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A genealogy cruise?

A different way of learning about genealogy

BY DEE AND RAY KLEINOW

Dee and I have read about genealogy cruises before and were intrigued by the idea of taking a cruise while attending a genealogy conference. They are not something new, having been around for a few years, but then we saw an advertisement from Roots Magic, the genealogy program we are using.

As you can imagine, a genealogy cruise is a typical cruise with a genealogy conference conducted when you are not in some port being a tourist, and the “at sea” days would be spent attending seminars as if you were at a genealogy conference in some city.

We took a seven-day cruise on the Royal Caribbean *Vision of the Seas*. Part of the first day was spent getting settled on the ship, and then three days at ports enjoying the sights and three days at sea for the conference.

We began by leaving Los Angeles, CA, late afternoon on a Sunday, spending Monday at sea cruising towards Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. That was the first day of the three-day genealogy conference. We arrived Tuesday morning at Cabo San Lucas and spent the day on a guided walking tour of the city. An overnight cruise brought us to Mazatlan on Wednesday. We again had chosen a guided walking tour of the city and enjoyed hearing the area history. Another overnight cruise brought us

to Puerto Vallarta on Thursday. This time we chose a motor coach/walking tour of the city sights. The ship then began the two-day cruise (Friday and Saturday) back to Los Angeles. Those were day two and three of the conference. We arrived Sunday morning back at Los Angeles.

Going to conference at sea

The conference days started at 8:30 a.m. with three different seminars until 12:00, including breaks. Then lunch until 1:30 p.m. and back for three more seminars, finishing at 5:00 p.m. We had a choice between two different seminars right after lunch. The rest of the day only one seminar was conducted at a time. The seminars ranged from basic genealogy to advanced topics. I personally learned a lot about documentation methods. Real life examples of citing sources were explained and very good handouts included.

Also, several seminars by Bruce Buzbee gave early demonstrations of new features in Roots Magic version 4! He also included some undocumented Power Tips for Roots Magic. We attended most of the seminars and felt they were well worth attending. The speakers were nationally known people; Bruce Buzbee of Roots Magic; Elizabeth Shown Mills, author



of *Evidence Explained*; George Morgan; Dick Eastman; Gary and Diane Smith.

Would we recommend a genealogy cruise to others? Well, if you like cruises and want a genealogy conference that is not going to include parking problems, traffic jams, long walks to/from the hotel/conference locations, we would have to say “Yes”. The cruising to different “ports of call” gave you a varied itinerary as well.

The conference did keep us busier than we would have liked. The evening entertainment and the meals were good. Also, check the time of the year for expected temperatures, possible hurricanes, etc. Two days were in the 90s and a hurricane with 105 mph winds blew over Cabo San Lucas a week or so after we visited. Overall, our weather was great.

The costs for such a cruise will vary depending on the usual things such as what level room you reserve, what events at the ports of call you do, how you travel to/from the leaving port, etc.

See Legacy’s site for info on a Mediterranean Genealogy Cruise 5-17 September 2009. The Master Genealogist (TMG) have decided to have a “land cruise” in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, 26-30 August 2009 instead of a cruise.

Web sites:

Legacy:
www.legacyfamilytree.com

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