



Fiber Garden
— LLC —

2015 Fall Handspinners Cruise

October 8-17, 2015

Liberty of the Seas[®]

Cruise Planning Guide





Fiber Garden
LLC

2015 Fall Handspinners Cruise

Welcome aboard!

I am looking forward to personally welcoming you on board the beautiful *Liberty of the Seas*, one of the amazing ships in the Freedom class of Royal Caribbean's fleet. As one of the largest cruise ships at sea, this ship is filled with many innovative "firsts" at sea and you can look forward to many adventures both on-board and in our five ports-of-call.

This guide has been developed to assist you in preparing for your cruise. *You are responsible for reading and understanding all of the information in this guide.* If at any time you have questions, please ask. I am here to help make this a great vacation for you. Don't risk problems once you arrive at port because you were unprepared or uninformed! The information contained in these pages is *not all inclusive*, but it will provide you with the most important information you will need to prepare for and enjoy your cruise.

You will find an abundance of information in the ["Prepare and Go"](#) section of the Royal Caribbean website which can be accessed from the home page.

If you are using this guide as a print copy, I have provided a list of the links referenced on page 11.

Have a safe trip to Newark and Cape Liberty and I'll see you at the "meet and greet" at 4:30 p.m. on October 8 to kick-off our adventure at sea!

With appreciation!

Deb

Deb Jones, Owner
Fiber Garden LLC
Travel Consultant



Fiber Garden LLC

2015 Fall Handspinners Cruise

Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas®

October 8 - 17, 2015

Group Cruise Itinerary

Date	Day	Evening
Thursday, Oct 8	<p>Embarkation at Cape Liberty Cruise Port. <i>Guests are required to be on board 90 minutes prior to departure.</i></p> <p>2:45 p.m. ALL ABOARD!!</p> <p>3:15 p.m. Guest assembly drill. Attendance at this drill is required. Listen to announcements for instructions. Decks 4 and 5.</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Liberty of the Seas sails away from Cape Liberty on our 9 night journey!</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Hand spinners group introductory gathering. Spinner's family and friends welcome. Meet your cruise mates and fellow spinners; brief orientation to the cruise. (Olive or Twist, Deck 14)</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. Group dinner (same time each evening) Main Dining Room</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Welcome aboard show. Platinum theatre, Decks 3 & 4</p> <p>9:00 p.m. Spin-In Schooner bar, Deck 4 (please note that all spin-in locations are subject to change and will be confirmed each day at dinner)</p>
Friday, Oct 9	<p>At Sea</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Color in Spinning Session 1. A relaxed day of fiber preparation and spinning with the ocean scenery as our inspiration! Today's session will have a primary focus on the basics of color theory in fibers and fiber preparation to create and manipulate color in your yarns. (9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Skylight Chapel on Deck 15; 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Olive or Twist Lounge on Deck 14)</p> <p>4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Hand spinners group private reception. Reception will feature domestic and</p>	<p>5:30 Dinner - Formal night Main Dining Room</p> <p>8:15 "In the Air", Platinum theatre, Decks 3 & 4</p> <p>9:30 p.m. Spin-In The Sphinx, Deck 5</p>

