

# WORLD CRUISE

We are posting to this website to keep track of our experiences on this memorable trip. It's log written for us but anyone that is interested and wants to follow along is more than welcome. If you want to contact us: [knottydog50@gmail.com](mailto:knottydog50@gmail.com)

We leave Los Angeles January 6, 2024 and will arrive in London May 6, 2024. The cruise will visit 23 countries over a period of four months. We plan to spend a month at the conclusion of the trip visiting the British Isles and maybe a short time in Amsterdam, that month, still yet to be planned. All we have planned and secured is a flight coming home a month after we get off the ship in London.

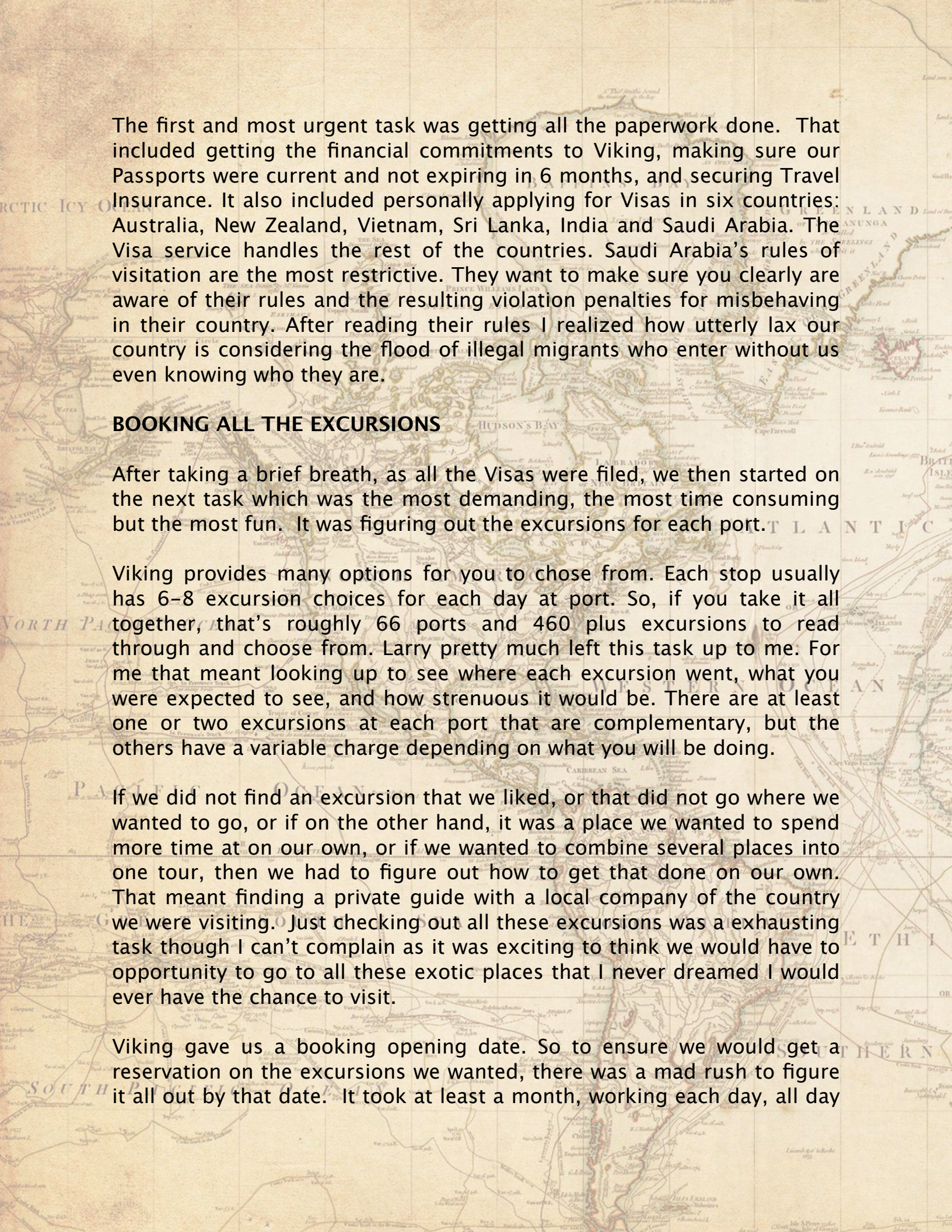
Viking is the cruise line we are going with which is a smaller ship than the normal cruise lines. That is one of the reasons we like it, approximately 900 people. We've never been a fan of cruise ships and detest the sight of them at ports but I guess it's that time in life when it seems more appealing to us. The thought of visiting foreign and maybe exotic places by sea, that which we are familiar, without the hard work is too hard to pass up.

