

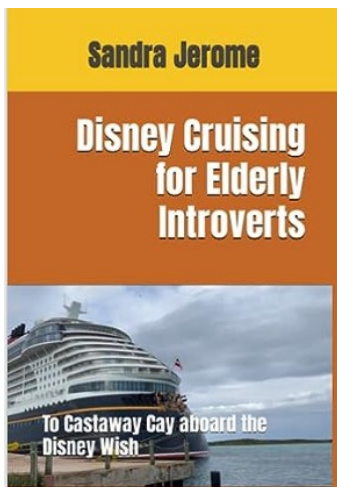
# **Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts**

To Castaway Cay aboard the Disney Wish

By

**Sandra Jerome**

**Paperback - Now available on Amazon**



Want a free Disney cruise? If you have grandparents, buy this book for them because if they read this and realize they can have a good time on this cruise without getting dragged to elevated dining with their screaming and tired grandkids – or have to wander around the Bahamas, hot and tired - then maybe they'll pay for a huge family reunion. I've thought this is the BEST cruise for 3 generations (little kids can nap when Grandpa

does) at a great price! So, gift this paperback to the grandparents who have deep pockets and can pay for the cruise. It is worth the \$14.95 risk....

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/BoCGLB6BH9>

**One favor – if you have Kindle unlimited, could you read my book and give it 5 stars? THANKS!**

**Enjoy this free e-book!**

SmilingEagle Press Book

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## Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the amazing Disney cast members who made our trip to Castaway Cay aboard the Disney Wish magical, along with those cast members who today make our weekly visits as Florida Annual Passholders to the parks wonderful. We're Disney Vacation Club owners, so a big thank you to those cast members for making our vacations delightful. We appreciate the obligation of Disney's management to maximize profits for our stock investment and how hard they work trying to herd cats. Finally, as subscribers to Disney+, ESPN, and Hulu – we truly enjoy the wonder you feed into home, especially anything with Grogu. He is my 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild.

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to my granddaughters, Chandra, Tulaasi, Vrinda and Suby, who are my motivation and inspiration. I enjoyed every minute of being at the Disney Parks with you while you were growing up – from Disneyland to Disney World.

Thanks to my husband and editor, Keith Jerome. A special thanks to my family and friends who critiqued my books and made comments; Laura Ailes, Gayle Higby, Amy Delk, Andrea Navarette, Larry Tuck, Stan Alstrum, Camille DeMoss, JJ Cook, Miss Michael, Robert Jean-Louis, Tom Rasmussen, Lena Washke, Jackie Hartgrove, Jack Ross, Jennifer Ellis, and Mark Saunders.

A special Thank YOU to my dad, Larry Cook, who made all my cruising possible with his generosity and encouragement.



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# Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts

## Introduction

Have you just made a horrible mistake and booked a Disney Cruise? That was what I thought after booking a cruise for the inaugural year of the new Disney Wish and then watching a few YouTube videos. The activities that delighted my favorite bloggers were the Marvel and Frozen interactive elevated rotational dining, followed by spectacular Broadway-like shows in a huge theater. To top off our list of things we don't enjoy was a dress-up Pirate Party and fireworks. Oh no! What have I done? How can two elderly introverts enjoy a cruise on a ship full of screaming kids?

This cruise is designed for families - and my gosh - this is the most amazing cruise for children and teens; from the AquaMouse to the Vibe! There is so much for them to do and so much fun and food. But we were in our late 60s when we took this cruise, and it has been over twenty years since we heard our youngest grandchild cry. But we're huge Disney friends, and we spend a few days each week at the Disney Parks as Florida annual passholders - so we're used to being around kids. The only problem is that we spend most of our time in Disney's Animal Kingdom which is the most spread out and seems to have



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the least number of small children. In addition, we only go to the Disney Parks for a few hours each time. But a whole cruise? Trapped on a 4,000-passenger ship with thousands of kids that have had too much sugar and sun? Yup - we did this and I loved it. I had a wonderful time and my husband who normally doesn't enjoy travel anyway - was content. He spent a lot of time in the room, reading and watching TV - along with ordering 24-hour room service. I love walking, eating, and exploring - so I was so happy to have 15 floors of stairs to go up and down and acres of shops, restaurants, and of course, the amazing Castaway Cay. So, no mistake - I had a blast, but...please read on.

### **What is this Book About?**

If you are looking for a book to get the most out of your Disney Cruise - this isn't the book. We didn't go to any of the "elevated" character dining, and we did see any of the amazing shows. We didn't get off in the Bahamas, didn't drink or play bingo and trivia at the bars. No spa treatments or excursions for us either. We didn't ride the AquaMouse or use any of the pools. We didn't buy anything - except water in an ice bag for \$26 at Castaway Cay and my \$20 single picture at the end of the book.

How can anyone take a cruise like this and enjoy it? I did. I had a great time, ate fantastic food, food, and more

## Sandra Cook Jerome

food - and walked the whole boat - many times and avoided other people, especially kids. I sat on my Veranda and watched the sea go by. I enjoyed the adult jacuzzi - all to myself while the ship was docked in the Bahamas. We watched part of the *Avatar - the Way of Water* in The Neverland theater, but ended up leaving because it was too cold. We enjoyed free room service, watching a ton of Disney movies on the TV - and again, watching the sea go by. I liked Castaway Cay and went snorkeling for a while, but it is not as good as snorkeling in Hawaii or the Great Barrier Reef. It was relaxing, inexpensive compared to the long Viking River Cruise we did six months earlier and easy - because we only live 90 minutes away. I discuss this at the end of the book. But you might wonder, why would I waste my money on ANY cruise?

A few years after my mother died, my father gave me some money to take a cruise. He had started cruising with one of his girlfriends and really enjoyed it. I never thought that I'd take a cruise. First, I get seasick. I think my father forgot that. Next, I didn't think my husband, Keith, would be willing to do this. I once was working in Vancouver, BC, and took a stroll down to the cruise port where a giant cruise ship was doing a safety drill. As I watched those thousands of passengers standing crammed into their emergency stations, I thought, "Keith would leave the ship before it ever departed."

Keith doesn't like being around people and doesn't like "elevated" food. My next book should be *Cooking for the Bland Man*. Of course, some might think he is bland and not his diet choices! He is the furthest from being bland,

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but he hates mayonnaise, pickles, onions, seasonings, most vegetables, and many fruits. He has also often said that a huge cruise ship is probably one of the easiest terrorist targets out on the open sea and a breeding site for disease. He felt that way even pre-Covid.

Our previous experience was a Viking River Cruise—which is a "no kids" cruise, and we liked that; the Disney Cruise is the flip side - lots and lots of kids. But it isn't a "party ship" with gambling, singles, and drinking - and doesn't have a casino. We don't drink or gamble, so Disney and Viking are probably the only cruise lines we'd consider. They are both the most expensive in their class. But since the money was a gift from my dad, we decided that it didn't matter that we were often paying double what other cruise lines offer.

The Viking Cruise made sense, and it was a trip of a lifetime for me, but who would go on a Disney Cruise if they didn't have kids? Crazy? I've been watching some YouTube videos, and they are everywhere. But oddly enough, we found lots of places to be alone on both cruises. If you're like us and not into big elevated dining, organized tours, and socializing with others - you can still enjoy either cruise. Which one was better? Why not read both books and decide for yourself. In the end, I did a comparison and picked a clear winner, but I don't want to give that away in the first few pages. Read on and enjoy. Hopefully some of my tips and suggestions will help you have a wonderful cruise - regardless of what you decide.

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This trip aboard the new **Disney Wish®** to Castaway Cay was my first ocean cruise - ever. We left on Friday, March 31st and returned on April 2nd, 2023. Just three nights and four days. It was still the first year of the ship, so considered an inaugural cruise.

A few weeks before the cruise I went to our community pool (it was 85 degrees) and tested my new full-face snorkel and a bathing suit that I hadn't worn in a year. Everything tested great except my legs were shaking when I was done. So there are some unused muscles. Now, I'll go every afternoon and keep snorkeling around the pool - looking silly until we leave next Friday.

**Note: Always check with your travel agent and/or the Disney Cruises website for the latest information, and do not rely on any screenshots used in this publication for the schedule and availability of features of your cruise. Please refer to the trademark/copyright page. This book is not authorized or affiliated with DCL Disney Cruise Line.**

Would I go again? Not sure - maybe if we were taking the grandkids, great grandkids - or other family. It took a lot for us to be “alone” on this cruise and if you need that quiet time and especially if you’re going along (and

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paying for others,) there is no reason why at our age that we must ride the Aqua Mouse to get our money's worth - or stay up late at night listening to people sing to you while you eat and hearing your grandkids cry because they are tired. If this sounds like you - this book might be your survival guide. Enjoy!

