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Disney World Tickets

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The "Internationals" Trip Report Disney Dream August 5th - 10th

Discussion in 'WDW Trip Reports' started by ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:31 PM.



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:
Jul 23, 2009
Message Count:
27
Likes Received:
1

August 4th through August 10th

Me, my Canadian Friend and her daughter (CF and CD) meeting up for a 5 Night Eastern Caribbean cruise on the Disney Dream. CF and I worked together in the casino/cruise business in the '90s and hadn't seen each other in over 10 years even though we've stayed in almost constant contact. CD is a 10 year old that's wise beyond her years and incredibly bright. She's become her mom's tech support to keep us in contact.

With the introductions done, the plan was to meet up in Orlando on Saturday the 4th of August then start the cruise on Sunday the 5th.

I booked rooms at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista at Walt Disney World so we could take advantage of Downtown Disney without needing transportation.

With flights confirmed I contacted Florida Towncar service to get us around. CF and CD were flying from Buffalo on Southwest arriving just after 1:30PM while I was arriving just before 1:30 on Delta. The plan was to have the driver meet CF and CD at the Southwest baggage claim while I grabbed my bags then schlepped across the terminal to meet them at the car in the Express Pick-Up area under the terminal building.

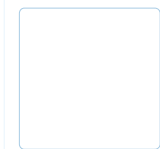
The rest of the TR will follow below

ExRoadie

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:31 PM

#1

fractal likes this.



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:
Jul 23, 2009

Vacation Day 1 – Travel and Meeting, Saturday, August 4th

Lake Buena Vista

Notice I said "plan" earlier. Things didn't work out like we planned due to my flight being delayed by weather into Atlanta for the connection to Orlando. I got to my connecting flight just after they closed the door. Delta booked me on the next available flight which would have put me in Orlando at almost 9:00PM but I wasn't giving up that easy. I hit the gate of the next Orlando flight and talked my way into a "standby" seat.

Now I was in recovery mode to get our transportation straight. I called Florida Towncar to let them know I was delayed and the Southwest flight for CF and CD was listed as "on time". The owner took my confirmed flight information, agreed to pick up CF

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27
Likes Received:
1

and CD, deliver them to the Wyndham then pick me up later.

I returned to the gate and went into "poor pitiful me" mode and surprisingly it worked. There were four seats unclaimed at the flight closing with six people waiting for seats. It seems that one guy on standby for the flight had been very rude to the agent so when he left the podium she called me over and gave me his seat proving that if you complain but remain nice good things will happen.

I texted CF with the new details and got on the phone with the towncar service as I was headed down the jetway because CF and CD were still in the air. JC with Florida Towncar got my new flight info and I was off on my new flight.

On the ground in Orlando, I contacted the towncar service and was told the driver along with CF and CD were waiting at my baggage claim. All the text I'd sent to CF hit her phone as soon as she arrived in Orlando. That's when it hit me that my checked bag probably went along for the ride on my missed flight. Luckily the first person I talked to at Delta pointed me right to my bag. I grabbed my bag and turned around to find CF and CD standing right behind me. We'd made it.

The trip to the hotel took 25 minutes and I confirmed a 9:30AM pickup with Carolina the driver for our trip to the port. We got checked-in and headed to our rooms. After an hour our bags hadn't been delivered so I called the bell-stand. A couple of minutes later they called and asked me to come to the lobby which I thought was very odd. Turns out we had arrived at a shift change and our bags had been taken off the cart and placed in storage because there was no room number on them. In no time I was headed to our rooms with an attendant and our bags.

A quick change from traveling clothes and we were walking out the front door of the Wyndham hotel to Downtown Disney since it was only a block away. The place was packed with seemingly everyone there to get last minute souvenirs before heading home. The girls did some shopping as we walked the length of Downtown Disney taking in the sights and sounds. We grabbed some hotdogs to hold us over till dinner at seven.

