

# Day 01 - 08/22/2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025 3:17 PM

## FLIGHT FROM SACRAMENTO

Flight on Thursday, 08/21/2025 to London, England landing on Friday, 08/22/2025.

We both woke up around our usual times, even though we are traveling today. We usually get up really early. Expect to be in London or Southampton by tomorrow. Lynn is supposed to be here around 11:30 am to take us to the airport. Ready and raring to go.

Lynn got here a little early, but not like last time when she was really early. We got to the airport in plenty of time, said goodbye to Lynn and started the check in process with American Airlines. Turn out there was not much of a wait and again so with TSA, so we sat for a couple of hours before we were ready to board the plane for Dallas and Fort Worth.

The flight to Dallas/Fort Worth went pretty smoothly, but we had to circle for about a half hour because a thunderstorm was moving through the Dallas/Fort Worth airport. We finally landed after what seemed like a very long descent. The airport is huge with multiple terminals. We ended up having to take the Sky Train which took us all around the major airport terminals. We probably could have gone the other way and not gone all around, but we didn't know any better.

Anyway, we ended up in the correct terminal, terminal D and gate D25. We had a couple of hours so we had some TexMex food with our margarita and beer. We boarded the plane on time and after around 9 hours we are an hour away from London. Smooth ride but very long.

I have to say though, flying American Airlines is not as good as the others we have flown. Either domestic or international. The flight to Dallas/Fort Worth was fine but the service for water or soda was very late getting started. We only expected a soda and pretzels so that's exactly what we got. The flight to London's beverage service started early and there was a meal included, so that was nice. But, that was it until about an hour out from London when we got something else to drink and a very light breakfast yogurt and snack. Considering how long the flight was, it was a little long between beverages.

Going through customs didn't seem to be an issue. Security scanned our passports and, apparently, that is where the info on UK access is stored. So there was no issue and didn't have to show any other documents, even though we were prepared to.

## BUS

Walk to Bus station from Heathrow, take bus to Southampton Central.

Walk to Hotel Ibis from Southampton Central station.

We ended up NOT taking the bus. The buses we would have liked to take were all booked up. So we ended up with an Uber through a third party (bus related). Glad we did because it saved us time and wasn't anymore expensive then if we had booked a driver from the very beginning.

The only problem was the traffic was horrible. Probably as a result of it being Friday and

the weather was good. A lot of traffic heading to the airport and a lot of traffic seemingly headed towards the beaches, which included Southampton.

**HOTEL** Southampton (Checkin)

Ibis Southampton Centre

9 West Quay Road, Southampton, England, SO15 1RA United Kingdom

Expedia itinerary: 73051506668002

Total Room Price: DOES NOT Include Breakfast

Room, 1 Double Bed

Nights: 2 (avg./night): \$136.82

Taxes & Fees: \$54.73

Subtotal: \$328.36

Total: \$328.36 (PAID 03/10/2025)

Anyway, the hotel is nice. A bit small but just what we need before boarding the ship on Sunday. We went to the nearby TGI Friday for dinner. It was close by and we just needed something before falling into bed.

Tomorrow we will walk around the port, find where we need to go on Sunday and maybe find something good to eat.

## Day 02 - 08/23/2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025 5:30 PM

HOTEL Southampton  
Ibis Southampton Centre  
Saturday, 08/23/2025.

We did our usual last night. Woke up about 2:00 am (me, about 1:00 am) thinking that was it for the night. We read a little and then just went prone, since we couldn't sleep. Not being able to sleep any longer we officially got up, took showers and got ready for the day.

Doesn't seem as if it really matters what we do. We tried staying up to our usual time and then going to bed but that didn't work. Still feels like we are tired and could use more sleep. Not being able to sleep on the plane continues to take its toll.

We will scope out downstairs for coffee and/or food. Breakfast is not included but we may just get by with some snacks we snatched from the flight. Janet went downstairs and got a cup of cappuccino and nobody said anything so I joined her.

The food didn't really look like it was going to be worth the price. We finished our coffee and then left to scope out the town. We stopped at the IKEA and ate some light breakfast in their cafeteria. Not bad, but Janet thought it was too bland. Typical English food, which tends to be on the bland side. We walked around some more, went a little too far for me, and I headed back to the hotel while Janet finished looking for what she wanted to see.

Janet was about a half hour behind me so we went prone for awhile before we headed back out for an early dinner at one of the pubs she spotted.

First we went to Dancing Man Brewery, which is a pub located in an old historic building that used to be used for wool. There, we had a stout beer (very good by the way) and a wine for Janet. Then, for an early dinner, we walked further to a restaurant known for good fish and chips. It was called White Star Tavern and the fish and chips were also very good. They have a custom here (not just this restaurant) of serving mashed peas along side the fish and chips, so Janet got them to substitute a salad instead. After that we walked along a bit and then headed back to the hotel. We are probably in for the night.

Tomorrow, we begin our Oceania cruise.

# Day 03 - 08/24/2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025 5:33 PM

HOTEL Southampton  
Ibis Southampton Centre (Checkout)  
Sunday, 08/24/2025.

Slept a little longer last night before waking up at 4:00 am. Does that mean better?  
Probably not.