### Prologue

Why would two introverted elderly people in the Third Act of their lives go on a Disney Cruise? This magical cruise is designed for families and especially for kids; thousands of them. We're Disney fans - huge fans. We both grew up going to Disneyland, in fact it was built on land once owned by my great grandmother. My grandparents lived only a mile away in Anaheim and every month or so, my parents would drive up there from Escondido, in North San Diego County - where I grew up to visit them. I'd get to sit on the porch at night and watch the fireworks. Sometimes, instead of getting off the freeway toward my grandparent's house, we'd turn into Disneyland instead. How amazing! My parents couldn't tell me about it because the first time they said that we were going to Disneyland, I got so excited on the car ride that I threw up. So that explains my lack of riding the AquaMouse.

Yup, I'm a Disney fan that suffers from motion sickness. Almost anything will set it off; reading in the car, getting excited, fast roller coasters and certainly

## Sandra Cook Jerome

ships on the ocean. Okay, I get sea sick and we don't really like to be around a lot of screaming children. That combined my husband's extreme anti-social tendencies - that is a perfect storm to having a horrible time on a Disney Cruise. What were we thinking?

A good friend of mine who really hates kids recommended it as the best cruise line. She loves Disney Cruises and goes on them all the time. She says that it is the best cruise for getting away from kids. That is because Disney really keeps the kids separate and occupied. There are adult-only pools, spas, lounges, and restaurants. Palo Steakhouse and Enchanté are adult only dining experiences - but do cost extra.

Even on the Disney private island, there is an adults-only beach and Serenity Bay BBQ. While on the ship, parents can just check their kids into various places depending on their age and go off on their own and drink and party.

What about seasickness? This ship doesn't go far out into the open sea, just along the Florida coast and then 150 miles towards the Bahamas and back. Plus, it is only 77 miles to drive and park our car, so no flying. It is a simple trip with little risk for getting sick during late March since storms are rare. Smooth sailing ahead! I do a lot of planning and I'm sharing this with you to help you decide if a Disney Cruise is right for you and help you survive. Some of you might be grandparents-going with the whole family and need tips on how to be "alone." At the end, I'll give you my honest comparison

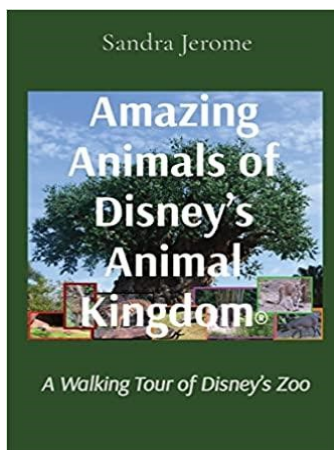
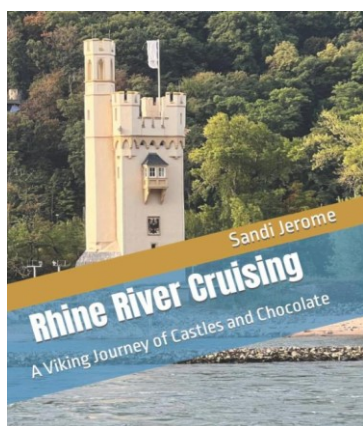
## Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts

between this cruise and the Viking River cruise we took six months earlier. There is a book about this on Amazon. Just search on Amazon Sandra Jerome – or click on this link.

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/Sandra%20Jerome/author/Bo9S3RNRKL>

Why did I write these books? I'm not a travel writer, but this is my third travel book. I wrote Rhine River Cruising which discussed my epic Viking River Cruise along the Rhine River. Before that, I wrote one about Disney's Animal Kingdom - in particular, a walking tour of Disney's Zoos. Here's the link to both of these books on Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/BoBM3XTVF6>



<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1736034847>

But I'm an aspiring children's book author and screenwriter and the reason why I wrote these travel books is for my future career. I'm trying to become a

traditionally published writer of middle-grade and YA books. It is hard to get an agent and even harder to get a publisher/editor. It is even harder to be a screenwriter at my age - I think I have a better chance of being struck by lightning! But if I have a social media presence, then I will become a more marketable writer. Hey, you might be a producer – or know one -- looking for a Ted Lasso-like women's soccer TV comedy pilot about a team coached by AI - or a low-budget feature about blackjack or a parallel universe. I write full-time – mostly scripts with strong female leads with elements of Sci-Fi, thriller, comedy, and fantasy. My website has about a dozen award-winning scripts - [sandijerome.com](http://sandijerome.com). I'm a graduate of UCLA's Advanced Screenwriting Program, with an animated Sci-Fi script being produced by BlackOrb Studios.

Although in our former careers, we were programmers and rather computer savvy, this type of travel writing is a whole new field for me. We used an iPhone for all our photos and videos. I've been learning how to make videos and post them on YouTube, and I hope the quality will improve as I continue to post more videos about my four passions; Writing, Gardening, Disney, and Travel.

## **YouTube Videos**

This book doesn't have a lot of pictures of my journey, I took mostly videos for YouTube. For my Viking River Cruise, I used Movavi's capture feature to generate



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pictures to create a personal Shutterfly album to remember the trip. I made a YouTube video of how to do that. To visually see those instructions, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/sandijerome>

@sandijerome – Sandi Jerome YouTube, click on Playlist – **Other Travel**. I realize that these links are hard to type from the book, so I will be pricing the Kindle book at a very low rate, and you can use their PC version to view – or of course, the free e-book available at sandijerome.com.

I switched to iMovies on my Mac Pro for the last five videos for this trip. I found both my Windows 11 PC and Movavi too slow and my videos and pictures were on an iPhone, it made more sense.

You can find the YouTubes for this trip on @sandijerome – Sandi Jerome YouTube, click on Playlist – **Disney Cruise**.

### 1. Packing and Planning

<https://youtu.be/9KyCWZXVNOM?si=6aPEyrcJAvqk4RWg>

### 2. Day 1 -Travel and Boarding

<https://youtu.be/5wI44tPY-KU?si=I-ST-Q8xloNBxSmd>

### 3. Day 1 – After Lunch Tour of Deck 11, 12,3

<https://youtu.be/B9GyPkPBPVg?si=D1n5E7QJVoMQUay7>

### 4. Day 1- Room Tour, Senses Spa, Sail Away

# Sandra Cook Jerome

[https://youtu.be/9pIr61Am\\_kc?si=uj9Bkgd14FqNnM9h](https://youtu.be/9pIr61Am_kc?si=uj9Bkgd14FqNnM9h)

## 5. Day 2, Arrival in Nassau, and Marceline Market Breakfast

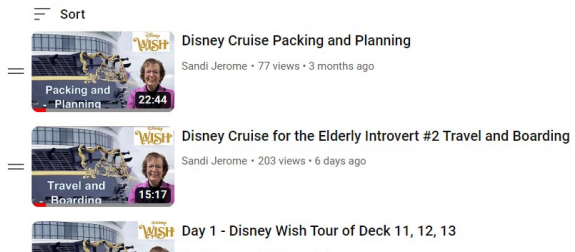
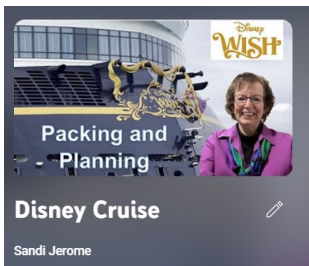
<https://youtu.be/PP1qeX82Pqw?si=je-iQIYBmbcoEtVp>

## 6. Day 3- Castaway Cay

<https://youtu.be/PHmBXvoflBo?si=drf3QRbtOJALPSdI>

## 7. Disney Wish Day 3 and 4 Last moments of Cruise for Elderly Introverts

<https://youtu.be/LqiXywIeXX4>



### **Planning for your Trip**

If you watched my Packing YouTube, you can see that I'm quite the planner. I like to be prepared. I spent a lot of time picking the perfect dates, ports, and options. I hope these next few sections will help you schedule and plan your ideal vacation and find the exact deck and stateroom that works for you.

