural voyages on Feb. 14, 2025, and March 14, 2025, respectively.

The sleek catamaran Delfina features an open-air observation deck

Charting a course for the 2025 cruise season

with 360-degree views of the islands. On the upper deck, dine al fresco while watching for dolphins, whales, sea lions, penguins, and other endemic marine life. The intimate vessel will be equipped with state-of-the-art tools for exploration, including Zodiacs, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and snorkeling gear. The highly maneuverable, shallow-draft Gemini was built to explore remote areas with ease and comfort, with 27 well-appointed, outward-facing accommodations. Carrying a fleet of quick-to-deploy Mark VI Zodiacs and glass-bottom boat, the vessel also provides the usual kayaks, SUPs, and snorkeling gear for intimately interacting with the marine reserve. Veteran expedition staff and licensed naturalists on board will share their knowledge and experience of island species and habitats on every trip. Check online for inaugural sailing savings: Delfina, 10 days; rates from \$10,642; Gemini, 10 days; rates from \$7,172. 1-833-726-0855, www.expeditions.com/destinations/galapagos

Dalmatian Coast dreaming: Cruise Croatia

Known for the intimate size of the ships in the fleet, Cruise Croatia itineraries take guests to lesser-known, smaller ports while offering an experience more akin to yachting. In 2025, the line is launching a new seven-night Signature Croatia Hidden Gems voyage onboard luxury yacht M/S My Wish, sailing along the most untouched parts of the northern coast between Split and Opatija with two departures available from June 21-28, and Sept. 20-27. The day-to-day itinerary will offer insight into the region's local produce, Croatian wine from boutique producers, storied history, and natural beauty.

The sleek, 2021-built M/S My Wish is home to 18 air-conditioned, en-suite cabins, of which 10 have a private balcony. A spacious sundeck offers a hot tub and loungers for all passengers. The swimming platform invites diving into the azure waters during swim stops, while wide windows in the restaurant provide an ever-changing backdrop to each dining experience. Menus feature seafood, fruits and vegetables sourced along the sailing. Each trip includes sea-view accommodation; breakfast, lunch, and two on-board dinners; daily excursions including guided tours,



LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The pioneering expedition cruise brand Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic has added two additions to its fleet.

wine tasting, and park entrance; use of water toys; on-board educative lectures; private airport transfers in Croatia on arrival and departure and a privilege card offering exclusive rates at restaurants on shore. Rates from \$2,595 per person, based on double occupancy. 1-844-637-9747, <https://cruisecroatia.com/luxury-croatia-hidden-gems-cruise/>

Penguins, humpbacks, and icebergs: Poseidon Expeditions

Celebrating its 25th anniversary year, Poseidon Expeditions, which focuses on remote polar cruise exploration in high latitudes, has opened reservations for May 2025 through September 2026 cruises in the Arctic and Antarctic aboard the nimble expedition vessel Sea Spirit. Designed for only 114 passengers, the Sea Spirit features multiple cabin categories; deluxe restaurant meals, an outdoor barbeque, club lounge, and bar. Amenities include a polar library, lectures in the presentation hall, a gym, and small inflatable hard-bottomed expedition boats to cruise close to icebergs and wildlife, and for landings. The state-of-the-art expedition vessel is equipped with stabilizing fins in case of rough weather at sea.

The Antarctic summer months (December to March) are the best time to embark on their classic 12-day Antarctic Peninsula cruise, Realm of Penguins & Icebergs. Depart from Ushuaia, Argentina, the vessel crosses the infamous Drake Passage, sailing along the South Shetland Islands with their iconic wildlife to the White Continent. Continuing to the northernmost part of mainland Antarctica, the Sea Spirit sails south to the Gerlache Strait, where guests will marvel at glacier-covered mountains, blue icebergs and crystal-clear waters. From \$9,356 per person. Check the website for exclusive 25th anniversary year deals, special gifts, and early bird savings. 1-800-555-0678 or 1-347-801-2610, <https://poseidonexpeditions.com>

Intimate sailings and expert guides: PONANT & Smithsonian

A collaboration between PONANT, a designer of voyages onboard small exploration ships, and Smithsonian Journeys, the travel program of the Smithsonian Institution, offers the best of all worlds for travelers interested in expert-guided tours and experiences that embrace local cultures,

history, cuisine, language, environment and wildlife. This is the fourth year PONANT and Smithsonian Journeys will offer co-branded sailings, and due to growing interest and demand the number of itineraries has grown to 30, the most ever offered in one year.

Two new 2025 itineraries include a two-week voyage, Lisbon to the Canary Islands by Sea: Spain, Morocco, and Atlantic Isles aboard Le Bellot, with 92 staterooms and suites that host up to 184 guests (Oct. 26-Nov. 8, from \$9,570 per person); and the 8-day Cruising the Mediterranean: Sicily, Sardinia, and Mallorca aboard L'Austral, a sleek ship that can host up to 264 guests (Oct. 3-10, from \$6,000 per person). All trips are specially tailored for English-speaking travelers, and include talks and discussions with experts, transfers to and from the ship and immersive excursions in each port of call to provide a deeper understanding of each destination. 1-888-400-1082, <https://us.ponant.com/cruises/themes/smithsonian-journeys>

Down a lazy river: Uniworld


The all-inclusive, luxury river cruising line Uniworld is debuting a new ship in 2025, the S.S. Elizabeth, and adding five new itineraries to its roster of worldwide destinations. The S.S. Elisabeth (and its twin sister ship, the S.S. Victoria) can accommodate up to 110 guests in 55 suites and staterooms, each with king-sized beds to watch the passing scenery through floor-to-ceiling windows. Other ship highlights include a massage room, gym, pool, a bistro for snacks, a rooftop bar and grill for cocktails and light bites, and a fine dining restaurant for breakfast, lunch, and gourmet dinner. The S.S. Elisabeth will set sail along the Rhine River next year on two 8-day trips, Castles Along the Rhine, from Basel to Amsterdam (from \$2,959) and Rhine Holiday Markets, from Basel to Cologne (from \$3,599).

Additional new 2025 cruises on the lines' unique ships include Cruise & Rail: Paris to Istanbul; Wine Road of France and Portugal; Rhine, Moselle and Belgium Grand Discovery; Grand Italia; and Dutch and Belgian Holiday Celebration. The all-inclusive experience includes unlimited premium wines and spirits, five-star farm-to-table cuisine, carefully curated experiences, all on-board gratuities, all scheduled airport transfers, wellness classes with a certified instructor in fitness center, bicycles and Nordic walking sticks on onshore use, on-board entertainment, and wi-fi access. Check online for early booking savings. 1-800-257-2407, www.uniworld.com


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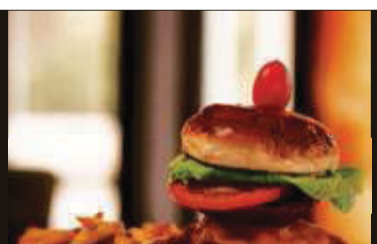
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