

Rev 1/17/24

**Roundtrip Hawaii Cruise  
Golden Princess  
January 18 – February 1, 2012  
San Pedro, California**

**January 14, 2012.**

Departed home and drove to Ely, Nevada and the Best Western Park View motel – 265 miles. Dinner at the La Fiesta. Was great last year but not as good this year.

**January 15, 2012.**

Had lunch in Las Vegas and continued on to the Quality Inn, Kingman, Arizona – 345 miles. Dinner at the Dambar Steak House. Very windy day.

**January 16, 2012.**

Continued south through Lake Havasu, Parker, and lunch in Quartzite. What a zoo around the flea markets in Quartzite. Checked out the rv park where we will stay in March, and it was nearly full. Will be nearly empty when we arrive in March. Continued West on I-10 to Indio, California to the Clarion Hotel – 240 miles. Very windy day and heavy holiday weekend traffic. Ordered a pizza in.

**January 17, 2012.**

Visited Gary and Sue Robinson (our old Livermore neighbors) at the very swank Motorcoach Country Club in Indio. Looks like the average investment in the lot and motorcoach is around \$1 million, According to Gary some people have twice that invested. Continued on to San Pedro to the Crown Plaza – 140 miles. Had a late lunch at the Green Onion nearby and skipped dinner.

**Wed, January 18, 2012. Embarkation.**

Left the car in the hotels underground parking garage for free. The hotel shuttle delivered us to the embarkation area around 11am. The

check-in and boarding was leisurely and a little slow, but we were on board around 1 pm..

Really a nice ship. The cabins are small and not too comfortable, even for a balcony cabin. No couch and just 2 small chairs.

The dinner menu had lots of good choices and we both settled on prime rib for the main course. The 3 other couples at our table are from Vancouver, Toronto, and New York. The conversation is plentiful. Looks like the average age is about 70 and have only seen 3 or 4 children on board.

**Thurs, January 19, 2012. Day at sea.**

Really rough during the night. Was jarred awake several times and was glad we took Dramamine when we retired. The ship's log said 7-15 ft seas.

Kind of sleepy day (probably because of the dramamine). Had 2 short naps induced by trying to read. Attended a lecture on marine life and explored the ship. Especially impressed with the Skywalker entrance at the top rear of the ship to the Skywalker Lounge. Impressive views 360 degrees.

Seas have calmed down and are ok. Seems strange being out in such a large ocean with nothing in sight. Have not seen another ship.

**Fri, January 20, 2012. Day at sea.**

Seas very calm. Had a nice dinner, then attended a musical revue in the main theater. Clocks set back 1 hour.

**Sat, January 21, 2012. Day at sea.**

Seas calm like glass, and very blue in color. Learned in the lectures that the blue color is caused by low nutrients.

Attended another marine life lecture and had another day of leisure. Found out that more people are killed from falling coconuts than sharks.

Spent time reading up in the Skywalker lounge that has nice couches and easy chairs. Hard to stay awake though.

LaRue had escargot and frog legs for dinner. I went with the cordon blue veal schnitzel. Attended a Motown concert before dinner.

**Sun, January 22, 2012. Day at sea.**

The ship rolled a lot during the night. I spent most of the night directing traffic to the lifeboats as the ship was going down and the captain was not doing his job.

Whitecap waves and heavy seas, and the morning walk was difficult.

Attended another marine life lecture that are very good and informative. Watched the football games. Still amazed at the 360 degree view from horizon to horizon, and still have not seen another ship. Lots of clouds and rain squalls in the distance, but no rain on us. We are getting close to Hilo, so hope to see some whales and dolphins.

**Mon, January 23, 2012. Hilo, Hawaii, the Big Island.**

Coming into Hilo this morning the sun was shining on the top third of the 14,000 ft Mauna Kea volcano with some snow at the top. No rain and a nice day for a place that gets 200 inches of rain a year.

All day tour of the city and the Kilauea volcano. It is active with lots of smoke coming out. We could look down into the crater.

You emerge from a rain forest and hit the desert isolation at the crater at 4,000ft with only 10 inches of rain. The tour guide was phenomenal. Talked all the time with facts and figures.

Back on board at 5pm and beat. Do it all again tomorrow in Honolulu. Will now see if I can send this update via the internet.

**Tues, January 24, 2012. Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii.**

Beautiful warm day with no rain. Still dark when we pulled in. The lights extending up into the mountains was a beautiful sight. Docked almost downtown next to the Aloha Tower.

Spent the day touring with most of the time at the Battleship Missouri and the Arizona memorial.

Had another great tour guide/driver. He was funny. Said he is a stand up comedian, andt was taking the show on the road for a while. Interesting things we have found about Hawaii.

1. No more pineapple plantations and thus no pineapple produced in Hawaii. They now are grown in the Philippines (sp).
2. No more sugar cane plantations and thus no more sugar produced in Hawaii from sugar cane. So, all of tho large processing plants are closed.

**Wed. January 25, 2012. Nawiliwili, Kauai, Hawaii.**

Hot and humid. Average rainfall here is 450-500 inches per year.

Took a 4WD tour into the mountains to Kilohana crater. Some rain and muddy ruts getting to the crater. Tough roads through private old sugar cane plantations. Then rough roads to secluded beaches. Went through a tunnel in the mountain that was used for water for the sugar cane fields. All is abandoned now, and the land used for grazing cattle. Lots of wild chickens running around. Lots of wild boar but did not see any.

From our balcony on the ship, and still at the pier, we can see whales jumping just out beyond the breakwater of the small harbor.

