

Cruising Trivia

This activity includes 30 questions on cruising. The questions are accompanied by the answers and additional information for discussion.

There are several activity possibilities:

- For a group activity, read and discuss the trivia questions and answers. Also print the [picture pages](#) to pass around during the activity.
- For independent activities, print and distribute fill-in-the-blank copies of the [questions without the answers](#). Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).
- Post one or more of the trivia questions on your bulletin board every day or so throughout the month using this [special sign](#).



Trivia Questions and Answers

1. What cruise line was featured in the TV show *The Love Boat*?

Answer: Princess Cruises. The show was filmed aboard the *Pacific Princess* and *Island Princess* ships.

2. Which ocean do cruises to Tahiti and Fiji primarily sail through?

Answer: The South Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest ocean on Earth, covering more than 30 percent of the planet's surface. The South Pacific includes thousands of island nations and territories.

3. What is the maritime term for the left side of a ship?

Answer: Port. The term *port* replaced the older word *larboard* in the 19th century to prevent confusion with *starboard*. Port is always on the left side when facing the bow (front).

4. What is the capital city of Fiji?

Answer: Suva. Suva is located on the island of Viti Levu and is one of the largest cities in the South Pacific.



5. What is a harbor pilot?

Answer: A local navigation expert who guides ships into port. Pilots board ships before entering difficult harbors. Harbor pilots have detailed knowledge of local tides, currents, reefs, and harbor layouts. Large cruise ships are legally required to take a pilot aboard when entering many ports.

6. What type of pearl is Tahiti famous for?

Answer: Black pearl. Tahitian black pearls come from the black-lipped pearl oyster (*Pinctada margaritifera*).



7. What is the uppermost continuous deck on a ship called?

Answer: The sun deck or lido deck on many ships. The term *lido* comes from Italian beach resorts. On cruise ships, this deck typically includes pools, buffets, and outdoor lounging areas. The sun deck is a quieter deck primarily for sunbathing.

8. What is the command center of a cruise ship called?

Answer: The bridge. The captain and navigation officers operate the vessel from the bridge.

9. What are small boats used to transport passengers ashore when a ship cannot dock called?

Answer: Tenders. Tendering is common in smaller island destinations where deep-water docks are unavailable. Cruise ships may use lifeboats as certified tenders.

10. What traditional evening event features elegant attire and professional photos?

Answer: Formal night. Formal evenings date back to early 20th-century ocean liners, when passengers dressed in tuxedos and gowns for captain's dinners.

11. What is the main island of Tahiti called?

Answer: Tahiti Nui. Tahiti consists of two parts: Tahiti Nui and Tahiti Iti.

12. What is the name of the onboard shopping area on many cruise ships?

Answer: Galleria or promenade. Modern ships feature multi-deck indoor promenades.

13. Fiji's two largest islands are Viti Levu and what other island?

Answer: Vanua Levu. These two islands make up most of Fiji's land area.

14. What is the shipboard medical facility commonly called?

Answer: The infirmary. Cruise ships are required to have licensed medical staff onboard.

15. What is the name of the traditional Polynesian underground oven?

Answer: *Umu* (or *lovo* in Fiji). Food is wrapped in leaves and cooked over hot stones.



16. What is the traditional nautical term for a bathroom on a ship?

Answer: Head. The term dates back to sailing ships when toilets were located at the head (front) of the vessel.

17. What does the nautical mile measure?

Answer: Distance at sea. One nautical mile equals about 1.15 land miles.

18. What marine animal is commonly seen in Bora Bora's lagoon?

Answer: Stingrays. Bora Bora's shallow lagoon is famous for stingray and reef shark encounters in calm, reef-protected waters.



19. What flower is commonly worn behind the ear in Tahiti?

Answer: Tiare flower. The tiare is Tahiti's national flower. Wearing the flower behind the ear traditionally indicates whether a person is single or married. Wearing the flower on the right indicates a single status.

20. What natural phenomenon creates the calm lagoons around many South Pacific islands?

Answer: Barrier reefs. Barrier reefs absorb wave energy from the open ocean, creating protected lagoons with calm, turquoise waters.

