

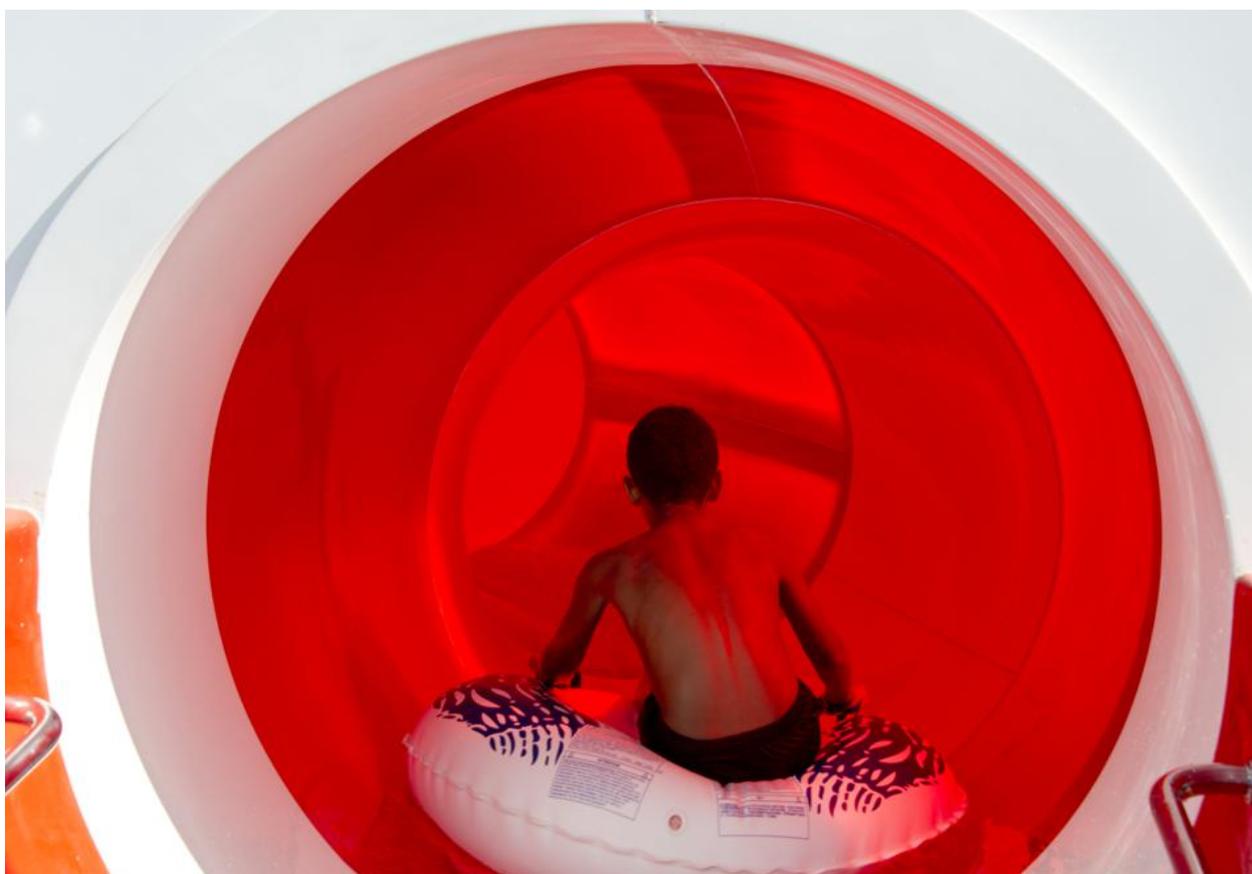
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Traveling With A Child With ADHD Or Autism? Try A Cruise



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Travel



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tough for parents to know where to go on vacation. Well, it's just gotten a little easier.

Carnival Cruise Line is the first cruise operator to be certified “sensory inclusive” by **KultureCity**, the world’s leading nonprofit organization dedicated to accessibility and inclusion for individuals with sensory needs and invisible disabilities.

The guest-facing crew (so staff members that interact with passengers in the kids’ club, dining area and guest services) have been trained to understand and help with kids and adults with sensory-related needs related such as Autism, ADHD, Down syndrome and PTSD.

KultureCity is currently on the the majority of Carnival's 27-ship fleet and it will be on the remaining ships by April. What does this mean for guests? They can check out KultureCity sensory backpacks to be used during the duration of the cruise. Items in the pack are meant to help calm, relax and manage sensory overload. The bag has noise-canceling headphones (provided by Puro Sound Labs), fidget toys, and a visual feeling thermometer (produced in conjunction with Boardmaker), as well as a KultureCity VIP lanyard to help staff easily identify guests.

There are over 450 land-based venues like stadiums, arenas and amusement parks have partnered with KultureCity to great success. Carnival has received positive feedback so far.

Families can inquire at guest services about borrowing a sensory bag full of the calming tools and request other **accommodations** that might prove helpful. The cruise line currently shows informational videos on the stateroom TVs designed to create greater awareness among guests.

"Carnival Cruise Line and KultureCity share a heartfelt commitment to acceptance and inclusivity. Working together, all of our guests can maximize their enjoyment and be the truest versions of themselves during their time onboard," said Vicky Rey, Carnival's vice president of guest care and communications and the company's ADA Responsibility Officer.

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"We're proud and grateful to partner with Carnival Cruise Line, offering guests with sensory needs an opportunity to more fully enjoy their vacations and create wonderful memories with their friends, families and loved ones. We appreciate Carnival Cruise Line for taking this important step in making their vacations accessible to everyone," said Dr. Julian Maha, co-founder, KultureCity.

In addition to the KultureCity certification, Carnival will be the first cruise operator to complete an additional special needs certification program offered by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES).

The IBCCES program includes 17 continuing education units (CEUs) of training in a variety of special needs, such as Autism, Down Syndrome, mobility issues, and various other disabilities. Additionally, Carnival's youth staff have different resources on hand to help soothe, calm and entertain children participating in our youth programs, such as weighted

vests, conversation cards, sensory games and other aids.

Says Myron Pincomb, board chairman of IBCCES: “It has been a pleasure working with the Carnival team. Their unwavering passion to go above and beyond to create the best experience possible allows guests of all abilities to 'Choose Fun'.”

“Carnival Cruise Line is to be commended for training their staff about autism and offering sensory bags that will enable individuals with autism and their families to have an enjoyable cruise,” Dr. Temple Grandin, a renowned autism advocate and author and one of the first individuals on the autism spectrum to document the insights she gained from her personal experience with autism.

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