



Charleston to
the Bahamas
Feb. 11-16, 2018



What to expect?



ConVoluted CON Cruise 2018

Disclaimer

All information included in this presentation is based on “To the best of our knowledge”. ConVoluted is organizing this cruise and is not affiliated with Carnival Cruise Lines or iCruises.com in any official capacity.

All bookings and payments go through iCruises.com and all services are provided by Carnival Cruise lines.

Both Carnival Cruise lines and iCruises.com were chosen for this as both companies have excellent reputations and provide quality service.

ConVoluted is simply the group organizer. We have prepared this guide based on the best information that we could find however some unintentional inaccuracies could be possible. We will make every attempt to correct any inaccurate information as soon as we are aware of it.



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Introductions.

ConVoluted

- J Wright – Founder and Originator of Bad Ideas
- Kristie Nelson – Founder and Creative Muse
- Adam Chamely – Founder and Tech Director
- Kelli Kleiss – Guilty by Association
- Melissa Sylvester – Original Member and Co-Conspirator

MarksterCon

- Mark Baggett

Girls of the Con

- Traci Tant



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Why a CON Cruise??

The idea for the CON Cruise started right after DragonCon a few years ago. We love DragonCon but it has grown to the point that we do not get to see many of our friends and we do not meet as many new people each year. Too crowded and not as intimate as it used to be.

With DragonCon growing to the point that it is so hard to get a room and then having to fight crowds to get anywhere, Could we somehow create a smaller event that would be closer to the CON`s of old that we were so fond of?

We went on a Cruise and had a great time and while on board, It hit us, What if we got a bunch of our CON Friends to joins us on a Epic Cruise? A 4 day floating party with geeks like us. No Panels or Guests, Just great people hanging out and enjoying each others company and having a great time.

And the Inaugural ConVoluted CON Cruise was born.



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Cruise Details

Requirements

Passports are not technically required to go on a closed loop cruise to Mexico, however in the event that anything interrupts your cruise (illness, accident or legal problems) you will need a passport to get back into the US. It is best to get a passport and make sure it is up to date.

Payment Schedule

All cabins should be paid in full at this time. People can still join us but full payment will be due at time of Booking.



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What you need to do in advance:

- 1. Get your passport.** You can also use a copy of your birth certificate AND a photo ID however it is highly recommended that you get a passport. Verify with Carnival that your ID is acceptable in advance.
- 2. Register on Carnival.com and add your booking to the account.** Complete all the passenger information and then print out your luggage tags and other documentation.

YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE AT CARNIVAL.COM AND COMPLETE ONLINE CHECK-IN IN ADVANCE OR YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BOARD THE SHIP.



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What to do when you register on Carnival.Com:

- 1. Verify Passenger Information** - Check to make sure the passenger information is correct and Matches your Passport and/or Birth Certificate.
- 2. Add Your Passport Information** – This will be verified at check-in at the cruise port.
- 3. Setup Your Onboard Spending Account** – Every passenger MUST have an onboard account backed by either a credit card or by a cash deposit. Beware using a debit card as they will put a hold on funds.
- 4. Print Your boarding documents and luggage tags** – It is critical you do this in advance of getting to the cruise port as you drop off luggage first thing when getting to the cruise port. They need the Carnival Printed Luggage tags on your bags to know where to deliver your luggage on the ship.



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Charleston

- **Hotels** – The official hotel is the Holiday Inn Express Downtown Charleston Ashley River/Medical Area. Many of us will be coming in several days before the cruise and will be staying at this hotel.
- **Parking** – Parking at the Sea Port is \$20 per day, Offsite parking can be found for less (\$15 a day) near the sea port.
- **Transportation from Hotel to Cruise Port** – Uber or Lyft is your friend. We looked into group shuttles and it was too expensive. The port is 3.4 miles from the Hotel. Uber is about \$7 to \$10 per car. Much cheaper than \$15 per person for a shuttle.

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What to expect on February 1th

- Arrive at the Sea Port no later than 1pm.
- First step will be **Luggage Drop Off** (Have your preprinted luggage tags printed out from your Carnival.com account clearly attached to your Luggage)
- **You can only carry on one small personal bag on to the ship.** Make sure any essentials you need are in your carry on bag as your luggage will not be delivered to your Cabin for several hours.
- **Next Step is Security.** This will be much like Airport Screening with X-ray Belt and Metal Detectors. **You can not bring any weapons onboard or anything that resembles a weapon** (Much like boarding a plane).
- **Next is the Booze Police.** These guys will inspect any Liquids you are carrying on to make sure it is not alcohol. They are very good at their job. You are allowed one bottle of wine per person.



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- **Next is check in.** Here an agent will inspect your documents (Passport and Boarding Documents printed from Carnival .com). Once that is done then they will take your pictures and print out your Sail and Sign Card. This card is the only thing you need on the ship. It is your room key and the only accepted method of paying for anything on the ship. You will also be assigned a Boarding group number at this time.
- **Wait for your Boarding group number to be called.** Once your group number is called, You will be able to board the ship.
- Once onboard, **Try to locate your cabin.** There are maps on all floors to help you.
- **Your Cabin may not be immediately ready** (They just completed a cruise and have to clean all cabins for the new guests). Sometimes it can be a little while before your cabin is ready for you.



