



ODYSSEY GUIDEBOOK

for residents, by residents

A collection of essential information for the Odyssey community

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Last updated March 20, 2026

Version 17

Odyssey Guidebook

This is not an official VVR document. It was created by VVR residents for residents.

The goal is to capture in a single file, the flood of information floating around in Circle, WhatsApp, webinars and various discussions, filtering out the daily conversation from information that would be useful as a reference. It is intended to supplement official information posted on the VVR website, with details more relevant to daily life and our onboard community.

Topics are arranged in alphabetical order. A table of contents and an index are included to make it easier to find information.

Please direct any corrections, updates, and additions to Basia Kruszewska. Changes to VVR policies will be updated when new information is officially provided by VVR on Circle or during meetings. Tips and suggestions from residents are welcome any time. If you would like to contribute information, please let me know, I will incorporate it.

If you are not sure if the guidebook you downloaded is the latest version, click on my profile (Basia) in Circle, then click Posts. The post containing the latest version should be displayed near the top of the list.

Key:

Pending questions and items that are waiting for clarification are highlighted in yellow.

Information provided by residents is referenced with the resident name in **[green]**.

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Topic	Information		
Acronyms	Acronyms used in this guidebook and/or online forums and documents.		
	#	Acronym	Stands For
	1	AC, A/C	Air Conditioning
	2	AAN	Advanced Arrival Notice
	3	AED	Automated External Defibrillator
	4	BMA	Bahamas Maritime Authority
	5	BRF	Boarding Request Form
	6	BWTS	Ballast Water Treatment System
	7	CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
	8	CCS	Columbia Cruise Services
	9	CDC	Centers For Disease Control
	10	COC	Certificate of Compliance
	11	CSO	Chief Strategy Officer
	12	DHL	Import/export logistics company [Dalsey, Hillblom & Lynn]
	13	DNV	Det Norske Veritas (Maritime services advisor)
	14	DVD	Digital Versatile Disc
	15	F&F	Friends and Family
	16	FMC	Federal Maritime Commission
	17	GH	Global Harmony
	18	HIIT	High-Intensity Interval Training
	19	HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
	20	IDL	International Date Line
	21	IMO	International Maritime Organization
	22	IPMI	International Private Medical Insurance
	23	ISPS	International Ship and Port Facility Security
	24	LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer
	25	MARPOL	Marine Pollution
	26	MBR	Membrane Bioreactor (wastewater treatment)
	27	MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
	28	MXP	MarineXchange Platform
	29	OBC	Onboard Credit
	30	OGC	Operations Governance Committee
	31	PAYG	Pay As You Go
	32	PHS	Public Health & Safety
	33	PSC	Port State Control
	34	PSSC	Passenger Ship Safety Certificate
	35	P&I	Protection and Indemnity (Insurance)
	36	PVSA	Passenger Vessel Services Act
	37	QR	Quick Response Code
	38	RO	Reverse Osmosis
	39	RTP	Resident Travel Profile
	40	SMS	Safety Management System
	41	SOLAS	Safety Of Life At Sea
	42	SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

43	TBYB	Try Before You Buy
44	UPR	Unearned Passenger Revenue
45	USCG	United States Coast Guard
46	USPH	United States Public Health
47	VOA	Visa On Arrival
48	VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol
49	VPN	Virtual Private Network
50	VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
51	VVR	Villa Vie Residences
52	WA	WhatsApp

Air Conditioning

Air conditioning has been an ongoing subject of discussion since the start of the journey.

Update from CEO Kathy V on Dec 5, 2025:

AC Chillers

We’ve made strong progress on the chiller overhauls. Both units serving the new section are now operating correctly, and the automated sequence issue that caused cooling fluctuations has been resolved. Performance has stabilized, and many previously affected cabins should already feel improvement. This completes phase one of the overhaul. Phase two will include a control system upgrade, fan supply upgrades, and the overhaul of the final chiller. If your cabin temperature still feels off, please continue to report it so the team can address any remaining issues.

Here is a helpful summary of air conditioning basics by resident John Frim.

[John Frim]

We are all aware that Villa Vie is working on fixing or upgrading the air conditioning (AC) system. During this process there have been temporary shutdowns, resulting in complaints about cabin temperatures being uncomfortably hot.

When the AC is OFF a rise in cabin temperature is understandable. But why are there complaints even when the AC is supposedly working properly? Why are some people’s cabins comfortable while others are unbearable? In this post I hope to explain in simple terms how the AC system works and what you can expect in your cabin.

The air temperature in your cabin is a balance between heat in and heat out. The sources of environmental “heat in” are the sun coming through a window, warm outside air coming through an open balcony door, warm corridor air coming through or under the cabin door, and conductive heat transfer through the ship’s steel structures. Heat is also generated inside the cabin by electrical appliances such as the refrigerator, TV, computers, lights, and hair dryers. Also, every human body inside the cabin adds 100-150 watts of heat (that’s 1/10 of what a hair dryer puts out). And even though fans might make you feel cooler they are actually a source of heat inside the cabin, and they contribute a small amount to the warming of the air space.

The only source of “heat out” or heat removal is the cool air being supplied to your cabin by the AC system. The amount of heat that this cool air can remove depends on the temperature and flow rate of the air coming from the vent, and those parameters are a function of the AC capacity and settings of the zone supplying the air to your cabin. Note

that cabin air is extracted by the bathroom vent, and both vent systems must be functioning for optimal performance.

I just had a technician come by my cabin to check the air coming out of the ceiling vent. It measured 19-20 C (66-68 F). The air flow is not hurricane strength, but it is perceptible. He said it is "working properly."

Given the above, the coolest my cabin will ever get is 20 C (ie, temperature of the delivered air). But because of the heat gains my cabin will NEVER get to 20 C unless the outside temperature drops below 20 C (to reduce the external heat gain of the ship) and/or the AC system can deliver colder air (delivery temperature is affected by the ambient outside conditions).

So why are some cabins and different parts of the ship cold while others are hot? The ship AC system is divided into zones, and clearly not all zones have the same settings and/or performance capability. For whatever reasons, some zones can supply more air volume and much cooler air than others. If the AC system in a particular zone is running at maximum capacity then there is nothing that Villa Vie can do to increase the cooling capacity within that zone short of replacing refrigeration units and circulator fans. As for why places like the Coral or Neptune lounges are cold, I suspect the thermostats in those rooms are set quite low and the AC systems in those zones have the capacity to deliver large volumes of very cold air.

Speaking of thermostats, most are just simple switches. When the air temperature is warmer than the setting of the thermostat it calls for cooling. Once the space cools to the set point the thermostat tells the system to stop providing cold air. If the air supply is very cold and has a high flow rate the space can cool quickly. But if the supply temperature is just moderately cool and/or the air flow rate is insufficient the system will simply keep running without ever reaching the desired temperature. The cabin temperature will settle in at a balance between the heat in and the heat out, independent of the thermostat setting.

I have heard complaints that thermostats are not working because the cabin temperature is the same regardless of how cool they set the dial. When cabin cooling is limited by insufficient AC, setting the thermostat lower will not make the room cool to a lower temperature, nor will it make the room cool faster. Once the thermostat has called for cooling the AC system delivers all that it can... which many people feel is not enough.

If your thermostat is working then raising the set point on the thermostat should make your cabin warmer. I know that my thermostat is working properly, because when I raise the temperature setting I hear a "click," and within minutes I feel warm air coming out of the ceiling vent. When I lower the setting I again hear a click, and after a few minutes I get cool air coming in. The thermostat is effectively connecting warm and cool air supply ducts to my ceiling vent.

FWIW, I have been monitoring the air quality in my cabin over many months (temperature is one of the parameters being measured) and for the most part the temperature has been fairly steady around 24-25 C (75-77 F). I find this quite comfortable. Note that I have my thermostat set to 18 C (64 F) just in case the performance of the AC system improves. If it does I will see a drop in temperature.

Attached is data from the month of August. The variations have nothing to do with my thermostat setting; they are simply a reflection of the performance of the AC system, and it has been quite consistent.



To summarize, the temperature and volume of air coming through the cabin ceiling vent are a function of the cooling capacity of the AC system within a particular zone. If the AC supply cannot adequately overcome the sources of heat in your cabin, then the equilibrium temperature in the cabin will not be controllable with the thermostat. Under no circumstances can your cabin ever get colder than the air coming out of the vent. re the latest statements about the status.

Alcohol

Included in cruise price:

- Filtered drinking water (not bottled) and sparkling water
- Sodas served in a glass (not cans or bottles)
- House wine and beer with lunch and dinner (2 glasses per person)

Charged:

- Bottled water, both still and sparkling
- Sodas in cans or bottles
- Liquor other than wine or beer with meals

Ice is provided on request.

There is no tip pool for the bar staff, but you can tip them on the handheld device when you pay for a drink.

You can bring wine & liquor on board, keeping in mind there may be customs limitations. You CANNOT store your own liquor at the bar.

Corkage Fee

Residents are welcome to enjoy personal wine or other alcoholic beverages within their own accommodations without restriction. However, when any personally supplied bottle is brought into or consumed within any onboard venue – including restaurants, lounges, bars, pool areas or event spaces – a corkage fee of USD \$10 per bottle will be automatically applied to the resident’s onboard account. This fee applies whether the bottle is:

- Opened by ship staff or by the resident
- Consumed partially or fully within the venue; or
- Brought in for a private group gathering or special occasion

Drink Package

A drink package is available for \$24.95 per person, per day.

Note: The drink package is **NOT** needed for drinks already included in cruise price (beer & wine with meals, coffee & tea, water and juice from fountains).

	<p>Drink package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty coffees and teas • Soft drinks & water (still and sparkling) • Juices • Beers, wines, and sparkling wines • Standard spirits • Standard cocktails <p>Terms & Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be purchased weekly and is charged weekly to your onboard account. • Multiple residents of one villa cannot share one drink package. If one person in the villa buys a drink package, the other must get it too. • Only one drink per person can be ordered at one time. • Fair use policy with a maximum of 14 beverages in total per person, within a 24-hour period • All beverages up to USD \$9.00 per drink. • All beverages over USD \$9.00 per item and over 14 drinks within a 24-hour period will be charged to your personal account at full price. • Not available for room service; restaurants and bars only. • Still and sparkling water by the glass only. • If residents leave the ship within a seven-day period, a credit will be issued for the unused days. <p>Exclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverages over \$9.00 per drink • Premium wines and champagne • Premium spirits and cocktails • Mini bar • In-stateroom bottle sales program • Still & sparkling water by the bottle <p>Gratuity for the crew is not included in drink package. Gratuity is not mandatory, but always highly appreciated. There is crew that you see, and crew that you don't. We have a crew welfare account; crew decides how to use the funds for their benefit. You can contribute through guest relations; we'll charge it to your account. Can be anonymous or not.</p> <p>The minimum age for alcohol consumption is 18; however, local laws will be observed. For example, while in U.S. territorial waters, the minimum age for alcohol consumption is 21.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Announcements are made through the public address system on board. Some are also displayed on TV screens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety/emergency announcements coming from the bridge can be heard in all areas, including in cabins. • Non-emergency announcements (not coming from the bridge) are heard throughout the ship public areas, but not in cabins. You may need to open your cabin door to hear them, depending on where your cabin is located.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is usually an informational announcement from an officer on the bridge at noon and just prior to sail-away, noting destination, position of the ship, distance to port, weather conditions, vessel speed, wind speed, temperature. • Wildlife sightings (dolphins and whales) may be announced by the captain as needed. • If you are in a public area when an announcement is made, please be considerate and allow others to hear it by not talking during the announcement. • Periodic safety training drills for crew are also announced. They are prefaced with “for exercise only.” They do not apply to residents and can be disregarded. • The Villa Vie Today bulletin is displayed on screens throughout the ship and on cabin TVs. If the info on your cabin TV is not displayed or is not current, press the Info button on your remote to reload it. • Written notifications (unplanned maintenance, water supply shutoff, connectivity issues) are displayed on your TV. Go to Main Menu -> Guest Services ->Messages. Scroll on remote with right arrow to today’s tab. To delete old messages, select the message and press OK on your remote. To delete all messages, press and hold the OK button.
<p>ATM & Credit Cards</p>	<p>The ship has an ATM machine, located next to the Guest Services desk. There is a 10% fee for cash withdrawals, which goes to VVR.</p> <p>Tips from residents for using credit cards and ATMs for international travel:</p> <p>Credit Cards</p> <p>[Randy Cassingham] <i>When asked if you want a charge to be in local currency or US\$, always choose local currency: the exchange rate charged by local processors is almost always MUCH less favorable than what your big bank will charge. Be sure you check with your card issuer to see if they charge a “foreign transaction fee,” which is separate from the exchange rate. Many do charge one, many don’t, and of course you want one that doesn’t.</i></p> <p>[Shelly Spearing] <i>A nice aspect of having cards in your digital wallet is that they automatically update and are usable even before you get the physical card.</i></p> <p>[Angela Milch] <i>I have both but primarily use my Sapphire card as the points transfer to more airlines and hotels and the travel insurance is better. Just make sure whatever you get has no foreign transaction fees</i></p> <p>[Myla Goldman] <i>I like the Capital One Venture X.</i></p> <p>[Laura Lee] <i>I use Chase Reserve, Ink Business, AmEx Platinum, and Capital One Venture X. It gives me a broad coverage of points and lots of benefits. For Uruguay, it’s best to use your credit card as they remove the 18% tax. For small things, you can use US dollars and they give USD back.</i></p>

[Will]: *Visa is the most widely accepted and I have a Chase Marriot Bonvoy Card (Visa) to get Marriott Points, a Delta Amex for Delta points and an Amex Platinum (it is expensive but the benefits are more than worth it). I will use this card when I rent a car for the car insurance benefits which is super important given that I sold my car and don't have regular car insurance.*

ATM Withdrawals/Local Currency

[Shelly Spearing]

Fidelity also reimburses all ATM charges for Fidelity® Cash Management Account Fidelity Account® Premium, Active Trader VIP, Private Client Group, Wealth Management, or former Youth accounts owners.

<https://www.fidelity.com/spend-save/help-center/debit-card/get-started#:~:text=2.,foreign%20and%20domestic%20ATM%20withdrawals>.

Fidelity does not charge foreign transaction fees; however, if you choose to pay a foreign debit card transaction in US dollars, your transaction may be processed at a rate different than market exchange rate. Fidelity will reimburse fees applied to both foreign and domestic ATM withdrawals. If the fee is not separated from the transaction amount by the ATM owner, reimbursement is not done automatically, but can be processed by an associate upon your request.

[Eddie Dorworth]

I learned something valuable while living in Mexico that I just thought I would share with everyone to potentially save you money each time you use an ATM. Most ATM machines charge you a fee ranging from 3 to 7 dollars. Additionally, your bank likely charges you a fee ranging from 3 to 7 dollars this means that you could be paying from 6 to \$14 every time you use an ATM machine.

A good friend in Mexico taught me about Charles Schwab. They offer a free checking account which does not charge any fee when using any ATM around the world. Additionally, they reimburse any ATM fees that you paid other banks when using the ATMs around the world. This saves me a lot of money each month.

Charles Schwab does require you to open an investment account in order to open their free checking account, however, the minimum balance required is one cent.

There is one more thing that I thought I should mention to everyone. While I have not seen this in every country, it is very popular in most countries. The ATM machines will display a screen full of conversion rates, and generally on the right-hand side is a button to accept their conversion rate. There is also a button on the left-hand side to reject their conversion rate. If you read the screen closely, there is generally a markup fee ranging from 4 to 12%. I have learned that I can select decline conversion rate button, and I will still receive my money, but I will not have to pay that markup percentage.

Attire

Residents and persons onboard must wear appropriate attire in public spaces. Shirts and footwear are required in dining venues and indoor public spaces except where pool attire is permitted in designated areas.

	<p>There is no formal dress code on the Odyssey, except for restrictions on political messaging on clothing. Electoral or campaign slogans or messaging of any kind—including on clothing, hats, signage, or other visible displays—are not permitted in our shared public spaces. Source on Circle: Respect and Harmony Onboard</p> <p>Policy on Electoral & Campaign Messaging in Shared Spaces Effective immediately, the following policy applies to all Residents and guests onboard Odyssey:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Electoral or Campaign Messaging Articles of clothing, hats, signage, or other visible displays featuring slogans in support of or opposition to political candidates, elected officials, government figures, campaigns, or party affiliations are not permitted in any shared public spaces onboard. 2. Scope of Policy This policy applies to all communal areas, including but not limited to dining venues, lounges, corridors, outdoor decks, and other shared spaces where Residents gather. 3. Personal Beliefs and Private Gatherings Residents are free to hold and discuss their personal beliefs privately. This policy is not intended to limit individual views, but to ensure that electoral and campaign expression does not disrupt or divide the broader community. Residents who wish to host events, clubs, or gatherings involving political content may do so provided the purpose is made clear to participants in advance. 4. Purpose Villa Vie Residences is not affiliated with any nation’s political system. Our ship is home to a diverse, global community, and our goal is to foster an inclusive, welcoming environment free from electoral and campaign division. 5. Enforcement Crew and management are empowered to remind Residents and guests of this policy. Compliance is expected from all Residents equally, and violations will be addressed as conduct matters.
<p>Beds</p>	<p>Bed configurations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In most cabins, the default bed is two European twin beds grouped together to form one bed. • The beds can be moved apart into two separate twin beds. • Some residents have removed one of the beds to make more room in the cabin. • Some residents have reported that the mattresses on beds with wooden legs are firmer than those on beds with metal legs. • A few cabins have a Pullman-style bed (a bed that pulls out from the wall). Others have purchased Murphy beds, which are hinged at one end to the wall to allow for vertical storage. • The official size provided by VVR for each twin bed is 75”L x 33”W x 8.25”D. Two beds pushed together would be 75”L x 66”W. (A standard queen bed is 80”L x 60”W, so this is 6” wider.) • However, some residents have reported that bed sizes vary. [Kathy Bohrer] has reported 78.74" x 35.43" (200 x 90 cm), so 79" L x ~71" W when pushed together.

- Larger cabins/suites may have king-size options.

The two twin beds are covered with a foam topper and a bottom fitted sheet. A comforter with a comforter cover and blanket are also provided. There is no top sheet (but a limited number may be available on request).

Pillows are European style (square). Residents have purchased American-style pillows at local IKEAs.

[Cindy Stein] *I purchased [a queen bed] from Amazon after I had VVR approve it, here is the description from Amazon: ZINUS 8 Inch Green Tea Cooling Memory Foam Mattress [New Version], Short Queen, Fiberglass Free, Medium Firmness, Cooling Gel Foam, Certified Safe Foams & Fabric, Mattress in A Box - it is 74"L x 60"W - we purchased a metal frame for it as well.*

See also **Furnishings**

Residents have recommended bed risers, mattress bridges, and mattress pads for their beds. Here are some of their suggestions.

Bed Risers

If you need additional space in your cabin, bed risers can be used to increase underbed storage. The type of bed in your cabin may impact your use of bed risers. There are two kinds of bed frame legs: metal and wooden.

Do You Need Bed Risers?

1. Determine whether your bed frame has wooden or metal legs. If you are a new resident and are not on board yet, the Resident Services Manager (Maria) can arrange to get photos of the beds in your cabin.
2. If your bed has wooden legs, you may have adequate underbed clearance without risers (12.5"). If you want more clearance, the larger risers (6" or 8") are recommended.
3. If your bed has metal legs, a large suitcase will probably not fit underneath (unless it is open), so you may want to get risers. With 8" risers, a medium suitcase placed on its side will fit.
4. Determine how many risers you will need. This depends on whether you will keep both beds side by side, or just one. If you keep one bed, you'll need 4 risers.
5. If you combine the beds and push them together:
 - For wooden legs, each leg will go into its own riser, so you will need 8 risers.
 - For metal legs, placing the risers side by side may not work very well (results in space between beds). It might be better to fit two legs into one riser, in which case you'll need 6 risers.
6. If you are already on board, or don't want to carry the risers in your luggage when you board, have them sent directly to the Pembroke Pines address, to be included in the next freight shipment.

7. If you use risers, the bed skirt will no longer reach the floor, so the cabin tends to look more cluttered. If this is a concern for you, you may have to buy or create a new one.

Here is a summary of the differences.

	Bed Frames With	
	Metal Legs	Wooden Legs
Size of one twin bed	75" length x 33" width	78.74" length x 35.43" width
Size of two beds together	75" length x 66" width	78.74" length x 70.86" width
Diameter of legs	Square 2.25"	Round 4"
Underbed clearance without risers	~8-9"	~12.5"
Underbed capacity without risers	Small roll-on bag may fit. Large suitcase will not fit without risers, unless it is open.	Large suitcase may fit without bed risers.
Position of leg on riser	Sit inside notched top of riser	Sit on top of risers
Compatible riser size	3" or 6" or 8"	Recommended 8"

Links for some bed risers on Amazon:

[Vaniture Bed Risers](#)

[Utopia Bed Risers](#)

[Bed Risers General](#)

Bed Bridge

The two beds pushed together can result in a noticeable gap between the beds. A bed bridge is a bed filler used to connect two mattresses, making them into one large mattress, reducing the gap in the middle.

[Christy Martin] Twin to King Bed Converter on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/iJhEzQl>

Mattress Encasements


Some residents have suggested getting mattress encasements to protect against spills and bedbugs. A more detailed discussion of mattress encasements can be found on Circle:

<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/discuss-your-topics/mattress-encasement>

[Kathy Bohrer] *Today my steward told me the mattresses in one of my cabins had been changed. These new mattresses are 90 cm x 200 cm. That's 35.4" x 78.8". This is a pretty standard European mattress size and is easy to find covers. The Amazon UK website has them.*

[Suzanne Lankes] *Before you put the 2 twin beds together, I highly recommend purchasing mattress encasements to protect from spills, bed bugs, dust mites, skin cells, toxins, sweat, incontinence, mold spores, allergens, bacteria, micro toxins, pet dander and fleas. Especially if you are renting. They are waterproof, hypoallergenic, chemical free, flame retardant, noiseless, and washable. An individual one for each twin bed.*

	<p>[Suzanne Lankes] <i>An option: I found a US company that can ship immediately (to the US). They have the exact size of the mattress 33" x 75" x 9". Kathy B's vendor's width size is 2" larger than the mattress, which will be fine, and maybe even an asset, who knows. The US company is \$89.99, quite a bit more, but it's an option if anyone needs it. Can purchase directly from the link below. https://www.mattressinsider.com/rv-mattress-protector-truck-mattress-protector.html Free shipping in USA. They are ready to ship immediately. MattressInsider.com phone: 888-488-1468 email: orders@mattressinsider.com</i></p> <p>[Shelly Spearing] <i>Whether we need two (one for each mattress) is unclear. If the two mattresses have a foam topper, how is an encasement of just the mattresses going to protect against bugs and spills? I'm now thinking that a super/olympic/expanded queen-sized encasement is the way to go.</i></p> <p><i>This is what I've found so far (searching olympic queen Best Bed Bug Mattress Covers):</i> https://www.amazon.com/dp/BOBG61DMHP https://www.amazon.com/dp/BOC8BLKJGL https://www.amazon.com/Utopia-Bedding-Zippered-Mattress-Encasement/dp/BOCG9S3ZLH</p> <p>[Shelly Spearing] https://www.thespruce.com/best-bed-bug-mattress-covers-4589629 suggests Utopia is the best for budget.</p> <p>[Cherie Ohlsson] I was able to find this encasement too for super queens https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0C8BLKJGL/ref=ox_sc_act_title_3?smid=A3GGU30A5NO9RN&psc=1</p> <p>(David Austin) Amazon.UK. Zippered Olympic Queen Mattress Protector (66"x80") - Super Queen Size Bedbug Waterproof Mattress Cover, Premium Quality Hypoallergenic Bed Encasement https://amzn.eu/d/5uimKSF</p>
<p>Bikes</p>	<p>Bikes are allowed on board, but need to be stored in your cabin. There is no additional storage available while the crew cabins and cabins on decks 2 and 3 are being finished. Passengers with folding bikes must store them in room and adhere to various ports regulations regarding disembarking with bicycles. These can vary from port to port. Some ports allow bikes to be brought on shore, others do not.</p> <p>E-bikes are not allowed on board. Peloton bikes are available in the fitness center.</p> <p>For any residents requesting to take their bicycles ashore VVR needs 48 hours' notice prior to arrival. As part of our clearance procedures, we will need the name and serial numbers of the bicycle to be presented to the officials. The officials may deny the use of bicycles ashore in the ports, however if it is granted, we will need the paperwork for the clearance.</p> <p>A more detailed discussion about bicycles ashore is on Circle, here.</p>

<p>Birds</p>	 <p>Wildlife on Deck — Please Help Us Protect It</p> <p>Sometimes birds may land on the ship to rest during their journey. This is normal, and in most cases the bird will leave on its own once recovered.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Please DO</th> <th>Please DO NOT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Keep a safe distance</td> <td>Touch or try to move the bird</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allow the bird to rest in peace</td> <td>Feed the bird</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Follow crew instructions</td> <td>Pour water or throw objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Try to make the bird fly</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Get too close for photos or selfies</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Why this matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds may be exhausted Disturbing them can cause injury or death Feeding or handling can harm wildlife Many birds are protected by environmental laws <p>Our crew and Environmental Officer are monitoring the situation. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us protect wildlife onboard.</p>	Please DO	Please DO NOT	Keep a safe distance	Touch or try to move the bird	Allow the bird to rest in peace	Feed the bird	Follow crew instructions	Pour water or throw objects		Try to make the bird fly		Get too close for photos or selfies	<p>Several instances have been reported of injured/exhausted birds landing on cabin balconies and ship decks. The procedure for any injured birds found aboard is to notify Resident Services (call Ext. 65). Odyssey is bound by maritime law to follow specific protocols regarding wildlife, including birds.</p> <p>Here is the official posted bulletin regarding birds on board.</p>
Please DO	Please DO NOT													
Keep a safe distance	Touch or try to move the bird													
Allow the bird to rest in peace	Feed the bird													
Follow crew instructions	Pour water or throw objects													
	Try to make the bird fly													
	Get too close for photos or selfies													

<p>Birthdays</p>	<p>The Celebrations Committee is made up of volunteer residents who work to acknowledge and support the special occasions of members of our onboard community. Here are some of the ways residents celebrate special occasions on board.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1010 651 1255"> <p>WhatsApp group</p> </td> <td data-bbox="651 1010 1562 1255"> <p>[Alicia Hunter Lewis] and [Jim Maas] coordinate the VV Birthdays and Celebrations WhatsApp group and encourage people to join that group to post well wishes on residents' birthdays and anniversaries (or to express sympathy or acknowledge other personal events). You are encouraged to post messages there as opposed to cluttering up one of the main chat groups. Contact Alicia or Jim or JR or Gary M to be added to the group.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1262 651 1906"> <p>Resident Roster</p> </td> <td data-bbox="651 1262 1562 1906"> <p>Alicia manages a voluntary roster with resident birthdays, anniversaries, and cabin numbers. Fill out this form to be added to the roster: Celebrations Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Villa # Birth date Anniversary date Will you be on board for your special day in 2026? If milestone birthday, which one? <p>The information you enter in the form will be populated into a Google Doc roster. You can view the entire roster showing everyone's info here: Resident Roster</p> <p>Note that there are multiple tabs. If you are having any problems with the form, you can also send an email with the information to Alicia Hunter Lewis or Bonny Kelter.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>WhatsApp group</p>	<p>[Alicia Hunter Lewis] and [Jim Maas] coordinate the VV Birthdays and Celebrations WhatsApp group and encourage people to join that group to post well wishes on residents' birthdays and anniversaries (or to express sympathy or acknowledge other personal events). You are encouraged to post messages there as opposed to cluttering up one of the main chat groups. Contact Alicia or Jim or JR or Gary M to be added to the group.</p>	<p>Resident Roster</p>	<p>Alicia manages a voluntary roster with resident birthdays, anniversaries, and cabin numbers. Fill out this form to be added to the roster: Celebrations Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Villa # Birth date Anniversary date Will you be on board for your special day in 2026? If milestone birthday, which one? <p>The information you enter in the form will be populated into a Google Doc roster. You can view the entire roster showing everyone's info here: Resident Roster</p> <p>Note that there are multiple tabs. If you are having any problems with the form, you can also send an email with the information to Alicia Hunter Lewis or Bonny Kelter.</p>
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	Door Decoration	[Shirene Thomas] spearheads the decorating of residents' villa doors for birthdays and anniversaries, and would welcome anyone else who would like to assist.
	Word Clouds	The birthday committee creates word clouds from words shared by residents that describe the birthday person. Words must be received by noon the day BEFORE the person's birthday to be included. Submit your words on the birthday notices on the bulletin board in Morning Light.
	Birthday Gatherings	Many residents coordinate birthday gatherings (meals, karaoke, dance) for friends or family on board. You can reserve tables in Thistle restaurant for a private group, or extend an open invitation to all. Contact the Cruise Director and/or the chef to brainstorm options.
	Circle	Circle now also has a place designated for entering birthdays, anniversaries, and cabin numbers. Instructions for adding your information in Circle: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Log in to Circle. 2. Click on your profile picture. 3. Click Edit Profile. 4. Scroll down to birthday/anniversary/cabin and enter info. 5. Click Save Changes.
<p>More info on birthday celebrations can be found on this post in Circle: Birthday Celebrations FAQ</p>		
Buddy System	<p>A buddy system is in place to help newly arriving residents get oriented. The program matches residents who have been on Odyssey for a while with new arrivals. Contact [Fran Paroissien] to volunteer to be a buddy, or to be matched with a buddy.</p> <p>https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/discuss-your-topics/buddy-system</p>	
Bulletins	<p>Daily bulletins (Villa Vie Today) are posted throughout the ship and online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screens by elevators, in front of restaurants, in hallways • In Circle in the Villa Vie Today section • On your TV screen, in Villa Vie Today section • In WhatsApp in the VV Daily Bulletin group, posted by [Rina Cavazza] or [Lyn H.] 	
Business Center	<p>The ship includes a business center with 8 private rooms and 18 stations with chairs. Private rooms can be reserved for a fee. Note that although offices provide some privacy, there is a gap between the top of the door and the ceiling, so they are not completely soundproof. VVR has stated they will likely build more offices in the next dry dock, since there is a demand for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open stations are free for all to use on a first-come first-served basis. • Zoom calls are always welcome in the business center. • The power sockets in the business area will accept any type of plug (110 or 240), no adapter needed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A printer is available for printing and scanning. <p>See also Printing</p> <p>The business center is a working area for many digital nomads. It is difficult to focus and make calls when it turns into a social meeting place. Please be respectful and treat the area as a quiet zone. Keep the noise level down when you are in the vicinity of the business center.</p>
<p>Cabins</p>	<p>Access to your cabin is with a key card.</p> <p>Windows: Exterior cabins have either windows or portholes, depending on the deck. Deck 3 has portholes, deck 4 has windows. The size of the deck 4 windows is 46" x 38" (metric 1160 x 960). Due to safety requirements, windows do not open; they must be secure and watertight. Interior cabins do not have windows or portholes. Windows are washed periodically by staff, depending on port regulations.</p> <p>Balconies: Balconies do not have a screen, but some residents have purchased portable screens.</p> <p>Cabin Furnishings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV – 43" flat screen. TVs on deck 3 may be smaller. • Mini fridge (13" high x 15" wide; 320mm x 370mm). If you don't want the fridge, you can ask your steward to remove it. • Small safe with key or combination keypad. Sizes may vary, here is a typical one for an oceanview cabin on deck 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Size of interior: 8.2" x 6.5" (Metric: 210 x 165) ▪ Size of opening: 5.9" x 6.3" (Metric: 150 x 160) • Built-in desk and light • Full-length mirror • Hangers (usually 10-20 per cabin, can request more or trade with other residents) • Duvet with cover, towels, pillows, blankets. Bring your own if you prefer. • Wall phone (for internal ship use) • Hair dryer • Shower curtain • Safety bar in shower • Retractable clothesline • Built-in storage shelves behind mirror in bathroom <p>NOT Available (items that residents have inquired about):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No washcloths (the ship tailor can convert hand towels to wash cloths on request) • No bathrobe • No magnifying mirror • No top sheet. Can request one, but supply is limited. • No bidet • No microwave • No tea kettle or coffee machine

	<p>Showers Shower opening is 26.5 in x 80.5 in (floor to ceiling).</p> <p>Toiletries provided weekly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet paper • Kleenex • Body wash/shampoo/conditioner in pump bottles, Bocelli premium brand, refilled as needed. Bring your own if you prefer. <p>Not allowed in cabin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live plants • Your own curtains, unless fire-rated <p>Storage in cabin (may vary depending on cabin type):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desk with shelves and drawers ▪ Storage shelves in closet ▪ Closet with pole. Some cabins have as many as 3 poles. Closet doors open out (not sliding). ▪ Some closets have drawers, depending on cabin. ▪ Underbed storage. Some residents are using their open hard suitcases as drawers under the bed. (<i>See also Beds</i> for measurements). <p>In addition, some residents have purchased shelves, side tables, drawers, bath and closet organizers from Amazon or local IKEA stores.</p> <p>Renovations to cabins are allowed for cabin owners only (not for renters/segmenters).</p>
<p>Cabotage</p>	<p>Cabotage refers to the transport of goods or passengers between two places in the same country, and the laws and regulations that restrict or limit such transport by foreign ships.</p> <p>The Jones Act and PVSA (Passenger Vessel Services Act) have jurisdiction over embarkation and disembarkation, and prohibit foreign cruise ships from allowing passengers to board at one U.S. port and disembark at another U.S. port, without a “distant foreign port” in between. Canada and Mexico do not count. The act is designed to protect domestic trade. Applies whether we have an FMC bond or not, and to all passengers, regardless of nationality. This will impact how/where you (as well as friends & family) will be able to embark/disembark.</p> <p>The Jones Act applies to U.S. ports, but most other countries have similar cabotage restrictions. Domestic voyages (embark in one port, disembark in another within the same country), are NOT allowed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan • Indonesia • Australia • U.S. Territories (Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa) • Philippines • Taiwan

- France (Wallis & Futuna, New Caledonia, French Polynesia)

Source: VVR documentation on Circle - [Cabotage Laws](#)

Resident [Wade R] compiled a Google doc explaining some of the common scenarios impacted by the Jones Act:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NAUeomUKfNZXOn4Yxn3Xuifn3RRJzH9wexM1dwXDTqY/edit?usp=sharing>

This link provides more information about the Jones Act (be aware that this article is slanted towards proving why the Jones Act is not good):

<https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/jones-act-burden-america-can-no-longer-bear#how-jones-act-restricts-shipping>

Checklist

A list of suggested tasks is available for new residents. A printout of the checklist is provided to buddies matched with onboarding residents. See the relevant topics in this guidebook for more detailed information for each item.

