



December 2012



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all of our friends, clients and fans!

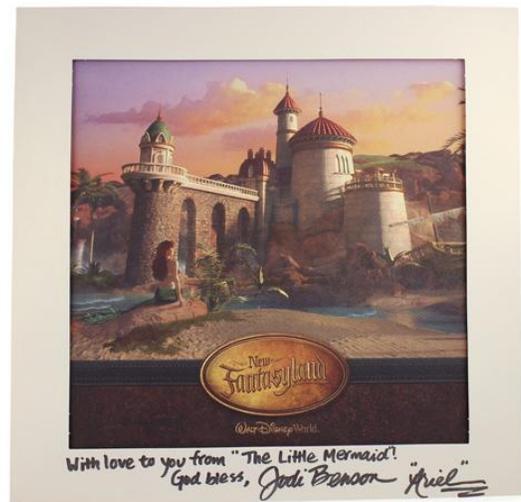
It is always at this time of year that we reflect on the last year. It has been a good one! We were able to experience a number of new things this year – the Disney Fantasy, cruising on Carnival, the Pixar Cruises, the first ever ToAD cruise, and the largest expansion at Disneyland and Walt Disney World with Cars Land and New Fantasyland. We are hopeful that 2013 will bring even more new experiences, starting with the Oasis of the Seas sailing in April and Expedition Everest Challenge in May. We also plan to check out the long awaited refurbishment of the Disney Magic in October, with a ToAD group sailing then as well. We hope you will join us on some of these events!

We wanted to remind you of our referral program. We don't offer the highest onboard credits as we feel strongly about quality of service that we offer to you. Instead we offer unlimited rewards with our referral program. Every time you refer a friend to us and that friend books (and travels) with us, you will earn a reward. That reward will be paid in the form of an onboard credit or gift card with your next vacation that is also booked with us (after your friend travels). Several times during the year we also offer bonuses. During our anniversary promotion, we offered double credit and through the end of 2012, we are offering a bonus gift card, which is payable in early January so you don't have to wait for your friend to travel. Your referrals are the highest compliments that you can pay us and we reward you for doing so. Thank you!

We also want to remind you that we are a full service agency. We can help you with all of your travel

needs, not just Disney or cruises, but everything from tours and all-inclusive resorts, to car rentals and airfare. Just ask your agent and they can help you with all of your plans.

To end 2012, we are participating in an auction to benefit Give Kids the World. [Adventures by Daddy](#) has set up an auction for an autographed Little Mermaid Print from Walt Disney World's New Fantasyland which was signed by Disney Legend Jodi Benson, the voice of Ariel. Click on the photo to take you to the auction.



We are thankful for your continued business and support in 2012 and look forward to helping you plan many more vacations in 2013 and beyond.

A New Year, A New Destination

By Debbie Higgins

With the New Year approaching, it's a great time to think about traveling to new destinations and experience new things. One place that comes to mind is Costa Rica. Costa Rica has beautiful beaches and resorts. For the traveler that's adventurous Costa Rica offers whitewater rafting, zip lines, bungee

jumping, and scuba diving in natural hot springs at the foot of an active volcano! And, the nightlife is great in a city called Jaco. It offers elegant nightclubs, discos, bars and casinos.

For the more quiet type, there's a guided tour of the rainforest canopy, fishing, and a national park with a black sand beach. There are many vacation rentals that are more secluded and away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Imagine stepping out onto a deck to witness an amazing sunrise with your morning coffee, or perhaps a spectacular sunset with a glass of wine in hand.

Luckily, in the travel industry, there are a great many choices that cater to each individual's needs and desires. Let's take a look at Disney for a moment. Along with the four theme parks that Disney offers, there is also Adventures by Disney. ABD offers an amazing 7-day trip to Costa Rica. It includes local transportation, great accommodations in some of the best hotels, most meals and the best part is a 2-guide team that will be with you throughout your entire trip. These guides will make your trip effortless and make sure you have the best experience possible! ABD is the only true family tour company out there, with activities just for the children and also for the adults as well.

Please take a minute to visit our blog and let us know if Costa Rica is a destination you'd like to visit. While you're there, let us know about any other new destinations on your list!

Happy Holidays to all!

I Survived Hurricane Sandy

By Nicole Riley

I think I need to start out this out by saying that I had an absolutely amazing time on the Disney Fantasy from October 20-27. I left the ship anticipating my next cruise. OK, there was a time that I just anticipated being away from all of the people that were crammed into the atrium of the ship. But, for the most part, I left knowing that I would be back and

that I was returning home with one heck of a story to tell.

Our cruise started out perfectly. We had great sea days. We had great excursion days. Then Thursday hit. Let me preface by saying that everyone has a different experience. Two people can do the exact same thing and one loves it and the other hates it. I am not trying to minimize anyone's experience. I am just sharing mine. By Thursday we knew we would not be going to Castaway Cay Friday. Our absolute favorite. We need no other port other than Castaway Cay. But, it was not to be. So, we looked forward to a lazy day on the ship on Friday. On Thursday, waters were starting to feel Sandy a bit. To me, that is what I expected rough waters to be like. We were relaxing in the adult pool and had to hold onto the side. Otherwise, when a wave hit, we ended up on the other side of the pool. It meant that as we walked, there might be a moment when you had to hold on because you moved to the other side.

