



**NAMING CEREMONY  
INAUGURAL VOYAGE  
INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT  
10 – 14 DECEMBER 2020  
LONG BEACH–ENSENADA–LONG BEACH**

**On the 10th of December the FTM Team attended Carnival Cruise Line's International Summit in LA. This included an invitation to the naming ceremony of their new Vista class ship Carnival Panorama and we were honoured to sail on her inaugural voyage, a 3-night roundtrip cruise Long Beach to Ensenada.**

The naming ceremony included the Carnival AirShip, a 128-foot-long blimp emblazoned with the line's Choose Fun tag line and was concluded with a massive fireworks display that lit up the Long Beach sky. These Vista class ships are truly innovative, Carnival Cruise Line have really outdone themselves. Along with the offerings on her two sister ships such as the SkyRide, Carnival have introduced the first trampoline park at sea – Sky Zone, a two-level, 3,000-square-foot facility. Carnival Kitchen, a first-in-fleet culinary centre that offers more than 15 different interactive cooking, baking and decorating demonstrations.



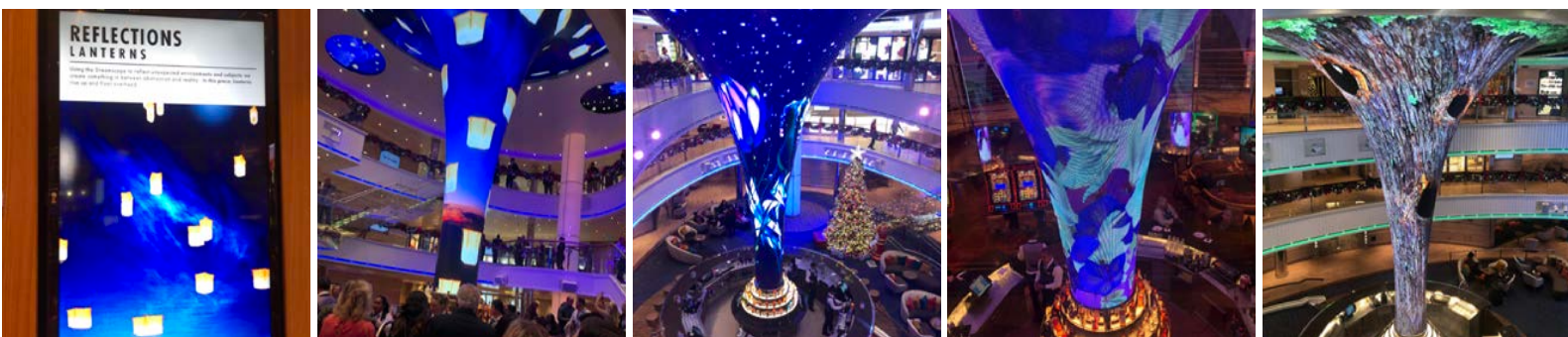
Christine Duffy decided in Italy that the Sports Bar should be themed as a Hero's Tribute Bar, so the team onboard transformed it en route to Long Beach into an incredible (and quite moving) space that honours all those who keep us safe, with a portion of the proceeds going to 'Operation Homefront' an organisation that assists and provides support for military families. While the concept will initially be exclusively on Carnival Panorama, the line will look to implement it across the Carnival fleet. Panorama offers more than 20 dining options, with many opening out to alfresco dining areas on the spacious decks, the food and service was of a very high standard.

Panorama is the third and final ship of this class, with Mardi Gras joining the fleet in 2020, heralding a new era of LNG powered ships. Having a new build on the West Coast of the USA has been very well received, there hasn't been a new ship, or ship of this caliber for nearly 25 years. Home porting year round in Long Beach, Carnival Panorama's 7-night itineraries that depart every Saturday are an excellent option for NZers, and will call at seaside destinations such as Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas. The direct flight to LA is so convenient and travellers can add a cruise onto their LA holiday, or simply take the 7-night Mexican Riviera cruise if short on time.



# Carnival Panorama™

- 2004 Staterooms/ Suites
- 15 Guest Decks
- 3rd and final ship in the Vista Class
- 1480 crew - 70 nationalities
- Showcasing the first Trampoline Park at Sea - Sky Zone
- Firsts for Carnival Cruise Line featuring on Carnival Panorama include:
  - Carnival Kitchen - cooking classes at sea
  - Introduction of Hero's tribute bar - portion of proceeds go to Homefront (An organisation that assists military families)
  - First female Cruise Director and Entertainment Director on a Carnival ship



The Panorama Atrium is impressive! Spanning three decks high, from deck three to five, deck four has an area for musicians to play. Deck three features a small dance floor and a huge bar around the LED centrepiece. The LED centrepiece changes regularly, and there is a screen on deck three that explains the pattern that's being displayed.

