

If Something Happens:

- ◆ If you should witness someone go overboard, report it to a crew immediately. If possible, keep your eyes on the victim and let the crew know where he/she is.
- ◆ Report suspicious activity immediately and get the names of the crew members you reported the incident to.
- ◆ Medical care on a cruise ship can be unreliable. Should you or someone with you become ill and you are not receiving the care required, ask to be sent to the hospital at the nearest port.
- ◆ Refer to the fine print on your ticket for information on where and when to file a complaint.

Important Resources:

Victim Support Europe website:

<http://victimsupporteurope.eu/members/>



This brochure is published in loving memory of all victims of cruise ship crime, some of whom are pictured below.



The International Cruise Victims
Association, Inc.

www.internationalcruisevictims.org

Cruise Safety Tips



**You're About to Depart on
Your Dream Vacation.....**

We have a few tips to keep your vacation
truly "carefree."



Things You Should Know Before You Leave Port:

- ◆ While you may board the cruise ship in your home country or a similar developed country, the ship will most probably not be registered there, but in a country with few resources to enforce their marine or criminal laws.
- ◆ Regardless of this, that country is now responsible for your safety on board. While you are on board, the common laws of that country apply, although the chances are that not even the Captain of the ship know what these laws are! Should anything happen to you, you are at the mercy of the country the ship is registered in for all investigations and any criminal prosecutions and experience has shown that these are rarely carried out as we would expect.
- ◆ Once your ship sails, your own country has no authority to help you. Remember that while you are surrounded by luxury, you are in a foreign land that could be many thousands of miles away and whose authorities have little concern for your welfare.

Think Your EU Laws Go With you as a victim? Think Again...the Answer is NO!

- ◆ This means that when a European passenger steps onto a cruise ship in ANY port, passengers are stepping onto a piece of foreign territory outside the jurisdiction of the EU. Their only protection is from the country where the ship is flagged.

- ◆ The #1 crime reported on cruise ships is sexual assault. Published reports indicate sexual crimes are 50 per cent greater on cruise ships than on land.
- ◆ Reported cases indicate that almost every two weeks some individual goes overboard. Most are never found.
- ◆ Medical personnel onboard are actually considered “independent contractors.” Because of this, cruise lines are not even vicariously liable of the care they provide.
- ◆ Shore-based excursions are separate entities, and even when they’re booked through the cruise line, your safety and their reliability cannot be guaranteed. Do your homework in advance.

Free Alcohol Doesn’t Mean Carefree!

- ◆ The use of date rape drugs on cruises and ports are staggering. Only consume drink beverages that you have witnessed being prepared. Ask that bottles come unopened. This goes for when you are in the ports as well.
- ◆ Be aware of the lawful drinking age and legal limits for alcohol consumption—even legal age for sexual consent as we know it ashore—may not apply on a cruise.

Things You Can Do:

- ◆ Never let your key card out of sight and check your locks to make sure they work and remember to use them!
- ◆ Be vigilant. Use a buddy system on the ship and set rules for your children who can be particularly vulnerable. Be aware of your surroundings,

especially in public places, such as swimming pools, casinos, and nightclubs.

- ◆ Always check your cabin thoroughly when you enter, including the bathroom and closet—while your door is still open.
- ◆ Never open your doors to strangers, including individuals you have met and believe to have befriended on the trip.
- ◆ It’s very important to pay attention to the muster (or roll call) drills.
- ◆ Check the phone system in your cabin and check to see if the listed extensions to cruise personnel/offices actually correspond.
- ◆ Consider purchasing special travel insurance assistance plans before you go. All security personnel and crew are employed by the cruise line. Their employers’ best interests will take priority over yours and those travelling with you.
- ◆ Cellular service is now available for your regular cell phone while on a cruise. Nonetheless, call your provider and make arrangements for coverage while on your trip.
- ◆ Leave valuables at home since there will not normally be an investigation regarding any property crime under \$10,000 in value.

Find your local victim support service on Victim Support Europe website:

<http://victimsupporteurope.eu/members>