

Regent Seven Seas Explorer Cruise

Overview of the Regent Seven Seas Explorer:

We just returned from a 10-day Western Caribbean journey on the **Regent Explorer**. For anyone considering sailing on this ship, our suggestion is to not hesitate and go for it.

This was our first Regent cruise and will not be our last. Our concierge level stateroom was spacious and had more storage space than we could fill. The bathroom was large and had drawers and shelf space to hold anything we could bring. We liked having 2 sinks, a tub and a shower. Having the laundry right down the hall was very convenient for washing swimsuits after snorkeling. The food was amazing at each of the restaurants. Our favorites included: Pacific Rim and Prime 7, don't miss the 14 layer chocolate cake, trust me you will love it. The pools were heated and well used. Bob enjoyed the lectures, and we found the evening entertainment to be excellent. We laughed to Bruce Smirnoff's humor, swayed to Doug Camron's melodic violin, danced to the Broadway and 60's music and swooned to Tammy & Andy's beautiful singing. Each night we listened to Tim's excellent piano playing and enjoyed "Name the Tune" with friends until the wee hours.

The staff was very caring, sweet and helpful. Anything we asked for was delivered without hesitation. For example, Bob requested IPA beer and the next day a supply was in our cabin. We found out later that it was not carried onboard and someone went to port and purchased it for Bob. Just one example of how above and beyond everyone goes to make sure the passengers are taken care of.

I could go on and on, but I think you have the gist. We have booked another trip on the Explorer.

There were a few areas that need improvement.

- * The Internet connection was iffy at best.
- * We did not enjoy the shore excursions that we took from the ships offerings; this may be because of the itinerary, however at this time it is our only means for comment.
- * The cooking class was a huge disappointment. Bob has a shellfish allergy and we checked prior to booking the cooking class that it was only "fish" and no shellfish. The class began with scallops and then moved to shrimp. Although they switched to fish for Bob, there was serious cross-contamination in the ovens and Bob got quite sick. We requested a refund and wanted to leave the class. The head chef would only refund Bob. We missed two of the recipes because of the time spent talking to her. We stayed even though we did not want to. It felt like the cooking school was a concession that was not run by Regent. Their main concern was the money; not that the passengers were taken care of. Also but not as important, the chef teaching was not good. She forgot steps and the food was not great.

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Stops on the Cruise:

Key West (Truman Whitehouse),

Interesting tour of the Truman Whitehouse was wonderful but the “tour” was incomplete with us being deserted for the city tour. We wandered those interesting streets.

Cozumel Mx (snorkeling)

Sharon arraigned for a private snorkeling tour that was spectacular! The company is “Cozumel H2O” at info@cozumelh2o.com, 044 987 8762021. We had a private guide, Ari and a second guide that was also close by, Mike. We saw so many fish and enjoyed the VERY healthy reefs. They took us to four stops, each one fabulous.

The Cruise snorkeling was cancelled, so it was a good thing Sharon arraigned it herself.

Costa Maya Mx (Snorkeling)

Horrific beach with hundreds of others packed in like sardines with filthy, muddy water. We took a taxi to the ship and had a nice day onboard.

Santo Tomas de Castilla, Guatemala (Maya Ruins)

Cancelled due to a change to be 7.5 hours on the bus (stopping an shopping and photo places) for a 1 hr ruins visit. No thanks! We had a nice day on board.

Harvest Caye, Belize, (Maya Ruins)

Rode for an hour on the bus for a 45-minute ruins visit. It was a poorly excavated pile of rocks with a very uninformed “guide” and a long ride back. Waist of time.

Roatan, Honduras (snorkeling)

Looked forward to it, but rough seas prevented us from docking. So went on without stopping.

Grand Cayman (snorkeling).

We had been up until 2 AM the night before and since we had been to GC several times before and snorkeled it, we slept in. Turned out that by the time people tried to come back, the seas had risen and it was hell on the seas for them with some taking 3.5 hours in the tender – with people throwing up and sea-sprayed and miserable. We are SO GLAD we decided to ditch the tendering. We had another nice day on board.

Good thing the ship was so fabulous to stay on. We met so many interesting and wonderful people on board. Some will become long-term friends for sure. With lectures, pools, great food and evening entertainment, why leave the vessel?