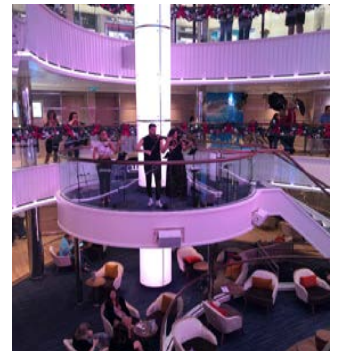
## BARS & ENTERTAINMENT

There is so much entertainment onboard, there is absolutely something for everyone - unfortunately I did not get time to experience everything. Here's what I did see:

'Rock Revolution - 1969' was the main show in the Liquid Lounge. It featured 12 dancers/ singers, two guitarists and a drummer, trumpets etc. There were also drones in the show which were stunning. The Liquid Lounge is two-storied, spanning Decks 4 and 5.

Jeff Sakura was the comedian onboard (he's been on the Late Night Show), I went to two of his R18 performances in the Limelight Lounge, he was very clever and had me in hysterics.

A Military tribute is held every cruise in the Limelight Lounge. The Cruise Director spoke and then people from the audience were invited to speak, it was extremely moving!



The Library Bar

The Piano Bar is a really lovely space. Early evening it opens into the Fahrenheit 555 Steakhouse where the pianist just plays music. At around 9pm the restaurant is closed off and another pianist takes over, he plays and sings, the atmosphere is awesome!

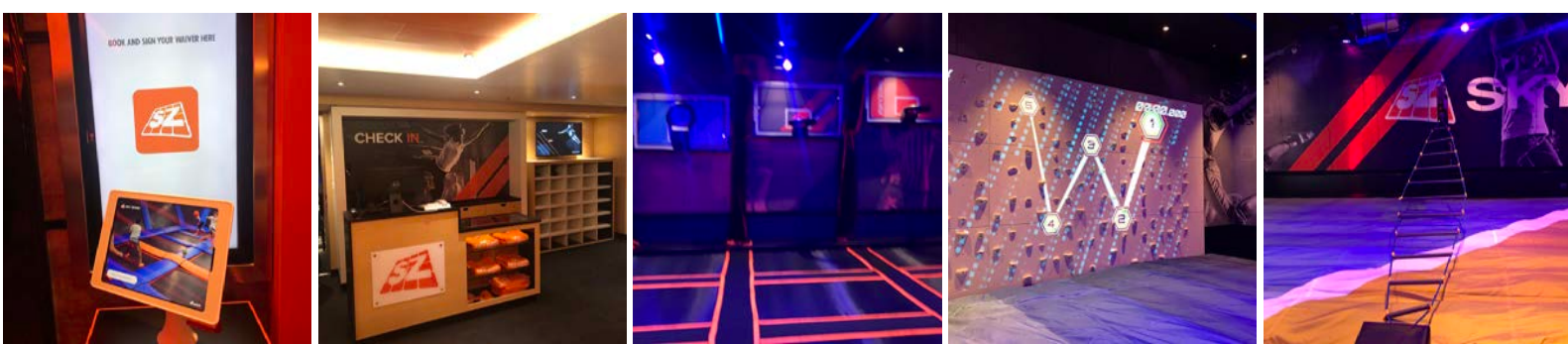
The Alchemy Bar is super popular! And the Library Bar is just divine.

The Ocean Plaza is a lovely spot, musicians play there in the evening, and there are often game shows during the day, it also opens up to the Promenade Deck so you can take your drinks outside.



## SKY ZONE

- Situated on Deck 7 (two decks high)
- Capacity of 20 people in the park
- Guests book and pay for one hour slots
- Features: 12 Separate trampolines, Dodge ball, Hoops, Sky ladder, Balance beam, Tug of war, Rock wall - which has different backgrounds for you to climb or games you can play, such as hitting balls, avoiding asteroids, and you have the option of one or two players/ climbers
- There are different sessions for different abilities. One session is for 0-5 year olds, who must come with a parent.
- Cost is US\$5/pp for 0-5 year olds and Open time US\$12. There is also a Glow party - US\$18



