

Dallas - London

MONDAY

DATE

7-20

2026

This seemed like the trip
that would never begin..
We had a very relaxed build-up
to the start, began packing
several days early, and waited..
... for our 9:30^{PM} departure
time to arrive.

We had lots of parking
credits at The Parky Spot,
so this cost us nothing but
time, patience, and a little
sweat. We decided to leave
at 3:00 so we would have
plenty of time to have a nice
dinner (as opposed to what we
have been getting on the
airplane) dinner.

I + was hot (100°+) and we
had to wait outside our car
after we parked for a very

2a

How bad was it? I was an old
t-shirt to the airport & packed a
better shirt to wear once I got there...
changed in the bathroom after we
arrived, and threw away the t-shirt

Spent about an hour in the Ambassador
club after dinner before our flight.

long time. I called after
a while. Several (now) were
drone post on parallel road
but none came to pick us up.
I finally ran to another road
and forced a van to stop, only
to be told "I'm not picking
up". I yelled a bit and went
back to the car. He finally
got permission and came to get
us. He was very apologetic -
even gave us water.

Check-in and security were
easy, and we went to CRU
and had wine and Snacks before
walking over to the Wolfgang
Puck Italian restaurant. It
was OK - Father had spaghetti
and meatballs (finally a restaurant
that gave you a reasonably

small serving) and I had a sandwich (which seemed to please our waiter) that was good but (like the french fries) was not quite warm.

Our boarding + in finally rolled around. Our 777-300 was maybe 30-40% full. Our exit row seats were comfortable, and we both managed to sleep for the entire flight.

London

DATE

7-21

Tuesday

4

Arrived on time ($\approx 12:30$).
Got our luggage, walked to the
central bus station, had a
sandwich while waiting for our
2:15 bus to the Victoria Bus
Station. It was a 1 hour
ride, and after a ≈ 10 minute
walk we were at our hotel,
the ECCLESTON SQUARE HOTEL
(#37). We are in the same room
(102) that we had several years
ago. ~~When we were here~~

The room is OK but a little
short on useful space for clothes
and places to put stuff in the
bathroom, but the balcony
makes up for any of that.

I went out shortly after
we arrived in search of snacks
to buy on our way. Got up

at Victoria Train Station but
got a View View for the car
a nice Ford BORDEN for me
which we are now enjoying
in the cool, fresh air on our
private balcony overlooking the
street.

Had dinner at the Artist Residence
Clubhouse, just a short walk from
our hotel. The Focaccia bread
was especially good. Kathleen
and the Trout and I had the
Lamb - both really well
prepared, and washed down with
a delightful bottle of Pinot
vino.

Finished the long day on our
balcony over a last glass of wine

London

DATE

7-22

WEDNESDAY

6

Slept late (until 8:30!) mainly because the room was so cold we were reluctant to get out of bed! I hopefully managed to raise the temperature before we went down for breakfast.

It is a beautiful, warm (71°) partly sunny day. We have a lovely ~~very~~ morning before on 2:30 play (Oleanna!) ~~at~~ at the Gielgud Theatre and dine at the La Poivre au Pot in London.

We decided to walk to the theatre - we were seriously soot took nearly an hour. Stopped into a nearby restaurant for a glass of wine, walked across the street to the theatre, and another

glass of wine for the intermission,
then settled in for a very
Professorial and mostly entertaining
performance of Oliver! (2:40).

Took the #19 for an evening
experience which went very well
until it didn't. The tables were
close to each other, and completely
full, but that didn't detract from
the atmosphere at all. The food
(Dinner Solo for K, Duck Confit for
me, with Asparagus w/ Berries same
for both of us) was delicious, as
was the wine. But we waited for a
very / was / long time for dessert.
Soren cleared our dishes, asked
if we wanted to see the desert
menu, and then... nothing. Volker
Tobler and us were seated there
desert, but we just sat there,

a veritable (and increasingly untold) desert descent. I finally stood at the mesa's very edge tall enough and loud enough to get his attention and asked for our check. He asked what we desired but we declined and told him we had waited too long. Our desert was a lot of apologies.

