



The do everything vacation Blog:

Creating a trip: We have a boat

It took about three years but we have a boat. The day after I post last month, we booked a boat. I thought it was possible but I did not see that coming. It was a furious and fun few days seeing who wanted in. It looks like we have 12 people so far. I am not so sure but I hope for more. The best part was that I was on the way to Saskatoon when this all went down. I spent so much time on the phone. Yet, here we are: the Norwegian Getaway.

It's a great boat! This type of cruise will be a land-based trip for the most part. Yet, we got a great boat. It has great reviews. A friend just went on a Norwegian cruise and said the service was excellent. All boats and crew are different. However, it looks wonderful. The trip is 99% just what we wanted. The itinerary is 11 days hitting all our major ports. The price was pretty good.

One caution. The cruise industry has a car selling side to it. You know the hidden fee thing. Each cruise line has its own way to hide fees. They come in the form of gratuities. Each port has fees. I get that. Giving a tip is ok. I get that. Yet, some boats like Norwegian place the tip fee into the cost once you pay. Princess does the same thing. Carnival has a pay as you go. I

will admit that many people don't tip well. The service on cruises is usually 5 stars. It's great. So, our boat price looked really good. The perks were good. Our location on the boat is good too. We paid a bit more but we are on the 14th floor one deck off of the pool. Good spot. Then they added the port fee and gratuities. I just wish (like a car) all fees were upfront. Still happy though.

The perk thing is interesting. On Princess we got a free gratuity perk. This Norwegian cruise offered free drinks. Sneaky fee because drinks are about 15-18 dollars. It's the way cruise lines work. Sneaky fees. Yet, they treat you well. The food will be super awesome. We are going May 20, 2021. Not a bad time of year for crowds and rain. Over all we did our homework.