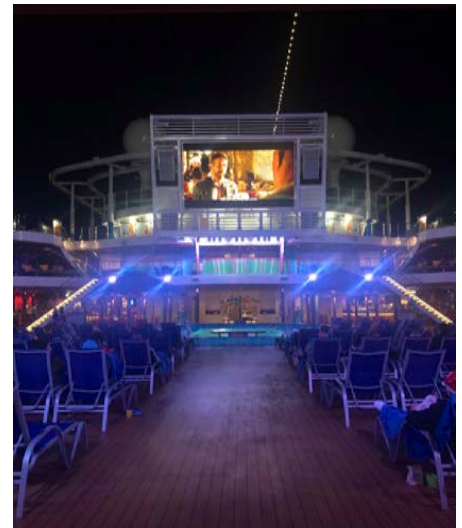
## LIDO DECK

Deck 10 features two pools, one aft, and one mid-ship. The Pizzeria del Capitano is on this deck and is absolutely delicious - no additional charge, unless you are ordering it as room service or to be delivered to you somewhere on the ship. Also aft is the Seafood Shack, which is an additional cost.

The Lido Marketplace is inside, between the two pools, so there is tons of indoor and outdoor seating. The food there was of a very high standard. Lot's of variety and two completely separate stations so it didn't get too congested.

Around the Beach Pool (midship) is the BlueIguana Cantina, Blue Iguana Tequila Bar, the RedFrog Rum Bar and of course the very popular Guy's Burger Joint.

Carnivals Seaside Theatre is popular, with great movies playing at select times.



## OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

Deck 12 features the sports courts - basketball hoops, running track; a SportSquare with lots of games. The amazing Carnival WaterWorks is midship and the Cloud 9 Spa and Fitness Centre are forward.

The thrilling SkyRide and SkyCourse (high ropes) are accessible from Deck 14 and not for the faint-hearted!

Ahhhhh Serenity Adult-Only Retreat is at the very top of the ship, Deck 15, and the only feature on this deck. Offering two spas, a bar, Fresh Creations (salad bar) and lots of lovely seating, lounging, lying and relaxing areas.





## FOOD

There are more than 20 dining options onboard!

On Deck 5 all the dining venues open out onto the promenade deck for alfresco dining. The dining venues on this deck include: Guy's Pig & Anchor Smokehouse/Brewhouse, Bonsai Sushi, Fahrenheit 555 Steakhouse and Cherry on Top.

You'll never go hungry! After 10pm you can get toasted sandwiches, fries etc made for you at the Lido Marketplace. Seafood Shack and the Pizzeria del Capitano are also open late.

JavaBlue Cafe makes great specialty coffees (additional charge).



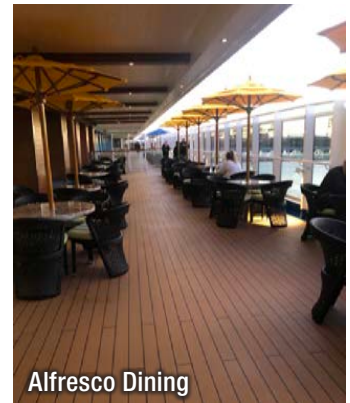
Lido Marketplace

## MAIN DINING ROOM

There are two main dining rooms on Deck 3, Vista and Horizon Restaurants. You are assigned to one and it is noted on your room card. Both have exactly the same food. We were assigned the Vista Restaurant, which is the larger of the two, and is two-storied. The service was excellent. Mid-meal the Head maitr'dee gives a speech and introduces everyone, then the waiters do a show. They dance and sing, and got everyone up - it was great fun.

The wait staff are very accommodating and nothing is a problem. For my first meal I had three entrees and a dessert: Shrimp cocktail, Tomato soup and Calamari, with Smores for dessert- it was amazing!!!

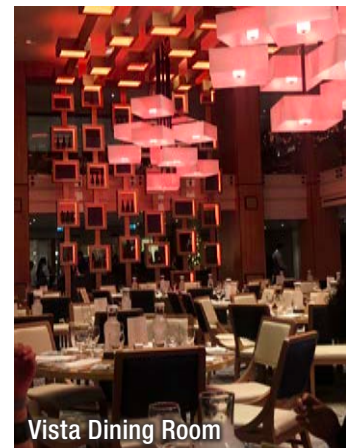
You can reserve your table on Carnival Hub app even if you selected the 'Dine as you Wish' option.



