

**Canada/Greenland Trip on the Caribbean Princess Cruise Ship - August 15-31, 2022  
(Carey & Donna Beamesderfer)**

We like cruising with Princess. Most of the passengers are retired couples with extensive travel experience; 75% of them with many more cruise days than us. This cruise was 16 days, and we were fortunate to be able to travel with our good friends, Doug and Sally Borrett. We flew from El Paso to Houston then to LaGuardia where we took the Holiday Inn Express hotel shuttle for an overnight stay before boarding the Caribbean Princess Cruise Ship the following afternoon. The location of our hotel was such that the only nearby restaurant was MacDonaldds, so we had burgers and fries for dinner that night.

The MS *Caribbean Princess* is a modified *Grand*-class cruise ship owned and operated by Princess Cruises, with a capacity of over 3,600 passengers, the largest carrying capacity in the Princess fleet until June 2013 when the new *Royal Princess*, another Princess ship superseded its record. She has 900 balcony staterooms and a deck of mini suites. We chose an Inside Cabin. Doug & Sally had a Balcony room.



The Caribbean Princess Cruise Ship docked in Nanortalik, Greenland



Our trip itinerary – beginning & ending in Brooklyn, NY

The Caribbean Princess is a Medallion Class ship. It begins with your Medallion®, a quarter-sized, wearable device that enables everything from touch-free boarding to locating your spouse anywhere on the ship.



**On Day 2 – Monday – Aug 15** – We Uber'd from our hotel to the Brooklyn Port, checked in and boarded around 1:00pm. We had dinner with Doug & Sally in the Coral dining room, went to a comedy show after dinner, then to bed in cabin C416. (Caribe Deck)



Leaving the port at Brooklyn, NY



View of the Statue of Liberty



View of the NY from Deck 16

**On Day 3 – Tuesday – August 16** – Day at Sea – We ate breakfast at the buffet, toured the ship, then played Pickle Ball for about an hour on deck 19. The four of us signed up for a cruise-long trivia game where we competed against other teams. I'll tell you how well we did later in this report.



One of the pools on deck



The Pickle Ball Court on Deck 19



The buffet area on deck 15

That night was formal night so we ate at the Island dining room, after Happy Hour in the Crooners Bar.



Dine My Way is all about personalizing your cruise dining experience. You can customize your dining time for each day, whether making reservations for the main dining room (which is included) or specialty restaurants (which charge a small cover charge). You can have dinner at the same time each night or change it based on what works for you. There are 3 main dining rooms, the Coral, the Island, and the Palm.

**On Day 4 – Wednesday – August 17** – We docked in Halifax, Nova Scotia where we were taken by motorcoach (bus) to Peggy’s Cove.



Nova Scotia is home to over 160 historic lighthouses, but no beacon is as photographed as much as the one in the vibrant fishing village of Peggy’s Cove. Built in 1915, Peggy’s Point Lighthouse keeps watch over surging ocean waves and working lobster boats. Amble over giant rocks worn smooth by the sea and share in the view. Lunch at the Sou’wester restaurant was included in our tour. They served lobster sandwiches and coleslaw.

Later that day we walked through the Halifax Public Gardens then were taken to the Citadel where we visited the Army Museum and toured parts of the grounds in the rain.



