

SAFN Sails the Seas Final Update (#8)

#1. Complete Your Cruise Check-in and Print Documents

Since your final payment is processed, your reservations are made, and your shore excursions are reviewed, the last step of the process is to complete your online check-in. Print your Set Sail Pass and your luggage tags, then rest assured that you will have virtually no paperwork to complete on embarkation day. Inputting all your information prior to the cruise, including uploading a photo and providing credit card info for onboard purchases, makes embarkation day a lot quicker and less stressful. Printing out copies of everything is always a good idea too.

(If you can't upload a photo, don't worry, they'll snap one of you at the port, no problem!)

-ONLINE CHECK-IN (Gather the following information for all the guests you are checking in)

- a. Ship, sailing date and reservation number (if you don't know your number, email Kay).
- b. Passport or appropriate proof of citizenship and identification.
- c. Home address.
- d. Emergency contact name with phone number.
- e. Travel plans before and after your cruise (Travel Plans include flight or pier transportation information).
- f. Credit card for the Onboard Expense Account. Once onboard, you will use a cashless system for purchases and services. Every purchase you make will be placed on the credit card you provide on this document.

-TIP: For security purposes, the system will time out after 30 minutes even though there is activity, so make sure you have everything listed above before you begin.

-IMPORTANT: You must complete and print your Set Sail Pass 3 days prior to your sail date.

#2. Boarding will be a snap

When you arrive at the pier, you'll just need your signed Set Sail Pass, the credit card that you used to set up your onboard expense account and appropriate proof of citizenship and identification documentation to board and begin your adventure.

#3. Create a Must Do Checklist

The Ultimate Abyss, water-slides, robot bartenders, and the list goes on. The world's largest ship packs a plethora of activities, restaurants, shows, and more to keep you busy. Don't miss a minute of the action. I suggest making a short checklist of all the things you MUST do, see, eat, and experience on the ship. Stroll Central Park, enjoy an al fresco lunch or dinner, ride the

carousel on the Boardwalk, soar on the zip line, experience Wonderland, or dance to your favorite 60s beats. By making a list, and checking it twice, you will never ask yourself, “Why didn’t I do that?”

#4. Hit the Ground Running

With all the major items already planned, all you will have to do now is enjoy yourself. The first day of a cruise should be filled with excitement and anticipation, not stress. For me, I even have an embarkation day routine to ensure I make the most out of my first day aboard the ship. Don’t forget to tie up any loose ends- make that specialty dining reservation, sign your activity waivers, and get ready for an unforgettable cruise vacation on Harmony of the Seas.

#5. As a reminder, you are responsible for getting to the hotel or to the ship on your own. If going to the hotel, you can take a cab or the hotel shuttle (call the hotel upon arrival). The hotel shuttle is \$9 per person. A taxi is about \$15.

#6. Those who received “perks” for registering early or booking a suite will have certificates in their room after they embark. Take this certificate and book your special dining or your spa visit as soon as possible after boarding to get the date and time you prefer.

#7. These reminders from past updates (I know I am repeating this again and again, it’s vital):
-If you have any special needs that you have not yet provided to Susan, such as the need for wheelchair assistance at the pier for embarkation and disembarkation; sharps container; refrigerator for insulin; distilled water for CPAP machine you are bringing; or if you have food allergies or physical issues that must be noted; please contact her right away: by Aug. 31: scombs@dreamvacations.com.

-Important Check-In Reminders: Complete your online check-in at www.royalcaribbean.com where you will download and print your boarding pass to bring with you to check in for the cruise. (Instructions can be found in Update #1). You do NOT have to upload a photo now – you can wait and have them take your photo at the pier. If you have technical difficulty logging in, Royal Caribbean has a help desk number: 800-443-5789. If you absolutely cannot check in online, you can check in at the pier when you arrive – it just takes longer.

#8. SAFN registration desk will be open at the hotel on Friday, 8 September from 1600-2000. If you are staying at the hotel and cannot register during those hours, please let Kay know so you can make other arrangements to get your registration materials. **SAFN** registration desk on the ship will be Saturday, 9 September from 1300-1500. The registration will be in the conference center, deck 3 forward, rooms Jewel and Serenade. Please make sure you pick up your materials during these times.

#9. The Memory book will cost \$25 and you can make a check to Kay Fryman for that amount and send it to her home address or you may pay when you register at the hotel or on board the Harmony. If you have not ordered your Memory Book, it’s not too late.

#10. The ship departs at 4 pm – this is a change from the original departure time -- so you need to be at the pier no later than 2 pm to get checked in on time. The airport is about 15-20 minutes from the pier, if you plan to use a taxi (about \$25) or Uber.

