

12/29/23

5/6/2025 edited final

Mexican Riviera  
Carnival Elation  
February 3 – February 10, 2003  
Round Trip San Pedro California

## **Background**

This cruise blog is created from memory, and the trip itinerary, as I was not writing blogs until 2010.

We sold the motel and turned it over on April 1, 2002. We traveled and lived in the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel until late October 2002. Then we bought and moved into our new house in Jerome County.

We had always thought about taking a cruise, and decided to give it a try. Little did we know that we would become hooked.

We drove the Chrysler 300 to San Pedro. We could leave it at the hotel for free if we spent a night with them. Also, we could stop and visit LaRue's sister, Jane, in Tehachapi, California. On our return we would go through northern California and visit LaRue's sister Loa, and husband Max, in their new home in Yuba City. They had just sold their home in Grass Valley and moved to Yuba City. This put them close to their daughter, Maxine and family, in Chico.

The first day we drove south through Ely, Nevada, across to Tonopah, and on to stay overnight in Beatty, Nevada.

The next morning we had the ham and egg special in a casino. The side of ham was so huge it covered the platter. LaRue took half of her ham with her for later. Our route ahead was through Death Valley to California.

We were driving along and saw a skinny and mangy coyote beside the road in Death Valley. We stopped and threw the ham to it. That skinny coyote sure enjoyed it.

We continued on to Ridgecrest, California, across to Mojave, then to Janes. It was a nice scenic trip. The next day was a short drive through LA

to San Pedro, and the Comfort Suites Hotel. The hotel was pricey, but we could leave the car for free in the underground parking garage where it was safe.

### **February 3**

The hotel shuttle was complimentary and delivered us to the cruise ship.

It was a long drawn out boarding process standing in the sun. It should have discouraged us from cruising again, but it didn't.

The Elation was a small ship built before veranda cabins were thought of. So, our cabin was a window cabin. We didn't know any better. We thought it was great.

The Elation entered service in 1998, is 855ft long, weighs 72,000 tons, and has 11 decks. It's passenger capacity is 2190, with a crew of 900

### **February 4 at sea.**

### **February 5 at sea.**

### **February 6 Puerto Vallarta.**

### **February 7 Mazatlan.**

### **February 8 Cabo San Lucas**

Saw a lot of whales.

### **February 9 at sea.**

### **February 10 San Pedro, California**

Debarked and the hotel shuttle picked us up. Retrieved our car and headed to Interstate 5 for Northern California to visit Loa and Max. Overnighted on the way in Santa Nella.

We spent a couple of days with Loa and Max and headed home. Went home via Grass Valley to visit LaRue's nephew, David and family. We then went through Nevada City and on up to Donner Pass and connected with I80 to Reno, and on East. We liked that route as it bypassed Sacramento and the traffic. We overnighted in Winnemucca and drove home.

We enjoyed our first cruise. The food and entertainment was terrific, and made us want to cruise again.

The end