It was a short and pleasant walk back to our hotel when we again took advantage of our balcony over a night cap.

London

DATE

7-23

THURS DAY

9

Slept well again - I did manage to get the temperature of our room a bit above freezing which helps.

Today is our 1000 step (yesterday) walking expense. We'll see how we feel when that is behind us.

I've ordered our canteen for breakfast (9 £) but it has been worth it as the breakfast choices here are pretty bleak - Ham/Turkey/cheese, a selection of bread, cereal and not-so-ripe fruit.

Took the tube from Victoria Station to CLAPHAM SOUTH for our tour of the WWII air raid factory there. It was an amazing feat of engineering - some 300' underground able to accommodate about 8000 people. Although I did

EXECUTIVE

how an elevator in its day the only way in/out is via the 189-step circular stairs.

Going down was easier than the return trip, but we were not the last one to walk out at the end of the fascinating tour.

We then ^{8 bus} took our way to Harrods for an afternoon tea at 2:00. The food was amazing in fact and to look at - the sandwiches and a variety of sweets (and scones) served with a variety of "home made" jams. We were told at booking that we could have the table for 1.5 hours, but we sat there until 4:30 and felt stuffed.

Finding a bathroom was an adventure. The store is massive and a bit of a

maze.

Took the C1 bus back to the bus station, and walked back to our hotel. We had stopped at the store between the tour and going to Harrods so had some munchies so just sat on our balcony with snacks and wine and enjoyed the pleasant weather and watched London go about its every activities.

London

DATE

7-24

FRIDAY

12

Woke up to another beautiful day weather-wise. Just a bit cooler, but with the promise of more sun and temperatures in the upper 70's - Perfect for a day on a boat, which is how we plan to spend most of today.

Decided to have scrambled eggs for breakfast, but they were runny, and served on toast with salmon on top - all quite unappetizing to me.

Left with lots of time to get to the boat dock but didn't need it - got there quickly and got a seat on the dock where we would board the boat at 10:00. Lots of people were there already, and more arrived (as had to start) into the boat arrived & we were

able to board. We decided to sit on top to enjoy the view, sun and fresh air.

The cruise to Richmond was nice; we were traveling on a part of the river we have not seen before, and I was interested to see the bridges and other landmarks along the way.

We had 3 hours in town before the boat returned. Ate at a fish & chip restaurant, walked the town, bought some sun-screen at a Boots, found the ice cream shop recommended to us by one of our fellow bomb-shelter tourists yesterday, had a drink at a shady outdoor cafe, then joined everybody waiting for the boat to arrive at the dock at 3:00.

The boat was a little more crowded on our return (especially after it stopped at Kow). We were directed to the FR. END SHIP dock when we return to London due to some sort of accident that had occurred near the Westminster dock. Even the Westminster bridge was closed.

It was a small thing to us - we were actually close to the Tarry Grill. We tried to get into the American Bar but the staff steered us away because it was too busy but the other bar was very nice and we enjoyed a little of Sonoma. We were entertained by the actions of a group at the bar who caused great consternation among the staff by Re-arranging the

bar stools in a semi-circle. They were quickly moved to a table and the bar stools were soon back in their proper places in front of the bar.

Dinner was wonderful - the service was amazing. We split a Chateau Brandy steak with roasted potatoes and mushrooms, followed by pommes sautées with strawberries. What a feast!

We had one of our travel guides about the best way to get back to the hotel on the bus and managed to get a bit disoriented walking to the hotel but soon put that all behind us and finished the evening over wine on our balcony.

London $\rightarrow$ Southampton

DATE

7-25

SATURDAY

16

Had a relatively leisurely morning to get up, eat and pack before checking out, walking back to the bus station and catching an 11.00 bus to Southampton where we will spend one more night before boarding our ship to begin the cruise.

The bus ride was... a bus ride. We arrived just after 2:00 and took a cab to our hotel and were able to go right to our room. It is nice - has a small balcony, but no chairs! What the point?

Walked over to the Dancing Man Brewery and had a hamburger and had a beer. I checked in with Melissa to see how the setup for the seminar was going and she indicated that all was well so I did not

17a

London Observations

- Lots of discount on display.
People from many parts of the world with quite different
back grounds all seemingly getting
along quite well.