	imported beer, wines by the glass, house sparkling wine, soda, juices, mixers, one featured specialty cocktail. Friends and family of spinners welcome (Olive or Twist, Deck 14)	
Saturday, Oct 10	7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. in port Boston, Massachusetts Explore Boston on your own; register for a shore excursion; or relax on board the ship	5:30 Dinner Main Dining Room 8:45 p.m. Ventriloquist Brad Cummings, Platinum theatre, Decks 3 & 4 10:00 p.m. Spin-In Hoof & Claw Pub – Deck 5
Sunday, Oct 11	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in port Portland, Maine 9:00 a.m. Fiber Garden private group tour to Spunky Eclectic, Halcyon Yarn, and Port Fibers. Lunch at Kennebec Tavern in Bath.	5:30 Dinner Main Dining Room 8:45 p.m. Piano Showman Craig Dahn, Platinum theatre, Decks 3 & 4 10:00 p.m. Spin-In Vintages Wine Bar, Deck 5
Monday, Oct 12	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. in port Bar Harbor, Maine (Tendered) Explore Bar Harbor on your own; register for a shore excursion; or relax on board the ship	5:30 Dinner Main Dining Room 8:45 p.m. Don Gavin, the Godfather of Boston Comedy, Platinum theatre, Decks 3 & 4 10:00 p.m. Spin-In Royal Promenade, Deck 5
Tuesday, Oct 13	11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. in port Saint John, New Brunswick Explore Saint John on your own; visit Legacy Lane Fiber Mill and enjoy a fall colors tour with the Fiber Garden; enjoy a cruise line sponsored shore excursion, or relax on board the ship	5:30 Dinner Main Dining Room 7:15 p.m. The Action & Comedy of Rick Novell, Platinum Theatre, Decks 3 & 4 8:30 Spin-In Solarium pool, Deck 11
Wednesday, Oct 14	At Sea 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Color in Spinning Session 2. Today's session will focus on various techniques for spinning carded rolags and dyed tops to vary the color effects. (Olive or Twist on Deck 14). 2:30 p.m. Special "tea time" break. Spinner's guests welcome. While our spinning session	5:30 Dinner – Formal night Main Dining Room 8:45 p.m. Saturday Night Fever, Platinum Theatre, Decks 3 & 4 10:00 p.m. Spin-In Champagne Bar, Deck 5

	continues, enjoy an array of delicious tarts, cakes, and cookies, along with coffee, tea, juice and water. (Olive or Twist on Deck 14)	
Thursday, Oct 15	<p>7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in port Halifax, Nova Scotia</p> <p>Explore Halifax on your own; register for a shore excursion; or relax on board the ship</p>	<p>5:30 Dinner Main Dining Room</p> <p>8:45 p.m. Vocal Entertainer Bobby Arvon, Platinum Theatre, Decks 3 & 4</p> <p>10:00 p.m. Spin-In Windjammer Café, Deck 11</p>
Friday, Oct 16	<p>At Sea</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Color in Spinning Session 3. Today's focus will be on designing your own yarns inspired by colors in the photographs you have taken during the cruise. Bring along your smartphone or camera and your charging cord so we can print some of the photos you have taken. You will identify colors and proportions; blend the colors you need and spin your inspired yarn! (9:00 – 11:00 in the Skylight Chapel on deck 15; 11:00 – 4:30 p.m. in Olive or Twist on Deck 14)</p>	<p>5:30 Dinner Main Dining Room</p> <p>8:45 p.m. The Magic & Comedy of Levent, Platinum Theatre, Decks 3 & 4</p> <p>10:00 p.m. Spin-In and ice cream social/farewell party; spinners guests welcome. Royal Promenade, Deck 5</p>
Saturday, Oct 17	<p>7:00 a.m. Cape Liberty, Bayonne NJ Disembarkation</p> <p>For those participating in the optional post-cruise tour to Rhinebeck, transportation to the festival in Rhinebeck and hotel in Poughkeepsie will be provided after we disembark.</p>	

Itinerary is subject to change. This schedule was created to allow spinners the opportunity to participate in all of the spinning activities and "main event" evening theatre shows. All activities are optional. In addition to the entertainment listed, there are many other entertainment options in a variety of ship venues.