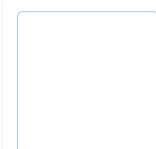
Weeks earlier I used "Open Table" to make a 7:00PM reservation at Raglan Road after hearing good things about the food and entertainment. We stopped at their outside bar and I took the opportunity to order a specialty beer, 22 ounces of pure heaven. Even though we were a bit early for our reservation they issued a pager and we continued our people-watching. I barely had put a dent in my first glass when we were summoned for our table. We were seated right next to the center stage and only one table from the main stage putting us in the middle of the performances.

The Irish step-dancers were top-notch and it was fun watching the kids get on stage and try to emulate the dancers. The food was delicious and for the first time in years I was able to enjoy a traditional Shepherd's Pie. The girls got fish dishes and we were so stuffed we skipped desert and decided to head back to the hotel. Of course there was more shopping to do along the way and CD found some Disney items that she wanted to add to her collection.

Day one was done and despite the excitement of the missed flight and missing luggage it ended on a high-note and all was well with the world.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:31 PM

#2



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:
Jul 23, 2009
Message Count:
27
Likes Received:
1

Vacation Day 2 - Cruise Day One, Sunday, August 5th

Getting to Port Canaveral and aboard the Disney Dream

Our driver met us at 9:30 for our ride to the port. CD was given a bit of Louisiana history since both me and CF were born there and worked in Baton Rouge for a time. Traffic was light on a Sunday morning and we arrived at the port in under an hour.

The baggage was tagged with our assigned stateroom numbers, taken at the curb by a porter and we were directed to the entrance of the cruise terminal. Carry bags were screened then up the escalator to the reception hall.

The room is huge and decidedly Disney. We checked in with our travel documents and were assigned boarding group 10 for our 11:30 boarding. Each guest is photographed for security and issued a key which is used for both access and identification. With the room buzzing with activity, boarding started promptly at 11 with the Miller family being announced as the "host family" for the cruise. Our group was called right at 11:30 so we headed through the themed entrance. Before reaching the gangway to, each family or group is photographed for later purchase (this is a recurring theme the entire cruise).

As you approach the entrance, they take your family or group name and you're announced with much fanfare and applause by the assembled staff. This is unique to Disney and certainly starts your cruise off with a bang. A member of the staff then takes you off to the side and gives you a brief description of the atrium and what to expect for the next few hours. While a nice touch and instructive, the real reason is to keep you moving to and clear the atrium. Rooms are available at 1:30, the mandatory "muster drill" is right after departure before you've reached the open sea and your luggage will be delivered by 5:00pm.

The plan was to hit the pools upon boarding but the weather didn't allow it so we headed to Cabana's buffet. Now I've eaten "cruise food" many times before and this certainly wasn't "cruise food". In my experience cruising, the formal meals are very

good but the buffet service can leave a lot to be desired. Cabana's has multiple stations ranging from simple to gourmet prep. Let me say I was impressed with the service staff and food.

We lingered at Cabana's looking over our "Personal Navigator" which is the daily onboard directory of events while waiting for the rain to stop then we toured the ship for a bit. The Disney Dream is one of the largest cruise ships in the world and you can sense the size as you start moving about. Deck 11 is the location of the main pools and "FunnelVision" making it most like a combination city park and passenger terminal.

The back side of the forward funnel has a huge HD display overlooking the main play area and family pools. This is the center of activity for everyone (as I'm writing this Monsters Inc. is playing). Family friendly movies are shown throughout the day and the screen is used to great effect during parties and events. The two pools can be covered by sliding deck panels that result in a surface bigger than a basketball court.

It was now time to get to our rooms and freshen up a bit. Disney has some of the largest staterooms and it was obvious. As you enter, one side has two closets and storage while the other has the two bathroom doors. That's right, two bathroom doors which is another feature that sets these rooms apart. The first door leads to a toilet and sink with a small vanity. The second door leads to a tub/shower with a full vanity. Disney had even inserted a magnifying mirror in the main mirror.

