



## Message from the Owners

Welcome to our version of the Coconut Telegraph! In our newsletters you will be able to see and hear from our amazing consultants and follow us as we travel the world scouting out awesome cruise ships and amazing locations. We will share travel tips, funny stories, maybe a fish tale or if we have been really adventurous a shark tale (we are scuba divers after all). We will be bringing you articles and videos from our journeys to inform you and hopefully, inspire you to embark on your next great adventure!

Want to get in on the action? This newsletter is also where will be sharing news about upcoming groups you may want to join in on. This is also one of the places we will be telling you about great deals you can take advantage of. It is our sincere hope that you find our newsletter informative, entertaining, and yes inspiring!

Sincerely,

John & Carrie Frazier

## Follow Us on Social Media



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# FEATURED GROUP



Join us for a fun family friendly, All-inclusive Dive Trip to Cancun Mexico! The Central Ohio Dive Club will be hosting an exclusive group out of Columbus, OH July 16th-22nd 2023 on this amazing trip. We will be staying at the beautiful Wyndham Alltra, a beach front property in the heart of the hotel zone in Cancun.

In the center of Cancun's epic Hotel Zone, Wyndham Alltra Cancun is a dreamy beachfront escape packed with unlimited fun and wonder all included for guests of all ages. Couples, families and friends will instantly be transported to tropical paradise thanks to glistening swimming pools, a private beachfront and exciting activities ranging from oceanfront yoga to live entertainment. Beyond the resort, explore premier golf courses and ancient Mayan sites nearby or unwind in indulgent accommodations finding peace in the stunning seascapes from your private balcony.

## 6 DAY DIVE AND STAY IN CANCUN MEXICO

Beach Front  
Hotel

Food, Drinks and  
Entertainment

2 Days Diving  
and 1 Day Whale  
Shark Experience

### PRICING 1:

- Two Tank Dive in MUSA Underwater Museum and Marine Reserve
- Cenote Dives
- Whale Shark Experience
- Gear Rental
- Drinks, Food, Entertainment
- Junior Suite Ocean View Room
- Direct Airfare from Columbus
- Optional Night or Reef dives
- Transfers

### PRICING 2:

#### Dive Club Package:

Junior Suite Ocean View

Based on Double Occupancy

Guest/pp:

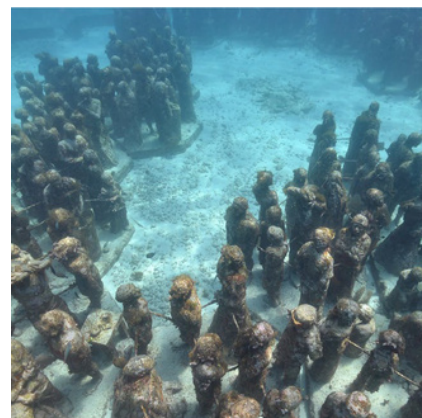
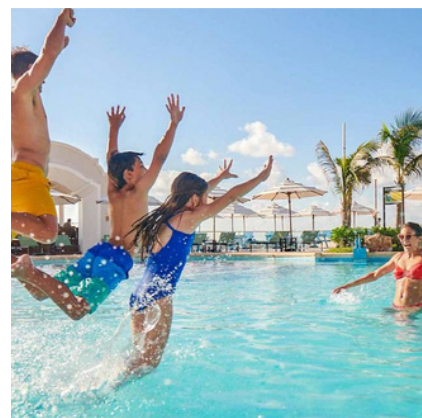
**\$2,750**

For More Information:



<sup>1</sup> Restrictions Apply

<sup>2</sup> Other Room Categories and non-diver pricing available



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# Holiday Cruise on Celebrity Apex

By Darwin Harting



Wanting to take a break after slinging those 20-pound turkey or hams around? Well taking a week long cruise in the Caribbean may be just what Santa has ordered for you and your family to relax and destress prior to him coming to visit and having the in-laws and other family come for Thanksgiving. After taking this cruise, I believe me and my wife have found a new tradition. Jump on the Celebrity Apex and relax and enjoy! There is nothing better than having a week to have someone to make all your meals, bring you drinks, enjoy warm weather, and enjoy life without worries.

Our journey this year, December 02, 2022, we flew into Ft. Lauderdale the day before our cruise. We always recommended this so you don't have to worry/rush to get from home to the cruise port before they leave. We stayed at Hollywood Beach with another couple and walked the Boardwalk, hung out at the beach, enjoyed some great food and drinks with friends.

Starting Saturday morning we got up took our time repacked luggage, ate breakfast and then jumped into our Uber and headed to the port. We have been on a number of cruises, and I have always dreaded that check in process. But Celebrity has made it so easy I thought we were in dream land. From the time our Uber dropped us off and the time we were sitting at the bar aboard the ship was approximately 15 minutes and most of that was walking. The porter took our bags curbside, we walked into the terminal, went through security, stopped at a check in person who verified our information and then it was time to walk on board. AMAZING, Kudos to Celebrity.

Once on board we were greeted by someone to direct us to elevators or where you wanted to go. We went toward an elevator and got sidetracked by the Craft Social, which is the Sports Bar on board the ship. We stopped there to have a drink and develop our plan for the day with the other couple traveling with us. One thing that was amazing is when we ordered they just asked for our room number (we did not have our room key yet) and since we had the Classic Beverage package, it was done, no questions, concerns, etc., again Kudos to Celebrity and all their staff on board.

