

The Cherry Family Disney Cruise

Our grandchildren certainly enjoyed the numerous Character meetings on the ship and Disney's private island, Castaway Cay. We were impressed that in these meetings it was more than just a photo op, as the characters spent a little time with each child and the speaking characters would ask questions and talk to them. Attached is a picture of our 5 grandchildren taken on "pirate night" with Peter Pan. As you can see, they were having a lot of fun.

We must give you a big thank you for the Disney autograph books you gave each of the grandkids. We gave them the books the morning of the cruise after breakfast in the Hampton Inn where we stayed the night before the cruise. They were very excited and all went to the front desk and asked for pens, which were gladly provided. Once on board they got character signature after character signature, so all of the books were used frequently and are such wonderful souvenirs they took home. Thanks again for them, which turned into a must-have during the entire trip.

Castaway Cay was also very nice for everyone, with the beaches and different water activities for all ages. There was actually a "just for kids" beach area, where parents could drop off their kids and go have some time alone, while Disney kept them busy with a lot of different fun activities. The grandchildren of ours that went there thoroughly enjoyed it.

The concept of three alternating restaurants, with the same servers rotating with their diners each night, works very well. Everyone enjoyed the three different restaurants. We had one big table for our group of 12 in a great location by the window, so everyone could look out on the ocean while we ate. One of the best things on the cruise was how our server and assistant server took care of the grandkids. Dining staff intentionally seated them together at one end of the table. The plastic lids on their water cups had their names written on them and served as place cards. Both servers were so good with the kids from helping them with their choices, bringing extra servings, bringing items that were not on the menu that night, to entertaining them with magic tricks. To top it off, the food was really good and our server even brought the adults some unrequested entrées and desserts for sharing, just so we could try something different. All in all, the dining experience for us, our children and grandchildren was just great.

All of the grandkids went to the age 3-12 activities/programs several times during the cruise and absolutely loved it every time. The only problem was that they could not spend more time there with everything else going on. The parents also took advantage of those activities to have some grown-up time on the ship. The water slides on the ship were a big hit, as well as the shows at night and of course the fireworks on pirate night! There was always something for the grandkids to do.

We also have to mention how amazed the grandkids were with the stateroom beds that came down from the ceiling and wall at night for them. It was such a treat for them and they talked about them the entire cruise. We would unequivocally recommend a Disney cruise for a family vacation with kids of the age to enjoy all of the activities provided. The cruise will certainly be enjoyable for adults and the most enjoyable aspect for us, as it would be for others, is to view the cruise through the eyes of children/grandchildren and watch them have such wonderful experiences.