Ultimate Intimacy Cruise — FAQ

About the retreat

What is the Ultimate Intimacy cruise? A 6-night (Sun-Sat) cruise retreat for married couples, sailing round trip from Long Beach, California to the Mexican coast. 4 days include Ultimate Intimacy programming, with plenty of time left for the ship, the ports, and each other.

Who is this retreat for? Married couples who want to strengthen their connection and intimacy. It is an enrichment retreat, not crisis counseling. If you are dealing with betrayal, abuse, separation, or divorce proceedings, we encourage you to seek a counselor or marriage intensive first, and we are happy to point you toward resources.

What does a typical day look like? Ultimate Intimacy will have scheduled programming each afternoon on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Outside of the programming, guests are free to enjoy all the ship amenities, food, and ports. We recommend booking morning excursions on Wednesday and Friday if you plan to explore the ports. To give yourself adequate time to attend the UI programming, plan to be back on the ship by 1pm on Wednesday and Friday.

Do we have to attend every session? No. Your time is yours. You'll get the most out of the retreat by attending the core sessions, but if you want a massage for two or a long nap, take it.

Can we bring our children? We ask that you leave children at home so you can focus fully on your marriage.

Is it a good idea to surprise my spouse with this trip? Usually not. Talk about it together first so it feels like an invitation, not pressure.

Will we be with other couples from Ultimate Intimacy? Yes. You'll be part of a group, with Ultimate Intimacy staff on board the whole trip.

If the advertised presenter can't travel, what happens? If a presenter can't sail due to illness or other circumstances, Ultimate Intimacy will provide a replacement and the retreat continues as planned.

Booking & payment

How do I book? Book Here. Your booking is confirmed once your payment is processed.

Can we pay in installments? No, installment payments are not available for this experience.

What forms of payment do you accept? Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express

Why is the price higher than the cruise line's advertised fare? Our price also covers the retreat itself: presenters, materials, group events, and staff who travel with you.

Do names on the booking need to match our ID? Yes. Names must match the ID you'll show at the port exactly.

Can we travel with friends and have nearby cabins? Ask at the time of booking. We'll do our best to place you near each other, but adjacent cabins aren't guaranteed.

Travel documents

Do we need a passport? A passport isn't strictly required, but we strongly recommend one. Because this cruise starts and ends at the same California port, it is a "closed-loop" cruise. U.S. citizens on closed-loop cruises can board and re-enter the U.S. with a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license or REAL ID) plus proof of citizenship, such as an original or certified birth certificate or a Certificate of Naturalization.

Why bring a passport if it isn't required? If you miss the ship in Mexico or need to fly home early for an emergency, you'll need a passport to fly back. Without one, getting home takes far longer and usually means getting an emergency passport from a U.S. consulate. A passport should be valid for at least 6 months past the return date.

What kind of birth certificate is accepted? An original or certified copy issued by the state vital records office. Hospital-issued or souvenir certificates are not accepted. If your current name differs from your birth certificate, bring your marriage certificate or other legal name-change document.

Can we use a passport card? Yes. A U.S. passport card is valid for sea travel to Mexico and back, though it can't be used to fly internationally.

I'm not a U.S. citizen. What do I need? Non-U.S. citizens should bring a valid passport and any visa or residency documents required, and check with the cruise line and the Mexican consulate well before sailing. Each traveler is responsible for having correct documents; anyone denied boarding for missing documents is not eligible for a refund.

Do we need a visa or tourist card for Mexico? U.S. citizens visiting Mexican ports on a cruise do not need a visa. Requirements can change, so check the cruise line's travel document page about [60] days before sailing.

Do we need to complete online check-in? Yes. Carnival requires online check-in, where you'll upload your ID details and choose a boarding time. We'll send instructions prior to sailing.

Getting to the ship

Where does the cruise depart from? Long Beach Cruise Port, Long Beach, California. We sail out on Sunday, February 21, 2027 and return to the same port on Saturday, February 27, 2027.

Are flights included? No. You book your own travel to and from the port.

Which airport should we fly into, and when? For Los Angeles / Long Beach: Long Beach (LGB) is closest; LAX and John Wayne (SNA) also work. Plan to land by 9:00 a.m. on sailing day, and book return flights departing after 2:00 p.m. on the return day.

Should we arrive the day before? We strongly recommend it. The ship won't wait for late flights, and a night in a nearby hotel removes that risk. Pre- and post-cruise hotels are not included.

Can we drive to the port? Yes. Parking is available at or near the terminal for a daily fee paid to the parking operator, not Ultimate Intimacy.

What time do we board? Boarding typically runs from late morning to early afternoon; you'll pick an arrival window during online check-in. All guests must be on board at least [90] minutes before departure.

What time do we get off the ship on the last day? Disembarkation usually runs from early morning until about [10:00–11:00 a.m.]. Carrying off your own luggage is often the fastest way off.

Do we need to tell you our travel plans? No

Onboard

What's included in the price?

