



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

### *Piecing it together: itinerary*

I don't really know the boat. I have an idea that it could be the 5 I mentioned last month, but who knows. New boats are coming on line all the time. Old boats are being refurbished as we speak. However, those 5 are regular runners in the Mediterranean Sea. The real view is that we can see how it works. We can see the outlay of the boat's itineraries. The cruise lines differ on routes. So, final boat? No, but were close.

That said, a boat is only part of the picture. All those involved did say that the boat matters. Yet, we can only go on a boat that takes us where we want to go. That means that the itinerary matters too. The route and places to visit is a tricky process. Let me explain. Some cruise lines cover the eastern Mediterranean area. Others tend to cover the west. In reality one boat begins in Barcelona and another starts in Venice. However, neither may visit Greece.

Our travel consultant has asked us to give her our main points. The hard-core spots we must see. I spent time listening. Some wanted Rome. Others wanted Athens or Santorini. Everyone mentioned Pompeii. Try getting several people to decide on one route. It's not easy. In the end I think we have four hard points of travel. We all wanted Rome, Santorini, Pompeii, and

Athens. There is a fifth outside site of Pisa. That said, we all expressed interest in Barcelona and Venice as well.

That was tough work. Yet, when talking to the consultant a picture began to form in my mind. I guess flights and trains in those areas are cheap and plenty. Plus, some places from Rome are close. A train to Pompeii or Pisa is possible. A train or flight to Venice is good. What that means is make the boat hit the four hard points and leave the rest to trains and planes. It makes finding an itinerary easier.

So, where does that leave us? I will give you a clue. Let's say we arrive in Venice for two days. Then we travel by train to Pisa. Then we enter Rome for two days. After that we get on the cruise and finish in Athens. This is food for thought. The cruise line, boat, and route will come together based on a core value. The value is the main focal point of Rome and cruise. What happens before or after is up to each person. New routes for 2021 are coming soon and then well vote and book probably early in the new year of 2019.