



CARNIVAL LEGEND

December 13-20, 2009



Tampa to Grand Cayman to Cozumel, Mexico
to Belize City to Isla Roatan, Honduras to Tampa

Comments are by CruiseCritic.com members & friends
collected by 'DarryDFL' & 'PegEggFL'.

Names in single quotes are screen names.

Click on any blue, underlined text to go to its linked reference.¹

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ARRIVE AT THE SHIP

► 'MoonDawie', May/7/08: It's a great idea to arrive early. This way you'll be nice and relaxed by the time boarding time comes. I like to get to the ship around 11:30 AM or so. You can't get in your cabin until 1 PM, but there is a lunch set out and you can eat and get acquainted with the ship. Your luggage should arrive shortly after 1 PM. This means you need to pack a bathing suit in the carry-ons and the kids can use the pool right away.

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► 'PegEggFL', Dec/19/09: We arrived at the ship at 11 AM, boarded quickly and got familiar with its layout. Of course, we made time to enjoy lunch and meet new friends as well as take photographs.

CARNIVAL'S EARLY SAVER PROGRAM

<http://tinyurl.com/y9eeg2a> — According to the site:

1. When you book a 3-5 day cruise three months in advance, or 6-day or longer cruise five months in advance, you are assured the lowest rate.
2. In the unlikely event that you do find a lower Carnival-advertised rate after booking your cruise, we will honor it and adjust your cruise rate accordingly. Simply fill out the Price Protection Claim form and we'll take care of the rest. If you booked your cruise with a travel agent and need to make a Price Protection Claim, contact your travel agent and they will submit it for you.

COFFEE/TEA

► 'DarryDFL', Dec/19/09: The coffee on Deck 9 is very fresh and mild while the coffee in dining room is so strong it would make you slip the tongue to your grandmother for relief. The iced tea throughout the ship is very strong; we mixed it half-&-half with water.

CREW

► 'DarryDFL', Dec/19/09: On our cruise, there were 950 employees from 57 nations. They were very polite and helpful. Most spoke good English, even if some had heavy accents — just like in the USA. If you're lucky enough to get Stephan as a waiter, you've been blessed. A law school graduate from Rumania, he is articulate, informative and responsive — anticipating requests before you can even voice them.

DINING: TRUFFLES, THE MAIN DINING ROOM

'JoyBaby', Sep/7/09:

- Cuisine: Continental
- Dress Code: Two formal nights; other nights: resort attire. Shorts and swim wear not permitted.
- Reservations Required: Yes (except for My Time Dining).

- Breakfast: 7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
- Early Dine: 6 p.m.
- Late Dine: 8:15 p.m.

GRATUITIES

► Quoted from the letter that awaits in your cabin on the Carnival Legend:

“For your convenience, we are automatically charging the Service gratuities to your onboard Sail & Sign charge account. The total amount is \$10 per guest, per day (our recommended guideline) as follows:

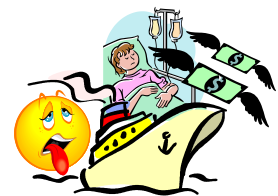
- ☆ \$ 3.50 Per Day Stateroom Services
- ☆ \$ 5.50 Per Day Dining Room Services
- ☆ \$ 1.00 Per Day Alternative Services: distributed to other kitchen and hotel service staff

“Our Staff is totally committed to exceed your expectations in every way possible. However, if you are not satisfied with the level of service you have received, we encourage you to contact the Guest Information desk in the Lobby Grand Atrium on Deck 2, Midship. This will allow us to address your concerns in a timely and appropriate fashion. Regardless, at your discretion you may adjust the gratuities at any time.”

INSURANCE

‘DarryDFL’: ***Why you must get travel insurance.***

“Cruise ship leaves family over medical issue,” WPTV (Florida), Aug/26/09, Ecstasy, Carnival Cruise Lines. For the full story, visit <http://darryd.com/CC/Insurance.pdf> .



