



EMS Cruiser's  
**Newsletter**

# EMS Cruise

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## EMS Cruise Just Around the Corner

In only a couple of weeks the 5th EMS Cruise will set sail. If you are a first time cruiser, it will all be a new experience for you. Past cruisers already know pretty much what to expect although it's always nice to have the latest information specific to your ship.

By now, all lead cruisers should have received information from Magic Carpet Travel regarding your booking number and cruise ticket information. Like most other travel companies, Carnival has gone to on-line ticketing. To obtain your boarding passes, cruise documents, and other information, go to the Carnival Cruise Lines web site and enter the booking number that you were provided from Magic Carpet. Although we will beat the revised deadline of June 1, 2009 requiring a valid passport on a cruise, Carnival recommends that all guests travel with a passport valid for at least six months beyond the completion of the cruise. You can also still show a government-issued photo identification and a copy of your birth certificate to board the ship. Make sure you keep these items on you – not in your luggage.

For some, the most challenging part of the EMS Cruise will be flying there. Have your luggage tags filled out and on your luggage before you arrive at the airport. Be sure to check with your airline for specific bag checking parameters. Most airlines now charge for anything over the maximum number of checked items or those that are overweight. You should also be sure to arrive at the airport at least 75 minutes before your flight so you have time to park your car and go through security.

If you are flying down on Sunday, after you land, pick up your luggage at the airport and look for a cruise line representative holding signs for the Carnival Valor or for Carnival going to the Port of Miami. They will help you board the shuttle that will take you to the ship. Keep in mind that if you have three or more, a taxi is often cheaper than a shuttle out of Miami airport.

Those of you who are going to Miami a day or two prior to the cruise should arrange for a shuttle from your hotel to the dock where you will board the ship at about 11:00 AM.

At the ship's dock, your luggage will be taken for loading onto the ship and delivered to your cabin later in the day. As you enter the walkway for boarding the ship, be sure you have your carry on bags, your Carnival Fun Pass, as well as your passport. During check in they will take your credit card information, give you your cabin keys and of course take a photo as you board.

Even though the ship will be docked for several hours after you board, most everything on the ship, other than the casino, will be operating. You'll be able to eat lunch, use the pool, exercise rooms, and nearly everything else. Late in the afternoon, the ship will host an informational talk to give you details on the shore excursions and other events taking place during the cruise. The next item to take place will be the mandatory life boat drill.

To help everyone get introduced to the other EMS Cruisers we'll

have a get-together in the main atrium lobby bar from 7-8 PM. This will be an informal gathering, but it's still a good opportunity to meet fellow EMS Cruisers prior to dinner.

Our first complimentary cocktail party, exclusively for Wisconsin EMS Cruise passengers, will take place at 7:00 PM Tuesday night after the ship leaves port. A variety of complimentary drinks as well as hot and cold Hors D'oeuvres will be provided.

Richard from Magic Carpet Travel will be available several days during the cruise to answer your questions. His schedule will be provided when you board the ship.

During the cruise you will have plenty of time to meet other people from our group as well as people from around the world! There are nearly 300 people traveling on the EMS Cruise. Do you think you'll be able to say hello to all of them? We hope you'll give it your best shot!

Every evening, a Carnival Capers newsletter will be delivered to your cabin. It will contain a schedule and information for the next day's events, including any information for our group. We suggest you spend at least a minute or two looking it over and keeping informed.

New for this cruise, and by request, we will have a get-together for everyone directly involved in EMS or the fire service. This will give you the opportunity to talk a little bit of shop as well as meet others involved in the business. This gathering is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday at 10:00 AM prior to the ship docking in port.

Saturday, our last day at sea, will be time for the group photo. We will meet at 12:00 noon on the aft deck. Everyone, whether you are an EMT or not, is invited and encouraged to be in the picture. Photos will be available for purchase during the cruise. We'll also let you in on a little secret (but don't tell Carnival). Group photos and the week-long video from the ship will also be available at discount prices following the cruise. Visit [www.EMSCruise.com](http://www.EMSCruise.com) to order any items you may have not picked up while on the cruise.