The cruise itself will last a total of 121 days, 54 of which are at sea, 66 at port and multiple days at some of the ports. Our ship, named **Viking Sky**, actually starts her journey in Fort Lauderdale about a month earlier than our boarding. It will head south through the Panama Canal and finally arrive at our pick up location in Long Beach, California on January 6. We decided to opt out of that leg of the trip since we did that trip ourselves in our Nordhavn 20 years ago and felt no need or desire to do a repeat.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think getting ready for this trip would be such a daunting task. I naively thought we would just sign up, get on the boat and off we would go with everything taken care of. Nope, hardly that, at least, not yet.

## VISAS AND PAPERWORK





The first and most urgent task was getting all the paperwork done. That included getting the financial commitments to Viking, making sure our Passports were current and not expiring in 6 months, and securing Travel Insurance. It also included personally applying for Visas in six countries: Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India and Saudi Arabia. The Visa service handles the rest of the countries. Saudi Arabia's rules of visitation are the most restrictive. They want to make sure you clearly are aware of their rules and the resulting violation penalties for misbehaving in their country. After reading their rules I realized how utterly lax our country is considering the flood of illegal migrants who enter without us even knowing who they are.

## **BOOKING ALL THE EXCURSIONS**

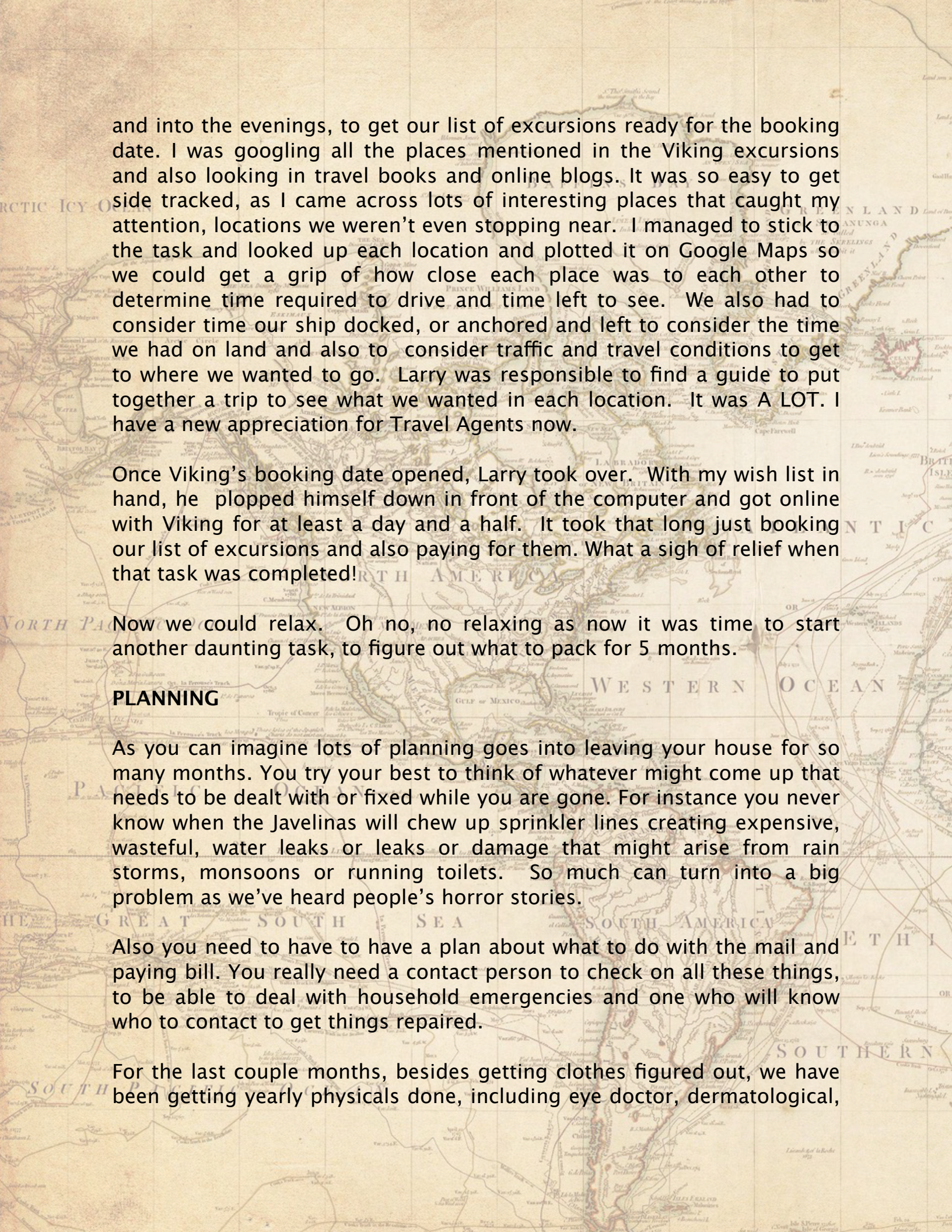
After taking a brief breath, as all the Visas were filed, we then started on the next task which was the most demanding, the most time consuming but the most fun. It was figuring out the excursions for each port.