ITINERARY

► ‘DarryDFL’, Aug/23/09: Barring unforeseen incidents or weather, the Legend keeps to its itinerary. See traveler-posted facts about each of the ports at <http://DarryD.com/CC> — plus how ships react to hurricanes. The itinerary for our Dec/13/2009 cruise was:

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Sun	Tampa, FL	—	4 pm
Mon	@ Sea	—	—
Tue	Grand Cayman	7 am	4 pm
Wed	Cozumel	10 am	6 pm
Thu	Belize	8 am	5 pm
Fri	Isla Roatan	8 am	3 pm
Sat	@ Sea	—	—
Sun	Tampa, FL	6 am	—



KARAOKE

► ‘DarryDFL’, Dec/19/09: Karaoke is hosted nightly in Sachmo’s Lounge. The MC is not overwhelming, but the music during our cruise was very good. If you’ve never heard ‘MetroAlto’ release her captivating vocals, you have missed one of the greatest and most enjoyable moments of your life. On Saturday night, the best performers put on a show at 10:30 PM in the Follies Theater. Other than the crew’s “The Big Easy” show, this was the best performance.

LIBRARY

► ‘DarryDFL’, Dec/19/09: Sharing space with the Internet Café, the librarian is available only a limited amount — sometimes just two hours a day. The computers take up a lot of space, so this is not the place to go and to read.

MEET & MINGLE (Formal)

► ‘MarlinJim’, Sep/9/19: My sister is going on the *Carnival Dream* in May 2010, and they offer a happy hour for their Meet and Mingle. This is what Carnival offers:

► 1 hour open bar with dry snacks. \$9.95 plus 15%. We need at 20 people. They assign you a lounge and it will have a bar with a bartender that will fix your drinks any way you want them. It will also include non-alcohol drinks for the ones that don’t drink. I prefer this option. But I will go with any of them.

- 1.5 hours, \$14.50 same as above
- 2 hours, \$17 same as above.

They have many more options, but I think these would work just fine.

MEET & GREET (Informal)

➤ **Dec/13/09, 2:30 p.m. at the Avalon Bar**, on the Lido Deck, between the two pools. Alternative: **Atlantis Lounge** on the Promenade deck.

➤ 'JoyBaby', Sep/7/09: If it is raining let's do an alternative: The Atlantis Lounge on the Promenade Deck.

➤ 'JoyBaby', Dec/9/09: All cruise critics friends will hopefully meet at the Avalon Bar at 2:30 for a brief get together.

Please wear your name tags that Darry D so kindly provided for us. Travel will be behind us, and our bellies should be full.

➤ 'DarryDFL', Dec/9/09: There are two major considerations: Weather and noise. I don't think weather will be a problem, but noise could be a challenge.

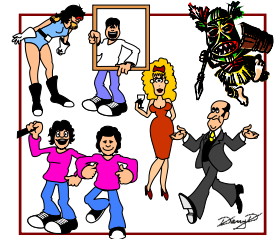
The National Weather Service [forecast](#):

★ Sunday: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. South southwest wind between 3 and 7 mph.

★ Sunday Night: A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

PegEgg and I participated in an informal Meet & Mingle on the Grandeur of the Seas on Jan/9/09. Our meeting did not go too well for a variety of reasons. One was that once the bands started, no one could hear much. See <http://DarryD.com/CC> for details.

➤ 'DarryDFL', Dec/17/09: The Meet & Greet went well. The background music did not interfere with conversations. We met on the port side, and there were plenty of movable chairs for use to create a circle of friendship. It did not rain, and clear skies made photo-taking a pleasure.



NEWS

➤ 'DarryDFL', Dec/19/09: For reasons not quite within my understanding, the local news on the cabin's satellite TV is from Denver, Colorado. (I'm used to it being from New York on cruise ships.) CNN is also offered. A "USA Times" is published daily and is available at the Business Desk on Deck 2.

OIL SURCHARGE

► 'Dillon1320', Dec/9/09: I spoke with a Carnival cruise agent a week ago when I upgraded rooms, and asked about the oil surcharge. She stated that oil prices have been above \$70 per barrel for several months and they haven't added the extra charge to any other cruises so she doubted very highly that it would be added to this one. Matt

PACKING

Be sure to pack all the items you'll need. See PegEgg's "Packing Checklist" at <http://DarryD.com/CC> for details.

