

Seeing the World

Many of you remember Diane and me taking vacation cruises every year while we were both working. We are proud to report that since retirement almost 14 years ago, the tradition continues.

This past December, we undertook our most ambitious cruise yet. It was an unbelievable educational, enlightening, and exciting experience that challenged our stereotypes of cultures around the world.

If you would like to know more details, read on.

The entire adventure amounted to being gone from home for over 190 days. Not something I ever thought we would do until now that it is over. Fortunately, we had a dear friend who checked in on our house and vehicles twice a week.

The ship carried approximately 900 guests and 425 staff members. During our journey, many of those fellow travelers became close friends, and together we formed a genuine sense of community, traveling as one big family.

We made port in several places in the Caribbean before stopping in Los Angeles (LA). In LA, we met Diane's sister and her family for lunch and did some shopping. You always forget something.

From LA, we headed to Hawaii and then to several islands in the South Pacific, providing 12 sea days to relax on the vessel. Next, we made our way to 5 ports in New Zealand and 5 ports in Australia. We spent 7 days in Indonesia visiting the Komodo National Park, Bali, Jakarta, and Singapore for 2 days.

We visited 3 ports in Malaysia: Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Seychelles. We left the vessel for a 6-day overland trip to India, which was tremendous. We spent a day at the Taj Mahal. It was magnificent and no picture does it justice. We happened to be there for their national holiday of Holi, which is where they throw colored chalk over one another. For us, it was 60 to 80-year-olds acting like 3-year-olds.

We reboarded the vessel in the Seychelles. We sailed for over 30 days around the east and west coasts of Africa. We stopped in Kenya, Madagascar, Maputo, Durban, South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Cape Verde, and Morocco. In Morocco, we left the vessel for 3 days, including a stop in Marrakesh, which was extremely educational. We also enjoyed two, day-long safaris in South Africa.

Leaving Africa, we stopped in Spain and Portugal before London. In London, 650 of our fellow world cruisers left the ship, leaving about 200 of us to continue to New York. In England, we

were able to reconnect with dear friends from previous cruises who live in Nottingham. They were able to come to the ship and visit us for 2 days. It was wonderful to catch up with them.

We left London and sailed around the United Kingdom. We made additional stops in Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. Up next, we sailed to Norway for 5 ports over 10 days and 4 ports in Iceland.

Our attempts to sail around Greenland were difficult. Bad and rough weather finally caught up with us. We missed several ports due to ice and high winds. We had one stop in Halifax, Canada, before reaching New York City.

We sailed into New York Harbor around 6 am and had an inspirational arrival as the Statue of Liberty greeted us in all her glory! We left the vessel around 9:30 am and went to the hotel in midtown. Our son, Drew, and his fiancée, Maggie, flew in from Texas to meet us at the hotel. We spent 4 days together. We spent time visiting and had fun being tourists. We rode several Hop-On, Hop-Off bus lines, visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and attended the Broadway play Wicked. This was all a wonderful way to bring our traveling adventures to a close.

Should your personal situation ever allow it, we hope you will consider a similar traveling experience and join us as members of the Spending Kids' Inheritance (SKI) Club.



Diane & Paul Jahr New Year



**Diane & Paul Jahr
at Taj Mahal**



**Diane & Paul Jahr
Holi Holiday**