Viking provides many options for you to choose from. Each stop usually has 6–8 excursion choices for each day at port. So, if you take it all together, that's roughly 66 ports and 460 plus excursions to read through and choose from. Larry pretty much left this task up to me. For me that meant looking up to see where each excursion went, what you were expected to see, and how strenuous it would be. There are at least one or two excursions at each port that are complementary, but the others have a variable charge depending on what you will be doing.

If we did not find an excursion that we liked, or that did not go where we wanted to go, or if on the other hand, it was a place we wanted to spend more time at on our own, or if we wanted to combine several places into one tour, then we had to figure out how to get that done on our own. That meant finding a private guide with a local company of the country we were visiting. Just checking out all these excursions was an exhausting task though I can't complain as it was exciting to think we would have the opportunity to go to all these exotic places that I never dreamed I would ever have the chance to visit.

Viking gave us a booking opening date. So to ensure we would get a reservation on the excursions we wanted, there was a mad rush to figure it all out by that date. It took at least a month, working each day, all day





and into the evenings, to get our list of excursions ready for the booking date. I was googling all the places mentioned in the Viking excursions and also looking in travel books and online blogs. It was so easy to get side tracked, as I came across lots of interesting places that caught my attention, locations we weren't even stopping near. I managed to stick to the task and looked up each location and plotted it on Google Maps so we could get a grip of how close each place was to each other to determine time required to drive and time left to see. We also had to consider time our ship docked, or anchored and left to consider the time we had on land and also to consider traffic and travel conditions to get to where we wanted to go. Larry was responsible to find a guide to put together a trip to see what we wanted in each location. It was A LOT. I have a new appreciation for Travel Agents now.

Once Viking's booking date opened, Larry took over. With my wish list in hand, he plopped himself down in front of the computer and got online with Viking for at least a day and a half. It took that long just booking our list of excursions and also paying for them. What a sigh of relief when that task was completed!

Now we could relax. Oh no, no relaxing as now it was time to start another daunting task, to figure out what to pack for 5 months.

