

MAGIC OF ADRIATIC

26 July - 3 August 2011

by. Novita Beytrison

This report taken place on
**L'Austral -
COMPAGNIE DU PONANT**
DEPARTURE
FROM :
VENICE, ITALY
VISITED :
CROATIA AND
MONTENEGRO

Unforgettable Summer Cruise with Unforgettable People

Everyone has
dreams, and we
have to use all
power we have to
achieve those
dreams
(Maud Fontenoy)

DREAMS - MAKE THEM REAL

Once a year, Compagnie du Ponant invites families to come onboard their ship for a special Family Cruise. We had missed their first Family Cruise last year - it had fabulous itinerary to Iceland and Greenland, but this year we made it to their second Family Cruise which visited countries on the Adriatic sea - Croatia and Montenegro.

We passed through coasts with beautiful landscape and water as clear as crystal, don't mention the brilliant sunshine that reflected on it, added more magic to what we already had.

It surely one of our best summer vacation. Not only sunny days, great cities to visit, we also have some priceless things - great memories and friends.



L'Austral at Venice, Italy



Nintendo Wii for everyone



Tea Time

It's not a vacation which we only had fun under the sun, we also learned a lot about safety and respect to mother nature.

Children were not only have fun, they had learn so much more during this trip

During this a little longer than a week trip on l'Austral, Compagnie du Ponant had hired a group of talented persons to teach and "play" with all young passengers. It was so much fun, my children hardly spent time with me except at breakfast, lunch and late night time. I didn't blame them for that, honestly, if it comes to me, I think I will do the same to my parents.

Older children learned to dance, arts and crafts, theater, music, magics, they even make a journal out of an accordion note book. They also did the field trip each time the boat docked in a port, except in Sibenik, with their "teachers" and Michel - the story teller. By the end of the day, my daughter known more about the city than me, thanks to those

"teachers" who explained each site they had visited.

Children also been taught about safety on the sea, how to survive on the sea including tasting the "survival biscuit". They've been explained by experts why we need to protect our sea and creatures who live in it.

The best part came later for parents. On the last day of our cruise, there was a special show from Children to Parents. They spent so little time to practice, but the show was almost perfect. I never thought that my son, who was a shy boy before leaving, could danced in front of the public without breaking in to tears. Some older children did the magic tricks, comedy, drama, singing together closed by giving a signed card to the captain of the ship.

Outside the theater, there was an exhibition of things made by children during the week - mask, jewelry boxes, books, etc which they could bring home with them.

I would say, it was a super summer camp for French speaking children. Children were not only having a vacation with their parents at "heaven" like places, but they also learn so much and make friends with others French-speaking children who live maybe at the same city, different cities, or maybe even different countries.



Show made by children for their parents



Reading for children



Maud and Michel - sharing their dreams and stories with children.



SHARING DREAMS WITH THE STAR

Our children were so lucky that they had chance to meet and talk with one of the “toughest” French woman in the history, Maud Fontenoy. A woman who never give up in chasing her dreams even when she was challenged with unimaginable risk to cross oceans all by herself on her kayak. She was so passionate, by the end of the cruise many children started to talk about how one day they would like to do the same as Maud Fontenoy.

Also, there was Michel Khelifa, a talented writer and environmentalist, who was so patiently to read stories for the

children, answering all sort of question (including the silly one) and as Maud did, shared his dreams with everybody. Up to this days, my children have told me, Michel is the best story teller.

Thank you for everyone on Compagnie du Ponant who made this unforgettable Family summer vacation came true. It's really a unique experience that we would like to redo it again next year, of course not at the same place. Thank you for all the experiences and new friends you had brought to the children life, experiences which I believe they would not forget for the rest of their life.

Never give up
your dream.
Chase it where
ever it goes.
We are a better
person because of
our dreams