Before long it was time for the mandatory muster drill. The crew and all guests are involved. Your muster station and directions are listed on the inside of your room door. We made it through the drill and there was a collective sigh of relief from all involved because that meant the cruise was actually ON.

We toured the ship a bit to get our bearings and took part in the Midship Detective Agency which is an interactive game using special cards that identify the individual "Agent" using a map in a series of quests to gather clues and solve a crime. CF and CD started the game and I joined in for the second half. Locations are scattered around the ship and are indicated by brass medallions imbedded in the carpet. When standing on the medallion, the player holds up their card in front of a piece of Disney art that "comes to life" and through user participation, presents a clue to the identity of the perpetrator. It was a fun game that included running into other players at different locations multiple times.

CF wanted to check out the bingo game at the D Lounge. We got our cards and the games began. There were only a few guests in attendance but we still couldn't get a winning card.

Before long it was time for our first big event. The Dream has two theaters. One is dedicated to showing first-run and classic Disney movies in a high-tech setting. The other is setup for presenting high-value stage productions. The first night it was "Villans Tonight".

"Villans Tonight" presented at the Walt Disney Theater is hosted by Hades and involves him needing to get his "evil" back. The show was terrific and enjoyed by everyone.

Up next was our dinner at Enchanted Garden. Disney boats utilize a concept called "rotational dining". Each family or group is assigned one of two seating's each night at 5:45 or 8:15 in one of the three premier restaurants, Animators Pallet, Enchanted Garden and Royal Palace. As you encounter a new dining experience each night, the wait staff follows you giving them a chance to cater to your wants and desires.

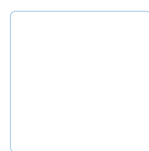
We chose the second seating so we arrived at the Enchanted Garden just after the initial rush and were directed to our table. As we were seated our head waiter introduced himself and his assistant. CF had ordered a three bottle wine package and chose a Chardonnay to be delivered. The room is a Disney version of the classic Victorian gardens with a heavy influence from Versailles. The ambiance is decidedly bright initially but as dinner progresses things change through evening into nighttime with some decidedly Disney touches.

The menu changes based upon market availability but I can say that everything was terrific right through the off-menu Mickey shaped Dove Bars we chose for dessert.

Cruise day one ended with some time on the verandah enjoying the starry sky that you just can't get in the city.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:32 PM

#3



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:

Vacation Day 3 – Cruise Day Two, Monday, August 6th

Port of call, Castaway Cay

I got up early and started my day with a cup of coffee, some light reading and an excellent cigar on the verandah. CF and CD slept in a bit and finally got motivated just after 8am. Cruise day two revolves around the private Disney Island Castaway Cay (cay is pronounced key in the Caribbean). Disney purchased the former drug-runner hideout and has converted it into a concept driven playground for the entire family.

All ashore was at 8:30 so we hit the breakfast buffet at Cabana's letting the rush to the island subside. Just after 9:00 we were on

Jul 23, 2009
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 27
 Likes Received:
 1

the dock catching a tram to the beach. We picked up our tubes and floats, grabbed a couple of lounge chairs and hit the water. The entire experience is typical Disney from the incredible theme to the immaculate grounds. Lunch was served under a huge rustic pavilion and the best part of lunch for me was the superb Pineapple Upside Down cake. Yes, I went back for seconds.

Our Stingray Adventure started with getting our gear and a presentation on what we were about to do. The staff has trained the stingrays to interact with a floating "U" shaped rig that allows the rays to enter and exit easily. The guide uses a Mickey Mouse shaped target that the rays identify to facilitate feeding the rays. You put your hand palm down flat on the target holding the food between two fingers and the ray approaches stops and grabs the food. After the feeding you're free to snorkel the enclosure and interact with the rays in their environment. For inquiring minds, yes, they do "manicure" the barbs on the stingrays so there's no chance of injury.

We made our way back to boat and through security in no time on our way to clean up and take a well deserved nap. CF and CD did some shopping while I enjoyed a cigar and worked on this trip report on the verandah.