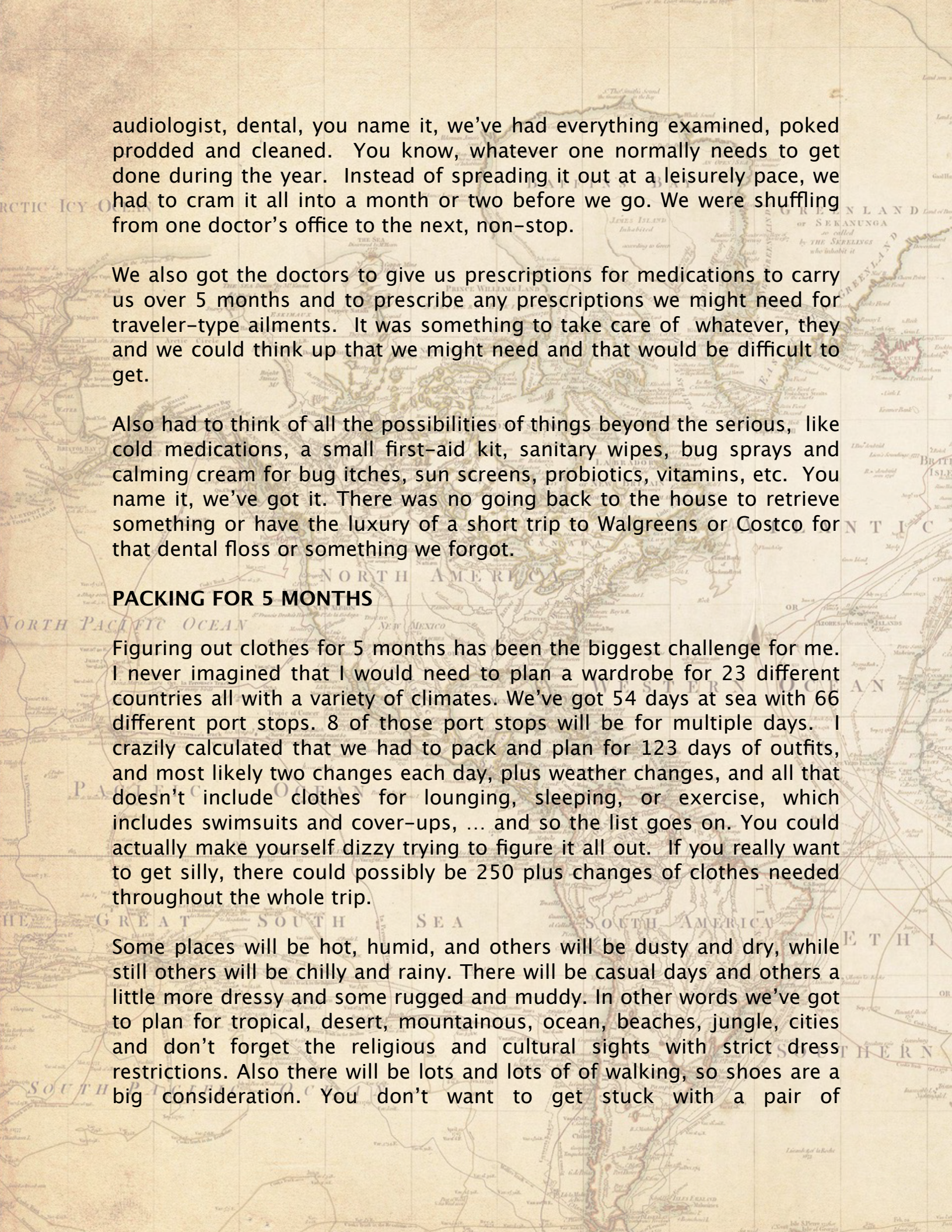
## **PLANNING**

As you can imagine lots of planning goes into leaving your house for so many months. You try your best to think of whatever might come up that needs to be dealt with or fixed while you are gone. For instance you never know when the Javelinas will chew up sprinkler lines creating expensive, wasteful, water leaks or leaks or damage that might arise from rain storms, monsoons or running toilets. So much can turn into a big problem as we've heard people's horror stories.

Also you need to have a plan about what to do with the mail and paying bill. You really need a contact person to check on all these things, to be able to deal with household emergencies and one who will know who to contact to get things repaired.

For the last couple months, besides getting clothes figured out, we have been getting yearly physicals done, including eye doctor, dermatological,





audiologist, dental, you name it, we've had everything examined, poked prodded and cleaned. You know, whatever one normally needs to get done during the year. Instead of spreading it out at a leisurely pace, we had to cram it all into a month or two before we go. We were shuffling from one doctor's office to the next, non-stop.

We also got the doctors to give us prescriptions for medications to carry us over 5 months and to prescribe any prescriptions we might need for traveler-type ailments. It was something to take care of whatever, they and we could think up that we might need and that would be difficult to get.

Also had to think of all the possibilities of things beyond the serious, like cold medications, a small first-aid kit, sanitary wipes, bug sprays and calming cream for bug itches, sun screens, probiotics, vitamins, etc. You name it, we've got it. There was no going back to the house to retrieve something or have the luxury of a short trip to Walgreens or Costco for that dental floss or something we forgot.

### **PACKING FOR 5 MONTHS**

Figuring out clothes for 5 months has been the biggest challenge for me. I never imagined that I would need to plan a wardrobe for 23 different countries all with a variety of climates. We've got 54 days at sea with 66 different port stops. 8 of those port stops will be for multiple days. I crazily calculated that we had to pack and plan for 123 days of outfits, and most likely two changes each day, plus weather changes, and all that doesn't include clothes for lounging, sleeping, or exercise, which includes swimsuits and cover-ups, ... and so the list goes on. You could actually make yourself dizzy trying to figure it all out. If you really want to get silly, there could possibly be 250 plus changes of clothes needed throughout the whole trip.

