

Carnival Spirit to Moreton Island

Famil Report by Katarina Rookes
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Introduction

Early April 2019 I got the chance to have a FUNmil on Carnival Spirit for a short but sweet four-day cruise from Sydney up to Moreton Island and back to Sydney. We had two sea-days which was fantastic because it meant we really got to experience the ship and everything it has on offer.

About Carnival Spirit

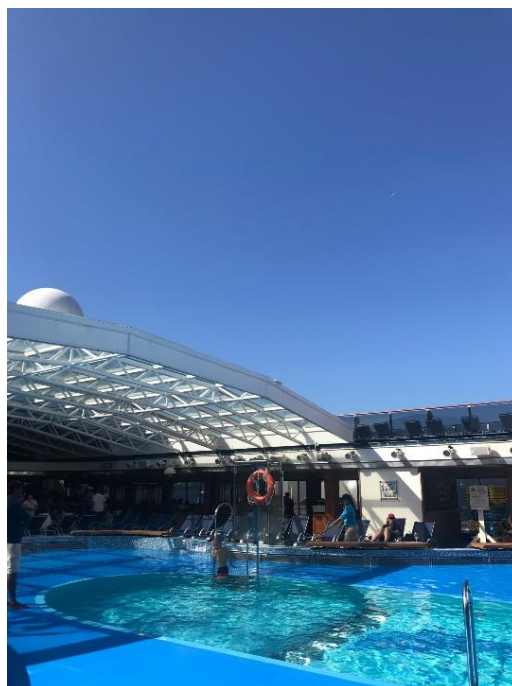
Carnival Spirit is a great 2,124 passenger ship with 12 decks full of fun! After cruising on her I definitely know why Carnival ships are called the fun ships. There is so much to do it's almost overwhelming where to even begin!

The public areas are on the Promenade Deck (Deck 2), the Atlantic Deck (Deck 3) and the Lido, Sun and Sports Deck (Decks 9-11). Over Decks 2 and 3 you have the magnificent main dining room – the Empire Dining Room – which sports a different menu every night and a fantastic staff who even put on dances and performances throughout your meal, making it a delicious and fun experience. Just outside of the main dining room (and a popular place for a pre-dinner drink) is the Alchemy Bar, which is a cocktail bar where you can either choose from a wide variety of different cocktails from the menu or get a surprise and let the talented cocktail makers choose something that suits your mood and taste buds! It's set up like an old chemistry lab and has a really good atmosphere and is buzzing before dinner time.

A little further, just past the big lobby and atrium is Bonsai Sushi, which is a specialty restaurant where they make everything freshly to order and it is some of the finest sushi I've ever eaten! Further on is the casino, the sports bar and the Redfrog Pub, which is a great place for a beer and a bit of a dance! There are 2 café's on board as well – one just outside of the Redfrog Pub and one in the adult's only serenity lounge on Deck 9.

At the forward of Deck 2 (actually going over Deck 1-4) is the Main Show Lounge- the Pharaoh's Palace Main Lounge. There is a different show every night and something for everyone!

On Deck 3 you can find the Fun Shops – with brands like Victoria's Secret, Ray Bans and a little sweet shop called Cherry On Top with all lollies you can imagine! There's also a Piano Bar on this deck and a Wedding Chapel!



On The Lido Deck is the buffet which has so much choice it is again very overwhelming – Guys Burger Joint for delicious burgers, Blue Iguana’s Cantina with amazing Mexican Burritos and bowls, a 24-hour pizzeria and unlimited ice cream...

The Lido Deck also has the spa and gym, the adult’s only serenity lounge (which is where I spent a lot of time) as well as two large pools.

On Deck 10 you will find the Nouveau Restaurant, which is Carnival’s fine-dining restaurant as well as Camp Ocean (the kids club) and Carnival Waterworks which goes over Deck 11 and 10 and boasts an array of different fun waterslides!

The Sports Deck also has a Mini Golf Course, jogging track and sports courts.

We stayed in a Balcony Stateroom which was a great size and the bathroom was very spacious as well. The beds were comfortable, the room was made up once a day and the bathroom amenities were nice. The only thing I noticed was that the hairdryer was one of those small travel dryers so for women who take a bit of time drying your hair – take your own hair dryer! The plugs are Australian/ New Zealand plugs on the Spirit.



