

Group vs. Half Ship vs. Full Ship Charter - What's Your Best Option? From Seasite.com

When planning your cruise event, you might be wondering what the best booking option for your group size would be. You will want to consider customization opportunities, onboard exclusivity, and financial commitment/payment terms. Here's a chart from Seasite to help you sort it out:

	GROUP ALLOTMENT	HALF-SHIP CHARTER	FULL-SHIP CHARTER
Benefits	<p>Minimal number of rooms required to qualify as a group</p> <p>Flexible payment schedule and less financial risk</p>	<p>Greater exclusivity and customization opportunities</p> <p>Exclusive use of dining room and show lounge may be arranged on ships with traditional (set) dining patterns</p>	<p>Total exclusivity, greater customization, personalized service, camaraderie and prestige</p> <p>All attention from ship's staff and crew focused on your group</p>
Customization & Signage	<p>Group signage permitted at hospitality desk and during private functions on most ships</p> <p>Some cruise lines will customize ship's daily newsletter for large groups</p>	<p>Announcements or award presentations can be made in dining room when your group has exclusive use</p> <p>Ship's daily programs can be customized with program insert or company logo</p>	<p>Company logo can be used freely throughout the ship – on cocktail napkins, menus, photograph covers, banners, mast flag, pool liners</p> <p>Ship's daily program can be customized to reflect your events</p>
Flexibility	<p>Groups cannot change ship's published overall schedule or itinerary times</p>	<p>Option to customize entertainment in main show lounge just for your group during designated seating</p>	<p>Total control of daily program and shipboard events, option to customize itinerary, entertainment and activities</p> <p>Control of on-board venues for program events</p>
Payment Schedule	<p>Payment Schedule and Attrition Policy are typically more flexible</p>	<p>Letter of Credit may be required, minimum number of rooms must be guaranteed for half-ship exclusivity</p>	<p>Irrevocable Letter of Credit required – charter rate is non-refundable</p>
Lost revenue charges	<p>No additional lost on-board revenue fees</p>	<p>Most cruise lines charge a per person fee for every empty bed up to ship's guaranteed half-ship capacity</p>	<p>Most cruise lines charge a per person fee for every empty bed up to ship's full capacity</p>
Considerations	<p>Shared use of ship's facilities with other passengers and groups. Use of public space is subject to availability</p> <p>Program planning subject to ship's schedule and itinerary</p>	<p>Allotment must be guaranteed at specific number of rooms</p> <p>Half-ship charter may be non-refundable</p>	<p>Charter non-refundable</p> <p>Choose a ship that can accommodate entire group in one venue for meetings or dining if being together is important for awards, etc.</p>