

## More Fil-Ams taking a new trend in cruises — freestyle

Written by Administrator

Friday, 21 September 2018 18:09

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**The Norwegian Escape.** (Photo courtesy of [ncl.com](http://ncl.com))

**By L.P. PELAYO**

*Exclusive to the Filipino Reporter*

On Sept. 9, 2018, my family and I went on a seven-day cruise to Bermuda aboard the 20-story, 165,300-tonnage behemoth called Norwegian Escape, one of the largest in the Norwegian

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Cruise Line worldwide fleet.

Crew number is 1,733.

We boarded the Escape on Pier 56 off the West Side Highway shortly before 12 p.m.

It sailed at approximately 4 p.m., passing through New Jersey, Statue of Liberty, Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and out to sea in the Atlantic Ocean.

Due to the impending Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas, the Captain informed passengers and crew of a direct sail to Florida to insure our safety and avoiding a potential landfall on Bermuda.

As New York sealine receded into the dark, nearly 800 of about 4,266 passengers started filling seats at the ship's theater for the Welcome Aboard Variety Show.

We had the pleasure of meeting with **Charry Sabanal**, a Filipina, who is the Hotel Director's Secretary.

She accommodated our seven-day cruise — meeting with the Captain and officers at the VIP reception, booking shows, dining and disembarkation.

The Hotel Director is **Deepak Punia** from India.

We made landfall on Tuesday, docking at Port Canaveral in Florida, the first stop.

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Majority of passengers took a tour of NASA, Cocoa Beach and other sites.

Next stop was Great Stirrup Cay, Norwegian's private island, to revel on its wide white sand, swim, snorkel, parasail, or simply bask in the sand under palm trees.

With no breeze, it was Bahama hot.

It was our last stop as the ship headed back north to New York.

Of course, the Escape features a crowded casino aboard, where slot and blackjack tournaments are hotly contested.

But there was a wide variety of activities for all ages from the gigantic pools; rope-walking atop the ship; basketball and soccer area; and the popular water slides.

Buffet food and fine dining are available most hours at their restaurants.

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Beyondships.com

The Garden Cafe Buffet Photo courtesy of Beyondships.com. The photo is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. We would like to thank you to Lu and Corry Ledesma for facilitating our stay at the Norwegian