- Rental bikes are big here.
The Book of bikes across the
street from our hotel had a
constant chain of people arriving
and departing the whole time
we were there. The streets
were full of them - it was a
wonder that we never saw an
accident.

better to join the Zoom call. Hys
it continues to go smoothly.

Went back to the hotel and
sat outside over some wind until
it was time to walk to the
Wheel Star restaurant for dinner.
It was not crowded inside (although
there was a boisterous crowd
outside and at the nearby bar).
The menu was a bit under-
whelming but we really enjoyed
what we ordered (Lamb for me
and Pork for K).

Heard back to the hotel for
a night cap.

Southampton → Queen
Ann

DATE

7-26

SUNDAY

18

Had a very leisurely morning waiting for 11:15 to roll around when we were to board on ship. Enjoyed the fine weather and coffee outside after breakfast.

The boarding process was easy and quick, although our room was not ready. We sat on the top deck - Kathleen had champagne to get the voyage off to a proper start.

The room was ready shortly after 1:00, although our luggage was not yet on board.

We ate lunch, returned to our room (still no luggage) and sat on the balcony waiting for our 4:00 departure (and our luggage).

We also tried to get our interconnection working. Our steward

said we had to go down to the
Purser for help, so I headed
down (and encountered our luggage
on the way!) and found the line
of people waiting for help with
one problem or another. My first
+ ins through the line seemed to
provide the help I needed (the
internet. com url), but
it wanted me to pay for access, so
I went through the line for a 2nd
time. That person apparently had
to reset something in their
system and changed the login
birthdate associated with the
account for Kathleen to mine.

All was good until I returned
to our room and H. & Kathleen
tried to login - neither Bill
did work, so I took her phone,

met back down to the person
office, waited on him again, only
to have her by Kathleen phone
in very my B-date for no.
his fingers!

We unpacked. I finished first
and went up to the 9th deck (our
room is on here 6) and took a
few pictures as we sailed out of
the harbor, got some wine &
champagne and returned to our
room so we could enjoy our
Princess Viking together.

It was sunny and warm, and
we had to keep re-arranging our
chairs as we trusted and turned
our way out into the English
Channel.

Changed for dinner and met down
to our dining room at 9:00.

We were seated next to an English couple - the woman had a very negative view of the state of affairs in England in general and of the number of emigrants in London in particular which she expressed freely and at great length with the couple at the table next to them. We did not engage our lips to be able to change table or we don't want to spend the next few weeks listening to her drivel.

Dinner was OK - had a nice bowl of White Burgundy, onion soup & Salmon (K), smoked salmon and grilled salmon / no potatoes by no cream. Service was a bit frantic (1st night

Queen Anne
~~Hotel~~

DATE

7-27

Mr. [unclear]

22

shakedown but friendly and
attentive.

We finished our wine (and
had a few more drinks) at the
bar across from the restaurant.

Queen Anne
→ Belfast

DATE

7-27

MONDAY

23

We slept well. Went down to the cafeteria for breakfast, which was a bit of a zoo - lots of people, had to wait to find a table. Didn't eat at "on" restaurant tomorrow.

Explored the ship a bit after we ate - found the gym and spa, then walked around the ship on the 3rd deck.

Stopped by a room to gather stuff and one committee worked out at a table on the 9th level next to the indoor pool. (The PAVILION).

For the most part we just spent the day hanging around and reading. I got called and came back to the room (less wind) and Kathleen eventually joined me there.

EXECUTIV

We finally drove and looked
down about 7:30. Talked to the
host about changing tables
and he accommodated us. We
had to wait until 8:15 (I'd
missed the bus) but he found
a nice table way in the back
at a window for us. Apparently
it's ours for dinner as long as we
are willing to eat late (which
suits us fine). I had Gung Fried
and Hothree Hot Pot.

Finished our wine in the bar.

25a

Stopped off at a m^{ts} to buy
some socks for Kathleen as she
realized she had not packed any.

