



## **The do everything vacation Blog:**

### *Piecing it together: The boats*

I went to a vacation expo. Another cruise show? How many do I need to go on a vacation? Fair enough, yet, I learned a ton. Would you really want to spend about 6000 dollars and not have a plan? What do you want to see? What kind of trip? Is it a cruise, a car, plane, train or tent? What would make 6000 dollars seem like a million-dollar trip?

I can see this trip from many angles. I can fly to London and take a train to Paris. I could fly to Venice and take a train through Pisa and on to Rome. A friend suggested driving in that area. What is the best way? There is no right answer. They are all different and interesting. The shows like an expo get you thinking. It's not even about maximizing your money. What is best for you? I have it tough. I am trying to find a trip that's best for several people that are all different.

I have way too much information. I could go at least 5 different ways. Our travel agent wants us to pick a few non-negotiable destinations. I think we have that. It's Rome, Athens, Santorini, Naples. Now what about all the others? Here are why the shows are helpful. I understand that trains and flights in Europe are plenty and cheap. Going from Rome to Pisa is not

hard. The ships only go certain routes. What we want is hard to piece together because the routes are not good. Rome to Athens is fine. Rome to Venice is fine. Yet, Rome to Venice to Athens is not. Barcelona to Venice is possible but adding Athens or Rome is not. It's tricky.

So, for the next few months I have picked 5 boats. A boat is important. A cruise line is important. Price is important. Yet, the boat is first. It could change but I have picked 5 boats that travel to the main four destinations. The price at this moment is all over the map. I love the Royal Caribbean boat called the Jewel of the seas (I'm leaning on this one). Oceania has a boat called the Marina, it's really nice. Celebrity Edge is a cool boat but a little pricey (it's new). Princess has the Emerald and it seems ritzy. The most likely one could be the Norwegian called the Jade.

All of these boats have similar itineraries. The amount of days varies from 9-14. Some even include the flight. They all have different ports of entry or finish. Price will factor in a bit. I think it's becoming clear that the boat is the main sell. They all go where we want. We could sacrifice Naples or Pisa because it's close to Rome. Places like Barcelona, Monte Carlo, and Venice could factor in depending on the boat. 2021 itineraries will be out in a few months. This will not be easy.