PARKING

- 'Joybaby', Dec/01/09: Parking is \$14/day — but for me — I am into safety, so that's what I will do. It's Terminal 2.
- 'StacyCakes1', Dec/03/09: I have done a bit of digging around for cheaper/safe options for parking. I found out that you can park at the Amtrak parking lot for free. They lock the gate at night and it is open during the day. It is a five minute cab ride from there to the port.
- 'BSSCruisers', Dec/06/09: They need to lock the gates at the Amtrak station at night, it is in a pretty rough part of town. I would recommend against parking there.
- 'DarryDFL', Dec/19/09: Every person I interviewed on the Dec/13/09 cruise parked at the Cruise Parking Terminal 2 facility which is securely locked between Sunday evening and the next Sunday morning. It costs \$14/day.

PRICE REDUCTION

- 'JoyBaby', Dec/7/09: I booked an ES (early savings) and I don't think there is any change allowed. They assured me that this would be the rock bottom price. Well, it has dropped \$40/pp for my category so I will see what my PVP will have the power to do. This is my 8th carnival Cruise, so I am hoping for some compensation.
- 'Haganwood', Dec/7/09: If it is for the exact same category you need to fill out the ES price form. If it is for any other category you are going to get the sorry it's not applicable. Which is what I have gotten every time I have called.

► 'JoyBaby', Dec/9/09, The Carnival site is down now. I called Carnival and they said my TA needed to call them for the upgrade which she did. However, Carnival's rates are higher in all categories than my TA on the Internet, so I suppose I am still ahead of the game. As of today, [the Legend] still has inside and OV cabins, the balconies have gone since their ad on Tues.

ROBE PARTY

► 'ChefWoz', Dec/20/09: One of the most popular events was the Robe Party on Thursday night, Day 5 (after visiting Belize). All participants wear the bath robes provided free in each cabin. Although advertised as a dance party, it was really an aerobic workout on a massive level.

ROOM SERVICE

These items are available for breakfast.

Continental Breakfast: Citrus Segments Fresh Melon Banana Smoked Salmon

CEREALS: Frosted Flakes Special K Raisin Bran Rice Krispies

Corn Flakes Fruit Loops Cheerios Lucky Charms

Cinnamon Toast Crunch

BREAKFAST BREADS: Danish Toast White Toast Wheat Muffin

Croissant Bagel

YOGURT: Strawberry Raspberry Plain Peach

BEVERAGES: Orange Juice Apple Juice Grapefruit Juice Tomato Juice Freshly Brewed Coffee Freshly Brewed Decaffeinated Coffee Hot Chocolate Hot Tea Decaffeinated Hot Tea Regular Milk Skim Milk Chocolate Milk

SHIP FACTS-

► Carnival, Jul/09/09:

- Gross Tonnage: 86,000
- Guest Capacity: 2,667
- Total Staff: 930
- Length: 963 feet
- Depth: 106 feet

- Cruise Speed: 22 knots (22 knots x 1.15 = 25.30 mph)
- Maximum Speed: 22.5 knots

SHOWS

► 'DarryDFL', Dec/19/09: During the December 13th cruise, the shows were not that impressive. The most aggravating thing was that no photography or video was permitted "due to international copyright laws". Now I can understand video being prohibited, but not letting tourists take photos is like asking cross-country runners to practice in an elevator. Photography is not going to be the best quality because of the lighting and the extensive use of dry ice during the productions, but for our memories, that's good enough.

TAMPA FACTS

See "Tampa" at <http://DarryD.com/CC> for cruisers' comments on attractions, lodging and other things.

WEATHER

- 'DarryDFL', Dec/9/09: The National Weather Service [forecast](#):
- => Sunday: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. South southwest wind between 3 and 7 mph.
- => Sunday Night: A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.
- ☆ "Clear skies and cloudy eyes; calm seas and ravenous tummies." Darry D Eggleston
- 'PegEggFL', Sep/10/09: On December 13th, the sun sets at 5:37 PM. So you can count on photographing the Sunshine Skyway Bridge after dark.