Checklist for New Residents

(= mandatory; all others are suggested/encouraged)*

- Check in at Guest Services desk:
 - *Pick up your key card
 - *Drop off your passport
 - *Register a credit or debit card for your onboard account
 - Get WiFi password
- *Note your muster station (available on your keycard and in your cabin) and attend safety meeting
- Get your cabin set up for WiFi via TV hotspot, and get password for that
- Check the Villa Vie Today notices for what's going on today
- Pick up your name tag from the Morning Light lounge
- Find out when housekeeping/laundry days are for your cabin
- If you don't have one in your cabin, ask your steward for a laundry bag or two
- Download a copy of the Odyssey Guidebook from Circle or WhatsApp
- Schedule a Get-To-Know-You meeting with the medical center
- Schedule a consultation/introduction with the fitness instructor
- Add your photo to your Circle profile
- Add your name to resident roster to make it easier for others to connect with you
- If you want to be part of the resident community on WhatsApp:
 - Request an invitation through Circle from either Gary M or JR
 - Add your last name and photo to your WhatsApp profile and check other settings
 - Revisit your membership in the chat subgroups
- Configure personal electronics for security and bandwidth friendliness
- Go exploring:
 - Deck 8: Observatory, Pool
 - Deck 7: Fitness Center
 - Deck 6: Palms Café

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deck 5: Coral Lounge, Morning Light, Neptune Lounge, Library, Promenade ○ Deck 4: Thistle Restaurant ○ Deck 3: Spa ○ Deck 2: Medical Center, Laundry Room
<p>Children</p>	<p>Minors can be on the ship with adults. If the adult needs to leave the ship overnight, another adult must be designated as guardian. In the past, there have been up to 6 children under the age of 18 on board. This does not include the children who are visiting relatives on board.</p> <p>Parental Responsibility with Minors <i>(Source: VVR Code of Conduct)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and guardians are responsible for supervising children under their care. • Children under 18 may not disembark without an adult guardian. • Children under 16 should avoid adult public areas, such as bars, after 10 p.m. Parents must ensure age-appropriate entertainment rules are respected. • Children under 14 may not utilize the hot tubs and may only use the fitness facilities if directly supervised by a responsible adult. Children under 10 must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult in and around the pools. • The minimum age for alcohol consumption is 18; however, local laws will be observed. For example, while in U.S. territorial waters, the minimum age for alcohol consumption is 21.
<p>Circle</p>	<p>Circle is the official VVR communication site. It is for confirmed (paid) residents only (not those just interested in VVR). It can be accessed either through the Circle app on a phone, or through a web browser.</p> <p>Link to access Circle via web browser: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/home</p> <p>After you log into Circle, check to see whether you have received full access. Click on your profile picture, then click View Profile. Look at the Spaces button. It should say at least 24 spaces. Founders may have additional founder-specific spaces. If you have anything less than that, you will not see what everyone else is seeing. Contact Maria via Circle to give you correct access.</p> <p>CEO Kathy Villalba has requested that we NOT send private messages to her via Circle. Your first point of contact should be Maria@villavieresidences.com. If you need to reach Kathy personally, best way is via email to kathy@villavieresidences.com.</p> <p>Access Requirements for Circle (Implemented 12/20/2024)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Payment Status: Access to Circle will only be granted to Residents who have paid their segment in full, paid 50% of your contract (such as future Owners), or have a non-refundable deposit (such as Endless Horizons). 2. Profile Picture Requirement: All users must upload a clear profile picture as part of their account setup.

	<p>3. Inactive Accounts: Accounts inactive for longer than 2 months will be deactivated.</p> <p>4. Restricted Access for Non-Residents: Friends & family renters and renters of Owners will no longer be granted access to Circle.</p> <p>5. Founders: If you are a Founder and haven't booked a segment you will get access to Founders Club updates only.</p> <p>6. Segmenters: You will get access 30 days prior if it's your first time. Thereafter, if you still have future segments you will remain on.</p> <p>Many residents prefer WhatsApp for informal communication (see the separate entry for WhatsApp).</p> <p>Advantages/Disadvantages of Circle over WhatsApp</p> <p>Advantages of Using Circle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VVR team is on it, so they have visibility to our questions/concerns/feedback. • History of comments is visible to new residents. • Every resident that meets access criteria has an account (though some choose not to use it). <p>Disadvantages of Using Circle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many residents have reported problems with access and logging in, especially from cell phones. The app may have to be uninstalled and reinstalled to fix some issues. • Residents have to be given permission to each area, and in the past errors in assigning the access have meant dozens of residents did not see what everyone else was seeing. • VVR team is on Circle, so there is reduced confidentiality if residents want to have informal conversations among themselves. • Most Odyssey crew (including the captain) are not on Circle. Urgent communications transmitted via the public address system (for example, that the ship will be departing earlier than planned) cannot be heard by those on shore in ports. They rely on other residents to communicate the announcement through WhatsApp. • Residents who rent from owners do not have access to Circle. <p>[Randy Cassingham] <i>If you're having problems with the Circle app, there's no need to delete and reinstall. "All" you have to do is delete the app's storage, which is the same as deleting the app and reinstalling except you don't have to download it again, using precious bandwidth. Phones vary in how that's done, but on my Android it's: Settings → Apps → See all ### apps → [scroll to the app in question] → Storage & Cache → Clear Storage button. Then back out, open the app, and log in again, as if it was brand new.</i></p>
<p>Clothing Drive</p>	<p>As part of the Global Harmony program, residents coordinate a clothing donation drive.</p> <p>Guidelines and Instructions</p> <p>To ensure an organized and respectful donation process for all residents, please follow the guidelines below when contributing items to the ship's Clothes Donation Run:</p>

	<p>1. Accepted Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean, gently used clothing in good condition • Shoes in pairs, clean and wearable • Accessories such as hats, scarves, sunglasses, reading glasses, and belts • towels, small blankets, pillows, mattress pads <p>2. Items Not Accepted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged, stained, torn, or heavily worn items • Underwear, socks, or swimwear (unless brand new) • Bulky items that cannot be stored onboard AND perishable goods <p>3. Donation Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All items must be freshly washed and folded. • Place donations in sealed bags or containers. • Do not leave loose items in hallways or common areas. • Please label bags with: “Clothes Donation Run” and your villa number and name <p>4. Drop-Off Instructions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations may be dropped off at the designated collection point (Front Desk 9 - 5, in a bag with cabin # and full name or Melody Thor Hennessee’s cabin 7004. If you drop off items at Melody’s cabin and she is not home place your items in a bag with your name and cabin number and hang it on the door. As a reminder kindly avoid overloaded collection areas. • Storage Room to be determined. Please respect the posted drop-off times to avoid congestion. <p>5. Collection & Distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once collected, items will be sorted by the designated team. • Donated clothing will be distributed to an approved charity partner or port organization as determined by the Clothing Committee or Global Harmony. • Residents will be updated on Circle, What’s App, and Global Harmony Chat <p>6. Courtesy Consideration</p> <p>Please only donate items that are in good enough condition for someone else to use. Storage space onboard is limited; thank you in advance for understanding if you are asked to keep items in your villa or with a friend should donation spaces become full. Staff are not authorized to pick up donations directly from villas unless arranged in Advance.</p> <p>The first hour of this event is for the crew. After that all residents are welcome.</p> <p>7. Safety & Hygiene</p> <p>For hygiene reasons, please ensure all items are completely dry before donating. Ship management reserves the right to decline any items that do not meet the standards above.</p>
Code of Conduct	<p>This Code of Conduct Policy establishes clear guidelines and expected standard of behavior for Residents, guests, and visitors. Its purpose is to ensure the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of all Residents while fostering a harmonious onboard community. This policy applies at all times, including while onboard, during shore excursions, and interactions ashore. Residents are also required to follow the instructions of the ship’s Captain, who has the authority to take any necessary actions to ensure the safety and well-being of all Residents including guests and visitors, crew, and the ship itself.</p>

Safety and Security

- Safety and security are shared responsibilities. Residents must immediately report any unsafe or illegal behavior to Ship Security and/or Hotel Management.
- Adherence to all safety protocols, including muster drills and emergency instructions, is mandatory.

Cabin Maintenance Expectations

- Housekeeping services are provided twice a week. Between scheduled cleanings, Residents are expected to maintain the cleanliness of their cabin.
- Residents must promptly report any maintenance issues, damage, or broken items to the crew to ensure timely repairs and the safety and comfort of all onboard.
- To maintain fire safety and a secure living environment, Residents must avoid excessive accumulation of personal belongings that exceed designated storage spaces or create fire hazards. Hoarding which obstructs exits, increases fire load, or poses safety risks is strictly prohibited. VVR may conduct inspections, and Residents may be required to remove excess items to ensure compliance with safety regulations; costs associated with offloaded of unapproved items will be passed on to the Resident.

Interaction with Crew

- Crew members are professionals and dedicated to ensuring your comfort. Please respect their boundaries and avoid misinterpreting their friendliness.
- Access to restricted crew areas, including crew cabins and corridors, is strictly prohibited.
- Romantic or intimate relationships between Residents and crew members are forbidden as they can create conflicts of interest and disrupt professional boundaries. Inappropriate relationships may result in disciplinary action for the crew members and may result in the termination of Resident's contract at VVR's sole discretion.

Language and Behavior

- As a long-term community at sea, mutual respect is essential to maintaining a positive and inclusive environment. Verbally abusive language directed at Residents, crew, or officials will not be tolerated at any time.
- Harassment, threats, bullying, or any form of intimidation—whether verbal, physical, or written—are strictly prohibited. Any Resident who feels threatened, harassed, or bullied should report the incident to the Hotel Management immediately so that evaluation and appropriate action can be taken.
- Fighting, uninvited physical contact, aggressive behavior, or actions that create a hostile or unsafe environment are strictly prohibited.
- Solicitation, vandalism, theft, violence, underage drinking, and the possession or use of illegal substances are not permitted. This applies not only onboard the ship but also during shore excursions, interactions ashore, and within online spaces related to the VVR community. While some social platforms and groups are independently managed, behavior within them can still impact the overall experience of Residents and the onboard environment. Maintaining a respectful and safe atmosphere for all Residents and crew is a shared responsibility. Any violations of this policy may result in the termination of a Resident's contract at VVR's sole discretion.

Alcohol Consumption

- Alcohol must be consumed responsibly. Excessive consumption that compromises safety or disrupts others will not be tolerated. Staff reserve the right to deny service if necessary. Residents whose alcohol use raises safety concerns may have their consumption restricted, both in bars and in terms of the amount they are permitted to bring to their cabins.
- VVR reserves the right to impose duties and taxes on alcohol required by ports, as necessary.
- Bringing your personal bottle of alcohol to a public area will incur a corkage fee.

Smoking Policy

- Smoking is allowed only in designated areas. Smoking in cabins, balconies, public spaces, or non-designated areas is strictly prohibited.
- Violations will result in a written warning and subsequent violations will have a \$500 fine per incident charged to the Resident's onboard account.
- Repeated violations may lead to disembarkation at the next port.

Parental Responsibility with Minors

- Parents and guardians are responsible for supervising children under their care.
- Children under 18 may not disembark without an adult guardian.
- Children under 16 should avoid adult public areas, such as bars, after 10 p.m. Parents must ensure age-appropriate entertainment rules are respected.
- Children under 14 may not utilize the hot tubs and may only use the fitness facilities if directly supervised by a responsible adult. Children under 10 must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult in and around the pools.
- The minimum age for alcohol consumption is 18; however, local laws will be observed. For example, while in U.S. territorial waters, the minimum age for alcohol consumption is 21.

Public Spaces and Events

- Respect the rules and quiet atmosphere of the business center.
- During Resident or ship-hosted events, please respect the activities in progress, even if you are not participating.
- Public spaces designated for specific activities (e.g., reading time, worship, pet visits) must be respected during scheduled hours.

Boarding

- Residents must be onboard at the ship's designated boarding time.
- Delays caused by Residents that extend departure by more than 15 minutes may result in a \$1,000 Late Departure Fee per Resident or cost associated with such delay.
- If a Resident misses the ship, Villa Vie Residences is not responsible for travel arrangements. The Resident is solely responsible for their own transportation to rejoin the ship at the next port. Prohibited Items Residents must adhere to the

	<p>Prohibited Items list (linked separately). Items with heating elements, weapons, illegal substances, and other dangerous goods are strictly forbidden.</p> <p>Health and Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer are essential to minimize illness. • Residents who bring food to their cabins are responsible for properly refrigerating it or disposing of it immediately after consumption. On days when housekeeping does not enter the rooms, food should be returned to the restaurant for proper disposal. This measure is essential to maintain cleanliness and prevent the development of mold or the attraction of insects in the cabin. • Residents experiencing contagious symptoms must immediately report to the medical center and follow isolation protocols. <p>Attire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents must always wear appropriate attire. • Shirts and shoes are required in dining areas and public spaces except in pool deck or other designated sunbathing areas. <p>Environmental Responsibility</p> <p>Nothing shall be thrown overboard from any deck or balcony, including but not limited to food, trash, cigarettes, or any other waste. Disposing of items in the ocean is strictly prohibited to protect marine life and maintain environmental compliance. Additionally, personal items such as clothing, towels, or other loose belongings must not be left on balconies. Strong winds, whether at sea or in port, can easily carry these items overboard, posing both an environmental hazard and an increased risk of fire. Residents are responsible for securing their belongings to ensure the safety of the ship and the surrounding environment.</p> <p>Full code of conduct, including consequences for policy violation, is on Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/policies-guidelines/code-of-conduct</p>
<p>Code Words</p>	<p>As our community evolves, we are all learning to navigate our interactions with each other. Here are some suggestions from residents.</p> <p>On the chat forums, you may see someone say PIZZA! or use a pizza emoji. That’s a playful code word for “the conversation is getting too raunchy.” Often used tongue-in-cheek when someone is sharing too much information but can be used seriously if a conversation becomes offensive. Several people have asked “why pizza??” Usage of this word originated with a TED talk posted by [Shawna Butler] which encourages pizza as a new metaphor for sex. Now you know! 😊</p> <p>2012 TED Talk by Al Vernacchio – Sex Needs a New Metaphor https://www.ted.com/talks/al_ernacchio_sex_needs_a_new_metaphor_here_s_one?s_ubtitle=en</p> <p>[Benjamin Schatz] <i>I propose using “Greta Garbo” (who famously said “I want to be alone”) as a way of saying “it’s nothing personal, but I’d rather be alone right now,” or “I’m not feeling particularly sociable.” So, if you see me dining alone and ask if I want company, I might</i></p>

	<p>reply “I’m having a Greta Garbo breakfast,” or if someone asks how I’m doing I might say “I’m feeling a little Greta Garbo.” I hope this makes it easier for us to have our less-than-perky moments without worrying that we will hurt or offend others. And if someone tells me they’re having a Greta Garbo moment, I’ll probably restrict myself to some brief reply such as “good for you”, or “thanks for letting me know.”</p> <p>Another suggestion from [Benjamin Schatz] is to wear your name tag sideways if you prefer to dine alone. Of course, if you are a straight-up kind of person and have no problem just saying “leave me alone” feel free to do that also, no code required!</p>
Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of coffees is available from coffee machines in the Palms Café (caffé espresso, double espresso, cappuccino, double espresso, latte macchiato, americano). There is also a coffee urn in the business center for 24-hour access. • As of August 20, 2025, VVR will no longer provide illy coffee machines for cabins. Alternatives are being considered. Residents can provide their own coffee maker if they wish, as long as it does not exceed 1,250 watts. Source on Circle: Coffee Program Update
Columbia	<p>Columbia Management is the ship management company hired by VVR to manage the Odyssey. The following teams are managed by Columbia: Hotel, Laundry, Housekeeping, Restaurant, Front Desk, Deck, Engineering.</p>
Communication	<p>VVR communication methods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle: The Circle group is used as the official means of communication for residents. The group is for paid residents only. See the entry for Circle for more detail. • WhatsApp: Many residents use WhatsApp for informal communication. See the entry for WhatsApp for more detail. VVR staff also have an Emergency Notifications group on WhatsApp. • Villa Vie Today – daily bulletins posted in key locations on board and on your TV • Tea Times/Q&A– occasional webinars hosted by Mike & Kathy • Port Talks – Briefings about upcoming ports are provided by VVR staff. • Odyssey app: An app will be used onboard to book shore excursions and provide daily information. It is not available yet. <i>(Info to be added when app is available).</i>
Concierge	<p>Odyssey’s concierge is the first point of contact for onboard-related issues. The Concierge is at his location outside the Guest Services Desk. The current hours are 9 to 11 AM and 3 to 5 PM, but are subject to change. The Concierge can also be contacted during the day outside these hours through the Guest Services Desk.</p> <p>If you feel that your issue needs to be addressed with Villa Vie Residences ashore, please contact the Resident Services Manager.</p>
Countries	<p>As of March 20, 2026, the Odyssey has been to 45 countries and 11 territories or provinces, for a total of 56 destinations.</p> <p>Of the 136 destinations on the Odyssey itinerary, 105 are considered official countries, based on this list. The other 31 are territories or provinces associated with other countries. Below is an alphabetical list of the destinations.</p>

COUNTRIES

Shaded countries are those we have visited as of March 20, 2026

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Angola 3. Antigua & Barbuda 4. Argentina 5. Australia 6. Bahamas 7. Bahrain 8. Barbados 9. Belgium 10. Belize 11. Brazil 12. Brunei 13. Canada 14. Cabo Verde 15. Cambodia 16. Cameroon 17. Chile 18. Colombia 19. Comoros 20. Costa Rica 21. Cote D'Ivoire 22. Croatia 23. Cyprus 24. Denmark 25. Dominica 26. Dominican Republic 27. Ecuador 28. El Salvador 29. Estonia 30. Fiji 31. Finland 32. France 33. Gambia 34. Germany 35. Ghana | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 36. Greece 37. Grenada 38. Guatemala 39. Guinea 40. Honduras 41. Iceland 42. India 43. Indonesia 44. Italy 45. Jamaica 46. Japan 47. Kuwait 48. Latvia 49. Lithuania 50. Madagascar 51. Malaysia 52. Maldives 53. Malta 54. Mauritius 55. Mexico 56. Micronesia 57. Monaco 58. Montenegro 59. Morocco 60. Mozambique 61. Namibia 62. Netherlands 63. New Zealand 64. Norway 65. Oman 66. Palau 67. Panama 68. Papua New Guinea 69. Peru 70. Philippines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 71. Poland 72. Portugal 73. Qatar 74. Republic of Congo 75. Russia 76. Saint Kitts 77. Saint Lucia 78. Saint Vincent & Gren. 79. Samoa 80. Sao Tome & Principe 81. Senegal 82. Seychelles 83. Sierra Leone 84. Singapore 85. Solomon Islands 86. South Africa 87. South Korea 88. Spain 89. Sri Lanka 90. Sweden 91. Taiwan 92. Tanzania 93. Thailand 94. Timor-Leste 95. Togo 96. Tonga 97. Trinidad & Tobago 98. Tunisia 99. Turkey 100. UAE 101. United Kingdom 102. United States 103. Uruguay 104. Vanuatu 105. Vietnam |
|---|---|--|

Territories/Provinces

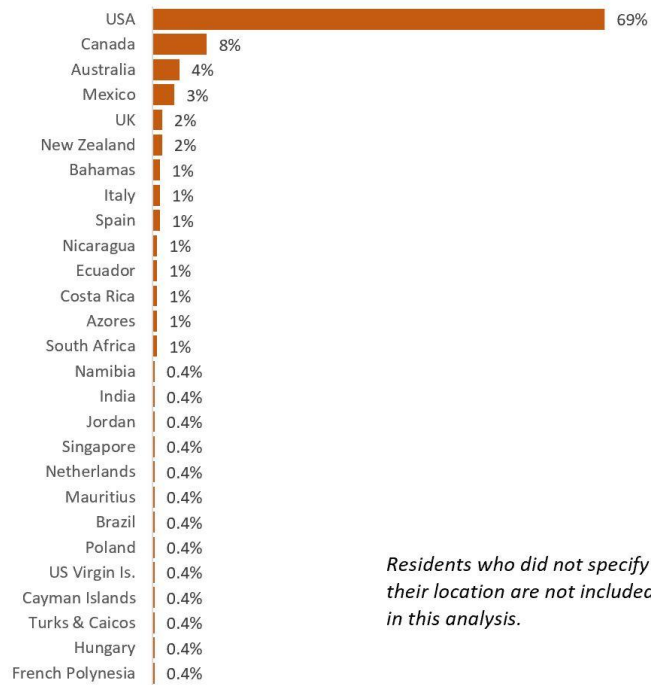
- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aland (<i>Finland</i>) 2. American Samoa (<i>USA</i>) 3. Antarctica (<i>continent</i>) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. French Polynesia (<i>France</i>) 18. Gibraltar (<i>UK</i>) 19. Greenland (<i>Denmark</i>) |
|---|---|

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Aruba (Netherlands) 5. Azores (Portugal) 6. Balearic Islands (Spain) 7. Bermuda (UK) 8. Bonaire (Netherlands) 9. British Virgin Islands (UK) 10. Canary Islands (Spain) 11. Cayman Islands (UK) 12. Corsica (France) 13. Curacao (Netherlands) 14. Easter Island (Chile) 15. Falkland Islands (Britain) 16. Faroe Islands (Denmark) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Guadelupe (France) 21. Hong Kong (China) 22. Martinique (France) 23. Mayotte (France) 24. New Caledonia (France) 25. Puerto Rico (USA) 26. Reunion (France) 27. Saint Barthelemy (France) 28. Saint Helena (UK) 29. Saint Maarten (Netherlands) 30. Tiwi Islands (Australia) 31. US Virgin Islands (USA)
<p>COVID</p>	<p>The latest itinerary showing all destinations is available for downloading as an Excel file here: https://villavieresidences.com/odyssey/. Click Destinations, then Odyssey Itinerary.</p> <p>VVR follows CDC recommendations, relying on residents to self-report symptoms or illnesses. Residents who test positive for COVID are expected to remain in their cabin. While in isolation, meals will be delivered to the cabin at no charge.</p> <p>Current CDC guidelines here.</p> <p>VVR will not be stocking Paxlovid for Covid. Paxlovid is an American brand; outside of US, it costs \$900, not including shipping. If this is a concern for you, consider asking your doctor for a prescription for Paxlovid and bringing some with you.</p> <p>Cabin ventilation, of interest regarding COVID management:</p> <p>[Randy Cassingham]: <i>Another data point: One thing that Kit and I brought with us is a carbon dioxide monitor, as a proxy for “fresh air”. The ideal is <1000ppm. We had a hard time maintaining that in our Belfast apartment even though our 18”x18” window in our ensuite bath was wide open 24x7. That shocked me. HOWEVER, on the ship in our cabin, we have maintained well under 1000ppm at all times, including when our balcony door has been closed for long stretches. It all comes down to the ventilation system, which even when the AC is not running, the ventilation IS. So I’m pretty happy with it so far.</i></p>	
<p>Crew</p>	<p>Per Guest Services, as of March 16, 2026 there were 198 crew members on board. Crew accommodations are on decks 1 and 2. Maritime labor regulations prevent contracting crew for more than a specified period so crews rotate regularly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All crew members are employed on time-limited contracts. When a contract ends, the crew member takes a vacation before starting a new rotation. • Most crew follow a set pattern, for example: <i>4 months onboard → 2 months off → 4 months onboard → 2 months off</i>, and so on. • At the end of each contract, both sides have the opportunity to decide whether to continue. <p>If a crew member performs well and both Villa Vie and Columbia are happy, a new contract is offered automatically. Occasionally, it may happen that:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbia and Villa Vie decide not to renew (if performance has not met expectations), or • The crew member chooses not to return (for example, if they accept another job offer). <p>In general, Villa Vie does not need to request the return of valued crew members — they are automatically scheduled to return, unless either side decides otherwise.</p> <p><i>See also Tippling for information about a Crew Fund.</i></p>								
<p>Data Usage</p>	<p>Internet use costs the company around a dollar for each gigabyte used. There are many ways to reduce your consumption with little or no impact on you.</p> <p>[Randy Cassingham] Ways to Reduce Internet Usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Netflix - go into Account, Playback Settings, set for lower resolutions - YouTube - Settings, Quality - Disney+ - App Setting, Save Data - Prime Video for Windows - Settings, App Settings, Data Saver - Shut down your computer when not using it for long periods of time. - Remove any phone communications apps you don't actually use (GroupMe, Slack, etc.) - Review ALL your phone apps at least quarterly and get rid of the ones you aren't actually using. <p>[Chris Stotts] <i>As we sail the globe on the Odyssey, staying connected is essential—but so is managing our data usage. With mindful choices, we can ensure smoother connectivity for everyone, reduce background data use, and embrace a more sustainable digital lifestyle aboard our home at sea. Here's how you can take charge of your data on various devices:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1167 1563 1919"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="488 1167 664 1205">For</th> <th data-bbox="664 1167 1563 1205"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1205 664 1457">Mac Users</td> <td data-bbox="664 1205 1563 1457"> <p>Use TripMode Maximize your data control with TripMode, a smart app for managing background usage. Blocks unwanted apps from using data in the background. Customize settings per network, ideal for balancing limited or shared connections. Grab a lifetime subscription for a one-time investment in sustainable browsing.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1457 664 1776">iPhone & iPad</td> <td data-bbox="664 1457 1563 1776"> <p>Enable Low Data Mode: Go to Settings > Cellular > Cellular Data Options > Turn on Low Data Mode.</p> <p>Limit Background App Refresh: Go to Settings > General > Background App Refresh > Switch off for unnecessary apps.</p> <p>Optimize iCloud Syncing: Go to Settings>Apple ID/iCloud>adjust synch frequency</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1776 664 1919">Android (Samsung, Motorola,</td> <td data-bbox="664 1776 1563 1919"> <p>Activate Data Saver Mode: Go to Settings > Connections > Data Usage > Data Saver > Turn it on.</p> <p>Restrict Background Data:</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	For		Mac Users	<p>Use TripMode Maximize your data control with TripMode, a smart app for managing background usage. Blocks unwanted apps from using data in the background. Customize settings per network, ideal for balancing limited or shared connections. Grab a lifetime subscription for a one-time investment in sustainable browsing.</p>	iPhone & iPad	<p>Enable Low Data Mode: Go to Settings > Cellular > Cellular Data Options > Turn on Low Data Mode.</p> <p>Limit Background App Refresh: Go to Settings > General > Background App Refresh > Switch off for unnecessary apps.</p> <p>Optimize iCloud Syncing: Go to Settings>Apple ID/iCloud>adjust synch frequency</p>	Android (Samsung, Motorola,	<p>Activate Data Saver Mode: Go to Settings > Connections > Data Usage > Data Saver > Turn it on.</p> <p>Restrict Background Data:</p>
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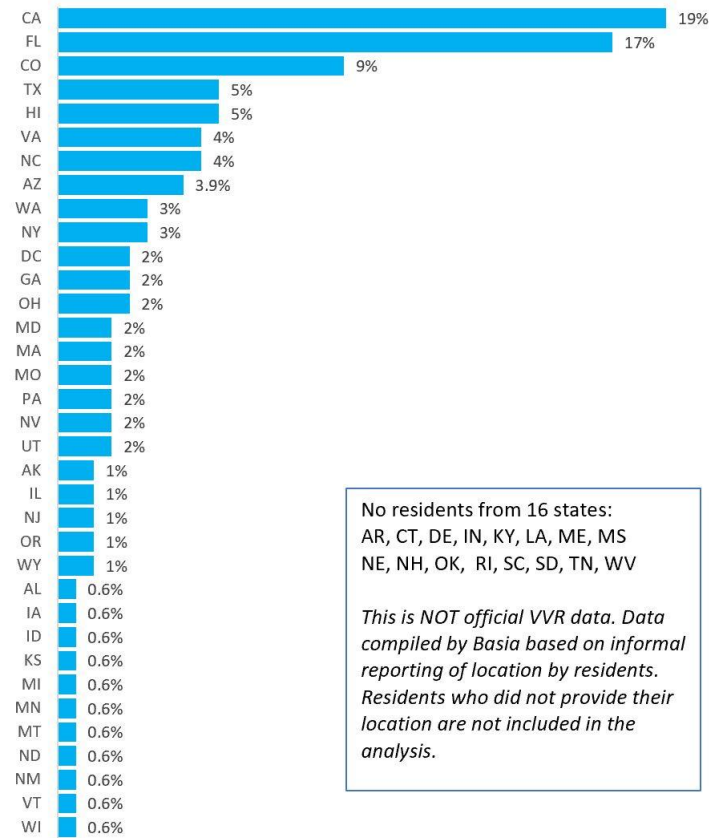
	<p>Google, etc.)</p> <p>Open Settings > Apps > Select an app > Mobile data & Wi-Fi > Toggle off Background data.</p> <p>Use Lite Apps: Download “Lite” or “Go” versions of apps (e.g., Facebook Lite, Messenger Lite).</p> <p>[Denis Belanger and Richard Confrey] <i>Below is a list that we got from Atlas cruise lines when we were on our Antarctic expedition and I thought I would share it as it might be useful for other residents on board.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep airplane mode when onboard • Deactivate the Background App Refresh • Disable Automatic App Updates • Deactivate automatic Location Tracking • Disable Roaming Data Deactivate iCloud platforms • Place your Maps in offline mode and cache your Google Maps for offline use • Send images in lower quality when sharing 								
<p>Demographics</p>	<p>The following information about resident demographics was provided to a resident by the sales team in December 2025.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 978 1555 1339"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Retirees</td> <td>Our largest group, generally between 50 and 85, enjoying the comfort, ease, and adventure of long-term cruising</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi-retirees</td> <td>Usually between 45 and 70, many of whom split time between the ship and land but love calling the ocean their home base.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remote Professionals</td> <td>Our youngest group, typically 30 to 55, taking advantage of the opportunity to work while traveling the world</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>“As for nationalities, Villa Vie truly feels like a small global village. We have residents from every continent. Many come from Australia, New Zealand, and across Europe, with others joining us from Asia, and a handful from Africa and South America. The largest portion, however, is from North America – almost every second resident is from the United States, Canada, or Mexico.”</i></p> <p>Informal Data (has not been updated since Sept 13, 2024)</p> <p>The demographic info below is not from official VVR data. It is based on an informal analysis of locations reported by residents on Circle as of Sept 13, 2024, just prior to the launch of Odyssey. It does not reflect passengers who were added to Circle after that date.</p>	Group	Description	Retirees	Our largest group, generally between 50 and 85, enjoying the comfort, ease, and adventure of long-term cruising	Semi-retirees	Usually between 45 and 70, many of whom split time between the ship and land but love calling the ocean their home base.	Remote Professionals	Our youngest group, typically 30 to 55, taking advantage of the opportunity to work while traveling the world
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Resident Demographics by Location




Residents who did not specify their location are not included in this analysis.

Resident Demographics By U.S. State



No residents from 16 states:
AR, CT, DE, IN, KY, LA, ME, MS
NE, NH, OK, RI, SC, SD, TN, WV

This is NOT official VVR data. Data compiled by Basia based on informal reporting of location by residents. Residents who did not provide their location are not included in the analysis.