### **Where to Go? Castaway Cay is a Must**

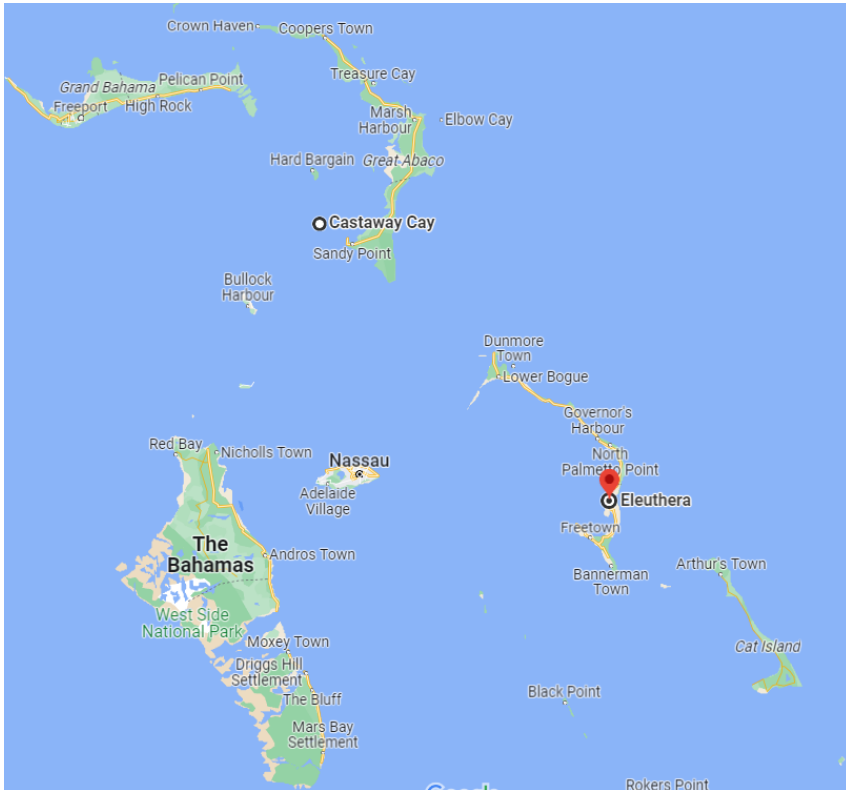
What could possibly be better than visiting Disney's private island? I love snorkeling, and I've snorkeled and scuba all around the world, including a dive on the Great Barrier Reef, snorkeling with dolphins in Hawaii and a frightening snorkel in Key West when some barracudas showed up during our snorkel with stingrays. Fortunately, my husband understood my "I'm out of here" hand signal!

Castaway Cay was the compelling reason for me taking this cruise instead of a Viking Cruise Ocean cruise. Our Disney Wish cruise was also a short cruise, and for us – we didn't have to fly, it was a simple 90-minute drive from home and easy parking at Port Canaveral.

At the time of my cruise, Disney has announced a new ship, the Disney Treasure, with another new ship planned for late 2025. They also have a new island, Lighthouse Point on the island of Eleuthera coming in summer 2024.

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It is about 120 miles away from Castaway Cay, so I think this might give Disney more flexibility during hurricane and thunderstorm season to make changes to the day's Port of Call.



## When to Go? Before Hurricane Season

We picked the spring for our Disney Wish Cruise. We live in Central Florida, close to Disney World, so we get that warm summer experience all year round. What we

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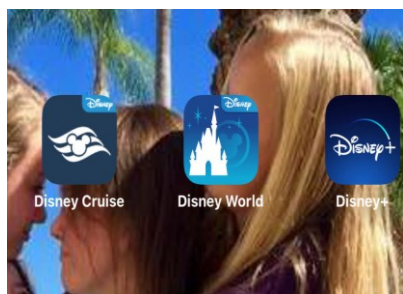
want when we vacation is cooler weather since it is still pushing 80 in March and April. These two months are ideal cruise months because this is before the afternoon thunderstorms, high humidity, and hurricane warnings – starting in May. The added bonus is that most kids are still in school in April, and nobody wants to miss the last few months of school – although our ship was packed with kids. We normally vacation in September when DVC points are cheap and another month that parents don't like to take their kids out of school, but for us, the late fall and winter months are just too cold. We start shivering at 70 degrees, so if you want to spot a Floridan on a cruise, look for the ones wearing a big jacket when the others are wearing polo shirts and laughing at us. Do not worry; we're used to it. As Florida resident passholders, we go to the Disney Parks a few times a week and get a few looks from those vacationing from up north. At least the cast members in their big jackets understand our thin skin developed after fifteen years of living in a year-round sauna.

But if you have your heart set on a summer vacation or fall, be set for some hot days and those thunderstorms that start in May and last until October. This means almost daily thunderstorms and of course, be sure and watch the National Hurricane Center website. Fortunately, most hurricanes move slowly and the Disney company is an expert in handling them. One October, we had to complete a programming job for work and checked into a Disney World hotel because they have their own utility company and the power is always on and Internet

“up” at Disney World. Since then, we’ve created our own utility by installing solar – so for us, we always have power too. But, if you’re in the safe loving hands of Disney, I wouldn’t worry as much about hurricanes and thunderstorms because like me, they do lots of planning.

## Disney App and PAT - Port Arrival Time

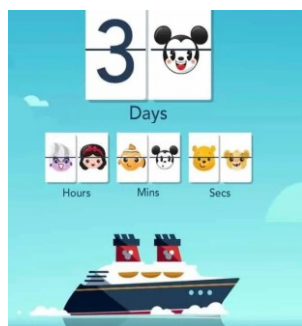
After you make your reservation, download the App for Disney Cruises. I installed it on both my iPad and iPhone.



You’ll start the Online Check process **30 days** before your cruise, but if you’re an excursion fan, this is the place to look at daily to see if one of your desired excursions pops up. There is a big countdown

clock so watch for the “30” Days on the app for Online Check In if you want an early Port Arrival Time - be ready for the process first thing that morning. You need your passport and a recent close-up picture. I put these 4 files on my iPad, so that I’d be ready that morning to quickly get through that process and get my boarding time early in the morning.

I got a time of 11:30AM - which I was happy with. It rejected my husband’s picture – many times, and I don’t know why, but after uploading it goes “into review” and I’d check back and load another until it was finally happy.



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Some higher-level cruisers get to check earlier, but if you're Pearl or Silver, etc. - you probably already know this process. I also made sure I had fully paid in case I found something that I wanted to book. I had already picked early dining - just in case we changed our mind and decided to attend some of the dining shows.

There are other things to do with the app - like chat, find characters, and the ship map. But I found the best ship map was on the walls of the ship. I traveled by stairs and there is always a map by the stairs/elevator that show where things are on that deck. One issue I found was that I use my iPad when I'm in the room, but have my iPhone in my pocket - so I'd have to re-login when I switched between the two. Hopefully Disney fixes this someday.

### Selecting Options

My husband likes to quote a 1994 movie, *It Could Happen to You*, where a woman has just won the lottery. The main character must tell her to "keep the change" after she argues with a taxi driver about her fare. This Disney Cruise was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for us, and we had been saving for years for this vacation and could afford (just this once) to get the best – well...almost the best. So here are some of the options and what we decided.

## **Unlimited Photos**

I had originally selected this option because the pre-cruise price was only \$194, but after reading more on the Facebook page, I realized that most of the photos were with characters and often meant standing in line for 15-20 minutes. As older adults, I couldn't see us doing this - not only because we don't like waiting in line - but I always feel guilty taking up the space that would be more valuable for a kid. I figured that if we did end up getting a fantastic picture for the I'd buy it for \$20 - which I did - the one on the cover.

## **Spa and Personal Trainer**

Again, I changed my mind on these two. I hadn't been to a personal trainer since before Covid and thought I could use a new routine. The ship would be an ideal place to get a new workout and learn some of the equipment that we have here in our clubhouse. The price was only \$99. But my appointment was for 10AM on the first at sea morning and I didn't want to cut into our eating time. Next, I signed up for the Spa for the full trip. It was \$166 for all three days, but then I thought it out again. It looked like a wonderful place, but I'm not a big spa fan. I often feel frumpy, overweight, and uncomfortable. I really enjoyed the spa at our hotel in Amsterdam - but it was empty. I never had another guest in there at the same time. After reading the Facebook comments, many complained that it was very busy and I didn't want that. One of our goals



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on this cruise was for some alone time (see my introduction) and that wasn't a place Keith would go - and I didn't like crowds...so I canceled that too.

But on the first day, I did do a complete tour of Senses Spa and then went into the Fitness Center where they were having a raffle for free treatments. When you enter the Senses Spa, there are people that will take you on a tour, but because I was filming (see my YouTube video,) they sort of let me wander around all by myself. I've put the Fitness Center typical daily schedule on the next page, followed by the raffle info from the spa. The time of the raffle is on your App – and might be worth stopping by and entering.

Sandra Cook Jerome

FITNESS CENTER SCHEDULE

Open Hours: 6:00am - 10:00pm

DAY 1	Port Canaveral			
12:00pm	Complimentary Posture Analysis			
3:00pm	SPA RAFFLE			
4:30pm	Complimentary Posture Analysis			
5:00pm	Evening Stretch			
DAY 2	Nassau			
7:00am	Morning Stretch			
8:00am	Pure form Yoga*			
9:00am	Tour de cycle Spin Class*			
9:00am	Complimentary Foot print analysis			
10:00am	Total body conditioning			
11:00am	Free Health Seminar Detox for Health and Weight Loss			
12:30pm	TRX suspension Training *			
2:00pm	Good feet Relieve back pain			
3:00pm	Free Health Seminar – How to increase your Metabolism			
4:00pm	Pathway to Pilates*			
4:30pm	Complimentary Footprint analysis			
5:00pm	Evening stretch			
DAY 3	Castaway			
7:00am	Morning Stretch			
8:00am	Pathway to Pilates *			
9:00am	Ryde cycle classes*			
9:00am	Complimentary Footprint analysis			
10:00am	Skills X HITT *			
11:00am	Castaway cay yoga on the beach*			
2:00pm	Good feet Improve Posture			
3:00pm	Free Health Seminar – Burn Fat Faster			
4:00pm	Body Sculpt Bootcamp *			
4:30pm	Complimentary footprint analysis			
5:00pm	Evening stretch			
				*Indicates Fee \$20



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### SPA MANAGER'S RAFFLE SPECIAL

EVERYBODY IS A WINNER WITH THIS GLORIFYING 75 MINUTES SPA  
MANAGER'S SPECIAL PACKAGE.

