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Repositioning cruises can offer good value Many last a week or more

PHIL REIMER Canwest News Service Saturday, September 27, 2008

Many cruisers can't wait for this time of year when ships are getting ready to reposition to new home ports for the fall and winter season.

Ships that have spent the summer cruising from Vancouver and Seattle to Alaska are now heading to winter in such home ports as the Mexican Riviera, Caribbean, Panama Canal, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. In the Atlantic, some ships are staying in Europe for the winter, but most are heading back to the east coast of the United States for Caribbean cruises. Many of these repositioning cruises last longer than seven days, with no rushing from port to port, and most offer good value or a unique journey.

Although there is still space available on some ships for the fall repositioning, I've selected a handful that will be available next spring - some for their price, some for their uniqueness. From time to time over the coming weeks, this column will feature many others on portsandbows.com.

Cruise lines update prices frequently. All of these were available at the time of writing and do not include taxes and fuel surcharges.

Carnival Cruise Line's Liberty - Miami to London, departing April 25 for 14 days (nine at sea), with stops in two ports in Portugal, Vigo (Spain), and Le Havre (Paris). Starting price \$749. Info: carnival.com

Celebrity Cruise Line's Millennium - Auckland to Honolulu, April 12 for 14 days (eight at sea). Ports include Raratonga, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, Hilo and Honolulu. Starting price \$2,139. Details: celebritycruises.com.

Holland America's Volendam - Singapore to Vancouver April 4, 46 days (19 at sea). Stops include ports in Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Hong Kong, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia, Alaska. (Shanghai, Beijing, and Kobe are overnights.) Starting price \$6,800. Info: hollandamerica.com.

NCL's Gem - New York to Barcelona April 18, 15 days (six at sea), ports include Rome, Florence, Granada, Seville, Cannes and Lisbon. Starting price \$1,099. Info: ncl.com. Princess Cruise's Crown - Ft. Lauderdale to Lisbon April 26, nine days (only one stop in the Azores, the rest is at sea). Starting price \$971. Info: princess.com.

Royal Caribbean's Grandeur of the Seas - Tampa to San Juan, April 18, seven nights (three at sea), Cozumel, Ocho Rios, stop in the Dominican Republic. Starting at \$539. Info: royalcaribbean.com.

Visit portsandbows.com for daily updates on the latest cruise news, best deals and behind the scenes stories from the industry. Don't forget

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