We'll start to wrap up the cruise with a final cocktail party only for Wisconsin EMS Cruiser's at 7:00 PM on Saturday Night. Also on Saturday, you will be given Customs declaration forms and information on clearing customs. It is a simple procedure, but again, have one person from your group attend the informational talk to get all of the information if you've never done this before. Your luggage will be collected in the evening and you'll be back to using your carry on bags.

On Sunday morning, the ship will disembark all passengers. Your luggage will be placed in long lines in the customs area where you'll retrieve it and carry it to the shuttle bus or taxi that will take you back to the airport. Depending on your flight time, you may be at the airport from an hour or less to four hours or more. Once you return to Wisconsin, you'll again retrieve your luggage and go get your car.

So, make your last minute plans and get ready for the EMS Cruise. By the way, with a little bit of luck, we hope to announce the next EMS Cruise at the Saturday cocktail party. Don't miss it!

# March 15-22, 2009

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## The Carnival Valor - Your Home At Sea

First launched in early 2005, the Carnival Valor will barely be four years old by the time we board her for the EMS Cruise. Among the very largest ships in the Carnival fleet, the Valor carries just under 3,000 passengers along with 1,050 crew members. Twelve decks hold a virtual floating city at sea, complete with its own medical crew, firefighters and security team.

Those of you who have sailed in the past already know what to expect. Just watch the faces of cruises who board for the first time. The sheer size of the vessel together with everything on board takes the first time cruiser a little while to adjust to.

Just think of what awaits you on the Carnival Valor:

- Four Swimming Pools, one with a 214-foot long water slide
- Seven Hot Tubs
- 15,000-square-foot Health & Fitness Facility
- "Boulevard" of Shops & Boutiques
- "Action Alley" - a Recreation Center housing a video arcade
- Teen Coffee Bar & Dance Club
- 3,300-square-foot Children's Play area
- Multi-Media and Internet Conference Center
- Expansive Sports Deck - with Basketball & Volleyball Courts
- Jogging Track
- Casino
- Game Room
- Movies on deck under the stars

For starters, this vessel definitely fits in with the city-at-sea concept. It has 22 bars and lounges, seven whirlpools, a spa and fitness area, and a swanky alternative restaurant. But where Carnival Valor really stands out is not in the quality and quantity of its public rooms and facilities, but in its theme, heroes and heroism, both real and fictional.

Of course that's just the start of it. There is just so much more to see and do.

When you first board the ship you'll be given a pocket size layout of the ship to help you find your way around. Many passengers strike out on their own tour of the ship on Sunday afternoon after they board. It may seem overwhelming at first but in a few days you'll find your way around without too much trouble.

Among the top reasons to go on a cruise is the food. When it comes to food, the Carnival Valor has you more than covered.

- Twin two-deck-high Formal Restaurants
- An Expansive two-level pool side eatery offering casual alternatives for breakfast, lunch & dinner
- 24-hour Pizzeria
- Deli, Deck side Grill, and Asian Stir Fry
- A Reservations-Only Supper Club
- Sushi Bar
- Complimentary 24-hour Room Service

Both breakfast and lunch in the main dining room offer open seating. For evening dinners you'll eat at your assigned table. Certainly you'll receive some of the best meals in the dining room. All except for one other special location.

If you prefer a more upscale dining experience, splurge on the \$30-per-person cover charge at Scarlett's, the reservations-only supper club high atop the ship. This spot is perfect for couples and small groups. The menu is fabulous, and wait staff explain the menu selections while presenting a tray of raw cuts of meat and fish. Some say the surf and turf option, featuring lobster tail and filet mignon, is the best meal they ate onboard. All of that is topped only by the desert options - many in sizes that feed everyone at the table. This is the closest to a five star dining experience you'll ever get for only \$30.

With all of that eating you may want to head to Spa Carnival. The state-of-the-art exercise equipment, jogging track and aerobics classes are complimented by a staff of

knowledgeable fitness experts.