- Cabin for 6 nights on the Carnival Panorama
- Three meals a day plus access to the buffet
- All Ultimate Intimacy workshops, sessions, and group events
- Ultimate Intimacy staff on board the whole trip
- The ship's pools, fitness center, shows, and crew-run activities
- Cruise taxes, fees, and port expenses

What's not included?

- Flights and transportation to and from the port
- Hotels before or after the cruise
- Travel insurance
- Shore excursions
- Drinks beyond the free basics (sodas, specialty coffee, bottled water)
- Wi-Fi, spa, photos, specialty restaurants, and other onboard purchases
- Crew gratuities

How do gratuities work? Carnival adds a daily service charge per person to your onboard account.

How do we pay for things on the ship? The ship is cashless. You'll link a credit card to your cabin key card at check-in and settle the bill at the end of the cruise.

What should we pack? Light layers, swimwear, comfortable walking shoes, a nicer outfit for formal / dressy nights, sunscreen, motion-sickness remedies, and any medications in your carry-on. Check Carnival's prohibited items list; items like irons and power strips with surge protectors are commonly banned.

Is there Wi-Fi on board? Yes, for an extra fee through the cruise line. Many couples choose to unplug for the week.

Ports in Mexico

Which ports will we visit? 2 Nights in Cabo & Ensenada. Port times are set by the cruise line and can change for weather or operational reasons.

Do we have to get off the ship? No. Staying on board is a quiet, relaxing option, and the ship stays open on port days.

Should we book excursions through the cruise line or on our own? Either works. Cruise line excursions cost more, but the ship guarantees it will wait if the tour runs late. On an independent tour, you are responsible for being back by the "all aboard" time; the ship will not wait.

Do we need pesos? U.S. dollars and credit cards are widely accepted in Mexican cruise ports, but small bills and some pesos help with taxis, tips, and local vendors. Prices quoted in pesos often work out cheaper than paying in dollars. Let your bank know you'll be traveling.

Will our cell phones work? In port, your phone may connect to Mexican networks; check with your carrier about an international plan. At sea, phones can connect to the ship's maritime network, which charges very high rates. Keep phones on airplane mode with Wi-Fi only to avoid surprise bills.

Is it safe to go ashore? Cruise ports and their tourist areas are generally busy and well-patrolled. Stay in tourist areas, use licensed taxis or ship excursions, keep valuables out of sight, and check the U.S. State Department travel advisory for each port's state before sailing.

Can we drink the water in port? Stick to bottled water and drinks with sealed caps in port. Water on the ship is safe to drink.

Health, safety & accessibility

Will I get seasick? Many guests feel slightly queasy the first day, then adjust. Over-the-counter options like Dramamine, Bonine, or acupressure wristbands work for many people; ask your doctor about a prescription patch if you're prone to motion sickness. There is a doctor on board.

Is there medical care on the ship? Yes. The ship has a medical center with a doctor and nurses. Care is billed to your onboard account at the cruise line's rates and is usually not covered by U.S. health insurance, which is one reason we recommend travel insurance.

Are there vaccine or health requirements? Carnival currently has no vaccination requirement — confirm. Consult your doctor if you have health concerns. If you become ill during the trip, you'll follow the ship's medical guidance, and any extra travel costs are your responsibility.

Can I sail if I'm pregnant? Most cruise lines don't allow guests who will be 24 weeks pregnant or more by the end of the cruise, and require a doctor's letter confirming fitness to travel. Check Carnival's policy before booking.

Is the trip accessible for guests with mobility needs? The ship has elevators and a limited number of accessible cabins. Let us know about any disability or special needs when you book so we can request accommodations. Some port areas and excursions involve uneven ground or tender boats that may not be wheelchair-friendly.

Are there age requirements? Carnival requires at least one guest in each cabin to be 21 or older; some lines allow married couples age 18 or older. Proof of marriage may be requested.

What if bad weather affects the cruise? The captain may change the route, swap or skip a port, or adjust the schedule to keep guests safe. These changes are made by the cruise line and are not grounds for a refund from Ultimate Intimacy. We'll keep you updated and adjust the retreat schedule as needed.

Will there be alcohol on board? Alcohol is sold on the ship but isn't part of the retreat or included in the price.

Cancellations, changes & insurance

What if we need to cancel? You can cancel within 24 hours of your payment for a full refund. Cancellations must be sent in writing to retreat@ultimateintimacy.com.

Can we change our cabin or names after booking? Request changes as early as possible. Changes may carry cruise line fees, and name changes after documents are issued may not be possible.

Should we buy travel insurance? We strongly recommend it. A good policy can reimburse non-refundable costs if you cancel for a covered reason, and cover medical care and evacuation at sea or in Mexico, which U.S. health plans often don't. Read the policy carefully to see which reasons qualify. Travel Guard Quote

What if a flight delay makes us miss the ship? Unfortunately, the ship can't wait. You would need to meet the ship at its next port at your own expense, which usually requires a passport. Arriving the day before and travel insurance are the best protection.

What if Ultimate Intimacy cancels the retreat? If we cancel, we'll refund amounts paid to us as described in our terms and conditions.