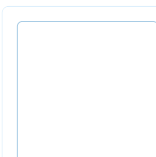
We skipped the premium entertainment this night which was a presentation of "The Golden Mickeys" at the Walt Disney Theater and instead did some people watching on Deck 11.

The Royal Palace is themed on the great Disney palaces with special consideration given to Cinderella and Beauty and the Beast. Our servers greeted us at our table and promptly delivered our drink of choice. This dining room seemed a bit quieter than the Enchanted Garden and I noticed more people wearing "cruise casual". The food was spectacular and we once again ended with Mickey dove bars. I will say the staff exceeded all expectations when I mentioned that I didn't find a salad that appealed to me. The head waiter suggested that I get two items from the appetizer course so I did. One of my choices was probably the best French Onion soup I've ever had.

A bit of touring around the boat and it was time for bed.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:32 PM

#4



ExRoadie
 New Member

Member Since:
 Jul 23, 2009
 Message Count:
 27
 Likes Received:
 1

Vacation Day 4 – Cruise Day Three, Tuesday, August 7th

Port of call, Nassau

I've cruised the Caribbean extensively and had no desire to see Nassau again. My idea of fun was a straight razor shave and some time to recover from the events of the last three days. We started with breakfast at Cabana's and learned that you can request special items and they will do everything to accommodate. Getting scrambled eggs from "real eggs" only took a few minutes.

CF and CD had booked a dolphin encounter at Atlantis so they were off for their adventure. I arrived for my shave appointment and was offered an herbal tea which I declined. Within minutes my barber arrived and I was laid back in the chair in short order.

I'm almost certain I dozed off during the shave but let me say it was a great experience and certainly worth the price of admission. I changed into my swimsuit and enjoyed the Rainforest showers. These are open units with each offering a mild or turbulent shower with themed scents. I showered, changed and headed off to see a premier showing of the new ABC drama Nashville.

Upon entering the Buena Vista Theater I was given a survey form and a raffle ticket. I found the show intriguing and to be honest the only reason I wanted to see Nashville was the inclusion of the terrific Powers Booth in the cast. I didn't win the raffle.

I spent some quality time with the bar staff at Currents then headed back to the room to get some writing done and have a good nap. The girls made it back to their stateroom at the same time as me. They found Atlantis to be "trashy" and the staff aloof at best. They both agreed it was not something they would recommend for the price. They were completely exhausted so they took a well earned nap too.

One of the benefits of being on a Disney cruise is the availability of free Disney programming available. The On-Demand system in the room has dozens of classic and current Disney and Pixar movies for viewing. They also show current Disney and Pixar movies in both of the theaters. Our early entertainment this evening was a 3D presentation of the recently released Brave at the Walt Disney Theater. With 3D glasses, popcorn and sodas in hand we made our way to our seats

After the movie we toured the boat a bit and made our way to the nights dining assignment at Animators Pallet. This dining room is very unique and besides mentioning the interactive appearance by Crush and other characters from "Finding Nemo" I won't divulge any more. The food was above par as usual but I couldn't find an appetizer or salad that appealed to me. The head waiter remembered my comments about the French Onion soup from the night before and suggested I get that and an off-the-menu Caesar Salad. This night we skipped the Mickey dove bar and chose the "Dense Chocolate Cake" which ended the meal on a high point.

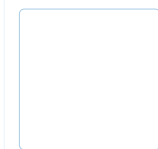
We went up to Deck 4 and checked out some of the adult themed lounges in "The District" before they got busy and found each

to be visually stunning and unique in their own way. Even if you don't partake in adult beverages you're welcome in the venues. With so much programming for kids and teens on the boat, even adults with families can find time to enjoy what's available.