Prepare for Your Cruise

What to pack

- Weather. Average temperatures for the dates and region we will be traveling can be expected to be in the mid-upper 50's during the days and low-mid 40's overnight. Your daily Cruise Compass will have the weather forecast for each day of our trip.
- Days. Casual is the name of the game! Jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, whether on board or in port. Be comfortable and dress in layers so you can be comfortable in any weather. I will be bringing only two or three pairs of jeans to wear during the day with long sleeve shirts, a sweatshirt, and my double layered jacket that has a fleece layer that can be worn alone and an outer layer for added warmth. I will wear my jacket during my travels so it will not need to be packed in my suitcase. Bring clothes that you can mix and match...you don't need a new outfit every day! (You will see me in duplicate outfits on several days!)
- Evening dinners are casual/smart casual except for our two formal nights. On casual dinners, nice pants (khakis or dress pants) are fine with a sport shirt for men and blouse or sweater for women. Smart casual nights suggest a sport coat for men. Formal nights suggest a suit and tie (or tuxedo) for men, and a cocktail dress for women. (The tuxedo is NOT necessary and women do not need to be in "full formal" attire. A nice skirt or dress will do just fine.) For what it's worth, I will be bringing a couple of pairs of pants for casual/smart casual dinners and one simple dress that you will see me in on both formal nights. Plan to "recycle" your clothes so you don't over pack. Everyone in our group will be very understanding. After all, we need to have plenty of room for all those fibers!
- A robe if you want one. Robes are not provided in staterooms.
- If you plan to visit the fitness center, bring appropriate shoes and clothing.
- Comfortable shoes are a MUST! It's a large ship and you'll do a lot of walking each day as well as in the ports-of-call.
- The Solarium pool is an indoor, adults-only pool. If you'd like to enjoy it, bring a swim suit.
- On the day you board, you will want to pack a carry-on bag with any essentials you might need during the day until after dinner. Luggage will be delivered to your stateroom by cruise line staff. You want to have everything you might need, including medications, in your possession in case your luggage has not yet arrived at your stateroom.
- For additional information, visit the ["what to pack"](#) page on the RCI website.
- Your insurance coverage. For those of you who purchased travel insurance, follow the link in the policy confirmation I sent you which will take you to your policy page. There you will be able to print a copy of your coverages. This print-out will also include a page with emergency contact information wallet cards as well as identifying information to place into your luggage tags in case your luggage is lost.
- If you are participating in one or more shore excursions offered through Shore Trips (the excursion company doing our private group tours and the Tastes of Annapolis tour), be sure

and print your tour vouchers and bring them with you! The confirmation I sent you for each of the tours you are confirmed for has a link to your reservation and instructions for printing your vouchers. If you cannot locate the confirmation emails, contact me and I will resend them.

- The name tag that will be sent to you from the Fiber Garden prior to the cruise. Please wear your nametags to the "meet and greet" on the day we board and through the following day until everyone knows each other. The name tag holder will also come in handy for your SeaPass card.
- For those participating in the spinning workshops (which is everyone except Sue K and Barth):
 - Spinning wheel, bobbins, oil bottle, niddy-noddy. (If you are renting a wheel, these items will all be provided.)
 - Any fibers you'd like to spin during our evening spin-ins. (You can also spin fibers from the day spinning workshops.)

What NOT to pack

- Extension cords, knives, and scissors with a blade length over 4" are not permitted. (I will be bringing scissors for our spinning workshops.)
- [Please review the complete list](#) of items that are banned from the ship.
- Hairdryers. They are provided in your stateroom.
- Too much stuff!! Pack light and save room for the treasures you'll want to collect during your trip!

Set-up An On-line Account with Royal Caribbean. [Visit this page](#) and click on "log-in" in the upper right corner. Follow the directions for creating an account for yourself. You will need your reservation number. If you do not know your number, you will find it on any of the invoices I sent. If you cannot find it, email me and I will provide it for you. This will make accessing on-line check-in, the cruise planner, viewing the cruise itinerary, etc. more accessible.

On-line check-in. Anytime between now and three days prior to your cruise you should access the on-line check-in link through your RCI account dashboard and clicking on the on-line check-in tab or visit the [on-line check-in page](#) directly and complete your check-in. This check-in and printing of your SetSail pass MUST be completed three days prior to your trip departure!! Failure to do so will cause significant delays on boarding day. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO YOUR ON-LINE CHECK-IN! In the event you have a problem with the technology, have a question, etc., you will not want to be rushed to get the problem resolved. The on-line check in page has a list of information you will need in order to do your check in. Be sure and gather all of this information prior to beginning the check-in process so you do not get timed out of the system.

