





Edwin and Peewee

Copenhagen, Denmark, June 9, 2001

Edwin: I was ambivalent about leaving because we are going through a merger process and it is not a good time to be away. But I have been looking forward to this cruise all year long. We had such a great time on the Mediterranean cruise that the sisters planned on doing it again with a larger group. We're a group of 16, meeting in Copenhagen from 7 different points of the world. We coordinated by email for arrival times and hotels and surprisingly, it all worked out.

Rick

Copenhagen, Denmark, June 10, 2001,

Rick: OK, let's join in—everyone's doing it—take a picture with the famous Mermaid. Boy, Tito Randy loves snapping photos with that miniDV. Cool, the smokestacks and storage tanks will make this picture a little different from everyone else's. Reality is not as picturesque as the postcards, but usually more interesting. I should rent The Little Mermaid on DVD sometime. OK, check that off the list. Let's get back before we miss the boat

Malu

Talinn, Estonia, June 12, 2001

Malu: This is our first stop. They're selling all sorts of military paraphernalia, like uniforms and binoculars, in this flea market. I feel like I'm in a military camp and am about to be annihilated. It also reminds me of James Bond movies with Russian spies. Imagine, I'm in a country I'd never even heard of. I can't believe they have the cheapest internet cafe.

BALTIC CRUISE Hanggang Dulo ng Daigdig



Dr. Dan

St. Petersberg, Russia, June 13, 2001

Dr. Dan: Some Russian person similar to Julius Caesar was stabbed here. This is my 7th year with Holland America and I've lost count of the cruises. The walls and ceiling of this church are covered with millions of colorful mosaic tile. The flea market behind the church has all sorts of Russian Army stuff. I bought a Lenin bust and old Russian hammer and sickle flag and now I am at a loss as to where to put them.



Paolo

Hermitage Museum,

St. Petersburg, Russia, June 14, 2001

Paolo: I'm lagging behind the group but I have to take a longer look at this priceless da Vinci painting. This has got to be the most overlooked museum in the world. I am actually in the heart of the former Soviet Union, taking in a breathtaking treasure that has survived centuries. Before this cruise, I knew nothing of this magnanimous collection of valuable art.



Mitos and Randy

Helsinki, Finland, June 15, 2001

Mitos: This was at Sibelius Park and that hideous sculpture behind us is a monument to who else? Sibelius, the famous Finnish composer. From the looks of the monument, was he Hideous Sibelius? Helsinki is the land of Nokia, Marrimeko, Gevalia coffee. Their language is totally incomprehensible. It was a glorious summer day and people were all smiles and basking in the sun. They had a farmers market and I found chanterelle and morrel mushrooms which got all crushed in my suitcase.