

This document is a compilation of tips and tricks we read about before our cruise on 9/3/16. After cruise remarks are in green.

Date	Port	incl reviews	Arrive	Depart	Activity
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03-Sep	Fort Lauderdale, Florida		4:30 PM		
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04-Sep	Cruising		Cruising		
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05-Sep	Cruising		Cruising		
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06-Sep	Philipsburg, St. Maarten		8:00 AM	5:00 PM	Docked
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Walk into town ok, water taxi get round trip ticket. Second pier after water taxi place named "Honky Tonk", bucket of beer, 6 for \$12 kind of a dive place. Desperados (brand of beer), tequila beer, two flavors, burgers etc. **Saw Honky Tonk, but went to another place and got \$1.50 beers and lousy service. You should try Honky Tonk (it was too hot to walk back there)**

07-Sep	San Juan, Puerto Rico		7:00 AM	2:00 PM	Docked
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This was a short stay on shore, don't know why.

08-Sep	Labadee, Haiti		9:00 AM	6:00 PM	Docked
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Pushy sales people per reviews We stayed away from them. Beach shoes, lots of coral on ground - Ribs on shore spicy, good - lunch is 11:30 to 1 **Ribs turned out average, but I did not see the sauce (per my wife).**

Don't eat on ship -- tip the chair people on the beach **We got our own chair while they were busy with others, so no tip needed Later arrivals got SUN..** Bring money. BBQ is free mixed reviews on quality - **we did not try the BBQ - it was at the end and already had a hamburger**. Disembark early for shady chair. Lockers available. Free Tram will take you to shopping area. "Pavilion shopping" indoor market is less pushy. **Don't know.** Stay on lagoon side. Less rocks and water clear.

Overpriced entertainment things. Columbus cove good beach. Short tram or water taxi gets you there. **Columbus was good, major beef with the shortage of bartenders and long lines.**

Nellies beach ok, too, soft sand. **Don't know**

Columbus cove further away than Nellies beach

09-Sep	Cruising		Cruising		
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10-Sep	Fort Lauderdale, Florida		6:15 AM		
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Booked cruise Sat 9/3 to Sat 9/10 cabin 10727 **Was a very good choice - near the back, great show view, got to see water - and long walk to the elevator was worth it.**

Benefits told to me by Marcie from AAA A specialty meal for two, on a shore day. A spa treatment for one. - and a welcome bottle of champagne. **First specialty meal ever (probably last one too) spa great for wife, and champagne was - free, but not tasty.**

PACE YOURSELF - Don't try to see it all right away. Pick things of interest first. **TRUE**

FREE TOUR of Central park, explains plants etc. Good. **Never got to it, should have tried it.**

HOT DOGS FREE Don't miss the Boardwalk Dog House located just to the left as you enter the ship's Boardwalk neighborhood. The hot dogs and sausages are free, and they include options like The Warsaw (2/3 pork and 1/3 beef in a caraway seed baguette) and The Big Apple (chicken and apples in a parmesan and cheddar baguette). Don't like any of those choices? Grab a Coney Island (all-beef kosher-style dog in a classic bun), and load up on your favorite toppings to create your own masterpiece. -- dog house has different buns behind the counter - you have to ask for them. Onion roll, I think someone said. **Um, disappointing. Not overly busy, but so-so dogs, and the special buns - hidden, and OLD. I saw the guy reject 3 or 4 before getting me mine, and it should have been rejected too. Bag buns at least seemed fresh. When I said I wanted the special buns, the guy looked at me like I was nuts, then I pointed under the counter and he got them out of the bread warmer.**

BAR If you're short on time, steer clear of the Rising Tide bar on the Royal Promenade. This novelty bar, which levitates on hydraulics and travels between decks, is a fun concept, but ultimately it's overrated. It's particularly not worth the effort if there's a line. Instead, try Vintages, the wine bar in Central Park, which also serves delicious tapas for a small fee.

Bar mentioned couple of times Trellis in Central park - good for a wine in evening.

Solarium bar, good for a wine and view. **Did none of this except a beer in the Solarium, solarium is nice but not an indoor venue, and subject to the weather.**

*From Tina who was setting up the bar crawl: **We did not do this***

- 1) Solarium Bar (Deck 16) **Fine**
- 2) Pool Bar (Deck 15) **Dumbest cruise bartender ever.**
- 3) Trellis Bar (Deck 8) **unk**
- 4) Schooner Bar (Deck 6) **Seemed like the space used for other gatherings too.**

- 5) Sabor Bar (Deck 6)
- 6) Globe and Atlas Bar (Deck 5) **OK, another apathetic bartender.**
- 7) Champagne Bar (Deck 5)
- 8) Rising Tide Bar (Deck 5) **Novelty, looked fun but not tried.**

