

Meet a Frequent Cruiser

Rancho Cucamonga-based gospel singer **Lillie Knauls**, a.k.a. "Miss Lillie," has sailed on at least 14 cruises over the past 33 years. Westways recently caught up with this 50-year Auto Club member to learn why she favors cruise vacations.



FUN FACT: Lillie Knauls was one of the Edwin Hawkins Singers, the group responsible for the chart-topping "Oh Happy Day."

Why are you such an avid cruise fan?

It is the best vacation you can have for the money—being able to go to exotic places, have all the food I care to eat, and see fabulous Las Vegas-style entertainment without the Las Vegas prices.

What do you like best about cruising?

I love that a ship carrying 5,000-plus passengers is able to make everyone happy. I love that I can be away from my cell phone.

What's your favorite shipboard activity?

Well, I do not swim or go zip lining, so I hang out in the library reading books or playing Scrabble. I also like to dance to the "oldies," and I will talk to anyone who wants to talk. On a cruise, it's easy to connect with folks; you never have to be lonely.

What was your favorite cruise?

My 70th birthday cruise—101 friends flew in from all over to come along on a Mexican Riviera cruise. Also, my 75th birthday cruise on [Royal Caribbean International's] *Allure of the Seas*, the largest cruise ship in the world; we went to the Eastern Caribbean. But it doesn't always matter where I go. For me, the ship itself is a great experience.

Anything you don't like about cruising?

How they sometimes push the drinks on ships. And sometimes they don't have "clean" comedians. There are many things to laugh about without being crude.

What advice would you give to someone who is considering a cruise?

My AAA travel agent has been wonderful. He knows exactly what I need and lets me know about great rates or last-minute deals. Everyone must cruise at least once. Once you begin, you will go often, to meet new friends and learn about new cultures.

What do you like best about cruising? Share your thoughts by emailing us at westways@aaa-calif.com.