

## Summer 2019

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Until next year, Merry Christmas & holidays!

*From Tania, Adam & Jen xox*

## OVATION OF THE SEAS: Adam's Cruise Review



I have just disembarked from my first ever cruise on board Ovation of the Seas, one of Royal Caribbean's most famous ships (due to it's size). We departed from Sydney and from I first saw it live, I was amazed at the sheer size of this floating city.

When you first board, you take what seems like a long trek to your cabin. Tip - Don't leave your suitcase at check-in like I did - if you have an adult sized suitcase, they'll take it to your room for you, so have any clothes that you might need in your smaller carry-on bag, as they have hundreds of cabins to deliver luggage to, and you might not see your belongings until 8 or 9 that night.

Once settled in, it's discovery time. This ship has shops selling everything from souvenirs to high-grade jewellery, tech-gadgets to beautiful modern art. The casino is large by any scale and could service a small city on land. The dealers work around the clock and the drinks just keep coming.

There are more places to get a tasty beverage or a quick snack than you could poke a stick at. Windjammer is the all-you-can eat buffet, open for all meals, with an extensive array of international cuisine. Then you have other restaurants around the ship for your Sushi; Italian by Jamie Oliver or Sorrento's Pizza; Canapes and smaller meals at SeaPlex, or Cafe@Two70 - all included in the price of your cabin. Alternatively, you can order in to your cabin (without a delivery fee.!) )

You can buy drinks individually, or by Drinks package starting at USD40 per day. I suggest the Deluxe Drinks Package though, at USD55 per day - at up to \$14 per Espresso Martini, you'll be better off in no time. Oh, and try a drink made by their robot bartender. Just my luck - he spilled mine, but it was OK, a human fixed me a fresh one.

The other surprise was the amount of activities for children. The North Star is Ovation of the Seas version of the London-Eye, towering 90 metres above sea-level it gives you an epic view of the ship and beyond - not for the faint of heart! Basketball courts turn into a platform for dodgem cars; "Ripcord" is a skydiving simulator for those thinking about the real thing; or there is always the kids-club. Finally, you can take your kids to Bingo which operates 2-3 times per day, but if your child wins, you will need to collect for them!

For the fitness fanatic there is a gym, many pools and a running track, all of which are very popular in the earlier hours of the day. I used the running track - for walking of course; but I was more interested in the huge cinema room, the live music, the dance classes and the huge Royal-Theatre. All Aboard.

## INTRODUCING ADAM...



Meet Adam Quattrocchi, Senior Travel Consultant. We wanted to know more about his well-travelled life; here's what he told us...

### 1. How did you get into travel?

I had an interest in it for years as I wanted to travel more, and had an interest in geography my whole life. I'd been in hospitality for most of my life, then wanted a change. The opportunity came up, so I did some research and spoke to a some consultants I knew, applied and went from there. Greatest decision, and timing for me.



### 2. What's your favourite holiday destination & why?

New York is still my favourite destination. The city has a distinct feel and energy that I have not experienced anywhere else I've been. The locals know it's special, and they also love sharing it with their visitors.

### 3. Give us two of your best travel tips?

Tip 1: Keep a photo of your passport and insurance policy on your phone in case of emergencies.

Tip 2: Don't get the salad. 80% of food poisoning on trips is a result of bacteria in salad. Stick to cooked food.

### 4. Other than your phone & passport, what are two things you never travel without?

Headphones/Speakers & Travel Card/Cash Passport.

### 5. What destination do you recommend all clients should have on their bucket list?

Budapest - a city that blew me away. The history, the caves, and the food...the food is outstanding and so different to your Western or Central European cuisines.

### 6. What would your perfect Sunday look like?

Free time to walk around with my dog and visit some parks so he can run free. Then catch a movie in a comfy cinema.

### 7. If you could have one meal for the rest of your life what would it be? Chicken Kiev

### 8. If you could live anywhere in the world for one year, where would it be?

Florence. The people are amazing. It has a genuine Italian feel, and the food is the best in the country. It's not overrun by tourists like the other big cities and the cobblestone streets are to die for.

### 9. What's the most unusual thing you've ever eaten overseas?

I did try snail in France, but am not the biggest risk taker with my diet overseas.

### 10. The last photo you took on your phone?

A screenshot of the password I need for concert tickets I am booking next week

*Adam is a well-travelled and creative travel expert who loves helping his clients design their holidays and adventures.*

*Come in and chat with him soon or give him a call on 8525 0675.*

## FOODIES GUIDE TO THAILAND

Thailand is one of the world's greatest street food destinations and as soon as you arrive and start exploring you'll discover that there's an abundance of delicious things to eat everywhere you look. Along with street food, Thailand is also a country where restaurants of all levels, serving both Thai and an extensive range of international cuisine, are flourishing.



