

Cruise – 9	Mexican Riviera		
Itinerary	Los Angeles to Los Angeles		
Line	Princess		
ship	 <p data-bbox="710 1077 1161 1111">Golden Princess in Cabo San Lucas</p>		
No of Days	No of Nights	Cum Nights (This Line)	Cum Nights
8	7	66	72
Cabin Number	B604		
Cabin Standard	BB		
Overall Notes	<p data-bbox="389 1462 1417 1543">For our winter sun cruise in December 2007, we chose a 7 day Mexican Riviera cruise departing from Los Angeles (San Pedro).</p> <p data-bbox="389 1581 1417 1662">We took advantage of being in Los Angeles to add a one night trip to Yosemite National Park.</p>		

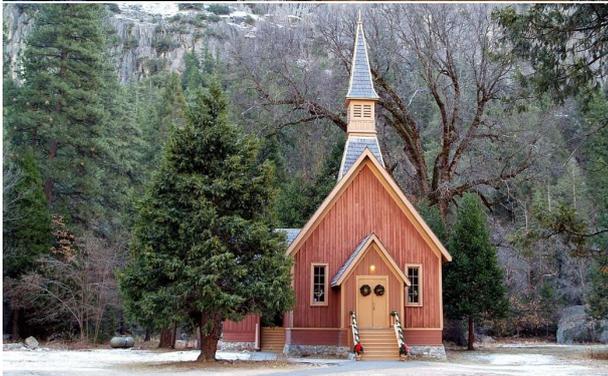
Thursday 13th December 2007 – Yosemite



We flew into Los Angeles on Wednesday 12th December and rented a car. Just about an hour drive from LAX, we stopped at a Best Western in Santa Clarita for the night, just across the freeway from the Magic Mountain Theme Park (closed for the winter).

- 07:00 On our way to breakfast at Denny's at the Best Western Valencia Inn
- 09:50 Driving North on I-99 just North of Bakersfield.
- 11:30 Passing through Fish Camp. Lots of snow and a frozen pond with interesting ice crystals on the surface,
- 12:21 Stopped at Tunnel View at the Southern entrance to Yosemite Valley.
- 12:38 Bridal Veil falls (partly frozen)
- 12:54 Driving through Yosemite Valley. It is almost deserted, in contrast to the jam of cars in summer. El Capitan looked formidable despite the blue sky and sunshine.
- 13:01 Looking across the valley floor towards Yosemite Falls
- 13:06 A short walk across the bridge over the Merced River.
- 13:28 Looking for lunch. The Village Grill is closed.
- 15:12 We tried to check in at the Ahwahnee Lodge, but were too early, so had to drive around for a while. Road works on the road out of the valley held us up long enough.
- 15:12 Wonderful view of Half Dome. The sky is still cloudless.
- 16:04 Back at the Ahwahnee Hotel and this time we were able to check in.

Friday 14th December 2007 – Los Angeles



- 08:10 Breakfast in the ornate dining room at the Ahwahnee Hotel
- 08:15 The hotel is decorated ready for Christmas
- 08:16 Early on Friday morning, after breakfast, we wrapped up warm and went for a walk. The temperature was well below freezing, but with the sun shining and very little wind, it was quite warm in places.
- 08:45 Walking along the banks of the Merced River
- 09:02 Encounter a group of schoolchildren. Clearly this was an educational trip, but for a while they were allowed to throw stones at the frozen river.
- 09:09 An unidentified and rather noisy bird at the top of a tree
- 09:35 On a bridge over the Merced River.
- 10:10 Checking out of the hotel.
- 10:26 On leaving the Ahwahnee we had one circuit of the valley floor before returning to Los Angeles.
- 10:29 The small wooden chapel. A sign near the chapel shows the 1997 flood level of the Merced River.
- 10:38 As we were turning at the extreme end of the valley a deer strolled through the parking area.
- 11:11 In snow at one of the high points of the road out of Yosemite Valley.

We drove back down to Los Angeles and stayed overnight at the Marriott Hotel, Los Angeles Airport, the Princes pre-cruise hotel. Our room on the lobby level overlooking the inner courtyard.

Day 1 - Saturday 15th December 2007 – Los Angeles - Embarkation



- 11:53 Wandering around the hotel waiting for the Princess transfer bus.
- 12:35 On the bus to the port in San Pedro.
- 13:00 Arrival at the port area. Our first glimpse of Golden Princess alongside the dock.
- 14:12 On board and a walk around to get our bearings and see the dock. San Pedro is mostly a container port.
- 14:19 Flags flying just around 2 hours before the scheduled departure time.
- 16:05 Departure from the cruise ship terminal.
- 16:35 Passing the lighthouse at the entry to the port.
- 16:37 Approaching sunset as we pass out to the open ocean.

Day 2 - Sunday 16th December 2007 – At Sea



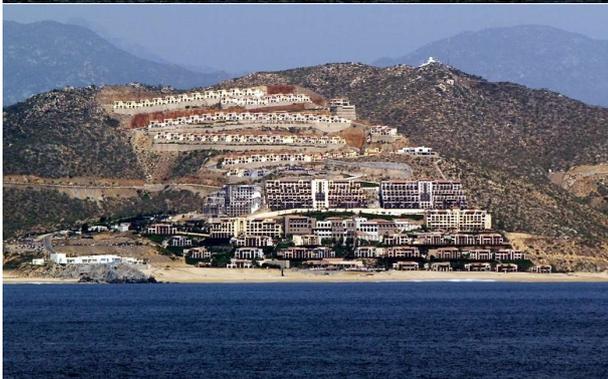
- 08:25 Looking forward from our balcony. Early morning clouds.
- 12:21 Passing a container ship heading North.
- 13:59 Walking round a crowded Promenade Deck