Day 1

Such an easy check-in process! We had our boarding passes printed out in advance and you got given a time to board. In total I think we were on board within 40 minutes. Once we got on board and unpacked our things we had a walk around the public areas and familiarised ourselves with the ship layout and where everything was and had a delicious cocktail at the Red Frog Rum Bar!

The safety briefing was quite tough as the sun was shining directly on everyone and it took quite a while and because there were so many people it felt a bit claustrophobic but there’s nothing you can do about it- has to be done.

The sail away from Sydney Harbour was stunning! It was a beautiful day and we just enjoyed sailing away and the sunset from our balcony.



On the first night we dined in the Main Dining Room. The menu here changed every night and the food was delicious! The staff were absolutely fantastic and definitely made it a FUN experience with their dance performances throughout dinner!

Day 2

This was our first day at sea – we had a big training morning on Carnival with the travel agents that joined us, which was really good to learn more about Carnival and also the new ships joining the fleet in the next 18 months.

On this day we had lunch at Bonsai Sushi which was incredible! The sushi was so fresh and absolutely delicious! You pay per item and it's very reasonable and the portions are great.



I spent the afternoon relaxing in the adults only serenity lounge! I noticed that there is lots of space and really easy to find a free deck chair, hammock or day bed!

On that night it was formal night and we all met at the Alchemy Bar for drinks. I chose to let the bartenders surprise me with a cocktail and told them what flavours and spirits I like and they made a beautiful fresh minty gin cocktail!

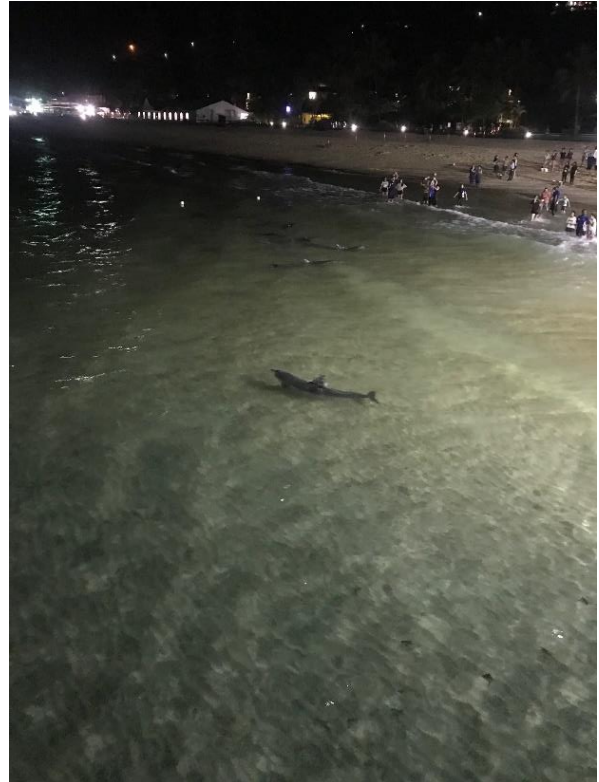


The dinner in the main dining room was delicious again and after our meal we went and watched the show, which was a rock show and lasted around 30 minutes. I'm not the biggest show-person but it definitely fit in with the fun theme and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves!

Day 3

We arrived to Moreton Island on a beautiful and calm sunny day and I got off on one of the earliest tenders as I wanted the most amount of time to explore.

The tender took probably 20 minutes and was very smooth. On Moreton Island I spent time on the stunning beach, went for a walk to see the shipwrecks and also luckily won a dolphin feeding experience in the evening, which was so much fun and also really interesting to learn all about the dolphins that visit every evening and also how they're trying to ensure they are protected.



After we got back on board we had dinner at the Nouveau Fine Dining Restaurant which was beautiful!! One of the best steaks I've ever had! Fantastic service and actually very reasonable for what you get.



Day 4

This was our last full day on Carnival Spirit.

We had an activity as part of the famil which was a demonstration on how to bake the famous Carnival Chocolate Melting Cake. After that we had a galley tour which I had never done on any cruise before so this was really interesting to see how much really goes on backstage and how they actually manage feeding a whole cruise ship!



In the afternoon I took part in Harry Potter Trivia, which was so much fun (especially being the Harry Potter nerd I am)!

As this was our last evening we dined with everyone else on the Famil – we had a little cocktail function at the Red Frog Pub first which was really nice and then ate in the main dining room.

Day 5

Disembarkation was easy as we decided to carry our own bags off so we literally woke up, finished packing and got off the ship and into a taxi to the airport.

A lovely four nights and a fantastic time experiencing this great product.