In Belfast

DATE

7-28

TUESDAY

25

We arrived about 8:00. The river cruise we had booked was cancelled, so we decided to go to PRONY (+ see if we could find another court record documentary what happened to Hugh Murray's estate) then the Titanic museum (since Kathleen has not seen it yet).

Queued up with very many people for the shuttle bus which took us to the "Visit Belfast" TI office downtown then walked the mile or so to PRONY.

Got all registered & signed in, looked up the court record books we needed, then headed over to the reading room to begin going through the records after the sorted files (which Kathleen already had). Looked through cases

for the next two years (about
8 books) but found no further
mention of the case so can only
assume they settled among
themselves.

Had lunch at the cafeteria then,
then walked the short distance
to the Titane museum. It was
jammed full, and we would have
had to wait more than an
hour to get in. As it was
already 2:05 / and we need to
be back on the boat by 5:30 we
decided to skip it and began to
walk back to the TI for catch
the bus.

Stopped off at a neat little
bar set back from an alley
we cut through and had a
glass of wine and rested a bit

before continuing on walk to the T2. There was another long line of people waiting for a bus, but it only took c 30 minutes before we were back at the boat... and waiting in another line of people waiting to go through security to get back on the ship.

A bunch of emergency vehicles arrived as we pulled into the parking lot. Apparently, someone had breached security and gotten onto the boat. They caught him quickly - we saw him being led off in handcuffs by the police.

To his credit the captain made several announcements explaining what had happened.

Once aboard we went directly to the outdoor area with back of

28a

Kathleen has really been enjoying
campaigns!

The boat / 9th deck) and had dinner
and, and (eventually) watched as
the boat left the dock (≈ 7 PM)
and sailed out into the harbor.

Charged, then went down to
dinner and sat again at our
table and talked at the window.
I had Roast chicken & potatoes and
scallops. I have been enjoying
a variety of smoked fish as my
appetizer - Salmon, Trout and
(today) Haddock - all delicious.
However, my "ceasar" salad had
Rocket lettuce, mandarin oranges
and no Parmesan cheese. Arrogance
We dined fine and on wine (had a lot
when we got back to the shore) and
I retired in bed to Read early.

Between Scattered & Iceland

DATE

7-29

WEDNESDAY

209

Woke up energetic and went down to the 3RD deck before breakfast to do 3 Chilly laps (= 20 minutes) to start the day. Found a very nice place there to enjoy some coffee before I headed back to the room to get cleaned up before my 9:30 massage. Had to go back up to 9TH deck to wait a bit until the room was being cleaned, but around 10 the spa was open. I had booked a 75 minute massage but bumped it up to 100 minutes and walked away very glad that I did - I was very relaxing. Kathleen has a schedule for 12:00. We will meet for a hot lunch when her massage is finished.

The day is overcast and cooler.
The ship picked up a bit of motion
over night but it has not affected
either of us.

I bundled up and headed out to
the back of the boat on the 9th
deck. It had rained, and it was
windy and cool. I loitered for ~30
minutes before heading inside,
where Kathleen eventually joined
me for a hot lunch.

We retreated to our room where we
rested and relaxed until it was time
to get on our formal attire for
dinner - I wore "black & white"
night (we wore blue) at just
about everyone was wearing the
finest. We are not made for such
evening - more Vicky Riva Cruise
types.

After a few drinks in the bar
we headed back to the table
we apparently share with some
who prefer to eat early (#271)
We both enjoyed the shellfish
bragis and chateau brand. We
finished our what was left for a
few lost night and started on a
miss Rye.

We ordered the special dinner
for tomorrow (Dunk - one of Sub-t).
It was after 10:00 by the time
we returned to our room and
retired.

At Sea

→ Iceland

DATE

7-30

THURSDAY

32

Slept later but still decided to brave the cold and windy weather ($10^{\circ}\text{C} - 50^{\circ}\text{F}$) to walk 4 times around the outside deck (1:30 minutes). Again enjoyed coffee before separating - I met yftu 9 to have a light breakfast (cannet - egg - bacon - cheese sandwich) before heading down to the gym to go through my upper body workout.

We got cleaned up, then I went down to Pearson's place to sign us up for a "Lovers & Lovers" event on Tuesday (\$100 each). Kathleen had gone ahead and started out a table on the 12th deck observation room.