Getting our stuff together to leave this place and board the Marina at 11:00 am.

CRUISE (Start)  
OCEANIA CRUISES  
08/24/2025 TO 09/03/2025  
Bucolic British Isles  
10-Day Voyage: Marina

MAYFLOWER CRUISE TERMINAL - BERTH 106  
HERBERT WALKER AVENUE, WESTERN DOCKS  
11:00 am

Date	Port	Arrive	Depart
Aug 24	London (Southampton), Uk	Embark: 1:00 PM	9:00 PM

Made it to the Mayflower Terminal by walking from the hotel to the terminal. It took about 25 minutes. We dropped off our bags and then proceeded to the waiting area for about another half hour before finally being allowed upstairs to complete our check in process. Then we had to go through security for our personal and carry-on items before being allowed on the ship. Overall, a smooth process.

Once we got on board we proceeded to the buffet on deck 12 (Terrace Café) where we were able to grab some lunch. Then we toured the ship before finally being able to enter our stateroom 8104. We waited a bit longer for our bags to arrive so the we could unpack and settle in.

One thing to remember about the Wi-Fi. Oceania provides you Wi-Fi and Internet, one per stateroom or, in our case one device per person. In order to set it up (like an iPhone) you need to go to [oceaniawifi.com](http://oceaniawifi.com) and log in. Do not get sucked in to buying Starlink. In order to use a second device (like an iPad) you need to first log out of the first device (using the same [oceaniawifi.com](http://oceaniawifi.com)) and log in from the second device. Then, reverse, if you are trying to use the first device again.

We waited until 6:30 pm and then headed to the GDR (Main Dining Room or, on Oceania it is called GDR or Grand Dining Room) where we got a table by a window and had a very good dinner. We then walked around some more, listened to a small quartet and then went to our stateroom to go to bed. By then, around 9:00 pm, we were starting to sail.

# Day 04 - 08/25/2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025

5:35 PM

## CRUISE

At Sea

Monday, 8/25/2025

Woke up around 5:00 am. The night was very peaceful and the bed very comfortable. Janet was first to get up and head out on the veranda to watch the Wight Cliffs of Dover go by. She also went upstairs to deck 12, Terrace Café, for coffee. They weren't open yet but there was coffee available. Around 7:30 am they opened so we headed up for breakfast. Janet was doing some laundry so she joined me outside for breakfast. Nice morning, but in my opinion, the pastries were not as good. Too bland. Cookies were dry. Not enough variety.

Today is a sea day so we spent most of our time walking around or sitting somewhere onboard. We had lunch out on the terrace, the weather being quite nice. Again, I thought the pastry items were not quite up to what I expected. We then attended a talk on Edinburgh and another talk on Kirkwall - Orkney. We also had the Captain's Cocktail Celebration. It was pretty crowded at the Captain's Celebration. We figured it probably had something to do with today being a sea day. Anyway, we sat with a couple of women who seemed to be very much like the two women we had on the Mediterranean cruise. We ended up asking them to dinner with us.

We ate dinner at the GDR again, as we don't have a reservation yet at one of the specialty restaurants. That will come tomorrow night. We invited the two women, Chris and Sally, from the Captain's Celebration. We talked and talked our way through the meal. Probably stayed longer than we should have. Eventually the conversation went to politics. At least they were both anti Trump.

We left dinner and got ourselves ready for bed.

# Day 05 - 08/26/2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025

5:36 PM

## CRUISE

Edinburgh (Newhaven), Scotland  
Tuesday, 8/26/2025

8:00 AM

7:00 PM Anchor

DINNER RESERVATION: RED GINGER 6:30 pm

## THINGS TO DO:

Tour Edinburgh Castle

Walk the Royal Mile

The Old Closes of Edinburgh's Royal Mile (Narrow passageways branching off at right angles to the main street.)

St Giles Cathedral

Scotch Whisky Experience

Tasty Buns (On Bread Street)

Grassmarket

Dean Village

Greyfriars Kirkyard

Tiles - Pub/Bistro \*\*

Cafe Royal - Pub \*\*\*\*

Guildford Arms - Pub \*\*\*

Halfway House - Pub \*

We woke up around 5:00 am again. Went up and got some coffee before taking our showers. After our showers, we went back up to the Terrace Café for breakfast. A little too damp to sit outside so we chose a table next to the window. Still no good bakery items to speak of. I went back and checked later and found some sticky buns but they didn't look that great.

Rode the tender into Edinburgh around 8:30 am. Walked our way around until we found the Royal Mile. Lots of people and lots of tourist shops and restaurants. Although, most of the pubs / restaurants did not open until much later in the day. Overall, the locals were cleaning up from the Fringe. There were still a lot of people milling around. We didn't get to a lot of what was on our list of things to do but that's ok.

We did make it to the Grassmarket. Unfortunately, it wasn't Saturday so there was no market. It is more of a marketing area with cobbled streets, pubs, restaurants, shops and a good view of the castle. Historically, it was a place for animals markets and public executions.

