

QUANTIFYING THE QUANTUM OF THE SEAS EXPERIENCE



A three day cruise on the *Quantum of the Seas* put Mike Smith in a musical mood as he experienced and enjoyed the extensive offerings on this super Royal Caribbean cruise ship.

"I'm All at Sea Where No-one Can Bother Me"

When the Quantum of the Seas, the latest and greatest cruise ship from Royal Caribbean, left Singapore I was on board for a three day cruise! Rod Stewart's "I am sailing, I am sailing" came to mind, but the line "I'm all at sea where no-one can bother me" by Jamie Cullum more accurately summed up my mood as I inspected my stateroom. Not bad at all - lucky 13th Deck!

Boarding the ship had been quick and easy, finding a seat for lunch was a bit more of a challenge, but the food at Windjammer Marketplace was excellent. My next objective - get my bearings and find my way around!

The cruise industry has undergone many a change; it is no longer primarily a means of transport to get from A to

B. As we say in Singapore it's a floating casino! Oops sorry it's a floating integrated resort! I was surprised to find out how much there is to do besides eat, drink and gamble on Quantum of the Seas.

"Tell the Teacher We're Surfin' - Surfin' USA"

Two of the most popular attractions on board are the Flowrider surfing simulator and the Ripcord skydiving simulator. You can also ride a bumper car, use the gym, take part in quizzes, ballroom dance or disco and so on!

After a dinner at Chic and a couple of drinks I slept soundly. I was eating breakfast as we sailed into Port Klang Malaysia. I stayed on board rather than making the journey into KL.

"Like A Bridge Over Troubled Waters."

Actually the sea was very calm, not troubled at all. There were bigger waves at Kallang Stadium for the SEA Games that were happening when the Quantum of the Seas had sailed into Singapore for the first time. The ship was so stable it was difficult to tell we were moving.

One of the great things about being an invited guest is that you get to go behind the scenes or, in this case, up to the bridge to meet Captain Srecko Ban and his officers. The bridge is very spacious, totally hi-tech with the latest computers and software, but yes they still keep a lookout using binoculars too!

We also got to see the galleys of the ship. A lot of work goes into the feeding of the 5,000. More than five loaves and two fishes! In fact over 10,000 slices of pizza were served in three days.

"Cheers (Drink to That)"

Did I forget to mention that the Quantum of the Seas has bars? There are plenty of bars and drinking buddy Justin and I and Fred and Carol (who were spending an amazing 50 days on board - and only had carry-on luggage with them!!) sampled a few of the beers, wines and cocktails - all in the course of duty! There is even a Bionic Bar where a robot mixes the cocktails.

Special thanks to the guys in Michael's Genuine Pub and Ms Ting and Edmund in Vintages for being friendly and informative. Surprisingly, the bars were almost empty, but the casino and restaurants were packed!

After dinner at the excellent American Icon Grill restaurant, a few more drinks and a supper of fabulous pizza at Sorrento's and Day 2 was over.

"Morning Has Broken Like the First Morning"

Determined to make the most of my last full day at sea I was up bright and early.

Yet again I ignored the casino and the designer shops, chickened out of the North Star cable car 90 metre ride over the sea and skipped the Xbox, but enjoyed a lively game of table tennis and a stroll around the deserted deck. It's strange how much space you can find on a ship with 5,000 people on board!

I missed several of the ship's shows, but did catch the StarWater Show in TWO70 with its cast of performers and dazzling digital scenery.

"And Now the End is Near"

"And now the end is near and so I face the final curtain. My friend, I'll say it clear, I'll state my case of which I'm certain," I came, I cruised, I had a good time and as Frankie said "I did it my way!"



Automated Bar



The Room



The Casino

As we sailed into Singapore at 8:00am on the last morning I had a delicious, huge, not particularly healthy English breakfast with bacon, fried eggs, sausages, grilled tomatoes, baked beans, black pudding, corned beef hash, mushrooms, toast and coffee followed by one last tour of the ship to walk it off.

Homeward Bound

All good things come to an end and soon I was in the taxi queue and to quote Simon and Garfunkel was "Homeward Bound". Thanks Ms Y.D. Chin, Michelle and Brian of Royal Caribbean International!

The Quantum of the Seas was heading to Shanghai from Singapore to be a floating integrated resort. Catch it or a similar Royal Caribbean ship for a few days of family fun or an extended cruise.

The sister ship of Quantum of the Seas, the Ovation of the Seas (of the same class), which will be launched next April, will be heading our way in June 2016. This ship will be offering the following sailings: A 14-night one-way cruise in May 2016 from Dubai to Muscat, Cochin, Penang and ending in Singapore. A 3-night round-trip cruise in June 2016 from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang). A 12-night one-way cruise in June 2016 from Singapore to Ho Chi Minh City (Phu My), Hong Kong, Xiamen, Seoul (Incheon) and ending in Tianjin. In 2016, Royal Caribbean is bringing more of the Quantum experience to cruisers in Asia.

Quick Tips

The Quantum of the Seas can accommodate 5,000 people on each sailing so book restaurants, shows, sports events etc as early as possible or you will miss out.

Be selective - you can't do everything on a three day cruise. It's a matter of choices as entertainment director Ken Rush explains. Make sure you take time to relax too.

Consider the various drink card options as ordering individual drinks quickly add up.



RipCord by iFLY®

Ripcord by iFLY brings the first ever sky-diving simulator to sea! Experience the sheer thrill and exhilaration of flying in an air machine that lets you soar in a safe, controlled environment.

North StarSM

Take yourself to new heights with the jewel-shaped capsule that gently ascends over 300ft above sea level. Breathtaking 360° views make the North Star one of the most anticipated features on the ship.

Transformative Venues

Experience completely revolutionary spaces that transform from day to night. Play basketball, go roller skating and ride bumper cars at the SeaplexSM. Relax with a book at Two70°SM and come back at night for a spectacular aerial show.

Newly Designed Staterooms

Say hello to your home on the high seas – now with more family-friendly modular staterooms that interconnect and the first virtual balconies at sea.

Welcome to Dynamic Dining

Dynamic dining reimagines dining at sea to give you more distinct options plus total flexibility to shape your own delectable journey. There are no set dining times, no assigned seats, no required formal nights.

Rest & Relaxation

Full-service VitalitySM Spa. State-of-the-art Fitness Center. 220-foot outdoor, poolside movie screen. Adults-only Solarium pool, a glass-canopied retreat. Indoor pool with retractable roof. Whirlpools.

Action & Adventure

Bumper cars, roller skating, basketball court, circus school and more at Seaplex, the largest indoor active space at sea. FlowRider® surf simulator. 30-foot high Rock Climbing Wall.

Kids & Families

Complimentary Adventure Ocean® youth programme. Royal Babies® and Royal Tots® programme. DreamWorks Experience. H2O Zone kids' water park.

Entertainment & Shopping

Casino Royale® with thousands of square feet of slots and tables. Two70° with nighttime aerial entertainment and an ice bar. Music Hall, an edgy venue for live music performances.

POCKET GUIDE

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