#11. Any questions, go to www.SAFN.org, click on the ship on the home page and you will find all the updates there. If you do not find the answer to your question, email Susan (scombs@dreamvacations.com) or me (kfryman1@aol.com); Kay's cell is 937-671-1813.

#12. Don't forget to bring your:

- **Passport** (or in lieu of passport, original certified birth certificate PLUS (for those age 16 and over) govt. issued photo ID such as driver's license)

- **Set Sail Pass (boarding pass for the cruise)**
 - If you DON'T have a computer or don't have a printer and weren't able to complete your online check-in or print out your boarding pass, don't despair. You can still check in at the pier. Bring your reservation information and when you are at the check in counter they will take care of everything you would have done online. It will simply take a bit longer to check in – having the boarding pass streamlines the process.

- **Printed luggage tags (from your online check-in)**
 - If you DON'T have a computer or don't have a printer and weren't able to complete your online check-in or print out your luggage tags, don't despair. The baggage handlers at the pier will have blank luggage tags on which you can write your name and stateroom number and attach them to your check-in bags at that time.
 - If you are staying at the Embassy Suites the night before the cruise, you will be provided with plastic luggage tag holders into which you will insert your printed luggage tags, so be sure to bring them with you but not attach them to your luggage until you have arrived at the hotel.
 - If you are NOT staying at the Embassy Suites, do not attach your paper luggage tags that you printed with your Set Sail Pass until after you have arrived in Ft. Lauderdale. Bring a little tape with you and attach them to the bag(s) you will check at the pier AFTER you pick them up at baggage claim. (Bags you will carry on to the ship do not require these luggage tags – they are for the porters who deliver bags to staterooms.) I recommend "laminating" them with clear, wide packing tape on both sides before your leave home to make them stronger, then tape them on upon arrival.

- A nightlight and extension cord with multiple outlets may be helpful. A small roll of duct tape can come in handy for multiple uses.

#13. In case of emergency during travel:

If you encounter travel delays or a medical emergency that would affect your arrival to the pier in time to board the ship, please contact Royal Caribbean's emergency team at 800-256-6649. Please also email or call Susan Combs at 949-709-0098 and leave a message with your full name, cell phone number, and situation AFTER you've notified Royal Caribbean directly.

If there is an impending hurricane due to hit the Ft. Lauderdale area on the day of embarkation, Royal Caribbean will directly update passengers on the boarding status using the cell phone numbers and email addresses provided during the online check-in process. If for some reason you don't receive the updates or have other concerns, please call their emergency number for the latest information and instructions: 800-256-6649. We may not be able to contact everyone once we are within a few days of the cruise due to travel ourselves.

If you have purchased trip insurance, it's a great idea to carry with you the phone number of your insurance carrier in case of emergency, along with your reservation number. For those who bought the Leisure Care policy through Dream Vacations, bring your travel order number as well. The phone number for Leisure Care policy questions or to file a claim is 866-808-7361. They also offer 24/7 worldwide emergency assistance through On Call International at 1-800-618-0692, or if you are in an area that doesn't accept toll-free calls, call the following number collect: 1-603-328-1711.

#14. To be reached on the ship in case of emergency:

Ideally, it's best to provide your cell phone number and email address to loved ones and get an internet or calling plan aboard the ship to keep in touch. However, for dire emergencies, you can be contacted in your stateroom in a shore-to-ship call. It is a shared service by all the cruise lines, so your caller must know your ship (Harmony of the Seas) and your reservation number and/or stateroom number. When they call, they must have a Visa or MasterCard, and it will be temporarily charged \$79.50 at the beginning of the call to secure it (that will be reimbursed after the call). Then there is a \$7.95 per minute charge for the call, which can be up to a maximum of 10 minutes in length. The caller will be connected to the stateroom, and if there is no answer, to the ship's purser, who would then take a message for the recipient. The phone number is 888-724-7447.

#15. Embassy Suites Guests:

When you check in, **please be sure the name of the guest staying with you is provided**, as the luggage transfer for the next morning is by name. Your luggage transfer fee will be added to your hotel bill.

Your transfer time to the pier will be posted at the hotel. Please don't gather more than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled departure time as it can create chaos for those loading the shuttles.

You will receive your transfer ticket and luggage tag holder at Convention Registration between 1600 and 2000 on Friday, Sept. 8. Fold your luggage tags as instructed, insert them into the holder and attach it to the bag you will have checked at the pier. Carry-on bags do not need luggage tags. (Bags you will carry on to the ship do not require these luggage tags – they are for the porters who deliver bags to staterooms.)