<p>Dental Care</p>	<p>The Odyssey does not have dental facilities on board. Expatriate residents may be able to recommend dentists in various ports, particularly in large cities. Port Authority, through Vikand, can assist with making appointments for a fee (fee applies unless dental care is connected to a ship-related emergency, accident, or need).</p>						
<p>Dry Dock</p>	<p>Ships are brought to dry dock (removed from the water) about every 2½ years so the hull (“bottom”) can be formally inspected twice in each five-year cycle. A routine dry dock is mainly for the bottom inspection and any planned touch-ups (cleaning/painting/minor fixes) and typically fits in about two weeks.</p> <p>Originally, the Odyssey dry dock was planned for 2026 in Singapore. However, since we left Belfast later than originally planned, dry dock has been rescheduled to January-February 2027 in Dubai. When we are in dry dock, VVR will take passengers off the ship and will put them up in hotels, the cost of which will be covered.</p> <p>Latest update on Circle from CEO: Drydock Update</p>						
<p>Electrical Outlets</p>	<p>There is some variation in the outlets available in cabins. Some have both European and American plugs, others have only one or the other. There are no USB ports.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 867 1406 1121"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outlet type</th> <th>Voltage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EU/UK</td> <td>240V 220V label on outlets in cabin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>US</td> <td>120V 127V label on outlets in cabin 110V older US standard, still used sometimes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Here is what the outlets in one cabin look like. (Other cabins may have different configurations). The one on the left is European. The one on the right is US.</p>  <p>Cubicles in the business area are equipped with outlets that accept both.</p> <p>When determining whether your electronic items can be used, need to consider both adapters and converters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A socket adapter changes the plug configuration so your power plugs fit into the wall socket in the foreign country you are visiting. Adapters do not change the voltage. 	Outlet type	Voltage	EU/UK	240V 220V label on outlets in cabin	US	120V 127V label on outlets in cabin 110V older US standard, still used sometimes
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A voltage converter changes the voltage of the outlet to match the voltage of the item being plugged in. <p>Some appliances are dual-voltage, which means they can accommodate either 120 or 240. That means you will only need an adapter, no converter.</p> <p>NEVER use surge protector outlet strips or similar; ship electrical systems can cause them to catch fire.</p> <p>[Peter Divine] <i>Laptops and smart phones both have an adapter in that "brick," the square box at the end of your charging cord. Those bricks always can accommodate either 110 or 220.</i></p> <p>[JR] <i>Anything you have that only uses 110 that is plugged into a 220 outlet needs a power converter. Not just an adapter to make it fit in the holes but an actual converter. Something like a hair dryer generally has a switch for either 110 or 220. They also draw way too much power and will almost instantly burn up a converter.</i></p> <p>[JR] <i>The USB "cord" only gets a small amount of power from the USB charger ports. The USB charger adapters that you plug into the outlet or are built into the outlets are regulated and pretty much universal.</i></p> <p>[Shelly Spearing] <i>You might want to bring your own fast charge adaptor if you want fast charging. Most wall-installed USB ports are low amperage because too many devices were not self-regulating. Thus all of the crazy icons on many power strips.</i></p>
<p>Embarkation</p>	<p>Embarkation refers to boarding the ship for the first time, or you were previously on the ship but left the ship and are returning in a different port.</p> <p>Disembarkation (also known as Debarkation) means you are leaving the ship and will not be back before the ship leaves the port. It does NOT refer to leaving the ship to go onshore, if you will be coming back to the ship while it is still at the same port.</p> <p>Forms To Fill Out</p> <p>First-Time Embarkation If you are embarking the vessel for the first time, you must complete the Resident Travel Profile (RTP): https://info.villavieresidences.com/resident-travel-profile</p> <p>Overland Tours / Short-Term Disembarkation (Up to 10 Days) If you are leaving the vessel for 10 days or less and plan to re-embark, complete the short-term re-embarkation form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scan the QR code available at Reception • OR use the link below: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SrJTMSCZ9EKTsvsFYjx6eA6TdbypJCFKt6eSCaXxhIxUNkQ4Q1BTOFVNODg2OVZJQlczR0o3WUdVUy4u&origin=QRCode <p>Re-Embarkation After 10 days or more If you have been off the vessel for 10 days or more, you must complete the Embarkation Information Update Form:</p>

<https://info.villavieresidences.com/embarkation-information-update-form>

Some key things to remember about embarkation/disembarkation:

- **Disembarkation Notice:** All guests who wish to disembark the vessel must notify Reception during their stay and no less than 72 hours prior to disembarkation. Failure to provide proper notice will result in a \$150 charge due to additional Immigration and Port Authority processing requirements.
- **Embarkation Notice:** All required forms must be submitted no less than 72 hours prior to arrival into the selected port. Failure to submit the appropriate form within this timeframe will result in delayed embarkation processing and an additional \$150 Immigration & Port Authority charge.
- For all sailings to the **United States and Canada**, the Advanced Arrival Notice (AAN) must now be submitted **96 hours prior to arrival**. This change is in line with enhanced security protocols introduced after the events of September 11, 2001. As part of these efforts, the U.S. Coast Guard's National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC) and the Ship Arrival Notification System (SANS) were established by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to improve coastal safety.
- There are restrictions on which ports you can embark/disembark. In some countries, where we must use a tender boat, it may not be possible to embark/disembark. This [Itinerary Planning Guide](#) provides information about which ports are tender ports.
- When you disembark, you must relinquish your key card at the front desk.

Embarkation and Disembarkation Timing

Update from VVR's Camila Avila on Embarkation timing:

<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/general-resident-services-announcements/embarkation-disembarkation-timing-important-reminder>

We'd like to take a moment to reinforce the importance of the standard disembarkation and embarkation timings, as this is an area where we often see conflicting expectations. Many residents understandably wish to arrive earlier, while others would prefer to remain in their villas later on departure days. While we completely understand both perspectives, it is unfortunately not possible for the crew to accommodate both at the same time and still have the villas properly cleaned, inspected, and ready.

To help ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for everyone, we kindly ask for your cooperation with the following guidelines:

- ◇ **Disembarkation (Check-out from villas): by 10:00 a.m.**

This allows sufficient time for inspections, cleaning, and preparation of the villas for incoming residents.

- ◇ **Embarkation (Check-in): from 12:00 noon onwards**

Embarkation is scheduled from noon as the ship may still be completing port clearance, inspections, crew drills, and villa preparation earlier in the day. From noon onwards, villas are generally ready for use.

 **Please note:**

- The planned embarkation timing is always communicated in your boarding pass email.
- These times are not 100% guaranteed and remain subject to the ship's actual arrival time into port.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpredictable circumstances (such as weather, port clearance, or operational delays, crew drills) may impact and delay arrival times, embarkation and villa readiness. <p>Ad-hoc or late-night requests</p> <p>We continue to receive questions regarding special embarkation or disembarkation requests, such as arriving in the middle of the night or requesting embarkation at alternative ports or very early morning hours (e.g., midnight, 03:00, 5:00). Please note that middle-of-the-night embarkations or disembarkations generally cannot be accommodated. Many ports operate with fixed passenger movement schedules, and immigration, security, and port services are often not available overnight. Any exception would require prior confirmation with the port authorities, and in some cases residents may need to complete immigration and security formalities the following day.</p> <p>For residents arriving late at night or very early in the morning, we kindly recommend booking a hotel and planning to embark the following day during the standard embarkation window, to ensure a smoother and more comfortable arrival process. In some cases, residents arriving early may be allowed onboard to wait in public areas only, but access to villas before the official check-in time will not be possible. Your collaboration with these timings is essential and very much appreciated. By working together, we can ensure a fair, seamless, and comfortable experience for all residents.</p> <p><i>See also Manifest; Cabotage</i></p> <p>Be mindful of our sailing times. You must be onboard one hour before departure, as delays can cost us a fortune, which will be billed to your onboard account, and you will get left behind! Making it back to the ship will be at your own expense.</p>																						
<p>Emergency Codes</p>	<p>During an emergency, the captain may communicate with crew using codes. Here are the meanings of some common codes.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1199 1563 1640"> <thead> <tr> <th>Code</th> <th>Meaning</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Seven short blasts followed by one long blast of the ship horn (Code 7)</td> <td>All guests and crew report to muster station.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alpha</td> <td>Medical emergency</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bravo</td> <td>Fire on board</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlie</td> <td>Security threat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Delta</td> <td>Damage to ship or flooding emergency</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Echo</td> <td>Security threat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kilo</td> <td>Crew report to emergency stations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oscar</td> <td>Man overboard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Papa</td> <td>Pollution or spillage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zulu</td> <td>Fight onboard</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>You may sometimes hear the codes during crew training, in which case the code will be prefaced by “for exercise only” or another explanatory statement.</p>	Code	Meaning	Seven short blasts followed by one long blast of the ship horn (Code 7)	All guests and crew report to muster station.	Alpha	Medical emergency	Bravo	Fire on board	Charlie	Security threat	Delta	Damage to ship or flooding emergency	Echo	Security threat	Kilo	Crew report to emergency stations	Oscar	Man overboard	Papa	Pollution or spillage	Zulu	Fight onboard
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On-Board Entertainers																							
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1	DJ Alex	DJ	2024-11																				

2	Island Fusion Duo		2024-11
3	Deelite-Inn Duo		2024-12
4	Mark Marlowe	Piano & vocal	2024-12
5	Pop4U Duo (Elaine & Aldo)	Vocal & drum	2024-12
6	Mikhail	Piano	2025-01
7	DJ Gerard	DJ	2025-02
8	Siren Song		2025-03
9	Thiago Lemmos	Broadway	2025-03
10	Shari Mochiet	Theater	2025-05
11	Anna Chepikova	Piano	2025-05
12	Jonathan Scott Roth	Country Music	2025-07

Resident-Led Performances (Theater, Choir, Talent Shows)

#	Production	Date
1	Senior Moments and Kids Songs	2025-01-19
2	Poetry By the Villa Vie Players	2025-01-22
3	Resident Talent Show	2025-02-18
4	Voices of the Odyssey Choir	2025-02-20
5	Love Letters	2025-02-13; 2025-07-20
6	Classical Salon Performance	2025-03-04
7	An Eastern Fable	2025-03-25
8	Musical Murder Mystery	2025-03-25
9	I'm Herbert	2025-07-11; 2026-03-19
10	The Story of Maggie and JJ Brown	2025-11-07; 2025-12-21

At some ports, VVR brings in local groups:

Local Port Entertainment Groups

	Group	Port	Date
1	Spirit of Dominica – Kalingo Dance & Heritage	Dominica	2024-11-20
2	The Heartbeat of Barbados	Barbados	2025-04-08
3	Tutti Frutti	Bonaire	2025-04-13
4	Local Folklorico Dance	San Blas	2025-04-22
5	Shoreside Cultural Show	Manzanillo	2025-05-12
6		Topolobampo	2025-05-19
7	Hawaii Folkloric	Hawaii	2025-06-01
8	Daichi No Kai	Kobe	2025-08-19
9	Kougo Dalko	Hiroshima	2025-08-24

Entertainment Venues On Board

Venue	Deck	Used for
Neptune Lounge	Deck 5	Main theater, tea time meetings, presentations, movies
Coral Club	Deck 5	Dance, parties, band, bar, lounge, speakers corner
Morning Light	Deck 5	Bar, music, lounge
Observatory	Deck 8	Piano, bar
Library	Deck 5	Quiet space, board & card games, puzzles

	<p>Note from CEO Kathy Villalba: “We’d like to address a concern regarding the public announcement of betting card games on Circle. Please note that VVR does not hold a gaming license, and we need to be mindful of the potential legal implications, as different regions have their own regulations. We are currently consulting with a legal team regarding this matter to ensure we are in compliance. In the meantime, we kindly ask that you refrain from posting about any form of wagering or betting in public spaces.”</p> <p>The ship does not have a casino. In a poll created by VVR, asking “Would You Like To See Casino Style Machines on Board?” 97% of residents voted No.</p>
<p>Environment</p>	<p>Environment-friendly tips from Environmental Officer Pasquale (Lino):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not bring toilet paper from outside the vessel. Our toilet paper is bio degradable and is specifically for cruise ships and our waste treatment system. Toilet paper is ok to put in toilets including human waste, but do not put items such as baby wipes in the toilet those should be placed in the bin for disposal. • Do not use chemicals to clean your toilets, again the ship has a product line that is environmentally friendly. No cleaning chemicals, toilet duck, toilet water coloring/scents, oils, ect should be placed in the toilets nor sinks as these items can effect the marine environment. • When washing cloths try to do a full load as the amount of water used is the same for a full load and 4 pair or underwear and 2 pairs of socks. • Reuse bath towels, to reduce waste water for laundry. • Conserve water by turning off faucet while brushing teeth, while applying body wash, or shampoo (known as a boat shower) • If you have a dripping faucet or note a faucet dripping please report this to guest services so it can be allocated to the proper department for repair. • If you have a balcony, please keep the balcony door closed even if you out on the balcony to conserve energy, open doors increase the loss of cool air and requires A/C units to work harder and effects the air flow and temperature in surrounding areas. This includes while roaming the vessel, if you see a door open to open decks to please close the doors for above mentioned. • Conserve energy by turning on only the lights you need, turning lights and TV off when you leave your cabin or otherwise aren’t using or needing them. • It is illegal to throw anything into the ocean. If something accidentally falls overboard, report it to the Guest Services desk. (This includes stray pickleballs!)
<p>Exclusions</p>	<p>The following are not included in cruise price:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard liquor, cocktails, beer/wine outside of lunch/dinner • Food outside of designated meal times (some light snacks may be available) • Spa services • Shore excursions • Procedures for medical/dental care • Laundry service beyond two free bags per week

Excursions

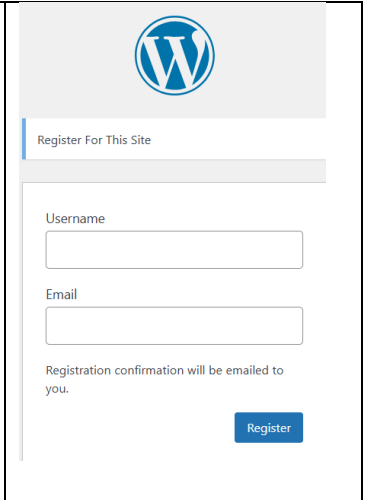
In most ports, residents typically organize informal groups for excursions. Some also prefer to explore ports on their own, or with a small private group.

A new Excursion and Event platform was launched in December 2025 to consolidate information about upcoming excursions and display them by date. To view activity information, you do not need to register, you can just go to this site:

<https://odysseyadventuretravel.com/odyssey-community-events/>

However, if you want to organize an activity, or RSVP for one, you must register and set up a user ID:

1. Go to this website:
<https://odysseyadventuretravel.com>
2. Click **Login To Create Events**.
3. Check the **Remember Me** checkbox.
4. Click the **Register** link.
5. Make your Username = your FirstNameLastName
6. Enter your email.
7. Click **Register** and follow the instructions in the email you will receive. Check your junk/spam folder for the email.
8. Create an icon on your phone for easy navigation to the excursions website .



The screenshot shows the WordPress registration interface. At the top is the WordPress logo. Below it is the text "Register For This Site". There are two input fields: "Username" and "Email". Below the "Email" field is a note: "Registration confirmation will be emailed to you." At the bottom right is a blue "Register" button.

Excursion Chat Groups on WhatsApp

The WhatsApp forum has designated chat channels to discuss ideas from residents for excursions. Contact WhatsApp admins JR or Gary Macdonald to be added to these groups:

- VVE New Odyssey Excursions and Events
- VV Multi-Day Excursions
- VV Afternoon Explorers

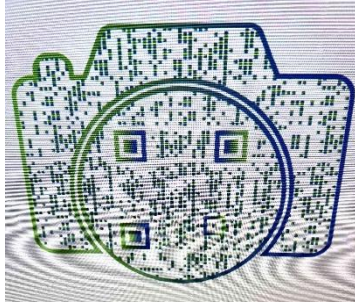
VVR-Affiliated Partners

Viator and The Shore Excursions Group are standard affiliate partners of VVR, meaning they pay up to 10% commission to VVR, as long as they are booked through VVR affiliate links. VVR does not and cannot add any markups to their pricing, nor do they set any sales prices for any of their tours.

The VVR shore excursion page is here:

https://www.shoreexcursionsgroup.com/?id=1452410&utm_source=3rdPartyAffiliates&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1452410&utm_content=

QR code for VVR excursion page:



An advantage of going with a VVR-sponsored excursions is that if the excursion is running late, the ship will not leave until passengers return. If you go on your own excursion, the ship is not obligated to wait for your return. (Although we have never yet left anyone behind.)

Excursion Etiquette

Suggested etiquette for resident-organized tours, compiled by [\[Starr Davis\]](#) and [\[Eddie Dorworth\]](#).

- Pay the tour Organizer promptly, when requested.
- Be on time to the meeting place. Grace period of 3 minutes.
- When the Organizer gives you a return time to the bus, be on time.
- Read all the information provided BEFORE you ask a question.
- Re-read all the information provided the morning of the event.
- Come prepared with appropriate resources: bottle of water, towels, sunscreen, bug spray, local cash etc. Do not expect to stop at a store to buy you a bottle of water
- If you signed up but choose not to go, notify Organizers in advance and find your own replacement or pay the full amount that you promised to pay. NO-SHOW IS JUST RUDE
- If an excursion group is private/by invitation only, please do not invite others without first checking with the Organizer.
- Don't just show up without notifying Organizers. The shuttle/taxi can only hold so many people. If you decide to show up without RSVPing, make sure all who signed up are accommodated before you.
- Respect the Organizer- residents are taking their time to plan an excursion. Don't ask for modifications and assume it is possible- you know time planned and it's your choice to go. If you want to leave early, arrange your own transportation.
- Allow the Organizer to enjoy the tour too! If a tour company has been hired, some Organizers see themselves as just connecting you to the Tour Company and not your personal concierge. Ask the Organizer about this boundary and respect it.
- Make sure to thank Organizers- they took time to do something you didn't do. Maybe buy them a beer or lunch.
- Do research. Don't depend on others to know everything you want to know.
- Pick a tour that is appropriate for you- e.g. don't go on a diving tour if you can't swim.

- If a tour/outing doesn't suit you, create your own. Don't complain
- Common Courtesy and etiquette include how we board a tender, a boat or bus. If you are first ones to board, please go to the far edges or back so that you do not block entrance for others needing to board.
- Have someone else's cell number there so if you get separated, you can at least communicate.
- Let others know if you are leaving group early (so we don't stay looking for you).
- And if you are just wondering off from the group, let Organizer know how to reach you.
- Have the appropriate currency available. Sometimes locals take only cash; don't assume you'll be able to use a credit card.
- If the Organizer has requested ahead of time to tip the guide, please respect this. If you strongly oppose tipping, you can always opt not to join that tour.
- Be aware if others on the tour who may need the front seat on the bus/van. Don't assume you are entitled to the front seat.
- Do not RSVP unless you are 100% sure you are going. Intend to pay the Organizer or find a replacement if you cancel.
- Assume that if you share a photo with the group, that they now have permission to use it. If you use another's photo, give them credit
- Tell the Organizer THANK YOU when you return to the ship.

Fees

A [VVR Fees Policy](#) has been posted on Circle effective Feb 1, 2025. Here is a summary of the fees.

Fee	Description
Credit Card Payment Surcharge	Residents who choose to pay using credit cards will incur a 3% surcharge on all payments, including monthly maintenance fees. This surcharge does not apply to onboard charges. To avoid the 3% surcharge, residents are encouraged to use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autopay from a bank account • Wire transfer • ACH payments
Administrative Manifest Change Fee	A \$150 fee will be applied to any changes made to the manifest, including boarding changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid the Administrative Fee, Residents must provide notice at least 72 hours in advance for embarkation updates. This includes changes related to overland tours or excursions where you plan to disembark at one port and rejoin the ship at another. • Last-minute adjustments to the manifest due to lack of notification will result in the application of the Administrative Fee. • The Administrative Fee applies to manifest updates for Friends & Family embarkation or changes associated with rented cabins. No exceptions will be made in these cases.

		<p>Residents planning overland tours that prevent their return before the ship's departure must notify us at least 72 hours in advance. Failure to do so will result in additional charges, unless the delay is due to a verifiable emergency, such as a missed flight (documentation required).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For any Friends & Family bookings, there is a \$150 Administration Fee per cabin. For example, if two cabins are booked, each cabin will incur a \$150 Administration Fee. • For any Renter who is booking from an Owner, there is a \$150 Administration Fee. • The only exception to this fee is for the Resident themselves so long as they adhere to the 72 hours prior rule.
	Returned Payment Fee	A \$49 fee will be applied for any returned payment due to insufficient funds, closed cards, or other reasons. An additional \$49 fee will be incurred for each month the payment remains unresolved.
	Chargeback Fee	For any unsubstantiated chargeback processed and later declared invalid by the bank, a \$150 chargeback fee will be added to the resident's account and will be payable immediately.
<p>Port Charges</p> <p>Every time Odyssey enters or departs a port, there are multiple costs involved — some paid by the ship (and already included in your Villa Vie program) and others imposed individually by governments or tourism authorities. This quick-reference guide explains what each charge means and whether it's included in your fees.</p>		

	Category	What It Means	☑ Included / ✗ Not Included
	Navigation & Arrival	Pilot boarding the ship, tugboats guiding us in/out, harbor or tonnage dues, lighting fees.	☑ Included
	Berth & Port Services	Dockage or berth rental, mooring/unmooring lines, fenders, terminal/gangway use.	☑ Included
	Authorities & Clearances	Customs, Immigration, Health & Quarantine, Port Security (ISPS), passenger head tax charged to the ship.	☑ Included
	Operational Services	Disposal of garbage, sewage, and greywater; fresh-water loading; loading of ship's stores; luggage handling for the vessel.	☑ Included
	Canal & Transport	Canal-transit tolls (Panama, Suez), towage or locomotive assistance during transit.	☑ Included
	Agency & Administration	Port-agent coordination, paperwork, communication fees, and local administrative expenses.	☑ Included
	Environmental / Sustainability Levy	Government-imposed conservation or environment fees (e.g., Palau PPEF, Indonesia TSC).	✗ Not Included – Charged per traveler
	Departure / Passenger Movement Tax	Per-person exit tax collected by governments (e.g., Australia PMC).	✗ Not Included – Charged per traveler
	Tourism / Conservation Levy	Entry to national parks, reefs, or marine reserves (e.g., Komodo, Seychelles).	✗ Not Included – Charged per traveler
	Visa / Entry Permit Fees	Tourist visa, e-Visa, or ETA required for entry (e.g., Egypt, India, Kenya, New Zealand IVL).	✗ Not Included – Personal responsibility
	Resort / Facility Access Fees	Private beach or resort day passes (e.g., Palau Pacific Resort).	✗ Not Included – Optional
	Private Excursions / Transfers	Independent tours, private guides, taxis, or personal ground transport.	✗ Not Included – Optional
	Country-Specific Visitor Levies	Government visitor or environmental taxes that apply whether traveling by air or sea (e.g., New Zealand IVL, Greece Environmental Recovery Fee).	✗ Not Included – Traveler responsibility
	Source on Circle: Port Charges		
Fitness/Gym	<p>The gym/fitness center is on deck 7 and is open 24/7.</p> <p>Fitness class programs led by fitness instructor are held daily and are included in the cruise price:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretch • Yoga • Pilates • Core & Balance • Guided Meditation <p>Gym includes the following equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 treadmills (Life Fitness, Matrix) • 4 stair climbers (True and Life Fitness) • 1 rower (Concept2) • 1 punching bag (DripeX) 		

- 2 stationary bikes (FlowFitness Turner)
- 5 Peloton bikes
- 10 weight stations (Anatomic X-treme brand)
 1. Chest press
 2. Seated row
 3. Triceps press
 4. Biceps
 5. Standing calf & squat
 6. Leg extension
 7. Seated leg curl
 8. Shoulder press
 9. Fly
 10. Abdominal curl
- Free weights (1 kg to 66 kg)
- Yoga mats
- Blocks
- Towels
- Water
- Scale (compatible with Fitdays app)

Various activities are organized each week, some led by VVR staff, others by residents. In the past, this has included:

- Early morning stretch
- Core & balance
- Stretch & mobility
- Chairobics
- Body Groove
- Tai chi
- Karate
- HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training)
- Table tennis
- Pickleball
- Darts
- Ping pong
- Shuffleboard
- Dance aerobics
- Dance (bachata, ballroom, cha cha, hula, jive, line, paso doble, polka, quickstep, salsa, samba, rumba, waltz – depends on specialty of current dance instructor)

Personal Training

Personal training sessions are available:

- Single session: \$100
- 5-session package: \$450 (save \$50)
- 10-session package: \$850 (save \$150)

All residents are eligible to receive a complimentary Body Composition Scan plus a 30-minute free session.

	<p>Fitness Activities Led by Residents</p> <p>Informal fitness classes led by residents are also offered. Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Rina Cavazza] Pilates & Yoga [Barbara Violetta] Body Groove [Kathy Bohrer] Aquacise [Kathie] Line dancing [Pat] Seated stretch
<p>FMC Bond</p>	<p>Update from VVR regarding FMC Bond: (April 11, 2025)</p> <p>Following our recent meeting with the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), we would like to share an important update regarding embarkations from United States ports—particularly for cabin owners who rent out their residences.</p> <p>By US Regulations and FMC guidelines, all UPR (Unearned Passenger Revenue) is mandated to have an FMC Bond verified with the FMC and provided to the Coast Guard upon embarkation. UPR is classified as any pre-payment made towards any cruise product embarking in the USA. This requirement DOES ALSO extend to owners renting their cabins for an upfront payment. This means, we are unable to facilitate paying guests or renter embarkations from U.S. ports at this time. Please note that this restriction does not apply to Non-Paying Guests, Cabin Owners/residents or Endless Horizons residents, who are exempt from this regulation.</p> <p>What is an FMC Bond?</p> <p>An FMC (Federal Maritime Commission) bond is a financial guarantee that protects travelers from potential financial loss due to non-performance by a cruise line or travel provider. It ensures guests are refunded if a voyage is canceled or not delivered as promised. U.S. regulations require any entity selling or facilitating passenger embarkations from U.S. ports to carry such a bond.</p> <p>What This Means for You</p> <p>If you intend to have guests or renters embark from a U.S. port, you must comply with FMC regulations. You have the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure an FMC bond that covers your rental activity. If you or your business entity collects payment from renters, you are required to obtain your own FMC bond and submit documentation to Villa Vie Residences for verification. • Do not collect payment for U.S. embarkations unless bonded. Without an FMC bond, collecting payment from a guest embarking from a U.S. port is not permitted. The FMC classifies this as “unrealized revenue,” which falls under prohibited activities for unbonded parties. • Restrict guest embarkation to non-U.S. ports. If obtaining a bond is not feasible, you may opt to have your guests begin their journey in non-U.S. ports, which are not subject to FMC regulations. <p>Please understand this is a legal requirement enforced by the FMC and not a policy set by Villa Vie Residences. Our goal is to help you remain in compliance and avoid any unintended disruptions.</p>

Food

Restaurants and bars on the Odyssey:

Venue Name	Deck	Description
Palms Café	Deck 6	Buffet-style breakfast, lunch and dinner Included in cost
Thistle Restaurant	Deck 4	Main dining room for sit-down dinner and lunch on sea days. Closed for lunch on port days. Included in cost
Grampian Restaurant	Deck 8	Specialty restaurant, currently not available.
Morning Light Bar	Deck 5	Day bar, open from early morning to late evening Light snacks.
Mike's Pub	Deck 5	Bar and light snacks for a fee.
Bookmark Cafe	Deck 5	Coffee, water, included in cost.
Observatory	Deck 8	Bar, piano, viewing area

Meal times:

Breakfast: 7:00 to 10:00 AM buffet, (6-7 AM available for continental food only)

Lunch 12:00 to 2:00 PM in Palms, 12:00-1:30 in Thistle on sea days.

Dinner: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM in Palms and Thistle

Daily menus are posted on Circle: [Odyssey Daily Menus | Villa Vie Residences](#)

Food in between designated meal times is NOT included, except for light snacks and sandwiches. Alternative options:

- Snacks (sandwiches) are delivered to the Morning Light at midnight each night. Free while they last, removed in the morning if any are left.
- Room service is available for an extra charge. (Charge is for the food, not just for the delivery). A room service menu is available in your cabin.
- Residents have suggested keeping some snacks in your cabin (and mini fridge) such as yogurt, cheese, fruit, chips, cookies, nuts, etc.
- Free coffee and water are available in the business center.
- Water can be refilled in Palms Café, gym, or business center.

A new food & beverage policy was implemented as of January 2, 2026, regarding bringing food on board.

[🍷 Food & Beverage Policy Update – Fruit Allowance On Board | Villa Vie Residences](#)

Dear Residents,

To help maintain comfort, hygiene, and food safety on board, please note that **from now and until further notice, only the fruits listed below will be permitted to be brought on board and stored in villas.**

Permitted Fruits (Whole & Uncut Only)

	<p>These options are long-lasting and suitable for onboard storage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apples (one of the best options) • Oranges • Mandarins • Lemons & limes • Pomegranates (very long-lasting) • Firm pears (especially unripe) • Mangoes • Grapefruit • Unripe bananas (acceptable if still green) <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permitted Fruit Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dried fruits (dates, raisins, figs, apricots) • Vacuum-sealed fruit cups • Freeze-dried fruit (light, clean, and long-lasting) <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fruits Not Permitted in Villas Due to their quick spoilage and hygiene concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berries (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries) • Melons (watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew) • Stone fruits (peaches, plums, nectarines) • Pre-cut or loose fruit <p><input type="checkbox"/> Important Storage Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit must be kept whole and uncut while stored in your villa • Store fruit in a cool, shaded area, away from direct sunlight • Use breathable containers • Kindly consume fruit before it becomes overripe • For your comfort and hygiene, please avoid storing fruit that spoils quickly or has strong odors <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional fresh fruit options are always available at onboard dining venues.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Reminders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No dairy products are permitted, except yogurts and packaged milk • No vegetables are allowed on board • No ready-to-eat cooked food may be brought on board <p>Microwaves are currently not available, but plans are being evaluated for a microwave in a common area.</p> <p>A community kitchen is not available at this time. We will still have a Culinary Classroom but as presentation only, demonstrations in a classroom setting. Won't be interactive. Can't participate because of USPH.</p>
<p>Friends & Family</p>	<p>The Family & Friends Program (F&F) is designed to provide a fair and affordable way for residents to welcome close family and friends aboard.</p>

A new F&F policy went into effect as of 1/1/2026, posted by CEO Kathy on Circle:
[F&F Update: Closing Loopholes](#)

POLICY EFFECTIVE 1/1/2026

For Owners and PAYG residents who have booked a minimum of 1.5 years

First 14 days	First 14 days free per calendar year are free. Within your own cabin or deck 2 F&F cabin.
Next 14 days per year	\$33 per person per day. Within your own cabin or deck 2 F&F cabin.
After 28 days total in year	\$99 per person per day on deck 2 F&F cabin Any other cabin: prevailing brochure rate less 25%

For residency types other than Owner/PAYG:

Residency Type	Cost
Endless Horizons Residents	\$129/per person per day
Tour La Vie and Seasonal Ownership	Inside cabin: \$99 per person per day Outside cabin: \$119 per person per day Balcony cabin: \$199 per person per day
PAYG residents who booked less than 1.5 years	Not eligible for F&F

- **Designated cabins & pricing.** If F&F guests are **not** staying in the host Resident’s cabin, they will be assigned to Deck 2 F&F cabins (limited, subject to availability). Any cabin outside Deck 2 prices at the prevailing brochure rate less 25%.
- **No renter → F&F conversions.** Arriving as a renter and then seeking to convert to F&F is not permitted and may trigger abuse consequences.
- **Name changes.** Standard admin fee applies to every F&F booking; last-minute name changes (within 72 hours of embarkation) incur an additional \$150.
- **Overstays auto-charged.** Stays beyond the approved window are automatically charged to the Resident’s onboard account at the applicable rate (Deck 2 rate or brochure-less-25% outside Deck 2).
- **Abuse consequences.** Attempts to circumvent these rules result in 1-year suspension of F&F privileges for both the guest and sponsoring Resident. Repeated offenses may lead to longer suspensions.

Reminders (no workarounds)

- **Resident presence & eligibility.** F&F is for Owners and long-term segmenters in good standing. Past-due maintenance or segment fees (including the current month) = no F&F approvals until the account is current. The Resident must be onboard and remains financially responsible for their guests. Renters cannot sponsor F&F.

- **No “double dipping.”** If your cabin is rented and you also wish to be onboard, you must book and pay for an additional cabin. You cannot arrive as F&F or as a “renter of an Owner.” No exceptions. Please plan accordingly.
- **Optional, not transferable.** The F&F benefit is for the current calendar year only; it doesn’t accrue or roll over. You are not required to use it. It is non-transferable — do not sell, gift, lend, or offer your F&F to renters or anyone else.

Process:

- To submit an F&F request, the resident should fill out a Boarding Request Form (BRF): <https://info.villavieresidences.com/boarding-request>. Please do not submit any requests to Sales Advisors or Chief Purser onboard or send messages via Circle.
- **Request window:** Submit F&F requests at least 60 days before embarkation.
- **Turnaround:** Resident Services will confirm within 7 days of your request; cabin assignments are issued 2 weeks prior to embarkation. *[Note: this is the official VVR policy, but in practice, cabin assignments have been made just a few days before.]*
- **Payment timing:** The admin fee and any applicable charges are due upon confirmation. Last-minute name changes (within 72 hours of embarkation) incur an additional \$150, due before embarkation.
- **Refunds & transfers:** All F&F bookings are non-refundable and non-transferable. Please book flexible/cancelable airfare; VVR is not responsible for flight change fees.
- **Compliance:** Noncompliance may result in denial or revocation of F&F privileges, enforced in accordance with applicable maritime law, VVR policies, and terms.
- F&F may not be available for locations which incur extra charges, such as the Panama Canal.
- F&F may not be able to embark/disembark at certain tender ports.

Email Resident Service Manager at maria@villavieresidences.com for additional assistance or information.

F&F Requests Policy Jan 2, 2026

<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/general-resident-services-announcements/kind-reminder-f-f-requests-policy>

I would like to share a gentle reminder regarding Friends & Family requests, to ensure expectations are clear and to avoid any misunderstandings going forward.

As per our long-standing policy (which has always been in place), **Friends & Family requests are non-refundable and non-transferable** once they are confirmed.

