

WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS

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LISA MARIE WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES

What to do when a good cruise goes bad

By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright

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Paul Kelley of Barnstable found out firsthand what happens when you get sick on a cruise ship. On a recent Viking voyage, he ate something fishy while ashore, and promptly, publicly vomited on the ship's gangway. "You would've thought I was bringing a backpack full of the plague," he said of the quick action taken by cruise ship personnel. Kelley was quarantined in his stateroom immediately, and only allowed out after he'd spent 24 hours symptom-free. He watched movies in

his cabin while everyone else went sightseeing ashore. He missed out on the action, but in retrospect, Kelley appreciates the way the ship handled the situation. "They were trying to keep me from potentially infecting 2,000 other people. Nobody wants to be Patient Zero," he says.

THE REALLY BAD STUFF — NOT SO COMMON

Nearly 30 million passengers cruised in 2019, according to the Cruise Lines International Association. When things go terribly wrong, the whole world hears about it. Even

miles out to sea, we're all connected, so an outbreak of norovirus goes viral in seconds as passengers share the gory details. Horrifying stories of people falling overboard have made headlines recently. You might well wonder: Why would anyone — much less millions of people — go on a cruise and risk this?

Statistically, though, cruises are one of the safest forms of travel, with rates of serious

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Safari

by sea

A South Africa cruise opens portals to an exotic land

EAST LONDON, South Africa

From afar they appear like pale ghosts nestled in the tall dry grass. Translucent manes shimmer like spun sugar. Muscular bodies ripple under cream-colored fur as velvety as plush stuffed animals. Half-shut eyes remain watchful as they doze in the shade of scrub trees.

Our safari guide, Caylin, inches the 4x4 Land Rover truck closer to the pride of rare white lions. The engine's low grumble arouses one lioness. She rises to her feet and looks our way. We all freeze. After a tense moment, she ambles off into the thicket to find a cool place for a nap.

We quickly snap photos. Then Caylin takes us back through the electrified entry gate to the lions' 300-acre habitat at the Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve. The 11,000-acre wildlife conservancy operates a breeding program for white lions.

"Everywhere else in South Africa is getting so built up," owner Graham Stanton tells us at the main lodge. "There is a need for someplace where people can have a real African experience. We've tried to do that here." The reserve is home to white-lipped rhinos, wildebeests, zebras, impala, giraffes, and more. Xhosa women from

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