

## Kosherica

Long regarded as the mark of excellence in Jewish cruise tours, Kosherica delivers a unique luxury vacation experience. Their commitment to quality customer service is as deep today as it was when they pioneered their approach to kosher travel over two decades ago. Sailing aboard the world's finest cruise liners, enjoying shows by popular Jewish entertainers, hearing from thought-provoking scholars, and appreciating the elegant glatt kosher cuisine, Kosherica guests are treated to a vacation experience unlike any other.

For the history buff, Kosherica offers excursions to places with a robust Jewish history, and for the world explorer, the Caribbean, Greek Isles and Alaska tours await. Their "city at sea" cruises provide guests with activities like rock climbing walls, bowling alleys, swimming pools and ice-skating rinks. "When you travel on a Norwegian or Royal Caribbean ship, the trip itself is an unforgettable experience, so if you are traveling with family, that should definitely be your first choice," Helit Edelstein, director of guest relations, advises. Recently, Kosherica has begun offering more affordable options on a less upscale ship, but with the same culinary offerings.

Once the ship docks at its destination, guests are welcome to explore the locale at their leisure, with guidance and support from the Kosherica team. As each guest's interests, sense of adventure and stamina is varied, there are no group tours or programs. "Many of the attractions our guests enjoy don't cost them a penny," Helit notes. "My favorite is a breathtaking hike in Juneau, Alaska, where guests bond with each other while reveling in the untainted nature."

Kosherica cruises attract an eclectic and diverse crowd from across the globe. "This is a trip where everyone just wants to be fully present, unplugged from distractions and experiencing each moment to its fullest." As the ship travels progressively farther away from the daily rigors of each person's routine, the tranquility and setting naturally breed a sense of kinship and togetherness.

"We are proud to have partnered with twenty-five organizations, giving back to our community in a unique and poignant way. Make-a-Wish foundation has approached us countless times to make the dreams of seriously ill children come true, and each time is a deeply meaningful experience for everyone on board," Helit shares. Kosherica is there to wait on the families, offering every service imaginable to ease their burden. There was even one instance where a need arose for the Make-a-Wish attendees, and all the other guests on board banded together to cover the costs and make that child's trip all the more special.

"Many cruise companies have come and gone, and I believe it's the integrity of our mission that has enabled us to remain. We understand that a major vacation doesn't come easily or frequently for most of our clients, and our passion is making their big deal our big deal," Helit concludes. "Our return rate is over eighty percent, but we don't consider our guests a conglomerate of clients, but many thrilled individuals."



## Kosher Rustic

Kosher Rustic's all-inclusive five-day programs in three remote scenic settings afford Jewish travelers access to a vacation experience otherwise prohibitively inconvenient for the *frum* family.

Glacier National Park, where Kosher Rustic hosts two consecutive July tours, is nestled in picturesque Montana. Known as the Crown of the Continent, it is home to two mountain ranges, 130 lakes, and over one million acres of untouched land. In August, Kosher Rustic guests explore the vastness of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Floating down the Snake River or exploring the endless trails,

intrepid travelers experience nature at its finest. They also enjoy excursions into Yellowstone National Park, a more well-known destination featuring a dramatic canyon, alpine rivers, lush forests, hot springs and gushing geysers — most famously, Old Faithful. It's also home to a fascinating range of wildlife, including wolves, bison, elk and antelope.

Kosher Rustic's tours are custom-tailored for each client. When a client books a trip with Yitzi Kessock, he specifies his family size, attraction preference, and any other specifics to make his trip as enjoyable as possible for *his* family and their dream vacation.

With food catered by five-star chef Seth Warshaw of ETC Steakhouse in Teaneck and daily *minyanim* and *shiurim*

*continued on page 42*