We were looking for Bread street where I saw on YouTube a bakery that was good. Eventually, we found the street, Bread street, that had the baked goods and pastries (Tasty Buns). It was pretty non descriptive but at least we found where it was. They had some sweets but nothing we had to have at that time of day. So we ended up not getting anything. We looked for the pub recommended by one of the guides and the woman working the bakery, but the pub itself was closed. Turns out the pubs, at least the good ones, would not be open for awhile.

We ended up at the Johnny Walker whiskey store. We paid for the tour and ended up

with a pretty good presentation, as well as 3 tastings which were all pretty good. It was kind of like a Disney presentation but quite informative of what the process was for making their whiskey. It was well worth the price. I think we both came away with liking Old Fashions more than High Balls. The High Ball typically has the whiskey with one non-alcoholic mixer. The Old Fashion typically has the whiskey with two or more alcoholic mixers.

During that presentation it rained pretty good but by the time the presentation was over, it had stopped. Of course, we went through the store buying a couple of gifts while waiting for the rain to stop. Having 3 tastings of whiskey gave us a pretty good buzz.

We made our way to the bus, which took us to the tender. The ride back on the tender was a bit bumpier this time but not as bad as it was on the Mediterranean cruise. When we got back to the ship we got something lite to eat on board Marina. Waiting for our dinner at Red Ginger.

Dinner was very good, as expected. Lighter fare than what we were used to, so that was good. We had another conversation that ended up being anti Trump. We both find that a bit unusual in that we now have had two conversions with two sets of people that are very anti Trump. This latest couple, Don and Sue, were from Chicago and the other two, Chris and Sally, were mainly from Indiana. We tried to steer the conversation away from politics but it turns out Don was part of Al Gore's organization. We didn't disagree with what he was saying but as it turns out so often the perspective is lacking. Meaning, that the high level is admirable but the details for specific areas of the country are of limited scope.

Once again the conversation went on too long. We were both eager to get back to our room.

# Day 06 - 08/27/2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025 5:37 PM

## CRUISE

Kirkwall (Orkney Islands), Scotland 10:00 AM 7:00 PM  
Wednesday, 8/27/2025

DINNER RESERVATION: TOSCANA 6:30 pm

### THINGS TO DO:

- Saint Magnus Cathedral
- The Orkney Distillery
- Orkney Islands
- Highland Park Distillery
- The Orkney Museum
- Bishop's and Earl's Palaces

We woke up again around 4:30 pm and did our usual routine of getting coffee and waiting for Terrace Café to open, which this morning is 7:30 am. A bit late but what are you going to do. At least there was coffee.

Went down to get off of the ship around 8:15 am. Huge crowd couldn't wait to get off of the ship. We ended up taking the Marina bus to the central town of Kirkwall where we then waited for another city bus to take us to Skara Brae. Even though it cost money to visit via the city bus, it was well worth it. Even if just for the ride through the countryside. The rolling hills, green grasses and loads of sheep are just about everywhere you look.

Skara Brae is where, after a huge storm, it was discovered that a whole Neolithic village was uncovered near the beach. The houses had been covered for centuries showing where the village had been constructed. It's description reminded me of Gobekli Tepe in Turkey. Round structures, beds found in the same areas no matter what house, cooking areas and connector tunnels. Supposedly these people were there around 5000 years ago. The way the houses were constructed and arranged was similar to Gobekli Tepe, except that Gobekli Tepe was around 12000 years ago.

We also stopped by the Saint Magnus Cathedral. Didn't go inside. Just the outside where all the gravestones are.

Got back to the ship around 5:15 pm and rested until our dinner at 6:30 pm with Toscana. We were a little early and waited with another couple who turned out to be at our shared table (Donna and Jim). It was Jim's birthday so it was a little extra special. We actually had another couple at the table as well (Roland and ?). They were very quiet and didn't engage much. So we spent most of the time conversing with Donna and Jim. We tried to engage the other couple but they still kept quite and private. Anyway, we all had a good dinner and politely kept the evening fairly short.

We are now back in our room awaiting bedtime.



# Day 07 - 08/28/2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025

5:39 PM

## CRUISE

Stornoway (Hebrides), Scotland  
Thursday, 8/28/2025

7:00 AM

3:00 PM Anchor

## THINGS TO DO:

Excursions (Russell and Janet)

Historic Lewis (SY-003) 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

We woke up kind of late for us, around 5:45 am. We showered and I headed up for breakfast before Janet. I did get her coffee while she showered. I think I have to limit my coffee intake to just one cup. So I decided to have it with my pastry. Which by the way, has significantly improved, at least for today. Just have to accept the fact that a donut with chocolate icing is the special for the day.

Tender day. We went on shore for about an hour just to look around. We had an excursion but it wasn't until 11:30 am so we couldn't stay long. Had to get back to the ship and get in the cue for the excursion. On shore, we were able to view Lew's Castle from across the bay.

Back on the tender. The excursion took us to the Black House Village in Na Gearrannan which were thatch houses, with stone walls, built very near the ocean. It was very interesting to see these houses that were occupied until fairly recently. That is until the local government built new houses and forced the people to move. The thought was they would bulldoze these 1000 year old houses but realized they could make more money from them through tourism.

After making it back to the ship, we rested a bit until a talk in the Marina room on our next port stop of Glasgow.