#16. Upon arrival at the pier:

Go to the pier for Harmony of the Seas (location will be posted as you enter Port Everglades), if you are driving on your own or taking a cab.

The baggage porters will take your baggage that is to be delivered to your stateroom. Keep with you any carry-on bags that contain items you need for that afternoon, such as medications, paperwork, changes of clothing or toiletries you will need prior to 6 pm in case your luggage is not received by then.

If you do not have luggage tags on your bags to be checked, ask the porters for blank ones, and write your name and stateroom number on them and attach them to the bags.

Proceed to the check in area at the cruise terminal and follow their instructions through the embarkation process. If you had requested wheelchair assistance at the pier in advance through me, let the terminal attendant outside the building know this and they will send a wheelchair attendant to assist you from there.

Once onboard, if your stateroom is not yet ready, enjoy lunch in the Windjammer Café or other restaurants that are open and time in other public areas of the ship until an announcement is made that the staterooms are available.

When you arrive at your stateroom, if your beds are not in the configuration that was requested, please let your stateroom attendants know and they will take care of it by the time you return from dinner. We do make the requests for twin beds and Royal King beds by stateroom in advance, but sometimes the ship gets it wrong. It's no problem though, as it's easy for the stateroom attendants to correct.

Once you've unpacked, place your empty luggage under your beds – nest as necessary. You can use them to store items you don't regularly use or may not use. You'll find lots of nooks and crannies, cupboards, closets and hanging places for your things. If you packed using packing cubes or zip lock bags, it helps keep your things organized once you've unpacked, too.

The muster drill is REQUIRED. The location is on the back of your door. The time will be listed in your newsletter and announcements will be made.

#17. During the Cruise:

Refer to the daily newsletter and your convention agenda for schedules of activities each day and the times you must be aboard when in port. Remember to make note when ship's time may be different than local time. And don't assume your cell phone clock will automatically adjust – they do NOT always correctly adjust in international waters, so always check the ship's time on the stateroom phone.

Check the mail slot outside your door regularly for mail and notices from the ship and others.

Bon Voyage!!!!

Kay Fryman
Convention Chair

Susan Pretkus-Combs
Cruise Specialist

SOCIETY OF AIR FORCE NURSES
Convention at Sea
8-16 September 2017
Agenda Final

Friday, 8 September:

1600-2000

Registration open in Embassy Suites Hotel Lobby

Saturday, 9 September:

0700-1000

Embarkation Day

Breakfast in hotel

1100-1300

Busses depart for ship*

1300-1500

Hospitality Desk open in Conference Room**

1400

Must be checked in at the pier

1500

Mandatory ship safety briefing

1600

Harmony of the Seas departs

1630-1800

Informal get together at Schooner Bar, Deck 6

1800

Dinner in Dining Room Deck 3, American Icon****

Sunday, 10 September:

0830-1000
1000-1050
1050-1230
1230-1300
1300-1400
1400-1500
1630-1730
1800

At Sea

Board/ Leadership Meeting***
Opening Ceremony, Memorial Ceremony
Membership Business meeting
Induction ceremony
Lunch
Committee meetings
Welcome Cocktail Party, Hosted by SAFN, Dazzles
Formal Dinner ****

Monday, 11 September:

0900-1000
1000-1100
1100-1200
1200-1300
1300-1400
1400-1500

Patriot Day (at sea)

Region Meetings***
CEU class #1***
CEU class #2
lunch
CEU class #3
CEU class #4

1700-1800
1800

Veterans informal get-together (check Compass)
Dinner

Tuesday, 12 September:

Philipsburg - St. Maarten (0800-1700)

Wednesday, 13 September:

TBD
1800

San Juan - Puerto Rico (0700-1400)
SAFN group shore excursion/tour
Dinner

Thursday, 14 September:

1800

Labadee – Haiti (0930-1800)
Formal Dinner

Friday, 15 September:

0900-1030
1030-1130
1130-1230
1800

At Sea

Leadership meeting***
2017 & 2019 Convention committees
CEU class #5
Banquet (bring critiques)

Saturday, 16 September:

Arrive **Ft Lauderdale, FL (0615)**

Disembark according to ship instructions and assignments.

Transfers according to what was planned/ordered specifically for you.

* check transfer schedule notice at the hotel for your assigned transfer time

** Convention check-in at SAFN Hospitality Desk (Conference Center, Deck 3 Forward, Rooms Jewel & Serenade) For those who did not check in at the hotel)

***All meetings and CEU classes will be in the Conference Center, Deck 3,

**** Assigned seating first night, then open seating in SAFN area of Deck 3, American Icon, for the rest of the cruise.