ALL THE BELOW FOR ONLY \$179:

- Scalp massage
  - Foot and Ankle Massage
  - Neck and Shoulder Massage
  - Hand and Arm Massage
  - Swedish Body Massage
- 
- Add Hot Stones or Bamboo with your back massage for only \$25.

START YOUR CRUISE RIGHT WITH PURE RELAXATION.

BOOK YOUR RAFFLE SPECIAL TODAY.

Spa Manager Raffle Special \$149 for TODAY – Port Canaveral

Space is limited.

Visit the spa on Deck 5 FWD or dial 7-1465 to book your appointment.

Cannot be com

Appointments to avoid a charge of 50% of your treatment cost. For your convenience, an 18% service charge will be automatically added to the treatment price. The spa is open from 8:00 am - 10:00 pm binned with other offers.

Please provide 24 hours' notice when canceling or rescheduling

## Prepaid Tips

I opted to pay the tips upfront. I knew we wouldn't be doing the rotational dining and since this was post-Covid, I knew that the crew needed those tips. By paying ahead of time, I got the little vouchers and envelopes - and I left them in our stateroom for our steward to take to our

## Sandra Cook Jerome

servers. I wrote a personal thank you to our steward because the room was immaculate.



## Deck and Room Number

There are 11 Decks on the Boat, and we picked room 6116 on the 6th deck – lowest deck because I get seasick - and as close to the middle/back as I could. I never felt any motion on the ship, even during the rough area as you leave port. I spent a lot of time on this issue on the Facebook group page. I picked the Port side - which is the left side of the ship when it is faced forward. To remember, both words have 4 letters - left and Port. The “better” side might be Starboard. When you're at port - you'll see all the loading and then pass by the beach as you leave Cape Canaveral. When at Disney Castaway Cay, you'll see the beach again. Why did I pick the port side?

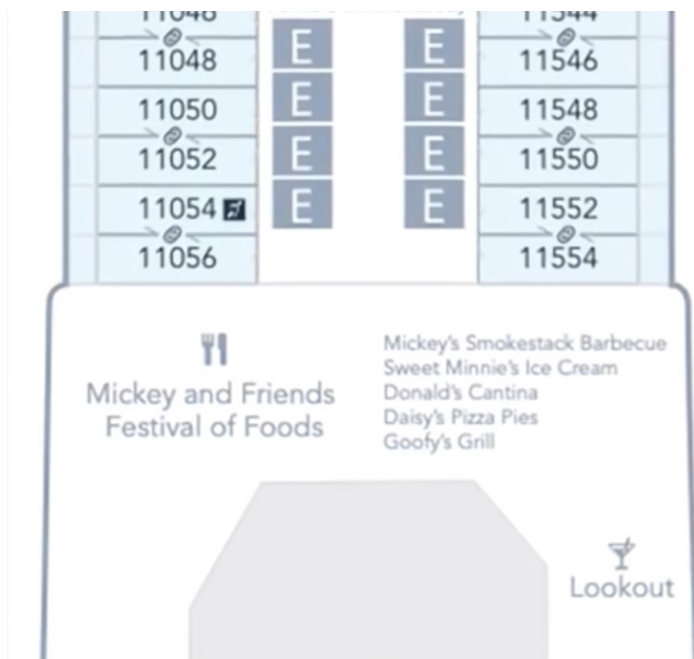
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We like a more private experience and wanted the quiet in our stateroom.

In Nassau, the port side will have a view of downtown Nassau and the starboard side will have a view of the outer island. However, depending on the day and time that your ship is in you are likely to only have a view of the Carnival ship on one side, and a Norwegian ship on the other side.



The perfect deck for someone with kids would be Deck 11. This deck has all the quick service food – Marceline Market at one end and the Mickey and Friends at the other end. There are a ton of pools on this deck and you'd spend a lot less time in the elevator.



## Wi-Fi and TV

I bought Basic Surf Wi-Fi for \$24 a day (ouch,) which enabled me to keep my email updated since I was still helping at my old job. My T-Mobile roaming worked when we were in port - including in the Bahamas. I thought it was rather expensive since on the Viking River Cruise, we had decent free ship-wide wireless, and my T-Mobile phone had free roaming along the route, so I was always connected. Viking prides itself on "no extra charges," although many of their excursions had a fee. But there were plenty of free ones, so you can come off that ship with no bill. With the Wi-Fi, the bag of water I

## Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts

bought at Castaway Cay, and the one picture, my total invoice for the Disney Cruise was \$95.

I was amazed on the great TV programming in the room. If you watch the last YouTube there is about ten minutes of boring video where I go through all the selections including “Watch TV” that had channels like BBC, Fox, ABC, HGTV, and the ship’s bow camera and map. Next is “Disney on Demand” that had so many movies and National Geographic specials. There was a feature for getting your Account information (bill) and the ship’s daily schedule and activities. I had downloaded some videos to my iPad, but never needed anything other than the TV for entertainment.

### **Making an Agenda**

There is a lot to do – and only 3 days for us. There is a 4-day cruise, but we wanted the shortest one since it was my first ocean cruise. Below is my agenda which I printed out and put in the pocket of my shorts.

#### **March 31<sup>st</sup> - Friday**

Leave at 9AM, stop at Turkey Lake

Boarding-11:30 AM

Muster 3rd floor, 1923 station R (3:45pm)

Marceline Market lunch

**2pm room-unpack**

Walk with Keith-down stairs to 5, fitness center tour

## Sandra Cook Jerome

Up the stairs to bow to 6

Down to deck 4 for **Movie schedule**

**Dinner-room service**, All-hands on Deck (cheese & crackers) - Plant based chicken with no onions or aioli, cheese burger (no onions, pickles, or sauce) cheesecake, truffle cake

Watch iPad Ted Lasso (*didn't do this – the TV is amazing!*)

**5:00 bow** - outside, deck 6, watch, submarine sail on left (*it was too windy, so I did this from my stateroom.*)

**April 1<sup>st</sup> - Sat morning**-yoga attire

**6am Senses fitness**

**7am Marceline Market** – at opening

Sunrise at 7:02 AM

Wait for KJ - go to **deck 1** - to see Nassau folks getting off, routine – (*Aft ramp is better*)

**Adult pool, whirlpool area**, Hero zone.

Shower, dress for movies

Ant man, Avatar Way of Water

**Lunch, Marceline Market 12-2pm**

Hero Zone

**Dinner-Mickey and Friends BBQ, Grill**

**Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday- Castaway Cay**, early off the boat

Snorkel, return to ship and shower

**10AM late breakfast**-Marceline Market

Walk Castaway Cay

**Lunch Castaway Cay** - adult beach steak

Dinner room service or Mickey and Friends



## Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts

**Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Departure, in line at 7AM.

This was probably one of the most helpful things that I did prior to the trip. The ship and activities are overwhelming and it helped to have a rough agenda of what I had planned to do and the deck numbers.

## **Packing for the Trip**

We like to travel light and carry-on – which means careful packing since I like to take EVERYTHING that I possibly think I could need. Cruise Ships lose luggage. Airlines lose luggage. Transportation services lose luggage. I remember being on an airport shuttle van once and watching a group get out, and then the driver placed my luggage on the curb next to them. I pounded on the window and pointed, and he took it back onto the van. When I had a standard black roller bag, I watched many times when someone tried to take it from the carousel at baggage claim. For this trip, we decided to keep our luggage with us. We each had a light 22” Travel Pro – that you can see in my Packing and Planning video.

During all those years of travel for work, we have become accustomed to packing our own bags, packing very lightly – plus the cruise was only for 3 days. Easy! You might want to watch my first Disney Cruise YouTube video where I show you what I took, but first you might want to decide if you’re keeping your luggage with you – or checking it.

### **Carry-On Pros – No Lost Luggage**

1. No need to split your clothes into another bag to have some clothes if they lose one and not the other
2. No baggage fees when you’re flying.

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3. No long lines at check-in (if you print or download your boarding pass at home)
4. No damage to the luggage
5. No wait time at baggage claim
6. Can use some of your luggage as a footrest on the plane
7. Access to more things while on long flights
8. Able to change to a different flight since you didn't have any checked bags
9. During the first day, you might not get your luggage until later in the day.

