



# Family Cruising

Written by Katrina Katsarelis

Photos Courtesy of Carnival Cruise Lines, Andy Newman Photography



Magic has two giant slides (Drain Pipe and Twister) overlooking its expansive waterpark.



## Carnival launches its newest ship out of Galveston with more family-friendly features than ever before



Carnival Magic sails out of Galveston and made its maiden U.S. voyage last November

When was the last time you stopped off in the Bahamas to play with the dolphins, watched a movie under the stars of the Caribbean sky, or slid down a raging water slide in the middle of a cruise ship? If you answered never, well now you can do all those things and more. Carnival Cruise Line just launched its latest gargantuan vacation creation called *Magic*. Just a hop, skip, and a jump from Katy, the convenience of boarding a ship in Galveston, rather than flying with the whole family in tow, makes it super convenient. *Magic* is a 130,000-ton vessel that is 1,004 feet in length and sails to Caribbean destinations like Montego Bay, Grand Cayman, Cozumel, the Bahamas, and Key West. But what's even more special are *Magic*'s new and exciting enhancements geared for families. Read on to find out about some of *Magic*'s most family-friendly features.

### Active Fun for All Ages

SportSquare is *Magic*'s phenomenal outdoor recreation area specifically designed with active families in mind. Starting with an unbelievable ropes course, thrill-seeking moms, dads, and kids can traverse across nets and see the most spectacular views from 150 feet above the sea. (Harnesses for safety and supervised, of course.) There is also a two-level miniature golf course, an outdoor fitness center, and games galore.

### WaterWorks Aqua Park

No need to take a dip in one of the ship's pools to get drenched on *Magic*. Kids and adults of all ages were squealing, laughing, or splashing it up at the WaterWorks Aqua Park. Amazingly clean, refreshing, and well-supervised, there are two giant water slides that twist and turn you down to a super fun Aqua Play splash park, featuring a gigantic, 300-gallon "dump bucket" and many wet 'n wild gismos, gadgets, buckets, and squirters. Talk about fun!

The Seaside Theater shows sporting events, news, and concerts. There is also a family movie night under the stars with first run movies



The ropes course is suspended above Spa Deck 12 and offers spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea below



## Kids, Tweens, and Teens Clubs

When it's time for mom and dad to have a little alone time or visit the spa, Camp Carnival is there to keep kids ages 2 to 11 entertained. Jam-packed with fun activities like games, cooking, crafts, and age-appropriate toys, it's well-supervised, clean, and spacious. There is also a tweens center and a club just for teenagers, each with organized activities and enthusiastic counselors.

## Excursions Galore!

At each port, Carnival Magic offers many sanctioned excursions to suit every family's adventure level. From dolphin encounters to Atlantis day trips, from snorkeling to boating, from dune bugging to kayaking, there's something for everyone. The excursions cost extra, but most of them are reasonably priced for families and have special pricing for children.

## An Affordable Family Vacation

Carnival Magic sails year-round and offers the choice between two weeklong cruises: a Western Caribbean voyage to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel or an Eastern Caribbean cruise to Nassau, Freeport, and Key West. Depending on which dates you sail and the type of stateroom you book, Carnival Magic cruises can be as low as \$86 per day per person. Visit [carnival.com](http://carnival.com) for more information. KM

# More MAGIC Fun



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## Serenity Deck

Designed with couples in mind, Serenity is a quiet, adults-only retreat with double-sized hammocks, chaise lounges, jumbo-sized whirlpools, and a bar.

## Food, Glorious Food

Magic has four sit-down restaurants, including two elegant dining rooms, a family Italian restaurant called Cucina del Capitano, and a higher-end Prime Steakhouse. There are also more casual eateries like a Mongolian wok, burrito bar, delicatessen, pizza station, burger grill, sushi bar, and more.

## Cloud 9 Spa and Gym

Cloud 9 is a two-level facility with a gym, therapy pool, sauna, steam, and full-service spa. It's a little pricey compared to Katy's going rates, so make sure and set aside some extra "pamper yourself funds."

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