After that we went up to the Terrace Café and had dinner. We are now back in our room waiting to go to bed. According to the wait staff, it is going to be a rough nite on the sea.

# Day 08 - 08/29/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 12:18 PM

## CRUISE

Glasgow (Greenock), Scotland 10:00 AM 8:00 PM Anchor

Was supposed to be Dublin, Ireland

Friday, 08/29/2025.

DINNER RESERVATION: POLO 6:30 pm

## THINGS TO DO:

Glasgow Botanic Gardens

Buchanan Street

Glasgow Central Station

George Square

Glasgow replaced Dublin on our itinerary. Not our choice and we don't know the real reason why. It is going to require a lot more effort to make travel arrangements to get to Glasgow, which is another approximate half hour away from where we dock in Greenock. Apparently, no tender today.

Heavy seas last night, definitely rocking and rolling. Still slept pretty good though. Did our 6:00 am thing and are now, waiting for us to dock so we can figure out how to get to Glasgow. Raining here so that will be another factor. Had to eat breakfast this morning indoors, which was ok. Still fighting having just one cup of coffee. But that seems to be helping.

Once we got off of the ship we thought we were getting on a bus that would take us all the way into Glasgow. It went about a quarter mile, stopped and we had to get off and catch another city bus that would take us into Glasgow. Turns out that first bus was just a shuttle to get us to the real city bus. The price was a few dollars more than if we had taken the train. That was ok, but not great that we had to switch buses.

Once we got to the main bus station in Glasgow, we took another bus to the Glasgow Museum, otherwise called the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, which was pretty interesting. Multiple floors of paintings and sculptures. The bus was defective though and never made it out of the station. We had to get on another bus that took us to the museum after some confusion.

We finished the museum and took another bus to Buchanan street, where all the shops are. We looked around some, stopped and had fish and chips at a place off of Buchanan street. Simple place, fish and chips ok. We then decided to take the train back to the central train station in Greenock. A little bit cheaper and not any hassle. Although, we did have to walk from the central train station back to the ship. Not too bad though.

Went to dinner at Polo and once again sat with four other people, one couple and two independents. They were all part of some religious group (250 people) but the conversation was not religious or political in any way. It was quite the fun conversation. Turns out they were from Kansas or, specifically, Kansas City. But not from Kansas City Kansas, but from Kansas City, Missouri. Anyway, they were quite fun to have dinner with, especially this woman named Billie.

Back in our room now getting ready for bed.

# Day 09 - 08/30/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 12:19 PM

## CRUISE

Belfast, Northern Ireland 6:00 AM 8:00 PM  
Saturday, 8/30/2025

DINNER RESERVATION: JACQUES 6:30 pm

### THINGS TO DO:

- Belfast Castle in Cave Hill Country Park
- Black Cab Tour
- Titanic Quarter
- St. George's Market
- Best Chocolate You'll Ever Have at Daisies
- Glenarm Castle
- Giant's Causeway

Woke up around 5:00 am and took our time as we were coming into dock at Belfast at 6:00 am. Showered and went up to Terrace Café for breakfast. Started out side but moved inside where it was not windy and less cool. That is, after spilling my coffee all over. Anyway, ended up inside where it seemed more pleasant but definitely more people. After finishing breakfast we returned to our room and proceeded to get ready for our self guided tour of Belfast.

We took the free cruise shuttle to the center of town. We walked around a bit, saw Prince Albert's tower and visited St. George's Market. The market had just about everything you could imagine. Food, drinks, fish, etc.

Then we took a bus to Mount Stewart house and gardens. The weather was pretty miserable and wet so we were able to tour the house but not so much the gardens. The house was well worth the price of admission, although we couldn't see some of the rooms. We tried outside in the gardens but it was gale force winds and a lot of rain. We thought we could catch the bus back to Belfast but had to wait a while for the bus to show up. We were not quite sure we were going to get out of there and back to Belfast, but we did. We were quite the rainy and windy mess as we dried out on the bus.

The weather got better and once we made it back to Belfast we found the pub, The Duke of York, where King Charles apparently visited. It was very crowded, as most of the pubs were but we found a small table we squeezed into. I asked the guy next to me what they recommended and he said Murphy's. It was better than Guinness but I bet we can't get it back in the States. Janet got some kind of whiskey drink. We sat between these two younger people and had a good conversation as they played games and enjoyed the alcohol. They played an interesting card game, Dobble. Janet liked it so much that she went out and bought 3 versions of the game. It also set off the alarms at TSA twice, so she had her backpack searched each time.

We finished up by locating Daisies, which was noted to have the best chocolate. We had the best hot chocolate which was as advertised. Turns out they are on every cruise ship's special culinary tour and since there are two cruise ships docked, they were especially busy this morning. Definitely worth it though.

We then proceeded to the free cruise bus back to the ship. We decided NOT to go to Jacques for dinner, but instead just do the special England dinner up in the Terrace Café. Too much going on today, plus there is the special England dinner tonight in the Terrace Café.

The England dinner was more what I expected on this cruise. It was the first time fish and chips were even offered. They were good though. As is typical of Oceania they offered special drinks, but they cost. Doesn't matter that you have a plan that offers free alcohol. This dinner is an exception to the rule. The dinner is included but there are the special drinks that are not.