In the past, when requests were not confirmed until 60 days prior to arrival, I was able to accept cancellations if the request had not yet been finalized. However, the process has now evolved. Once a request is confirmed, I am already:

- Assigning a specific cabin
- Blocking availability
- Declining other Friends & Family requests for the same dates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing all administrative and operational work related to the stay <p>At that point, the request is fully processed and the cabin is considered reserved for that guest. Therefore, if a cancellation occurs after confirmation, the days used and the associated amount will unfortunately not be refundable, as the work and allocation have already been completed.</p> <p>For this reason, if there is any uncertainty about whether a guest will be able to come, I kindly recommend waiting until closer to the 60-day window, when you are fully confident before submitting the request. This will help avoid any inconvenience on either side.</p> <p>General information about the Friends & Family program is available on the VVR site: https://info.villavieresidences.com/friends-and-family</p>
<p>Furnishings</p>	<p>Furnishings being brought onboard are required to comply with standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small things (shoe racks, decorations for personal touch) are fine • Larger items (furniture, curtains, mattresses, arm chairs, sofa) must comply with fire safety requirements. Matilda sourced 3 approved companies. Will post documents on Circle. • Major renovations (removing the bed, flooring) cannot be done independently, must be done by contractors approved to work on board. Has to be planned. You can source, or we can assist you with sourcing. <p>Guidelines provided by VVR (Matilda):</p> <p>Following numerous questions in previous communications, we are updating the details providing further clarity (and I hope this will now add peace of mind to everyone and answer all your questions).</p> <p>To comply with SOLAS regulations and the restricted use of combustible materials on vessels, we aim to establish a systematic and controlled process to ensure that all furnishings and upholstered materials are accompanied by the appropriate fire test certification.</p> <p>We have used company procedures to provide a detailed list of items that require this certification. Please ensure you request and obtain a Certificate of Compliance for these items, confirming that they meet IMO standards and have been tested and approved for fire safety in maritime applications. This certificate should be kept in your file, or if attached to the item via a tag, the tag must remain intact.</p> <p>The materials covered by these requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine boards and panels (note that regular plywood does not comply) • Laminates • Wall coverings • Carpets and mats • Vinyl and linoleum floor coverings • Upholstery and curtain fabrics • Mattresses • Plastics and plastic pipes

Please note that previously mentioned MD (Manufacturer's Declaration) and SDoC (Supplier's Declaration of Conformity) are not required for consumable goods such as chairs, sofas, tables, beds, curtains, carpets, garbage bins, bed linen, pillows, towels, mattresses, storage racks, decoration, bathroom installations, toys, or non-structurally relevant or integrated artwork. These two documents are only applicable to materials contained in the ship structure or equipment permanently fixed to the ship structure. I hope this clarifies and helps in establishing a clear process for this critical safety matter.



Discussion regarding the guidelines can be found on Circle:
<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/resident-news/furniture-safety-at-sea>

Info about marine-friendly furniture is here:
<https://www.rm-group.com/en/portfolio/products/furniture.html>

Furniture approved by VVR for residents:

Below is a list of items that residents have submitted for approval to VVR, and have been approved. Although these have been approved by VVR for other residents, it is best to get approval in writing for any large items you plan to bring on board.

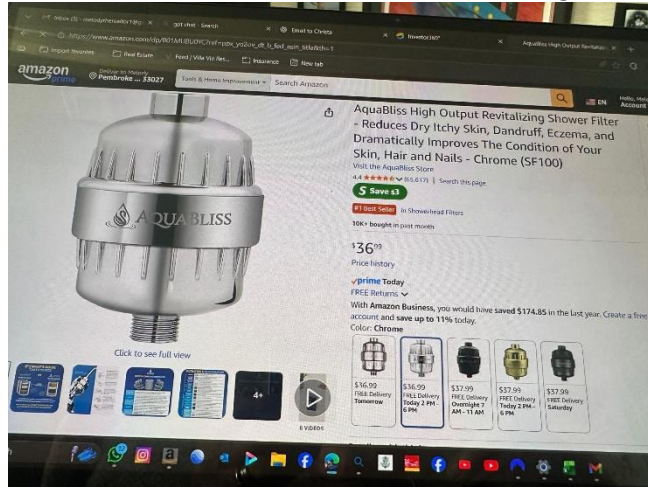
Items Approved by VVR for Residents	
Item	Resident who received approval, and description/link
Bed/ Mattress	<p>[Whitney Olson] Amazon.com: Novilla King Mattress, 12 Inch King Size Memory Foam Mattress with Comfort Foam for Pressure Relief & Cool Fresh Sleep, Removable Washable Cover, Mattresses in a Box, Medium Firm : Home & Kitchen</p> <p>[Cindy Stein] <i>I purchased [a queen bed] from Amazon after I had VVR approve it, here is the description from Amazon: ZINUS 8 Inch Green Tea Cooling Memory Foam Mattress [New Version], Short Queen, Fiberglass Free, Medium Firmness, Cooling Gel Foam, Certified Safe Foams & Fabric, Mattress in A Box - it is 74"L x 60"W - we purchased a metal frame for it as well.</i></p>
Desk Chair	[Ken Hagan]

	
<p>Water Filtration System</p>	<p>[Don Hawley] https://www.amazon.com/Berkey-Gravity-Fed-Water-Filter-System/dp/B0B8PGFSTC</p> 
<p>Tea Kettles</p>	<p>[Shelly Spearing] The chief electrician approved a 220v 1100W kettle that I bought in Philippines based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It is all metal. [In case of fire, burning plastic is bad] 2) It has an auto-off after water boils and before it runs dry. 3) It's 220V (twice the voltage requires half the amps, and it's amps that heat the wires. Halving amps cuts heat by 75%) 4) It's lower wattage than the coffee makers were <p>Given that 110 outlets are limited or nonexistent in cabins and 220v for tea kettles is superior, definitely get a 220v kettle.</p> <p>[Frank] We got an 800W kettle from Amazon This 1L stainless steel electric kettle boils water quickly with a sleek retro design, double-wall insulation, and auto shut-off. It's a popular product! https://a.co/d/8I139To</p>

Shower Filter

[Melody Thor Hennessee]

John installed this filter on our shower. Works great.



[Theresa Collins]

I have this one. I notice a difference but it's negligible on my hair, but skin is better. I attached mine to ship hose directly, didn't have to switch to the hose that came with it. Fit perfectly.

Powerful 15-stage filtration system removes chlorine, heavy metals, and impurities for cleaner, softer water. Others are loving it!

<https://a.co/d/brpq7oP>

Theresa Collins

Limited time deal



Deal: Cobbe Filtered Shower Head - Enjoy a Healthier, High-Pressure Shower

6-Spray Functions: This handheld showerhead has 6 selectable modes. When you rotate the handle on the a.co

Games

Card and board games and puzzles are available in the library. Please return games & puzzles to the cupboard when done. The following games are currently available (listed in alphabetical order).

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abridged 2. Ahoy 3. Backgammon (2 sets) 4. Bananagrams 5. Bards Dispense Profanity 6. Betrayal at House on the Hill 7. Bridge (inside Scrabble box) 8. Cards (21 decks) 9. Cards Against Humanity 10. Catan (3 sets) + big board 11. Chess/Checkers/Backgammon (9 sets) 12. Cheese Thief 13. Clue (2 sets; 1 vintage) 14. Cluedo (2 sets) 15. Connect4 (3 sets) 16. Cranium 17. Cribbage (2 sets) 18. Dominion 19. Dominoes (3 sets) 20. Floor Speedball 21. KeyForge 22. Mah Jong American (2 sets) 23. Mah Jong Chinese (4 sets) 24. Meccano 25. Monopoly (7 sets; 2 vintage) 26. Ominoes 27. Othello 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 28. Outburst 29. Pandemic 30. Phase 2 cards 31. Pictionary 32. Poker (2 sets) 33. Pub Quiz 34. Risk (3 sets; 1 vintage) 35. Rock Me Archimedes 36. Rummikub (7 sets) 37. Scattergories (2 sets) 38. Scrabble (11 sets; 1 vintage) 39. Sequence 40. Seven Wonders 41. Sorry (vintage) 42. Splendor 43. Spontaneous 44. Stratego (vintage) 45. Taboo 46. Ticket to Ride (2 sets) 47. Trivial Pursuit (5 sets) 48. Yahtze (3 sets; 1 vintage) 49. Uno (6 sets) 50. Unoflip 51. What's Yours Like 52. Word Nerd 53. 15-game Superset 54. 12-game Family Game Center
<p>Gift Shop</p>	<p>A chat group for residents interested in games has been created on Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/entertainment-and-leisure/games-board-games-card-games-group-games-word-games</p>	
<p>Global Harmony</p>	<p>Global Harmony is a VVR non-profit program that provides residents an opportunity to give back to the community, globally and locally.</p> <p>All residents are welcome to participate in Global Harmony initiatives. Join the WhatsApp group VV Global Harmony to stay informed about upcoming events.</p> <p>WhatsApp Global Harmony group: https://chat.whatsapp.com/EFSIOHSfOL3HVUP46FvuvW</p>	

	<p>Global Harmony initiatives may come from VVR or be resident-driven; examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting trees – Residents planted trees in Belfast, and raised funds for TreeCanada to plant additional trees around the world. • Clothing Swap – Residents donate clean, unneeded articles of clothing. Every few months, items are displayed and crew and residents can take items. Anything remaining is donated to a charity in the next available port. • Cebu Relief Effort – A few days before we arrived in Cebu, Philippines, the area was hit by a devastating earthquake. Five crew members’ families suffered losses. We raised more than \$16,000 for the relief effort, and took 100 resident volunteers to the relief center to assemble packets of food, bedding, and other essentials. • Peace Cranes – Residents created more than 2,500 origami peace cranes, which we delivered to the Peace Memorials in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. <p>Vision To build a global legacy of compassion, sustainability, and shared responsibility—supporting communities and ecosystems through impactful giving and purposeful partnerships.</p> <p>Mission To identify and support high-impact charitable initiatives around the world by funding environmental conservation, community development, disaster relief, and cultural preservation. Through hands-on involvement and partnerships with local leaders, we empower residents and crew to give back to the global community and create lasting, measurable change.</p> <p><i>See also</i> Environment, Clothing Drive</p> <p>More information on the VVR web site, or contact Matilda Ivanova: https://villavieresidences.com/global-harmony/</p> <p>VVR has partnered with ORCA, a renowned marine conservation organization dedicated to protecting marine mammals and their habitats. Together, we are embarking on a mission to safeguard the incredible marine life that enriches our planet’s oceans. More information here: Global Harmony Villa Vie Residences</p>
<p>Golf</p>	<p>For information about golf courses on shore, drop by the Destinations desk on deck 5. Golf clubs (2 sets) are available for rent at \$20.00 per day.</p> <p>Update from CEO Kathy Villalba on 1/10/2025: Trial Golf Simulator: We are using a trial simulator to test and identify a suitable location for height and noise levels. Once finalized, a professional, permanent simulator will be installed, enabling us to restart the "golf around the world" program.</p> <p>Information about VVR’s Golf Around the World Program:</p>

<https://villavieresidences.com/golf/>

Helpers

Many residents have stepped up to provide needed support to the community. Whether you need some thread for sewing a button, planning an excursion, or setting up your WiFi, chances are someone is willing to help. Here are just some of the residents willing to lend a hand. If you want to be added to the list, or know of someone who should be, please let me know.

Please note that these are all RESIDENTS providing support on a volunteer basis. They are not VVR staff.

Service/Expertise/Knowledge	Resident Helper
Bible study	Katrina Howard
Celebrations Committee	Shirene Thomas, Jim Maas, Alicia Hunter Lewis
Buddy system, welcome packets	Fran Paroissien, Ellie Hanson
Cabin crawl, iPhone safety videos	Eddie Dorworth
Choir	Alicia Hunter Lewis
Clothing Drive, Donation Box	Melody Hennessee
DVD Library	Darrell Karp, Lyn Hopeau
Fitness classes	Rina Cavazza, Barbara Violetta, Kathy Bohrer, Kathie, Pat
Founder representative	Benjamin Schatz
Global Harmony	Alicia, Bonny, Diana, Lyn H, Lyn R, Maura, Robin
Odyssey Guidebook, tea time notes, new resident checklist	Basia Kruszewska
IT support, data usage, WiFi setup	Chris Stotts, Shelly Spearing, Pat Patrick, Chris Guld
LGBTQ events	Benjamin Schatz
Library	Fran Paroissien
Movement Through Dance	Barbara Violetta
Name tags	Darrell Karp, Sherrie Cornett
Passport guru	Charley Brooks
Pickleball lessons	Kelly Butler, Jim Butler
PowerPoint expertise	John Frim
Resident roster (cabin #, birthdays, anniversaries)	Alicia Hunter Lewis
Solo traveler meet-ups	David Austin
Speakers Corner	Kit Cassingham, Ruthanne Greeley
Theater	Cherie Ohlsson, Nuran Gokturk
Trivia guru	Michael Powell
Villa Vie Today posting on WhatsApp	Rina Cavazza, Lyn Hopeau
Voltage readings for electrical outlets	John Frim
WhatsApp admins	JR, Gary Macdonald

Housekeeping

Twice Per Week:

- Change towels and mat (more frequent if needed)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make bed • Vacuum • Clean bathroom • Clean/dust furniture • Collect laundry bag • Refill body wash/shampoo/conditioner as needed <p>Weekly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change bed linens <p>Monthly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitize shower heads <p>More frequent housekeeping can be arranged for an extra fee.</p> <p>If you bring food to your cabin or order room service, do NOT leave the dirty dishes in the hallway. Dirty dishes will be picked up from inside the villa.</p>																								
<p>House Rules</p>	<p>A complete list of Odyssey house rules and policies is posted on Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/start-here/ceo-update-agreements-community-house-rules-what-s-changing-and-what-s-not</p> <p>Where relevant, parts of the house rules have been incorporated into this guidebook.</p>																								
<p>Inspections</p>	<p>The Odyssey is subject to ongoing inspections in the countries we visit.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 993 1555 1289"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Inspections Completed</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Inspection</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Result</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Australia</td> <td>2025-11</td> <td>Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U.S. Public Health</td> <td>2025-07</td> <td>Score: 81/100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U.S. Coast Guard</td> <td>2025-06</td> <td>Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canada</td> <td></td> <td>Score: 83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brazil</td> <td></td> <td>Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mexico</td> <td></td> <td>Passed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Clarification from Maria regarding USPH vs USCG - Source on Circle: USPH & USCG</p> <p>USPH (United States Public Health Service) Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP) Focus: <i>Public health and sanitation</i> - preventing and controlling gastrointestinal illness outbreaks aboard passenger vessels. Purpose & Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspects potable water systems, food storage and handling, galleys, pools/spas, medical facilities, and housekeeping standards. • Ensures the vessel meets sanitation and health standards to protect passengers and crew. <p>Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ship receives a USPH Inspection Report and a numerical score (0–100). • A score of 85 or higher is considered passing. • <i>Failure</i> (below 85 or unresolved violations) can result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-inspection 	Inspections Completed			Inspection	Date	Result	Australia	2025-11	Passed	U.S. Public Health	2025-07	Score: 81/100	U.S. Coast Guard	2025-06	Passed	Canada		Score: 83	Brazil		Passed	Mexico		Passed
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Mexico		Passed																							

- Public disclosure of the failed inspection
- Media coverage and reputational damage
- However, USPH cannot bar a ship from entering port. They regulate *health compliance*, not vessel entry.

USCG (United States Coast Guard)

Agency: Department of Homeland Security

Focus: *Safety, security, and environmental compliance.*

Purpose & Scope

- Ensures the vessel meets all SOLAS, MARPOL, ISM, and ISPS requirements.
- Inspects for:
 - Firefighting and lifesaving appliances
 - Navigation and communications equipment
 - Pollution prevention systems
 - Structural and operational safety
 - Crew certification and safety drills

Outcome

- Upon successful inspection, the Coast Guard issues a Certificate of Compliance (COC).
- The COC verifies that the foreign-flagged vessel meets U.S. safety, security, and environmental standards.

Critical Difference

- Without a valid **Certificate of Compliance (COC)**, a foreign-flagged vessel cannot operate or embark/disembark passengers in U.S. ports.
- If deficiencies are identified, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has the authority to deny entry, detain the vessel, or restrict operations until full compliance is achieved.

In short, the Coast Guard controls access, while the U.S. Public Health Service (USPH) oversees sanitation compliance *once the vessel is already in port.*

Odyssey’s Status and Upcoming Inspection

- Odyssey currently holds a valid COC permitting U.S. port entry.
- The vessel will likely undergo a USPH inspection in American Samoa, as part of the CDC’s Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP).
- CCS Management and their Public Health Department have been formally notified of this upcoming inspection and are expected to manage the process diligently to ensure Odyssey passes USPH inspection this time.

Insurance (Medical)

VVR does not provide medical insurance. Here are some recommendations from residents for medical insurance:

Medicare

Source: [Medicare Coverage While Traveling | Charles Schwab](#)

If you're on a cruise, be aware that you'll be covered only in U.S. waters. Once you're more than six hours away from a U.S. port, Medicare won't pay for medical costs.

Some supplemental Medicare policies, or Medigap **provide coverage limited to the first 60 days of your trip only.**

		<p>Before you leave the U.S, contact your insurance company to confirm coverage.</p>
	<p>IPMI</p>	<p>[Lisa Johnson and Alma] Alex Routh has done presentations about IPMI (International Private Medical Insurance) to VVR residents. He has made himself available for questions regardless of whether you buy from him or not. Here is his contact info: Alex Routh Whatsapp +1829-371-4534 Email alex@worldexpathealth.com</p> <p>Link to the recording of his last presentation on 2024-12-09: https://youtu.be/P-DgvW8qCQA</p> <p>[Kim Holmquist] <i>I was very impressed with his [Alex Routh] knowledge and his suggestion of my ordering a year of travel insurance before my 85th birthday (4 days before!) for about \$1400. Saved me thousands!</i></p> <p>[Sharon] <i>I highly, highly recommend that anyone interested in purchasing insurance read the book The Caveat Emptor Guide to Expat International Health Insurance by Alex Routh. It is short but full of very important information. You can find the book on Amazon for about \$4 or get it for free at www.WorldExpatHealth.com</i></p>
	<p>Genki (Allianz)</p>	<p>[Richard Namikas] Genki • Health Insurance for Digital Nomads https://share.google/TXOsUdEe1xOzpcJeh</p> <p><i>I am 62 and got Genki. It's about \$300 less per month than my US private insurance. Had to pay more than basic to have coverage while in USA. I am limited to 60-days in the USA every six months...If I wasn't getting USA coverage it would be cheaper.... Genki only allows two years of coverage currently. Would need to change provider at that point if they don't change policy. They are a real insurance company</i> https://www.allianz.com/en.html</p> <p>[Angela Milch] <i>Agreed Genki is a German Co but it is backed by Allianz which has a AA rating.</i></p> <p>[Pam Newhouse] <i>I bought Allianz. They take 70 and over. You must be backed by your provincial insurance. For anyone from Ontario, we are allowed to extend our ship coverage up to two years. You're allowed to do this every five years. It just takes filling out a form online and then visiting the office closest to you for them to look at it and make it official. If you are doing this, do not make the mistake of telling them that you're going to be gone for 3 1/2 years because then you will be refused. Tell them you are probably going to be gone up to two years.</i></p> <p>[Wendy Swanson] <i>I extended my Genki. Up to age 69. £116.70/month (£50 deductible). Looks good for medical insurance (not travel) but I luckily haven't had to make a claim yet. Allianz is the risk carrier.</i></p>

		<p>[Sherrie Cornett] I looked at Genki and they are very skewed toward younger travelers. I filled out their questionnaire with my age and medication...they “declined” to cover me. Didn’t even quote me anything. And I’m on basic meds. No pre-existing conditions.</p> <p>[Joshua Peloquin] I have a Genki Resident Premium policy - Life-long international health insurance with worldwide coverage. For digital nomads, expats, and long-term travelers. I elected to include the Home Country coverage as well, so I also have coverage in the US when I return every visit for up to a total of 180 days per calendar year. \$0 deductible, and every claim I have submitted so far has been paid in full rather quickly. All my vaccinations (Yellow Fever, Hepatitis, Japanese Encephalitis, etc..) were 100% covered. So has all my preventive and basic care dental work. I have had no medical claims to date. My monthly payment is based on my coverage elections and my age (this year it increased as I hit one of their new age brackets for pricing), but it's nowhere near as expensive as what I was paying in the US for just medical and dental, and covers much more overall.</p>
	WorldTrip Atlas	<p>[Wayne Heiser] Now using WorldTrips Atlas, will accept up to age 80, \$3000 less for couple than Alex, user friendly website, took 5 minutes to apply. Includes Acute episode coverage, which means even if you have a pre-existing condition, you are covered if you are having a major acute episode. WorldTrips are USA and AU based. For the USA version, they offer all the world (including USA) and without USA policies.</p>
	Heymondo	<p>[Mike Moore] We use Heymondo. It is only good up to age 70. One of the few that does not require us Canadians to maintain our provincial health care at home. Only for emergency medical. https://heymondo.com/long-stay-travel-insurance/</p>
	IMG	<p>[Myla Goldman] I have IMG senior trekker for a year. I have not had to use it.</p> <p>[Starr Davis] I have patriot platinum international. Looking in circle and Jonathan did a conference call with the information for us. Jonathan Lozano, Insurance Broker & Consultant (786) 443-9452 jlozano@yourcoveredcare.com</p> <p>[Jon Gregerz Jonsson] My situation is different because I lived in a country (Denmark) that has tax funded healthcare, so I just needed a long term travel insurance (which covers me outside Denmark and will evacuate me to Denmark if needed). I talked to Alex (WhatsApp/Mobile +1 829-371-4534 alex@worldexpathealth.com), an insurance agent that gave a talk</p>

	<p>on the ship when it was in the Dominican Republic in late 2024. He recommended IMG, I switch between worldwide (most expensive), worldwide without the US and Europe (cheapest). I have not had to file a claim yet since healthcare is much cheaper outside the US, even an ambulance and a 2H hospital stay in Japan was under the deductible.</p>
Cigna	<p>[Bonny Kelter] <i>I have Cigna Global. Very expensive but guaranteed through age 100. Yearly renewal with cap on increased price. Not for (relatively) inexpensive expenses like doctors' visits and medications. Covers major ER visits and inpatient expenses.</i></p> <p>[Norman D'Silva] <i>We are both on Medicare but also have a Travel Insurance yearly policy with medical evacuation. We also have a private insurance policy with Cigna International. It's \$900 which covers both of us per month. We have not had to use the policy for claims, but their customer service is very good. Renews annually.</i></p>
Travel Insured International	<p>[Peter Hendrick] <i>As relatively new owners, we are searching for coverage. We are very interested in Travel Insured International (Contact Tina or Sarah at villavie@travelinsured.com). As travel insurance you can only sign up while in US, but you can extend coverage for as many segments as desired (which is unusual for travel insurance). We are looking for other residents who have had claim experience with them.</i></p> <p>[Sharon Lane] <i>I have them too. It is really important to mention up front you will be on the Villa Vie Odyssey. Otherwise you may get the wrong agent, the wrong information and encounter problems. Their policies are far less expensive than I expected. I'm happy with them.</i></p>
Kaiser	<p>[Michael Powell Sr.] <i>I have Kaiser. They will cover me indefinitely worldwide as long as I keep paying my premiums. Caveat: outside of the US, I will have to pay expenses out of pocket, but as long as the claim is categorized as Emergency or Urgent, including anything onboard, I'll be reimbursed. I would not be covered for regular medical checkups or routine care. If something isn't considered an emergency, but it is serious, like cancer, I would have to return to the US for coverage. I've been very impressed with Kaiser.</i></p>
SafetyWing	<p>[Lyn Renfro] <i>I have SafetyWing. One claim so far so good. Does have an upper age limit. I have an insurance outside the US policy which is much less and pays monthly. In the US I can use my personal health insurance.</i></p> <p>[Colleen Stein] <i>I have Safety Wing - for those under 70. My second choice was Genki.</i></p>
TriCare	<p>[Larry Farquhar]</p>

		<p><i>I have retired US Military health insurance called "Tricare for Life". I discovered this medical insurance covers me worldwide. I recently tested it (unplanned) after getting sick in Greece. It worked like a charm. They reimbursed me and my wife for most of the medical expenses.</i></p>
	<p>MedJet Assist</p>	<p>[Shawna Butler] I use MedJet Assist. When I was based in NZ and Europe, I relied on Europ Assistance. My colleague is a medical director for Global Rescue. While these services are predominantly designed for medical transport, repatriation and evacuation, they all have an element of medical assistance and referral. If they can (and usually they do) get you taken care of in your current location, that is the best solution. And because of the massive network of providers they have developed globally, they are very good at it. Highly recommend their policies and services.</p>
	<p>Global Rescue</p>	<p>[Cris Letourneau] I have Global Rescue. When I need medical care abroad, I text them and they tell me where to go.</p>
	<p>Canadian Insurance</p>	<p>[John Frim] In my search for (Canadian) health insurance the main issue has been duration. There are expat plans for people "residing" outside of their home country, but they need a residential address. Back with L@S I said they could use the Florida address for the cruise line but was told that is a commercial address. Maybe we can use the VVR address in Florida?</p>
	<p>Other tips</p>	<p>[MJ] <i>Have just been researching this and another tip, upload the product disclosure statements from any policies you are considering to one of the AI tools (I used perplexity as its good for research type queries) and ask it to summarise all the exclusions. You can then ask questions and check any medical conditions, countries excluded etc as well as time and financial limits. Yes you can read the documents yourself but this was very helpful in comparing policies and making sure I didn't miss any "gotchas". I ended up going with Genki.</i></p> <p>[Wendy Swanson] <i>Just a tip - when looking for long term medical coverage, look for expat or nomad medical insurance (not travel insurance).</i></p> <p>[Cindy LeConey] I consulted with a professional advocate. Here is her contact information. Feel free to tell her I referred you. Ruthlyn Noel-Jodeph Healthwiz Solutions [Mobile] +1 516-223-0704</p>
	<p>For additional info about policies used by residents, see discussion on Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/general-resident-services-announcements/resident-insights-insurance-policies-that-have-worked-for-you</p>	

<p>Insurance (Travel)</p>	<p>VVR has partnered with Travel Insurance International to provide travel insurance to residents for a fee. Information is on the VVR web site: https://villavieresidences.com/travel-protection/</p> <p>Suggestions from residents for other travel insurance:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 331 1550 1150"> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 331 773 548"> <p>Safety Wing</p> </td> <td data-bbox="773 331 1550 548"> <p>[Colleen Stein] <i>I bought medical and travel insurance through Safety Wing. It's \$196 a month paid monthly and can be cancelled any time. No deductible with coverage up to \$250,000. Also considered Genki since they have no limit on coverage but went with Safety Wing.</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 548 773 1045"> <p>Travel Insurance International</p> </td> <td data-bbox="773 548 1550 1045"> <p>[William Voight] <i>We bought insurance for the 13 segments, embarking out of Key West. Due to changes in itinerary, we boarded in Bilbao, Spain. You need to pay for all segments up front for insurance. The Travel Insurance Company we dealt with is as follows: Travel Insurance International. Phone 844-440-8113. We dealt with Tina. A second phone number is 855-752-8303. Tina did a great job for us. She is familiar with the ship, and the present itinerary from San Diego. Any questions, please feel free to email or call us. Our contact information is as follows: Craig and Cindy Voight Email: craigcindyvoight@gmail.com WhatsApp 786-779-7079</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1045 773 1150"> <p>IMGlobal</p> </td> <td data-bbox="773 1045 1550 1150"> <p>[Myla Goldman] <i>I have an annual policy through IMGlobal, which I can renew each year.</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Safety Wing</p>	<p>[Colleen Stein] <i>I bought medical and travel insurance through Safety Wing. It's \$196 a month paid monthly and can be cancelled any time. No deductible with coverage up to \$250,000. Also considered Genki since they have no limit on coverage but went with Safety Wing.</i></p>	<p>Travel Insurance International</p>	<p>[William Voight] <i>We bought insurance for the 13 segments, embarking out of Key West. Due to changes in itinerary, we boarded in Bilbao, Spain. You need to pay for all segments up front for insurance. The Travel Insurance Company we dealt with is as follows: Travel Insurance International. Phone 844-440-8113. We dealt with Tina. A second phone number is 855-752-8303. Tina did a great job for us. She is familiar with the ship, and the present itinerary from San Diego. Any questions, please feel free to email or call us. Our contact information is as follows: Craig and Cindy Voight Email: craigcindyvoight@gmail.com WhatsApp 786-779-7079</i></p>	<p>IMGlobal</p>	<p>[Myla Goldman] <i>I have an annual policy through IMGlobal, which I can renew each year.</i></p>
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<p>Itinerary</p>	<p>The latest itinerary is available for downloading as an Excel file on the VVR site: https://villavieresidences.com/odyssey/. Click Destinations, then Odyssey Itinerary.</p> <p>Changes are made to the itinerary as needed, and posted in Circle in the Updates & News section. https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/resident-news/</p> <p>You can follow along the ship's journey on Cruise Mapper or Marine Traffic:</p> <p>Cruise Mapper: https://www.cruisemapper.com/?imo=9000699#google_vignette</p> <p>Marine Traffic: https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:375068/mmsi:311541000/imo:9000699/vessel:ODYSSEY#google_vignette</p> <p>Itinerary stats as of 11/1/2024: (Does not include Segment 17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1160 days total • 330 days (28%) at sea • 830 days (72%) in port • 415 ports 						

	<p>VVR highly recommends buying changeable airline tickets when meeting the ship in case of itinerary change. If you are making plans to leave/return at some point during the cruise, allow a day or two leeway, don't book for day of scheduled arrival. We do our best to be in port on time, but anything can happen.</p> <p><i>See also Countries</i></p>
<p>Key Card</p>	<p>Access to cabins is via a key card. The key card has your name and muster station info printed on it. At some ports, security may require you to show both the key card and a photo ID to enter, and will compare names on the two.</p> <p>If you plan to disembark for an extended overland excursion and rejoin in another port, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relinquish your key card at the front desk. • Be officially removed from the ship's manifest as required by port authorities. • Check back in upon return to receive a new key card and be re-added to the manifest. <p>This is a legal requirement to ensure the number of "souls onboard" matches official records, helping us avoid significant fines from port authorities. It applies to everyone, including owners and renters who have disembarked temporarily.</p> <p>Keycards are easily demagnetized. Do not carry your key card in your phone case, especially if you have an iPhone.</p>
<p>Laundry</p>	<p>There are three options for laundry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twice-weekly service by VVR included in cost of cruise. 2. Do your own. Free laundry machines and detergent are available on deck 2. Laundry room is available 24/7; however, it may be closed in certain ports depending on water usage. There is an ironing board and heavy-duty iron. If you use starch or fabric softener, there is none, so consider purchasing it prior to boarding. 3. Additional service outside of regularly scheduled service for a fee. <p>Laundry is serviced as part of twice-weekly housekeeping. Different decks will have different days. (For example, Wed & Sat, or Tue & Fri). Your steward will provide a laundry bag and a blank form with a list of clothing items. Enter the quantity of each item on the list and leave the laundry bag in your cabin for pickup. Do NOT leave your laundry bag in the hall outside your cabin; housekeeping will only pick it if the bag is inside the cabin. Laundry is usually returned the next day.</p> <p>The weekly refresh of towels/bedding does not count towards this.</p> <p>When you send your clothing to laundry, some may be returned on hangers. If you have spare hangers in your villa that are not in use, please place them on your bed for collection or return them to your cabin steward directly.</p> <p>Available for an extra charge:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laundry services outside of the two free days or outside of regularly scheduled service • Same-day service • Ironing service <p>A heavy-duty iron and ironing board are available for use in the laundry room. Irons are not allowed in cabins.</p> <p>If you're missing an item of clothing that you sent to the laundry, start with your room steward. They may be able to track the laundry processed before and after yours. You can also inquire with the Hotel Manager.</p>																																																												
<p>Lectures</p>	<p>VVR periodically brings on board guest speakers and workshop leaders.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 657 1555 1213"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th> <th>Speaker</th> <th>Topics</th> <th>Start Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Robert Dietrich</td> <td>Panama Canal Livestream</td> <td>2024-12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Steve Simone</td> <td>Music, Theater</td> <td>2024-12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Jim Clement</td> <td>History, Natural History</td> <td>2025-01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Linda Babcock</td> <td>Beagle Channel</td> <td>2025-01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Alan Feldman</td> <td>Photography</td> <td>2025-02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Andrew</td> <td>Photography</td> <td>2025-03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Armando Sanchez</td> <td>History, Intelligence, Technology, AI</td> <td>2025-03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Germaine Fischer</td> <td>Craft Workshops</td> <td>2025-04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Linda Saboe</td> <td>CIA, Spies</td> <td>2025-04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>John Thomas</td> <td>Movies, Film</td> <td>2025-05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>Karen Conroy</td> <td>Sociology, Psychology, Criminology</td> <td>2025-06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>Andy Hunting</td> <td>Language, Advertising, History</td> <td>2025-07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>Rina Tillinger</td> <td>History</td> <td>2025-08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>Sarah Warren</td> <td>Watercolor Workshops</td> <td>2025-08</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>See also Speakers Corner for lectures by residents.</p>	#	Speaker	Topics	Start Date	1	Robert Dietrich	Panama Canal Livestream	2024-12	2	Steve Simone	Music, Theater	2024-12	3	Jim Clement	History, Natural History	2025-01	4	Linda Babcock	Beagle Channel	2025-01	5	Alan Feldman	Photography	2025-02	6	Andrew	Photography	2025-03	7	Armando Sanchez	History, Intelligence, Technology, AI	2025-03	8	Germaine Fischer	Craft Workshops	2025-04	9	Linda Saboe	CIA, Spies	2025-04	10	John Thomas	Movies, Film	2025-05	11	Karen Conroy	Sociology, Psychology, Criminology	2025-06	12	Andy Hunting	Language, Advertising, History	2025-07	13	Rina Tillinger	History	2025-08	24	Sarah Warren	Watercolor Workshops	2025-08
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<p>LGBTQ</p>	<p>Resident [Ben Schatz] has created a forum for the LGBTQ community and organizes periodic meet-ups.</p> <p>Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/community-co-creation-and-positive-impact/villa-vie-lgbt-community-no-you-re-not-the-only-one</p> <p>Ben has also created a WhatsApp group for residents who identify as LGBT. Contact him to be added to the group.</p> <p>YouTube video created by VVR featuring the LGBT community on board: The LGBT Experience On Board</p>																																																												
<p>Library</p>	<p>The library on deck 5 has a collection of 1200+ books for resident use. Books are arranged thematically in the library and in the business center. Books may be borrowed at any time. There are notices about options for returning books on the wall in the library. Book donations are welcome. Resident [Fran Paroissien] has taken the lead on organizing the library. Contact her with any questions/suggestions.</p>																																																												

