

SAFN Sails the Seas Update #5, Entertainment

Before I share more excitement with you about the 2017 Convention at Sea, **I need to know how many members and guests will be purchasing our 2017 Convention Memory Book.** The cost will be \$20 to \$25 everyone is invited to pre-order one or more. Please click on this email address and give me your name and how many Memory Books you would like to order, kfryman1@aol.com. The photographer and his helpers hope to have the books in your hands early 2018. Even if you are not attending the convention, this book will have pictures and stories of your friends who were there. It's the history of our society, order your copy now.

To see who is "cruisin" click here.

<http://members.safn.org/html/NewsLetters/Cruise%20Attendees%20Apr%202017.pdf>

There's no shortage of entertainment options aboard *Harmony of the Seas*. In fact, you might struggle to fit in everything you want to do. If there is one thing you must see during our cruise, however, it is *Grease! The Musical*. The production is said to be one of the best aboard any ship and you'd be a beauty school dropout to miss it. Let your hair down and sing along to classics such as "Greased Lightnin'," "Summer Nights," and "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee."

The big production shows on *Harmony of the Seas* take place in the Royal Theater, located on decks 4 and 5. The theater is large, with neon lighting, cushioned gold chairs and a big stage, with a giant movie screen flanking each side.

Another show that shares the 1,380-guest Royal Theater is *Columbus, The Musical!*, which tells the hilarious, imaginary tale of Christopher's luckless cousin Marvin, as he embarks on a wacky voyage to the Caribbean. It's a musical that uses popular songs by Katy Perry, Queen, Rihanna, Michael Buble, Rachel Platten, Bruno Mars and countless other musical artists to tell the story of Marvin as he tries to find his destiny. This fun performance features a revolutionary set design and is also not to be missed. Otherwise, the Royal Theater hosts performers such as musicians, jugglers and ventriloquists. Studio B, an ice rink located on Deck 4, also hosts a couple of major production shows: "1887" and "iSkate." The former starts in France in 1887 and follows the story of a woman and her companion back through time, all the way to the Big Bang. "iSkate" is designed to feel more free form, as the ship's skaters show off their best moves set to their favorite music. Studio B also hosts the non-skating show *Harmony High*, a rock 'n' roll through the ages event.

Perhaps the most amazing shows onboard *Harmony of the Seas* take place at the AquaTheatre, a massive outdoor water theater located at the back of the ship, accessible from the Boardwalk on Deck 6. *The Fine Line* and *Hideaway Heist* are shows that are being performed. *The Fine Line* features mind-blowing stunts, incredible acrobatic performances, and enough adrenaline to keep you gripped from start to finish. *Hideaway Heist* is fun for the whole family with its comical, 1950s holiday resort vibe. Performances combine acrobatics, high-wire acts, jaw-dropping diving and incredible stunts set to music. It's a highlight of any cruise on *Harmony of the Seas*. It's also definitely the most photogenic.

No matter where the shows take place, you'll need reservations to get in even though performances are free.

If you would like to enjoy the shows together with your fellow SAFN members, then please reserve the following dates and times:

Grease: Day 1 @ 8:30 pm
The Fine Line (aqua show): Day 2 @ 8:30 pm

Headliner show: Day 3 @ 9:30pm.

Comedy show: Day 4 @ 9:00pm.

1887: Day 5 @ 9:30pm.

Columbus: Day 6 @ 10:30pm

That leaves Day 7 to go to a different show or see your favorite once again!

You can register up to 12 guests per reservation, but you must have their names and reservation numbers. The show reservations fill up quickly, so we recommend you sign in online and make your reservations immediately. If you don't get your first choice, don't despair. There will likely be SAFN members at every show. Also, if you have your heart set on a specific showing, you can arrive 30 minutes before the show starts for a chance to take any seats that are unclaimed.

If you want to go to the shows at other times, here is the current availability for shows that can be reserved:

Grease, day 1 @ 8:30pm; day 2 @ 10:30 am; or day 7 @ 2:30pm

The Fine, days 1, 2 or 3, @8:30pm or 10:30pm

Columbus, day 5 @ 8:30pm or 10:45pm; day 6 @ 10:30pm

Headliner show, day 3 or day 4 @ 7:30pm or 9:30pm

Comedy show available every day @ 9pm or 10:30pm

1887 day 1 @ 7:30 or day 2 @ 5pm or 7:30pm or day 5 @ 7:30pm or 9:30pm.

