

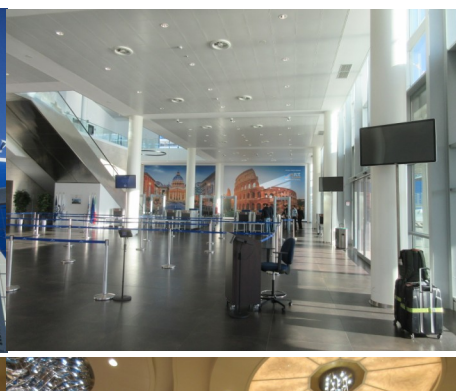
When we left off last month, we had just completed our week long Trafalgar tour of Italy and was boarding the Sky Princess for the start of our transatlantic cruise to Ft Lauderdale, FL.

The Sky Princess is the newest of the Princess Cruise Line ships, just being completed in October.

We arrived at the terminal before anyone was ready to start boarding passengers. You can see our luggage there, at the bottom right of the picture, looking so lonely.

The ship is absolutely beautiful.

This is a medallion ship. We were issued the medallion which is our boarding pass, unlocks the cabin door, acts as a charge card and allows the crew to locate you on-board to sell you more stuff.



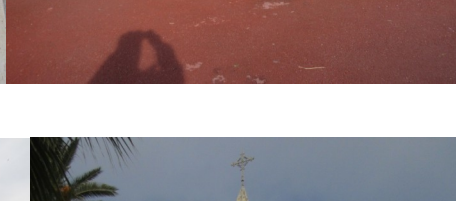
11/11: Our first port of call was Livorno, Italy with tours to Pisa. Since we were already seasoned Italy tourists and had seen the Leaning Tower, we elected to stay onboard and do laundry. I'll assume you don't need a picture of a coin operated laundry room.



We also had a very moving veteran's get-together that night.



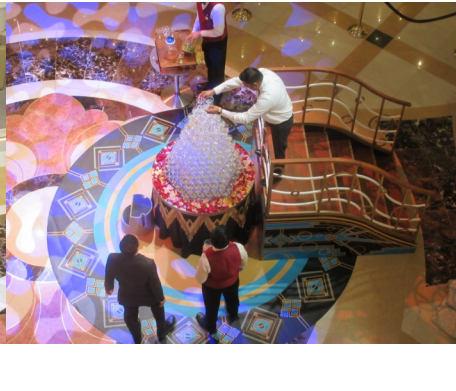
11/12: Genoa, Italy is a beautiful city with gorgeous architecture and the narrow streets we have become used to. We were surprised to find cactus around the city. It kind of reminded us of the winters we spent in the southwest.



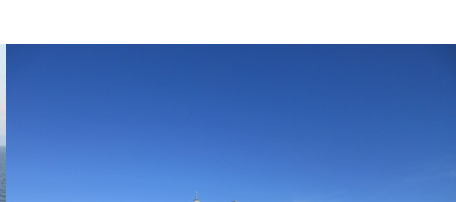
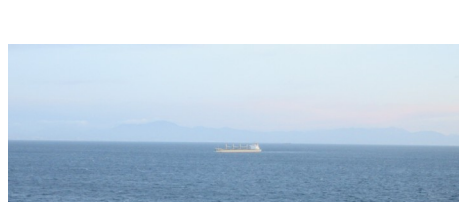
11/13: Onto Toulon, France, a beautiful sea coast town, with of course a beautiful church. It seems every place you look in Europe, you find churches, cathedrals or basilicas. To the left of the boats is an enormous flea market. Locals count on the markets to buy their produce as opposed to super markets.



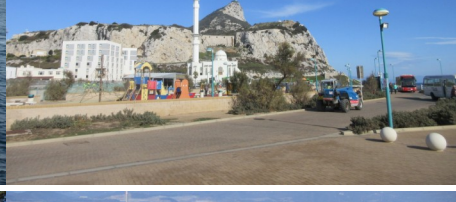
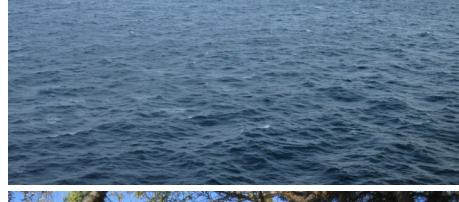
11/14: A sea day. In the morning, there was a vegetable carving demonstration. In the late afternoon, they were setting up for the champagne waterfall.



11/15: The "Rock" - Gibraltar. If you can make out the land in the distance - that is Africa. Our next stop is the top of that mountain.



The views from the top were breathtaking.