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- **If your cabin is not ready**, Head to the Lido deck and hit the Buffet by the pool and/or explore the ship.
- **If your cabin is ready**, Freshen up and then Head to the Lido Deck and hit the Buffet and/or Explore the ship.
- **Muster – Soon as you get onboard, you will hear many announcements about “Muster”**. Muster is brief Lifeboat training exercise that is required by the US coast Guard. This is Mandatory and can not be skipped. You will be told where your muster station is during check in. Shortly after we sail, ALL passengers must report to their Muster Stations for a safety briefing. This usually only takes about 20 minutes.
- **After Muster**, Get ready for Dinner and meet us all in the Main Dining Room.

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What to do onboard

- **Art Auctions** – Avoid these like the plague. Go for the free champagne but leave soon as you get your free drink. The art sucks and is absurdly overpriced. They auction off “prints” and the bidding starts at \$2,000 per print. It is not really an auction and almost nothing sells as it is just too expensive.
- **Comedy Shows** – Check them out. Great comedians and it is free.
- **Shows** – Nightly productions take place in the Ballrooms with Musical Plays and such. The schedule will be on your daily itinerary.
- **Casino** – Table Games, Slots and other games of chance are all there. You can't lose if you don't play.
- **Night Clubs** – Several to choose from. Late night Dance Club, Piano Bar and Jazz bars are all waiting to be found.
- **Spa** – For those that want to be pampered, The spa is waiting. All services do cost extra.
- **Pool Area** – Always something going on at the Pool Area. DJ's, Contests and other activities throughout the day.
- **Serenity** – Adults only section of the Ship. Kid free area to relax and lay out in the sun or hang out in one of the Hot Tubs.



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Booze

YES Please!!! – Lots of Bars!! Lots of people selling Huge Fu Fu Drinks. They are NOT free. Drinks range from \$6 to \$14 each and are all charged to your room with your sail and sign card. If you only have a drink or two, paying by the drink is the way to go but if you drink like us, The Cheers package is the way to go.

- With the Cheers Package you get up to 15 Drinks a day for a flat \$50 per day per person. You must buy for the entire cruise if you buy the package. You cannot buy day by day. Also everyone over 21 in you cabin must also buy the package (this is to prevent one person from buying it and splitting it with their cabin mate).



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Photography

From the time you start boarding, Photographers will be asking if you want your picture taken. These pictures are posted nightly near the Atrium and if you like them, you can buy them. They have packages if you want different prints. Not cheap but we bought a few as they were pretty good last time.

ConVoluted will also have our own official Group Photographers that will share all their amazing pictures at the end of the cruise.



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ConVoluted Schedule (Tentative schedule, Final Schedule will not be ready till right before we cruise as that is when the cruise director will let us know what times we will have space available for group activities)

Sunday:

- Noon till 4pm – Boarding
- 4PM – Set Sail
- 4 pm till 5pm – Muster Drill (Mandatory safety briefing, All must attend)
- 6pm – Dinner in the main Dining Room
- 9pm - 11pm – ConVoluted Meet and Greet and Swag Bag Pickup on the Lido Deck.



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Monday:

- 8am- noon – Brunch and hanging out poolside
- 2pm – 3 pm (**Tentative –TIME and Day May CHANGE**) – Private Cocktail Party for our group. Free Booze and socializing.
- 3pm – 4:30 pm – ConVoluted Geek Team Trivia
- 6pm – Dinner in the main Dining Hall (Formal Night)
- 8pm Until ??– Shows, Comedy Acts, Bars, Casino or just hanging out by the Pools.
- 9pm – Meet poolside for Cards against Humanity (**Please bring your own deck if you have one**)



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ConVolutEd Schedule (Tentative schedule, Final Schedule will not be ready till right before we cruise as that is when the cruise director will let us know what times we will have space available for group activities)

Tuesday:

- 8 am – 5 pm – Princess Cay
- 6pm – Dinner in the main Dining Hall
- 8pm Until ??– Shows, Comedy Acts, Bars, Casino or just hanging out by the Pools.
- 9pm until ?? – ConVolutEd Takeover of the Piano Bar (This is unofficial, Just a good central gathering place for our group)



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Wednesday:

- 8 am – 5 pm – Nassau
- 6pm – Dinner in the main Dining Hall
- 8pm Until ??– Shows, Comedy Acts, Bars, Casino or just hanging out by the Pools.
- 9pm until ?? – ConVoluted Takeover of the China Town Lounge (This is unofficial, Just a good central gathering place for our group)



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Thursday:

- Day at Sea - All Day Cosplay
- 8am-noon – Brunch
- 1:30pm -3:30pm – (**Tentative – TIME May Change!**) Convoluted gathering in main ballroom, Costume Contest, Awards and Entertainment.
- 6pm – Dinner in main dining hall
- 8pm Until ??– Shows, Comedy Acts, Bars, Casino or just hanging out by the Pools.
- 9pm until ?? – ConVoluted Pirate Pub Crawl! Wear your best pirate garb and lets hit all the bars on board the ship!!



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End of Cruise

Room Charges - There are Kiosks throughout the ship that you can check anytime to see any charges you made to your sail and sign card.

Gratuities - \$12 per day per person is automatically added to your sail and sign account for Gratuities. You can change this amount but keep in mind the gratuities are divided between your housekeeping staff, Bartenders, Luggage handlers and most other staff on board. This is the majority of their income.

Staged debarkation times - On the last day of the cruise (Monday Morning) you will be given a group number and time to get off the ship. Your checked luggage will need to be placed outside your room to be collected. Your luggage will leave the ship before you do.

Collecting Luggage - Once you get off the ship you will go to baggage claim and look for the Number of your group. Your luggage will be there waiting for you.



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See you on the Cruise!