

# HD&L Caribbean Cruise --- September 2019

**Sponsored by:** ASQ Human Development & Leadership Division – Program

**Hosted by:** ASQ Greater Ft Worth Section 1416 – Reservations / Arrangements

**Date:** Sun, Sep 8 – Sun, Sep 15, 2019    *RCL Cruise Line*    **Departing:** Port of Galveston, TX

## Itinerary:

Sun 08-Sep travel to Galveston – embark ship 12 pm – 3 pm \*\* depart 4 pm \*\*  
Three Days... days at sea – morning sponsored sessions – afternoon Conference topics  
Three Days... days in port – Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Jamaica  
on your own – tours – beaches – shopping  
Sun 15-Sep return to Galveston – disembark by noon – travel home



## Background:

In 2002 John Breckline, Ft Worth TX Section, was asked, “Doctors do it, why don’t we?” He asked for some clarification, and the member said, “Do professional development on a cruise”. His response was, “Let me look into it”. In 2003 Ft Worth had their first ASQ Cruise. It was a Section sponsored activity and they did a 4-day cruise out of Galveston on Carnival. It was cheap and close to them to cut total costs. They had 17 members and guests in 9 cabins. It was declared successful and many said, “When is the next one?”

Ft Worth did their second in 2005, similar to the first, doubling participation with many repeat cruisers. In 2007 they decided to do a 7-day cruise, but with the cost going up, the participation went down. Not discouraged, in 2008 they organized a “Texas Cruise”, engaging 4 Sections, and filling 46 cabins with 96 members and guests. Buoyed by that success, and time for a change... they booked Alaska in 2010, but again had a drop in participants due to the extra cost of the cruise & air to Seattle. Their cruise in 2014 was a joint venture with HD&L, back to Galveston, with 28 participants in 14 cabins.

## The Program:

We (HD&L) offer as much variety as possible in the days at sea (currently three). We do not pay the costs of the cruise for speakers, but once signed on, we ask their interest, qualifications and topics. We always have a good response to this method and have great feedback on their presentations. We seek topic content that will appeal to a wide audience, like leadership and general personal growth, with a spattering of more specialty topics. With sufficient participation and conference room, we plan for two concurrent

topics. This approach permits the scheduling of 60-90 min morning presentations (3 hours total). At noon, we take a break and join our guests for lunch.

In the afternoon, we reconvene, and open the sessions to small discussion groups that focus on personal or common theme issues. There is much less structure (you offer a discussion topic, and individuals “sign up” to join you). Often the discussions happen in the lounges over afternoon drinks! Some members skip this and join their guests for shipboard activities. We track hours of ASQ participation and issue RU credits per participation. At 5 pm we formally break and hold no evening activities... perhaps there may be social time with guests or informal gatherings of the group participants.

In ports (three days), we do no group presentations. All are encouraged to take shore excursions (provided by ship at added costs), go off on your own, or just relax on a nearly-empty ship. Often our participants group-up and do excursions together. It’s your choice, with no structured ASQ activities.

This overall model has served us well, with high ratings of the cruise and repeat attendance. Unfortunately, we CANNOT tell you in advance of the program topics detail... just give you a sample of topics from past cruises. If you attempt to get some payment made by your company, this is you only “sales tool” to convince them of value. Many companies over the years have paid the conference fees and/or some (or most) of the cruise / travel costs. ASK!



### **Shipboard Life:**

Food, food, and more food... all at your discretion. We do nothing to coordinate breakfast or lunch meals... spend time with your guests, or just meet other participants in the dining areas. For dinner, we do have a reserved block of tables where we dine together. Although we are ‘assigned’ specific tables, we often confuse the wait staff by switching tables to get to know others in our group by dining together.

There are many options to consume your time on board. The ship typically offers various free classes. You can work off the food in the gym. There is a library, board games, spas, multiple pools, and various action/fun events. Evening options include stage shows, and a variety of music venues in lounges. There is always something, even if it’s just sleeping on the sun decks. Almost forgot the casino, with standard games and special tournaments.

I must advise... drinks, casino, excursions are all at an extra cost... set a budget and try to avoid blowing it!

Seasickness... always a potential issue, but most people do not have a problem. You can get Dramamine or other meds before boarding or wait until you have some symptoms and get it on board. If you have a major concern, tell the booking agent, and seek a lower deck, center ship cabin that has less pitch & roll. Ships have stabilizers to minimize both.