	<p>Quiet hours in the library are observed from 7-10 AM. After that, it is used for other activities, including puzzles, card games, poker games.</p>								
<p>Life Raft</p>	<p>The Life Raft is an informal document specifying your wishes in the event of a medical emergency. Note that this is NOT a VVR-sponsored initiative and is not required; it is organized and created by residents. Resident [Kit Cassingham] has created a fillable pdf that can be used to document your emergency needs and decisions. It includes information such as who is authorized to enter your cabin in an emergency, people to notify (on ship and off ship) who can help you recover, and pertinent medication information. After you complete your Life Raft, you are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a copy of it to the persons designated as your Life Raft buddies • Leave a copy with Guest Services • Tape a copy in an envelope on the inside of your closet door closest to your front door, where it can be easily accessed. <p>Where you can get a copy of the Life Raft form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Services desk (paper copy) • On Circle (fillable pdf) at this link: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/discuss-your-topics/pdf-life-raft-form-kit-s-talk • In WhatsApp, in the Announcements section, posted 5/1/2026 (It was originally pinned to the top, but pinned notices expire in a month, so you'll need to look for it by date). <p>Feel free to contact resident [Kit Cassingham] if you have any questions about the form.</p>								
<p>Lost & Found</p>	<p>Options for locating lost items and returning found items:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1129 1544 1560"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="488 1129 712 1163">Option</th> <th data-bbox="712 1129 1544 1163">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1163 712 1236">Guest Services</td> <td data-bbox="712 1163 1544 1236">Guest services stores found items at the reception desk. Check with them if you are missing an item or want to return an item you found.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1236 712 1415">Your steward</td> <td data-bbox="712 1236 1544 1415">If you're missing an item of clothing that you sent to the laundry, start with your room steward. They may be able to track the laundry processed before and after yours. You can also inquire with the Hotel Manager.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1415 712 1560">WhatsApp</td> <td data-bbox="712 1415 1544 1560">A WhatsApp group for lost & found articles is available (VV Lost & Found). Pictures of lost and found items are often posted here. Contact JR or Gary Macdonald to be added to the group.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Description	Guest Services	Guest services stores found items at the reception desk. Check with them if you are missing an item or want to return an item you found.	Your steward	If you're missing an item of clothing that you sent to the laundry, start with your room steward. They may be able to track the laundry processed before and after yours. You can also inquire with the Hotel Manager.	WhatsApp	A WhatsApp group for lost & found articles is available (VV Lost & Found). Pictures of lost and found items are often posted here. Contact JR or Gary Macdonald to be added to the group.
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<p>Magnets</p>	<p>Walls and ceilings on Odyssey cabins are metal. The most frequently recommended item to bring on board seems to be magnets. Many residents say you can't have enough of them. Magnetic hooks, buttons, clips are useful for storage and decoration.</p> <p>Here are a few links to magnetic items on Amazon. (There are many other options on Amazon).</p> <p>Amazon.com: Magnetic Clips</p> <p>Amazon.com : Neosmuk Magnetic Hooks</p> <p>Amazon.com : LOVIMAG Black Magnetic Hooks</p>								

	<p>Caution: several residents have reported that the higher-weight magnets (100 lbs+) are difficult to un-stick if they get stuck together.</p>
<p>Manifest</p>	<p>For each port, we must have in place a valid manifest, which is a list of passengers arriving at that port. If you plan on embarking or disembarking anywhere along the route, you must provide this information to VVR at least 72 hours in advance.</p> <p>Embarkation Information Update form on Circle.</p> <p>Detailed Manifest Information from VVR (Matilda) on Jan. 2025</p> <p>Manifest Submission: A Critical Aspect of Ship Operations Villa Vie Residences</p> <p>Manifest submission is a vital process in ship operations, ensuring compliance with international and local regulations for smooth port arrivals and departures. Below is a detailed explanation of its purpose, contents, and significance.</p> <p>Why Do We Need 72 Hours to Prepare a Manifest?</p> <p>The document "manifest" is necessary during the ship clearance process, and port authorities (via our agents) require this information from us 24-72 hours in advance. Please, note that this timeline varies port by port, country by country, so we use best management practice – consistency in operation, and require the stricter timeline to ensure our timely submission. Sometimes this timeline is even more when weekends are at play, and port administration does not work with its full staff.</p> <p>Why is this timeline important?</p> <p>Once the manifest, containing the names of all crew and passengers with relevant details, is submitted, the customs, immigration, and other authorities start their clearance process. This includes checking, confirming, and approving the ship's arrival or departure (that process referred in the industry as names "clearance process").</p> <p>What happens if changes are needed?</p> <p>For example, if someone decides to disembark unexpectedly or a person not listed as embarking shows up, the ship must update the manifest and resubmit it to authorities. This can delay the clearance process and, in some cases, result in fines for inaccuracies in the submitted documentation; or late submission may result in denied entry or departure to/from the port.</p> <hr/> <p>What is a Manifest?</p> <p>A manifest is a detailed document that contains important information about everyone and everything on board a ship. It serves as an official record to ensure the safety, organization, and legal compliance of the voyage.</p> <hr/> <p>What Information is in a Manifest?</p> <p>The manifest typically includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passenger Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names, ages, and nationalities. ○ Cabin assignments. ○ Emergency contact details. 2. Crew Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Names and roles (e.g., captain, engineers, chefs). ○ Certifications or qualifications. 3. Cargo Details (if applicable)

- What is being transported (e.g., supplies, luggage).
 - Quantities and weights.
- 4. Ship Stores Manifest**
- Details provisions, fuel, and supplies onboard for customs clearance.

Why is the Manifest Important?

- 1. Safety and Emergency Planning**
 - Helps the crew account for everyone during emergencies.
 - Assists authorities in rescue or evacuation planning.
- 2. Legal and Regulatory Compliance**
 - Used by governments and port authorities for customs and immigration checks: Prevent illegal immigration, trafficking, and smuggling.
 - Ensures adherence to international maritime regulations IMO and SOLAS Regulations to ensure the safety of life at sea and adherence to international standards.
 - Local Port Authorities: Manage traffic and operational planning.
- 3. Operational Efficiency**
 - Organizes passenger boarding, luggage delivery, and other logistics.
 - Prevents overloading or logistical mistakes.

Key Components of a Manifest

- **Ship Information:** Name, IMO number, flag state, port of registry, and voyage details.
- **Passenger/Crew Data:** Personal and travel details to meet immigration requirements.
- **Security Information:** Records of safety drills, security incidents, and compliance with the ISPS Code (International Ship and Port Facility Security Code).

Submission Process

- 1. Preparation**
 - Data is collected from the ship’s booking system and crew records, and reviewed for accuracy.
 - Verified against immigration and port state requirements.
- 2. Electronic Submission**
 - Most ports require electronic submission via systems such as:
 - **Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS):** For immigration and border control.
 - **Single Window Port Systems:** For customs and logistics (e.g., EU’s SafeSeaNet).
- 3. Timing**
 - Typically submitted by the ship 24–72 hours before arrival, depending on port regulations.
 - Updated versions are required upon departure or if passenger/crew numbers change.

Regulatory Compliance

- **IMO and SOLAS Regulations:** Ensure the safety of life at sea and adherence to international standards.
- **Customs and Immigration:** Prevent illegal immigration, trafficking, and smuggling.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Port Authorities: Manage traffic and operational planning. <hr/> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy: Errors in manifest data can lead to fines or delays. • Timeliness: Late submissions may result in denied entry or departure. • IT Issues: System incompatibility between ship and port systems can disrupt processes. <hr/> <p>Key Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates smooth port operations. • Enhances security and compliance. • Improves planning and resource allocation for both the ship and the port. 										
<p>Medical Services</p>	<p>Onboard Medical Center VVR has partnered with Vikand (https://vikand.com/) the leading expert in maritime medical services to provide a comprehensive onboard healthcare approach, including emergency care and when necessary, referral services to onshore medical facilities. The onboard medical center is staffed with Vikand's qualified health professionals and equipped to handle a wide range of medical situations.</p> <p>In Dec 2025, x-ray equipment was added to the medical center.</p> <p>We encourage all Residents to schedule a 15-minute “get to know you” visit with our onboard medical team, where you can discuss any medications or health concerns. This initial consultation is free, separate from any issue-specific visits.</p> <p>Medical Center hours are 8-11 AM, and 4-7 PM.</p> <p>The latest update dated 10/31/2024 from Kathy Villalba on medical care is here: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/resident-news/medical-program-updates-and-enhancements</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1257 1563 1913"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #f4b084;">Medical Services Onboard</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="background-color: #f4b084;">Type</th> <th style="background-color: #f4b084;">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Included services</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Get-To-Know-You visit • First initial medical consultation for acute care • Communicable diseases consult and diagnostic testing (AGE, influenza, COVID) <p><i>Source: VVR web site</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Billable Services</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual physical examinations • Chronic disease management (blood pressure monitoring, glucose monitoring) • Flu vaccine <p><i>See price list below for other billable medical services</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Available</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental • Chiropractor • Vision • Mental health </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Medical Services Onboard		Type	Description	Included services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Get-To-Know-You visit • First initial medical consultation for acute care • Communicable diseases consult and diagnostic testing (AGE, influenza, COVID) <p><i>Source: VVR web site</i></p>	Billable Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual physical examinations • Chronic disease management (blood pressure monitoring, glucose monitoring) • Flu vaccine <p><i>See price list below for other billable medical services</i></p>	Not Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental • Chiropractor • Vision • Mental health
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Vessel: Villa Vie Odyssey

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
84					703006006	Piccolo - Metlyte Plus CRP Panel	\$30	
85					703006007	Piccolo Comprehensive Metabolic Panel	\$30	
86					703006008	COAG INR coagulation test	\$95	
87					703006009	I-Stat - CG8+	\$30	
88					703006010	I-Stat - Chemistry 8+	\$20	
89					703006011	I-Stat - G3+	\$20	
90					703006012	I-Stat - PT/INR	\$15	
91					703006013	I-Stat Troponin cTnl	\$20	
92					703006014	Electrocardiogram	\$30	
93					703006015	Blood sugar	\$10	
94					703006016	Malaria Test	\$45	
95					703006017	D-Dimer Test	\$55	
96					703006018	Cardiac Enzymes Troponin	\$50	
97					703006019	Cardiac Enzymes BNP	\$50	
98					703006020	Cardiac Enzymes Myoglobin	\$70	
99					703006021	Cardiac Enzymes CK-MB	\$70	
100					703006022	Haemoccult Stool Test	\$30	
101					703006023	Tropt T / Cardiac Profile	\$45	
102					703006024	HIV Test	\$35	
103					703006025	Strep A Test Screen	\$30	
104					703006026	Pregnancy Test (BHCG)	\$20	
105					703006027	Coagucheck	\$10	
106					703006028	Cardiac Combo Test 3 in 1	\$55	
107		ZZ5.1 Need for immunization against influenza			703006029	Hepatitis B Surface Antigen Test	\$30	
108		DIAGNOSIS			703006030	Hepatitis C - Surface Antigen Test	\$30	
109					703006031	Norovirus Test	\$0	
110					703006032	Blood Grouping - Eldon Cards	\$40	
111								
112								
113								

Other medical-related notes:

- For CPAP machines, distilled water can be requested through Guest Services or your cabin steward.
- The medical center is equipped with an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).
- A sharps container can be requested through Housekeeping or the Medical Center.
- Needles, sharps, inhalers, and medications must never be left unattended or placed on doors or in public areas. All items for disposal must be handed directly to the medical team.
- Medical services, medications, and supplies will be charged to your onboard account. An itemized bill will be provided to you to be submitted to your international or travel insurance.
- **[Basia Kruszewska]** If you are a US resident and want to pay for your medical services with an HSA (Health Savings Account), you can ask Guest Services to bill it to your HSA debit card, rather than to the regular credit card on file for other cruise expenses.

See also: **Prescriptions, COVID, Wellness Plans**

Movies

Three ways to get your movie fix on board:

1. TVs in your cabin have an assortment of free movies available.
2. Movie screenings are periodically held in the Neptune or Coral Lounge (sometimes with popcorn).
3. Streaming to your TV. This uses significant internet bandwidth, which costs the company around \$1/gigabyte, so please do not stream unless actively watching it!
4. The DVD Library. Residents have organized a DVD Library making it possible for anyone to check out one of almost 300 DVDs for their use. **[Darrell Karp]** is in the process of finalizing the library; information will be posted when available.

DVDs currently available: List provided by [\[Lyn Hopeau\]](#). This list is the starting list; it is not being updated. See the list in the library for the latest titles.

DVDs AVAILABLE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. A Real Pain | 124. Percy Jackson and the Olympians:
The Lightning Thief |
| 2. Ad Astra | 125. Percy vs. Goliath |
| 3. Adam | 126. Phat Girlz |
| 4. Aliens Abducted My Parents and
Now I Feel Kinda Left Out | 127. Planet of the Apes |
| 5. Aliens in the Attic | 128. Poor Things |
| 6. All About Eve | 129. Predator |
| 7. All of Us Strangers | 130. Press Play |
| 8. Amelia | 131. Race for Glory: Audi vs Lancia |
| 9. An Affair to Remember | 132. Radioactive |
| 10. Anastasia | 133. Red Tails |
| 11. Anna and the King of Siam | 134. Riddle of Fire |
| 12. Camino Skies | 135. Roads |
| 13. Carmen (2022) | 136. Romeo & Juliet |
| 14. Chariots of Fire | 137. Rotting in the Sun |
| 15. Cheaper By The Dozen | 138. Rules Don't Apply |
| 16. Chevalier | 139. Saint Judy |
| 17. Civil War | 140. Scandalous: The Untold True
Story of the National Enquirer |
| 18. Columbus | 141. See How They Run |
| 19. Copa 71 | 142. Separate Lies |
| 20. Corner Office | 143. Seven Year Itch |
| 21. Crazy Heart | 144. Shallow Hal |
| 22. Deadland | 145. She Came To Me |
| 23. Dear Elizabeth | 146. Silent Night |
| 24. Death on the Nile (2022) | 147. Six Minutes to Midnight |
| 25. Desperation Road | 148. Snatched |
| 26. Dicks: The Musical | 149. Solaris (2002) |
| 27. Die Hard With a Vengeance | 150. South Pacific |
| 28. Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story | 151. Space Oddity |
| 29. Dr. Doolittle | 152. Spies in Disguise |
| 30. Dream Scenario | 153. Stealing Beauty |
| 31. Dreamin' Wild | 154. Step |
| 32. Epic | 155. Stop Making Sense |
| 33. Escape from the Planet of the Apes | 156. Subject |
| 34. Escape From Pretoria | 157. Summer of Soul |
| 35. Ever After | 158. Susie Searches |
| 36. Exhibiting Forgiveness | 159. Table 19 |
| 37. Farewell Amor | 160. Taken |
| 38. Fast Charlie | 161. Taken 2 |
| 39. Fever Pitch | 162. That Thing You Do! |
| 40. Firehouse Dog | 163. The Appleton Ladies' Potato Race |
| 41. Flaming Star | 164. The Bengali Detective |
| 42. Flicka: Country Pride | 165. The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel |
| 43. Flaming Star | 166. The Boogeyman (2023) |
| 44. Glee The 3D Concert Movie | 167. The Call of the Wild (2020) |
| 45. God Help the Girl | |

	46. Golda	168. The Commitments
	47. GoldenEra (2022)	169. The Creator
	48. Greatest Days	170. The Day After Tomorrow
	49. Ground Swell: The Other Side of Fear	171. The Dead Don't Hurt
	50. Heart of Champions	172. The Delinquents
	51. Hello, Dolly!	173. The Desert Rats
	52. Hero Mode	174. The Diary of Anne Frank
	53. Hidden Figures	175. The Eyes of Tammy Faye
	54. High Crimes	176. The Father (2020)
	55. Hitman: Agent 47	177. The Fault In Our Stars
	56. Hello, Dolly!	178. The First Grader
	57. How To Marry A Millionaire	179. The Great Alaskan Race
	58. Ice-Breaker: The '72 Summit Series	180. The Great Escaper
	59. I Love You, Beth Cooper	181. The Holiday Dating Guide
	60. Independence Day	182. The Inn of the Sixth Happiness
	61. In Her Shoes	183. The Invisibles (2024)
	62. Ingenious	184. The Iron Claw
	63. Interlude in Prague	185. The Last Bus
	64. Irena's Vow	186. The Last Ice
	65. Jasper Jones	187. The League
	66. Joika	188. The Longest Goodbye
	67. Journey to the Center of the Earth	189. The Longest Ride
	68. Jucy	190. The Marine 3: Homefront
	69. Kill	191. The Martian
	70. Kingdom Come	192. The Miracle Club
	71. Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes	193. The Namesake (2007)
	72. Koko: A Red Dog Story	194. The New Mutants
	73. La Cocina	195. The Paper Chase
	74. Lakota Nation vs. United States	196. The Personal History of David Copperfield
	75. Land of Bad	197. The Portable Door
	76. Lee	198. The Princess
	77. Leonie	199. The Return (2024)
	78. Les Miserables	200. The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
	79. License to Drive	201. The Sentinel
	80. Life of Pi	202. The Song of Names
	81. Life or Something Like It	203. The Sound of Music
	82. Light It Up	204. The Strangers: Prey at Night
	83. Little Manhattan	205. The Three Musketeers: Part 2 D'Artagnan
	84. Live Free or Die Hard	206. The Turning Point
	85. Love Sarah	207. The Words
	86. Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing	208. The Young Lions
	87. Lucy in the Sky	209. Theater Camp
	88. Lying and Stealing	210. There's Always Hope
	89. Man on Fire	211. Timestalker
	90. Marmalade	212. Titan A.E.
	91. Marrowbone	213. Tolkien
	92. Mass	214. Transporter 2
	93. Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World	
	94. May December	

	<p>95. Maze Runner: The Death Cure 96. Me and Earl and the Dying Girl 97. Midway 98. Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates 99. Minority Report 100. Monte Carlo 101. Mr. & Mrs. Smith 102. Mrs. Lowry and Son 103. Mutiny in Heaven: The Birthday Party 104. My Cousin Rachel 105. My Super Ex-Girlfriend 106. Napoleon Dynamite 107. Next Goal Wins (2023) 108. Nightbitch 109. Nothing But the Truth 110. Nothing Lasts Forever 111. Notre-Dame on Fire 112. Office Space 113. On the Line (2024) 114. On Wings of Eagles 115. One Fine Day 116. Paper Towns 117. Paradise Hills 118. Parker 119. Past Lives 120. Patton 121. Pavarotti 122. Peace by Chocolate 123. Peak Season</p>	<p>215. Two For The Road 216. Underwater 217. Unfaithful 218. Unfaithfully Yours 219. Unfinished Business 220. Uproar 221. Victor Frankenstein 222. Volcano 223. Von Ryan's Express 224. Waitress 225. Walking Ned Devine 226. Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps 227. WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Story 228. West Side Story (2021) 229. We Bought A Zoo 230. Wendy (2020) 231. Wild Bill 232. Witches (2024) 233. Woman On Top 234. Wonders of the Sea 235. X-Men: Apocalypse 236. X-Men: Dark Phoenix 237. X-Men: Days of Future Past 238. X-Men: The Last Stand 239. Young Frankenstein 240. Young Werther 241. Your Lucky Day 242. 12 Years a Slave 243. 20 Days in Mariupol 244. 21 Days Under the Sky 245. (500) Days of Summer</p>
Name Tags	<p>See also Streaming</p> <p>Resident [Darrell Karp] with backup from [Sherrie Cornett] have taken on the task of creating name badges for everyone. There are a limited number of badges available, so if you are not using yours, or you are getting off the ship, please return your badge so we can reuse it for new residents. Please note they are for residents only; we don't have enough badges for friends & family.</p>	
Notary	<p>If you have a need for a notary while on board, it's best to check the requirements for your state/country directly. Here are some tips from residents:</p> <p>[Pat Patrick] <i>Several of us just used Proof.com for online notary service - was fast and easy.</i></p> <p>[Deneen] <i>I lived in Spain for 1.5 years recently and used online notaries everything I needed anything notarized. They were accepted every time. However, I have heard that there are a handful of states that won't accept online notaries.</i></p>	

	<p>[Terri] <i>For NC, you must be physically in the state to notarize.</i></p> <p>[Angela Milch] <i>Almost all did {suspended requirements for physical presence} during Covid but some have reversed or have rules that both the notary and person being notarized must be within the state's borders.</i></p> <p>[David Austin] <i>I do not know but it depends on what country you are in and whether they have an agreement with the U.S. In the UK, I needed a lawyer then it was processed by the government. \$\$\$.</i></p> <p>[Holly Hennesse] https://www.notarize.com/</p> <p>[Calvin] <i>If needed, you can get a document notarized at a US embassy.</i></p>
<p>Passport</p>	<p>VVR strongly recommends always maintaining a passport validity of at least 12 months due to the nature of the world voyage.</p> <p>Passports are collected when you board the ship and are held on board by VVR Guest Services. For most onshore excursions, you do not need your passport to go onshore, but it is recommended that you have a copy (either digital or a printout) with you. In some ports, you may need to collect your passport from Guest Services and take it with you when you go onshore. The requirements vary, sometimes even in the same country. For example, residents did not have to produce passports in Tangier, Morocco, but did in Casablanca, Morocco. Guest Services will let you know if you need to collect your passport for a shore excursion.</p> <p>Consider getting your passport renewed prior to joining cruise, even if it still has validity for several years. If you will be on the Odyssey long-term, it is difficult to estimate how many passport pages you will need for visas. Some countries take up only half a page for their visa stamp or sticker, while others have been known to take up 3 pages. Many residents currently on board are finding that their passport pages are filling up much quicker than expected. It is possible to renew your passport abroad but much easier (and cheaper) to get it done in your home country, before you board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are getting your passport renewed, opt for the larger 50-page book rather than the standard smaller version. Some residents have reported that getting the smaller passport is no longer an option, but others have reported that it is. So if your form has the option, check off the box for the larger passport. • If you are a U.S. citizen, consider getting a second passport, in addition to your primary one. It will make it easier to obtain visas for countries (such as China, middle east) which require you to send in your passport to obtain the visa. Your second passport will have a different passport number and will be valid for 4 years. There is an extra cost for this and you must provide justification for it (see sample letter below). • If you currently have a valid visa in your passport and need to renew it, existing visas in your old passport can be used along with your new passport.

- Your application may be rejected if you use the same photo as your primary passport.

[Angela Lurie Milch]

I have been on the ship since July and my 50 page passport which started with no stamps is about 1/3 full. For those that are still in the US head the warning above that this may not be sufficient if you are on long term.

[Shelly Spearing]

For US Passport holders, see: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/second-passport-book.html>

Note that the form for a second passport requires a lot more information (e.g., parents' DOBs, divorce date), but doesn't require you to surrender your current passport. Having two passports may be useful when (if?) we apply for visas for China after having visited Taiwan.

Excerpt:

The form you fill out depends if you submit your most recent passport book.

1. Apply for a second passport book using [Form DS-82](#) if:
 - You can send us your full-validity, 10 year passport, and
 - You meet the [other requirements to renew](#).
2. Renew your second passport book using Form DS-82 if you can submit it with your application.
3. [Apply in person](#) at an acceptance facility or passport agency using [Form DS-11](#) if you cannot submit your passport book.

Sample Justification Letter for Second Passport

Here is a sample letter summarizing the justification for a second passport, submitted by **[Cindy LeConey]**. Modify it as needed for your situation.

STATEMENT REQUESTING SECOND PASSPORT

TO: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. PASSPORT AGENCY

I, _____, passport number _____, intend to travel to the Middle East, Asia and Africa. I embarked on a world cruise for the next 3+ years on _____ (Villa Vie Residences, Odyssey). In view of the need for visas for several countries on an ongoing basis because of frequent international travel, possible prolonged processing delays required to obtain a visa, and the need for multiple visas for my current travel, I am unable to complete my trip utilizing my current passport. In view of the restrictive entry policies and difficulties obtaining visas, it is impossible to complete my trip using only one passport. Moreover, to change my itinerary in order to use just one passport will cause undue hardships that would be insurmountable. I am therefore requesting the issuance of a 2nd passport for travel. If possible, I request a 10 year validity for the 2nd passport, but I understand a 4 year validity may only be possible. I understand that I may need reapply at the end of that period if my need to travel to the aforementioned countries continues. I am continually travelling internationally and can't release my current passport. Attached is a list of the countries to be visited with approximate dates of travel.

Should either passport be lost or stolen, I will report that circumstance immediately to the passport office in Washington DC, or if abroad, to the nearest American consulate or

	<p>embassy. I understand that both passports must be submitted for inspection or cancellation when I request any passport service in the future.</p> <p>Thank you. Sincerely</p> <p>Passport number _____</p> <p>Itinerary 2026</p> <p>Jan-French Polynesia, Cook Isles, Niue, Tonga Feb-New Caledonia, Australia, New Zealand Mar-New Zealand, Australia April- Australia, Timor Leste, Indonesia May-Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines June-Philippines, Taiwan, Japan July-Japan, South Korea August-Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong September-Vietnam, Cambodia October-Thailand, Malaysia November-Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India December-India, Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Pets</p>	<p>Cats are the only pets allowed on the Odyssey. As of Jan 2026 there were 8 cats on board.</p> <p>[Holly Hennessy]: Some useful tips about the logistics of having a cat on board, from cat mom Holly:</p> <p><i>"I have Captain the Cruising Kitty aboard Odyssey. I will share with you that having a pet aboard, as wonderful as it, has considerations.</i></p> <p><i>We have no vet aboard. Thankfully, all the cats have been healthy, but if there would be a situation, animals are not allowed ashore, so we'd be at the mercy of finding a vet to come aboard. We had a vet tender to us in Palau so that we could get updated vaccinations and titer tests. She was fabulous! I have been cruising with Captain for 15 months now. Many countries come aboard for inspections when we arrive, so we have to wait around for inspectors and have to be flexible in our shore plans. Japan inspected in every new port, as did Fiji everyday. Australia is another level of biosecurity. They required that cats stay in cabins below deck in a locked corridor and we were allowed escorted access for only 30 minutes in the morning and again in the evening to feed them. It was very stressful for the cats.</i></p> <p><i>There are also charges levied by some countries. The charge from Fiji, for instance, was \$147 per cat. Samoa, Australia, and French Polynesia will also levy fees. We pay them on our onboard account. Because there have never before been pets on cruise ships worldwide, this is all new territory and VVR has been stellar in breaking this ground. But it truly is a situation where we don't know ahead of time what the requirements or fees might be. Every other residential ship that will come to fruition in the future will benefit from the paths that VVR has blazed. Interestingly, the inspections in Mexico were the</i></p>

most invasive, and there are no restrictions on traveling with pets between the U.S. and Mexico. So, no rhyme or reason.

You also need to be aware that you can't just decide to fly home from most places with a pet. If you bring the pet ashore, you have to go through the entire pet import process, which often means a quarantine."

VVR Pet Policy

Here is the official VVR Pet Policy. Note that although this is the official policy, not all of it is currently being implemented.

VVR Pet Policy

At VVRI, we understand that your pets are an important part of your family, and we are delighted to welcome cats weighing up to 20 pounds (9.07 kg) aboard our ship. It is expected that all residents with cats understand that VVRI will not be responsible for the safety and health of any animals on or off board the ship outside the content of this policy. Therefore, each resident with cats hereby indemnifies VVRI for any issues that may arise from traveling with your cat to and from the ship and while on the ship. Sole responsibility for the health and wellbeing of all animals will be in the hands of the owner of the animal as identified by their animal passport documentation.

To ensure a pleasant experience for all our passengers, we have established the following pet policy:

1. Pet Accommodations:

- A maximum of ten (10) cats per ship.
- Cats weighing up to 20 pounds are permitted on the ship.
- A maximum of two pets per villa is allowed.
- Maximum Pet villas onboard is capped based on the number of villas on the deck designated as the "pet deck" on the ship.

2. Pet Cabins:

- All pet villas are located on a designated deck of the ship ensuring that both pet owners and non-pet owners can enjoy their voyage comfortably.

3. Non-Refundable Deposit:

- A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per pet is required for each pet cabin. This deposit covers any potential cleaning or damage costs associated with pet stays.

4. Voyager Must Supply a Suitable Crate for their Animal(s):

- Each resident must supply a suitable crate and install it in their Villa upon check-in. This crate must be used when residents are not in the cabin during housekeeping or scheduled maintenance services to provide access for the personnel. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in fines and/or cancellation of your reservation.

5. Pet Care While Onboard:

- It is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure proper care for their animals while onboard.

6. Dietary Accommodations:

- Residents are responsible for supplying food to their pets. When possible, the ship personnel can assist in sourcing and purchasing pet food in upcoming ports.

28. Pet Etiquette:

- We require that pet owners ensure their pets are well-behaved and considerate of other passengers. Please be mindful of noise, as continuous meowing can disturb fellow voyagers. Should this occur, it may necessitate a review of your reservation. Pets should be kept in carrier bags while in common areas of the ship in transit to either the designated cat area or the vet ashore where possible.
- The designated cat area is Deck 9 forward only. Cats must always be kept on a leash while at the designated cat area.
- Pets are strictly prohibited from entering common areas, dining areas, or the business center at any time.

8. Cleaning and Waste Management:

- Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets, and waste disposal stations are conveniently located at the designated area on deck 9 forward.
- Cat litter must be disposed of properly in a separate bag as part of the Villa trash and must be changed no less than every other day unless needed more frequently.
- Under no circumstances should any cat litter be flushed down the toilet, in the sink, or bathtub, and is subject to a \$10,000 fine if litter has been found to be flushed.

9. Vaccination and Health Records:

- Pet owners must provide proof of up-to-date vaccinations and health records for their pets upon embarkation. This includes a current rabies vaccination, as it is a mandatory requirement in many countries.

10. Access to Veterinary Care:

- We will assist to obtain veterinary care onboard where possible, depending on rules and regulations in the ports where we visit.

11. Cats Ashore:

- Cats will not be allowed to be brought ashore during day visits and excursions.

We want to make your voyage as enjoyable as possible and we appreciate your cooperation in following these guidelines to create a harmonious and pleasant environment for all passengers, both human and furry. We look forward to welcoming you and your cats on your upcoming VVRI cruise adventure!

Disclaimer:

Please note that this pet policy may be subject to future changes based on operational needs and resident feedback. We are committed to ensuring the comfort and safety of all residents, and any updates to the policy will be communicated in a timely manner. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Australia has strict pet management requirements while in Australian waters. Here is a summary on Circle:

<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/policies-guidelines/pets-management-plan-for-australia>

Phone Directory

Numbers to call from any landline (or would that be shipline?) phone on the ship (not cell phones):

	Extension # to dial from cabin phone
Emergency	911 (answered on bridge)
Medical (non-emergency)	64

Guest Services, Concierge	65
Room Service	71
Spa	63
Fitness Center	5570
Shore excursions	5990
Shop	5993
Business Center	5753
Mike's Bar	5173
Morning Light Lounge	5551
Palms Café	5560
Thistle Restaurant	4200
Coral Club	5552
Observatory	5995
Neptune Lounge	5550
Cabin to Cabin	Cabin #

Phone Plans	Recommendations for Phone Plans from Residents	
	Carrier	Recommendation
	Airalo	<p>[Alicia Hunter Lewis] <i>I use Airalo for data service and call via VOIP/Facetime: They had European SIM cards transferrable across the UK and for every country I visited (\$7.50 for 2GB) I'm currently using their global eSIM (\$17 for 2GB over 15 days) and using quite a bit more (almost double) the data than the regional card - maybe lasts 2.5 ports. Some in WhatsApp highly recommended US Mobile. Most modern phones have eSIM cards; I would say that is an absolute must. Not sure about business calls, but my VOIP/Facetime calls are stronger and more reliable in the business center rather than from the room, even with the WiFi booster in the TV.</i></p> <p>[Chris Stotts] <i>A lot of people miss the tab on Airalo for global plans some only data and some with texts and calls and its good for a year. Pick how much you want to start with and you can top up either manually or automatically when you run low and keep the same e-sim.</i></p>
	TMobile	<p>[Tom Henritze] <i>I had Verizon when I first arrived in Belfast for the summer and it was very expensive and terrible coverage. I switched to Tmobile based in the us for an over 55 plan and spend \$75/month. Unlimited texts, high speed data up to 5gb per month, then throttled down after, calls are \$0.25/min. Not the overseas plan they offer. I use it mostly for texting and navigation (I almost never call and then on WiFi calling) and it has been great.</i></p>
US Mobile	<p>[Chris Stotts] <i>US Mobile is what I have used since Belfast and it's great, it allows you to switch between three networks, top up data if needed and even get a multi network add on line so you can run two networks at once so you always have signal in ports all while charging half or less then the major</i></p>	

carriers, you may hear some downsides from users but it only that there is a learning curve on adjusting your network in different countries but it becomes part of your routine and is what I recommend.