Finished dinner and went downstairs to room to get ready for bed.

# Day 10 - 08/31/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 12:20 PM

## CRUISE

Liverpool, UK 7:00 AM 5:00 PM

Was supposed to be Holyhead, Wales  
Sunday, 8/31/2025

## THINGS TO DO:

- Royal Albert Dock
- Liverpool Cathedral
- Museum of Liverpool
- Queen Victoria Monument
- St.Lukes Church
- Penny Lane

Got up around 5:00 am but lounged around till 7:00 am before heading up to breakfast. Janet did get her coffee though.

Seems as if everything in Liverpool revolves around the Beatles. Understandable, but not really our thing.

Took a short walk around the harbor. Then, I returned to the ship and Janet kept walking through the downtown area. I went to the room for awhile and then went up to Horizons. Janet texted saying she was back so we met in our room. We then went up to Terrace Café for lunch.

There were a lot of sirens and police/fire/rescue personal on the dock. We had seen some guy earlier that was walking along the dock with just shorts on, acting very strange. Enough so that the police car had rolled up along side him and were asking questions. We are assuming the police action had something to do with him. Don't know if he jumped into the ocean next to the ship or what. Anyway, they were kind of wrapping up the scene.

We lounged around for a while, then Janet decided to head back into town. The rain looked like it had gone for the day, it was just waiting for Janet to get out there and then it came back with a vengeance. Fortunately, she said she had some places to duck into.

There was a lot of police action still on the dock. Never figured out what exactly happened.

After Janet got back we decided to head to the GDR for dinner. But before that we had the port presentation to go to and the reception for us guests that had sailed before with Oceania. After dinner, we went back to the room to get ready for bed.

# Day 11 - 09/01/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 12:22 PM

## CRUISE

Cork (Cobh), Ireland  
Monday, 9/01/2025

9:00 AM 5:00 PM

## THINGS TO DO:

- Blarney Castle
- English Market
- Kinsale
- Market Lane

## Excursions (Russell and Janet)

Panoramic Cork & Blarney Castle (CBH-002) 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

We both woke up about 5:00 am, showered and lounged around until breakfast at 7:00 am. We then went up to the Terrace Café and had breakfast.

We have another situation where the advertised port stop is Cork, but we actually dock in Cobh (Cove) and then have to take a train to Cork. We have an excursion so don't know, but probably just take a bus. It still is misleading though. Seems to have been more of that this cruise than usual. So we are off to see the Blarney.

Took the excursion to the Blarney castle. Our guide was local and talked the whole way. That was ok, but you certainly get a mouthful. The Blarney castle was just as the guide said, very busy and Disney like. There was a line of people and even more as you would enter the castle and climb the steps to the top. One hundred and twenty three steps later you had to contort your body to bend over backwards, hang and kiss some stone. We opted to not do that and instead walk the grounds and see the beautiful gardens. There simply wasn't enough time to do everything so we decided to do more than just stand in line.

Before we left the Blarney castle we were given an Irish coffee. The whole ride back the guide continued to talk non-stop. It was actually quite fun listening to her accent and humor.

I went back to the room on the ship but Janet walked through the little bit of the port. Then, she joined me up in the room. We went to another talk on Torbay and then waited for dinner at the GDR.

Back to our room after dinner and waiting for bed. We now have another change of plans. Because of weather concerns we will be leaving Torbay an hour early and arriving in Southampton around 2:00 am instead of 7:00 am. The winds are becoming more of a concern.

# Day 12 - 09/02/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 12:28 PM

## CRUISE

Torbay, UK 9:00 AM 7:00 PM Anchor (had to leave an hour early due to weather conditions. That puts us in to Southampton at around 2:00 am)

Tuesday, 9/02/2025

## THINGS TO DO:

- Princess Theatre
- Babbacombe Beach
- Torre Abbey Sands
- Babbacombe Model Village and Gardens
- Torre Abbey
- Kents Cavern Prehistoric Caves

We both woke about the same time, 5:30 am. It was a bit rough when we went to bed but has calmed down some now.

Weather was very unpredictable, which meant that the wind and waves were as well. So, we had to time our visit to Torbay carefully, as the tender boats were having difficulty in the rough water. Eventually, we made it to shore.

We walked around the small downtown area of Torbay. Not much to it. We were back on board by 2:00 pm when we had lunch and sat around quite a bit. We did go to High Tea and then on to dinner at the GDR for our last dinner on the ship. We sat at a table for just the two of us and reminisced about the cruise.

Returned to our room and went to bed.

# Day 13 - 09/03/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 12:30 PM

## CRUISE

London (Southampton), UK  
am actually)

8:00 AM Disembarkation (arrived around 2:00

Wednesday, 9/03/2025

Woke up and showered around 5:00 am in anticipation of disembarking by 8:00 am. Will have our last breakfast up in the Terrace Café before we officially disembark.

Disembarked around 8:00 am. Still not sure about the weather but it kind of looks stormy out so we might have to get a taxi to the train station. Then, maybe get another taxi to the hotel from the Salisbury train station to that hotel.