You will need your reservation number in order to access the check-in process if you have not set up an account.

Cruise Luggage Tags. As a part of the check-in process you will be able to print your paper luggage tags that will *need to be attached to each of your pieces of luggage* so the cruise line gets your suitcase to the correct stateroom! These paper tags are a real hassle to try and secure so they do not rip off during luggage handling. To alleviate this problem, the Fiber Garden is providing each of you a plastic holder designed specifically to hold these cruise luggage tags. Your luggage will have two tags. The "regular" tag that you will have with your name, address, etc., and the cruise line tag that will be placed in the holder from the Fiber Garden to direct the cruise staff in delivering your luggage.

Cruise planner. Now it's time for some fun! There are LOTS of opportunities for fun on board! There is plenty to do without spending a penny and there are many options for a fee. Visit the [Cruise Planner](#) page and check out some of the opportunities or access the Planner through the tab on your account page. Here are the things you can reserve through the cruise planner. Please note that all of these have a fee attached to them:

- Sign up for cruise-line sponsored shore excursions. On our days in port that you do not currently have anything planned, you might find an excursion through the cruise line that you will enjoy.
- Make reservations for specialty dining restaurants. Our group will enjoy dinner together every evening at 5:30 p.m. in the main dining room. However, you might choose to forego our group dinner one or more evenings and treat yourself to dining in one of the specialty restaurants.
- Sign up for a beverage package. (Unless you plan to drink a lot, these are expensive and you'll probably come out ahead by purchasing your beverages individually.)
- Sign up for internet packages if you want to stay connected at sea. Internet service can be spotty at times, so don't count on it to be as fast and reliable as your home internet. Plus, it's not cheap. You will probably be able to get Wi-Fi access on our days in port at some of the places you might choose to visit.
- Make an appointment for a spa treatment.
- Sign-up for some special on-line activities.

Please note that you do NOT need to reserve any of these things in advance. If you decide to experience one of these offerings, reservations can be made after you are on board the ship. Waiting to make reservations might mean some limited availability, but you should still be able to participate. For myself, I plan to enjoy all of the activities and meals included in the cruise fare that I already paid...so it's not necessary to pay for these extra activities to still have an awesome cruise!

Information for those arriving on October 7.

We will be staying at the [Country Inn & Suites, Newark Airport](#). The address is 100 Glimcher Realty Way in Elizabeth, NJ. Phone number is 908-282-0020. Reservations are confirmed and all rooms are under the same confirmation number of JFLSWWV. Hotel check-in is at 3:00 and check-out is at noon.

The hotel has a free airport shuttle service. The shuttle runs from the Newark Airport Air Tran Station P4 every 30 minutes, 15 minutes past the hour and 15 minutes before the hour. Once you arrive and pick up your baggage, ask an airport host to point you to the correct station.

The hotel has free wi-fi and a complimentary breakfast buffet in addition to an indoor pool.

When you check into the hotel you will need to purchase your transfer to the cruise port the next morning. You will want a one-way transfer and the cost will be \$17.50 per person (subject to change). The hotel will probably ask you to select a time that you'd like to be transported to Cape Liberty.