[Chris Stotts]

For those that want to know how to switch between the three networks on us mobile here are some step by step directions. The three networks included are warp , dark star, and light speed and can be compared here: <https://www.usmobile.com/networks>

Using the US Mobile App

1. Open the US Mobile app on your device.
2. Log in with your account credentials.
3. From the dashboard, select the line you want to modify.
4. Look for the option labeled "Change Plan" or "Modify Plan."
5. Choose the Light Speed option under available network plans.
6. Confirm your selection and apply the change.
7. Restart your device for the changes to take effect.

Using the US Mobile Website

1. Go to the US Mobile website and click on "Log in" to access your account.
2. Navigate to "Lines" or "Manage Lines."
3. Select the specific line you want to modify.
4. Click on "Change Plan" or "Modify Plan."
5. Choose the Light Speed plan from the available options.
6. Confirm the change and follow any prompts to complete the process.
7. Restart your device to finalize the change.

[Rebecca Rhine]

Check out US Mobile for their international plan. Great service, inexpensive, works well all over the place.

[Sherrie Cornett]

I also went with US Mobile and have been pretty happy with. Customer service when I've needed help has been great.

[Melitta Thorn]

I just switched carriers from T-Mobile to US Mobile today! It went seamless and easy! I bought the \$390 / year premium plan that has light speed and roaming included. So long story short, no Google voice transfer needed, no additional data plan etc! ONE plan, one click and that's it with eSIM. I must say I was a bit nervous. But now I feel good and I am ready to join you all on segment 4.

[Ellie Hanson]

I tried to sign up outside of the US and it did NOT go well. Had to switch to Mint.

		<p>[Alicia Hunter Lewis] I reached out to US Mobile - eSim no problem abroad, they believed, with roaming services purchased as well. This was customer service, not the tech help desk, however.</p> <p>[Warren] You must be in the USA to set up WiFi calling.</p>
	Fonus	<p>[Suzette & Tim Cooley] Worldwide coverage and it's only \$20 a month unlimited text, voice and data- they just lower bandwidth after 5 MBs. You can pick a new number or transfer yours. Just need to have a phone that allows esims.</p> <p>[Michael Moore] I also have fonus, the data coverage has been great so far, some gaps but use aralo to fill those. The wifi calling and texting has been an issue and has not been the most reliable, would not recommend fonus if you need to call or text, but would recommend it if all you need is data.</p>
	Google Voice	<p>[Wendy Swanson] I ported my number to Google Voice (1 time fee of \$20) and I can still get calls & texts, and make calls or texts on my regular number to U.S. numbers for free. (So I also get my security codes from the bank, etc.) Then I use Airalo eSIM for service in port (with no wifi) for Google maps, internet, etc. I have been traveling for a year.</p> <p>[Bosco] Yea Google Fi is like a normal cellular plan and has the problem of being disconnected when out of the US for extended period. I use Google Voice for calls and texts. It uses Data and not Cellular, and shouldn't be disconnected (unless rules/laws change). I use Airalo for data off the ship and the Wifi when on the ship. Calls are free to US and Europe was just \$0.01/minute. Though I am not sure if you have to be in the US to initially setup. I know you cannot get Google Voice in Canada.</p>
	GoogleFi	<p>[Richard Namikas] Keeping GoogleFi for my USA phone number and a second eSIM with Airalo for data.</p> <p>[Chris Stotts] A few of us have had some success using US mobile options like T-Mobile and Airalo. Here are a couple of friendly tips that might help:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make sure your cellular signal is turned on. It's a simple step, but super important. 2. Turn off automatic network selection. You'll need to manually pick your network each time you change locations. A bit of a hassle, I know, but trust me, it works. 3. Don't forget to check that both data and voice roaming are turned on.

4. Double-check that your provider offers a plan that includes international calls, texts, and data – or whatever else you might need.

[Fred Tydeman]

How can you do esim in an (old) phone that does not support esim? Buy a physical sim card (an adapter) that provides esim support. Swap this sim card with the one in your phone (unless your phone has two physical sim slots). Then buy an esim plan (described elsewhere) and load it to your new esim adapter.

Some of the companies that sell esim adapters are: 5ber (might be shut down as of March, 2025); esim.me (expensive), 9esim, EIOTCLUB, JMP

Resident **[Randy Cassingham]** has written a comprehensive article about phone plans on his blog: <https://residentialcruising.com/phone-number/>

Phone Safety

[Eddie Dorworth] has created a series of educational videos to walk residents through configuration changes to protect their banks and finances in case their iPhone is stolen. Here is the QR code to access videos:



[Chris Stotts]

We've had reports of phones being stolen and we want to make sure everyone is aware of the security risks that come with this. When a thief gets access to your phone, they can reset your Apple ID, access your banking apps, and lock you out of your own account—making it nearly impossible to recover. It's critical to secure your phone before it's too late. Taking these steps now can save you from losing access to your accounts and money if your phone is stolen. Key security features and tips:

iPhone		
1	Set a Screen Time Passcode (Prevents Account Resetting). This stops anyone from changing your Apple ID password, preventing them from locking you out.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Settings > Screen Time > Turn on Screen Time 2. Tap Use Screen Time Passcode (set a passcode different from your device passcode) 3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions > Enable 4. Scroll to Account Changes > Set to Don't Allow
2	Disable Face ID for Password Autofill.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Settings > Face ID & Passcode 2. Turn OFF Password AutoFill

		This ensures a thief can't use your face to access saved passwords.	
	3	<p>Remove Your Banking Apps from Face ID & Require a Manual Password</p> <p>This forces a manual password entry instead of allowing a thief to use Face ID.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to your banking app settings 2. Disable Face ID or biometric login
	4	<p>Enable Lost Mode if Your Phone is Stolen. This locks your phone and prevents further use.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Find My iPhone (on another device) 2. Select your stolen phone > Mark as Lost
Samsung Phones			
	1	<p>Enable Samsung's "Secure Folder" to Lock Banking & Sensitive Apps</p> <p>This keeps sensitive apps hidden and secure even if your phone is stolen.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Settings > Biometrics and Security > Secure Folder 2. Sign in with your Samsung Account 3. Move banking apps, messages, and sensitive data inside the Secure Folder <p>Require a separate PIN, password, or fingerprint to open it</p>
	2	<p>Turn on "Auto Factory Reset" to Wipe Data After 15 Failed Attempts</p> <p>This prevents thieves from brute-forcing your passcode and gaining access.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Settings > Biometrics and Security > Auto Factory Reset 2. Enable the setting (after 15 failed unlock attempts, all data is erased)
	3	<p>Enable Samsung's "Find My Mobile" for Remote Locking & Tracking</p> <p>If stolen, you can track, lock, or wipe your phone remotely via findmymobile.samsung.com.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Settings > Biometrics and Security > Find My Mobile 2. Sign in with your Samsung account 3. Enable Remote Unlock & Offline Finding
	4	<p>Theft Detection Lock</p> <p>Turning this on will lock your phone if it detects that someone grabbed your phone and ran away (that is, stole your phone).</p>	<p>Settings > Biometrics and security > Theft protection > Theft Detection Lock</p> <p>In the same section are: Offline Device Lock Remote Lock Find & erase your device</p>

	<p>5 Pin an app</p> <p>If your phone is stolen, the thief cannot get out of that app's screen (such as to change screen timeout to Never)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8zLurM4zF8</p>	<p>Do this one time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Settings 2. Search for "Pin windows" 3. Turn on Pin windows 4. Turn on Ask for PIN before unpinning <p>Then when off ship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open an App (such as Uber) 2. Press the Recents button (symbol at bottom of screen) 3. Tap the icon at center of top of app, then select Pin this app 4. Select OK <p>For you to get out of that App</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the same time, press the left and right icons at the bottom of screen < and 2. Then enter your Pin
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Google Pixel Phones		
1	<p>Use Google's "Safety Check" Feature for Emergency Lockdown</p> <p>This is useful if you're in a risky situation where your phone might be taken.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Settings > Safety & Emergency > Safety Check 2. Set a time-based check-in—if you don't confirm, it will alert emergency contacts.
2	<p>Enable Google's Anti-Theft "Factory Reset Protection"</p> <p>This prevents thieves from resetting your device without your Google password.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Settings > Security > Smart Lock 2. Make sure no trusted places or devices are set (so a thief can't auto-unlock your phone). 3. Enable Two-Step Verification on your Google Account (https://myaccount.google.com/security).
3	<p>Lock Google Pay & Disable Contactless Payments When Not in Use</p> <p>This stops thieves from using tap-to-pay with your stolen phone.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Google Wallet 2. Go to Settings > Contactless payments > Require authentication for every transaction 3. If stolen, disable Google Pay remotely at https://myaccount.google.com/device-activity

	<p style="text-align: center;">Other Popular Android Phones (OnePlus, Xiaomi, Motorola, etc.)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 205 532 233">1</td> <td data-bbox="548 205 964 415"> <p>Enable “Privacy Password” or “App Lock” for Extra Security</p> <p>These features prevent thieves from accessing sensitive apps even if they unlock your phone.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="980 205 1555 436"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OnePlus: Go to Settings > Privacy > Privacy Password • Xiaomi: Use Second Space to create a hidden, secure profile. • Motorola: Use Moto Secure App to lock down sensitive apps </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 453 532 480">2</td> <td data-bbox="548 453 964 625"> <p>Lock SIM Card to Prevent Account Takeover. This stops thieves from swapping your SIM to another phone and resetting passwords.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="980 453 1555 533"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to Settings > Security > SIM Card Lock • Enable “Lock SIM” and set a unique PIN </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 642 532 669">3</td> <td data-bbox="548 642 964 814"> <p>Use a Custom Lock Screen Message with Emergency Info This may increase the chances of getting your phone back if lost or stolen.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="980 642 1555 827"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to Settings > Display > Lock screen > Add message • Set it to something like “If found, call [alternate number]. Reward offered.” </td> </tr> </table> <p>[Jim Guld] Here is a good article about phone safety: https://www.howtogeek.com/psa-be-careful-when-checking-your-phone-in-public/</p>	1	<p>Enable “Privacy Password” or “App Lock” for Extra Security</p> <p>These features prevent thieves from accessing sensitive apps even if they unlock your phone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OnePlus: Go to Settings > Privacy > Privacy Password • Xiaomi: Use Second Space to create a hidden, secure profile. • Motorola: Use Moto Secure App to lock down sensitive apps 	2	<p>Lock SIM Card to Prevent Account Takeover. This stops thieves from swapping your SIM to another phone and resetting passwords.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to Settings > Security > SIM Card Lock • Enable “Lock SIM” and set a unique PIN 	3	<p>Use a Custom Lock Screen Message with Emergency Info This may increase the chances of getting your phone back if lost or stolen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to Settings > Display > Lock screen > Add message • Set it to something like “If found, call [alternate number]. Reward offered.”
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<p>Pool</p>	<p>The Odyssey has two pools and two heated Jacuzzis. Pool towels are provided. Pools are not monitored by a lifeguard and are to be used at your own risk.</p> <p>The pool is salt water filtered and treated with chlorine. Jacuzzis are fresh water and maintained to U.S. public health standards.</p> <p>Notes from residents on pool usage:</p> <p>[Ben Schatz] <i>I’ve done lap swimming the last two days, about 3/4 mile each time. I swim in circles and count the strokes (for me it’s about 2400 strokes per mile). Obviously, you can only do this if you find a time when the pool isn’t crowded.</i></p> <p>[Kathy Bohrer] <i>I did water aerobics yesterday. It was a good depth - slightly too deep for me, so my feet were easily swept off the pool floor with sway of the ship. I’m 5’4”. Based on experience I think the water was 4’, maybe 4’2” deep.</i></p> <p>[Kimberly Cleary] <i>I brought a swim tether that has a belt and attach it to the pool ladder and have swam the last 3 days, 30 minutes each. I also did Aqua aerobics for 15 minutes and had a great workout. If there’s a will there’s a way!</i></p>									
<p>Port Address</p>	<p>When you leave the ship for onshore excursions, be sure to note the port address. It may be helpful to drop a pin on your phone GPS as soon as you exit the ship, to mark your location. Several residents have had difficulty finding their way back. Taxi and Uber</p>									

	<p>drivers are not always familiar with the dock location, and there may be more than one dock in town. The dock address is usually (but not always) provided in the Villa Vie Today bulletins, but in some cases, it was not an address that was usable with GPS.</p> <p>[Chris Guld] has created a tool that works with Google Maps to pinpoint the location of each port. It automatically gets updated for upcoming ports. Instructions for setting it up on your phone are here:</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PX3RrfzUljoabRdGEc-ttrPUD6_A-K440FrOk73MJk8/edit?usp=drivesdk</p>
<p>Prescriptions</p>	<p>VVR has created relationships with DHL, FedEx, and UPS globally to deliver medications to the ship. Prescriptions being shipped to HQ can be arranged for pharmacy pickup at the location below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVS Pharmacy: 16001 Miramar Pkwy, Miramar, FL 33027 (954-499-2514) Must be paid in full before pickup. • Or delivered directly to Pembroke HQ: 1413 SW 156th Way, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027 <p>See Shipping for next scheduled shipment.</p> <p>Prescription Medications Effective Date: 1/1/26</p> <p>We recognize the importance of uninterrupted access to prescription medications and will continue to make commercially reasonable efforts to support a 60-day delivery cycle, subject to international regulations, port authority approvals and customs clearance requirements. Delivery timelines are not guaranteed and may vary due to factors outside our control.</p> <p>Mandatory Documentation (No Exceptions)</p> <p>To transport prescription medications across international borders, complete and accurate documentation is required. Incomplete submissions will result in delays or non-processing. Required documentation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid prescription • A valid invoice (if available) • Medication name and description • Prescribing physician’s full name • Pharmacy name • Pharmacy phone number <p>Failure to provide all required documentation may result in the medication being delayed, denied, returned, or confiscated by authorities.</p> <p>Prescription Medication Processing Fee</p> <p>A \$5.00 processing fee per prescription applies (not per bottle). Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three bottles of the same blood pressure medication = \$5.00 • Three bottles of a second, different prescription = additional \$5.00 • Total processing fee = \$10.00 <p>This fee covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative processing and verification • Packaging and handling materials

- Courier coordination
- Customs and duty-related administrative costs
- Preparation of required international documentation

Suggestions from Residents for Prescription Services

CostPlus

[Shelly Spearing]

Folks considering CostPlus for meds might enjoy yesterday's episode of the Daily Show in which Jon Stewart interviews Mark Cuban. Cuban explains their business model, intentional transparency, and how they benefit consumers and insurance companies. It has the potential to blow the top off of pricing.

[Shawna Butler]

I've used Mark Cuban's Cost Plus Drugs and saved on avg 30% on the lowest cost among local competitors.

A few months ago, they partnered with Blue Shield of California to provide prescription medications to its subscribers. The partnership is part of Blue Shield's plan to make drugs more affordable for its 4.8 million members by transitioning away from CVS' Caremark. With this partnership in place, highly likely the number of medications available through Cost Plus will increase.

Industry prediction is all the transparency Cost Plus is bringing to the cost of drugs will help cut the retail cost of all medications. A huge win for consumers and for lowering Medicare costs

[Rebecca Rhine]

I've been using Cost Plus for a couple of years and it's great. Inexpensive, fast service, I ship to Pembroke Pines and it makes it to the ship.

[Wade R]

I used CostPlus in the USA and had real issues. Every time I tried, the medications were not available. Mine are very common medications. I finally gave up.

Amazon Pharmacy

[Kathy Bohrer]

I switched my pharmacy to Amazon Pharmacy. Someone here on Circle mentioned this option. This was a first for my doctor, but we did a trial run and it worked fine and used my insurance. Now I'll change the default delivery address to Villa Vie and I should be fine. I just need to order a month before I run out to give time for Villa Vie to get it to the ship.

[Jim Maas]

I have had a good experience and pricing with Amazon pharmacy.

Local sourcing

[Kathryn]

Prescriptions: we've been on board continuously since October and so far we've made it work. Tele-med prescriptions sound like a good way

	<p><i>to get refills; I will try that. And getting them without prescriptions in more relaxed countries definitely works. A friend on board saw asthma sprays (albuterol and beclomethasone mixed) for sale in South America, and bought me a year's supply for 25 bucks TOTAL: no insurance required. I was dubious about dosage controls, but I've used them for a month now without problems.</i></p> <p>[John Hennessee] <i>We have been traveling around the world for the past couple of years and offer this advice about getting prescriptions refilled. We do not depend on getting refills and prescription renewals from our hometown physician. More than half the countries we visit have very open pharmacies and will sell you the medications you need directly over the counter.... even injectables like injectable hormone replacement therapies. Just take in the generic name and dosage of your medication and they will sell them to you directly. usually at prices much lower than we paid in the USA. And if they don't have your medication, they will usually direct you to another pharmacy that has a better inventory. Some countries will not accommodate your needs.... but the next country may...!!! We have never had to go without refills. This may not work if you have a rarely prescribed and expensive cancer medication, etc. but most common medications are readily available.</i></p> <p>[John Hennessee] <i>We took our medication bottles into pharmacies in several European countries (Italy for one) and got them filled. I think the Netherlands will be accommodating as well.</i></p> <p>[Michael Powell] <i>I agree with the Hennessees. I've been a full-time world traveler for the last 9 years and never had a problem sourcing meds, even highly controlled meds like zolpidem (Ambien), all antibiotics, Tylenol with codeine, even generic viagra (sildenafil), etc. All over the counter - or the pharmacist can often prescribe right on the spot. My routine, daily meds are just for blood pressure and cholesterol, and I use generics, which I'm confident I'll be able to find world-wide, but I'm bringing enough to get me through segment 1, as Europe will be the hardest place to find refills. And prices are very reasonable. I've never felt taken advantage of. I have found that most countries of the world follow the WHO's list of "Essential Medicines" and prices them affordably as a function of public health.</i></p> <p>[Gary McDonald] <i>I just bought a year's worth of amlodipine and lisinopril for about 50.00 euros without a prescription here in Spain. We will have many options as we travel.</i></p>
<p>Pricing</p>	<p>As of June 13, 2025, VVR introduced a new itemized pricing structure for all rentals and off-segment bookings. Full-segment bookings are no longer required (with the exception</p>

of World Uncharted) but must be for a minimum of 30 days. The structure includes the following:

- Base Rate (before taxes and fees)
- Port Fees and Service Charges—\$39 plus \$19 per person/day, respectively—will now be listed separately from the base fare.
- Port fees are charged daily—including on sea days—as the total is averaged across the entire voyage. Some ports carry significantly higher costs, and this approach ensures consistent, simplified pricing.

Example for an Interior Cabin		
	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
Base rate (before taxes & fees)	\$202 per day	\$238 per day
Service Charge	\$19 per day	\$19 per day x 2 people
Port Fees	\$39 per day	\$39 per day x 2 people
Total	\$260 per day	\$354 per day

Printing

Two printers are available in the business center for resident use.

1. Canon printer GX4050
2. Brother printer (not working as of 1/18/2025)

Ways To Print	
WiFi	<i>[If anyone has been able to connect to the printer via WiFi, can you provide steps for how to do it? I have tried multiple times and have not been able to get it to work. --Basia]</i>
Cable	USB-A to USB-C cable
AirDrop	[Shelly Spearing] <i>If the printer is working, you can print directly from your iPhone using AirPrint. I create docs on my laptop, save them to my PrintMe folder on Dropbox, and then print from my phone.</i>
Email	[Shelly Spearing] <i>If the printer is not working, you can send the file to guest services at quest_services@vvodyssey.com. You will need to specify desired print settings such as black-and-white vs color and single- vs double-sided.</i>

Prohibited Items

The VVR site has a comprehensive list of items not allowed on board:
<https://info.villavieresidences.com/prohibited-item-list>

Narcotics/Drugs

- All illegal narcotics including synthetic and designer drugs independent of existing substance specific regulations
- Marijuana, even if prescribed for medical purposes
- Items used as drug paraphernalia
- All products containing THC such as oils, edibles, and gummies
- Although specific CBD products intended for medicinal use may be permissible under U.S. state and local regulations, they remain illegal under federal law and

are typically prohibited in most ports we visit and are therefore also considered prohibited items.

Weapons, Ammunitions, Explosives

- Knives with fixed blades longer than 4 inches/10.16 cm. Recreational dive knives must be presented to the Ship's Security Officer or representative at the time of boarding. They will be safely stored and may be claimed when disembarking for a scheduled dive excursion.
- Metal scissors with pointed tips and a blade length longer than 4 inches/10.16 cm
- Open razors, box cutters, swords, ice axes, ice picks, Skean Dhus, Kirpans. Spears or spear guns. Crossbows, crossbow bolts, and any type of arrows.
- All explosives, component parts (i.e., detonators) including imitation explosives and devices. Gun powder, fireworks, flares, and pyrotechnics. Flares are used only for life-saving purposes and under control of the ship crew.
- All firearms including components, replicas, imitations, non-firing weapons, starting pistols and their components. Air, BB or pellet pistols or rifles. Any other projectile-weapon or item that resembles or can be mistaken as a firearm (e.g., paint ball guns). All ammunition or replica ammunition for listed and non-listed items.
- Martial Arts Weapons, such as throwing stars
- Blunt weapons including knuckle dusters, brass knuckles, clubs, billy clubs, black jacks, telescopic batons, batons, night sticks, flails, or nunchaku
- Items containing incapacitating substances (e.g., gas guns, tear gas, pepper spray, mace, phosphorus, acid and other dangerous chemicals that could be used to maim or disable, such as chlorine or liquid bleach)
- Stun devices (i.e., tasers and stun guns)
- Restraining devices (i.e., handcuffs, leg, and head restraining straps)
- Any other item made, adapted, or intended for use as an offensive weapon

Fire & Injury Hazards

- Matches and standard lighters are permitted for use onboard. However, "torch lighters" and novelty lighters resembling guns are strictly prohibited. Torch lighters produce a highly concentrated flame and are therefore not permitted onboard.
- Flammable substances and hazardous chemicals. (e.g., petrol, methylated spirits, turpentine and paint thinners, lighter fuel, spray paints, etc.)
- Candles (incl. gel candles), incense burners or any other open flames
- Hookahs
- Large batteries (except those in wheelchairs)
- E-Bikes, hover boards, air wheels, scooters, or Segway's
- Items brought on board the vessel and not supplied by the company containing any kind of **heating element**, such as but not limited to immersion heaters, steamers, clothing irons, water heaters, heating blankets, coffee machines (will be provided), tea kettles, water boiling devices, etc.
- Compressed gas tanks, bottles, cylinders including dive tanks, oxygen tanks, propane tanks and large aerosol cans (except for medical purposes)

Technological Devices

- Electrical extension cords with power strips/surge protected strips/surge protectors
- No fans except for small electrical or battery-operated fans
- Boom boxes/large radios
- Any remotely controlled or autonomously flying devices, toys, or drones
- Walkie-talkies
- Metal detectors
- Any form of radio/telephone signal jamming equipment
- Satellite disk, routers, and other internet related equipment
- Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB), ham radios, satellite phones, transformers, lasers, and laser pointers
- Any multi-functional device developed for interaction with access control systems onboard the ship

Tools

- Generally, tools for personal use are not allowed on cruise ships, as cabin modifications must be approved and executed by ship personnel. Accordingly, tools are available onboard for operational use, which can include resident activities. Tools dedicated to being used for leisure activities by residents must be approved by ship personnel and can only be used and stored in designated areas under supervision by staff. Tools larger than 7 inches in length are prohibited.
- Axes, hatchets, machetes
- Cattle prods
- Crowbars
- Hammers and nails
- Drills and drill bits (incl. cordless portable power drills)
- Saws (incl. cordless portable power saws)
- Screwdriver and screws larger than 7 inches in length
- Wrenches and Pliers
- Glue guns
- Nail guns and nails

Mobility devices restrictions:

- Maximum width for non-collapsible mobility devices 56 cm
- Maximum length of mobility scooter 120 cm.
- Scooter or electric wheelchair weight must not exceed 25kg (disassembled)
- Speed limitation to be set to 2-3 miles per hour
- Battery type must be gel, dry cell, sealed lead acid or lithium-ion battery (limited to 300 watt/hours)

Other

- Fresh flowers
- Fresh produce, meats, vegetables, fish and seafood (*See the **Food** section in this guidebook for an updated policy as of 1/1/26, allowing some fruit on board.*)
- E-bikes (folding bikes are allowed)
- Surfboards, kayaks, canoes, and rafts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any footwear with wheels, such as Heely’s type shoes (roller blades for shoreside use are allowed) Drones (are not allowed to be flown onboard the ship at any time (small drones are permissible for shoreside use only) <p>If an item is not clearly prohibited in the list and you seek reassurance whether it’s permitted onboard, send an email to maria@villavieresidences.com, with the subject line: “Permitted onboard? [write type of item, e.g. monitor]”, a picture of the product, and a close-up picture of its technical specifications, especially containing the voltage, power consumption, whether the device is surcharge protected, etc.</p>
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QR Codes	Scannable QR codes for quick access:	
	Description	Code
	VVR web site https://villavieresidences.com/	
	To join WhatsApp https://chat.whatsapp.com/GMlpSWS3jAaHY1aTLbQTqZ?mode=gi_t	
	VVR Excursions https://chat.whatsapp.com/GMlpSWS3jAaHY1aTLbQTqZ?mode=gi_t	
Video – iPhone safety tutorial		

Recycling	<p>Trash picked up from cabins is processed and sorted by housekeeping staff. Some recycling bins are available on deck 5, in the bars, business center and near elevators.</p> <p>You can drop off items at designated bins in the business center. Please be sure to put only designated items in the bins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Paper bin is for paper only. The Plastic bin is for plastic only. Do not put any other items in these bins. Leave liquid and food waste on the tray. Do NOT put food in the bins or pour liquid in.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do NOT put tea bags in the bins, except for the paper cover which can go in the Paper bin. Leave the tea bag itself on a tray, it will be taken care of by housekeeping. 						
<p>Referral Program</p>	<p>Residents are eligible to receive \$1,000 in Onboard Credit (OBC) for each successful referral who purchases a cabin or Endless Horizons plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The referred individual must mention your name during their initial contact with Villa Vie Residences. The referral must be a brand-new contact to our team. The OBC you earn can be applied toward your monthly fees or onboard expenses at the spa, bars, lounges, etc. <p>Announcement in Circle about Referral Program is here: Resident Referral Program</p>						
<p>Rentals</p>	<p>Residents who purchased cabins (owners) can rent them to others. Voyagers, segment purchasers, Endless Horizons, Tour La Vie, Seasonal Ownership, or any other program participants—including those under the Voyager Reservation Contract, Endless Horizons Program, or any other Agreement—are strictly prohibited from renting their cabins to others.</p> <p>Rental Restriction Clause Clarification posted by VVR’s Anne Alms on 2025-05-06:</p> <p>Individuals with existing contract(s) with Villa Vie Residences are not permitted to rent from Villa owners for one year. One year is measured from the individual’s actual embarkation date—not the date their contract was signed.</p> <p>For example, if you signed your rental agreement in January but didn’t embark until April, your one-year term begins in April and ends the following April. The contract signature date has no effect on the rental duration.</p> <p>This policy is in place to maintain fairness; owners and renters are both responsible for tracking and respecting this timeline. Extensions beyond the one-year term are not permitted under the current rules. If you have any questions or need help confirming your embarkation date, please feel free to reach out to our Sales Assistant, Kristel Macadamia, Kristel@villavieresidences.com, Maria, or myself.</p> <p>For further details, see Clarification on Cabin Rentals posted by CEO Kathy on Jan 30, 2025.</p> <p>Options for owners to rent their cabin:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1703 1547 1919"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="488 1703 797 1738">Option</th> <th data-bbox="797 1703 1547 1738">Info</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1738 797 1843">Rent it yourself</td> <td data-bbox="797 1738 1547 1843"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook rental group Villa Vie Odyssey Rent/Sell/Share WhatsApp VV Villa Rentals Group – contact JR or Gary Macdonald to join group </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1843 797 1919">Rent through 3rd party</td> <td data-bbox="797 1843 1547 1919"> OdysseyVillaRentals.com – operated by resident Katrina Contact email: odysseyvillarentals@gmail.com </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Info	Rent it yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook rental group Villa Vie Odyssey Rent/Sell/Share WhatsApp VV Villa Rentals Group – contact JR or Gary Macdonald to join group 	Rent through 3 rd party	OdysseyVillaRentals.com – operated by resident Katrina Contact email: odysseyvillarentals@gmail.com
Option	Info						
Rent it yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook rental group Villa Vie Odyssey Rent/Sell/Share WhatsApp VV Villa Rentals Group – contact JR or Gary Macdonald to join group 						
Rent through 3 rd party	OdysseyVillaRentals.com – operated by resident Katrina Contact email: odysseyvillarentals@gmail.com						

	<p><i>(For a fee, not directly affiliated with VVR)</i></p> <p>Have VVR rent it on your behalf</p>	<p>Villa Vie Rentals – operated by resident Michelle Contact email: hello@villavierentals.com</p> <p>For a fee, contact Sales Dept</p>																										
<p>Residency Options</p>	<p>Passengers on board the Odyssey are referred to as residents. Here is a list of the various residency options and terminology used when referring to these options.</p>																											
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Sauna	There is a free sauna and steam room in the spa (NOT in the gym). The steam room takes about 10 minutes to heat up so plan accordingly. You can call the spa ahead of time and ask them to turn it on for you.										
Schengen	<p>Schengen rules restrict the number of days visitors can spend in the 29 European countries that are part of Schengen.</p> <p>However, while you are on board, you are considered a transit passenger and your days do NOT count toward the Schengen quota. As long as you remain in transit (just visit the port and go back onboard to continue the cruise), you are not officially stamped into Schengen.</p> <p><i>Note: The above information was provided by Mike P when the Odyssey first launched. However, based on current information Matilda is posting, it does not appear to be the case. I am not sure how Schengen days are counted. If anyone has a reliable source of information, please let me know (and provide a source).</i></p>										
Sea Sickness	<p>Odyssey has stabilizers to maintain stability and reduce sea sickness. So far, on most days the ship has been fairly stable, but we've had occasional rough crossings. Some residents have had bouts of sea sickness, others have not.</p> <p>Suggested remedies from residents for sea sickness:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 905 1559 1913"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="488 905 678 951">Remedy</th> <th data-bbox="678 905 1559 951">Recommendation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 951 678 1272">Relief Band</td> <td data-bbox="678 951 1559 1272"> <p>[Kathy Bohrer]</p> <p><i>For nausea, and particularly for sea sickness I highly recommend an electrical device called Relief Band from the Relief Band company. I think there are knockoffs, but I have no idea if they are as good. Fred and I have used Relief Bands for 10 years or more. They will cure sea sickness within 5 minutes. Here is a link to the basic model that we use. Relief Band on Amazon. It takes a replaceable battery. They have other nicer looking models. But this is the original that we have.</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1272 678 1703">Sea Bands</td> <td data-bbox="678 1272 1559 1703"> <p>[Cris Letourneau]</p> <p><i>I find a seasick band help a lot. Ginger less so but it does help a bit, there are some Chinese herbs. I got when I did acupuncture for my sickness and they are good but they're \$100 a month.</i></p> <p>[John Frim]</p> <p><i>I have gotten motion sick in my canoe, so I consider myself pretty sensitive. So far I have only felt a slight tinge of motion sickness one night very early in our sailing, so I immediately put on my wrist bands and took a few Gravol (dimenhydrinate) pills. Whenever we are at sea or when I feel motion I go for the bands again, and I have had no issues since then.</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1703 678 1843">Patch</td> <td data-bbox="678 1703 1559 1843"> <p>[Deidre Cunningham]</p> <p><i>I use scopolamine patch behind ear. Still feel off sometimes but takes away most of the nausea. Requires prescription in US.</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 1843 678 1913">Meds</td> <td data-bbox="678 1843 1559 1913"> <p>[Joe Rhodes]</p> <p><i>The meclizine is available for free at the medical center entrance.</i></p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Remedy	Recommendation	Relief Band	<p>[Kathy Bohrer]</p> <p><i>For nausea, and particularly for sea sickness I highly recommend an electrical device called Relief Band from the Relief Band company. I think there are knockoffs, but I have no idea if they are as good. Fred and I have used Relief Bands for 10 years or more. They will cure sea sickness within 5 minutes. Here is a link to the basic model that we use. Relief Band on Amazon. It takes a replaceable battery. They have other nicer looking models. But this is the original that we have.</i></p>	Sea Bands	<p>[Cris Letourneau]</p> <p><i>I find a seasick band help a lot. Ginger less so but it does help a bit, there are some Chinese herbs. I got when I did acupuncture for my sickness and they are good but they're \$100 a month.</i></p> <p>[John Frim]</p> <p><i>I have gotten motion sick in my canoe, so I consider myself pretty sensitive. So far I have only felt a slight tinge of motion sickness one night very early in our sailing, so I immediately put on my wrist bands and took a few Gravol (dimenhydrinate) pills. Whenever we are at sea or when I feel motion I go for the bands again, and I have had no issues since then.</i></p>	Patch	<p>[Deidre Cunningham]</p> <p><i>I use scopolamine patch behind ear. Still feel off sometimes but takes away most of the nausea. Requires prescription in US.</i></p>	Meds	<p>[Joe Rhodes]</p> <p><i>The meclizine is available for free at the medical center entrance.</i></p>
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[Myla Goldman]

Bonine tablets also help. OTC at drugstores.