## HOTEL - Salisbury (Checkin)

The Old House Guesthouse - Salisbury

161 Wilton Rd, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7JQ, United Kingdom 01722 333433 |

welcome@theold-house.co.uk

Expedia: Booking: EXP-X-428122698

Wed, 3rd Sep '25 £102.04

Thu, 4th Sep '25 £113.37

Total £215.41 (PAID 03/09/2025)

## THINGS TO DO:

Salisbury Museum

Visit Stonehenge

Old Sarum

Salisbury Cathedral

Wilton House

We got off of the ship and walked our way over to the train station where we (Janet) purchased tickets for Salisbury. It sprinkled some but we didn't require a taxi in Southampton or Salisbury.

We walked to our place from the train station in Salisbury. Long walk. We were a bit early so we just dropped off our luggage and then went back into town. We stopped off at Salisbury Cathedral and also saw the Magna Carta (only one of two copies in the world). The Cathedral is fairly typical but without all glitz that other cathedrals have. The unique thing about the cathedral is that it contained the remains of so many individuals. Obviously, mostly religion persons. The Magna Carta was interesting, the things it said about freedom, etc. We in the US could learn a thing or two.

We then walked around some more but the rain would come hard, in spurts. We found a bakery type place that had pasties and other things so we had some lunch. It was called Reeve The Baker. The pasties were not just your typical meat and potatoes. You were able to get them filled with a variety of things. Very good.

We then made our way back through the intermittent rain to our bed and breakfast. It



was time for us to go prone for awhile. The Bed and Breakfast is a very good place. Our room is a nice size with a very modern bathroom. We did a bit of snooping around in the garden and back inside. We met the real owner who was very helpful. He and his wife do a lot of the charity work for the Salisbury Cathedral. They even have a connection to the Queen (Elizabeth) and have been invited to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for the charity work that they have done. It's his son that has taken over the business. The owner recommended the fish and chips place just a few doors down and the pub that is also close by.

We are now sitting in the drawing room having some wine.

We decided to go to the pub recommended by the owner. It was kind of a bust. Nobody there, all fried food but no fish and chips and no good beer other than Fosters and Guinness. We just had drinks and then headed home for cheese and crackers.

Got home, had some cheese and crackers for dinner, lounged around and then, went to bed.

# Day 14 - 09/04/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 2:19 PM

## HOTEL

The Old House Guesthouse - Salisbury

Thursday, 09/04/2025

Got early about 5:00 am as usual but didn't get until 6:00 am for a shower. The shower is nice and large but has a definite problem with splashing water all over the floor. There is no curtain and nothing to block the water. Anyway, we had our showers and then headed to our breakfast at 8:00 am.

Breakfast was good, a selection of various things such as cereal, fruit, yogurt, eggs, sausage and Canadian bacon. And, of course, coffee and toast with jam made for their own type of small plum called Damson. They also have regular plum trees but they only make jam from the Damson. Janet thought the sausage was very bland.

We finished breakfast and then headed to the train station to pick up the tour bus to Stonehenge and Sarum. Sarum was where Salisbury originated from, not too far from Stonehenge.

Stonehenge is pretty impressive but the crowds, even for 10:40 am, were massive. There were people everywhere and getting good photos was difficult at best. You can walk around the Stones but only along the outer circle. If you want to be able to walk amongst the Stones you must make reservations ( and of course pay more) months in advance. Then, you have to risk a bad weather day.

It seems Stonehenge has been occupied for thousands of years by numerous peoples. It started off, away from the main spot as a village of people who used tree trunks in a circle, probably some sort of religious purpose. It is thought that the tree trunks, wood, symbolized the living. Whereas the stones in Stonehenge symbolized the dead. So Stonehenge really was for religious purposes to honor the dead. The workers at Stonehenge had their own living quarters not too far from the circle of stones.

There was the original circle of stones, then an inner circle of stones added by a later and different group of people. And on and on where stones were added, taken away or just left to crumble or be used as building material.

Our weather started out cool with light drizzle but then turned sunny for the rest of the day. We took our time and enjoyed what we could, then took the bus back to the center of Salisbury.

We stopped and got off at Sarum, which is where old Salisbury is. Sarum really was built up on a hill, surrounded by lower levels with deep trenches all around each level that protected the levels up above. The new Salisbury is just a few miles away from old Sarum. Sarum is where the old city of Salisbury started back during the Iron Age. Then, it was a hill fort which was then occupied by the Normans and Saxons. The old cathedral was relocated to the new Salisbury where it rests today as Salisbury Cathedral.

Once we got back Salisbury, we stopped in and had fish and chips at a nice pub

(Oxbow Inn) close to where the bus let us off. Janet was able to get a salad instead of the chips, knowing that I would have plenty of chips we could share. I had a good dark beer, I think local, called HSB. Janet had her wine. After finishing our fish and chips we walked back to our bed and breakfast. Janet stopped at the local Tesco Express and got a bottle of wine.

We are now waiting for our bed time.

# Day 15 - 09/05/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 2:20 PM

## HOTEL

The Old House Guesthouse - Salisbury (Checkout)  
Friday, 09/05/2025

Had trouble sleeping last night. Kind of miss the Oceania bed I guess. Still, didn't get out of bed until 6:00 am. Getting ready for breakfast and then journey to Bath.