After our beverage we went to our staterooms, watched the safety information, went to our muster station to check in and we were officially on board and ready to set sail. We went up to the Oceanview Café (the buffet onboard). Many people cringe at buffets, I can tell you I am not a huge fan, but this buffet was well run, well maintained, and actually had good food and didn't taste like a buffet so to speak. There are multiple islands and each have a different venue of food, ranging from salad, cold cuts, breads, carving station, veggies, and then the two cafeteria like lines have different items, like a stir fry section, grill section, pasta section, and more.

We ate at the buffet for dinner one night and it was set up the same way as lunch but more tuned towards dinner foods. We ate breakfast at Oceanview every day, and I personally loved it. They have just about every breakfast item you could think of. Most cruise lines only have an omelet station, well this cruise had a poached egg station (for eggs benedict, Florentine, Oscar, etc.), eggs to order, and an omelet station. Enough about the buffet, thumbs up Celebrity.

Our stateroom, infinite verandah stateroom, was amazing. I love this concept. To me it gives you a larger stateroom, mainly because you can open the "verandah door" all the way and put your verandah window up or down and enjoy the weather your way, even if it is raining. The other great thing is they have a night shade that goes from ceiling to floor. Many times, it seems our verandah staterooms always get hot during the day, which means it was hot in our room when we were trying to get ready for dinner or when trying to go to bed. When we left in the morning, we put that shade down and came back to a nice cool room every time. There are tons of storage space in the stateroom. Usually we run out of space, but this time we had storage room left open. The bed was a bit on the hard side but had a USB plug in along with a 120 plug in beside it. On the dresser was a box with a couple more USB plugs and a couple 120 plugs, so there are plenty of plug-in locations within the stateroom. The bathroom was nice, its shower had a nice size glass enclosure, I am a fairly big person and was very comfortable for me. The toilet was kind of cramped but really, how much room to you need to sit down. The sink was nice size and full mirror from the sink to ceiling.



Overall, the Celebrity Apex is amazing, it has so many places to just go and chill, read a book, watch the ocean go by, hang with friends, etc., you can sit outside, inside, rent cabanas, or hang out on the magic carpet. One of the spots that we fell in love with was the Eden, where we could sit and chat, enjoy drinks, watch the ocean go by, play cards, read, or even maybe take a nap or two. Another great spot was up at the Roof Top Garden. Although it did get hot up there during the day while watching Sunday afternoon football, we managed by having bar service while sitting there. It was a great setting for the game (especially since they were playing in Philadelphia and it was cold there), with all the people sitting around and cheering their favorite team.

For food, if you go hungry on board then you have really tried to go hungry. There was the buffet that I spoke about earlier, which I was amazed by. For the main restaurants we did not realize that you should make reservations at one of the 4 restaurants, Cypress, Tuscan, Normandie, and Cosmopolitan. Although we thought we would be in a set dining room every night, that is not the case, you can choose from one of those four. They all have a different menu for the restaurant but also serve the same as some of the "Celebrity" options. Cypress was a Greek Med restaurant, Normandie served French cuisine, Tuscan was more of the Tuscany region of Italy/Spain, and Cosmopolitan was very contemporary and more of your American food. All the food we had in the restaurants was absolutely delicious and we tried to stay with the "themed" food.

We did do a specialty dining one night at Le Petit Chef, which is a 5-course meal with a show. The show is projected onto the table and tells a story about the next course you are getting ready to have. It is a very interesting dinner. The movie/animation that is projected onto your plate and table is amazing, well worth the money to eat there.

The entertainment on the ship was fantastic as they had something for everyone. In the main theatre you had your musical/Broadway production. They also had the comedians in there on other nights. In the "Club" they usually had a themed night, such as 80's night, 70's tribute, trivia, and other shows, there was dancing, lounging, and great times in the club.

If you are interested in Joining Darwin's Group, Contact your travel agent or visit our Group Page by clicking [HERE](#)

We have to mention the Martini Bar, where they had live music most of the evenings or a DJ there, you could dance or just sit and listen, the music was not overpowering and was typically your soft music or ball room music. At the Martini Bar they had a show from the bartenders every so often. They would throw bottles, juggle, do all the moves from the movie "Cocktail". It was really fun to sit and watch.

In Eden they would have shows during the evening as well, these were acrobatic with music and a story line. They were always great and another thing we like about Eden was during the day they would sometimes practice and we sat and watched.


Now for the saddest part of any cruise, disembarkation on the last day. I have always dreaded this for a number of reasons, first is I have to go back to the real world, no more housekeeper who keeps my bed made and room cleaned, no more wait staff serving me delicious food, no more bartenders keeping me hydrated, and no more doing nothing all day long. Second it used to be a huge hassle getting off the ship with 2000 of your newest friends, finding your luggage, going through customs, and getting to the airport. Well since COVID we have been on several cruises, and they have streamlined it well. However, Celebrity again has it down to a science. From the time we left breakfast after our number was called, till the time we were on the street curb waiting on our ride was about 15 minutes. We really did not stop moving until we hit the curb, if you don't get a porter then I think you have a little more of a struggle to get it done...but always grab a porter both getting on the ship and leaving the ship. Those guys save you a lot of pain and confusion.

If this sounds fun to you, your in luck! We have already set up another cruise for Post Turkey Day, come and join us.




# February Deals


Click the Pictures Below for More Information




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 **30% Off Every Guest + Kids Sail Free**


Booking Period: Today - 2/28/2023 Travel Period: Departing on or after 3/1/2023




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