### **Carry-On Cons – Being a Beast of Burden**

1. You cannot take EVERYTHING you want or might need on this dream trip
2. Having to take luggage into bathrooms, gift shops, restaurants, airline lounge and exhausting dragging through the airport – it is often MILES to the next gate.
3. You have to “park” someone with the luggage. This wasn't a problem for me since Keith likes to sit and read.
4. There can be stairs, and that is very tough if you cannot find an elevator
5. Risk of someone taking your luggage while you sleep in the airport or on plane
6. The stress of finding a place to store it on the plane
7. Uncomfortable having some of your luggage at your feet
8. If your connection was tight, they might hold the plane if your luggage was checked

What Did We Decide? We kept our luggage with us. We were driving and not flying – plus if you watch the Packing video, you'll see that our luggage can also be a place to sit. If you watch the Last Moments YouTube, you'll see how early we left with “Carry Out.”

## Packing List

We were gone for 4 days; so, we didn't need a lot of clothes, especially since we didn't dress up for dinner (we ate Quick Service instead of the restaurants) and didn't dress up for Pirate Night or any other activities. I did pack a lot of swimsuits but ended up mostly using just one.

While traveling, I always use a cell phone holder to go around my neck so that everything I need is easy to get to.

### Around my neck;

- Passport, and cell phone holder
- \$20 cash, United Explorer credit card, Driver's license
- Boarding Pass
- Magnifying glass

### Carry-On 22" Sandi

- iPad and Kindle
- Makeup kit with brush, Chapstick, petroleum/coconut jelly mixture with ear plugs, cough drops, eye mask, face mask, pills
- Red envelope; printed itinerary, copy of passports, medical info, copy of prescriptions.
- Flashlight, pens, thank you notes, little black notebook with 4-way pen, extra pens, extra quart bag
- Eyeglass case, cleaning cloth
- Electronic bag with Kindle charger, battery backups, headphone adapter
- 3 days of clothes in Space Saver bags – do not squeeze out air to keep unwrinkled – see packing video.

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- Plastic Food bag\* with tea, stevia, candy, 3 Orgain Organic Plant Based Protein Bars, vitamins, and split USB power cable to charge iPad/iPhone and iWatch, backup USB battery - \*all food must be in original packaging.
  - Covid medical bag with Paxlovid, AM/PM cold/flu, cough drops, battery thermometer
  - Pink keyboard for iPad - extra AAA batteries
  - Visor and hat
  - AirTag
  - Black toiletries hang up, curling iron, oil, hairspray, air fresh/bug spray/deodorant\*, empty bottle, healing salve, Neosporin pain, coconut/beehive, prop for eyes, Visine, Sensodyne toothpaste, sewing kit, Abreva, toothpicks, retainer, floss, Pepto Bisno, razor, little scissors
  - Red first aid kit
  - Belkin multi-electrical unit
  - Paper bowls-plastic fork, knife, spoon
  - Hardware kit with Velcro, chip clips, hiking clip, magnetic hooks, tape, little scissors
  - Extra eyeglasses, cleaning cloth, cleaner
- \*air fresh is a blend of essential oils and water; lemongrass, tea tree, and eucalyptus
- Extra pair of shoes, aqua socks, swimsuits, and snorkel equipment

## Amazon Link for Packed Items

Note: I am an Amazon Affiliate.

### Full Face Snorkel

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B076BM5PF2/?th=1&\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=6ade1c056676fab84c7232eec914cdd0&camp=1789&creative=9325](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B076BM5PF2/?th=1&_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=6ade1c056676fab84c7232eec914cdd0&camp=1789&creative=9325)

### Blue Swimsuit

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BHZ1X9HV/?\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=b19de6d3f55da4dd2863a847a0e8d5c3&camp=1789&creative=9325](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BHZ1X9HV/?_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=b19de6d3f55da4dd2863a847a0e8d5c3&camp=1789&creative=9325)

## Sandra Cook Jerome

Magnetic hooks -

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08F56K44Y?th=1&\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=72242f65a93753c1b00c88cee8f879d7&camp=1789&creative=9325](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08F56K44Y?th=1&_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=72242f65a93753c1b00c88cee8f879d7&camp=1789&creative=9325)

Night Light -

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B002HEU9IK?th=1&\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=32552bae03cdc4ad2508f09f2f2059fe&camp=1789&creative=9325](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B002HEU9IK?th=1&_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=32552bae03cdc4ad2508f09f2f2059fe&camp=1789&creative=9325)

Cell Phone/Passport holder -

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01HO1VPQA?&\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=02933d7e26e41770b8b6b82b55c0677d&camp=1789&creative=9325](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01HO1VPQA?&_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=02933d7e26e41770b8b6b82b55c0677d&camp=1789&creative=9325)

Pink 22" Luggage -

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07BL4VK14?&\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=ece2cd39114939255f1d1f9af1728894&camp=1789&creative=9325](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07BL4VK14?&_encoding=UTF8&tag=smilingeagle-20&linkCode=ur2&linkId=ece2cd39114939255f1d1f9af1728894&camp=1789&creative=9325)

I got an envelope in the mail a few days after I had fully paid for my trip. It contained our luggage tags - that we didn't use since we wanted to carry on, but I packed them anyway because we might want to have Disney remove our bags for us.

# Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts



YOUR VACATION DETAILS & LUGGAGE TAGS



# Sandra Cook Jerome

## WELCOME ABOARD JEROME PARTY'S VACATION OVERVIEW



### GUESTS ON YOUR RESERVATION

SANDRA L. JEROME  
KEITH JEROME

### RESERVATION #: 40398853

3-Night Bahamian Cruise from Port Canaveral  
Disney Wish – March 31, 2023 to April 3, 2023  
Deluxe Oceanview Stateroom with Verandah  
Stateroom 6116 - Category 05C on Deck 6

Fri PORT CANAVERAL  
Sat NASSAU

### DEPARTURE INFORMATION

PORT CANAVERAL  
9155 CHARLES M. ROWLAND DR  
PORT CANAVERAL, FL 32920

**All Guests must arrive at their scheduled Port Arrival Time and no later than one hour before 15:45. Guests arriving before their Port Arrival Time will be asked to return later. Guests without proper citizenship documentation and those arriving late will be denied boarding.**

### TRAVEL DELAYS!

Should travel delays occur, please contact us at 1-800-395-9374 while in the U.S. or at 00-800-871-9046 outside of the U.S.

### ONLINE CHECK-IN

Thank you for completing your Online Check-in. We look forward to welcoming you aboard and providing you with a magical sailing. All documents submitted during Online Check-in must be presented upon arrival at the terminal.

### ARRIVAL DAY TIPS

Pack a day bag with required citizenship documents, swimsuits, medicine and valuables - anything you might need until your luggage arrives in your stateroom, which could be a few hours after the ship leaves port.



### DISNEY CRUISE LINE NAVIGATOR APP

Download the free Disney Cruise Line Navigator app and use it at home to plan your trip, book activities, make payments, check in online—and count down to your cruise. Once on board, communicate with family and friends via Onboard Chat, enjoy easy access to your entire cruise schedule including daily activities, view deck plans and much more! [DisneyCruise.com/App](https://disneycruise.com/app)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**CRUISE CONTRACT/CONDITIONS OF CARRIAGE**  
Your Cruise Contract/Conditions of Carriage is available on the Disney Cruise Line website at [DisneyCruise.com/CruiseContract](https://disneycruise.com/CruiseContract)

**ALCOHOL POLICY**  
A limited amount of alcohol is allowed per guest (21 years & older) in carry-on bags only. View the policy at [DisneyCruise.com/AlcoholPolicy](https://disneycruise.com/AlcoholPolicy)

**PROHIBITED ITEMS**  
View a list of items not allowed onboard at [DisneyCruise.com/ProhibitedItems](https://disneycruise.com/ProhibitedItems)

Please keep this document with you during your travel



5408767103317512

**WISH  
6116 A**  
JEROME, SANDRA  
JEROME, SANDRA  
Sail date: 3/31/2023



5408767103317529

**WISH  
6116 A**  
JEROME, SANDRA  
JEROME, SANDRA  
Sail date: 3/31/2023



## **Day 1 - Traveling and Boarding**

We live 77 miles from Terminal 8 at Port Canaveral - but on the other side of Orlando - that means we must cross Orlando to get to the port. It takes about 90 minutes to drive and about 30 minutes to get to one of the DVC - Disney Vacation Club properties. If we went there the night before, we could leave our car at the hotel and take a bus to the port.

I pondered this decision for quite a while. I wanted to take the DCL bus to be in the loving care of Disney Cruise Lines that morning, but I knew that my husband would prefer to have his vehicle with him. The price was more too. It is about \$40 per person to take the bus - each way, so \$160 compared to \$68 to park at the terminal, plus gas. We get 30 MPG, so about 5 gallons - so a lot less to drive and park.

Driving ended up being a good choice. One problem; there are no rest areas on the Beachline from the turnpike to the cruise port. There is one McDonald's when you're about 12 minutes away-but by then, you can wait to go into the parking garage. Take the elevator to the 1st floor - go potty, then up to the 3rd floor to go across the walkway.

