

August 6, 2009

Hello all you 2010 cruisers and potential cruisers.

It's me -- your cruise director for the March 20, 2010 Trauma in the Tropics Educational Conference. We (Holly Herron, Barb Dean, and me) are eager to see you soon.

Plans for the cruise are well underway and we thought we would update you on what has been planned so far. First, let's talk about the ship, activities, ports of call and then, THE CONFERENCE.

THE SHIP AND ACTIVITIES

We will be traveling on the Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) ship, the Pearl. And what a gem it is – it went into service on December 16, 2006, weighs 93,502 tons, has a crew of 1010, and a guest capacity of 2380 (based on double occupancy). It has 12 places to eat, ranging from Asian to Tapas to French to Italian to Steak, and 11 different bars to “wet your whistle.”

If eating and drinking are not your thing, The ship has a climbing wall and four bowling alleys. That is in addition to the “usual” cruise things – swimming pools, spa, laps to walk/ run/“mosey,” theatrical shows, dancing, shopping, hot tubs, gambling, card games, trivial pursuit, basketball, pool, table tennis, and did I mention – eating and drinking.

PORTS OF CALL

And we make four stops along the way. First is Samana. Although not well known by the general public, it is well known for its ecological treasures such as Mangroves and underwater caves, which you can explore. You can go whale watching or spend the day at Cayo Levando Beach, which is surrounded by clear, warm, turquoise water and white sand beach. Doesn't that sound like a great way to spend a day?



Once we get to St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands, you can spend some (or lots of) money shopping. You can also visit Coral World or take a beach escape at Magen's Bay or Sapphire Beach, or hop a ferry to St. John for snorkeling and swimming. Regardless of what you do, you will enjoy St. Thomas.



Our third stop is at an island called Tortola, part of the British Virgin Islands. Here you can swim with dolphins, see the island, or see the highlights of Virgin Gorda – boulders rising from the sea, palm trees swaying in the breeze, or under the sea caves. How many people do you know who can say that they swam in underwater caves in Tortola? I don't know many.

Our last stop is at a private island owned by Norwegian Cruise Lines – Stirrup Cay. You can have lunch, drinks, and snacks (food and drink anyone? Do you see a theme emerging?) on the beach, parasail 400 feet above the water, spend your day in a hammock, play sand volleyball, swim in the surf, or read a book. It is truly a relaxing day.



THE CONFERENCE

Oh yes – we should talk about “THE CONFERENCE.” It will be the best ever. We will be having classes on the two days we are at sea (from 8 to about 1pm) and for a few hours in the afternoons when we have to board the ship early from our days in port.

As in the past, we have top notch, experienced clinicians and teachers, including physicians/surgeons, nurses, and paramedics. The topics will include trauma (for example blunt, abdominal, chest, facial or others), cardiac, pulmonary, vascular, GI/GU, and medical emergencies in adults, kids, and “oldsters” (such as hypertension, diabetes and other metabolic issues).

The cost of the conference is \$150/person above the cost of the cruise. You can attend all or some of the classes. You receive CEUs for those classes you attend. The classes are very informal (speakers have been known to show up in shorts and bathing suits) and interactive. Speakers look forward to students sharing information and experiences with the group and questions are always welcome. We are currently finalizing the conference content and speakers.



We will be at sea for two days. You can relax in the sun or do just about any activity you like. You can find a place to be by yourself, spend an afternoon with a few new friends (for what else but food and drink), join lots of people by the pool for line dancing, biggest belly flop contest, or the hairiest leg contest.

CONCLUSION

Please check the website for future announcements, including the course agenda and speaker bios. For travel questions, reservations, and cruise information please contact Cindy Poling at “Travel with Me,” at 937.644.9500 or at travelwithme@yahoo.com

For questions about the conference or other topics please e-mail either me at jsteuer2@ohiohealth.com (or call 614.566.9066) or Barb Dean at bdean@grantlifelink.com .

We appreciate your interest in TITT. Hope to talk with you soon and see you in March.