Some places will be hot, humid, and others will be dusty and dry, while still others will be chilly and rainy. There will be casual days and others a little more dressy and some rugged and muddy. In other words we've got to plan for tropical, desert, mountainous, ocean, beaches, jungle, cities and don't forget the religious and cultural sights with strict dress restrictions. Also there will be lots and lots of walking, so shoes are a big consideration. You don't want to get stuck with a pair of



uncomfortable shoes to make your life miserable. Layering of clothes to comply with the temperature changes will be key.

It was overwhelming.

### **“VIKING DRESS CODE”**

We looked up on our Viking website to see if there was a dress code to help us out. Here's what it says:

**“During the day, the dress code is casual including shorts (if the season is warm), slacks or jeans and comfortable shoes for walking tours. Swimsuits, brief shorts, cover-ups and exercise attire should be reserved for the Fitness Center, pool areas and Sports Deck. There are no “formal nights” in the evening; evening dress is “elegant casual” for all dining venues, performances and special events. On these occasions, required attire for ladies includes a dress, skirt or slacks with a sweater or blouse; for gentlemen, trousers and a collared shirt. A tie and jacket are optional; jeans are not permitted. The evening dress excludes World Café where the dress remains casual after 6:00 PM.**

**Some shore excursions visit religious sites that require modesty of dress. To avoid being denied entry, we recommend men wear long pants and refrain from sleeveless shirts; and for women, clothing that covers the knees and tops that are not sleeveless or too revealing.”**

Okay that sounds reasonable. We felt like we were pretty much on track for packing at this point. But, don't speak so quick as then came.....

### **VIKING'S PACKING LIST GUIDE**

Hold your horses! Just when I thought we about had everything figured out, Viking emailed us the infamous “packing list guide”!

It begins by reminding us our “cruise is just around the corner and here are some tried and true tips to make your packing easier.” (I'm thinking, GREAT, why did this not come a couple months sooner?)



The email goes on to say, **“Packing for a journey of four-plus months is easier when you break it down into manageable segments. First focus on clothing by laying out two separate collections, as though each were for a 2 week cruise. Then set aside the accessories, toiletries, shoes and gear you think you need.”**

Attached to this email was a PDF called **“your checklist”!** It began by saying...**“Here is a handy checklist to guide you as you pack for your Viking World Cruise.”**

### **CLOTHES – Ladies**

- 2–3 casual dresses or sundresses**
- 1 cocktail dress**
- 1 dressy skirt**
- 4 pairs of long pants that can transition from casual to dressy, preferably at least one pair in black, one in white or cream**
- 8–10 blouses or tops that can transition from casual to dressy**
- 5 sweaters (cardigans) and/or lightweight jackets to wear with above**
- 3 pairs of casual or capri-length pants**
- 2 pairs of jeans**
- 2 casual/walking skirts or skorts**
- 4 pairs of (longer) shorts**
- 10 casual tops – t-shirts, jerseys, etc.**
- 2 sets of workout clothes (yoga pants or tights, sports bra and top)**
- 1 tracksuit or jogging outfit**
- 2 swimsuits**
- 2 swim cover ups**
- 1 water repellant windbreaker or lightweight rain slicker**
- 1 fleece jacket**
- 2 sun hats or visors**
- 1 lightweight knit cap or hat**
- 5–6 scarves, including 2 dressy, silk or rayon ones; and 2 longer, pashmina-type scarves that can double as a shawl**
- 4 nightgowns**
- 14 pairs of undergarments**
- 10 pairs of socks**
- 4 pairs pantyhose or tights (if you wear them with skirts or dresses)**



**HOLY CRAP!**

I didn't have anything near this quantity of stuff, nor that dressy!! Panic set in even before I even read the men's list!

**CLOTHES – Men**

- 1 suit**
- 4 pairs of dress slacks**
- 4 sports coats**
- 4 dress shirts**
- 4 long-sleeved, casual button down shirts**
- 5 pair khakis or casual long pants**
- 2 pairs jeans**
- 5-6 pairs shorts**
- 10 assorted polo shirts (collared)**
- 2 short-sleeved, camp-style shirts**
- 6 tee shirts or Henley-style shirts**
- 1 casual jersey-type shirt**
- 2 sets workout clothes (gym shorts and shirt)**
- 2 tracksuits or jogging outfit**
- 2 sweatshirts**
- 2 swimsuits**
- 1 water repellant windbreaker or lightweight rain slicker**
- 1 fleece jacket**
- 2 sun hats or visors**
- 1 lightweight knit cap or hat**
- 4 pair pajamas or sleepwear**
- 14 pairs of undergarments**
- 10 pairs of casual socks**
- 4 pair dress socks**