BOARDING DAY Skip the Windjammer on embarkation and go straight to the Park Cafe, I don't know the exact floor but they have the best hand carved roast beef sandwiches ever. You will not be sorry!! -- central park, deck 8 says another blogger. **TRUE, did that, not crowded, pretty decent sandwiches. We ended up at the buffet after 7:30 pm or so on boarding day and it was not too crowded. Watch out, they shut down the buffet at 9 pm. Odd, for such a large ship.**

Park Cafe also puts out very good salads. **(saw them but not tried - looked good.)**

SOMEONE ELSE SAID ___ We found the Solarium buffet the first day and it is great and normally not crowded until people discover it we has some nice breakfast and lunch up there. -- another said Solarium in the evening quiet and relaxing. **One beer, that was it.**

When you board Oasis of the Seas on your first day and want somewhere a less crowded for lunch, try the Solarium Cafe. **OK place, the one time we tried all tables were full, but it was 15 min. After opening.** Located on Deck 15 forward, the Solarium Cafe does not get nearly as crowded as the Windjammer and if you are boarding in the afternoon when everyone wants to grab lunch, try the Solarium Cafe as a good alternative.

ANOTHER My advice when boarding the ship is go straight to the Park Cafe in the Central Park area for the famous roast beef sandwiches and other light deli items. It's one of the few things open and if you don't make it back later you won't feel like you missed something. After lunch take a quick walk around the ship paying special attention to the Solarium (forward at deck 16) Central Park (mid ship at deck 8) Royal Promenade (Deck 5 and also the deck you enter and leave the ship on) and finally the aft area where the Boardwalk is (deck 6). **Good advice**

BREAKFAST Usually, Johnny Rockets is open from 7:30am to 9:30am, and it is a great spot to grab breakfast that will not be as crowded as the Windjammer or even the main dining room. You will have a

choice of scrambled eggs, omelettes, pancakes, French Toast and more. **One attempt, too late in the morning. The line multiplied as we tried to figure out the plan. No advice other than start earlier.**

FOOD - MEALS Sabor Mexican food- on boardwalk, pay place, guacamole good, Pico good, fresh, made at table, share a meal ok, 7 - \$15 per person not incl. Drinks. Margaritas good, large, \$12 or so. **Not tried, bar is out on the boardwalk.**

SNACKS, DRINKS ETC Soft serve ice cream in the wipout cafe free near the Sports Bar, rear, also, better ice cream shop, free, on the Boardwalk. - also near kids pool? In the structure between the front and aft pools, both sides.

The ship makes these pina coladas in a fresh pineapple on deck 16. They hand you the inside of the pineapple to snack on while they make your frozen drink for you. – They were just over \$7 a piece, not bad and so fun and refreshing to drink!

None of this tried.

Quiet sitting spot Looking for somewhere that is shaded and is quiet and a great spot to sit and relax? Head to deck 5 and go all the way to the aft of the ship. You will find chairs that have a great view of the ocean and are usually devoid of other passengers.

It's a little hidden deck that's tucked away on deck 14 behind the kids areas. The Sun Deck is a little hard to find, so I think many people had no idea how to get to it. It was a good place to go when you wanted to get away from the larger crowds.

Not tried.

TRAYS - to use to take stuff to your cabin. The one under the ice bucket, or order a small room service item and keep the tray for buffet returns. No trays in windjammer. **Not tried, or needed. We DID take travel mugs with a hook type handle (not a closed loop) so we could hang it on a belt, or pants. Good idea for carrying coffee around - 6 am I found only one coffee station (there may have been more) so I got my coffee and walked.**

FREE EATING PLACES

- Windjammer -- buffet
- Park Cafe (Deck 8, Central Park)
- Dog house (Deck 6, Boardwalk) -used to be donut shop
- Solarium Bistro (breakfast and lunch only)(Deck 15, Solarium) - dinner is a pay thing

- Wipeout Cafe (Deck 15, aft) hamburgers hot dogs **Tiny afterthought, but a place to check out. Limited menu but never saw a big line - and never ate there.**
- Sorrento's - - on the royal promenade?? Pizza? **Saw it, never tried. Sometimes a small line.**
- Cafe Promenade (Deck 5, Royal Promenade) pastries, some money items, fancy coffees
- Room Service -- **Just order larger quantity than you would expect. Tipping it probably called for, they don't share the mandatory tip, Delivery schedule not too precise, so allow a buffer of time.**
- Main Dining Room Fine. **Food not the best ever, service OK. At least no lines shoving and bumping.**

Johnny Rockets -- (Deck 6, Boardwalk) Breakfast items

TO DO OR SEE

Per youtube guy, two parades on a cruise on the promenade . (**never heard of them or saw them.**)

Jogging track take in the sea air -- in shade! -- as you make your way around the track on Deck 5, where 2.4 laps equal a mile. **Kind of cool, lots of signs with distances etc.**