

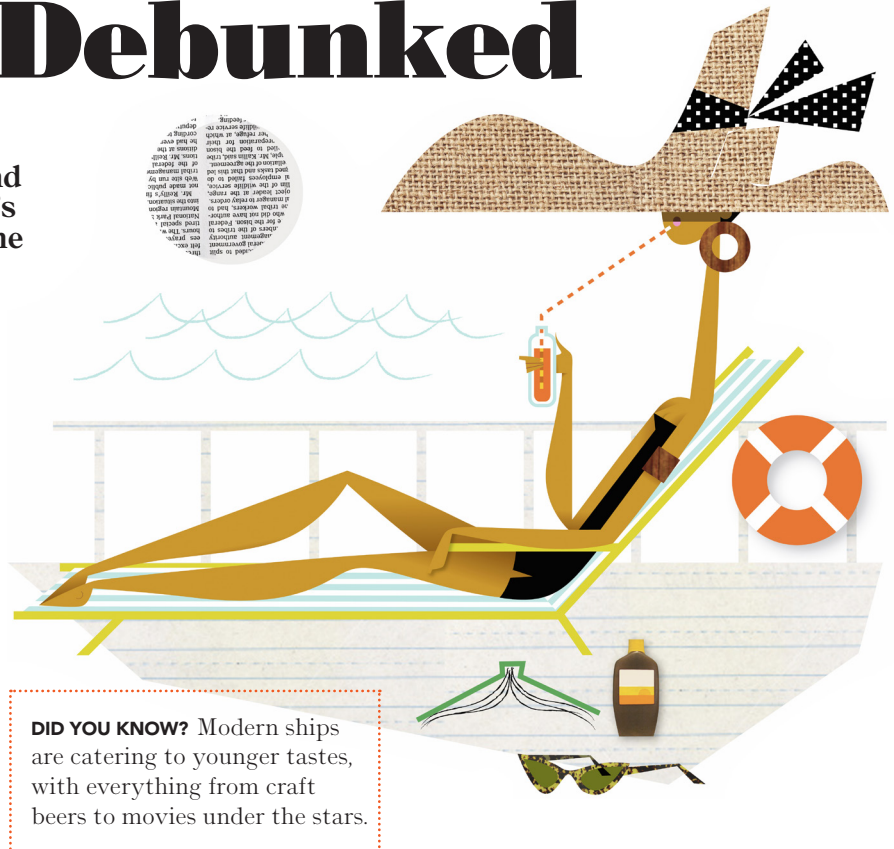
5 Cruising Myths Debunked

Take everything you think you know about cruising and turn it upside down. Today's cruise ships are resetting the bar—from the sensational food to the spacious suites.

1 MYTH: Booking Can Be a Hassle **DEBUNKED:** Arranging a cruise is not a difficult process at all today, thanks to streamlined online booking that puts everything at your fingertips. Cunard Line even offers access to a Cruise Vacation Planner who can help put all the details together—from choosing your ideal cabin to arranging shore excursions.

2 MYTH: Cruises Are Expensive **DEBUNKED:** Not just for deep pockets, cruises can be surprisingly affordable. How about a three-day West Coast Getaway with Princess Cruises for \$299? Or a seven-day Caribbean dream aboard Holland America Line from \$399? (And that includes a chocolate on your pillow every night.)

3 MYTH: Cruises Are Crowded **DEBUNKED:** It's a fact—today's big cruise ships are roomier and more comfortable than ever. But if you crave an intimate, yacht-like experience, try a small-ship line such as Seabourn—which has no more than 300 suites, expansive open decks, and a staff that makes you feel like the most important person on board.



4 MYTH: Real Travelers Don't Cruise **DEBUNKED:** If you think taking a cruise isn't part of a savvy traveler's experience, think again. More people are cruising every year, because cruising has more to offer—whether it's champagne in your suite (Seabourn) or water slides for the kids (Carnival Cruise Line). And how else can serious globetrotters take in destinations like Rome, Istanbul, and Athens while unpacking only once? (Hint: Princess Cruises' "Greece & Turkey" voyage.)

5 MYTH: I Won't Find People Like Me **DEBUNKED:** Cruising might have been a one-size-fits-all proposition 30 years ago, but these days there's something for everyone. Foodies savor Holland America Line for its Culinary Arts Center, created with *Food & Wine*. Book lovers convene in *Queen Mary 2's* largest library at sea. Families, couples, and even singles find a lot to love aboard today's cruise ships—and they're always in good company.

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