

Welcome to ifCON 2025

We have some exciting pre-cruise events lined up to get to know you and make sure you have an amazing time from the moment you check into the pre-cruise hotel until we set sail on the Valiant Lady. The big party is happening on Tuesday, September 2nd at Hunters in Wilton Manor. We'll share the on-ship schedule separately, but it's a good idea to check both so you have a clear idea of what's in store before we set sail.

General Information

Pre-Cruise Hotel: Courtyard Fort Lauderdale Downtown

Address: 721 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale Florida 33304

Phone number: 1-800-321-2211

Roy Wong and Jim Wigdel Phone Number: 619-450-3609 (please use only if you are lost or desperate)

IfCON 2025 Coordinators: Honu Adventures-Cruise Planners (Jim and Roy)

ifCON 2025 Pre-cruise Schedule - Aug. 30th to Sept. 3rd, 2025

Sunday, 8/31/25:

noon - 5PM:

Please note that the FlockFest's Labor Day Weekend event at the rooftop pool is back on! Everyone is invited!

FlockFest SPLASH Pool Party RED Edition in partnership with XRX Pharmacy

FlockFest Events proudly presents "SPLASH" Pool Party T-Dance on Sunday, August 31, 2025, from 12-5 p.m. featuring DJ Jace M, powered by Eagle Wilton Manors

The rooftop pool is on the 9th floor, overlooking downtown Fort Lauderdale. This is a 21+ Event.

And guess what? All guests that are staying in the hotel on August 31 will receive complimentary wristbands for entry when they check in at the front desk. We recommend arriving to FlockFest early as it can get to capacity rather quickly and you may have to wait for entry if that happens. The complimentary wristband is a general admission entry. There are of course VIP upgrades you may purchase. If they are not staying at the hotel, then they should purchase a wristband in advance.

noon-ish
on:

Or, alternatively, how about a beach day ... The main gay beach in Fort Lauderdale is Sebastian Street Beach, located at the intersection of Sebastian Street and A1A, known for its lively atmosphere and large LGBTQ+ presence. For a quieter experience, Terramar Street Beach offers a local vibe, while Northeast 18th Street Beach provides a more secluded option for those seeking a local, cruisy spot.

7PM:

Dinner of your own choice!

Monday, 9/1/25:

- noon - 4PM: Hang out at the rooftop pool or the gay beach
- 4PM - 6PM: Drinks and to mingle at the hotel. Perfect for the first timers to meet the group.
- Registration - come to get your goody bag with your lanyard with ID badge (at the hotel lobby). You will need to wear your lanyard and badge for all ifCON events including the Welcome Party, the Bus to the Port, Cruise Ship Group Check in, the Cocktail party on the 3rd, The Banquet, The Farewell Party on the 6th and the Farewell Brunch on the 7th.**
- 7PM: Dinner on your own choice

Tuesday, 9/2/25:

- 7:30AM - 1PM: Excursion: Half-day Everglades National Park Tour and 1-Hour Air Boat Ride (Out-of-pocket expenses). There is still space available so email us at ifcon2025vv@gmail.com if you want to join the tour.
- 1PM - 3PM: **Registration - come to get your goody bag with your lanyard with ID badge for the cruise etc. (at the hotel lobby)**
- 5PM - 8PM: **Welcome party at Hunters Night Club Wilton Manors**
2232-2238 Wilton Drive
Wilton Manors, Florida, 33305
Phone: (954) 630-3556
Hunters is a 20-minute stroll or a six minute Uber ride, which is your best bet and cheap if you share with your fellow cruisers.
- Tonight is our big pre-cruise event, and one of our largest parties of ifCON2025. Come and meet old friends and greet the new folks (new to ifCON members will be wearing a badge with a green lanyard). There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, go go dancers, great dance music, and more. If you are making plans for dinner tonight, please make them for after 8 pm.

Wednesday, 9/3/2025

It's finally here ... EMBARCATION DAY!

Today's the day we set sail with the Valiant Lady and kick off IFCON 2025! If you are staying in the official pre-cruise hotel, plan on checking out at 10 am and being ready to board the bus to the cruise port by 10:15 am. The bus will depart at approximately 10:30 am.

The most important thing is for those taking the bus from the hotel, whether you stayed there or not, to be downstairs and out front by 10:15 am. No need to rush or scramble aboard the buses. We've ordered three buses, so there'll be plenty of space for everyone to get to the ship.

We have a total of 151 sailors joining us for this cruise. Some are new to cruising, while others have more experience. I promise that once we're all on board and things get settled, the cruise will be a blast. So, please be patient with us as we guide you all onto the ship.

The 'On Ship Schedule' document will pick up from here. Have fun, stay calm, and carry on!

Oh, and don't forget to stay safe and don't fall overboard! Promise??

PS:

Some useful nautical terms:

- Port (the A Side) = Left Side of the Ship ... easy to remember because port and left both have four letters. If your cabin is 12345A it's on deck 12, port side, cabin 345
- Starboard (the Z Side) = Right Side of the Ship... also easy to remember; staRboard has an R in the middle R=Right. Same thing 12345Z is deck 12, starboard side cabin 345.
- Bow: The front of the ship.
- Stern or Aft: The rear of the ship.
- Deck: The floors of the ship.
- Bridge: The area where the ship is controlled.
- **Muster Station:** The meeting point for safety drills. (very important to know) ... once on board you will be required to check in at your muster station. Everyone on board must do this prior to departure or the ship can't leave so get it done right away. You will be given instructions and it only takes a few minutes.
- Gangway: The walkway for boarding or leaving the ship.
- Cabin/Stateroom: Your private room on board.
- Galley: The ship's kitchen.