Alfresco Dining

## JI JI's MONGOLIAN WOK

Located on Deck 11. Lunch is complimentary between 12:00 and 2:30pm, with no reservation necessary. I arrived right on 12:00 and was seated straight away. It was busy as to be expected, but the service was perfect. I had a nice seat right by the window. Lunch was a set menu where you had a choice of two entrees. For the main you selected the noodles you wanted, accompanied by your choice of vegetables, protein and sauce. The venue had nice decor, was light and spacious, with quiet music playing. The food was delicious, and they were perfectly sized portions.



Vista Dining Room

## CUCINA DEL CAPITANO

Also located on Deck 11, with complimentary lunch between 12:00 and 2:30pm, and no reservation required. It is a sharing style of dining. For bigger groups they will bring out all the appetisers for the table, then each guest will choose their main. We dined there for dinner, the food was sensational, very very good! I highly recommend it, and at US\$15 per person it was great value for money.



## BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

We were lucky enough to have a private tour of the crew quarters. The crew have a lot of support from HR and have opportunities to study onboard. New staff start off working in the crew kitchen/ bar/ dining area before moving upstairs to serve guests. You are able to book this as an 'excursion' on some voyages, I believe it is around 3.5 hours and takes in the kitchen area and more.

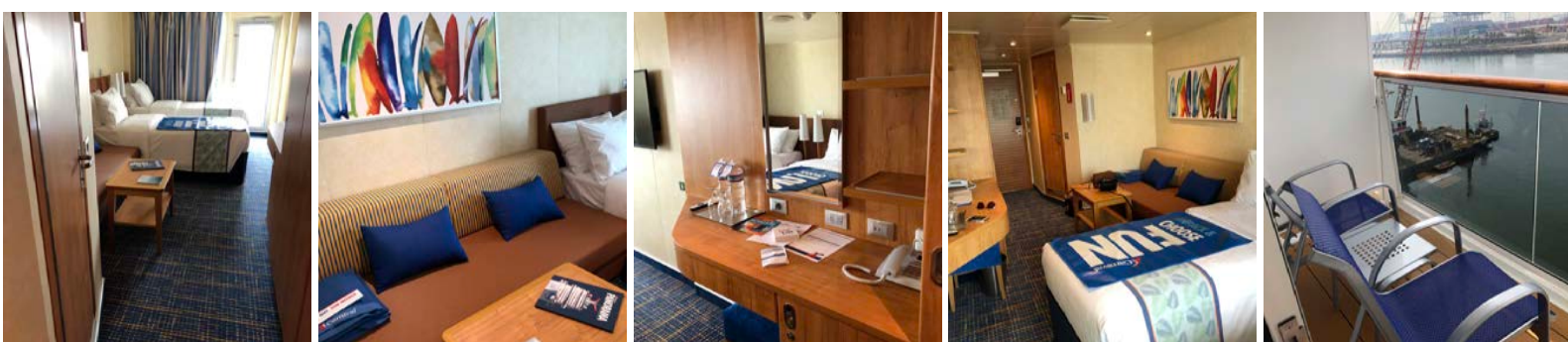


## OUR STATEROOM

We were spoiled with a Balcony stateroom (Category 8D), situated forward on Deck 8, directly off the landing by the stairs and elevators. There are some thoughts that the lifts or landing areas are noisy, but I experienced absolutely no noise issues.

I really liked the set up of the room, instead of the whole wall being a ranch slider, it's a door and a window - so you can have the single bed right up against the window. Sitting in bed and looking out the window was lovely, plus it gives you a large area by the wardrobes and bathroom for moving around in. The couch was very long and comfortable to lounge on. The bathroom door can stay open, which is handy for when it's steamy and/or hot in there, and the toilet was a decent height!

The flat-screen TVs were great, with the usual news channels, forward/ aft cameras, map, plus on-demand movies - some movies are free whilst others cost US\$4.99. The rooms feature USB ports, which are really handy as you don't need international plugs for charging your phone.

