

# Caribbean

Join us at [www.GeekCruises.com](http://www.GeekCruises.com)



Holland America's private island in the Bahamas — Half Moon Cay

It's 82 degrees, not a cloud in sight. Trade winds blow gently across turquoise seas as your cruise ship anchors off a Caribbean paradise. You've spent the last few hours in a productive and satisfying seminar. Now you're minutes away from windsurfing over rippling waves or swimming in some of the clearest waters you've ever seen.

Escape from routine, regiment, and restriction. Enter a world where the dazzling Caribbean, warm sun, and cool breezes beckon you with an array of adventures and delights.



The Lighthouse at Breakers — an incredible Italian restaurant on Grand Cayman island. Every dish has a Caribbean accent!

- 1 Geek Cruisers pose after our "journey" to the top of Dunn's River Falls ; Captain Neil, top right.
- 2 Don't just visit Dunn's River Falls in Ocho Rios, Jamaica ... walk up the falls! Experienced guided "walks" (takes about an hour) are offered every 20 minutes.
- 3 Parasailing (offered by Holland America on most Caribbean Geek Cruises) is great fun ... and easy with the help of Holland America's expert staff.
- 4 We visit both the Western and Eastern Caribbean ... shown here are two of the many different itineraries we offer.



**CARIBBEAN EXCITEMENT** How do you define relaxation? If it's action you crave, our Caribbean cruises offer a range of exciting choices at each port of call. Ride a 24-speed mountain bike to view some of the Caribbean's most beautiful vistas. Helicopter over glorious beaches. Swim with mammoth white stingrays. Ride horseback. Explore world-class dive sites. Climb ancient pyramids of the great and mysterious Mayan civilization. Rent a kayak, sailboat, or Hobie Cat.

If it's less strenuous activities you seek, spend the day shopping for some of the Caribbean's best duty-free bargains. Slip on a pair of flippers and snorkel for hours. Wander along picturesque streets dripping with old world ambience. Sip a tropical cooler in the shade of a palm tree. Or just lie on a sun-drenched beach and let the sound of the waves lull you to sleep.







"Let me say that the cruise was one of the most enjoyable and relaxing weeks of my life. Thank you!"

Lincoln Stein, M.D., Ph.D. <lstein@cshl.org>

"The cruise was a smashing success. I want to go every year!"

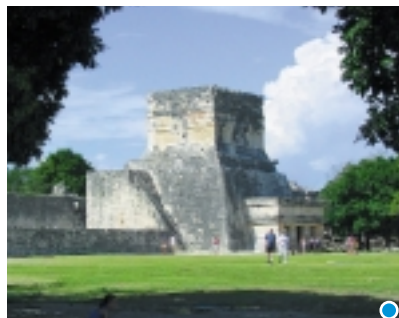
Daniel Dickerson  
<daniel\_dickerson@intuit.com>

"...having returned back in Germany and being caught again by my business I have a wonderful retrospection to our cruise. It was the greatest vacation adventure in my life (and Gudrun's life), and last but not least a technical highly valuable event. So I am thinking over the next cruise, perhaps MySQL Swell in the Mediterranean, probably later."

Guenther Hartung <hartung@ubhartung.de>

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF VACATION, A DIFFERENT KIND OF CONFERENCE

If your idea of a great vacation includes more than sitting idly by a pool, then join us for a Geek Cruise. You'll experience a disparate collection of cultures reflecting European, African, and American influences, set against the backdrop of a tropical Eden. Sun, sand, and relaxation combined with lots of technology talk and camaraderie. What could be better?



**MAYAN RUINS** The Mayas created one of the world's greatest — and most enigmatic — civilizations. While much of Mayan history is shrouded in mystery, the proof of their greatness lies in the magnificent ruins of their cities and ceremonial centers found in Mexico and Central America. From Tulum on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula to Copan in Honduras to Tikal in Guatemala, their monuments, palaces, and temples are a testament to their superior knowledge, design skills, and construction methods.

The Mayas' strong presence in Mexico is evidenced by the name given to the country's eastern coast: the Riviera Maya. Cozumel and Playa del Carmen provide excellent starting points for tours of the Mayan ruins, among them, Coba, El Rey, Tulum, Chichen Itza, and San Gervasio. All of them can be reached within a few hours' driving time. And they are worth the time. The sheer size of the structures, the stories of ongoing archaeological finds, and the intriguing theories about

When on a Western Caribbean cruise be sure to take in one of several Mayan Ruin excursions. ● = Chichen Itza ● = Tulum

what caused the eventual downfall of the Mayas combine for a history lesson like none other you've ever experienced.

Coba is situated in the depths of the jungle and is regarded as one of the most important archaeological sites because of the remains found there. Among the largest Mayan ruins yet uncovered, Coba has more than 3,500 sacred structures surrounded by four natural lakes. Only a few of the structures have been opened to the public. They include the tallest structures in the northern part of the Yucatan, such as the soaring 42-meter high Nohoch Mul pyramid that can be climbed for a stunning view of the surrounding rain forest and the Coba Group of Pyramids with its 24-meter high Iglesia pyramid. With more than 2.5 miles of gravel walking paths, you can spend hours wandering the rugged terrain of the ruins.

The ancient walled city of Tulum is located on the edge of a cliff overlooking the crystal-blue Caribbean, making it one of the most spectacular sites in the Mayan world. Dominated by sacred temples, it's also the only Mayan settlement built on the sea.

San Gervasio is the home of Ixchel, the goddess of fertility and good health. Located on the island of Cozumel, this 10-acre holy area was an important pilgrimage center for Mayan women who prayed to Ixchel for healthy babies. All Mayas were encouraged to visit the sacred site at least once in their life.

You can sign up for shore excursions that provide guided tours of the ruins. Take a fascinating step back in history as you explore these breathtaking sites, marveling at the fantastic architecture and pondering the mysteries that will forever envelope the great Mayas.