[Frommers: How To Avoid Seasickness On a Cruise](#)

Segments

Information about 2025-2026 segments is on the VVR site:

<https://villavieresidences.com/odyssey-destinations/>

A draft of 2027 itinerary (preliminary only, not confirmed yet) is on Circle:

<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/itinerary/darft-2027-a-year-written-by-seasons-sea-and-civilization>

Segments				
#	Segment Name	Year	Dates	# Days
1				
2	Inaugural	2024	Oct 5 to Nov 6	30
3	Caribbean	2024	Nov 14 to Dec 17	34
4	South America	2024-2025	Dec 18 to April 23	127
5	North America	2025	April 24 to Aug 6	105
6	Japan & Philippine Sea	2025	August 7 to Nov 9	95
7	South Pacific	2025-2026	Nov 10 to Feb 19	103
8	Australia/New Zealand	2026	Feb 20 to Apr 30	70
9	North Asia	2026	May 1 to July 31	92
10	South Asia	2026	Aug 1 to Nov 9	101
11	India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia	2026	Nov 10 to Dec 30	51
12	Middle East	2026-2027	Dec 31 to Jan 27	28
13	Dry Dock in Dubai	2027	Jan 28 to Feb 11	15
14	Indian Ocean, Madagascar	2027	Feb 12 to April 18	66
15	Africa	2027	April 19 to June 18	61
16	Med Classics and African Sun	2027	June 19 to Aug 5	48
17	Europe's Crown	2027	Aug 6 to Sept 13	39
18	Balearic Isles to Aegean Legends	2027	Sept 14 to Oct 14	31
19	Crossing the Blue Horizon	2027	Oct 15 to Nov 8	25
20	Sailing South	2027-2028	TBD	

Ship

Odyssey is the vessel for this voyage. It was previously known as *Braemar*, before that it was *Crown Dynasty*. It flies the flag of the Bahamas. The ship's flatter hull enables her to navigate inland waterways and rivers that larger ships cannot.

Ship statistics (from VVR site):

Residents: 650
Capacity: 924
Tonnage: 25,000 GRT
Decks: 8
Length: 196 meters
Width: 23 meters

See also **Stretch Section**

Shipping

VVR provides forwarding of personal items to the ship from a U.S. address.

Shipment Type	Frequency	Details
Mail/Letters		Free forwarding via FedEx. Next shipment should be May or June.
Prescriptions	Approximately every 60 days	Email documentation (required) Please email Stan@villavieresidences.com with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription name and description • Prescribing doctor's name • Pharmacy phone number • Invoice (if available) <p><i>See also Prescriptions for more details.</i></p>
Packages	Approximately quarterly	A sea freight forwarder handles the shipment and delivers it to the nearest port of call. Charge is \$1/lb for U.S ports and \$2 for International. Be sure to include a packing list with your packages. All mail and packages will be opened and inspected to ensure contents are legally able to be mailed. Prohibited items include aerosols, alcoholic beverages , ammunition, cigarettes, dry ice, gasoline, hemp-based products (including cannabidiol [CBD]), marijuana (medical or otherwise), nail polish, perfumes (containing alcohol). Contact the Logistics Manager, Stan, for questions. See Prohibited Items section for a complete list.

Address for shipping packages and letters:

Packages (to headquarters)	Letters (to PO Box)
<Resident Name - villa #> c/o Villa Vie Residences 1413 SW 156th Way Pembroke Pines FL 33027 United States	<Resident Name - villa #> c/o Villa Vie Residences PO Box 820513 Pembroke Pines, Florida 33082 United States

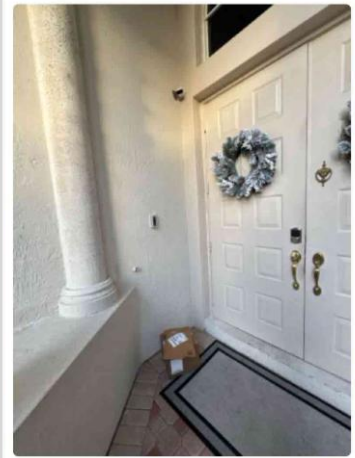
Note that mail and packages sent to Pembroke Pines must be addressed with "c/o Villa Vie Residences." We are unable to sign for letters, mail and packages that require a signature without that information and the resident not present.

Upcoming Shipments		
	Packages	Medical/Mail (FedEx)
Destination port	Manila, Philippines	Darwin, Australia
Deadline for drop-off	March 15, 2026	April 2, 2026

Arrival in port	May 14, 2026	April 13, 2026
Delivery	June 7, 2026	April 20, 2026

Reach out to Stan@villavieresidences with any questions.

[Eddie Dorworth] *If you order goods from Amazon and have it sent to the Florida address, Amazon may send you a picture of the package in front of the door where it was delivered. To help you confirm it was delivered to the correct location, here is a picture of the door, provided by Eddie.*



Other Ways to Get Goods to the Ship

Ship & Play	If you're interested in sending boxes, luggage, or other items to the ship without waiting for VVR's next scheduled delivery, VVR has partnered with <i>Ship & Play</i> as our exclusive third-party shipping service. <i>Ship & Play</i> offers dependable assistance with all shipping needs at competitive rates. For more information on rates and services, please visit their website directly at ShipPlay.com . They have a discount code for the first shipment.
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Amazon	[Gian Perroni] <i>You can have items from Amazon shipped to an Amazon dropbox. Look up available locations on the Amazon site. For example in Belfast they had several near where the ship was and I know others have used them in other locations.</i>
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MyBaggage	[Kim Holmquist] <i>I used MyBaggage.com to ship a large suitcase to Belfast and then back home to CA. They were cheaper than Ship & Play and did a nice job. Even picked the bag up from my Belfast Hotel the day after I left with no issues.</i>
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Smoking

Most of the ship is non-smoking, but there is a designated smoking area on deck 5, outside the Coral Lounge. Smoking is not allowed in cabins, including balcony cabins. Smoking is not allowed anywhere during bunkering (fueling). The captain announces when bunkering is about to begin and when it ends.

Social Activities

Many residents have formed social groups geared around special interests. Here are just a few of the chat forums that have been created on Circle. Join one, or create one that aligns with your interests.

- Arts & Crafts
- Bible Study
- Book Club
- Bridge
- Choir
- Cribbage
- Dance
- Friends of Bill W
- Games
- German Stammtisch
- Jewish Voyagers Shabbat
- Women With Wanderlust
- Canucks
- Golf
- Kitty Visiting
- LGBT
- Mah Jongg
- Pickleball
- Tai Chi
- Theater
- Trivia
- Veterans Get Together
- Writer's Group
- Yachties & Sailing

Social Media

VVR SOCIAL MEDIA

VVR Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/villavie>

VVR Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C96zljYNaYg/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet

VVR YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@VillaVie.R>

Villa Vie Odyssey Rent/Sell/Share Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/436962875414467/>

[Reviews of VVR](#) on Google. You are encouraged to add a review.

RESIDENT SOCIAL MEDIA

A number of residents are posting their experiences on social media, including blogs, vlogs, YouTube, and Instagram. Here is a partial list. If you would like to be added to this list, please let me know.

Kit and Randy Cassingham

[Residential Cruising](#) (Articles/Blog)

	<p>Cheri and Michael Edwards Believe Sailing (YouTube)</p> <p>Basia Kruszewska Oceanview (Blog)</p> <p>Katrina and Mark Howard The Kiwi Odyssey (YouTube)</p> <p>Andy Garrison Villa Vie Odyssey Blog (Blog)</p> <p>Johan Bodin and Lanette Canen Living Life On A Cruise (YouTube)</p> <p>Patricia Patrick Where In the World Is Pat (Blog)</p> <p>Jim and Chris Guld Geeks On Tour (weekly show)</p> <p>If you use content from someone else’s site, be aware that some content creators may request that you ask before using their work. But even if they don’t, be sure to give proper credit (for example, <i>Photo by Taylor West</i>, or <i>Video credit: Taylor West</i> to the original poster (not to the person who may be re-posting it).</p> <p>REQUESTS TO NOT FILM</p> <p><i>[Note: the VVR staff who handled this is no longer with VVR, so I don’t know if this list is still being maintained. If anyone has an update, please let me know. —Basia]</i></p> <p>A list of people who have requested NOT to be filmed is available from Kasper Willow. Please respect their wishes when you are filming and photographing and do not post pictures of anyone on the list.</p> <p>[Kasper Willow, VVR] <i>“The Danes and I are filming videos capturing the wonderful activities happening around the ship. We fully respect your privacy and completely understand if some of you would prefer not to be featured in these videos. To accommodate this, we’re creating a list of those who would rather not be included. As shown in this video, some of you may appear in it. If you prefer not to be featured in this or any future videos highlighting the positive energy on the ship, please let us know by either commenting below, reaching out to us in person, or sending an email to kasper@villavieresidences.com.</i></p>
<p>Spa & Salon</p>	<p>Spa and salon services include hair and nail care, facials, waxing, and massages. For reservations, call extension 63 or visit the spa on deck 3.</p> <p>The spa menu includes over 50 different services. A few sample services and prices as of 10/30/24 (this is not a complete list). Prices valid as of 1/18/2025.</p> <p>Hair Care</p> <p>\$40 Shampoo & style</p> <p>\$32 Cut</p> <p>\$52 Color</p> <p>\$39 Gloss</p> <p>\$72 Color & Lightning</p> <p>\$84 Contrasts</p> <p>\$72 Highlight</p> <p>\$39 Hairstyling</p> <p>Hands & Feet</p> <p>\$65 Spa manicure 60 min</p> <p>\$30 Express manicure 25 min</p>

\$85 Spa pedicure 60 min
 \$40 Express pedicure 30 min

Enhancement

\$39 Reflexology 20 min
 \$39 Scalp massage 20 min
 \$39 Hand or foot treatment 35 min

Massage

\$149 Mediterranean Citrus 60 min
 \$65 / \$99 / \$175 Balinese 30, 60, 90 min
 \$289 / \$395 Balinese Four Hand 60, 90 min
 \$129 / \$175 Deep Tissue 60, 90 min
 \$129 / \$175 Holistic 60, 90 min
 \$129 / \$175 Hot Stone 60, 90 min
 \$135 / \$180 Seashells 60, 90 min
 \$135 / \$180 Warming Candle 60, 90 min
 \$135 / \$180 Bamboo 60, 90 min
 \$135 / \$180 Himalayan Dream 60, 90 min

The spa periodically offers special promotions and package deals. The following specials were in effect as of 1/18/2025:

Book	Get Free
Book 2 massages or body or facial treatments of minimum 60 minutes	Get one 30 min massage for free
Book 6 massages or body or facial treatments of minimum 60 minutes	Get 1 for free
Book 8 massages or body or facial treatments of minimum 60 min	Get 30% discount

Speakers Corner

[Kit Cassingham] coordinates a Speakers' Corner series where residents (and sometimes staff) can share their interest and knowledge by presenting talks on a topic of their choosing. Talks are limited to 45 minutes, giving time for Q&A after. If you want to speak, let Kit know. She'll get you on the calendar.

Recordings of past presentations are posted here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SpeakersCorner2024>

Previous and Upcoming Speakers Corner Presentations			
#	Date	Title	Presenter
1	Nov 19	The Biophysics of Thermoregulation	John Frim
2	Nov 21	The Only One There	Randy Cassingham
3	Nov 25	George Washington Awoke Here	Peter Divine
4	Nov 29	Marriage in Medieval & Renaissance Europe	Kathryn Jacobs
5	Dec 2	How We Hear and Understand	Ric Namikas
6	Dec 3	Expat Travel/Medical Insurance	Alex Routh
7	Dec 10	Strategies to Purchase a VV Villa	Ken Hagen
8	Dec 10	True Adventures of the Panama Canal	Jack LeConey
9	Dec 15	3 Secrets for a More Joyful Life	Joy

	10	Dec 19	Namibia	Andy Garrison
	11	Dec 22	3 Elements for Happiness	Kit Cassingham
	12	Dec 27	Introduction to Indie Films	Wayne Heiser
	13	Dec 30	Cassini Mission to Saturn	Randy Cassingham
	14	Jan 3	What Is an Evidential Medium & Trance Healer	Melitta Thorn
	15	Jan 5	Slips, Trips and Fall Hazards, Part 1	Charley Brooks
	16	Jan 6	Slips, Trips and Fall Hazards, Part 2	Charley Brooks
	17	Jan 8	More Than A Game	Joey Martino
	18	Jan 13	Darwin and the Beagle	Frank Miskevich
	19	Jan 17	Hypothermia, Frostbite, and Cold	John Frim
	20	Jan 20	Daily Mental Sticky Notes	Eddie Dorworth
	21	Jan 26	Music is a Universal Language	Don Jackson
	22	Jan 27	Argentina & Chile Fight Over Beagle Channel	Linda Babcock
	23	Jan 29	Medical Mysteries	Randy Cassingham
	24	Feb 2	iPhone Tips and Tricks	Starr Davis
	25	Feb 4	Strength and Balance Exercises	Jimbo Fidler
	26	Feb 11	Everything You Didn't Want to Know About Flu	Frank Miskevich
	27	Feb 12	The Opioid Crisis	Paul White
	28	Feb 15	Hypnosis and Its Benefits	Joy
	29	Feb 20	Trucking from a Woman's Perspective	Cindy Voight
	30	Feb 23	Zone of Sacrifice: Housing Developments	Sharon Gardner
	31	Feb 25	Rhyme and Meter from Beowulf to Yeats	Kathryn Jacobs
	32	Feb 27	Music Therapy	Holly Dethardt
	33	March 4	General Circulation of the Earth	Carl Drews
	34	March 4	The Horrors of War: My Personal Journey	Susan Frim
	35	March 9	3 Mistakes to make to be an effective leader	Silja Bake
	36	March 11	Environment and Global Harmony	Pasquale Blachia
	37	March 13	Overview of Visas & USA	Wayne Heiser
	38	March 15	The Kibera Foundation	Darrell Karp
	39	March 17	Moments With the Master	Capt Zeljko
	40	March 20	Get to Know Nowruz: Persian New Year	Shirene Thomas
	41	March 24	Frida Kahlo & Georgia O'Keefe	Steven Saris
	42	March 28	Being Open to New Things, Like Watercolor	Laura Lee
	43	March 30	History of Anesthesia	David Austin
	44	March 31	Coroner Calls: The Care, Science, & Mystery	Kit Cassingham
	45	April 2	The Magic of Trinidad	Diane Tetreault
	46	April 11	Energy Savings & Global Harmony	Pasquale Balachia
	47	April 18	Hawaii Calls	Meg/Laurie/Lyn
	48	April 18	Adventures in Birding	Basia Kruszezwska
	49	April 21	Environmental Poetry	Kit Cassingham
	50	April 24	Anzac Day and the Birth of a Nation	Andrew Johnston
	51	April 29	Lady Sings the Blues	Tom Stevenson
	52	May 3	A Life Lived Differently: The Poetry of Autism	Kathryn Jacobs
	53	May 8	Kids of the Odyssey - Interview	Odyssey kids
	54	May 10	Investing 101, Basics & History	Calvin Smith
	55	May 13	Life Through a Porthole	Lauren Meyer (staff)
	56	May 17	A Cellular Guide to Self Defense	Frank Miskevich
	57	May 18	Magic of the Hawaiian Islands	Hawaii residents

58	May 20	iPhone & ATM/Banking Security Part 2	Eddie Dorworth
59	May 22	Life As A Professional Dancer	Elise & Ivo (staff)
60	May 26	The Master Himself – Interview with Captain	Captain Val (staff)
61	May 28	iPhone & ATM/Banking Security	Eddie Dorworth
62	May 31	Playing Bridge Is Fun: Discover More	Kevin O'Brien
63	June 9	A Week in the Life of Live Theater	Michael Edwards
64	June 12	Benefits of Rhythmic Drumming	Holly Dethardt
65	June 19	Mediumship Explained	Melitta Thorne
66	June 24	Environment	Marco Apreda (staff)
67	June 24	Life In California in the 1830s	Kathryn Jacobs
68	June 26	Healing Hearts with Mural Art	Joanne Tawfilis
69	July 3	Oscar Wilde	Gill Cross
70	July 8	Surviving the Great Alaskan Earthquake	Chris Guld
71	July 10	Progress in Defeating Alzheimer's/Dementia	Kevin O'Brien
72	July 14	The Heart of Joey	Joey Martino
73	July 17	The Art of Japan	Steven Saris
74	July 22	The History of Korea for Dummies	Chunmo Son
75	July 24	Trip, Slip, and Fall Hazards – part 1 (<i>Repeat</i>)	Charley Brooks
76	July 25	Trip, Slip, and Fall Hazards – part 2 (<i>Repeat</i>)	Charley Brooks
77	July 28	Autism From the Inside	Kathryn Jacobs
78	July 31	Hear Here	Ric Namikas
79	Aug 2	Pitch, Roll, Yaw and Why They Make You Sick	John Frim
80	Aug 3	AI Panel Discussion	
81	Aug 5	Make a Map To Visualize Your Travel with MyMaps	Chris Guld
82	Aug 7	Live Life or Leave Life, a Matter of Choice	John Patterson
83	Aug 17	Laughter Is the Best Medicine	Brigitte Kean
84	Aug 25	WWI Propaganda	Gill Cross
85	Sept 2	Google Photos	Chris Guld
86	Sept 11	4 Stories, 4 Agreements, Paths to Healing Hope After 9/11	Kevin Dineen
87	Sept 14	Life on Pointe: The Ballet Blueprint for Success	Lindsey Dineen
88	Sept 18	How to Save a Ton of Bandwidth and Avoid Upcoming Overage Charges	Randy Cassingham
89	Sept 30	Shakespeare's Contemporaries	Kathryn Jacobs
90	Oct 2	Malaria: Old & New Cures For an Old Disease	Frank Miskevich
91	Oct 22	Cebu Relief Review	Don Jackson
92	Oct 25	Victorian Art	Gill Cross
93	Oct 30	Ghosts or Spirits	Melitta Thorn
94	Nov 3	Solving the Hidden Energy Crisis with Positivity and Juggling	Kevin Dinneen
95	Nov 4	A Group of Random Coincidences	Sir Ron Small
96	Nov 11	The Great iPhone Photo Shootout Apple Photos vs Google Photos	Chris Guld & Alicia Lewis
97	Nov 13	The Life & Death of AM Radio	Paul Montoya
98	Nov 15	Amazing Animals Throughout My Travels	Darrell Karp
99	Nov 19	Your Life Raft	Kit Cassingham
100	Nov 20	What Happened to the Christians in Palestine	Robert Schick

	101	Nov 25	Let's Walk the Camino	Cyndi Grzybowski
	102	Nov 29	Panel on Personal Safety/Awareness	Silja, Lauren, Donna, Wayne
	103	Dec 3	Interview with Destinations Manager	Kelly O'Laughlin
	104	Dec 7	Sailing on a Lighter Carbon Footprint	Raul
	105	Dec 9	Medical Malaprops	Charley Brooks
	106	Dec 11	The New Excursion Platform	Gian & Eddie
	107	Dec 18	Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue	Gil Cross
	108	Dec 27	Crossing the Red Sea, Geoscience Perspective	Carl Drews
	109	Dec 29	Witches & Midwives	Shari Stone-Ulrich
	110	Jan 3	Rainbow Nation	Lauren Meyer
	111	Jan 6	Side Effects of Laughter Style	Brigitte Keane
	112	Jan 10	The Next Billion Dollar Drug Will Be...	Frank Miskovitch
	113	Jan 13	Secrets of the Lakes	Monica Frim
	114	Jan 15	No More "Where's Our Dock?" Moments	Chris Guld
	115	Jan 20	An Art Historical Puzzle: the destruction of images in eighth-century AD Palestine	Robert Schick
	116	Jan 22	Video Editing Using iMovie	Paul Montoya
	117	Jan 27	Interview with Capt Emanuele Giudice	
	118	Jan 29	Bond Investing 101	Michael Cooke
	119	Feb 4	Xkurzon: An App Made Just For You	Wayne Jared
	120	Feb 7	Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue, Part 2	Gill Cross
	121	Feb 10	Lousy Lovers In Songs & Stanzas	Kathryn Jacobs
	122	Feb 17	A Stroll Through Australian/NZ Wineries	Andrew Johnson
	123	Feb 21	Cruise Through Life	Bob Leningern
	124	Feb 23	Resident Down! What To Do?	Kit & Randy
	125	Feb 25	Bitcoin: What Is It & Why Does It Matter?	Chris Guld
	126	Mar 4	Writers Skit References and Trivia	Michael Edwards
	127	Mar 10	What's Your Problem	Chris Gagne
	128	Mar 12	AI & Society	Joe Braun
	129	Mar 15	My Monsoon Wedding	Beena Jooravan
	130	Mar 19	Resident Down! Take Action!	Kit & Randy
	131	Mar 23	Odyssey Waste Cycle	Marco Aveda
	132	Mar 25	The Future of Medicine	Joe Braun
	133	Mar 31	Walking Around the World: San Francisco	Ron Small
	134	April 7	Jerusalem's Stations of the Cross	Robert Schick
	135	April 14	ETs	Frank Miskevich
	136	April 18	The House That Paul Built	Paul Montoya
	137	Apr 25	From Bow Bells to Belly Laughs: Cockney Slang	Lyla Anderson

Staff	On-Shore Staff		
	Member	Role	Contact Info
	Mike Petterson	Executive Chairman & Chief Strategy Officer (CSO)	mike@villavieresidences.com
	Kathy Villalba	CEO	kathy@villavieresidences.com
	Matilda Ivanova	Director Port Operations &	matilda@villavieresidences.com

	Environmental Compliance	
Ben Baltazard	Project Manager/ Accounts Receivable	ben@villavieresidences.com
Maria Avellaneda	Operations Manager	ResidentServices@villavieresidences.com
Camilla Avila	Resident Services Specialist	ResidentServices@villavieresidences.com
Mary Oleyar	IT Manager	
Susan Anderson	Head of Accounting	
Sam Sethi	Accounts Payable Specialist	
Cindy Owens	Accounts Receivable Specialist	
Febbie Galope	System Administrator	febbie@villavieresidences.com
Catalina Pardo	Executive Admin	
Tobias Lindsten	Sales Manager	tobias@villavieresidences.com
Paula Espino	Sales Assistant	paula@villavieresidences.com
Kristel Macadamia	Sales Assistant	kristel@villavieresidences.com
Stephen Weiss	Sales	
The Danes: Alex, Sebastian, Kasper	Marketing	
Aaron Powell	Director of Sourcing	aaron@villavieresidences.com
Stan Griffith	Logistics Manager	stan@villavieresidences.com
Onboard Staff		
Valentin Giuglea	Captain (Master)	Captains rotate every few months
Rodrigo Lopes	Hotel Director	Hotel Directors rotate every few months
Oliver Hammerer	Director Hotel Operations	oliver@villavieresidences.com
Markus Hennig	Hotel Operations Mgr	
Vitus	Concierge	Ext 65
Marco Apreda	Environment Officer	
Gidea	Chief Purser	
Raisa	Food & Beverage Manager	
Orlando (Orly)	Executive Chef	
Joe	Pastry Chef	
Big Mac	Entertainment Manager	voyage_director@vvodyssey.com
Kelly		
Anthony	Destination Manager	
Iza	Fitness Instructor	fitness@vvodyssey.com (Ext 5570)
Gracijo	Onboard IT Manager	
Jan-Erik	Technical Superintendent	

Julia	CCS Managing Director	
Andrii Topalo	Staff Captain	

Service/Issue	Whom To Contact
Accounts & Collections	TBA – Revenue Operations Specialist
Boarding, manifest	Resident Services Manager
On-board services	1. Concierge (Vitus) 2. Guest Services (Ext. 65) 3. Resident Services Manager
Cabin rentals	Sales Dept
Cabin upgrades/changes	Maria: maria@villavieresidences.com
Circle administration	Febbie: febbie@villavieresidences.com
Emergency contact with ship when you are on shore	Columbia (our ship management company) +49 1738213032
Entertainment & Events	voyage_director@vvodyssey.com
Fitness/Gym	fitness@vvodyssey.com (ext 5570)
Friends & Family	Maria: maria@villavieresidences.com
Hotel, Housekeeping, Medical, Entertainment	Oliver Hammerer
Itinerary & Port Operations Global Harmony Program Marine-friendly furniture	Matilda: matilda@villavieresidences.com
Prohibited Items Inquiry	Maria: maria@villavieresidences.com
Resident Relations	Maria: maria@villavieresidences.com
Sales/Upgrades	Sales Dept
Shipping/Logistics	Stan Griffith: stan@villavieresidences.com
WhatsApp Administration	JR and Gary Macdonald (direct message)

Statistics

Note that the resident number represents all non-crew passengers on board that day, including friends & family and short-term rentals, so there will be some fluctuation from month to month. It does NOT include residents who are not physically on board that day (for example, those who left the ship for multi-day excursions).

Resident and Crew Numbers (# provided by Guest Services desk)				
As of date	Residents	Crew	Total	Notes
March 16, 2026	356	198	554	
February 24, 2026	306	194	500	
February 17, 2026	269	194	463	
January 13, 2026	360	196	556	
December 12, 2025	334	187	521	
November 7, 2025	272	192	464	End of segment 6
October 4, 2025	315	197	512	
September 3, 2025	280	208	488	
July 27, 2025	271	226	497	Sea crossing to Japan
June 27, 2025	295	222	517	
May 28, 2025	209	217	426	8 sea days crossing
April, 2025	252	221	473	Includes wedding party temporarily on board

	March 17, 2025	221	248	469	
	February 22, 2025	237	255	492	
	January 14, 2025	270	230	500	
Storage	<p>Temporary storage of personal items is available for a fee, on a first-come, first-served basis. Summary of the storage policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage is available only to active Residents who are temporarily disembarking and planning to return within a defined period. • Storage is available for a maximum initial term of six (6) months, renewable upon request and subject to space availability. • Standard Rate: USD 100 for 1-2 items/bags (per calendar month or part thereof). If the same item remains in storage for three (3) consecutive months or longer, the monthly rate is reduced to USD 90 per month beginning with the first month of that continuous period. • VVR may accept standard luggage, suitcases, duffel bags, and sealed boxes not exceeding 70 lbs (32 kg) per item. Items must be fully packed, sealed, and labeled with the Resident’s name, villa number, and return date. <p>Terms of storage policy on Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/policies-guidelines/updated-storage-policy-now-available</p>				
Streaming	<p>Residents may use VPNs (Virtual Private Networks), which encrypts your traffic, as well as allows you to appear to be located in the country of your choice (e.g., to watch American streaming services).</p> <p>There is conflicting information from residents about whether Roku can be used on board. Some resident have been able to get it to work, others have not.</p> <p>[Marie Fuhrken] Roku does not work on the ship TVs because it requires a VPN.</p> <p>[Lindy] My Roku works. Here is what we did: 1. Plugged the Roku stick into HDMI 3 on TV. 2. Using Ship tv remote, Selected HDMI 3. 3. Turned Roku remote on. 3. Logged into Roku. 4. Re-logged into Netflix and Amazon Prime.</p> <p>[Chris Stotts] VPN is required for most of the streaming services such as Netflix Disney+, Hulu, etc. Paramount+ prime video and Roku did not have a VPN app for NordVPN so it does not work. If NordVPN is your provider you’d have to check to see if Roku has a VPN app or the capability of using a VPN and then check if it has an app for your specific VPN.</p> <p>[Chaz] The Firestick has a built-in HDMI connector and can be plugged in directly into the TV.</p>				

[Kenneth Hagan]

Before spending money on various streaming items, in the near future there may be a limit on data streaming through individual sign-in accounts. There are a limited number of channels. You need to bring your own source (Roku, Amazon Firestick, etc.) for streaming services.

[Fran Paroissien]

I have a couple of subscriptions in Australia, two in USA and one in UK. I just do it that way because it's cheaper. So to get BBC, I change VPN to London and then stream!

[Chris Stotts]

Apple TV and firestorm both work at the moment prior to the next internet protocol implementation we have been hearing about. Although you have to use Nord VPN for geolocated streaming such as Netflix paramount plus Disney plus max etc

[John & Melody Hennessee] *Firesticks also work very well.*

Stretch Section

You may hear references to “the stretch section” of Odyssey. In 2008, the ship (at that time known as *Braemar*) was cut in half and a 30-meter extension was inserted. You can see a time lapse video of the stretching here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QirVr-pEVU4>

Cabins in the stretch section have different layouts, electrical outlets, and amenities. Here are the cabins that are in the stretch section: (Deck 5 is not included since there are no cabins on that deck).

Stretch Section Cabins		
Deck	Portside	Starboard
7	7028-7040	7027-7037
6	6050-6072	6057-6073
4	4068-4098	4073-4103
3	3078-3100	3079-3101
2	1268-1279	2057-2089
<i>Cabin data provided by Odyssey Environmental Officer Pasquale Balachia (Lino)</i>		

The graphic below illustrates the stretch section across decks.