It was getting late so the girls headed in for the night and I went out on the verandah for a smoke and noticed a couple of cruise ships nearby. It seems we'd caught up with them heading north even though they left Nassau hours before we departed. The boat slowed to a stop and I noticed the lights of Great Abaco Island in the distance. I knew the Disney boats were fast but the speed still surprised me.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:33 PM

#5



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:
Jul 23, 2009
Message Count:
27
Likes Received:
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Vacation Day 5 – Cruise Day Four, Wednesday, August 8th

Day At Sea

I got up early and hit the open deck to watch the sunrise. CF and CD slept in again. After getting some coffee I headed up to deck 13 forward to enjoy the view and realized we were right outside Nassau. I thought it was odd that we'd sailed almost 50 miles north then turned around and went right back to Nassau. CF and CD slept in so I hit Cabana's for breakfast then a quick tour around the boat.

The girls wanted to do some shopping and take a class on "towel folding". Yeah, sounds strange but anyone that's visited a Disney resort understands. I took off for some touring of the boat finding it very easy to spend three hours and only see a small portion of the boat. CF and I met up at Currents bar for some adult beverages while CD decompressed in the stateroom for some quality time on the internet.

Sitting at the bar I realized why we had sailed so near other cruise ships and were now back at Nassau. Advertising! It's hard to beat the star power of a Disney boat which is why we were sitting in international waters where passengers on every other boat could see the Disney Dream. I can just imagine the kids on other boats asking why they weren't on a Disney boat.

We skipped the night's premium entertainment presentation of the comedy show in the Walt Disney Theater so the girls could shop some more before our second night dining at Animators Pallet which was excellent once again. The big difference the second night was that the surprise on the first night couldn't be replicated so the room was in a different configuration with rare concept art from several Disney movies being presented.

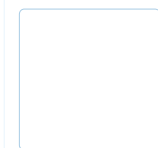
Up next was the "Mickey's Pirates in the Caribbean" party on Deck 11 and 12. This was a major production featuring Captain Jack Sparrow in a battle against other pirates over a Golden Gauntlet. The show ended with a fireworks show off the starboard side.

We lingered at the outdoor deck doing some people watching before the girls headed off for bed. I took advantage of going to the Buena Vista Theater to see a digital 3D presentation of "The Avengers" with 7.1 sound.

The movie ended at 1:30 so I headed back to the stateroom for some star gazing on the verandah. As I was sitting there I thought I heard rain falling but couldn't find a cloud in the sky. I looked towards the back of the boat and could see rain falling through the lights of the upper decks. It seems the boat is big enough to have "local weather" because the rain never made it past mid-ship.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:34 PM

#6



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:
Jul 23, 2009
Message Count:
27
Likes Received:
1

Vacation Day 6 – Cruise Day Five, Thursday August, 9th

Port of Call, Castaway Cay

Once again, I got up early even after a late night and headed to the lower deck to watch them dock the boat at Castaway Cay. It's something to watch them put a 130 thousand ton boat into the dock with pinpoint precision. I got a fresh cup of coffee then went back to the room to do some writing.

We headed to Enchanted Garden for breakfast and discovered they serve Krispy Kreme doughnuts even though they're obviously frozen for at least part of the voyage. Eggs sunny-side-up and an omelet hit the spot.

The girls decided on a snorkeling adventure at Castaway Cay and I headed to Currents bar for a cigar and chat with some new friends from the boat. The weather was the topic of conversation since numerous thunder storms built in the east. We watched as one by one the passed to the north or south of us without delivering a drop on deck.

Finally, by 3:30 I'd had enough sun and headed to the room. The girls were already back from their adventure so we took a break from the action to come up with a plan for the final night.

CF and CD posed for a series of pictures on the main staircase in the atrium lobby then it was off to the presentation of "Disney's Believe" in the Walt Disney Theater.

After the show we stopped by Shutters which is the onboard digital photo center. You can view all the photos that the staff has taken and choose which you would like printed, in digital format or both. It's very expensive with single images going for \$19 per photo or in packages that start at 10 printed images for \$149 or 15 prints and digital for \$199.