For dinner we will meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00 p.m. and walk a couple of blocks to enjoy dinner together as a group at Red Robin. It will be an opportunity to meet some of your cruise companions and talk about our upcoming adventure. *Mary Jean, Sue H, and Ann...I'm not sure how far you live from where we will be staying. If you are nearby, please feel free to join us for dinner! Just let me know in advance to expect you. You can meet us at the hotel lobby.*

Arrival at Cape Liberty Cruise Port/Embarkation. Following are some tips to help make the boarding process go more smoothly. It can be a bit of a "cattle call" and you'll want to prepare yourself! 😊

- Boarding times will be stated on your cruise documentation which you will be able to access sometime after you complete your on-line check in. Do not arrive prior to the start of the boarding time. This will simply make your wait longer.
- Once you arrive at the cruise port, your large luggage will be taken by the porters and you will be left with anything you want to carry on board including spinning wheels and your carry-on bag. You'll see luggage stacked like never before! Sometime in the afternoon or early evening your suitcase will magically appear in your stateroom.
- Be patient! Many people will probably try and get to the port early and this can mean long lines. You might want to consider getting a later transfer to the cruise port to avoid the first "rush". Getting through the embarkation process can take anywhere from thirty minutes up to two hours depending on the lines. Take a deep breath and don't let the occasional hassle of boarding start your vacation off on the wrong note. Soon you will step foot on board a beautiful ship and your cares will be wiped away! (At least that's how it's supposed to be!)
- Have your cruise documents ready so you are not fumbling for them when you arrive at the front of the line at a check-in station! This documentation includes:

- Proof of citizenship (passport, or driver's license AND original copy of your birth certificate.)
 - The credit card you registered during on-line check-in that will be used for your on-board account.
 - Your SetSail Pass.
- Upon boarding the ship there will be plenty of friendly Royal Caribbean staff that will point you in the right direction to get you to your stateroom.
 - After you are on the ship most people have the same thought..."let's go eat"! The Windjammer Café is located on Deck 11 and is the buffet which is open most of the time. It is a beautiful venue with windows surrounding for a great ocean view. Because eating locations are more limited on boarding day, sometimes the Windjammer can be congested, but it has seating for more than 700 people, so waits should be manageable. You might also check out some other eating options by wandering along the Royal Promenade and scoping out the selections. The main dining rooms will not be open for lunch on embarkation day. They will be open for breakfast and lunch on the remaining days of the trip.
 - Sometime prior to 4:30 p.m., head up to Deck 14 to the Olive or Twist lounge (with your name tag on!)for our meet and greet and to kick-off our cruise! Our gathering will be followed by dinner in the main dining room.

Post Cruise/Disembarking. Prior to the end of the cruise, you will be given instructions for disembarking the ship. The last night at sea you will need to place your suitcase outside your stateroom by a specified time for the staff to pick up and take to the terminal. On the morning of disembarking, you will be asked to be out of your stateroom by a stated time and gather in a specified location (typically a dining room, lounge, etc.) Announcements regarding when and where to disembark will be made. All you need to do is follow the instructions!

If you have purchased a transfer from the cruise port to the Newark airport, there will be buses waiting at the port and you will be instructed where to go to board them.

For those going on to Rhinebeck, we will discuss our meeting arrangements near the end of the cruise. I expect we will be able to arrive at the Festival sometime around noon that day. Your tickets have already been purchased and printed and I will be bringing them along.

Let's Make This A Great Trip!

Links

If you are using this guide in print form, you'll need the links referred to throughout the pages!

Page 2:

- "Prepare and Go": <https://secure.royalcaribbean.com/>

Page 4:

- Kennebec Tavern: <http://www.kennebectavern.com/>

Page 6:

- "What to pack":
<http://www.royalcaribbean.com/beforeyouboard/whatToKnow/whatToPack.do>

Page 7:

- "Review the complete list" (of banned items):
<http://www.royalcaribbean.com/beforeyouboard/whatToKnow/whatToPack.do>. (Same link as above, scroll to the bottom of the page.)
- "Visit this page" (to set up an account): <https://secure.royalcaribbean.com/>
- "On-line check-in page":
<https://secure.royalcaribbean.com/beforeyouboard/boardingDocuments.do?cS=NAVBAR&pnav=3&snav=2>

Page 8:

- "Cruise Planner": <http://www.royalcaribbean.com/cruiseplanner>

Page 9:

- "Country Inn & Suites": <http://www.countryinns.com/elizabeth-hotel-nj-07201/njnewark>