



Welcome to Rott's Manor
Pete & Mary Clukey

Cruise 2010 Trip Report

The island stops were great on this itinerary! We prearranged almost all of our “shore excursions” on our own. Ship tours just have too many people for us, and they are more expensive.

St. Thomas – We went SCUBA diving at Coki Beach with <http://www.cokidive.com/>. We had a great time and diving conditions were good.

Dominica – We took an awesome hiking tour to see several waterfalls with <http://www.bumpiingtours.com/cruise-ship-visitors.html>. It was a bit strenuous, but really really fun.

Barbados – We went SCUBA diving with <http://www.divebds.com/>. Here diving conditions weren't as good as St. Thomas. And the dive operator didn't try too hard to take special care of us. It was just OK, we wouldn't go out of our way to use this dive operator again.

St. Lucia – Our dive operator canceled because of the diving conditions. So, we got off the ship and hired a taxi for the day. We visited the fort at Pigeon Island, had a great local lunch, and just rode around the island.

St. Kitts – We hired a private guide, Royston (<http://www.roystontours.com>), who took us on a short hike to see some Carib Indian petroglyphs. Afterward, he spent all day with us taking us on a circle the island tour with several beach stops.

St. Marteen – We hate the way they have the taxis set up here. It took us about 30 minutes just to get a taxi out of the “new” port area. Next time we will actually walk to the end of the street outside of the port area and try from there to hail a taxi, as the “union” taxis were just a pain to deal with. We wanted to go watch the planes landing at Sunset Beach. They wouldn't take just two people any where; they had us wait until there was a van full going to the same beach. The rest of the day was great, just hanging at the beach bar, eating a cheeseburger and enjoying the scenery.

San Juan – We took a ship excursion to the Bacardi distillery. We've found that on the last day of the cruise is the only day that there is real value in a ship excursion. They take care of your luggage all day and get you to the airport on time. The Bacardi distillery is really a museum, you don't go anywhere near the factory floor. But it was nice to visit.

About the ship:

We liked the theme/decor of the **Carnival Victory**. Our room location was awesome; very convenient to the pool & buffet. Early dinner seating was our biggest issue. We foolishly went to the dining room to see where we would be seated and it was a window table. So, we decided to “stick it out” and try the early seating time. And then we met our nice table-mates and were suckered into that time slot for the whole week. That meant everyday we were rushing back from the excursions, taking a quick showering, followed by more rushing to get presentable for dinner. But probably worst of all was that it seemed that the best entertainment (which there was very little that seemed to interest us) was scheduled from 6pm – 8pm, while we were at dinner.

One night on the ship, they played the movie Avatar on the big screen at the pool (starting at 6pm). We were able to catch only the last 30 minutes of the movie, as we got out from dinner. Unfortunately, Brad the cruise director interrupted the movie with an announcement to tell us all of the night's available entertainment (which was clearly listed in the daily that is delivered to the room). Now the movie continued to play, just the sound was muted. And Brad went on for about 10 minutes... most of what he told us was opportunities to spend money on board (casino, shopping, & bingo), not any real entertainment. These annoying announcements

occurred twice daily; once after each dinner seating finished. By the end of the cruise, we were so sick of hearing Brad! Besides Brad, the ship was filled with high school graduates, partying in the hallways after the bars had closed around 2 – 4 am. We had to call on guest services to get this resolved. And they took care of it right away.

Overall, it was just an OK cruise vacation. We will not go out of our way to seek out another big ship cruise anytime soon.