We left our hotel in Salisbury around 10:00 am and pulled ourselves and our luggage to the train station for the approximate 1 hour ride to Bath. The train was already packed with people when we got on so we had to hold our suitcases in our laps the whole way. Not too bad, but just saying.

## HOTEL - Bath (Checkin)

Grays Boutique B&B

9 Upper Oldfield Park Bath, Somerset BA2 3JX +44 (0) 1225 403020

[Bookings@graysbath.co.uk](mailto:Bookings@graysbath.co.uk) [hello@graysbath.co.uk](mailto:hello@graysbath.co.uk)

Reference Number: BB25031116817334

Executive King - Room 8 / STANDARD BED & BREAKFAST RATE

Total Room Price: Includes Breakfast

Grand Total: £350 VAT (5.0%) Included: £16.67

Total £350 (PAID 03/11/2025)

## THINGS TO DO:

City Center

Pulteney Bridge

Holburne Museum

Victoria Art Gallery

Guildhall Market

Sally Lunn's Eating House

Royal Crescent

Alexandra Park

Bath Abbey

We arrived at our hotel around noon but the room wasn't ready so we were able to stow our luggage until around 2:00 pm. That was ok but that meant the long and steep hill we had to climb to get to the hotel was what we had to go back down in order to get to the center of town. Easier going back down but we knew it was going to be tough coming back up later.

We made back down into town and walked to the various places that we wanted to see first. The Pulteney Bridge which has shops as you cross over the Avon River. Went past St. Michael's and Bath Abbey churches. Went to Jane Austen Centre and The Circus and Royal Crescent (Georgian architecture), Royal Victorian Park.

We stopped and had a drink at one of the outdoor restaurants. Later we did the same for an early dinner. Then we walked back up the steep hill to our hotel, Grays Boutique.

Janet had stopped to buy a bottle of wine so we had that in our room. We tried outside in the garden but it was a little too cool. As we walked back to the front door we could see that there were hot air balloons over the city below. One advantage of being up high on the hill I guess.

We decided to take the wine downstairs in what we thought was a lobby, where there were a few chairs for sitting. As we were sitting there this guy came in in quite a huff making all kinds of loud noises and kind of throwing things around. Turns out he was the owner and we were in his office, so we left. Very rude and gruff man named James. He is the husband of Eliza who was so nice to us when we arrived. Go figure.

Anyway, we finished our wine upstairs, went prone for a while and then decided to call it a night.

# Day 16 - 09/06/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 2:20 PM

## HOTEL

Grays Boutique B&B - Bath  
Saturday, 09/06/2025

Woke up and got ourselves ready at our usual time of around 5:00 am. Heading down for breakfast around 8:30 am. Nice place, plenty of room and nice bathroom and shower.

After breakfast we headed down the hill to go to the Roman Baths. Quite extensive ruins where the Romans built their social baths and soaking areas. They have done a lot of reconstruction and archaeological digging of the whole area. A lot of the archaeological ruins are located under ground and you wind your way along where the public and private baths are located.

We finished the Roman Baths and then walked around some more and found the Guildhall Market and a shoe store. They happened to have Birkenstocks so Janet bought me a pair for my birthday. We sat around some more and then made the climb up to our hotel one last time.

We went up the hill a little further to a pub recommended by the hotel owner. They had two different games going on, one was rugby and the other football. So it was kind of hopping, but the dining was separate so that was ok. Needless to say though, the service was a little slow. The food probably was typically British. Not a whole lot of flavor. I had the Sheperds pie and Janet had a Monk fish, curry dish. Mine was pretty bland and Janet's curry was very good but there was something that she didn't like. Mainly a fried ball with a little fish, little shrimp and sea weed. We had sticky pudding for dessert, which was very tasty. But, not a pudding at all. I would liken it to our Ginger bread with ice cream, without the ginger.

Back in our room now. We didn't see any hot air balloons tonight. Last night they were out over the city. Getting ready for bed. Tomorrow we go to Windsor.

# Day 17 - 09/07/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 2:21 PM

## HOTEL

Grays Boutique B&B - Bath (Checkout)  
Sunday, 09/07/2025

Woke up around 6:00 am this morning. Getting ready for our last breakfast here in Bath. We were a little early, so we decided to go outside in the back garden for a bit. At 8:30 am we went in for our breakfast. Afterwards, we packed up our final things and headed down the hill to the train station.

On the way down it started to rain pretty hard so we were pretty wet when we got to the train station. We were going to require two changes to get to Windsor. The train was running late by the time it rolled into the station. After we finally got on the train it was already about 19 minutes late. That meant that we would miss our two connections, one in Reading and the other from Reading into Slough. It didn't turn out to be an issue in that they had other trains that were later.