If you're leaving your luggage with DCL, then you'll first pull to the right, drop off your luggage and then go left into parking. You must use a machine to pay for the

parking, but a nice lady who works there, came over and helped us maneuver through those screens and we tipped her.

## **Driving to the Port**

Since we had an 11:30 PM PDT (port departure time) - we left at 9:00 am. It is a 90-minute drive, but we stopped at Turkey Lake Service Plaza. If you have never been to a Florida turnpike service plaza - you should check it out. I show a few minutes of that on my YouTube video and there is ever a Cake Boss machine!

Not only is there fantastic parking, gas, and restrooms-the food is great. The coffee or iced tea at Dunkin is amazing and if you're stopping for a second breakfast like we do - both Dunkin and Wendy's have great sandwiches. There are more healthy choices, but since we're about to destroy our diet in a few hours anyway - might as well eat a good start. After that stop, it was just a few miles to get on the 528-Beachway to the east coast. It goes south of Orlando, but north of the airport - so it can be a little busy going past that area. After you finally clear that area - it is wide open all the way to Cocoa as it passes through various parks and wildlife areas. Notice the new Brightline train on the right - if you're traveling after September 2023. This train might be an option for you - take from the Orlando airport to Cocoa - and then Uber to the ship.

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The Beachline turns into A1A before it crosses over the Indian River and Banana River - the two inter coastal waterways. Then you merely turn north on 401 to terminal 8 - Disney Cruise Line terminal.

Although there is a place to pull up and drop off our bags, we decided to pack light and carry on one bag each, so we went right into the parking garage - very ready to use the nice restrooms.

We arrived only 30 minutes too early - so they let us right in anyway. If you end up a few hours early, I found this place close by to spend some time - and it is free! Formerly known as The Air Force Space and Missile History Center, the **Sands Space History Center** is located just outside the south gate of Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Here you will learn about the spirit of space exploration and discover displays for each historic Space Launch Complex on the Cape. FREE Admission

## Seasickness

I have a pretty good routine-I take Bonine a couple days early, eat bland food the first day, and when the ship starts moving-go outside and face forward. I will be on the bow at 4:45 to train my brain and stomach that I am on a ship. I will be fast asleep by 8pm in my middle stateroom on low deck 6 when things get rough-after getting some rice, bread, and green apples on my stomach by 7pm. We don't do cruise dining anyway. We don't like elevated food, loud noises, close crowds. Yup, we are odd-but always have a wonderful time.

## Muster Drill and Stations

When you first get on the ship, you might want to find your muster station and be prepared for the drill at about 3:45 pm. Our station R was at 1923 - and we went there right after we boarded the ship to check it out and then took the elevator to Deck 11, Marceline's Market where we "camped" out until our room was ready at 2pm.

- A – Walt Disney Theatre (Lower Level) [Deck 3 Forward Starboard]
- B – Walt Disney Theatre (Lower Level) [Deck 3 Forward Port]
- C – Walt Disney Theatre (Balcony) [Deck 4 Forward Starboard]
- D – Walt Disney Theatre (Balcony) [Deck 4 Forward Port]
- E – Open Deck [Deck 5 Midship Port]
- F – Open Deck [Deck 5 Midship Port]
- G – Luna Theatre (Lower Level) [Deck 4 Midship Starboard]

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H – Luna Theatre (Lower Level) [Deck 4 Midship Port]  
I – Luna Theatre (Lower Balcony) [Deck 5 Midship Starboard]  
J – Luna Theatre (Lower Balcony) [Deck 5 Midship Port]  
K – Boat Deck [Deck 4 Midship Starboard]  
L – Boat Deck [Deck 4 Midship Port]  
M – Boat Deck [Deck 4 Midship Starboard]  
N – Boat Deck [Deck 4 Midship Port]  
O – 1923 [Deck 3 Midship Starboard]  
P – 1923 [Deck 3 Midship Port]  
Q – 1923 [Deck 3 Midship Starboard]  
R – 1923 [Deck 3 Midship Port]  
S – World of Marvel [Deck 4 Aft Starboard]  
T – World of Marvel [Deck 4 Aft Port]  
U – World of Marvel [Deck 4 Aft Starboard]  
V – World of Marvel [Deck 4 Aft Port]  
W – World of Marvel [Deck 4 Aft Starboard]  
X – World of Marvel [Deck 4 Aft Starboard]

### Entering our Stateroom

As promised, our stateroom was ready at 2pm. Since Keith was parked in the Marceline Market with our luggage, I made regular walks to Deck 6 to see if our cards were at the door. They place the cards in a little fish holder and then throughout the afternoon, deliver your luggage. We carried our luggage on, so we didn't have to wait for our bags.

I explained earlier why we picked the Port Side, but we also decided on a Veranda. When my dad gave me the money for this cruise (explained in the introduction) - he said “get a balcony.” After my mom died in 2001, he started cruising. He and my mom went on one cruise for their 25th wedding anniversary, but dad ended up dating

a few ladies that liked to cruise and he got the cruising fever.

## **Out to Sea**

The Disney Wish is docked the most inland of most cruise ships. That means it takes quite a while to leave the dock and get onto open seas. It left at around 4:45 pm and most guests are up on Deck 11, enjoying the launch party.

We spent a few minutes time on Deck 6, on the bow. Although our stateroom was on deck 6, you can't reach the bow from the stateroom hallway. Instead, you need to take the forward stairs down to five, go around the outside of the fitness center and then up the stairs back to Deck 6. It was windy, so I figured I'd have a nice view from my stateroom – and enough of a breeze to avoid getting seasick. That's another tip – go outside and let your mind see the ship moving on the water toward the horizon and it will “reset” your tummy. It works for me!

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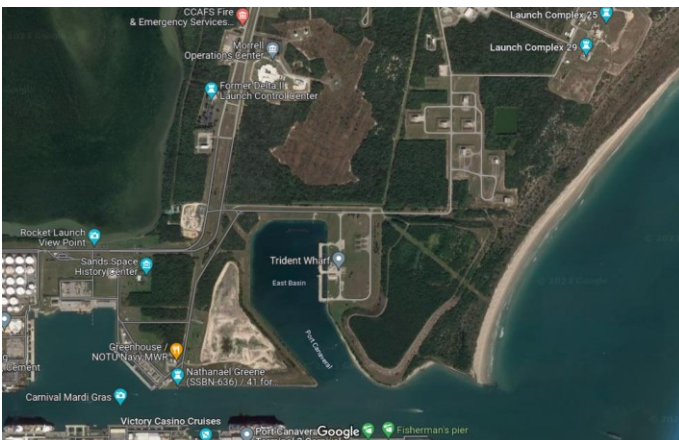


As you leave the port, on the left is **USS Nathanael Greene's sail #636** which has been restored and is now on display as a memorial to the original 41 for Freedom fleet ballistic missile nuclear submarines. USS Nathanael Greene entered the U.S. Navy's Nuclear-Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program at Bremerton, Washington, and her scrapping was completed on 20 October 2000.

The USS Nathanael Greene ran aground in the Irish Sea in 1986, suffering severe damage to her rudder and ballast tanks. Her grounding was the first serious accident involving a U.S. Navy nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. She was deactivated while still in commission in May 1987. Her early deactivation was decided both as a result of the damage sustained in the accident as well as in accordance with the limitations set by the 1972 SALT II treaty.

After we pass the jetty and fisherman's pier and to the left along the shore, you can see where Launch Pad Complex 25 was. Now the new \$185-million Navy missile test facility is being built over the underground structures at both 25 and 29 and called the **Strategic Weapon System Ashore**. The facility will allow the testing of fire control, launch systems and navigation for submarine-fired missiles to be conducted at one facility instead of being done by contractors in different locations around the country. Be sure and watch my YouTube to see this.

Originally, this four-pad launch site was used for test flights of the US Navy's submarine-launched ballistic missiles Polaris, Poseidon, and Trident from 1958–1979. They were built with an underground launch mechanism known as a ship motion simulator to simulate the roll and pitch of a submarine. It was first used August 14, 1959 and was mothballed in October 1961 until the start of **Strategic Weapon System Ashore** program in 2012.





## Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts

If you are trying to burn time before or after your cruise and don't have time for a full day at Kennedy Space Center (or the budget) you might want to go down the street from Disney's Terminal 8 to the **Sands Space History Center**. I'm not sure you can walk it - Highway 401 is a very busy road and of course, it is Florida - hot, alligators, etc. It is open 9-2 pm but closed on Monday and opens late on Sunday - at noon, but stays open until 4pm and on Sat, open until 5pm - but check the website to make sure. It is a free-admission museum with exhibits dedicated to the history of space exploration, plus a gift shop. It was formerly known as The Air Force Space and Missile History Center.