If you need to exercise your fingers, you'll be happy to know that Carnival Valor was the first cruise ship from Carnival to offer 100 percent bow-to-stern wireless Internet access. Go ahead, long in from anywhere.

There is no lack of nightly entertainment onboard the Valor. On both of the formal nights you'll find a full-scale production show in the main lounge, complete with over 30 singers and dancers and a real, live 10 piece show band. The first show is a tribute to nightclubs around the world, followed later in the week by a review based on the music and trends of the 1980's.

Of course you'll also find various variety acts: singers, comics, jugglers, magicians, hypnotists, and more. Most of the shows are very family friendly. However, there will be a few late night adults only shows for you to enjoy as well.

The Carnival Valor houses a total of 22 bars and lounges to chose from. Twenty-two! That means that even if you hit three of them every day you still won't have visited them all. Some have live bands, while others feature a piano bar, dance club, or specialty drinks.

Up on deck are hundreds of lounge chairs and plenty of waiters to bring you anything that you ask for. Several night entertainment offers also take place up on deck, including movies on the jumbo screen under the stars. It's almost like being at the drive in theater; well, minus your car.

If you're starting to get the sense that there is a whole lot going on aboard the Carnival Valor, you are most certainly right about that. While you still have the time, you may want to check out the entire ship from front to back - or is that bow to stern? Dozens of web sites can be found complete with unbiased reviews, photos, videos and more. In fact, if you head to the EMS Cruise web site at [www.EMSCruise.com](http://www.EMSCruise.com), you find a link to a live web cam on the Valor. Check out where the ship is right now.

# Finding More Information

There is more information available to help EMS Cruise passengers than ever before. Both Carnival Cruise Lines and EMSCruise.com have a wealth of information and sources for cruise information.

To begin with, the Carnival web site has just about everything you need to make your cruise easier and more enjoyable. You will check in there to print your Carnival Fun Pass which will allow you quick access onto the ship on Sunday. The web site also allows you to book shore excursions right from the comfort of your home. While we have given you a lot of information and you should be able to find things to do on your own while in port, if you'd like to book any shore excursions, the best way to do it is over the Internet before you even leave.

Carnival also has web pages that will provide answers to just about every question imaginable. It's really worth it to take the time to take a look at everything they have to offer. Among other things are on-line brochures to help with Welcome Aboard Information, Shore Excursions, Pre & Post Cruise Vacations, Cruise Ticket Contract Terms, the Bon Voyage program as well as Frequently Asked Questions.

Beyond all of the pages with information, there are dozens and dozens of video clips that you can view. Have a look at what your stateroom will be like, Check out the areas for dining, dancing and dozing off. There is even a video clip that will have you sliding down the Carnival Valor slide!

To see all of the videos, Carnival has set up a separate web site at [www.FunshipIsland.com](http://www.FunshipIsland.com). We can't stress it enough, you really should take some time to look around. Once you do, just about any and every question you may have had will be answered. While you are there you can also send some of this information to others going on the cruise with you.

Something else worth doing is checking some of the cruise reviews written by people just like you. There are quite a few reviews spelled out in complete detail from the time they left their homes until they arrived back one week later. Unlike marketing hype, you'll find out what other real people thought of their cruise on the Carnival Valor. They may even give you some helpful hints to make your trip more enjoyable. Then when you return home, you might want to write a review of your own.

## **EMSCruise.com**

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## **EMS Cruise Itinerary**

EMS Cruise Meet and Greet  
Sunday March 15 • 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Main Atrium - Lobby Deck 3

EMS Cruise Cocktail Party  
Tuesday March 17 • 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Eagles Rear Lounge - Promenade Deck 5

EMS Provider Gathering  
Wednesday, March 18 • 10:00 - 11:00 AM  
Paris Hot Lounge – Promenade Deck 5

Group Photo  
Saturday March 21 • 12:00 PM  
Lido Aft Pool Area - Lido Deck 9

Farewell Cocktail Party  
Saturday March 21 • 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Eagles Rear Lounge - Promenade Deck 5