Cunard's pricing looks really attractive up front, but they do

nickel and dime / make that \$1.00
and \$1.00) you for things thought
the trip. They even charge for
coffee outside the cafeteria.

We discovered the lounge on the 12th
deck at the front of the ship. I offer
a great view and spent much of the
day there reading and enjoying being
on a ship at sea.

Had ordered the special meal (Duck
and Sole) which was a nice break
from the rest of the menu...

AKUREYI Creek

DATE

7-31

FRIDAY

34

Arrived early in the morning, which was overcast, windy and cool ($\approx 50^\circ$).

Had breakfast, then hiked down to begin our first trip at 8:30. Had to assemble in the theater first, and our group was departing just as we arrived!

It was a long bus trip to the GODAFLESS waterfall, but the scenery on the way was beautiful - Looks a lot like Scotland.

The falls themselves were rather beautiful - unusual in that they descend from the level that we approached them from - they don't (naturally) tower over you as you approach.

The path from the visitor center to the falls was paved and an easy walk. However, there was a path down to the bottom of the falls

34a

Locales very near when one of my 4-DVA
motels was found.

that was significantly more of a challenge. - very steep and rugged. Kathleen decided to not try it, but I could not resist, It required a lot of careful effort to get down, and the shore itself was very rocky as had to walk on too, but the view was worth the effort.

We walked back to the water center. Kathleen went in for a cup of coffee while I walked across the footbridge and looked up the opposite side of the river to see the falls from that side.

We rode back into town to the Botanical Garden but left the tour there to walk into town. Visited the Lutheran church, then had lunch at a very local burger joint (even saw a few off duty

member of the boats went - stuff there). Did a bit of shopping, very nearly had wine at one of the hotels before pandering about the time we needed to be back on the boat and hurried back to be sure we were not left behind.

We made it with several hours to spare and settled in on the 12th floor observation area a bit before 3:00.

The bar did not open until 3:00 as I (apparently) took step #1 of passing off the waitstaff by going down to deck 2 and bringing up some wine for us.

They did not appear to serve much like the bar on deck 2 does, so around 6:00 I got the machines and went down to 9 to

fetch a couple of pieces of Puyge.
Just as soon as I returned and sat down
with the Puyge I was nicely but asked
that that just wasn't acceptable. When
he said that they served snacks I had
to point out that we had been there for
several hours and nobody had offered us
anything to eat. (Lips, almost all
nuts appear almost immediately)

Even though I had already eaten
the Puyge I felt obligated to eat
the snacks. Neither one of us felt
like a big dinner so we skipped
our usual dinner. I did grab some
chicken & rice before going to the
room (very unsatisfactory).

ISA FJUR DUN Iceland

DATE 3-1

SATURDAY

38

Another early morning arrival, but today was brilliantly sunny without a cloud in the sky.

Had an earlier departure so had to leave a bit to get ready, got on breakfast and got down to the gathering point by 8:30.

We didn't need to hurry - our bus was scheduled to leave at 9:00 but didn't depart until nearly 9:15 due to some late-arriving members of our group.

It was a 75 minute ride through really beautiful country side. Our tour guide was good (so was the one we had yesterday) and he kept us informed about the geography and history as we rode on to our destination, the DYNDI waterfall.

It is an awesome sight, but the trail up to it is really steep and rugged. Kathleen did not feel safe and stopped soon after we started up. I continued and made it most of the way to the top but had to stop due to a lack of time.

I have (total) just wasn't enough time to enjoy this spectacular place!

Rode next to 508 UR 4 R1, a small (300 people) fishing town located on one of the smaller FJORDS in Iceland. Learned a lot about processing fish, taxed dried fish, fish cakes and smoked salmon before climbing back on the bus and returning to the ship.

It was only 2:00 so we opted to walk into town to see

what there was to see (not much as I
found out) so we returned to the ship,
changed, and bravely made our way
back up to the 12th deck.

Asked for (and got) mints with our
drinks, and a bowl of chips around
noon after that, so we apparently are
marked people but not badly &
all is good.

The crew was amazing as we sailed
away from the dock (backwards) and
out of the fjord.