If you remember from Update #1, information was given on how to use the "Cruise Planner". Well, now is the time to go to the RC website <https://secure.royalcaribbean.com/> **click on already booked**, then go to the cruise planner, chose entertainment and make your selections. Not all shows are available each day, so the dates & times above allow you to go to all the shows that you can reserve now.

There are many, many more activities that you do not need reservations to enjoy.

You won't lack for activities to keep you busy every day on Harmony of the Seas. Test your brain with trivia -- several sessions take place each day -- at the Puzzle Break Center on Deck 14: "Escape the Rubicon." The game, takes passengers onboard a spaceship that mysteriously malfunctions. Their job is to get the ship up and running, in one hour or less. The space is perfect; it feels like you've stepped onto the set of a sci-fi movie. Solving the mind puzzle requires teamwork, with passengers working together to discover clues left throughout the room. You'll have a blast, meet new people, get frustrated and feel like a smarty pants, all in the space of 60 minutes. Passengers must be at least 14 years old to

participate, and only 12 people at a time can play. Don't feel bad if you don't solve it: Only 40 percent of people do, according to the creators of the game.

Other daytime activities include basketball, Ping-Pong and poker tournaments, as well as bingo (for a fee) and dance classes. When the weather is nice, you'll find pool games aplenty, including a hairy chest contest and sexy legs competition.

Ice skating is open to passengers at Studio B during various times throughout the cruise, so keep an eye on your Cruise Compass.

A beautiful carousel on the Boardwalk will have you feeling nostalgic for days gone by. Rides are free. Also on the Boardwalk is an arcade, complete with traditional amusement park games such as Skee-Ball and Whack-A-Mole. Games require a fee, which you can pay using your Seapass card. A second arcade is located on Deck 15. You'll also find Skee-Ball here, along with plenty of shoot-em-up action games.

The ship really jams at night, when everyone is decked out for dinner and enjoying the electric atmosphere. Variety here is the name of the game, and many spots ebb and flow, so you can catch a seat or an impromptu show fairly easily at some point.

The ship's casino is located midship on Deck 4. The casino includes a huge number of slot machines, along with table games like blackjack, craps and roulette. It hosts tournaments throughout the cruise, has a sports book and a poker room. It also has a bar. This is the only indoor spot for smoking.

Catch late-night adult comedy shows at the Attic on Deck 4. Reservations are required but shows are free. The space looks like a serious comedy club. Late into the night, it occasionally hosts music and dancing.

A better spot for music is Jazz on 4 (Deck 4). This cool venue just oozes mellow vibes and fantastic live jazz. No reservations necessary, but dancing and music starts late and goes later.

Another great place for music is the Royal Promenade (Deck 5), which hosts live music and DJs throughout the day; at night, the volume goes up. The ship's singers and dancers show up for things like the "Totally Awesome 90s Street Party," designed to get passengers dancing along with the staff. Costumes are straight out of the 90s (and you thought 80s clothes were embarrassing!), and music includes show-stoppers such as "Ice Ice Baby," "Wannabe" and "Jump Around."

Located on the Royal Promenade, the On-Air Club hosts a number of the ship's audience-participation games, such as the "Majority Rules Game Show," and music trivia. Late at night, it is setup as the ship's adults-only karaoke bar, where passengers belt out hits on the venue's small stage.

With so many choices for bars and lounges, chances are, you'll find something that fits your personality. Most bars on Harmony of the Seas offer live music, unique drinks and distinct atmosphere. At night, you probably won't find a quiet spot for a drink, though. The bars are all about being loud, offering entertainment and keeping you dancing and singing along late into the night.

Casino Bar (Deck 4): The Royal Casino has a bar for patrons who want to take a break from gaming. Smoking is permitted here.

Boleros (Deck 5): This Latin-style lounge, located on the Promenade, features live music and dancing late into the night. Decorated in bright reds and orange, the bar -- and its dance floor -- really gets going after showtime.