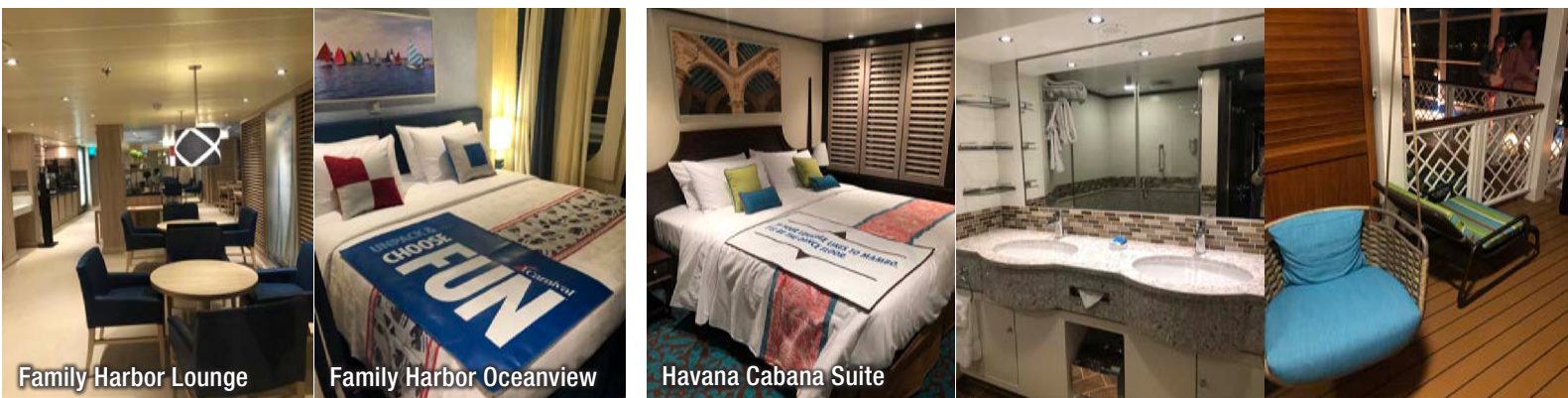


There is a self service laundry on most floors (with accommodation) along with ironing boards.

Deck 2, aft houses the Family Harbor Staterooms and Suites along with the Family Harbor Lounge.

The gorgeous Havana bar and pool is aft on Deck 5, but is only accessible to Havana Stateroom/ Suite guests. The Havana staterooms and suites are all aft and are situated on Decks 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Decks 11, 12 and 14 feature the Cloud 9 Spa staterooms and suites, which are closely situated to the Spa facilities, and Fitness Centre.



**Worth mentioning** is the Dr Seuss Bookville, a lovely room on Deck 11 situated next to Camp Ocean (Kids Club for the littlies - the clubs for older kids are on Deck 6). They hold story times there, and it's always open for parents to come in and read to their children.

**Carnival Hub**, the phone app is excellent and is available for use onboard without purchasing an Internet plan. It is the most popular cruise line app with a 4.6 star rating on App Store! Able to be accessed before you get onboard, it's a great planning tool and particularly helpful for people new to cruising. It features many functions including the daily programme, where you can star events you want to attend and it will remind you 15 minutes prior. You can check your onboard account, book dining options, even order pizza and beer to be delivered to you anywhere on the ship! The Chat option is fantastic, you can send messages to fellow guests and it will notify you if you have a message.

**The Social media wifi package** is a great option, it enables access to Facebook, Instagram etc, with the bonus of being able to communicate with people back home via Messenger.



Dr Seuss Bookville



## EMBARKATION

Once you have accessed the Carnival portal with your booking number you will be able to select an embarkation time. Check-in was quick and seamless, with the terminal, only 18 months old, providing excellent facilities. Carnival Panorama home ports year-round in Long Beach.

We chose 1:30 p.m. to embark. Once onboard, we were free to explore the ship and settle into our cabin. The key card to your room is in an envelope by the door, so as soon as you are onboard you can go straight to your stateroom. It's a good idea to take a backpack with your togs etc, so that you're not waiting for your bags to be delivered before you can head to the pool. The Lido Marketplace is open, so you can get some lunch.

The muster was held in different areas of the ship, so it was quite comfortable and you could sit down. The Cruise Director did the safety briefing over the loud speaker, with crew demonstrating how to put on the life jackets.

There were a lot of people wearing a huge variety of Carnival Panorama shirts. There are websites where you can order T-shirts and have them sent pre-cruise. A lot of guests onboard are very passionate about inaugural voyages!

## DISEMBARKATION

Disembarkation was excellent. We elected 'Express Debarkation' where we carried our own luggage off. Starting at 8:00am they called you by deck number to disembark. The lifts didn't take long, there were no long queues off the ship, everything was fast and easy - right through the terminal and customs! Alternatively you have the option to leave your bags outside your room the night before and collect them once disembarked.

There is a transit bus/coach to Long Beach.

## LONG BEACH & LOS ANGELES

The most convenient way to get around is by Uber. We visited a Pike Outlet Mall and the Citadel Mall whilst staying in Long Beach - great shopping!

Whilst waiting for our evening flight in LA, we took a short taxi ride to a strip mall which had some great shops.