**Thursday January 26, 2012. Lahaina, Oahu, Hawaii.**

Arrived and anchored offshore at 7 am.

I was walking on deck 14 Sun Deck and looked straight down . Isaw a mother whale and her baby slowly swimming in a circle about 3 feet under water. They did about 5 circles like she was showing off her baby then slowly swam off. The mother was about the size of a small railroad boxcar and the baby was about the size of a small car. It was spectacular and you could see all the markings. The best full view I have ever seen of a whale. Only me and a couple of other people saw this awesome show. Lots of whales out there, but inactive at this time of day.

Not doing any tours today, so will catch the tender around 11am to go ashore.

All we did was walk around in Lahaina, shop, and have lunch (fish and chips) in a nice place with a table next to the beach. Got back on the boat early and watched whales from our balcony. It is a hot day and the air-conditioned ship feels good.

We sail about 6 pm and have a 4 day voyage to Ensenada, Mexico. Then up to San Pedro during the night..

**Friday, January 27, 2012. At Sea.**

As we left Lahaina last night we sailed along the coast for about an hour. We sat on our verandah and watched the scenery roll by. Lots of condos and hotels. As we passed by cameras flashes were going off all over from the shore. I waved like a celebrity.

Rocking and rolling along today in fairly good seas. Felt like we hit a rock or two during the night as the whole ship shuddered.

Went to the British Pub today for lunch and had fish and chips. It is really nice, but small and usually a line to get in. Had fish and chips and a pint of Stella beer in honor of granddog Stella. The food is free but the beer was \$13.50 plus gratuity. A lot better than the fish and chips and beer in Lahaina, which was \$45 including tip.

**Saturday, January 28, 2012. At Sea.**

Attended the Princess Circle cocktail reception last night hosted by the Captain,. Then went to dinner, and a show afterwards. An older couple was recognized with logging the most days at sea on Princess. They have 1,234 days and two other couples close to a 1,000. We will have 24 days on Princess after this cruise. Our Captain is an older white haired guy that reminds us of Dr. Arbon in Idaho Falls. It was also dress up formal night. As we left the dining room we saw a white haired portly fellow dressed as Santa Claus!!.

We met an interesting little guy at breakfast this morning and he told us he went up to the Captain at the reception to get a picture with him and struck up a short chat (supposed to be all done within 20

seconds). The Captain said "wait, I remember you from another cruise, and since I am the Captain I can talk as long as I want". It turns out the Captain remembered the guy, the ship, and the cruise. That cruise was 4 years ago. Absolutely amazing.

Quiet day at sea today. Passing by some rain squalls. The sea is ok, but the ship is moving around a bit.

Attended a talk this morning on Sea Birds. Still have not seen any ships. Heard that the shipping lanes go further north or south, as the distance is shorter??

We both had prime rib at dinner. Went to the production show and that was it.

**Sunday, January 29, 2012. At Sea.**

Smooth sailing.

**Monday, January 30, 2012. At Sea.**

Still sailing along. Tonight is formal night again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> one of the trip. The seas are fairly calm all day with mostly sunshine. Still have not seen another ship.

Been reading a book that Julie gave me about a WW2 flier. His bomber crashes in the Pacific and spends 47 days on a small raft with 2 others. Can just imagine the ordeal.

Found out today in a briefing that the distance you can see to the horizon is about 30 miles on a clear day.

Before dinner we went to the Wheelhouse Lounge, which is really nice with a trio playing. Got a nice table then noticed we were next to the couple with the most days at sea on Princess. They were then joined by 2 ship's officers. Then the Captain and joined them. So, we had cocktails with the Captain (well almost).

Had a nice lobster and giant prawn dinner then the traditional baked Alaska parade and dessert. The evening show was a dancing and singing production that even kept me awake.

**Tuesday, January 31, 2012. At Sea/Ensenada, Mexico.**

Lot cooler walking this morning and fewer people out. Almost another whole day at sea as we do not arrive until 4pm in Ensenada.. That makes 5 complete days at sea since departure in Lahina.

Found out in the morning lecture series that the longest migration of any bird or mammal is the Arctic Tern. It migrates a total of 44,000 miles per season.

Talked to a couple from San Jose, Ca at breakfast and all they could do is complain about the cold weather. They could not sit outside and enjoy their balcony. I chimed in and told them I sat out everyday and enjoyed the sun. The other couple from England were very nice.

I have come up with a grading of this cruise based on all of our other cruises.

Embarkation	B	somewhat slow but organized.
Cabin was ready		
Overall ship	A	
Captain/staff	A	
Stateroom comfort	D	No adequate seating and TV
almost at the ceiling		
Bathroom/shower	B	small
Stateroom steward	A	
Sun deck/pools	A	
Walking/jogging deck	B	Very narrow bow and aft
Shows	C	
Lectures	A	
Lounges	A	
Dining Rooms	B	Low ceilings and noisy
Menu	A	A lot of different choices every day
Food overall (Harry)	B-	Lousy soups. Avg beef, good
pasta and salads		
Food overall (LaRue)	A-	
Servers	A	
Cafeteria Food	C	Standard stuff with little variety
Hamburger/Hot dog grill	A	
Pizza	A	
Ice Cream bar	A	
British Pub/Grub	A	

Tours in ports	A	
Debarkation	C	Must vacate cabin by 8am and wait

Overall Cruise – very satisfied – would do it again

Docked in Ensenada around 4pm. We got off and caught the shuttle to downtown which was only a few blocks. Nice little town and very quiet and laid back. Really like it. Spent a couple of hours and returned to the ship. Next stop San Pedro in the morning.

End