

Crystal Cruises

Caribbean here I come! My trip begins flying from Lubbock Texas, childhood home town, to Caldera Costa Rica to embark on the seas with Crystal Cruises in late November. As an LPGA golf pro aboard ship I will be conducting two clinics during each day, otherwise it will be private lessons and some soaking of the lovely Costa Rica rays. It's interesting how this came about and I feel fortunate to be able to be a part of the awarded "Worlds Best Large Cruise Line" and "Best Cruise Line Food" winners according to Travel and Leisure Magazine. The story really begins with this issue although I have not yet set sail and will continue in next months issue as I talk about the people I have been able to give lessons. The Cruise Director did mention many celebrities should be on ship and do take a keen interest in golf and tennis while sailing. Maybe I can get a story to come with next months issue from Sean Connery or Meg Ryan or Kevin Costner, it's a long shot but we'll see.

I have read and been inquiring with my Cruise Director as to how my lessons will be conducted and it seems like the echelon of guests are active golfers who will need the assistance from their LPGA Teaching Pro. Highest point on the ship is the Sun Deck where hitting (fish food) balls into the ocean is a must, or come to the golf designated area of the ship that will allow indoor hitting and putting lessons to take place under the Callaway Sponsored equipment. The focus shifts in the evening after 6:00 p.m. as this Lubbock native will certainly enjoy slipping into a full length evening dress for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, ballroom dancing and extravagant shows. I'm also expected to join guests in the Palm Court for afternoon tea and to dine with them in the evenings as they seek verbal advice on their game. It's a tough job but somebody's got to do it!

We will have time on the ship to visit and make any necessary adjustments to their swing so that when we land on an island, the local courses welcome our company and allow me to put the application onto the course. Although I will not have land under my feet until we reach an island, I'm anxious to see how a lesson aboard will be applied to a strange and new course in the Caribbean. My hopes are to see good results for my clients and make their stay with Crystal a memorable one, but between us more importantly to drop strokes off their score!

I look forward to sending the next story from the ship to our editor and will see you all in January when I return to Tulsa. Until then bon voyage and Happy Thanksgiving~!

Shannon