Our walk through the Halifax Public Gardens



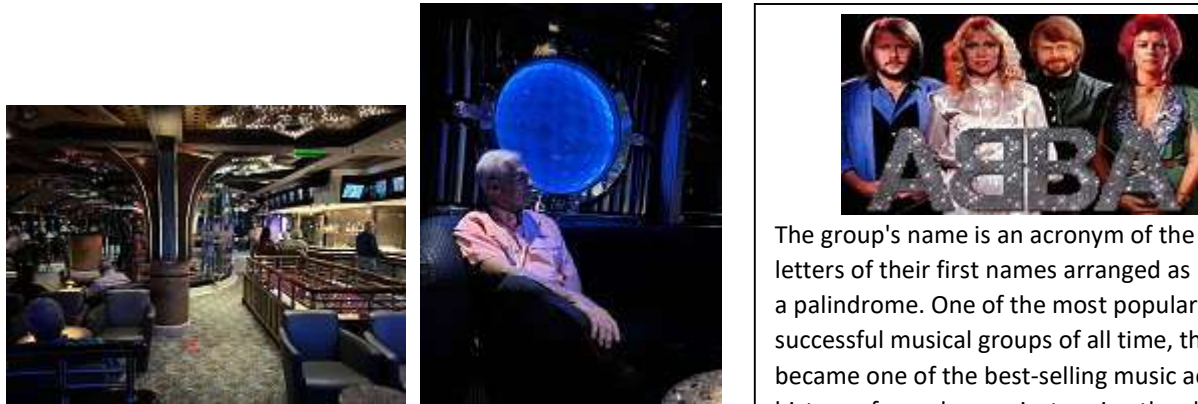
The Citadel is the fortified summit of Citadel Hill. The hill was first fortified in 1749, the year that Edward Cornwallis oversaw the development of the town of Halifax. Those fortifications were successively rebuilt to defend the town from various enemies. Construction and leveling have lowered the summit by ten to twelve feet. While never attacked, the Citadel was long the keystone to defense of the strategically important Halifax Harbor and its Royal Navy Dockyard. Today, Parks Canada operates the site as the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada. It has restored the fort to its appearance when built in the Victorian era.

Our last stop this day was at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The museum is the oldest and largest maritime museum in Canada with a collection of over 30,000 artifacts including 70 small craft and a steamship: the *CSS Acadia*, a 180-foot steam-powered hydrographic survey ship launched in 1913. The museum also has a collection of 30,000 photographs as well as a large collection of charts and rare books. A reference library, open to the public, is named after the Museum's founding director, The Niels Jannasch Library. This museum has Canada's largest collection of ship portraits including the oldest ship portrait in Canada as well as a large collection of ship models.



Photos from the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Our dinner that night was in the Palm dining room after which we went to the Skywalkers nightclub to listen to a tribute to ABBA music. They were not on board, just their music.



The group's name is an acronym of the first letters of their first names arranged as a palindrome. One of the most popular and successful musical groups of all time, they became one of the best-selling music acts in the history of popular music, topping the charts worldwide from 1974 to 1982, and in 2021.

**On Day 5 – Thursday – August 18** – We arrived at the Sydney, Nova Scotia harbor. Donna & I went on the Goat Island tour to visit the Mi'kmaq Indian Village. Doug & Sally went on a different tour, so I don't have the details for that. Our tour included a bus ride to Goat Island where the native people gave us talks and demonstrations about their trading post, camp life, survival skills, smudging, bread-making and native song and dance.



Upon returning to the ship, we walked around the dock taking a few photos of the area. The Sydney harbor has the world's largest "fiddle" and a gigantic wooden chair which are unique to Canada. The Big Fiddle stands at 60 feet tall and is a tribute to the traditions of the large Celtic population in the province.



A monument dedicated to the memory of a brave contingent of civilians who served Canada on the high seas during two world wars. Known as the merchant navy, these sailors risked their lives every time they boarded a supply ship and headed across the submarine-infested waters of the Atlantic. These merchant ships were routinely sunk by German submarines.



Sydney Merchant Mariners Memorial

Afterward we rejoined Doug & Sally on the ship for trivia, card-playing, drinks, and dinner. We all had the free drink package and made ample use of it during Happy Hour and dinner. The waiter staff in the dining rooms was polite, very accommodating, and always ready to give us the best possible dining experience. We went to one of the three main dining rooms on most days; however, we also visited the Specialty Dining areas on three different occasions. More to come on that later in this report.