Part of the tour included admission to this cave system. As you can see, there is seating set up so they can have performances in the cave.



And as an extra treat, the mountain was crawling with monkeys! They were literally all over the place, even on top of the cars and vans. We were instructed that the monkeys can touch you — but you can't touch the monkeys.



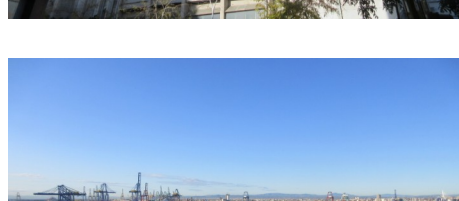
11/16: At sea. One of the activities onboard was line dancing instruction in the Piazza.



11/17: Barcelona, Spain - The Basílica de la Sagrada Família. Construction on this basilica was started in 1882 and it is still under construction. There is now hope that the construction will be completed by 2026. Don't hold your breath!



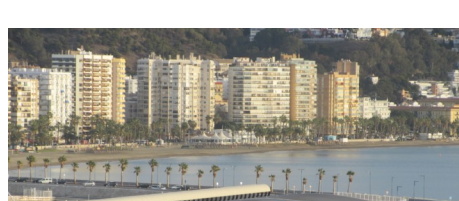
11/18: Valencia, Spain. We elected to stay on board. The view from our balcony and the start of another champagne waterfall.



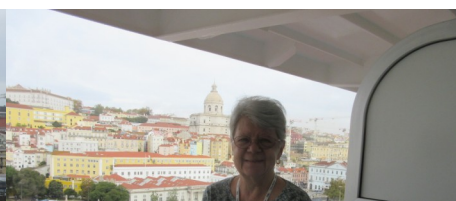
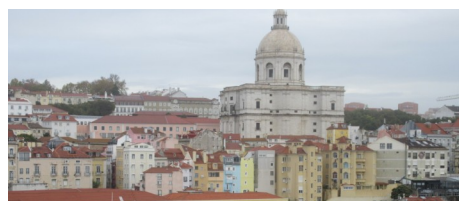
11/19: Malaga, Spain. No organized tour and we walked through the shops on the pier. View from our balcony and Marie on our balcony on the 15th level.



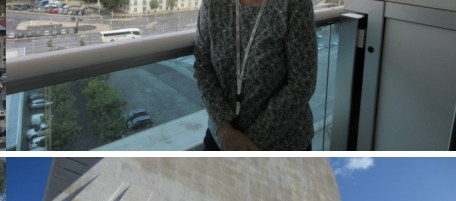
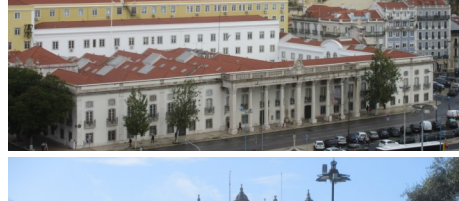
11/20: Seville, Spain. No organized tour and we walked through city near the port. View from our balcony and the narrow streets in Seville.



11/21: Lisbon, Portugal. Views from our balcony. Lisbon is the second oldest European capital city, after Athens.



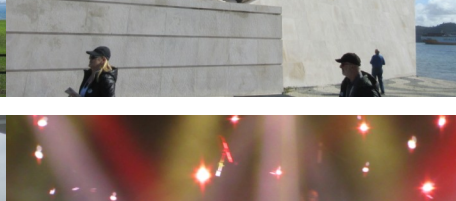
The monuments are dedicated to the "Age of Discovery", the period from the late 15th to early 17th centuries, when most of the Portuguese explorers departed from Lisbon.



11/22: At sea.



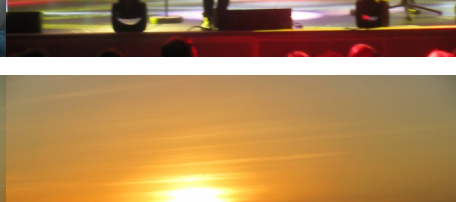
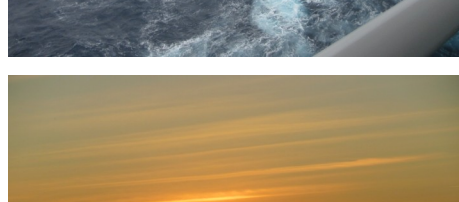
Onboard entertainment was the MacDonald Brothers from Scotland. They talked funny but they sang great!



11/23: Madeira belongs to Portugal, but is an island out in the middle of the ocean.



