

Travel On: Even a Nor'easter Can't Spoil Cruise Fun

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NICOLE PENSIERO

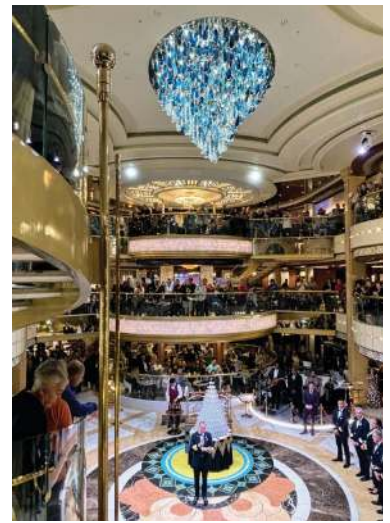
For anyone who has ever wondered what becomes of a long-awaited cruise if there's a (negative) change in weather, I'm here to tell you: it can still turn out great. In fact, if the ship is as fabulous as ours was — the Enchanted Princess — it can be a true memory-maker.

We expected nothing but smooth sailing for our cruise to New England and Canada. But that changed quickly as a mid-month Nor'easter barreled up the coast, chasing our seven-day vacation with Princess Cruises all the way from Brooklyn to Nova Scotia.

Despite having to skip two planned ports — Newport, Rhode Island, and Portland, Maine — because of rough seas, we still had a fantastic vacation. Between delicious meals, Broadway-style productions, a casino, comedy shows, trivia games, art auctions, and numerous other activities, we had endless options to keep us content as our journey unfolded.



Peggy's Point Lighthouse is an active lighthouse and one of the busiest tourist attractions in Nova Scotia, Canada.



The Enchanted Princess welcomed guests to its Oct. 11 sailing with a "champagne waterfall" in the Piazza atrium.

Our Ship

With extra time at sea, we were able to fully savor the amenities of the Enchanted Princess, which can accommodate more than 3,300 passengers in 1,830 staterooms ranging from luxury suites with private balconies to inside cabins.

I'd love to try a warm-weather cruise aboard this ship someday. There are four swimming pools and eight hot tubs — some of which were even in use during our trip. A full-service spa offered a range of services, including massages, facials, and more advanced aesthetic treatments.

Food, Glorious Food

We were consistently impressed with the variety and quality of the dining options onboard. Along with a full-service buffet and three main dining rooms that share a revolving menu, there were also three specialty, reservation-only restaurants that made for memorable evenings. Several grab-and-go options were also available, including a round-the-clock eatery.

Excursions

Princess offered many optional excursions at each port we visited. Our best weather days came near the end of the trip, when we enjoyed several hours of sunshine in the lovely Canadian province of New Brunswick and relatively mild weather on our final day ashore in Nova Scotia.

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Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia is home to only about 30 year-round residents; it is a picture-perfect spot for tourists.

In New Brunswick, we especially enjoyed our shore excursion to the world-famous Bay of Fundy — known for its record-breaking high tides, which can reach more than 50 feet. These tides create a unique environment where the landscape undergoes a dramatic transformation in just six hours.

Our final "land" day was in Nova Scotia. We traveled through the capital city of Halifax to Fairview Lawn Cemetery, one of three final resting places in the city for victims of the 1912 Titanic sinking. It was a fascinating and educational excursion. From there, we continued to beautiful (and tiny) Peggy's Cove,

home to only about 30 year-round residents. Even in the misty weather, it's a picture-perfect place that seems frozen in time.

We arrived back in New York on a still-rainy day, happy to have had so much fun both onboard and on land. We left with many good memories of Princess and this unique cruise experience.

Nicole Pensiero is a South Jersey-based writer and a member of the North American Travel Journalists Association (NATJA).



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