Booked a reservation at the steak
restaurant for Friday ... the menu is
starting to seem a little repetitive.

Now the beer, we enjoyed Pink (m)
and Salmon (K) for our usual late
evening before retiring for the night.

40a

Had a bit of excitement while we were sipping our wine ... the Captain came onto the PA system to direct the Fire Aid and Fire Contention teams to a reported fire on deck 9. He soon came back and put everyone mind at rest by informing us that it was a false alarm.

I have to admit their process ... the PA system is probably the most efficient and reliable way to alert the crew when a problem occurs. Plus it gives all passengers a heads up that a problem has occurred.

REY KJAVIK, Iceland

DATE

B-2

SUNDAY

41

Another sunny, warm (for Iceland) morning as we sailed into the harbor early on a Sunday morning. Discussed our plans over breakfast. We will relax into our afternoon tour to see the Lure cave, then will explore the city when we return. We will remain here overnight so there will be no pressure to get back to the ship.

So we settled into the newly vacant bar area on deck 2 and enjoyed not walking anywhere for awhile... My knee is letting me know that I don't not appreciate all of the climbing I have been doing. I'm due for another cortisone shot in two weeks and am really ready for the relief it has been providing

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We intent to go into town early
afternoon so I used chit chat to map
out the "must see" sights for us.

Rode the ~40 minutes to
RAUFARHÖFHELLIR to walk through the
Lava Tunnel. We had to wait for
15-20 minutes after we arrived for
our guide (apparently having already
taking another group through) so
we waited outside in the warm sun.
I ate the ham & cheese sandwich
I had stolen from the golf deck
before we left.

Our guide arrived and we geared-up
(helmets with head lamps) and
made our way into the tunnel.
It was amazingly beautiful inside,
and the walking was very
challenging in the stretches
where the lava was not fractured

steps on a steel walkway. tattle
struggled a bit but gave mainly
more confidence as we proceeded.

The highlight occurred when we
reached the fun - and point
and the girls found off all of
the lights - whether to say I
was really - well dark!

The walk back out seemed
easier - we went at our pace
and we knew what to expect.

We arrived back at the ship
≈ 2:30. I had purchased a Hop
on - Hop off bus pass before we
left, so we walked (Rode the Free
shuttle bus) ≈ 1/4 mile to catch
on bus into town. It had some
problem so we detoured into the
nearby garage for a consultation
before proceeding at ≈ 15 mph.

to our destination (the Open Center).
It is an amazingly beautiful
building - we went inside and learned
that it had a bar, so we stopped
off for a drink and a snack.

Sadly, the kitchen was closed, but
the very friendly bartender brought
us a huge bowl of nuts, so kettle
(who had no lunch) was relieved.

We browsed the gift shop, and I
bought a T-Shirt with a cool map
of Iceland printed on it.

We walked on and found the old
Harbor area that was bristling
with bars, restaurants and gift
shops.

From there we walked over to the
Rainbow Street (pedestrian
stopping area), walked uphill
to the cathedral (beautiful, but

closed for a concert), then walked back down the Rainbow (so-called because it literally has been painted the colors of the rainbow) back to the Opera House, where we caught the Crino Tenuel bus (because the HO/HO bus stopped at 5:00) back to the ship.

We changed, had a few drinks on deck 2, got seated and had dinner (PLATON SCHWITZER for K, I had the beef).

Reykjavik

DATE

8-3

MONDAY

46

Most of the day was spent on the Ring of Fire tour that starts at the assembly area at 9:10. Since it was scheduled to end at 2:30 we both conscientiously made an snack out of breakfast with sandwiches.

Our tour guide was a little lackluster, but the tour itself was fascinating. We started out at a Geothermal Power Plant that creates hot water and electricity for Reykjavik - learned a lot about it is produced, and the steps they are taking to reduce the already low levels of waste (mainly CO₂).

We found a small Geo-Thermal Park, stopped at a new-by restaurant for a buffet lunch (2 meals for our

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sandwiches!), the finish of at
the THINGVELLIR National Park,
situated at the Junction of the
Junction of the North American
and the Eurasian tectonic plates
meet.

