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Equinox spring, autumn and ???

ARLENE GOLDBERG

The equinox is the point in which the center of the visible sun is directly over the equator, March 20 and Sept 22. It ushers in a 12-hour day of sunshine.



Goldberg

But now, you can enjoy another Equinox, voted the best large ship by the Cruise Critics Choice Award. Celebrity's Equinox ship inaugural,

Aug. 8, 2009, has an occupancy of 2850 guests and 122,000 tonnages. You know you have arrived when you enter Equinox's grand foyer, with a spectacular onyx staircase, marble floors and a panoramic ocean-view glass elevator at sea. There are 10 dining venues, a health and fitness center featuring Canyon Ranch, and a lawn club where you can feel real grass between your toes. The spacious staterooms and suites offer world-class amenities and the Equinox theater features outstanding musical productions and sidesplitting comedy. The onboard casino always attracts a crowd as well.

Few, if any, of the major cruise lines leave their ships in the Caribbean in the summer. So now is the time to take advantage of five-star summer sailing at super value rates!

The Equinox sails eastern, western and southern Caribbean ports

PUERTO RICO: A United States territory, San Juan is the capital and most populous city. Founded in 1521 by Juan Ponce de León, who named it Puerto Rico ("rich port") and is the 2nd largest sea port in the area (after New York City). A visit to Old San Juan and the 16th century Citadel, El Morro and all types of land excursions are offered.

ST. THOMAS: Founded by the Danes in the 1600s, St. Thomas is a very busy cruise port. It is the gateway isle of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. It's known for its beaches, snorkeling spots and duty-free shopping.

ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN: Part of the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean Sea, it comprises two separate countries, divided between its northern French side, St. Martin, and its southern Dutch side, St. Maarten. It is known for fusion cuisine, duty-free shops selling jewelry and liquor.

ST. CROIX: A U.S. territory in the U.S. Virgin Islands, you can explore its historic, cultural and natural sites. Enjoy a stroll over the famous Fort Christiansvearn, a 1600 century Danish

Fort.

ANTIGUA: Discover the amazing treasures and fascinating past. You will travel through the heart of the countryside, past rolling hills and local villages. Visit Nelson's Dockyard, the world's only Georgian-era dockyard still in use. Enjoy the breathtaking harbor views from Blockhouse Ruins and Shirley Heights.

BARBADOS: The capital city, Bridgetown, is known for its British colonial architecture and 17th century Garrison Historic Area. The beaches are beautiful and the duty-free shopping is amazing.

ST. LUCIA: Discover the magnificent volcanic peaks known as the Gros and Petit Pitons, rising dramatically from the ocean. They are incredible landmarks, each reaching more than 2,000 feet. A visit to Margot Bay for swimming and beaching will mark a memorial visit to St. Lucia.

ARUBA: Enjoy a scenic drive with spectacular views while learning about the culture and rich history of Aruba. See the charming capital of Oranjestad, with its Dutch Colonial architecture and schooner harbor. See the gold mill ruins, breathtaking beaches and the natural bridge, a geological wonder formed by the forces of the wind and sea.

BONAIRE: Fewer than 2,000 people live in the sleepy town of Kralendijk (Dutch for "coral reef"). Bonaire is the capital of the Caribbean for diving. Other water activities include snorkeling, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, biking and birding.

KEY WEST, FLA: A distinctly American town with the look and feel of the Caribbean. Take a ride on the Conch Train to the famous Ernest Hemmingway home and to the Little White House, "Audabon House" where U.S. President Harry S. Truman spent many working vacations.

COZUMEL: The Mayans called Cozumel "Island of Swallows." Mexico's only island, Cozumel is home to quiet, soft-sand beaches, warm-hearted locals and open-air markets featuring native handicrafts and silver artifacts. Indulge in authentic Mexican dishes, some dating back thousands of years.

PUERTO COSTA MAYA: Once one of the Imperial Maya's major cities, now Puerto Costa Maya is a leader in culture and adventure travel in the Mexican Caribbean. This area abounds with the wonders of the Mayan Coast, the incredible Great Mayan Reef, astounding architectural feats, endless white beaches and the mysterious sacred cities of the ancient Maya. Brilliant butterflies,



The Equinox was voted the best large ship by the Cruise Critics Choice Award | Photo / istock

exotic tropical birds, deer, monkeys – even jaguars roam the remote parts of this pristine jungle. Not far from shore you'll find mile after mile of historic ship wrecks and coral formations, many of them virtually unexplored.

GRAND CAYMAN: Once a hideout for pirates, today Grand Cayman is world renowned for its clear waters and coral

reefs. Seven Mile Beach is considered one of the Caribbean's most beautiful shorelines with talcum-soft sand. In Georgetown, shop for black coral jewelry or try a taste of West Indian yam cake.

Arlene Goldberg is president and owner of Action Travel Center in Solon. You can watch her on Thursdays at noon on WKYC's "Lakeside Today" with the "Hot Travel Deal."

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