

Phelps - Rail Wedding Cruise News

JANUARY 13, 2005

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ONLY 2 DAYS

Rail's Ramblings

I know your bags are already packed and all you have to do is zip 'em up and walk out the door...just like mine (hee, hee, hee...yeah right!!)

So...while I'm putting off packing my bags and getting excited, I thought I'd share a few last minute ideas and tips.

After reviewing some additional information, it looks like you should **NOT** put the blue luggage tag on your bags until you **CLAIM** your bags **AT** the Miami airport. I'm not sure the airlines will allow them on the luggage when you check your bags for your flight.

A few last minute tips...

Like Tipping...yeah, I know, we've already talked about tipping the folks on the Ship. However, I didn't want you to forget about those good people who will be 'assisting' you at the airport, at the pier, and a few other places during your trip. You might want to consider getting a few singles (hmm...better choice of words for a person about to get married) or rather a few Dollar Bills for those people who you want to show a little gratitude.

And what to expect along the way...when you arrive at the Miami Airport, you will go to the Baggage Claim area. You will need to claim your bags, and there should be a Transfer area specifically for Royal Caribbean. You will need to attach the Blue Baggage Claim sticker (you should have received them in the back of your Guest Vacation Documentation book from Royal Caribbean). You will give your bag to someone there, and they will make sure it gets on the ship and to your room.

There will probably be a Charter Bus to take us to the pier. I think it is about a 40-minute ride to the pier.

Once at the pier, we will get off of the bus/shuttle and go through Security and Check-in. Depending on the arrival time, this could be a bit of a lengthy process. You will probably be standing in lines with lots of other folks. You will need to have your ID, along with a credit card to set up your on-board account. They will probably take a picture for your Sea Pass card (like a Sam's card). This is where they should have your boarding information from the form you completed on-line.

After you 'clear' Check-in and the Embarkation process, you should be able to go to your cabin/stateroom. Your bags will most likely NOT be there yet. SO...(yeah, it's another HINT)...if you will need anything as soon as you get on the ship (swim suit, change of clothes, something to freshen up, ect.) you might want to consider putting it in a carry-on bag that you don't check.

While still in port is a good time to just walk around and try to get familiar with the ship, like the location of the Main Dining room, you can check out the Royal Promenade, wonder around 'Up on Deck', or just go generally adventuring about.

More Saturday Activities:

There will be a **MANDATORY Muster Drill** (Life Boat Drill) at 4:15 or 4:30. This drill is required by the Coast Guard. When you get to your cabin, there will be a notice telling you which life boat station you are assigned to. When you are instructed to do so, they will ask you to get your *lovely* Orange Life Vest from your cabin, and proceed to your assigned station, which I believe will be on Deck 4. I am not sure if the elevators will be working during the drill. SO...(another Hint)...you may want to get your Life Vest and use the elevators while they are working, to get to Deck 4, prior to 4:15.

Hey, it's a Bon Voyage gathering...Dina and I would like to try and assemble everyone for a Bon Voyage party of sorts. No, it's not really like the ones on the Love Boat with streamers and confetti, and the only people on the dock waving good-bye will be the workers who just loaded your luggage and a few people who just dropped passengers off for the cruise. This will be the first time for all of us 'Cruisers' to get to meet each other. It is also a pretty neat time to get together and watch the ship pull away from the pier and OFFICIALLY begin our CRUISE!!!!

We thought a good place to 'gather' would be on Deck 11, near the front of the ship. This is near the ShipShape fitness area and the pool, on whichever side of the ship the dock is on. There is a Refreshment Area (aka Bar) near the pool if you would like to have a liquid refreshment for the gathering.

Other goings on...you should have received your Invitation to the Reception being hosted by Jeanice Falls (Alan's great-aunt), on **Sunday evening** at 5:00 in the Cloud Nine Lounge.

Tuesday (the big event), there will be a Safari Bus at the Pier in St. Thomas at 9:00. There will be a representative from the Cruise Line who will be responsible for getting all of "you" off of the ship and on the shuttle.

The wedding will be at 10:00, with cake and champagne following at Iggies. They will arrange a table for us to eat lunch there at 11:30. I think Carl and Dina have already checked out the menu and have spotted the ALL YOU CAN EAT CRAB LEGS on Tuesdays. The safari bus will be back to pick us up around 1:00 and will give us a tour of the island if we choose to do so. They will take us back to the pier after the tour, which should give plenty of time for shopping before heading back to the ship. If you want to whet your appetite, here's the link for Iggies at the Bolongo Bay Resort:

www.bolongobay.com/Iggies.htm,

and for the menu:

<http://www.bolongobay.com/html/Iggies-menu.html>

One other piece of information...be SURE you check out the Daily 'Compass'. It's the daily newsletter/newspaper for the cruise. This should be in your cabin on the first day, and slipped under your door every other evening. This is probably the most useful piece of information you will be given. It has ALL of the activities for the following day, information about whatever port we will be visiting, information about the dress for that evening, and lots and lots of other good stuff to know.

That's about all I can come up with right now. I hope these ideas offer at least a little help in the final planning for your vacation!

Once again, Dina and I are REALLY very excited and honored that you will be sharing this special time with us, and we are looking forward to you being a part of our special day! Most of all, we hope you have a wonderful time!

Good Packing and Safe Travels! We'll see some of you in Nashville, and the rest of you in Miami!!! Hopefully, on Deck 11 before we cast off at 5:00, if not before!

Terry's Travel Time

Terry and Eddie Massaro at Terry's Travel Time has been absolutely super in trying to help with this cruise, and getting things arranged. If you have ANY questions or concerns, please feel free to give her a call (678-354-4053) or contact her by email (terry@terrystravelttime.com).