I really made no appreciation
just how precarious being out here
is - they are subject to a major
volcanic eruption for as much
of active volcanoes, any one of
which could make life very
unpleasant.

Arrived back at the ship at
2:40. Changed then stoked out a
fold on deck 12. The on-board
time is 4:30, so we should be
departing around 5:00.

We apparently have been extremely
fortunate weather-wise. Today was

another warm and sunny day.
Everyday we have gone the past
few days his results is at
least no conversation with a
native about how unusually nice
the weather has been. Lucky us!

I stayed on 12 and watched
Reykjavik recede into the distance.
The captain announced that the
weather tomorrow could be
considerably different or we are
heading into a storm that may
produce some 3 meter waves...

We set directly to "on table"
for dinner at 8:15 and found
that it was really for us. I had
an omelet, pork and ketchup
upside (for \$35) for a filet
that was well worth the cost -
the best beef we have had so far.

A+ Sea

Reykjavik → Seltún

DATE

8-4

TUGSDU

49

Slept later than usual. Walked for 30 minutes, then had coffee on deck 3 (very cozy!). I headed down to the gym while Kathleen got cleaned up.

We need to turn in our Passports today (Passports for Inelos) - on deck is scheduled to do so at 10:30.

I stayed in the room to work on marketing material for the North Texas Giving day. Kathleen will take care of our Passports and meet me back at the room at 11:45 so we can go to our "Lunch & Learn" end at 12:00.

At least that was the plan. We had confused us w/ the correct time with our wait-person when we got our coffee after our walk.

but she was misad - we had
changed time zone overnight. I
had just settled in at my PC
when the steven phone started
to ring. I + we the stuff
among the lunch wonder if
we were planning to attend!

I looked for Kuttler when
she told me she planned to sit,
then looked down a 2. Finally
I thought to call her even
Faretina and was able to reach
and meet up with her.

We were not sure when the
event was, walked to the
wrong end of the ship, with
up and down a few flights of
steps but finally arrived, about
10 minutes after noon. We just
missed the fun bit of talking.

The wine pairing was interesting. Old world (Europe) vs New world (US, Canada) and we enjoyed them all. The food was good as well - fitted as the main course. To my surprise I found the cheese course to be enjoyable.

We pretty much got wedged out in our room all afternoon, then dressed for our 2nd Fond night. Had wine first, then enjoyed Steak Diane.

516 Knosay

DATE

8-5

WEDNESDAY

52

Arrived just as we woke up. Walked in cloudy, windy, misty weather but finished feeling good and refreshed.

Had coffee, then I went to the gym while Kathleen went to see why she is unable to connect to the internet. They couldn't offer much more than a "Zweigly is having the same problem" statement. No response when Kathleen said that she had the same problem yesterday and requested a refund (we paid nearly \$800 to have internet access for this trip).

We will have a relayed by-on shore excursion is scheduled for 2:00.

The weather did not cooperate - wind driven rain greeted us as we boarded the bus for the ~ 40

minute though the contrast to
the CALLAMISH STANDING STONES

There are a number but much
older version of Stonehenge, dating
back some 4000-5000 years.

Nobody really knows why the structures
were created (a very outlandish
or a smaller version were
scattered around the surrounding
County side, but their age
and the obvious effort that went
into them being created is impressive,
even when viewed through the veil
of wind-driven rain.

They just built a visitor
center at the site. Coupled with
the new deep water port where
the ship is berthed it represents
a significant (and helpful)
investment and an attraction

Tourists like us. The down-side for them is the distance to the town from the port (about a 15 minute bus ride) and the (a) far lack of attractions in the town itself. I wish them luck.

It was good to get back to the ship where we shed our damp (or-wet) clothes and headed up to the 12th deck for some restoration drinks at the always interesting view of the ship leaving port.

Had a small wrinkle when we went down to dinner $\approx 8:15$ - our alter ego's were still sitting at "our" table, so we retreated back to the bar and had a delaying drink. The table was ready when we returned at 8:40. I had the roast

Chicken (good) and Farkler had
the salmon (even better).

It had warmed up a lot so
we finished the evening on our
balcony.