### Thai Street Food

Street food is one of the ultimate joys of being in Thailand. You can get anything from a snack to eat while you're walking down the sidewalk, to an entire sit-down meal feast on the streets, twenty four hours a day. Bowls of piping hot noodles, stir fried dishes all sorts of curries, grilled meats, and green papaya salad, are just a few examples of foods you'll encounter.



### Local Thai restaurants (shophouses)

While we really love street food and the atmosphere of dining on the streets, the best Thai food comes from local restaurants, or shophouse restaurants – the taste of food is often a notch above street food. Some shophouse restaurants actually started off as street food stalls, but due to success or progression, they have since moved into a more permanent facility. Shophouse restaurants are where many of the best traditional Thai and Thai Chinese chefs operate from.

### Fine Thai Dining

When you choose a fine dining Thai restaurant in Bangkok, you have to be careful. There are many high-end restaurants that serve mediocre food (at best), that's actually watered down from the real Thai taste, but just prettified. The good news is, there are a growing handful of higher end restaurants that are truly serving outstanding Thai food, using high quality ingredients, and being creative, yet not compromising the balance and robustness of Thai flavours.

### Thai Eating Etiquette

Thai food is normally eaten "family style". You order a selection of dishes to share amongst everyone at the table. It's typical that everyone would get their own plate of rice and then start by taking a little of one dish and eating that before taking a little more of a different dish. Thai etiquette is to approach a shared meal with care always respecting others and taking care not to inconvenience anyone at the table. Thai food is normally eaten using a fork and spoon together. The spoon dominates as the main tool and the fork acts to help push food onto the spoon. Chopsticks are almost exclusively used for soup noodles but are rarely used to eat rice or curry.

## GIFT IDEAS FOR TRAVEL LOVERS

Do you have someone in your life that is hard to find that special Christmas Gift for? Are they a travel junkie? We've been doing some research and we've come up with 9 great suggestions to fit any budget.

- A microfibre turban for less than \$10 is perfect for drying hair on the fly.
- Compression Socks come in all sorts of jazzy colours these days
- A bright funky passport cover makes it easy to find in the bottom of your bag
- A personalised or bright coloured luggage label will ensure that their suitcase is always easy to identify
- A world wall map to record their travels and plan their next holiday
- Bluetooth and/or noise cancelling earphones – there are even waterproof versions!
- An Audible subscription is a great gift for book lovers



OR give the ultimate **gift of travel** – a Helloworld Monbulk Gift Voucher could be just the ticket. Our gift certificates can be used toward flights, hotels, insurance, tours, anything. They can be personalised and can be any amount from \$20.

## 10 TRAVEL TIPS FOR SENIORS

As a rule, today's senior travellers are healthier and more energetic than ever before. But even for these folks, travel abroad is not without questions and concerns.

1. You'll definitely need travel insurance. Seniors pay more for travel insurance, but are also more likely to use it.
2. Ensure that your suitcase has wheels so that you can roll it along behind you and if you bring a second bag, make it a small one that stacks neatly on top of your wheeled bag.
3. Pack a full supply of your medications. It can be almost impossible to fill a prescription overseas. Transport your prescription drugs in their labelled containers and carry a copy of the written prescription with you to avoid problems at the airport.
4. Keep your medication in your carry-on bag in case your checked baggage is delayed.
5. Drink lots of water during your flights, and get up frequently to stretch your legs.
6. Spend at least two nights in each place to allow yourself a more leisurely tempo.
7. Pack a small magnifying glass to help you read detailed maps; a keychain torch for dark hotel hallways; and a small notebook to jot down facts and reminders.
8. Always ask about seniors' discounts, even if you don't see them posted—you may be surprised.
9. If you're travelling with more active companions and need a break, set a rendezvous point in a sidewalk café for a drink and people-watching.
10. If you wear a hearing aid, be sure to bring spare batteries. Don't forget the charger for your iPod, camera and mobile phone.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

From Jen, Tania & Adam

HELLOWORLD TRAVEL BENTLEIGH

We wish you and your family a very safe and happy festive season and summer holidays!



### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OFFICE HOURS

Christmas Eve: 9am – 4pm

Christmas Day: closed

Boxing Day: closed

Fri Dec 27: 9am – 5pm

Sat Dec 28: 10am – 1pm

Sun Dec 29: closed

Mon Dec 30: 9am – 5pm

New Years Eve: 9am – 3pm

New Years Day: closed

Thur Jan 2: 9am – 5pm

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### MEET THE TEAM...

At Helloworld Bentleigh we live and breathe travel. We have lots of stamps in our passports and many more ideas to help design your dream holiday. Pop in anytime for a chat with Tania and Adam, or email us at: [bentleigh@helloworldtravel.com.au](mailto:bentleigh@helloworldtravel.com.au)