We then stopped by "The District to visit a lounge called Pink which is accurate but completely imprecise when describing the décor. CF had a glass of their signature champagne and I had two fingers of Jameson. The best part was that the staff allowed CD to sit at the bar with us and have a glass of water in their signature champagne glass. Soon it was time for our final dinner with our wait staff.

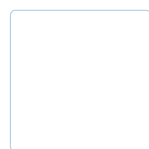
The Enchanted Garden was decidedly quiet due to low turnout. It seemed that many guest opted to do other things than have their assigned dinner. We enjoyed a leisurely meal which was outstanding once again. I made a comment about how hungry I was and the waiter showed up with two plates of the entree I had chosen.

We changed into our swimsuits and hit the pools and one last ride on the Aquaduck which is Disney's signature attraction on the Dream and its sister ship Fantasy. From Deck 12 you take stairs up four levels inside the aft funnel. You board a two person raft and are sent down a clear tube over the Port side of the boat 145 feet above the Caribbean Sea then down the port side of the boat. You do a U-turn in the darkness of the forward funnel then have a lazy-river ride down the Starboard side where you pass through the aft funnel to the runout.

I've done some wild water rides in my life but have to say the Aquaduck, while about a minute long, is the very thrilling.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:34 PM

#7



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:
Jul 23, 2009
Message Count:
27
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Vacation Day 7 – Cruise Day Six Friday August 10th

Return to Port Canaveral

We were up early for breakfast at 8:00am one last time with our wait staff at the "Enchanted Garden". Once again the service was excellent and after the meal we said our goodbyes to Igusti, our head waiter from Indonesia and his assistant Sebastian from Columbia. On the way out we said goodbye to the head of servers Nondu from Cameroon and let her know how much we'll miss the "washy washy" guy that handed out hand cleaning towels as you entered the dining room each night.

We headed back to our staterooms to grab our bags and said goodbye to our stateroom host Reuben from Guatemala.

Disney offers several options when leaving the boat. You can have your luggage waiting for you in the departure hall, sent directly to your departing flights at Orlando International, delivered to your room if you're continuing your vacation at a Walt Disney World resort or what they call "Express Walk-Off", which was the option we chose.

If you have a credit card attached to your folio, you can walk off the boat as early as 7:00am with your bags in hand. This allowed us to take our time with breakfast since we didn't need to be at the airport until 11:30 at the earliest.

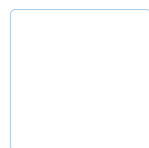
Our cruise was thrown under the bus by Customs and Border Protection staff when only four agents showed up. What normally takes 15 or 20 minutes left us in a queue for almost an hour in the very warm departure hall. I had to call our driver and let her know we'd be delayed. We finally met the driver after 10:30 and started our ride to Orlando International.

After getting to the airport we said our goodbyes and the girls headed to the security checkpoint. I had checked-in for my flight so a quick stop at the Delta desk let me check one bag and get a bite to eat while I waited for my 3:30 flight.

Vacation was over and it was time to start planning the next trip.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:35 PM

#8



ExRoadie
New Member

Member Since:
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27
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1

Other Stuff

Bathrooms - The bathrooms are raised several inches from the stateroom floor plus you must step up and over a three inch lip. This can cause a stubbed toe or two and some awkward entrances and exits until you get used to it. The tub is quite small and anyone over six foot will have to duck their head to use the handheld shower.

The fixtures are unique to say the least. The left knob directs water to the tub or shower. The right knob selects the water temperature. The markings are there but there's almost no contrast with the chromed fixtures.

Stateroom Power - When you enter your stateroom, the first thing you should do is insert your "Key to the World" in a special slot. The idea is to conserve power when the room is unoccupied. I brought along a player card from a local casino and left it in the slot the entire trip. This kept the A/C on but I did turn the lights off when leaving the stateroom.