	<p>Deck 7</p> <p>Deck 6</p> <p>Deck 4</p> <p>Deck 3</p> <p>Deck 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STRETCH</p>
<p>Taxes</p>	<p>Several residents have inquired about residency and the tax implications of living full-time on a ship, and in particular after this article (triggered by Odyssey) came out: https://www.accountancydaily.co/stranded-cruise-ship-could-trigger-tax-rethink (Note: this article is behind a paywall and requires a subscription to access.)</p> <p>Here are some comments regarding residency and taxes from residents: [Tina Booroff] <i>I live in Turks & Caicos Islands which is next door to the Bahamas. I am also Canadian. If you want residency in another country, you have to apply for it and each country has its</i></p>

	<p><i>own rules for that. I'm pretty sure living on a cruise ship flagged in the Bahamas does not qualify. I would do some research about which country is the easiest to get residency. I don't think Bahamas is very easy. Most places require you to spend a certain amount of time per year or own a property in their country.</i></p> <p>[Eve Wilhite] <i>I've been traveling for 10 years. Tina is correct. For questions of residency, your best information comes from the country you are seeking to be a resident of. Contact the immigration authorities in the country you are seeking to be a resident of, consider everything else is mis-information.</i></p> <p>[Kenneth Hagan] <i>With regards to the tax question: It will not matter for US Citizens. The United States government is one of very few countries that taxes US citizens on their worldwide income. No matter where income is earned and no matter where the US citizen resides. If going to live on the ship full time you should try to establish tax residency (might take a year or more) in a tax-free state like Texas or Florida.</i></p>										
<p>Tea Time</p>	<p>Kathy & Mike hold periodic meetings for residents, referred to as Tea Time. They were held via Circle in the past, but may be held via Zoom in the future. Meetings are recorded and the recording is (usually) posted in Circle. Meeting notes are usually taken by resident volunteer [Basia Kruszewska] and posted in the Forum section on Circle. You can join Tea Time whether you are on board or not.</p> <p>Links to upcoming and past tea times are here, on Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/events/?sort=asc</p>										
<p>Tech Support</p>	<p>If you experience IT or technical issues on board (WiFi, TV, internet, printing), your first source of support is through Guest Services.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1241 1544 1921"> <thead> <tr> <th>Resource</th> <th>Purpose</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Guest Services</td> <td>Report issue to Guest Services. They will create a ticket and will route to onboard IT officers.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VV Technology Chat</td> <td>For general tech discussions among residents, join the VV Technology Chat group in WhatsApp. Can also be used to ask other residents for help with tech-related issues.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tech Cheat Sheet</td> <td>[Alicia Hunter Lewis] maintains a Google Doc of tips submitted by residents for commonly encountered tech issues. It can be accessed using this link, and is also pinned to the top of the Tech SOS [Mary] WhatsApp group. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VZGqRYm79uVBh8LhKfZNtNxHbDKoZ07VBen2Nq767EY/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.fw4k6q5hvzti</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tech SOS [Mary]</td> <td>WhatsApp group for direct feedback to Mary Oleyar, IT Manager. This group is NOT under the VVR Odyssey chat groups umbrella. https://chat.whatsapp.com/BUUAobXdg6fGoQiRWdNIVM</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Resource	Purpose	Guest Services	Report issue to Guest Services. They will create a ticket and will route to onboard IT officers.	VV Technology Chat	For general tech discussions among residents, join the VV Technology Chat group in WhatsApp. Can also be used to ask other residents for help with tech-related issues.	Tech Cheat Sheet	[Alicia Hunter Lewis] maintains a Google Doc of tips submitted by residents for commonly encountered tech issues. It can be accessed using this link, and is also pinned to the top of the Tech SOS [Mary] WhatsApp group. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VZGqRYm79uVBh8LhKfZNtNxHbDKoZ07VBen2Nq767EY/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.fw4k6q5hvzti	Tech SOS [Mary]	WhatsApp group for direct feedback to Mary Oleyar, IT Manager. This group is NOT under the VVR Odyssey chat groups umbrella. https://chat.whatsapp.com/BUUAobXdg6fGoQiRWdNIVM
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	<p>Description of group: <i>We've realized that some technical issues and complaints are not always making it beyond the ship to VVR. At Mary's request, We have set up this group specifically as a way for residents to communicate directly to her about unresolved technical problems or concerns.</i></p> <p><i>Just to be clear, this group is not meant for general tech discussions between residents. We already have the WhatsApp tech chat for that. This group is specifically for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>✓ Sharing technical issues that have not been resolved after going through Guest Services</i> <i>✓ Reporting recurring problems that you feel haven't been acknowledged</i> <i>✓ Providing constructive feedback so Mary can be aware of what's happening onboard</i> <p><i>This group is kept outside the official WhatsApp Community to follow community rules, and no VVR staff are in this group other than Mary. She has agreed to check this group regularly, though please understand she may not be able to reply to each message directly, especially as she is currently in the process of moving.</i></p> <p><i>The goal is to make sure things aren't falling through the cracks, while keeping this space organized and respectful.</i></p>
<p>Tenders</p>	<p>At each port, the ship will either dock or use a tender boat, depending on port availability. If tendering is required, the cost of tenders is included in the cruise price; you do not pay for this transport. It is the ship's duty to ensure that all passengers reach shoreside.</p> <p>Hours of operation for tendering are dependent on the regulation of each port. For example, in Mykonos, you can tender all hours. In Santorini, tenders are not allowed after 10 PM. As long as port authority allows it, we will tender.</p> <p>Tendering schedule may be affected by the weather. If the captain feels the sea is not safe, we would have to close tendering until safe. Or we may change the itinerary to accommodate conditions.</p> <p>Tenders are handicap accessible, but depending on level of disability, transfer may be physically challenging. It's a personal decision for you. If you're in a wheelchair due to knee problems vs physically can't walk, it's possible in both cases, but may be physically challenging.</p>

	<p>In some countries, when we have to use a tender boat, it may not be possible to embark/disembark. This Itinerary Planning Guide provides information about which ports are tender ports.</p>																														
<p>Theater</p>	<p>The Odyssey has an active group showcasing resident talent in theater (Villa Vie Players) and choir. Past productions have included:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 405 1555 772"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th> <th>Production</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Resident Talent Show</td> <td>2025-02-18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Voices of the Odyssey Choir</td> <td>2025-02-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Love Letters</td> <td>2025-02-13; 2025-07-20; 2026-02-08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Classical Salon Performance</td> <td>2025-03-04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>An Eastern Fable</td> <td>2025-03-25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Musical Murder Mystery</td> <td>2025-03-25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>I'm Herbert</td> <td>2025-07-11; 2026-03-19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>The Story of Maggie and JJ Brown</td> <td>2025-11-07; 2025-12-21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>The Diaries of Adam and Eve</td> <td>2026-02-24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	#	Production	Date	1	Resident Talent Show	2025-02-18	2	Voices of the Odyssey Choir	2025-02-20	3	Love Letters	2025-02-13; 2025-07-20; 2026-02-08	4	Classical Salon Performance	2025-03-04	5	An Eastern Fable	2025-03-25	6	Musical Murder Mystery	2025-03-25	7	I'm Herbert	2025-07-11; 2026-03-19	8	The Story of Maggie and JJ Brown	2025-11-07; 2025-12-21	9	The Diaries of Adam and Eve	2026-02-24
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<p>Time Zones</p>	<p>As we weave in and out of different locations, we may change time zones frequently. The ship is on ship time, which is determined by the captain. In port, ship time matches port time. While at sea, ship time may change before we are technically in the next time zone, so most phones will NOT update the time automatically while at sea. You may need to set your time manually to ensure it aligns with ship time (or wait until we are in the next port).</p> <p>The TV screens display the time, but is not always updated promptly, so don't go by what's on the screen.</p> <p>At several points in our itinerary, we will cross the international date line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When going from west to east, we skip a calendar day • When going from east to west, we repeat a calendar day (for example, we will have two December 15ths in 2025) • Location of the International Date Line: 																														



Message on Circle from Matilda about International Date Line:

<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/did-you-know/did-you-know-how-the-international-date-line-affects-our-journey>

<p>Tipping</p>	<p>Tips (gratuities) for housekeeping and general food service are included in cruise cost. Bar tips are excluded. Tipping in U.S. dollars is fine, can also tip in ways other than cash.</p> <p>Tips are appreciated for any additional work stewards do, for example, helping you carry large or heavy items onto the ship.</p> <p>Crew Fund</p> <p>Gratuuity for the crew is not included in the drink package. Gratuuity is not mandatory, but always highly appreciated. There is crew that you see, and crew that you don't. We have a crew welfare account; crew decides how to use the funds for their benefit. You can contribute through guest relations; we'll charge it to your account. Can be anonymous or not.</p>
<p>Toilets</p>	<p>Do not throw anything other than toilet paper down the toilet. No tampons, no wipes, no makeup wipes, no hand towels, no cat litter. We've already had major pipe blockage (with a resulting nasty smell spreading throughout the boat) because of items that blocked the pipes. Toilet paper provided by VVR is biodegradable; do not use any toilet paper other than that provided by VVR. Also be mindful of using excessive toilet paper, which has caused serious blockages on two decks of the ship.</p> <p>The Hotel Engineering team has reported a significant increase in blockages and system strain caused by inappropriate items being flushed down toilets. Recently, maintenance teams have discovered the following items clogging the vacuum system filters and pipes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic gloves • Diapers • Tissues and paper towels • Napkins • Feminine hygiene products • Excessive toilet paper

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other items besides toilet paper <p>Please remember:</p> <p>✓ ONLY human waste and the provided onboard toilet paper should go into the toilets.</p> <p>✗ Do NOT dispose of any other items in the toilets.</p> <p>The vacuum toilet system onboard is highly sensitive and operates under high pressure. Unlike household toilets, even small foreign objects can cause significant blockages, leading to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overflow and flooding in cabins and public areas • Costly and time-consuming repairs • Unavailability of toilet facilities for residents and crew • Severe strain on the system and shutdowns. <p>We kindly ask for your support and cooperation in reminding your fellow residents and guests about these rules.</p>
<p>Travel Support</p>	<p>VVR offers a travel support option with a travel agency VVR uses internally, which offers competitive fares, including lower-cost marine fares, flexible tickets, access to airport lounges (where applicable) and direct payment with the agency. Can be used by residents, guests, and friends & family. Contact details:</p> <p>Email: marine@antaeustravel.com Web: www.anaeustravel.com T: +30 699 7 281 281 (WhatsApp also available) US: +1 786 238 7001 (press 2 for travel advisors)</p> <p>More information on Circle: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/general-resident-services-announcements/new-travel-support-option-for-residents</p>
<p>TV</p>	<p>Most cabins have a flat-screen TV mounted on the wall. Size: 43" diagonal, 38"L x 22"H (Metric: 1100mm diagonal, 965mm x 550mm) Smaller TVs are installed in deck 3 cabins.</p> <p>Currently there is a glitch whereby if TVs are placed in energy saver mode (to maintain WiFi access), some TVs will wake up randomly. There is no known solution other than turning them off and/or unplugging/plugging back in.</p> <p>Some residents have reported being unable to adjust the volume or mute button on cabin TVs, in particular after using Firestick or Google Chrome. Suggested fix from [Rina Cavazza]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go back to VV home page HDM1 press Movie, play anything (only for a sec) use volume button up or down. 2. Go back to HDM2 (wherever your firestick is on) and both remotes will work again. Unfortunately this is something you need to action regularly (well for me this is how I get it to work every time). <p>Starlink and the TVs are two completely different systems. TV channels do not come through Starlink and use a different satellite system.</p>

Regular TV channels, movies, and ship channels are available.

TV Channels					
1	Bridge Cam	104	BBC World	114	TFC
20	Your Cruise	107	BBC	115	TV Asia
21	Info TV	108	Food	116	Metro
22	Safety Info	109	HGTV	117	Meditaly
100	Prime One	110	Travel	118	Special Event
101	MSNBC	112	Movie N&T	1001	Aft web cam
102	FOX	113	Smithsonian	1002	Starboard web cam
103	CNBC			1003	Port web cam

*These are the channels displayed as of 3/17/2025
Channel availability and reception will vary depending on our location.*

All NFL games are available to watch through the DAZN App at Mike’s Bar on deck 8. (Depending on region broadcasting limits.) All games through ESPN are available to watch at Morning Light on deck 5.

[Chris Stotts]

The TVs now have an app available where you can install different news networks. Some of the options include CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, and Bloomberg. It does need to be installed through the TV settings, so in some cases it may need to be unlocked or set up by a TV ambassador. You can pay for a subscription if you’d like ad-free viewing, but the free version works pretty well as long as the internet connection is steady.

[Chris Stotts]

Heads up, everyone, just a quick tech alert! If you plug your personal computer into the LAN cable meant for your cabin TV and set your device to be discoverable on the network, it can show up as an input option on everyone’s TVs across the ship. That means your computer may be exposed as a shared drive, allowing others to access your files, movies, videos, and photos, whether you intended it or not. So just a fair warning to protect your privacy, and have a great evening!

Temporary Satellite Interference

As we travel around the globe our geographic location may sometimes lead to disruptions with the reception of certain television channels. Various factors such as weather conditions, tall structures, and mountainous terrain can result in the loss of specific channels in particular areas. Should this occur, we will do our utmost to regain connection although it times this may not be immediately possible.

Caution: we’ve had a least two reports of TVs crashing down off the cabin wall during turbulence. If you have any doubts about your TV being firmly attached, notify your steward and/or the front desk and request to have it secured.

Vaccines

VVR does not require you to have any vaccines to board the ship. Some of the places we will be visiting may require/recommend vaccines.

In 2026, the Odyssey Medical Center offered flu vaccines for a \$40 fee. No appointment necessary.

Update on Yellow Fever from VVR Resident Services Manager (3/4/2026)

As we prepare for our upcoming calls in Africa, please note that many African ports require proof of Yellow Fever vaccination as a condition of entry.

All residents traveling to these ports must carry:

- A valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate (International Certificate of Vaccination), OR
- An official medical exemption letter issued by a licensed physician (commonly applicable for residents over 60 or those medically unable to receive the vaccine).

Please ensure you travel with the original documentation. Port Health Authorities will request to see it upon arrival. Residents who are unable to provide the required documentation may be denied permission to go ashore, in accordance with local health regulations.

<https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/general-resident-services-announcements/yellow-fever-vaccination-requirement-upcoming-africa-ports>

Update on Yellow Fever from VVR Resident Services Manager (3/17/2025)

Please be advised that, as per the directives of the Costa Rican Ministry of Health, passenger cruises are exempt from the recently updated yellow fever vaccination requirements. Since we are transiting through Costa Rica and not establishing prolonged stays, proof of yellow fever vaccination is **not mandatory** for boarding or entry.

However, while vaccination is not required, it is always advisable to have it when traveling to regions where yellow fever may be a concern. Additionally, for guests over the age of 65, it is recommended—but not obligatory—to carry a medical document stating that they are unable to receive the vaccine.

Tips about vaccinations from residents:

[Lisa Johnson]

I used Passport Health. I entered our South American itinerary into their portal the day before my visit, and then met with a RN for about an hour. Their database generated a 34-page report with info about each country on our itinerary (lots of duplicates). Understanding their profit motive is to sell you as many vaccines as possible, I listened to their summary of the risks and chose the 5 that I felt were the most important

[Vaccines for South America | Villa Vie Residences](#)

[Wendy Swanson]

A travel clinic would know if you need it based on our itinerary. I used the Costco online travel clinic. I thought they were very thorough and quick, but of course you would have to get the vaccines somewhere else. I already had my Yellow Fever vax years ago, but had my card, so they didn't say if it was required or not. The CDC has information on what countries require it, and where it is prevalent.

[Christy Martin]

I called the ship doc today. They DO have it [yellow fever vaccination]. It is a "one and done" shot—I got mine in 2014 and my card says it expired this year but the nurse explained (and Google verified) that even if your card says it expired, the guidance was changed in 2016 for everyone. Once you've had it, you don't need it again.

	<p>[Basia Kruszewska] <i>The Passport Health clinic I went to in NY said yellow fever vaccination is not recommended for people over age 60. Instead, they gave me a waiver letter, stating I should not receive the vaccine. They said some countries will accept the waiver, others may not. In the past year I've been to all the countries listed in the VVR notification we just got, and none of them ever asked me for proof of yellow fever vax.</i></p> <p>[Theresa Collins] <i>Someone named Suzanne put this together a year ago and posted in Circle. It may be outdated but could help some with easy links and such.</i> https://assets.circle.so/w0apu0id2u5i8czyl0n2bhma8140</p>
<p>Vikand</p>	<p>VVR has partnered with Vikand, the leading expert in maritime medical services to provide a comprehensive onboard healthcare approach, including emergency care and when necessary, referral services to onshore medical facilities. The onboard medical center is staffed with Vikand's qualified health professionals and equipped to handle a wide range of medical situations.</p>
<p>Visas</p>	<p>On May 2025, residents who plan to do the entire 3-year navigation were informed that passports must have a minimum of 10 blank visa pages. See the Passport section for more details.</p> <p>For American/Australian/Canadian/European citizens, there are only a few countries that require visas, and some are electronic visas. VVR does not cover visa fees.</p>
<p>Visitors</p>	<p>In ports, guests can visit residents on board for the day with a Visitors Day Pass. The pass costs USD \$45 per person and includes all meals in our dining venues. Children under 6 are free. There is no option for a tour only (without meals); all visitors on board must pay the \$45. The Day Pass is valid for the day only; overnight stays are not included.</p> <p>Source on Circle: Day Visitors</p> <p>How it works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request in advance – Please submit your guest’s name(s) to Guest Services 96 hours before their visit. 2. Wristbands issued – Upon arrival, Security will welcome them aboard and issue a wristband confirming their access. 3. Dining & amenities – F&B will check wristbands at meal times, and your guests are welcome to enjoy the public spaces and activities you choose to share with them. 4. Charges – The Day Pass fee for your visitors will be charged to your onboard account. <p>If you are requesting permission for a visitor to come onboard, you are fully responsible for escorting them throughout their time on the ship. This means you must be physically onboard at the time of their visit. If you are not onboard, we will not be able to allow your visitor to embark. If the visitor arrives and you are not available, it will be your responsibility to arrange for another person to escort them—otherwise, access to the</p>

	<p>ship will be denied. Even villa owners coming onboard as visitors must be accompanied by an escort—this is a standard policy and must be respected at all times.</p> <p>We occasionally welcome guests brought by the Sales Department to tour the ship. These visits are organized and guided by our Sales Ambassadors, who are prepared to give them a proper experience onboard.</p> <p><i>See also Friends & Family for overnight visits.</i></p>
<p>Voting</p>	<p>Questions frequently come up about the possibility of voting while abroad. Voting requirements and processes are state-specific. There are several discussion threads on Circle dedicated to this topic:</p> <p>https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/resident-faqs/absentee-voting-in-usa-november-elections</p> <p>https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/discuss-your-topics/us-citizens-vote-from-abroad</p> <p>Tips and resources provided by residents:</p> <p>[Gary Macdonald] Good info about voting from overseas: https://www.democratsabroad.org https://republicansoverseas.com https://www.votefromabroad.org</p> <p>[Shawna Butler] From the US Dept of State -- Absentee voting information for U.S. citizens abroad: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/while-abroad/voting.html</p> <p>How To Vote from Abroad: An Overseas Voting Explainer from U.S. Vote Foundation: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/while-abroad/voting.html</p> <p><i>It's state-specific, so requires some diligence to work through the various processes. I'm part of the Civic Health Alliance and our nonpartisan coalition works to ensure everyone who is eligible and wants to vote, can. Please let me know if our team can help. There are quite a few resources to assist the nearly 3 million eligible US voters who live and work abroad and want their voices heard.</i></p> <p>[Shelly Spearing] <i>You might be able to use FWAB [Federal Write-in Ballot] rather than relying on friends, family, forwarding, and foreign mail services to get your ballot. Using FWAB does not nullify your actual ballot; you can do both! The FWAB will only be used if your paper absentee ballot is not received by the deadline. Sadly, depending on your state of residence, you may still need to return it via snail-mail.</i></p> <p>[Harvie Branscomb] <i>The FWAB isn't the only way to vote overseas but it is convenient... Federal law requires regular ballots to be sent to voters who have registered as "UOCAVA" (meaning overseas or military). Those ballots go out 45 days before election day. Most states allow 8 days after election day for the already voted ballot to return. You should be eligible to vote as registered at your most recent residential address.</i></p>

Each state has its own voting laws but many offer either electronic delivery of ballot or electronic return or both. I voted in the recent Colorado Primary from Belfast entirely using my phone and laptop.

Often this involves email or dedicated apps (with attendant questionable security but as long as relatively few voters are using it the confidence in the system can probably tolerate a decrement to the integrity).

[Shelly Spearing] Sadly, I live in “the south,” where there is a less generous attitude towards voting. I will be allowed to use the FWAB, but will be required to snail mail it. If it is not received by midnight Friday after the election (3, not 8, days later), my vote will be disqualified. Internet fax and email are explicitly forbidden. Further, I am required to write my full SSN and legal signature on the outside of the envelope if I use the official absentee ballot. Yes, there is a privacy tab to hide it, but it’s a theft target for anyone who recognizes it for what it is.

[Cindy Harvey] Oregon is like Colorado, treated like military and overseas, voting online. Some states make it easy!

VPN

Many residents recommend using a VPN (Virtual Private Network). It sends out an internet address that is different from where you actually are. Benefits include:

- Protects users by encrypting their data and masking their IP address.
- Needed for geolocated streaming services
- Useful if you will be using public WiFi while in ports

Some VPN services recommended by residents:

VPN Service	Recommendation
NordVPN	<p>[JR] NordVPN is good. Other VPNs are pretty similar. NordVPN has a greater number of access points than most. which is why I use it. Most of the time VPNs work effortlessly. However, some wifi will block a vpn, some apps can bypass the VPN to directly connect and others have blocked certain VPN ip addresses. So they are not perfect but I can watch almost everything wherever I am.</p> <p>[Basia Kruszewska] I have been using NordVPN for the past year, no problems with it. Without VPN, I was unable to access some of my online accounts, including HSA, utilities (when I was reporting my meter readings online), and some investment accounts. I had no problem accessing them with VPN.</p> <p>[Sherrie Cornett] I’m using NordVPN and have been very happy with it.</p> <p>[Joe Rhodes] I am using NordVPN, however it has not worked with U.S. streamers such as Hulu, Amazon & Max, ESPN, etc who are able to detect that I’m not in the U.S. even when the VPN address should be telling them I’m in Texas. Which is the whole reason i got a VPN to begin with, so I could stream U.S. channels.</p> <p>Note:</p>

	<p>Residents who have NordVPN can provide a referral which will give you and them 3 free months of VPN service in exchange for the referral. Contact any resident who has a NordVPN (including those listed above) and ask for an access code.</p> <p>Proton [Randy Cassingham] <i>Starlink definitely does not include a VPN. I'm using Proton's VPN and am having a little trouble with it (it drops out, and often doesn't reconnect by itself. I'm opening a support ticket with them). For those who don't know, a VPN "hides" your location and you can set it to use servers in other location so it appears you are in that location (example: in USA to use Netflix as a local). It also offers some level of security over not having one.</i></p> <p>Surfshark [Andy Garrison] <i>I use Surfshark and am very happy with it. I previously had ExpressVPN and it is great, also. Both are paid services. If you're looking for a free (ad supported) one try TunnelBear, it's quite good. Or search something like "Top 10 VPNs" and pick your own - there are a number of very good ones out there.</i></p> <p>Expres VPN [Bob Mann] <i>ExpressVPN + Fubo TV working for me. FuboTV is a bit clunky, but carries the channels I want.</i></p>
Water	<p>[Chris Stotts] It's not possible to add VPN to Roku; Roku does not support VPN apps.</p> <p>[Chris Stotts] You cannot install VPN directly onto the TVs because they are pro centric hotel TVs, but you can install VPN on Apple TV or fire stick at least NordVPN. I don't know about the other side. It depends if they have an app available on the App Store for Apple TV or fire stick TV.</p> <p>Some residents have reported that if you log into a new WiFi on board, you may have to log out of VPN, connect to WiFi, then log back in again.</p> <p>Update from CEO Kathy on 11/6/24 regarding water quality: We'd like to formally address concerns regarding water quality onboard the ship. First and foremost, please rest assured that we strictly adhere to all protocols for water quality and safety. We have a Public Health Officer onboard who continuously tests and monitors water in all areas of the ship, including cabins, the galley, and public restrooms. Before departing Belfast, we sent samples to a certified lab for testing. Additionally, when UK Public Health officials were onboard, they conducted independent tests, which were necessary for us to receive our Public Health Certificate. As we sail, we test our fresh water weekly in various, randomly chosen locations for any bacterial presence, using test strips for immediate assessment. These checks are also conducted each time we bunker water from the pier. All tests are performed in compliance with maritime regulations and under the guidance of public health standards to ensure we're meeting the highest safety protocols.</p>

Regarding occasional discoloration in sink water, please note that this is caused by residue from older pipes when the system is temporarily shut off for maintenance. Once water flow resumes, a small amount of residue may be released, causing brief discoloration. However, this clears after running the water for a few minutes.

To clarify terminology, potable water and drinking water are interchangeable. We provide designated drinking water areas on board to meet all hydration needs safely. For added safety and convenience, here are our recommendations and facilities:

- **Showering and Brushing Teeth:** It is completely safe to use both. As an extra precaution, however, we recommend against drinking directly from sink water.
- **Drinking Water:** You should have received two carafes in your cabin, which you can refill at water dispensers located in the Palm Café and gym area. Both dispensers have advanced filtering systems to provide safe drinking water.
- **Additional Drinking Options:** We've ordered Lara Juice Machines, set to arrive in December, which will dispense both juice and filtered water. These will be available throughout the ship, giving you convenient access to drinking water in more locations.

To further ensure safety, we have installed filters at various water access points, including in the galleys where cooking water, although already safe, passes through filters as an added measure.

Odyssey uses MBR (Membrane Bioreactor) technology for wastewater treatment. Reverse Osmosis (RO) is a water filtration technology that uses membranes to remove salts and impurities from seawater to create fresh water.

The Difference Between Greywater, Sewage, and Bilge Water: (Source: Kathy's post)

- **Greywater** is wastewater generated from non-sewage sources on a ship, such as sinks, showers, washing machines, and dishwashers. It has nothing to do with engine spaces.
- **Sewage**, also known as **blackwater**, refers to wastewater containing human waste from toilets.
- **Bilge water** is a mixture of water, oil, fuel, cleaning fluids, and other waste that collects in the bilge, the lowest part of a ship's hull. This water accumulates from leaks, condensation, or spills within the ship.

Currently we are discharging greywater at port until the incorrect pipe installation which mixed grey and black water is rectified.

For bilge water, we have a fully functional oil-water separator system onboard. This system processes bilge water to remove oil, ensuring the water discharged at sea meets MARPOL's allowed limit of <15ppm. We safely discharge outside 12NM, and have no issues with compliance.

Please be mindful of using correct terminology, as misuse could lead to mistaken allegations of non-compliance, resulting in unintended consequences.

Wellness Plans

On March 6, 2025, VVR rolled out a series of health plans available from the Odyssey health center. Full information is on Circle: [Wellness Plans](#)

SUMMARY OF WELLNESS PLANS						
Plan #	1	2	3	4	5	

	Plan Name	Essentials	Protect	Plus	Active	Premium
	Cost	\$49	\$99	\$180	\$185	\$425
	Biometric screening: Physical measurements of your height, weight, waist circumference, BMI	✓	<i>Not listed?</i>	✓	✓	✓
	Vital signs: Blood pressure, respiration, heart rate, oxygen saturation, body temperature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Blood glucose	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Urine	✓		✓	✓	
	Lipid Panel Plus		✓			✓
	Assessment survey			✓	✓	✓
	Health Risk			✓	✓	✓
	Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (14 components): Alanine Aminotransferase, Alkaline Phosphatase, Aspartate Aminotransferase, Total carbon dioxide, Total bilirubin, Total Protein, Creatinine, Albumin, Calcium, Chloride, Glucose, Potassium, Sodium, Urea Nitrogen			✓		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macronutrient: Total/HDL/LDL/Non-HDL Cholesterol, Cholesterol/HDL Ratio, Total Protein, Albumin • Micronutrient: Calcium • Health: WBC, Neutrophils, Monocytes, Lymphocytes, Eosinophils, Basophils, Platelets, AST, ALT, ALP, Chloride, CO₂, CBC • Energy: Glucose, Triglycerides • Hydration: BUN, Creatinine, Sodium, Potassium, Chloride • Endurance: Hematocrit, Hemoglobin, RBC, Bilirubin • Recovery: BUN, Creatinine 				✓	
	COMPREHENSIVE TESTS Eye vision Exam, Wisper Test, Gynecological Exam (Females), Breast					✓

	Exam (Females), Prostate Exam (Males), ECG Pick Flow, Urine Test, CBC, Lipid Panel Plus (Total Cholesterol, HDL, Triglycerides, Glucose, Calculated LDL), Metlyte Plus (Creatinine, Urea Nitrogen, CK, Chloride, Potassium, Sodium, Total Carbon Dioxide, C-Reactive Protein), CRP, General Chemistry 13 (Alanine Aminotransferase, Aspartate Aminotransferase, Gamma-Glutamyl Transferase, Total Bilirubin, Total Nitrogen, Albumin, Amylase, Calcium, Creatinine, Uric Acid)					
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WhatsApp	<p>WhatsApp is a free app that you can use in a browser or download as a standalone app/program on your computer. It is not the official VVR communication tool; Circle is. However, it is where many of us communicate amongst ourselves.</p> <p>WhatsApp is composed of various specialized chat groups, all under the VV Odyssey umbrella. Below are some examples. This is not a complete list; there are almost 100 different chat groups. To find a WhatsApp chat group in the VV Odyssey community, type the name of the chat group in the “Ask Meta AI or Search” bar at the top of the community page.</p>																																											
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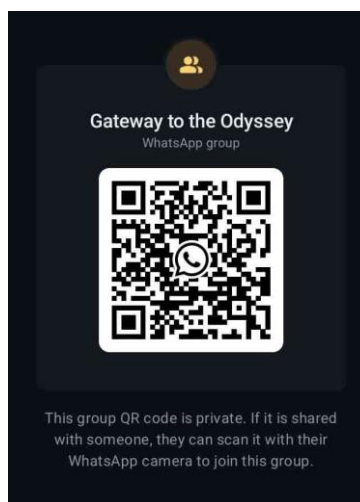
12	VV Technology Chat	Discuss tech/IT related issues
13	VV I'm Pissed	Allows participants to vent, bitch and moan without judgement. Positive and problem-solving statements can be posted, but be prepared to duel the fire until the writer gets it off their chest.
14	VVA Health Insurance & Prescriptions	Exchange ideas and chat about medical providers, prescriptions and insurance.
15	VV Good Tidings & Waves of Positivity	Celebrate the amazing things that happen to and because of the residents of the Odyssey.
16	VV Villa Rentals	For owners and renters to connect.
Community: VVC Odyssey Excursions & Destinations		
17	VVE Excursion Plans	A place to coordinate with your excursion group all at once.
18	VVE New Zealand Excursions	
19	VVE New Excursions & Events	Centralized location for excursion & event announcements that are open to the community to join.
20	VVE Foodies	There are great restaurants in every port, but not many that require reservations a month in advance and are unique enough to beckon people from all over the world. Please use this to identify such gems.
21	VVE Snorkeling & Kayaking	Beach and boat snorkeling locations and excursions.
Community: Global Harmony		
22	VVGH Global Harmony Chat	Global Harmony updates and announcements
23	VVG Cebu Relief	
24	VVGH Blood Drive	
Community: VVA Odyssey Activities & Interests		
25	VVA Current Events & Politics	Discuss social and political issues, potentially controversial.
26	VVA Stargazers	Follow celestial events or just enjoy a great night sky.
27	VVA Fitness	
28	VVA Birdysseans	For bird watchers and bird lovers.
Community: VVP Theatre Performers, Dancers, Singers		
29	VVP Theatre Performers, Dancers, Singers	
30	VVP Brigadoon	For Brigadoon Theater Performance
Community: VVRet Been There Done That (Saved For Our Return)		
31		An archive of inactive (retired) chats
Independent Chat Groups - Outside of VVR Forum		
32	Tech SOS [Mary]	Direct feedback group for IT Manager Mary Contact admins to join: MO, Chris Stotts
33	Villa Vie LGBT Residents	For residents who identify as LGBTQ Contact admin to join: Benjamin Schatz

34	Villa Vie Odyssey – Emergency Notifications Only	For Emergency Notifications posted by VVR only. Admin: VVR staff https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vb75wsl0lwgu7EAKgg3u
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Residents **[JR]** and **[Gary Macdonald]** are the admins for most WhatsApp groups and volunteer their time to manage the groups. Anyone who is in Circle or is renting from a villa owner can be added to the WhatsApp group.

Use the link or QR code below to send your friends and family and other future residents here to join our communities:

https://chat.whatsapp.com/GMlpSWS3jAaHY1aTLbQTqZ?mode=gi_t



If you have any trouble connecting you can also message **[JR]** directly using the QR code below or his number +19093895772. Send a WhatsApp message with your first and last name, cabin number & whether you are an owner or segmenter.



When you join a WhatsApp group, you will only be able to see messages posted AFTER you joined. Messages posted before you joined will not be visible. Therefore, if you are thinking about joining a group, it's best to join it sooner rather than later.

Advantages of using WhatsApp over Circle:

- VVR staff are not on WhatsApp, so residents feel freer to discuss their concerns.
- Anyone can set up a new chat group (in Circle, only VVR staff can create group)
- Residents can create polls.

- Easier to access than Circle. Many people already have WhatsApp on their phones.
- People who are renting from cabin owners have access to info (they don't have access in Circle).

Disadvantage of using WhatsApp rather than Circle:

- VVR staff are not on WhatsApp, so may not have visibility to our questions/concerns.
- New residents joining the forum will not see anything that was posted prior to their joining date, so the same questions often get asked repeatedly.
- In the General Chat, anyone can post anything anywhere, so important messages often get drowned out with everyday chatter.
- Some people do not like WhatsApp, or are not able to access it (it requires an actual phone number to set up, and as nomads some of us don't have that). One resident has reported that WhatsApp will NOT accept a Google Voice phone number, but another said it did accept theirs.

If you want to create a new group under the VVR umbrella, ask the admins (JR or Gary Macdonald) for help.

In addition to these forums under the VVR umbrella, anyone get create a group of their own, not affiliated with VVR. For example, if you and three friends want a place to communicate/coordinate, you can set up your own chat group.

In general, the chat group is considered a confidential forum for VVR residents. However, in the past information has been leaked and distributed outside of WhatsApp. Don't post anything in WhatsApp that you wouldn't want the whole world to know.

Please do not post links to our Villa Vie Odyssey Community WhatsApp groups in any public forums. This allows anyone to enter the group. We are trying to keep WhatsApp for residents only.

If you are receiving too many notifications from a group, you can exit the group, mute it, or archive it.

Action	How To
Mute group Stay in the group, but stop notifications.	1. Tap the header of the group 2. Under Mute Notifications, select how long you want to mute for.
Exit group Remove yourself from a group. You will no longer see any posts.	1. Tap the header of the group. 2. Scroll down to the bottom and tap Exit group.
Archive group Hide group from your main chat list. You will not receive notifications, but can unarchive it to read the posts.	1. Right-click on the group name. 2. Click Archive

WiFi Onboard connectivity is provided via Starlink satellite. Odyssey has 8 Starlink dishes, 100 Mb on each one, giving guarantee of 80 Mb per second.

Two WiFi options on board:

- 1) **Ship-wide:** WiFi is available throughout the ship. However, in some areas, to access it in your cabin, you must leave the cabin door open. Network name is Odyssey_residents. Get the password from Resident Services desk and do not share password with non-residents or crew.

- 2) **In-cabin:** The TV in your cabin is an in-room wireless access point. Tech support staff will help you set up your TV. Your TV must remain ON to receive the signal in your cabin. If you turn the TV off, WiFi disconnects.

If you want to keep WiFi access without keeping your TV display on, turn on energy saving mode:

1. On your remote, click the red power button to display the Portal screen on your TV.
2. On your remote, press the green **Energy Saving** button.
3. Scroll down to the **Screen off** option and press **OK** on the remote.
4. Screen will turn off in 5 seconds.
5. To reverse this action, press any number on the remote.

Starlink and the TVs are two completely different systems. TV channels do not come through Starlink and use a different satellite system.

Starlink is not allowed in some countries, for example Taiwan. In those countries, we will switch to a backup VSAT connection. VSAT is noticeably slower and is intended to provide basic service, so please refrain from data-heavy activities such as streaming or TV online while we are on backup. In some ports, the port agent will provide local SIM cards to use with our 5G LTE Antenna.

[Jim Guld] posted an interesting [Starlink Snapshot](#) on Circle.

[Chris Stotts]: *There are LAN ports in the private offices. I tried all of them in my own and none were working except one with a slow 7mbps rate.*

A detailed discussion of internet speed and availability on board can be found here: https://villavieresidences.circle.so/c/resident-faqs/is-wi-fi-network-good-enough-for-work-from-villa#all_comments

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What Has Changed

March 20, 2026		
1	Business Center	Added info about electrical outlets in business center
2	Countries	Checked off: New Zealand
3	Furnishings	Added recommendations from residents for tea kettles
4	Laundry	Request to return hangers
5	Phone Plans	Added recommendations from residents for US Mobile & Fonus
6	Shipping	Next medical/mail shipment to Darwin
7	Speakers Corner	March/April lineup
8	Staff	Removed: Emanuele, Anne Alms. Added: Val
9	Statistics	Updated resident and crew numbers
10	TV	Workaround if you are unable to adjust TV volume
11	Vaccines	Yellow Fever vaccination requirement for African countries
12	WhatsApp	Added QR code for new members to join WhatsApp

Previous revision history notes have been removed to reduce page number.