Boot & Bonnet Pub (Deck 5): The best spot for a pint onboard, the Boot & Bonnet is an English-style pub located on the Promenade. This is where you'll find the best variety of beers from around the world, and the menu even has a beer style guide that breaks down the styles (English Ale, Tripel and IPA, for example) to help novices make decisions. Waiters circulate past the dark booths and tables, though many people prefer to visit the long bar to avoid a wait. The bar also serves "beertinis" and "cockt-ales," a trendy mixture of beer and spirits in drinks like "Boston Kiss" (Sam Adams and creme de mure) or "Dublin Iced Tea" (rum, whiskey, cognac, port and Guinness). An acoustic guitarist provides the entertainment at night.

Rising Tide Bar (Deck 5 through 7): Worth trying once, this bar is more like an elevator with a bar than a place to hang out. It moves between the Promenade Deck and Central Park, a three-deck ride. Ride times are listed at the bar's entrances, and it usually offers a number of trips each night.

Bionic Bar (Deck 5): Two "robot bartenders" make your drink (cocktails only) after you punch in your order via tablets. Watch as these bionic arms shake up your cocktail. Because the robots can make only two drinks at once, it could take a little while to get your drink, but the novelty of it is a lot of fun (at least the first time).

Schooner Bar (Deck 6): This nautically themed piano bar looks over the Royal Promenade and usually is quite busy. When music from the Promenade doesn't filter in, a pianist/vocalist entertains.

Vintages (Deck 8): A true wine bar, Vintages is located in Central Park. It features a large, tall table that can be used for wine tastings, offered several times a cruise, for a fee, as well as smaller, more intimate tables and a bar. The show-stopping piece of artwork here is an enormous portrait of a woman made using wine corks. Wine is available by the glass or the bottle. You can also order nibbles here from Jamie's Italian -- just don't expect the same portion sizes you'll get at Jamie's. Order appetizers such as the crab and avocado bruschetta or the pecorino and chili jam. Prices are a la carte.

Trellis Bar (Deck 8): Located in Central Park, this small open-air bar has a limited amount of seating but is a less hectic place for people-watching and enjoying a quiet drink.

Dazzles (Decks 8 and 9): This two-deck nightclub has live music and dancing every day. The top-deck is great for watching rather than participating; it overlooks the dance floor and small stage on Deck 8. Wait staff serve both levels. Dancing occasionally is themed, so you might hear Motown one night, then a tribute band the next. Dazzles stays open late, and getting a table can be tricky, but if you've got your dance shoes on, you won't need one.

Diamond Club (Deck 4): This exclusive venue is open only to upper-tier members of Royal Caribbean's loyalty club, the Crown and Anchor Society. Diamond Club members get free drinks in the evening as well as concierge service and a daily continental breakfast. It's open to Diamond, Diamond Plus and Pinnacle Club members.

Pool Bar and Sand Bar (Deck 15): These two small bars serve the pool areas and are nearly identical. The biggest difference is that smoking is permitted at the Pool Bar.

Solarium Bar (Deck 16): The Solarium Bar serves passengers using the adults-only space. Because it's the only bar in the area, it's fairly busy, but it's a nice spot to grab a drink pre-dinner.

Wipe Out Bar (Deck 16): This outdoor bar is sandwiched between the ship's two FlowRiders. It's a fun spot to watch passengers try out the surf simulators. You'll cheer and laugh from your seat.

Mast Bar (Deck 16): This bar is located on the port side overlooking the pool. Smoking is permitted here.

The **Red Party** is the hottest high-energy party at sea. With DJs, surprise performances, special effects and technology, this all-out nightlife extravaganza is an experience not to be missed.

Then, there is the **Stowaway Piano**. The pop-up piano player may be anywhere. Behind the door. Around the corner. In the elevator. By the pool. Guests never know where the Stowaway Piano will turn up next.

OK, I'm worn out just talking about all the fun activities aboard Harmony of the Seas and I did not talk about everything. As a reminder, if you haven't made your hotel reservation, do that now. Then, make your entertainment, spa and dining reservations NOW. Any questions, go to www.SAFN.org, click on the ship on the home page and you will find all the updates there. If you do not find the answer to your question, email Susan (scombs@dreamvacations.com) or me (kfryman1@aol.com). I am including the first draft of our agenda. I hope it will help as you make your dining and entertainment choices.

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