

Day Three - Vancouver, BC, Canada

Last night we had an enjoyable evening staying at the B&B and socializing with other guests. We were too tired from all the walking to go out and ordered in instead. Not to mention the winds picked up and it got COLD!! 20knot + winds shearing over 45F water makes for a convenient recipe of ice cubes in our veins! We hadn't felt that kind of chilled to the bone since we lived in Maine. They have a great service called Beer and More to go, and they will pick up and deliver whatever you want from any place. So we ordered a meal, a bottle of wine and a bottle of whisky. No problem, arrived 30 minutes later. Can't beat that!



The common area in our B&B. We hung out here and got a couple from Tacoma, WA drunk off their asses!



Wendy eating her "Poutine" in the dining room. Fries with onions, cheese curd and a bowl of gravy. I'm drooling over my lamb burger!



At 9am it was time for us to head back to Vancouver to pick up our cruise ship.

This was a five hour exercise! First a cab ride (\$9) to the bus terminal, then an hour ride on the bus to the ferry terminal.

Bus drives onto the ferry (pictured on the left) which holds 2000 passengers and 480 motor vehicles.

Decent food on board but no BAR!

(What the hell is that all about? Good thing I have my Savior - The Flask!) Then an hour and a half ferry ride to the mainland and then the bus continues for another hour to the cruise ship terminal in downtown Vancouver (with many stops). They were somewhat disorganized this morning and the bus was extremely over booked - we could see the driver was not having a good day, but we made it with time to spare.



We boarded the ship without any problems (including successfully smuggling a bottle of rum, whisky and vodka on board)!

This is our cabin, very comfortable with a nice balcony. Just in case you are wondering how long we have been planning this cruise to Alaska, the answer is a week! Yip, that's all. It was a last minute deal so cheap that we could hardly afford NOT to go. \$650 each, that's it!

Wendy was pissed to find out the balcony next to us only paid \$500 per person! Well, let's not forget we got the \$50 onboard ship credit and free bottle of wine in our room because Wendy made a big deal about her birthday! My wife, the eternal negotiator! Either way, with the regular price for the cruise with balcony at \$4800 per person we got a GREAT deal.



Above is downtown Vancouver looking behind us and then forward you can see the container ships waiting to come into port, note the seaplane above the ships.

Canada sure is seaplane country - where ever we go there are tons of seaplanes.



Canadian Coast Guard escort. He didn't have the machine gun on his rib like the escorts in Miami!



Tug pulling a large barge at a good click!



Norwegian Cruise lines works a little different to other cruise ships. There is no formal dining hour and no dressing up. They have 10 restaurants on board and you eat whenever you want at any of them. Each floor on the ship has a TV screen that tells you what the availability is like in each restaurant. Green means go now, yellow means filling up fast and red means there is a wait. Pretty neat. About half of them have a cover charge ranging from \$5 to \$30/person but the largest ones are free.

Once again the winner for best value in beer was the 700ml can of Foster's larger for \$6.95 meaning that once you split that into two - we are getting a regular size 350ml (12+ oz) beer for less than \$3.50.

Another nice feature with Norwegian Cruise Lines - not only can you eat when you want, you can DRINK whenever you want! We preordered bottles of wine that will be delivered to the cabin anytime we want, or we go to the bar, hand them a voucher and bring it back to sip on our balcony. This is our new favorite cruise line!

Tomorrow is a day at sea shooting up the inner passage between mainland Canada and Vancouver island. We are on the port side of the ship meaning that our view will be of Vancouver island.

We're gearing ourselves up for 18.5 hours of sunlight each day - as well as realizing we didn't bring enough warm clothes. Wendy has already called the cabin steward for extra blankies.

Please note photo below: Double pants. Double long sleeve shirts with foul weather gear and ... here's something you don't see everyday - Wendy in SOCKS! But dammit she has her wine!

Outside temperature - 71F (well, there is a wind chill factor, so prolly about 65F.) Piss running thru both our veins at this point. :)



Cheers,
B & W