Day 3 - Monday 17th December 2007 – At Sea



- 12:00 Quite close to the shore North of Cabo San Lucas
- 12:09 Approaching the rocks at "Lands End", Cabo San Lucas
- 12:39 Rounding the rocks at "Lands End"



Day 4 - Tuesday 18th December 2007 – Puerto Vallarta



In Puerto Vallarta, we kept our watches on “ships time” 1 hour behind the local time,

- 06:51 Early morning haze over Puerto Vallarta
- 07:55 Ashore passing through the dockside terminal. A donkey .. one of the many opportunities to spend money on photographs
- 08:05 Celebrity Summit is in port
- 08:10 Small boat across the harbour to our tour bus.
- 08:20 Pelicans flying overhead
- 08:25 Status of Neptune (in the middle of a traffic island)
- 08:49 Underway in a 1969 vintage Mercedes 4x4 truck originally built for the Swiss Army
- 09:02 Out of town into the Mexican countryside
- 09:22 Off road and leaving a trail of dust
- 09:30 Crossing a ford
- 09:43 Driving alongside and then fording a river, birds and horses
- 09:50 First stop on our tour, El Comono, a small Mexican town, well off the beaten track
- 10:05 Inside the town meeting place and court; Zapata is still the local hero
- 10:09 Inside the Catholic Church
- 10:27 Passing a group of children by the roadside. We stopped outside a school where school children were engaged in some kind of Christmas ritual which involved trying to hit this animal as others manipulated the rope suspending it to make life more difficult
- 10:45 Second stop of the day was at a remote farm, where we saw corn being ground and tortillas being made before enjoying a taco.
- 11:26 Stopped to admire a black iguana
- 11:44 Highest point of the drive. Views across the treetops.
- 11:58 The start of a nature hike, a gentle 45 minutes “hike” down a river valley, featuring spiders and butterflies.
- 12:59 At the remnant of an ancient pyramid.
- 13:58 Stopped at a beach for a buffet lunch (and for some people to swim)
- 16:26 Back at the dock side.



16:52 Watching boats in the harbour from the deck.

17:10 Departure from Puerto Vallarta.

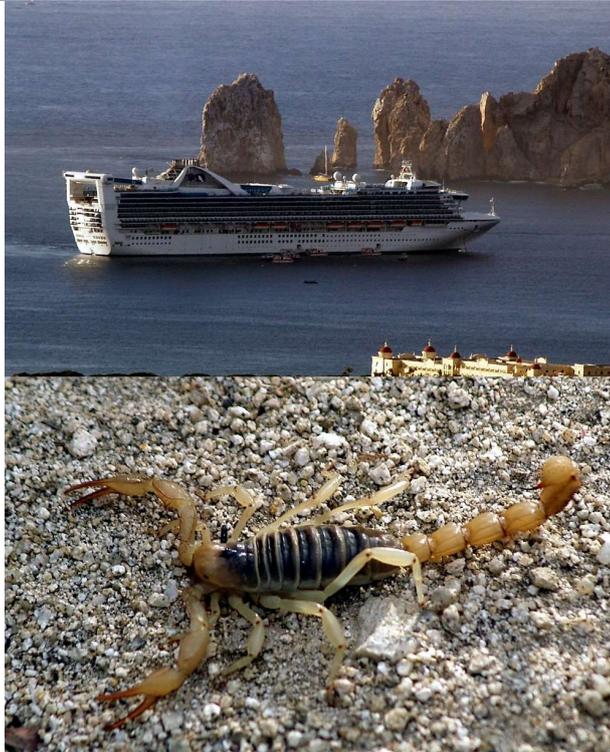
17:23 Sunset

Day 5 - Wednesday 19th December 2007 – Mazatlan



- 06:51 Dawn Princess joins her sister ship in port.
- 07:17 Vision of the Seas comes in to port.
- 08:15 Ashore, waiting for the transport to the dock gates.
- 08:25 About to start our excursion.
- 09:13 On the bird watching boat to Stone Island.
- 10:15 In the mangroves.
- 11:31 Next part of the tour is a cart pulled by a tractor.
- 11:53 On the other coast.
- 13:07 Lunch at a beach front restaurant.
- 14:33 On a boat back to the ship. Bait to attract birds.
- 15:25 Back on board and walking around deck to see Mazatlan.
- 15:45 Sail away party on deck.
- 17:01 Departure from Mazatlan
- 17:09 Sunset

Day 6 - Thursday 20th December 2007 – Cabo San Lucas



- 07:15 Anchored off Cabo San Lucas
- 07:17 View of the rocks at Lands End
- 07:22 On a tender going towards the shore
- 07:30 Looking back towards Golden Princess from the dock
- 08:09 Our shore excursion is another off-road 4x4 tour. We are already out of town on a dusty road.
- 08:18 Looking down on the dock and ship from a hillside viewpoint.
- 08:42 A small herd of cows in the road
- 09:05 Off the 4x4 for a nature walk. Lots of cacti and interesting insects such as scorpion and a stick insect.
- 10:33 Stopped at a farm for a display of tortilla making.
- 12:37 Waiting for the tender back to the ship.
- 13:28 Lots of time to look at "Lands End". The positioning of the ship gives us a great view.
- 14:00 Departure from Cabo.
- 14:06 A small fishing boat attracts lots of pelicans.
- 17:41 Spectacular view of Holland Amerika Oosterdam against the setting sun.

Day 7 - Friday 21st December 2007 – At Sea



14:25 Ready for Christmas, a decorated tree in the Atrium.

14:30 Towel folding

Day 8 - Saturday 22nd December 2007 – Los Angeles, Disembarkation



08:08 Golden Princess at dock.
08:09 Disembarkation

