

Dreams Can Come True

The brochures and websites answered most of their questions, but it was Richard and Connie's first time and they were still a bit nervous. Had they forgotten anything? Had they picked the right time and place? Would they really have as much fun as their friends had said? Would it be anything like the *Love Boat*?

With a little encouragement from their friends and a lot of help from their travel agent, Vanessa, Richard, and Connie were set to take their first cruise! Still, there were many questions and uncertainties as they prepared to board the plane to Miami.

Connie had always wanted to take a cruise because she thought it would be relaxing and romantic: no meals to prepare, no dishes to wash, being waited on hand and foot, sitting by the pool and reading, moonlight walks on deck, and dancing the night away! However, Richard was easily bored and he had dreaded the thought of being “stuck” on a ship in the middle of nowhere with nothing to do.

When Connie met with Vanessa to book her dream vacation cruise, she shared some of Richard's concerns. As Vanessa described the different cruise ships, ports of call, and onboard activities that would meet their needs, Connie knew it would be everything she had imagined. And there would be more than enough opportunities for Richard to be entertained for four days.

Their cabin was smaller than a hotel room, but it didn't matter because they were seldom there. With gourmet meals, 24-hour buffets, shows, games, dancing, gambling, shopping, and shore excursions, there just weren't enough hours in a day. It seemed as if the staff had thought of everything! There was even an afternoon on the ship's own private island, complete with beachcombing and snorkeling lessons. The activities were endless.

As Richard and Connie prepared to disembark, they were presented with their bill. Even though Vanessa had explained the required tipping policy and the fact



Many different sights found in Sydney, Australia, make it a unique destination. Photo by Cathy Hsu