

Queen Elizabeth



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Cruise line and ship: Cunard Line – Queen Elizabeth

Size of ship: 294 metres in length

Tonnage: 90,901 Gross Register Tonne

Passenger capacity: 2,092

Year built: 2010

Where the ship cruises: World Cruises, Australia, New Zealand, Baltic, UK and Asia

Currency onboard: USD

Main features / highlights: This ship provides a classy experience filled with elegant rooms and spaces designed to evoke the art deco stylings of the previous Queen Elizabeth (1940 to 1967).

Most suited to: The vast majority of passengers on a world cruise are in their 60's plus. Although it may be unexpected, the ship caters for children with an excellent children / teen facility, so families are welcome. This ship will suit anyone who enjoys an upmarket experience and a huge choice in destinations. If you have an appreciation for heritage, tradition, style and luxurious surroundings this ship will suit you.

Atmosphere: Original paintings, photographs and ephemera from past Cunard ships feature everywhere. Queen Elizabeth is an up market luxurious country hotel from another era. Colours and furnishings are a mixture of browns and creams.

Staterooms: Staterooms and Suites range from inside cabins to huge suites in Princess and Queens Grill. The overall style and fit out of each is consistent with light colours and colourful accents particularly in the furniture. Inside and Oceanview cabins are in fact slightly larger than the lead in balcony cabins as the balcony takes away some of the interior space.

In Princess Grill Suites the extra space is given to a large lounge area with adjacent bar. Queen Grill rooms are even more spacious and once you get to the largest also include their own dining area. Each room has quality toiletries, exceptional linens and coffee / tea making facilities. There is also a well-stocked mini bar.

Dining rooms: Where you dine is dependent on which grade of stateroom you book. Inside cabin guests, Oceanview and most balcony staterooms will dine at one of two fixed times in the main Britannia dining room which is located at the stern.

The central part of the dining room is two-decks high with an elegant staircase between decks 3 and 2. Located adjacent to this dining room is Britannia Club. This dining room offers passengers in upper grade balcony staterooms an open seating concept in a more private space.

Princess and Queens Grill restaurants are located high in the ship on deck 11, with their own lounge / bar and a concierge which is a nice touch. small terrace where you may dine al fresco if the weather is fine. Grill passengers also have their own sun decks and lounges.

For alternative dining there is The Veranda – a French inspired restaurant located just off the foyer, this glamorous venue features reproduction in the Verandah Grill on the original Queen Mary. The food here is of a very good as are the finest wines to match. In the more relaxed Lido (the buffet) hosts Asian and Indian nights for a small extra surcharge. One of the most popular activities is high-tea, served in the Queens Room. White gloved waiters serve scones, little sandwiches, pastries and other little delicacies.

Entertainment: Ballroom dancing is hugely popular on Queen Elizabeth and is held most afternoons and evenings in the Queens Room. Although we were inspecting the ship in the day, I'm reliably assured that in the evenings there are shows by the ships' singers / dancers covering the usual Broadway and popular hits, as well as solo artists such as opera singers, comedians and well known personalities.

Activities: The activities throughout the day range from the usual deck games and card tournaments to excellent lectures provided by experts and well known identities. There are also activities such as mixology classes, ballroom dancing lessons and galley tours. While this should come under dining,

Self-service laundry: A large laundry is located on each deck.

Electric plugs: American style two-pin plugs with 110v, and UK style plugs with 220v. Australian passengers should take an adaptor but also be aware the ship does not accept personal appliances. Each cabin is supplied with a hair dryer. Also – each TV has a USB port (behind it) so you can plug in your phone to recharge.

Insider tips: Interestingly, you can bring one bottle of wine each guest onboard, which you may want to consider as bar prices for good quality glass of wine start at around USD\$16 each.