## ENSENADA

Ensenada is a great port of call. It was a lovely easy stroll into the main street along a nice waterfront boardwalk. There is great shopping in town for all your signature Mexican gifts, along with delicious eating establishments and great bars. The shops accept US dollars, plus there are a few cash-flow machines around and most places accept credit cards.



## LAND ACCOMMODATION

### PRE-CRUISE: Hotel Maya a DoubleTree by Hilton

We transferred from the airport to hotel via an Uber.

A great waterfront complex with pool, fitness centre, bar and restaurant. Our tastefully decorated room was very spacious and comfortable.

A complimentary shuttle takes guests anywhere within 2 miles of the hotel every hour and also picks them up.

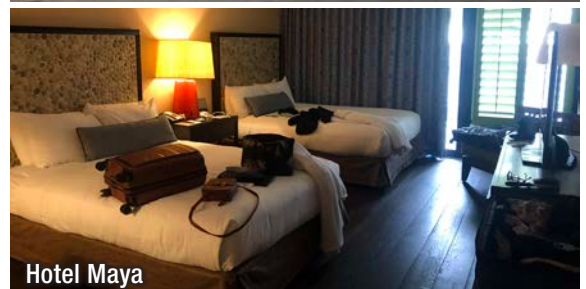
The Pike Outlet Mall was only a five minute drive, and if you were feeling energetic, a 20 minute walk.

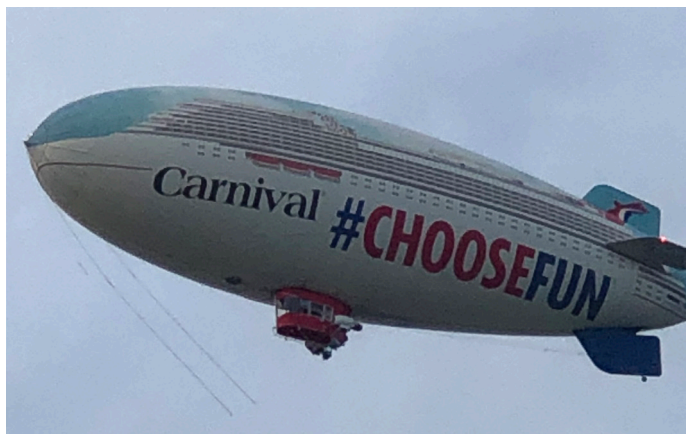
Hotel Maya provides a frequent shuttle service over to the cruise terminal, which is only a five minute walk away along the waterfront.

### POST CRUISE: Holiday Inn Los Angeles - LAX Airport

We booked a day room at the Holiday Inn near the airport.

It was excellent and a great idea, as we could rest, shower, re-pack etc before our 8pm flight. The room was huge and had coffee and tea making facilities. The cost was US\$89 (including tax) for the day until 6pm.





## OUR ITINERARY: Naming Ceremony, International Summit and Inaugural Cruise

**December 10th 2019 - Long Beach, Los Angeles, CA - Pier-side Event**

Embarkation: 3:00 p.m.

Pier-side naming event onboard the Carnival Panorama

Cabin Tours and Playlist Production debut of their new show 'Rock Revolution - 1969'

Disembark: 11:00 p.m.

**December 11th - Long Beach, Los Angeles, CA**

Embarkation: 1:30 p.m.

Depart Long Beach: 5:30 p.m.

Cocktail reception: Welcome drinks reception at 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the Limelight Lounge.

Dinner: 'Your Time' Dining room located on Deck 3, Vista Restaurant at 5:00 pm

**December 12th - Fun Day at Sea**

International Summit: 9:00am

Dinner: 5:30pm at Cucina Del Capitano

**December 13th - Ensenada, Mexico**

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Depart 6:00 p.m.

SkyZone Tour: 9:20 a.m.

Closing drinks reception: 4:00pm in the Limelight Lounge

Dinner: 5:00pm in the Vista Restaurant

**December 14th - Long Beach, Los Angeles, CA**

Arrive 7:00 a.m.

Disembark



## LET'S GET EXCITED ABOUT.....

- Victory Transformation to **Carnival Radiance** – 2020
- **Port Canaveral** Terminal – 2020
- **Mardi Gras** Launch – 2020
- **Ensenada** Development – 2021
- **Miami** Terminal – 2022
- **Half Moon Cay** Expansion – 2022
- **Grand Bahama** Port Development – 2022
- **50th** Anniversary – 2022
- **XL2** Launch – 2022