



Photos by: Max Barber, Mo and Simon Johnson

**Atlantis**  
THE WAY WE PLAY

**Max Barber weighs anchor and goes in search of salty seamen on a gay cruise round the Bahamas.**

# the men from atlantis

IF the trip to the pearly gates was by sea, then you'd choose Royal Caribbean's ostentatious new super liner: The S.S Freedom of The Seas, (S.S stands for Sex at Sea). But why wait to die and go to heaven when you can do it with Atlantis Cruises anytime? On 27th January 2007 the chartered vessel left Miami for the annual gay 'Carry On Around The Bahamas' with all the shenanigans and sauce you'd expect from 3,500 gay seamen over a week. Yes, it is the world's biggest cruise ship, which translated, means six inches longer than Cunard's Queen Mary 2, but by no means less impressive.

Leaving the shitty British winter behind we set sail for seven sun-baked days of partying, sight seeing and hanky panky. The first two days at sea got off to grand start with numerous deck parties and the Mardi Gras Extravaganza, culminating in a huge show along the four story shopping mall - yes, shopping mall - that runs the length of the ship.

Next day was a stop at the historic port of San Juan in Puerto Rico for some history, culture, and shoplifting. Back on board in the evening was an electric 90's Diva's Party, right through until sunrise as boys played around naked in the hot tubs.

Wednesday we docked at the French/Dutch island of St.Maarten where numerous beach excursions, water activities and dolphin harpooning (just kidding) was a great way to lose the hangover. As we set back to sea, Joan Rivers, with Britain's Kit and The Widow, gave a knockout comedy show in the theatre. To top it off, legendary DJ, Junior Vasquez, spun the tunes in the packed out Studio B below decks.

Thursday and the 70's Tea dance sent classic,

high-energy tunes across the ocean. With much of the ship dressed in 70's gear, this was to be one of the campiest parties of the week, climaxing in a shift into the 1980s with a live performance courtesy of ABC.

Heading towards the weekend saw an opportunity to chill once more as the vessel anchored at the idealic Labadee, Haiti. With white sandy beaches, scantily clad totty and turquoise waters, it was photo proof we had indeed visited paradise. As the ship left port the numerous club events got underway including a classic White Party on the pool deck, a euphoric event, with decadence in abundance and blow jobs given out willy-nilly on the dance floor.

We can only skim over what's on offer on an Atlantis cruise, but we were in awe of the choice of events laid on: from Bears, leather and singles nights, to art auctions and keep fit. The scale of the ship is equally impressive: a casino, cinema, ice skating rink, rock-climbing wall, gym, surf riding pool, golf course, Poseidon Adventure style dining rooms, and even a chapel if you need to repent (or find an unused space for an intimate encounter).

Atlantis is an American cruise line, so out of the thousands on board, only 300 were non-US citizens, so we quickly got used to the bubble gum and hot dogs. Even less was the female presence with only 37 on board so clearly a gay man's trip. However, it's not all young party boys on board - although there were lashings of up-for-it eye candy - there was a good mix of age groups along with themed events to cater for all generations.

With these gay cruises, you can do as little or as much shagging and partying as you want. There



was 'gossip' of a G related death while at sea and some over-indulgent boys were expelled from the boat after being found passed out on the substance in the public areas, so do let that be a warning.

Thankfully the price of the cruise includes all your tips, and as much nosh as you can scoff from the 24-hour bars and restaurants. The only thing you pay for is alcohol, but with the strong pound and drinks coming in Sue Ellen sizes you'll find your bill at the end of the week surprisingly reasonable. You can use mobile phones and internet on board but the prices would make Bill Gates frown, so that would be the only whinge.

**Atlantis runs Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean cruises, all year around, [www.atlantisevents.com](http://www.atlantisevents.com). Go, enjoy, show those US party boys how to do it UK style.**