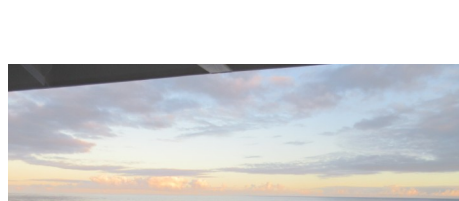
Couldn't resist including these sunrise pictures taken from our balcony.



Guided excursion included a tour of a rum factory—without free samples and some beautiful scenery.



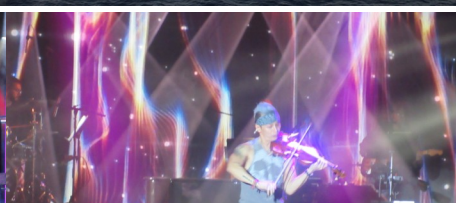
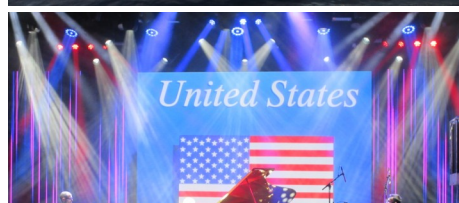
11/25 thru 11/29: At sea. We were quite surprised at how calm the Atlantic Ocean was — or perhaps we were just very lucky!



We had excellent entertainment while we crossed the Atlantic.



Naki Ataman, a pianist who played music from around the world. He played nonstop for 45 minutes.



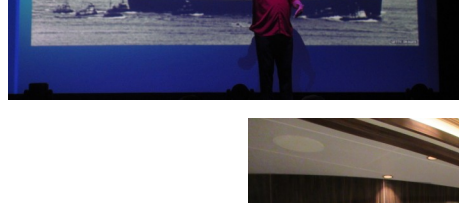
Katei, a violinist who was nothing short of wild.



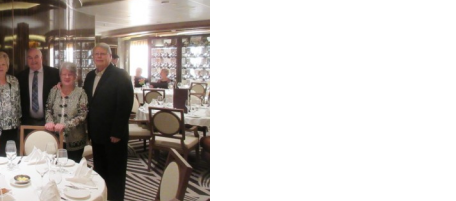
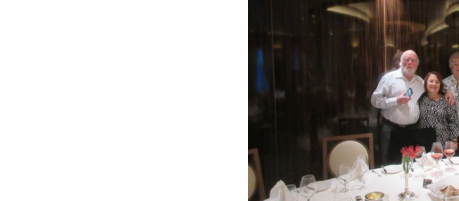
Each morning we had a lecture by David Wiemers, a writer and producer from Hollywood and Disney. He told many inside stories of what goes on behind the scenes.



On Thanksgiving, the chef gave a turkey carving demonstration, but fortunately the turkey was already carved at dinner time.

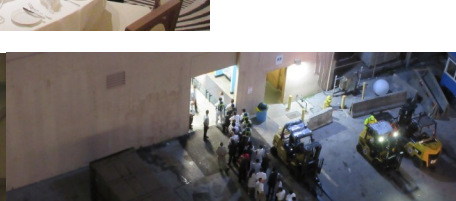
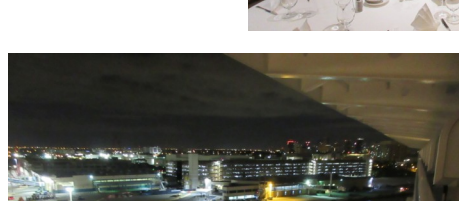


We, as usual, request traditional dinning and have a set time and table for dinner each night.

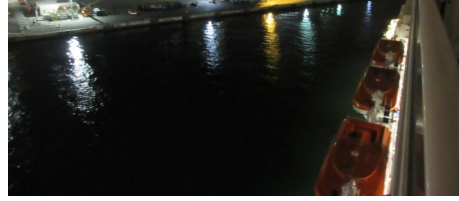


For this cruise, we had excellent table mates.

On the left is Stu & Sheila Kaikov from Virginia.



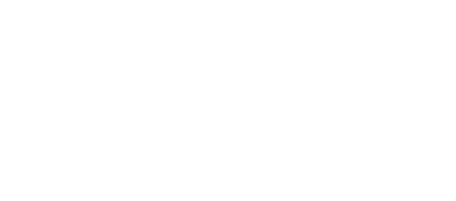
In the middle is Ray & Marylou Gregory from Newfoundland.



All good things must come to an end as we slowly pulled into our dock in Ft Lauderdale.



Since this was the first time the Sky Princess entered a United States port, the entire crew had to go through customs.



*We hope you had a Very Merry Christmas  
And our best wishes for a health and happy New Year*