After an afternoon activity, we found that many of the outside areas had been closed. We were still able to be on Deck 4 at this time and played a couple of games of shuffleboard. It is possible we will never experience the game quite like that again. Thursday night actually calmed down a bit, but Friday morning it was obvious that we were not going to enjoying outdoor activities. And, we definitely were feeling the waves. We spent a relaxing day doing some last minute shopping, pin trading, packing, and hanging out. We decided to go to the last show of the cruise, and we were definitely feeling the waves. They adapted the show a bit because of the motion. At one point there was a very loud crash from the ship hitting a big wave. As we left the show we were told that we missed an announcement of saying that the weather was going to get worse than anticipated, and it was uncertain if we would be able to return the next morning.

Dinner was short lived for a couple of us as the motion of the back of the ship was just too much to take. By this time the outside deck had very few people. The few that were out there seemed to be going out for the same reason as us - to catch a little

fresh air. The rainy weather made it difficult to stay outdoors, though. The later the evening went, the worse it got. Elevators rattled. Walking in a straight line was impossible. Opening the doors that led outside was very difficult. I decided the best place for me was bed when I saw a person running off the elevator looking as if they were going to get sick.

It was tough to fall asleep as the ship was rocking and crashing about. The ship also was making quite the noises creaking and groaning. Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse, it did. At one point during the night, everything flew off of our desk. From that point on, I slept off and on. There were times I had to hold onto James so I didn't fall out of bed. I'd fall asleep to be woken by the ship crashing down or the ship leaning so far to one side. At times the ship would go over so far I wondered if it would come back up. But, the seas must have calmed, and I finally fell asleep. James, on the other hand, slept very soundly the entire night through.

Disembarkation the following day was crazy. And honestly, we can't blame Disney for this one. They announced that we should enjoy breakfast and then stay in our staterooms. However, people didn't do that. They gathered in the atrium. So, when they started letting people off, everyone wanted off at the same time.

I didn't learn until Saturday morning how bad the hurricane experience was for some people. There were some that were putting life vests on, getting very sick, crying, and actually thinking that we were never going to see loved ones again. I felt horrible that this experience affected people that way. I had a completely different experience. For me, getting on the ship in the first place is a huge act of faith. I am terrified of water. I can get in the water and swim, but the whole idea of being in that much water, scares me. I tend to be sensitive to motion and anyone who knows me, knows how much that was a struggle before this cruise.

I had already put my trust in the captain of the ship. So, when he told me that everything was going to be OK, I believed him. I surely didn't enjoy Friday night, but I learned from it. I learned how much a ship can

take and still survive. I discovered that I can tolerate a lot of motion on a ship and not get sick. I found out that my husband is too sound of a sleeper. And, in the end, we were OK. I believe that what we experienced is something that most people don't experience in a lifetime, and chances are we won't again. I know that there are people who had much worse nights than I did that will return to cruising. I am also sure that this affected people enough to make them never want to cruise again. For us, cruising is just too much fun to let one little hurricane keep us from sailing again.

New Fantasyland

By Tracy Whipple

I was lucky enough to be invited to the media event for New Fantasyland at the Walt Disney World resort last week. The excitement began with the official announcement. I received a book, reminiscent of the Golden Books, which told a story of New Fantasyland.

We came in to the Magic Kingdom in Tomorrowland and walked over to New Fantasyland. There were street entertainers throughout the area along with food and beverage stations. We had a chance to try LeFeu's Brew and other treats. The Beast was in Be Our Guest, Gaston was outside of the pub and Daisy, Minnie, Donald and Goofy were at Pete's Silly Sideshow tent.



After getting a bite to eat, I heard what sounded like a blow torch or flame thrower. I looked up towards Beast's Castle but nothing looked out of the ordinary,

but the sound wasn't going away. All of a sudden from the edge of New Fantasyland appeared a dragon in the sky! He flew overhead and made a couple circles around us, then was gone.



Throughout the evening we ran into celebrities like Jodi Benson, Jo Anne Worley, Andy Garcia, and Tony Dovolani & Chelsie Hightower from Dancing with the Stars.



Later we were invited to go out in front of the castle. We found a place and waited for Celebrate the Magic to begin. For those that have seen the Magic, the Memories and You, it is similar with out the pictures and videos of guests. After this, Holiday Wishes began. As we left the park, it was snowing on Main Street. As we reached the exit, cast members were giving out New Fantasyland Mickey ears!

We did not attend the ribbon cutting, but instead were brought in for the grand opening celebration. I arrived before too many others and was able to get pretty close to the rope with only one shorter person

in front of me. It was certainly a royal celebration with One Upon A Time's Ginnifer Goodwin emceeing the event and a musical tribute from Jordin Sparks. All of the princes and princesses were in attendance. Even the confetti was royal, shaped in large crowns and slippers.



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