### Dinner and Rotational Dining

Probably one of the most exciting things to do that we didn't partake in was the sit-down restaurants on the Disney Wish (Rotational Dining.) When sailing on the Disney Wish the three main dining restaurants are included in the price of your cruise; Arendelle, Worlds of Marvel, and 1923: Walt & Roy. You can select early or late dining - I picked early, just in case, right after I booked and paid for the cruise. If you watch the last video, I go into Arendelle while it is empty and looks at the tables. Not very good for elderly introverts since we could easily be seated between two family parties -

crowded and noisy. There are lots of YouTube videos about the show and menus and neither one seemed attractive to us. We like simple quick service dining and certainly don't like an interactive experience - but for the younger ones...and foodies - I don't think you'll want to miss this. At the time of the cruise, I was coming off of years of having a programming job and worked from 4am to about 2pm and in bed by 7-8pm. It was easier on the cruise to keep to my schedule and get something from room service, watch a movie and then go to bed.

## **Walking the Promenade**

Unlike our Viking Cruise that has a full walking path, the Disney Wish has a walking promenade split up on 3 levels. One of the reasons why I picked Deck 6 was that looking at the map, it appeared to have a walking path on the bow. My Deck 3 on the Viking had a few stairs and then I was up on the walking path - BUT on the Disney Wish there is no access. You need to go down to Deck 4 or 5, then take stairs at the end of the promenade up on level and continue walking until you get all the way up to Deck 6. You can see this on my YouTube videos.

## Disney® Cruising for Elderly Introverts

### **Day 2 - Nassau Day**

Since get up very early - around 4am, due to my prior life I was a programmer, I brought along a granola bar and tea bag to keep me fed until the rest of the world got up. As soon as it was light out, I snuck out of the room, letting my husband know that I'd be back at 9am to take him to breakfast.

I had planned on getting a spa pass and arrange a personal trainer this morning, but I cancelled that - there seemed to be way too much to do that day. I was right, but I went down to Deck 5 and was surprised to see at 6am that there were lots of people working out. I grabbed an apple and banana and made myself a cup of tea.

Then I went to Deck 11 to look around and it was empty, except for a few people that were grabbing coffees and soda to take back to the rooms (the good spouse!)

### **Marceline Market**

This is where we did most of our eating during the cruise. It has 10 food stalls and a beverage bar in the middle. Marceline Market is styled as a food hall, with each stall having Disney characters from movies like Tangled, Ratatouille, Alice in Wonderland, Zootopia.

## Sandra Cook Jerome

We spent a lot of our time the first day after boarding at 11:30 am until our room was ready at 2pm. Armed with Ziplock bags, we stored food for snacks and dinner since we didn't participate in rotational dining as I'll explained the YouTube videos. Basically, too loud, too crowded (I didn't see any tables for 2,) and the food is fancy.

Marceline Market opens at 7AM, so I was there to film breakfast offerings. It was also almost empty, but I found out how everything worked and found the secret omelet station for Keith (way down at the end to the right after you enter.) If you ever go into Marceline Market and there is a line, just go the other way - or around, there are many, many stations, and duplicates later of the one that everyone has created a queue for - typical Disney fans! We are so trained to stand in line!!!

During lunch, there is another secret seafood station way down at the end with some amazing food.



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Seafood station at Marceline Market – at lunch, hard to find but worth it!

### **Adults Only Whirlpool**

The ship pulled into Nassau that morning and I was up on Deck 12 ready to enjoy the view and the Adult's only whirlpool. Only problem; it is quite loud there due to the AquaMouse. But if your kids or spouse is riding it, this is the place for an excellent Photo Op of them going by! You can also get a selfie of yourself in the whirlpool with the sailboats behind you in Nassau.



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We had an amazing big breakfast at 9am - after everyone left for Nassau. Lots of food and nobody around. Then our plan for the day was to walk around the ship and watch movies. There are two theaters - both showing first run movies. For us it was *Ant Man* and *Avatar - the Way of Water*. In between, we had room service lunch and watched more movies on the TV. There is so much content on the TV and my last YouTube shows you how what type of things you watch.

We decided to get food at around 4pm before the people returned from Nassau at the Festival of Food and take it back to our room for our evening movie-watching and reading.

### **Mickey and Friends Festival of Foods**

Located right in the middle Deck 11, Mickey and Friends Festival of Foods was the perfect place for us to grab a quick bite for lunch and maybe save some for dinner since we did not participate in rotational dining.

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Mickey's Smokestack Barbecue was my favorite. It was so tasty; I got some pulled pork and sweet potato fries. Donald's Cantina had Mexican food and custom burritos. The pizzas at Daisy's Pizza Pies were our favorite "take back to the room," choice and they will give you a whole pizza! Goofy's Grill had the normally burgers and fries, so we didn't try that, but Sweet Minnie's Ice Cream – yummy! This is where you get the Disney Cruise's signature soft-serve ice cream. Beware – there can be a long line.

## **Day 3 - Castaway Cay**

In the morning, we had a nice breakfast at Marceline Market – very early. It was almost empty at 7am. My plan was to snorkel, so I wanted to be some of the first off to get in the water before others stirred up the sand.

### **Snorkeling**

This is the reason why I wanted to go on this cruise - a private island? Snorkeling, all you can eat food? This island was designed for my enjoyment. We were early to get off the boat bright and early and we had our photo ID and World Card (make sure you have both) - along with a bag to hold our Ziplock and wet swimsuits and snorkel gear. No need to take towels because they hand those to you. If you watch the Castaway Cay YouTube, you'll see the full-face snorkel that I used – and it was amazing. What a different experience to not get fogged up or choke on water!

### **Which Beach is Best?**

Even though, we were alone, I like to figure out where I'd park myself depending on who I had on the cruise with me. There are 3 main beaches at Castaway Cay; the snorkeling beach which is great place to keep an eye on



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your kids if snorkeling is their main pastime. The Pelican Point beach area is what I consider the best overall. It is in the middle, less crowded and close to Cookies Two BBQ. At noon, it appeared that there were long lines at the first Cookie's BBQ, closer to the snorkeling/swimming beach. If you instead camp out closer to the water slide at Pelican Point area - you are right next to Cookies Two - which was empty at most times. Although Serenity Bay had the best BBQ and least number of crowds, I didn't think the swimming beach was very nice - and of course, it is adults only, so if you're with kids, then go back to the Pelican Point area. All three areas had plenty, and I must re-emphasize PLENTY of places to sit in the shade including under covered areas at picnic tables. I'm not sure if they have multiple ships at Castaway Cay at the same time, but I think our ship was fully booked and at no time did I think it was crowded. That is probably because you have the whole day and it is easy to go back and forth to the ship - so don't hesitate to move around as your day goes on.

Normally, you can get off at 8:30AM to go to Castaway Cay, but we were delayed due to weather and it was closer to 9AM. The first thing you do is go down to Deck 1 and go through security. In the morning there are gangways in the forward and aft, and I think the aft is less busy and closer. In some pictures I've seen and the Castaway Cay map, the ship is docked in the opposite direction, but ours was aft (back) side in. There are two big maps along the walkway – along with one on the App.



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We didn't stop for photos and walked directly the Gil's Fins and Boats to get the required life vest. Then we found someplace shady for Keith to sit and read, but could still see me in the lagoon snorkeling. I wanted to get out there early to avoid the cloudy water that comes from hundreds of kids kicking up the fine sand on the bottom.

We decided to break our day at Castaway Cay into two; the first half was snorkeling and being in bathing suits and the 2nd half would be after showers and in shorts and a t-shirt - exploring and enjoying the adults only area and lunch at Serenity Bay BBQ which is open 11:30 - 2pm.



The food at Serenity Bay was amazing and like Marceline Market, if there is a big line, go around – straight to the cast member cooking the rib eye and get a

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steak first, then turn around and go to the other salad stations; there are two of everything, but people seem to make only one line.

I walked out to Serenity Bay and back, it is a long way, but I needed the exercise for all that food. You can see the walk in my Day 3 – Castaway Cay YouTube video.



Along the way back, after Cookies Two, on the right is Pelican Point which has a great photo op of the full ship in the background.

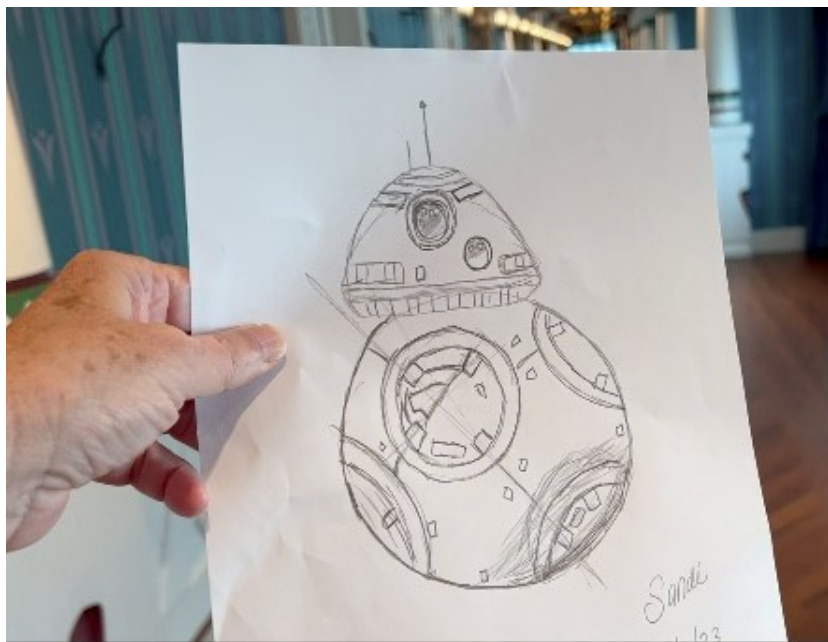
### **Animation Lesson**

At Disney's Animal Kingdom, I love to visit the Animation station. It is a short train trip up there and perfect for a warm day in Florida.