## HOTEL - Windsor (Checkin)

Sir Christopher Wren Hotel - Windsor  
Thames Street, Windsor, England, SL4 1PX United Kingdom  
Expedia itinerary: 73051343204850  
Executive King Room  
Total Room Price: Includes Breakfast  
Sun, Sep 7 \$220.21  
Mon, Sep 8 \$235.87  
Taxes & Fees \$91.22  
OneKeyCash applied -\$17.83  
Total \$529.47 (PAID 03/10/2025)

## THINGS TO DO:

Windsor Castle  
Ivy Royal Windsor Brasserie  
Crooked House of Windsor at 51 High Street  
Windsor Great Park  
St. George's Chapel

We finally made it Windsor and took a few wrong turns until we found the hotel. The room wasn't ready yet so we dropped off our luggage and went for some lunch. As it turns out, the Windsor castle is very close to where we were and our hotel too. So, we looked around the very busy streets and found the entrance to where you get the tickets for Windsor Castle. We purchased our tickets for the next day so we are all set.

We returned to the hotel and our room was ready so we settled ourselves in. Turns out we are not in the main building facing the Thames river, it is across the street in another part that does not face the river. The room itself is nice, the bathroom good, but we are kind of in a hole. There is only one window and you can't really open it. So, the air conditioner is what we got. Oh well. We rested a bit and then decided to grab

something lite to eat at the attached restaurant. We ordered drinks and a Margarita pizza. The pizza came out as a cheese pizza. We questioned the waiter about that and he said that the plain Margarita pizza, without toppings like pepperoni or sausage, etc. was in fact, just a cheese pizza. Why not just call it cheese pizza?

Anyway, we finished that and went to our room and waited for dinner. We went out to a place called The Boatman and ended up just getting an appetizer and a dessert. Nothing special, but at least it was something.

Janet kept herself busy walking some more, while I returned to the room. Janet is back now and we are getting ready for bed.



# Day 18 - 09/08/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 2:22 PM

## HOTEL

Sir Christopher Wren Hotel - Windsor

Monday, 09/08/2025

Slept ok last night. The room is a good size with nice bathroom, although getting into and out of the tub-shower is a little tough. Janet had trouble getting to sleep but good otherwise. We had the cooler running all night because the window is unmanageable. Waiting for breakfast, but have to go across the street to the main hotel.

Breakfast was good. Plenty of variety, coffee, etc. Sat by the window that overlooks the river, so that was good. First place that really had any kind of pastry and the sausages had flavor. Otherwise, they had the typical English breakfast bland as it is.

On our way to our reservation at Windsor castle. The castle is pretty amazing. Of course Janet knows more about it then I do but still, everything that we could see inside was the real thing. And a living castle at that. Today is the date Queen Liz died so Harry was supposed to be there sometime to pay his respects. Janet's sure he was there. Was he or wasn't he?

Inside the castle as well is the doll house, as Janet calls it. It is a very intricate model of the castle and its rooms. Not exactly to be used as a doll house but a model none the less. Complete with very detailed items, running water and electricity. It takes up a whole room.

We rested a bit before heading across the bridge that seems to separate Windsor from Eton. Whole different world on that side of the river. Eton Collage is there and you could see all the men and boys 13 to 18 in their finery. They are wearing what you would usually associate with a wedding. Like tuxedos. We ate a small lunch at Cote on the Eton side of the river and were sitting next to a table of 4 or 5 guys who were all dressed up. Obviously, from Eton. According to Janet, Eton College is only for men and they are pretty snooty about it. A number of personalities such as Prince William went there and then on to bigger and better (??) things.

Back in the room now, waiting for our next adventure out, possible for a lite dinner. Also thinking about our flight back home tomorrow. End of our vacation.

We did go back outside for a lite dinner. Since we picked a place earlier that Janet wanted, we went to a place that I picked. Wasn't anything fancy, just a pub. There was a deal on a hamburger and any drink, so we both chose a hamburger and I had a beer and Janet had her wine. The hamburger was just so so, but at least we got a deal on the drinks.

We returned to our room but Janet had to take one more stroll around the castle. Then we got ready for early bed, since we were going to have to be ready for the cab at 7:45 am and we needed to get our breakfast first.

# Day 19 - 09/09/2025

Monday, April 14, 2025 2:22 PM

## HOTEL

Sir Christopher Wren Hotel - Windsor (Checkout)  
Tuesday, 09/09/2025

Got up about 5:30 am to shower and get ready for breakfast at 6:30 am. Janet had her shower at 6:00 am. We had a brief breakfast and then went back to the room to finalize our packing. We met the cab at around 7:45 am. The traffic in town was horrible due to the Tube Strike. Wasn't too bad once we got on the highway to London.

## FLIGHT BACK to Sacramento

The taxi let us in front of terminal 3 where we had to walk quite a ways to our gate. TSA wasn't too bad, but we expect things to be worse in Dallas.

We were late boarding due to the crew not having arrived. And, we had to take a bus out to the plane. Once we finally all got on board, things went fairly quick and we didn't have to sit on the tarmac long. One unfortunate thing is that the on-board flight entertainment system is not working. Continued to not work the whole flight.

We should be arriving in Dallas in about 2 more hours as I write this.

Dallas turned out to not be too bad. Yes, we had to manually transfer our bags which was a bit of a pain getting them from baggage claim. But overall, TSA and Customs wasn't bad and the wait was fairly efficient. It did involve going from one terminal (D) to another (B) taking the Sky Train but we figured that out.

Another 3 -4 hour flight from Dallas to Sacramento was a bit much though. I thought we would never get there. Have to consider doing something different for our Iceland trip next August 2026.