If you don't have a card to keep the system running while gone, the thermostat for the A/C has a "Quick Cool" setting if the stateroom gets warm while unoccupied. I kept the setting one notch cooler than "normal" and found the stateroom cool even in the heat of the day with lots of traffic through the verandah door.

Stateroom Lighting – There are two overhead lights, a desk light, two bed lights, a verandah light and a night-light function over the seating area. You press the top of the rocker switch to turn off the light which is counter-intuitive. Facing the headboard, the fixture on the right has a single control for the light. The fixture on the left has a switch for it and another switch for the light over the seating area.

The light over the seating area also functions as a night-light with a soft blue glow. I didn't notice it until the second night when I closed the laptop lid and saw it labeled at the desk which also has the switch for the desk light the verandah and seating area lights.

The two overhead lights have two functions controlled by the switch. When you press the bottom of the switch the lights come on full power, a second press will dim the light. Pressing the bottom of the switch momentarily when the light is on will either put the light at dim or full power while a press and hold will slowly adjust the level of light between full or dim until released.

Ship Horns - Disney Cruise Line's first two ships have special horns that instead of just a "toot" can also play the first line of "When You Wish Upon a Star." The Dream's horn goes much further than that, though. The new horn can not only play the first line of "When You Wish Upon a Star," it can also play the second line, which allows it to respond to the Magic and Wonder when they meet. In addition, it can also play parts of "Be Our Guest," "It's a Small World," "Hi Diddle Dee Dee (An Actor's Life for Me)," "Yo Ho (A Pirate's Life for Me)," and its signature song "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes."

Storage - The closets are quite large and allow for lots of hanging clothes. The closet closest to the door has the safe taking up one lower shelf. The lighting in the closets leaves a lot to be desired. I found that if I opened the bathroom door with the light on then opened the closet door there was enough light to see. The raised bed has clear space underneath so you can store lots of luggage.

Wave Phones - Each stateroom has two Wave Phones assigned. The phones seemed to work everywhere on the boat and Castaway Cay. The phones are set to vibrate only so you have to keep them in a pocket to tell a call is coming in.

Beverage Stations - There are two beverage stations on Deck 11 just about even with the aft funnel. They are open 24 hours a day and there always seemed to be an attendant nearby. Provided are sodas, coffee (decaf and regular with real cream), a selection of teas and milk. I found the coffee to be just acceptable as it was obviously a bag-in-box product.

Verandah Door - The down position is open and the up position is closed. When the handle is moved to the closed position, the door pulls tight against the opening. Indicators for Open and Closed would be a nice touch.

Artwork - I was impressed with the quality and quantity of the Disney art on display throughout the boat. If you're a fan of Disney art you should do yourself a favor and visit every public space on the boat.

Décor

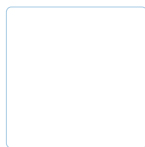
I've cruised on every current major line and a few that have faded into the past. Without reservation I can say Disney has done it right at every level. From unique treatments to traditional materials, everything is outstanding.

On-board Water - The quality of the water on the boat was excellent. It was much better than on any boat I've ever been on with no "taste" at all. It was on the hard side which I only noticed because the water at home is decidedly soft.

Elevator/Stairway Locations - Our staterooms were just ahead of the forward lobby. These elevators opened to the Adults area on Deck 11. We found it much easier to use the hallway on our deck to make it back to the mid-ship elevators to get to Deck 11 or Deck 3 and 4. The aft elevator lobby opened into Cabana's so there were guests dressed for the pool walking through the front part of the buffet most times.

ExRoadie, Yesterday at 2:35 PM

#9



sweetpee_1993
Well-Known Member

Member Since:
Jun 12, 2007
Message Count:
6,446
Likes Received:
244

Sounds like a very relaxing voyage! Well, aside from the mishap with the flights and long wait for customs. We thoroughly enjoyed our short time on the Dream last year and hope to see more of her during our short cruise next month. She's such a beautiful ship. The details blew me away. Thanks for writing up your review!

sweetpee_1993, Yesterday at 4:49 PM

#10

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