

## **Carnival Horizon | 15 - 22 April 2018 | Barcelona to Barcelona**

*Experienced by Kelly Bates*

Wow, that was the easiest check in I have ever done. Even when we got to security check we were through with ease. Check in is at the brand new terminal that Carnival Corporation has built in Barcelona. There are a lot of desks available for checking in for your cruise. Everything is done via android which includes swiping your passport and completing a small health questionnaire. No photos are taken - they use your passport photo! So easy and quick. At check in they don't issue you your sail card either. Our door key cards/sail cards are at our stateroom door once we get on board the ship. You are given a zone card prior to security check and TVs is your boarding number. We were given zone 11. Again a very quick process – we waited only about 20 minutes and the wait is comfy in the new terminal.

Once our zone is called, the boarding process is completely painless and super quick. The brand new lifts are amazing – you hit what floor you want and it tells you what lift to head for to reach that floor. The rooms are still closed off till 1pm as they are doing the last bit of cleaning and preparing for the next lot of guests. After checking in at 11am I'm sipping a mojito at the red frog bar lido deck at 11.45am. It's happy hour somewhere right?!

I was lucky enough to have a balcony cabin – cabin number 6139. What a lovely room! Very spacious and with all the mod cons including usb ports at the desk. The power is both 110 & 220 volts, both USA & European. The beds are incredibly comfortable as are the pillows and you have a choice of a few pillows. There is plenty of room under the bed so once you have unpacked then the suitcase slides under and is hidden away for the duration of your cruise. The balcony is a good size. Big enough to sit and relax on.



Life on board is great. Subtle colours and wide hallways led you round the ship. There are lots of different dining options and bars on board. There is your standard dining, the main dining room - there are two restaurants (the Meridien & Reflection Restaurants) plus the Lido market place with many different options and these are all complimentary. Plus outside by the middle pool you have Guy's burgers (complimentary) and the Pizzeria by the aft pool, also complimentary. If you want something a little more special there are many other dining options for a small fee. Jiji Asian kitchen is out of this world, based on Asian Infusion sharing dishes, it is a must. There is plenty of food even when sharing plates and in a big group!!

## Day 2: Day At Sea

Was spent on board as we had a day at Sea. After completion of meetings we got to explore the ship. The children's areas are all Dr Seuss themed and offer up heaps of fun for any children on board. The waterslides are Dr Seuss slides too. There is heaps to do on board when you do have a sea day – mini golf, IMAX at sea where you can view the latest movies, the Thrill Theatre (4D experience), kids clubs if you are aged 2-17years, arcade room, sky ride, pools, outdoor movies and much more. The middle pool on the Lido deck is surrounded by 3 levels of relaxing lounges so you can be close to the action or further away if you want a bit of quite. Plus there is the Serenity area that is adults only for a bit piece and quiet....



## Day 3: Tuesday - Sardinia

Meetings finished so we wandered into town. What a lovely little place and fun to explore on foot. Back on board and back in main dining room for dinner after a drink in the ocean bar. Where the Ocean Bar is situated is great, you get to watch the passengers going to dinner or to the Havana Bar, plus they had a great band playing here later in the evenings. You can also choose to have a drink inside or outside and watch the world go by.

## Day 4 Wednesday - Naples.

We decided to go for a Carnival shore excursion today. Very easy experience and recommend this as an option. We did Amalfi coast and Pompeii. Our guide was fantastic! Dinner back on board and we opted to eat at the new Pig and Anchor bar. This is also part of the famous Guy of the Guy Ferrari burgers that are on the lido deck. There is a minimal charge for the meal at the Pig and Anchor bar for food but well worth it. Based loosely round the American bbq and what an amazing meal. The pulled pork and beans nachos are to die for!



### **Day 5: Rome**

Again we decided to do another Carnival shore excursion. This was another full day in Rome and again a very well run tour. We got back on board pretty tired! Tonight we dined at the bonsai sushi place. A small charge but again worth the cost. Just bare in mind that the drinks menu is small in here, but the staff can grab anything from the other bars and deliver it very smartly.

### **Day 6: Livorno**

We headed to Pisa on yet another Carnival Shore Excursion. We did 'Pisa on your own', basically a transfer to Pisa with a guide explaining the history and you get a couple of hours in Pisa. Nice way to do it as I hadn't been there as yet. We met up with a couple of our agents that were on board for a drink at the Alchemy Bar. This bar is lots of fun! The servers are wearing white lab coats and 'make up' cocktails to your liking! So much fun. Then we headed for dinner to the brand new Teppan-Yaki at sea. There are two tables just beside the Bonsai Sushi restaurant in a small separate room and the chef's cook at your table. Always a fun experience when eating at these restaurants – and just as fun when cruising in the Med!

### **Day 7: Marseille**

Chose to head into town and explore ourselves today. There was a cost of US\$17 Roundtrip for the shuttle which was charged direct to our on board account. Had a wander round Marseille and then a lunch before heading back to the ship. Did another walk round the ship to take another look at a few things before taking a quick dip in the pool. Tonight we ate at the Fahrenheit Steakhouse. The piano bar now opens into the restaurant for mood music while you dine and then is closed off at 10pm for when the bar starts rocking. There are two different pianists on board. One performer plays (no singing) while the door is open to the restaurant next door. Then another comes on to entertain with singalongs and requests and the door gets closed! Great atmosphere in here - like any good piano bar should be!! Tonight there is the finale of the lip sync battle which we unfortunately missed as we dined late at the Fahrenheit steakhouse. There is a surcharge for the steakhouse of US\$35pp and I would pay double! The steak was amazing – cooked exactly how I like it (as I am very fussy about my steak) and it was like slicing through butter! But the reason why we were a bit longer in the restaurant was due to art by the table for dessert - wow what a fun experience!! You will have to cruise Carnival and enjoy for yourself – I won't say anything more.....

### **Camp Ocean (Kids Club):**

There were over 400 kids on board this cruise but you would never know!! There are four different camps - 2-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years. The teens are 13-17 years. They will sometimes mix the 6-8 & 9-12 years if there are not too many on board but that is the only camps that will mix together. There is a book area just to the side of the Kids Club and is open to children of any ages. Even small children can head in her as long as they are accompanied by their parents or guardian's.

### **Entertainment:**

The entertainment on board has been out of this world! The dancers/singers for the main show lounge on board are absolutely amazing. There has been three shows on board this 7-night cruise, each one better than the last. The productions and costumes are fantastic, made even better with the state of the art LED screens as the back drops. Hard to believe you are on board a cruise ship watching these amazing productions!



**Innovative pluses:**

- \* The new elevators that I mentioned previously, makes for a much smoother and easier embark and disembark. Choose your floor the pad will tell you what elevator you will be riding in!! Genius.
- \* New doors that lead out onto the alfresco dining deck area on deck 5. You still have the revolving doors but also doors that have been designed so you don't have that feeling of being in a wind tunnel when they open.

Overall an amazing, fun and entertaining cruise experience. I highly recommend a cruise on board Carnival International! A must for all ages. The tagline for Carnival International is the Fun Ships – this is well and truly correct!

