

CEL

EBR

ATS

BY CHRISTINE RICCELLI

# RETURNING SOLDIER. ANNIVERSARY. REUNION. MOTHER-DAUGHTER GETAWAY. A “FUN SHIP” CRUISE PUTS THE “SPECIAL” IN MANY SPECIAL EVENTS.

**B**eing in the middle of the ocean was the perfect R & R for Maggie Viboolsittiseri and her husband, Wattana, an Army officer, was having trouble decompressing after returning from his second tour of duty in the Middle East.

“He still felt like he had to move at hyper speed,” says Maggie, who understood because she too had served in the Army. Maggie realized that to truly celebrate Wattana’s homecoming, they needed to leave home. So she planned the couple’s first Carnival cruise, a five-day getaway to the Caribbean.

Far from the rigors of the desert and an invigorating break from their Newport News, Virginia, routine, Maggie and Wattana reconnected while they savored dance classes, an art auction and duty-free shopping. They especially loved the cuisine, “an elaborate feast after DFAC [Army Dining Facility] food!” Maggie says. “We had the best time just being together.”

Like Maggie and Wattana, many Carnival guests have discovered that life is filled with events worth celebrating on a “Fun Ship” cruise. Weddings, honeymoons, birthdays, holidays, graduations, promotions—the opportunities are almost as limitless as the lasting memories they create.

## SERIOUSLY GOOFY

“Most of our cruises revolve around an event,” says Renè Ricks of Castaic, California, who has sailed on 10 Carnival cruises with husband Randy. The couple celebrated their honeymoon, Randy’s birthday and even Halloween on “Fun Ship” escapes. As their 10-year anniversary approached, “we didn’t even consider doing anything else,” she says.

“People who know me

know I’m seriously into my work,” says Renè, a Los Angeles police detective. But on board? “I can be goofy. We just love cruising with Carnival—it’s a relief from the real world.”

Romance ruled when Renè and Randy dined at the stylish Supper Club during their anniversary cruise. Even though the couple lives in Southern California, where excellent dining choices abound, “By far the Supper Club has the best food and offers the best overall experience of anywhere we’ve dined,” Renè says.

Renè and Randy enjoy sharing their special occasions with other guests. With so many diverse, interesting people on board, she says, “It doesn’t take long to get to know those with similar interests.”

## BIRTHDAY BASH

Misty Gregg agrees. The mother of three says celebrating her 30th birthday with other shipboard guests she hadn’t previously met added to the merriment. At the Mardi Gras Deck Party, she and husband Andy participated in an event where teams compete in activities such as line dancing.

“At 12:01 a.m. on my birthday, I was still cutting up at the deck party,” Misty says. “It felt good to just let go and be with all these people who were so much fun.”

Back home in Starkville, Mississippi, the couple has stayed in touch with friends they made on the cruise. Recently they and another couple met for dinner in Tupelo, Mississippi, a few hours from each of their hometowns. They brought their families—and plenty of photos. “I feel we met some lifetime friends,” says Misty. “We’re planning a cruise together for next year.”

## We’re all here!

It’s your celebration. Why not put your name on it?

You can order custom-designed T-shirts, beach towels, can coolers, luggage tags, tote bags and other mementos to commemorate your “Fun Ship” experience. Your “official uniform” can be a T-shirt, polo shirt or tank top imprinted with images and your group’s name, Carnival ship and departure date. And, of course, there are sizes perfect for the kids.

If you forget before your cruise, you can still order afterwards as a memento. Visit [carnivalfuntees.com](http://carnivalfuntees.com).



## ALUM FUN

A Carnival vacation is perfect not only for making new friends but also for reconnecting with old ones. That's what Kevin Burns discovered on a 30th high school reunion cruise with three other alumni of Columbus High School in Columbus, Georgia.

"From the 10th reunion on, we had kicked around the idea of doing a reunion cruise," says Kevin, who, as a veteran Carnival cruiser, organized the trip.

The talk became reality when the alums and their families boarded *Carnival Glory* for a seven-day Caribbean cruise. They loved vegging out on a beach in Costa Maya, Mexico. "We had a blast sharing old stories and renewing our friendships," says Kevin, who was accompanied by wife Beth and daughters, 17-year-old Kristen and 14-year-old Callie.

## SO HAPPY TOGETHER

In fact just the chance to celebrate relationships with friends or family is reason enough to set sail. A "Fun



WEDDINGS, HONEYMOONS, BIRTHDAYS, HOLIDAYS—  
OCCASIONS TO CELEBRATE ARE ALMOST LIMITLESS.

Ship" experience deepens the bonds between spouses, grandparents and grandchildren, girlfriends, and mothers and daughters.

Lisa Guerrero and her mom, Sue Stein, relished their time together on a cruise from New York to New Brunswick, Canada. "My mom is my best friend—she was the matron of honor at my wedding," says Lisa, who lives in Pennsylvania. "But this was the first time we took a trip together."

Mom and daughter shared a zest for exploration. The two took a tugboat tour of the area, went to a maritime museum, rode a rickshaw and viewed a lighthouse. "We didn't want to miss a single thing," says Lisa. "We just loved being with each other."

Whatever the destination or their celebration, guests agree that a Carnival cruise made these special times of their lives extraordinary.

For Maggie and Wattana Viboolsittiseri, who now live in Atlanta, the cruise gave them a chance to reconnect after so much time apart.

"There wasn't a war for five days," says Maggie. "Out in the ocean, it felt like just the two of us and our world." 🌊

## Gifts to Go | Start it all off in style!

Carnival guests can arrange the best send-off ever with gift packages and room decorations tailored to suit their special occasions. It might be wine, gourmet food items and chocolates, flowers, cake, photo and bar coupons, a cookbook featuring "Fun Ship" recipes or a tome on making towel animals. Kids love the Little Skipper Pack with five plush stuffed animals.

Champagne and fruit baskets are the most popular gifts, says Carol Lyman, Carnival's Bon Voyage and Weddings manager. For weddings, anniversaries and honeymoons, big sellers are his-and-hers packages, which can be customized with such goodies as champagne, beach sandals, visors, T-shirts, keepsakes and etched champagne flutes.

Order up to a week before departure at [carnival.com/bonvoyage](https://carnival.com/bonvoyage). Or call 800-522-7648.

Visit Carnival Online

▶ [carnival.com/currents](https://carnival.com/currents)

Plan your own special celebration on a spectacular cruise.

To book a cruise:

- ▶ Contact **your travel agent**
- ▶ Call **1-800-CARNIVAL**
- ▶ Visit **carnival.com**  
Click on "Find a Cruise"