I was delighted to find animation lessons in the Triton Lounge. Just check the App for the times, but it is a wonderful way to enjoy something quiet and cool.

We drew BB8, the cute character from Star Wars. There is a cast member that hands out paper, pencil, and lots of nice places to draw. The instructor is via a video and the pace is nice and slow. It was very relaxing and enjoyed this. I captured some of the lesson in my Last Moments YouTube video.

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My BB8 from the Animation Lesson on Disney Wish. Yup, looks like a three year old drew it, but I had fun!



## **Day 4 – Last Ship Walk and Home**

We were one of the first 50 off the ship, so by 7:30AM we were on the road and miles down the Beachline Turnpike back home - which was the posted earliest departure time. But at 7:10 AM we went downstairs with our carry-on luggage, got in a small line, and walked right up to the passport control and customs. Easy! Then we then made it home by 8:55 AM. Most of the 4,000 people on the boat were at their final big sit-down breakfast at and since the last time to get off the boat was 9:30AM - I imagine it will be a mess between 8:30 and 9:00AM. But my darling Keith was tugging on his leash to get home. My favorite place to eat, the buffet, opened at 6:30AM, and since I had been showered and ready since 4:30 AM - I spent the next few hours walking around an empty ship until the buffet opened. It was delightful. I went up and down the stairs of the 13 decks and around the full promenade outside. I got to see the ship get piloted in and then dock and start unloading tons of luggage, dirty towels, etc. All that handling of the stair railing probably got me sick by picking up hundreds of germs, although I stopped quite a few times to wash my hands. I came back with a bad cold or maybe that new RSV. We are not sure we should travel anymore. After Keith's stroke, he has balance issues. I have lost most of the sight in my right eye, so I lack depth perception. When you add juggling

luggage, steps, and strange surroundings, we are not capable travelers. But I think we are in a bucket list stage of our lives after working so hard for the past 50 years. We do have the endurance to walk; we can easily walk 5-10 miles in a day and do that often. The ship was probably the best place I've walk – other than Disney's Animal Kingdom that is my favorite place.

### **Viking River Cruise or Disney Wish**

One of my goals was to compare this cruise to the Viking River Cruise that we took six months earlier. It is easy to see from the advertisements that Viking Cruise Line is for the older traveler - they don't allow children on their ships. Travel and Leisure rated them the best cruise line this year, and I think they deserve it. We did a Rhine River cruise with only 100 rooms, and I have to say again, "No children." This quiet comes at a price; we wanted to go faster on our walking tour of Basel, Switzerland, and some of the slower, older passengers held us up.

A river cruise is smooth; I only felt the boat and heard sounds when we were going through the locks. It is a relaxed cruise with virtually no lines - anywhere. The food was amazing, but no room service unless you booked a concierge room. Not many buffets either. There was a buffet at breakfast with the option for full table service. But during the day, there were always drinks and snacks available. Not many activities on the ship, but they had



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an amazing walking path and a library with two computers that enabled me to write in my free time. But there was so much to see when the ship was moving - cities, castles, etc.

The Disney cruise was the opposite: lots of buffets, 24-hour room service, and much more food available. When the ship is moving, there isn't much to see out your veranda - just lots of open sea. Both cruise companies are about 20-30% more than bargain ships - but I think it is worth it. The ships were amazing: clean, beautiful, and excellent customer service. I don't know how they find such fantastic employees, but I never found anyone who wasn't helpful and pleasant.

## What's Next?

A few months after the cruise, we took a quick trip to Washington DC to see the new ***Mirror, Mirror*** Disney exhibit at the Smithsonian. Disney had sent out an email to fans asking for pictures of trips to Disney World over the years. I responded with this picture of us visiting during the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 50<sup>th</sup> and I tried to wear similar



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outfits. My picture was selected and I wanted to see it in the Smithsonian – so off we went to Washington DC. If you sent in a picture, I tried to capture all of them in my YouTube of the visit.



Another highlight of the trip was a going to the National Zoo and seeing the pandas and wolves.

I might make a YouTube of that along with the National Museum of the American Indian and new National Museum of African American History and Culture. We

don't have any more travel planned, but I'm going to start an Animal Kingdom series – starting with one about how we handle the hot days.

## **Next Cruise**

Since I do like my husband, and he's not going on a cruise again, I don't really have to pick my next one - but if I were going on a cruise with a friend, I would love to take a Viking Ocean cruise, but I've seen too many videos of the ship in the open sea - rocking, dipping, water spraying up on the deck, and with my seasickness - not worth the risk. One that I'd consider is their Panama Canal cruise, which stays rather close to land and departs out of Ft. Lauderdale and returns there. So, I'd be able to take the Brightline train to Ft. Lauderdale, then cruise easily without having to fly. Like the river cruises, Viking Ocean has no children, no gambling - but has more food options. I might add this to my bucket list, although I keep a longer list of things I don't want to do before I die.

I'd like to spend some time living in a foreign country – maybe just a few weeks at first, building up to a month and then from May – October when the weather is so bad. I'm thinking of Ecuador and in preparation, I'm learning Spanish again. I've had 2 years in Junior High, 4 years in High School, then 2 more years in college – and it is a struggle to bring it back. This past month, Duolingo has

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congratulated me on knowing 1000 Spanish words. A typical dog knows 1000 words, so I can now talk to dogs when I travel. I'm ready!

### About the Author

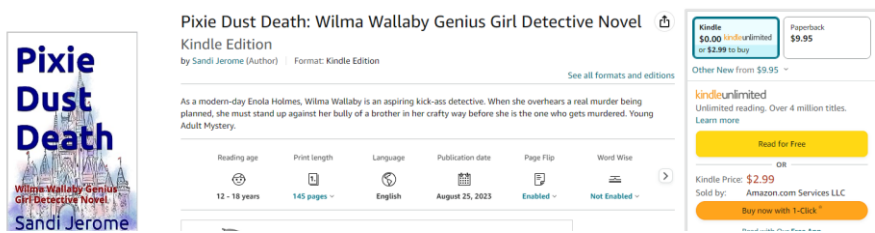
Sandi is an aspiring screenwriter and author of fiction, non-fiction, and biographical picture books. She has an advanced degree in screenwriting from UCLA and has written dozens of award-winning scripts with one animated script being produced by BlackOrb.com.

As a member of the Cherokee Nation, Sandi completed her first solo novel, a middle school fantasy fiction novel inspired by her ancestors; *Sleep Warrior*. She won a Native American in Media Alliance fellowship twice, and has been a Nicholl's Fellowship finalist with two screenplays, *Last Hand* and *First Man* and an Austin Film Festival finalist with four different scripts. Her great-grandmother once owned orange groves in Anaheim where Disneyland sits, and Sandi spent her childhood visiting that park until the early 2000s when fate brought her family to Florida. She has visited Disneyland Paris and a visit to all the parks and resorts on her bucket list. She is the author of *Amazing Animals of Disney's Animal Kingdom* and has a YouTube channel

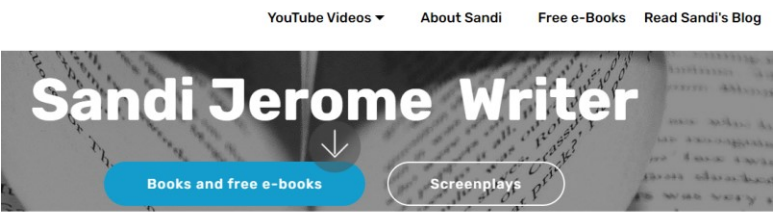
# Sandra Cook Jerome

about her visits to Disney and the Disney Wish cruise ship.

Her Middle-Grade/Young Adult novel is available on Amazon, **Pixie Dust Death**. It was formally titled *Murder at the Magic Kingdom*, but another novel exists *Murder in the Magic Kingdom* so she gave it a more unique name. If you love books set at Disney World, you'll love this one. Please leave 5 stars if you can!



Search on Amazon Sandra Jerome to see all of her books, or visit her website.



Sandi Jerome's  
animation script -  
Runaway Cricket is  
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Thanks for traveling with us! Keith and Sandi Jerome

