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NEW WACKY PIRATE CRUISE BRINGS HIGH SEAS FAMILY FUN TO LAKE

MICHIGAN CRUISES ABOARD MERCURY, CHICAGO'S SKYLINE CRUISELINE

Families save "loot" with cooperative discounts to Field Museum's "Real Pirates" exhibit

CHICAGO – Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline will fly the skull and cross-bones and expand its 2009 family-friendly cruise line-up with the new *Wacky Pirate Cruise* at 10:30am beginning Friday, June 19 through Saturday, August 15 and departing from the Michigan Avenue Riverwalk "pirate cove" at the southeast corner and lower level of the Michigan Avenue Bridge and Wacker Drive. The 2009 *Wacky Pirate Cruise* is part of a cooperative promotion with *Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship* the 2009 exhibit at the Field Museum of Natural History offering discounts to both cruise and museum ticketholders stretching families' staycation dollars.

"Buccaneer Bob" greets mates crossing the gang plank for the 90-minute lake and river cruise, with a pirate salute and a complimentary pirate mask. During the kid-friendly commentary, "Buccaneer Bob" weaves fun-filled facts about Chicago's skyscrapers, history and maritime legends and lore with a quick course on tying a real nautical knot, and recitation of the Wacky Pirate Oath. Mates arriving in pirate costume wins a prize and the chance to be "Buccaneer Bob's" assistant Swashbuckler for the cruise. All mates receive a Certificate of Survival at the end of the cruise.

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Mercury's Wacky Pirate Cruise/Add one

Geared for children ages three to ten, the cruise will pass the Field Museum of Natural History, site of the *Real Pirates* exhibit which runs through October 25, 2009 at 1400 South Lake Shore Drive

Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship is a journey into the exciting world of real pirates, their code of conduct and their fascinating, true adventures, with genuine artifacts gathered from the *Whydah*, the first, fully-authenticated pirate ship ever found in U.S. waters. From priceless treasures of gold and silver to actual pirate guns and swords brandished during their high seas plundering, the exhibit will also show visitors the steps to fire real cannon.

Each *Real Pirates* exhibition ticket stub provides a \$2.00 discount per adult and \$1.00 discount per child for *Wacky Pirate Cruise* tickets which are \$13.00 for children 2-12 years old and \$23.00 adults.

Additionally *Wacky Pirate Cruise* tickets provide a \$2.00 discount per adult and \$1.00 discount per child to The Field Museum's *Real Pirates* exhibition. *Wacky Pirate Cruise* birthday groups can also extend the cruise party at the Museum with a real pirate experience and birthday party package.

For ticketing and birthday party package information for The Field Museum's *Real Pirates* exhibition, visit fieldmuseum.org/pirates or call (312) 922-9410. For *Wacky Pirate Cruise* group reservations of 20 or more persons, phone (312) 332-1366. For general information on the cruise, phone (312) 332-1353 or visit www.mercuryskylinecruiseline.com or www.wackypiratecruise.com.