

Chicago Tribune

April 1, 2007

Travel

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gay nude cruise

Gay cruises are nothing new, but a gay cruise on a five-star luxury sailing ship, on which the staterooms are outfitted with fine linens, flat-screen televisions and iPods, and the guests are outfitted in, well, nothing, could be the latest trend to hit the seas.

Source Events, a gay travel company, is offering the first gay nude luxury cruise this May in connection with Gay Naturists International, a non-profit social organization. The trip, on a Wind Star yacht that sleeps 148 guests, will sail to Italy and Greece, with stops in Rome, Athens, Sorrento, Italy; and the island of Mykonos.

"We have discovered a fusion between two growth markets: naturist travel

and the boutique luxury experience," said Craig Smith, founder of Source Events, which has sold all but six of the cabins. "It began when guests on one of our earlier cruises began asking if they could nude sunbathe. We made one of the top decks clothing optional and noticed it was extremely popular."

Smith said that more nude cruises were planned for next year.

Staterooms on the cruise start at \$3,199, not including airfare and port taxes. For more details, call 888-768-7238 or see www.sourceevents.com.