At Sea

Sto Resawar → 68 H.

DATE

8-6

THURSDAY

56

As predicted the weather was much improved - No rain and warmer. We did our 30 minute walk around the deck, then split up for our massage (9:30 for me, 12:15 for Kathleen. Mine was excellent!

The massage (75 minutes) was great! I came back to the room and did some work on Nera while Kathleen was getting her, then we ventured up to the 9th deck for lunch.

Afternoon was both enjoyed just relaxing in our room until it was time for dinner (Beef Wellington for both)

Around in glorious sunshine! I looks (only looks - because we cannot access the weather app for some reason) like it is going to be a beautiful day here. We did not sign up for any tour so we will be on our own.

Our first stop was the Hastings museum which was located on the dock near the ship. I learned a lot about how the Irish people were deported by the British, & also had a lot of information about the Peter Robinson settlers who were sent to Canada in 1825.

Next up (Literally) was the cathedral which sits on a hill overlooking the town. A funeral was in progress so we didn't get to see much of the interior but

little I could see for the deer was impressive.

Wandered around some more. Had a Guinness sitting at outdoor sidewalk tables outside a bar (the weather was great - sunny and warm), followed by ice cream to complete our "lunch".

Headed back to the ship and settled in at a table on the 9th deck where we read while waiting for our 6:00 departure.

We had booked dinner at the steak restaurant on the 10th deck at 7:30. It was nice - no need to dress up, and the food was good.

I finished the evening with a drink on the hot tub. There was nobody else out near the pool, so I probably was there after it

had done for the dog... oh well,
still a rebel.

At Sea

COSH → SOUTHAMPTON

DATE

8-8

SATURDAY

60

Our last day at sea! We both feel the usual "It feels like we have been gone a long time yet can't believe that it is our return" feeling.

We walked (another beautiful, sunny, warm day). I went to the gym while Kathleen eventually - she seems to be slow! - enjoyed coffee on the 3rd deck.

I'm now clean, fed (by breakfast) and getting caught up on our schedule in our rooms.

We need to get packed and set our suitcases outside our room this evening to prepare for our 3:10 departure tomorrow.

The weather was even nicer than it was yesterday... Sitting on the balcony was our choice for the last day of cruising.

6)

We changed for dinner one last time and went down to the Chart Room about 6:00. There was hardly anything when we arrived, but it became more crowded as time went by.

Our table was ready when we headed over there at 8:15. Nothing on the regular menu looked appealing so we had seafood (Filet of Kathleen, Lobster for me, \$35 each). We also got a nice bottle of red wine which we finished in our room after dinner on the balcony.

Got our bags out for pickup by the 11:00 deadline.

Gang Home

DATE

8-9

SUN DAY

62

Woke up back in Southampton,
tied up at a different dock (Ocean)
than we departed from.

Took our bags with us when we
went down for breakfast, then
walked down to the theatre for our
9:10 departure. Walked all the way
to the front of the ship and
around shortly after 9:00 only to
hear that they had already sent
our gang to the gang plank to
depart, so walked back to the
middle of the ship to join the
line of departing passengers.

The ramp down to the terminal
was a zig-zag maze but
seemed to go on forever, but we
eventually reached the terminal,
found our suit cases and made
our way outside. Finding the

was a bit of a queasy game
as we finally found someone who
pointed it out to us.

I took awhile to get moving.
Someone from the ship came on
board and checked off every cabin
room number so they must have
been missing someone.

It was about a 75 minute
ride to terminal 3. Getting our
bags checked took a while (all the
other passengers seem to have a
lot of bags to check!) but we
accomplished that, got through
security, found the bathroom and
were seated in the Admirals club
lounge by 11:00.

Our flight is scheduled to
depart at 2:45.

THOUGHTS ON THE CRUISE

There were a lot of passengers who appear to be a lot older than us. Very many of them were identity challenged.

All of them appear to be very much into the Fancy Dress nights (that probably explains the number of boys being checked at the airport).

We haven't dared to look at the final account of charges that was left at our room this morning. Their up-front cost reflects well when compared to a Viking Cruise, but they sure charge for a lot of things (even cokes!).