### **The Costs:**

Conference Fees: \$150 Conference participant – payable directly to ASQ Ft Worth  
 \$ 50 all non-seminar guests  
 \$ 25 youth / senior guests

Personal costs include the cost of the cabin you choose for you and your guests. All cabins are booked on a per person (pp) cost. You must also cover your transportation before and after the cruise and may want to book a hotel the night before to assure you're in Galveston on Sailing Date. You do not want to 'miss the boat'. You will be offered travel insurance that can cover various issues of travel delay or other situations... your risk / your choice.

Cabin prices are established at the time of the group booking. If we must eventually give up some of the block of cabins, you can still join the group, but the price may change, as the cruise line charges at "market rate" once our block prices have expired. We'll keep communicating deadlines in general promotional materials. The group may also get special amenities like shipboard credits as part of the pricing, that effectively reduces the real cost below the price you book the cabins at. And based on our ASQ budget, we sometimes give you cabin credits to meet our "break-even budget" objective.

Effective 10/15, our 2019 prices, including taxes, port fees, and recommended dining and cabin tips are:  
 \$980 Balcony per person (pp) for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person in a cabin  
 Two-person total would be \$1960  
 \$880 Ocean View pp  
 \$780 Interior pp

Tax Deductible: per your tax advisor    Children/Parents? – OK at 3rd or 4th passenger rates above

**Comparative Pricing:**                      (estimates of an ASQ conference)

<u>Cost Item</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Cruise</u>	<u>... Cruise Notes ...</u>
Conf Fee (3 day)	1095	150	receive shipboard credits ~\$50
Hotel (4 nights)	700	980	7 nights (Balcony cabin) included tips
Meals (3.5 days)	125	0	7 days – included in hotel cost
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1920</b>	<b>\$1130</b>	<b>plus the fun factor</b>

**Reservation Process:**

We cannot hold 3 and 4-person cabins. Early booking is the best options to secure one for your party.

The cost pp for these added passengers is about half the above prices.

Additionally, there are Suite cabins available for those who want to upgrade their experience.

We provide a planning worksheet that helps you determine your needs and the information the booking agent requires. Passports are required. For non-US citizens, you can be advised by the booking agent about port rules (a year to secure visas, etc. as necessary).

The booking deadlines will be published to newsletters and web pages periodically. Per the current agreement,

**10/15/18 is the current pricing, but we are trying to get that extended by a couple more months.**

And I did not state above, the ASQ Cruise is open to anyone who wants to join us. We've had friends of the members join us as well as families (8 to 80... grandkids and member's parents), cousins, etc. If you find out about us, you can join. Conference participation is not required, and guests are charged a much lower fee than the conference participants. Sometimes, spouses join as conference attendees too, for their professional/personal development and education.

We post updates on the most current cabin pricing and program committed on our website. Check here periodically: [http://: https://s1416.weebly.com/asq-cruise-2019.html](https://s1416.weebly.com/asq-cruise-2019.html)

Itinerary:

Sun	08-Sep	travel to Galveston - embark ship 12 pm – 3 pm ** depart 4 pm **
Mon	09-Sep	day at sea – morning “meet your shipmates” – afternoon Conference topics
Tue	10-Sep	day in port – Cozumel, Mexico / on your own – tours – beaches – shopping
Wed	11-Sep	day in port – George Town, Grand Cayman / on your own – beaches – more
Thu	12-Sep	day in port – Falmouth, Jamaica / on your own – tours – shopping – more
Fri	13-Sep	day at sea – morning sponsored sessions – afternoon Conference topics
Sat	14-Sep	day at sea – morning sponsored sessions – afternoon Conference topics
Sun	15-Sep	return to Galveston – disembark by noon – travel home



Master Schedule:

- Payment Plan NOW – Conference Registration – \$150 per Seminar participant – \$50 per guest
- NOW – Cruise Reservation – \$500 per cabin
- Jun 01 – RESERVATION DEADLINE – to assure availability of cabins / rates
- Jun 10 – final payment – balances due
- Aug 08 – 30 days – final coordinated arrangements for hotel / special transportation
- Sep 08 – departure – Bon Voyage

Reservations Require: full name of passengers per formal travel identification  
mailing address, contact information, credit card

Travel Identification: **Passports are required** for all participants & guests

Registration: Web Page: <http://tinyurl.com/ASQ-Cruise> (\$150 / \$50 / \$25)  
then you'll be emailed information for making RCL cabin Reservations

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