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Disney Cruise 2018

A big birthday coming up!! What shall I do to celebrate? Five years ago I took the family to Lego Land—a first for everyone!! We stayed the night at the LegoLand Hotel and got an “Adventure” room (each room had a theme) and we loved it!! Played in the pool the next morning before leaving and there were BIG Legos floating around in the pool! What’s not to love?

So this year I decided upon a Disney Cruise. I sent a link to son Mark as he explored our choices and great excitement ensued!! We decided on a 5 day cruise of the Bahamas in early August!

On August 5th we met up at LAX and flew to Orlando where we spent the night at a hotel right at the airport—the Hyatt Regency Orlando!! Then Mark and Christina took a cab to find the nearest store that sold wine to sip on our deck throughout the cruise!

The next morning we had our 1 hour shuttle to the ship and once there, while waiting to board the ship we noted “Goofy” greeting passengers for photos -- so we joined the line and had our fun with Goofy while Christina snapped shots. We had as our crew, Mark (son) Christina (wife), Max aged 8 and Miles aged 6—sons and my grandsons!!

Soon we were welcomed onto the ship (the Disney Dream—) HUGE!!) to the applause of the crew!! We searched for lunch since our rooms wouldn’t be available until after 2:30. Every meal was an adventure and was prepaid. Breakfast and lunch were cafeteria style as we helped ourselves to whatever tickled our fancy! Dinner was a sit-down affair and served from a menu.

We had two islands to visit. So the first day, after being served our coffee and rolls in the room, we dressed in our swim suits



and beach attire and went down to breakfast after which we debarked the ship for our tour of Nassau—our first island! We wandered around the little town and got smoothies at a small shop and then found the beach! The boys swam while the parents looked on and I sat and people watched until it was time to return to the ship!!

Back to the boat for lunch and then the boys took off for Kid's Club to explore their options there!! (All kinds of games and videos and other kids to play with!) We adults found the pool and swam or sun bathed.

Each evening at 5 there was a show in the Disney Theater and the first night we saw "Beauty and the Beast" —a live production and we all loved it!!

Then the boys took off for Kids' Club and we adults headed for the room where we had wine and cheese on our deck overlooking the wide, wide ocean. Sometimes we spotted a boat and often saw the sun sink lower in the sky readying to set! Beautiful!

It was now time to collect the kids and head for our 8 o'clock dinner!! The menu was full of good options for all so we had a great meal together.

Then back to our room which was equipped with a queen size bed, bunk beds, and a pull out bed for Grama right by the exit to the deck—-all cozy but good!

Next morning we were awakened by a host who brought coffee and rolls ordered by Mark and juice for the boys. We got dressed in shifts (had both a shower room and the bathroom) which helped the washing and dressing get accomplished more quickly.

Next we went down to our cafeteria style breakfast as we chose our fare and found a table. We were dressed in our swim suits and beach attire so we debarked our ship taking a shuttle onto Castaway Cay—Disney's Island—where we spent the day! We swam, lolled around on big chair-like inner tubes and Mark and Max did some snorkeling.

At noon we were treated to a barbecue with all kinds of choices for lunch which we ate at tables under the trees getting much appreciated shade while we ate.

We then returned to the beach for swimming and sunbathing until it was time to return to the ship to get cleaned up and ready for our nightly entertainment which this night was a very talented magician. He made his act fun by inviting kids from the audience to "help" him with his tricks!

Then Kids' Club and wine on the deck before dinner. You notice a routine formulating!! Kids then were collected at 8 and off to dinner we went!

Our last day was spent on the ship either swimming at one of the many pools or sunbathing in the comfortable reclining chairs. There was a particularly exciting ride called the Aqua Duck which shot around over the pool area and there was swirling water under the boats that held them up by its force. The whole family enjoyed this ride, so Grama decided to get in on the fun! Two riders were allowed in each boat! Max was in front of mine and was my driver! Well!! I didn't realize it was a roller-coaster of sorts because the "dives" were not visible to the on-lookers! Wow! did my stomach take a turn as we dived and tossed and water splashed all over us!! Very exciting indeed! It was Grama's first and only ride, but I'm glad I did it at least once!

We eventually cleaned up for our evening entertainment and this last night it was the musical "Believe" and again a live

performance and delightful as the daughter tries to help her scientist father learn how to believe in “magic”! We loved this one best of all!

Then our routine of Kid’s Club, wine on the balcony and dinner at 8. We sadly bid our servers “good bye”—they had been so delightful and personable!

We awoke the next morning to the realization that our cruise was over! One last breakfast and then up to get our packed bags and head off the boat, catching our bus to Orlando and our flight back to LAX. At one point during the trip, Max turned to me and said “This has been so much fun!! Thanks for inviting us Grama!!” That was music to my ears!! I knew they were having fun, but so nice to hear it!!

Our plane was delayed due to high winds but we eventually took off and had a relatively smooth flight home.

I bid the kids good-bye at the airport as I headed to Huntington Beach and they to Newbury Park. We all agreed it was “the adventure of a lifetime!”

I told my son that I hoped he didn’t mind that I spent some of his inheritance on this cruise and he assured me that he couldn’t think of a better way to spend “our” money since it provided wonderful memories of a delightful family adventure—something we can all enjoy forever!!