**On Day 6,7,8 – Friday /Saturday/Sunday – August 19, 20, 21 – Sea Days –** Breakfast with Doug & Sally in the Coral dining room or at the deck 15 buffet, then we either attended "future port talks" or special events in the Princess theater or the Explorer's Lounge, Zumba danced, played cards, or participated in various trivia games. For lunch we sometimes went to the Salty Dog Grill or the Slice Pizzeria, or ate in one of the main dining rooms, depending on what we wanted to eat.



The Princess Theater



One of several buffet areas

There was also an International Café on deck 5 which served coffee and snacks, and of course there was a coffee and ice cream bar on deck 15 which we visited on more than one occasion.

One of those nights the four of us chose to eat at Sabitini's Italian Trattoria specialty restaurant where they served unique, handmade pasta courses, prepared fresh daily with treasured family recipes curated by their Italian chefs.

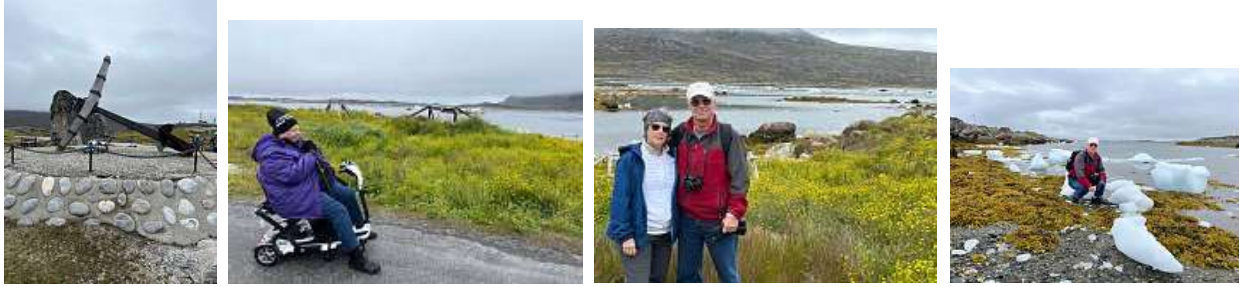
**On Day 9 – Monday – August 22** we were scheduled to dock at Nuuk, Greenland, however, seas were rough, so the ship's Captain made the decision to bypass this port, as such we had another Sea Day. Nuuk is the capital and largest city of Greenland, the seat of government and the country's largest cultural and economic center. Nuuk contains a third of Greenland's population and its tallest building. In January 2021, it had a population of 18,800.



**On Day 10 – Tuesday – August 23** – We arrived at the port of Nanortalik, Greenland, where we were tendered into the dock area. Tours were available, however the four of us, Carey, Donna, Doug & Sally chose to walk the city loop on our own. Doug and Sally were able to get Sally's scooter on board the tender, so she was able to ride it during our walk. Doug was a real trooper, he walked on, even though his knee was giving him a lot of pain.

Nanortalik is a town in Nanortalik Island, Kujalleq municipality, southern Greenland. With 1,185 inhabitants as of 2020, it is the 11th-largest town in the country. The name Nanortalik means "Place of Polar Bears" or "Place Where the Polar Bears Go" (from Greenlandic: nanoq). It is the southernmost town in Greenland, and our first opportunity to step on the island.





**On Day 11 – Wednesday – August 24** – We arrived at the port of Qaqortoq, Greenland, where, once again, we were tendered into shore. Doug and Sally chose to stay on the ship to allow Doug to massage and rest his knee. Donna & I boarded the tender, arrived at the dock, and walked around sightseeing and taking pictures.

Qaqortoq is a city in the Kujalleq municipality in southern Greenland, located near Cape Thorvaldsen. With a population of 3,050 in 2020, it is the most populous town and the municipal capital in southern Greenland and the fifth-largest town on the island.