21. What luxury British cruise line operates the *Queen Mary 2*?

Answer: Cunard. *Queen Mary 2* is the only true ocean liner still in regular transatlantic service.

22. What is the term for a long ocean journey without port stops?

Answer: Transoceanic crossing. Transatlantic crossings were once the primary way to travel between continents.

23. What international system coordinates global time zones for navigation?

Answer: Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) or Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) replaced GMT as the primary global time standard used in navigation and aviation.

24. What instrument was traditionally used to determine latitude at sea?

Answer: Sextant. A sextant measures the angle between the horizon and celestial bodies such as the sun or stars to determine position.



25. What is the crew member who assists with cabin service called?

Answer: Cabin steward. Stewards traditionally provide daily housekeeping and turn-down service.

26. What did "full steam ahead" originally refer to?

Answer: Operating steam engines at maximum power. The phrase originated in the 19th century when steamships replaced sail-powered vessels.

27. What are the large ropes used to secure a ship at the dock called?

Answer: Mooring lines. Modern mooring lines are often made from high-strength synthetic fibers and are essential for keeping vessels stable in port.

28. What is a traditional Polynesian feast with music and dance called?

Answer: A luau. While *luau* is Hawaiian, similar communal feasts exist throughout Polynesia and include traditional dance, storytelling, and earth-oven cooking.

29. What major safety law was strengthened after the *Titanic* disaster?

Answer: Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention. First adopted in 1914, SOLAS established international standards for lifeboats, safety drills, and ship construction. It remains the cornerstone of maritime safety law.

30. What is the name of the daily nautical measurement of speed at sea?

Answer: Knots. One knot equals one nautical mile per hour. The term comes from sailors counting knots in a rope to measure speed centuries ago.



Pacific Princess



Suva, Fiji



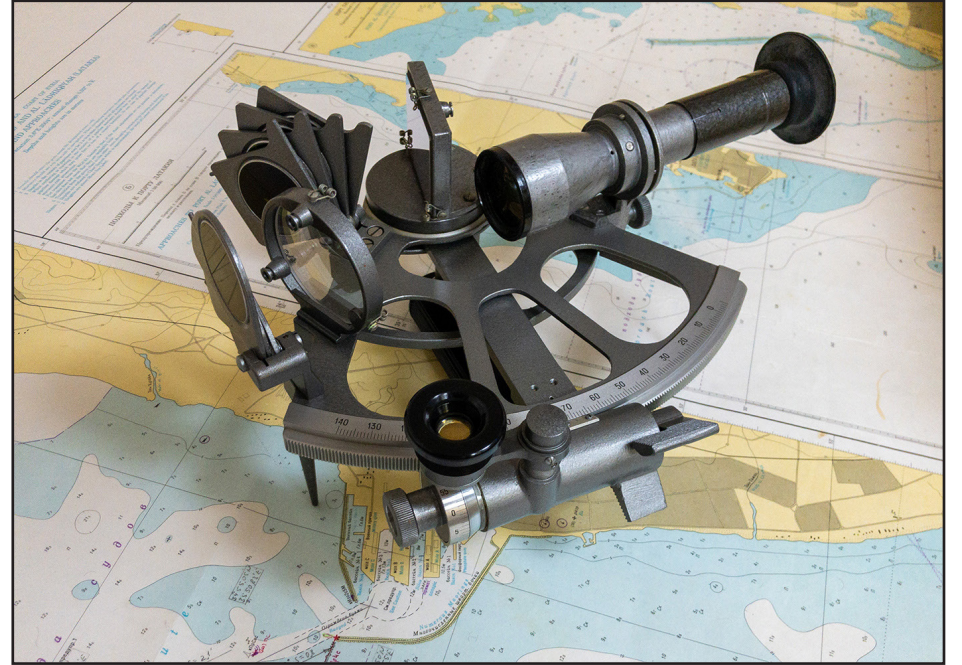
Black Pearl



Umu



Stingray



Sextant

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(Questions with Answers)

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