The dock area at Qaqortoq

Rock carvings near the dock area

The town on the hill



We returned to the ship around 11:00am, had lunch at the buffet, then spent the afternoon with Doug & Sally playing cards and answering trivia questions. It was formal night, so dinner for us was at the Crown Grill Steak House. With a rich wood décor and a theater style kitchen, the Crown Grill was named among the “Best Cruise Ship Steakhouses” by USA Today. Featuring premium aged beef and fresh seafood items, this restaurant offers an intimate dining experience in an elegant setting and an open kitchen where chefs prepare and cook to order top quality cuts of beef and seafood. It was really good food and excellent service.

**On Day 11, 12 & 13– Thursday/Friday/Saturday - August 25, 26 , 27** – Sea Days – Every sea day gave us time to relax and enjoy the amenities of the ship, including numerous variety shows in the Princess theater, specialty talks in the Explorer’s lounge and, of course, trivia which was a

lot of fun. Some games we did very well, others not so well. Please note that we were competing against teams of passengers who were at the Elite level, meaning they had over 100 days on Princess ships; some even had several hundred days at sea. They had a lot of time to hear the same questions over and over through different Princess ships. We also had the opportunity to watch several movies, either in our cabin or on the big screen in the Princess theater. Relaxing in the hot tubs was another option, which we did (mostly Doug).

**On Day 14 – Sunday – August 28** – The ship docked at St. John’s, Newfoundland. Donna & I signed up for a tour of Signal Hill and the Geo Center. Doug & Sally hired a cab and visited numerous places around the area (an excellent choice).



Signal Hill recalls the town of St. John’s historic past and communications triumph, as well as offering coastal hikes and colorful performances against sweeping views overlooking the Atlantic. The final battle of the Seven Years' War in North America was fought in 1762 at the Battle of Signal Hill, in which the French surrendered St. John's to a British force under the command of Lt. Colonel William Amherst. Lt. Colonel Amherst renamed what was then known as "The Lookout" as "Signal Hill," because of the signaling that took place upon its summit from its flag mast. Flag communication between land and sea would take place there from the 17th century until 1960.



The Johnson Geo Centre is Newfoundland’s premier science center. The Geo Centre’s mission is to educate and inform the public on the importance of Newfoundland and Labrador’s geology, and to foster curiosity in science and the world around them. Open since 2002, the Geo Centre houses exhibit galleries related to our planet and Newfoundland’s provincial geology, oil and gas exploration, natural resources, space exploration, and more. Features also include an educational play area for children aged 7 and under, periodic hosting of travelling exhibits, and a gift shop. The building offers interpretation through public presentations, and hands-on, curriculum-based programming for school groups.

We returned to the ship and had a late lunch at **Slice** pizza. We spent the afternoon walking around St. John’s, visiting a church and local supermarket. Dinner was at the Island dining room.



**On Day 15, 16 – Monday / Tuesday - August 29, 30 – Sea Days –** We made the best of our last two Sea Days, visiting the International Café, watching the movie “Death on the Nile,” and attending a performance in the Princess theater – a tribute to Elton John. We had drinks in the Wheelhouse Bar and played our last games of cards – “5000 – Canasta,” “Golf” and “3-13.” We also decided to return to the Crown Grill Steak House for our final dinner on the ship.

**On Day 17 – Wednesday – August 31 – Departure –** We docked in Brooklyn, left the ship and went by bus to LaGuardia for our flight to Houston then El Paso, arriving home around 11:30pm.

**In Summary –** We had a great and fun-filled experience and really loved traveling with our friends – Doug & Sally. It was the longest cruise (by number of days) that we’ve ever been on. The ship had some passengers that were quarantined for COVID related illness, but it wasn’t something that disrupted our plan or our enjoyment of the overall cruise. The cabin service was outstanding, and the food and dining service was excellent. We look forward to our next Princess cruise which will travel around the entire Australian continent for 26 days in March 2024.

Happy Sailing – Carey & Donna Beamesderfer