**SHOES**

- 2 pairs comfortable walking shoes**
- 2 pairs of comfortable sandals (or boat shoes for men)**
- 1 pair of dressier shoes (or sandals for women) for special dinners or a night out**
- 1 pair sneakers or gym shoes**



**1 pair golf shoes, if you plan on hitting the links in port  
1 pair of flip flops, rubberized sandals or water shoes**

**NO WAY!** Larry doesn't have that many clothes in his present day closet period! He doesn't even own a suit that fits anymore let alone 4 sports jackets!! Who wears all that nowadays when you are retired? I wonder how can any of this even fit into our suitcases and then if it did, how in hell would we get it from the house and to the boat?? What are they thinking? This must be a mistake?? It also seems like a list from 20 years ago ie: "capris, rubberized sandals, track suit, camp-style shirt, Henley shirt", etc. You'd need a moving van to take all of this stuff! The list goes on ...

### **TOILETRIES & MEDICATION**

**"Bring a 4-month supply of prescription medication. Do not leave this to the last minute, as there may be red tape involved in getting your insurance company to cover certain quantities in advance. Call your provider and ask about a "vacation override."**

**Over-the-counter medication. Bring what you use most often—allergy medicines, aspirin, ibuprofen, antacids, anti-diarrheal medicine, cold medications, cough drops, and Dramamine or other anti-seasick medication.**

**Small first aid kit. Band-Aids, antiseptic cream, alcohol swabs. Sunscreen\*. Enough for daily use—at least two tubes or plastic bottles, SPF 30 or higher.**

**Bug spray/mosquito repellent\***

**Hand sanitizer\***

**Mouthwash Toothpaste 2 toothbrushes (one spare)**

**Small cosmetic bag or shave/Dopp kit**

**Cotton swabs or cotton balls**

**Small manicure set and tweezers**

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

**Camera**

**Extra camera battery and memory card**

**Laptop, tablet, or e-reader**

**We suggest bringing a Kindle-type reader or loading books on your devices, versus carrying heavy hardcover or paperbacks. There is**



also an onboard library featuring classics, travel books, history titles and biographies.

Flash drive (4G or larger) to back up and/or store photos

Smartphone Charger and associated cables for your devices

AA/AAA batteries if needed

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1 small bag of costume jewelry. We do not advise bringing fine jewelry but if you must have certain pieces, there is a safe in your stateroom. Extra pair of eyeglasses and/or 4 months' supply of contact lenses Sunglasses

Playing cards or a favorite board game

Books, magazines or e-reader (see above)

Evaporative cooling towel. These compact, lightweight cloths are ideal for touring in hot weather. They remain cool in their small, waterproof pouches or containers, and can be refreshed just by rinsing. Find them online or at outdoor gear stores.

Zip Lock Bags of various sizes

Business cards. This makes it easy to share contact information with the new friends you'll make. (All guests will receive personal cards when onboard). Blank notecards. In a four-month journey, your new friends are bound to have a few anniversaries or birthdays. (Wait what? I can't even remember birthdays and anniversaries of my close friends and family!!)

Atomizer or mister\*

Expandable tote or travel bag. This will come in handy to carry the interesting keepsakes you'll most certainly acquire.

Stain remover

\*Sundries are also available in our onboard boutique or ashore.

### WHAT YOU DON'T NEED TO PACK

Binoculars. We provide them in every stateroom.

Electrical converters or outlet adaptors. Our staterooms feature European-style 2-pin outlets that have settings for 110/220 volts, plus there are four US 110V sockets and multiple USB ports to charge cell phones and tablets. Just bring the appropriate cable with you.



**Most modern electronic devices automatically adjust to different electrical currents.**

**Travel iron. These are available in the launderette.**

**Hair dryer. There is one in your bathroom.**

**Robe & slippers. Feel free to use the complimentary ones provided in your stateroom.**

**Portable water bottle or thermos. We provide purified bottled water in your stateroom and restock it daily. We also provide bottled water during all of our excursions.**

**Shoeshine kit. We offer this service.**

**Beach towels. We provide towels at our pools and you may borrow one if you are going to the beach during your shore time.**

**Golf equipment. This can be rented should you plan on hitting the links during one of your port calls.”**

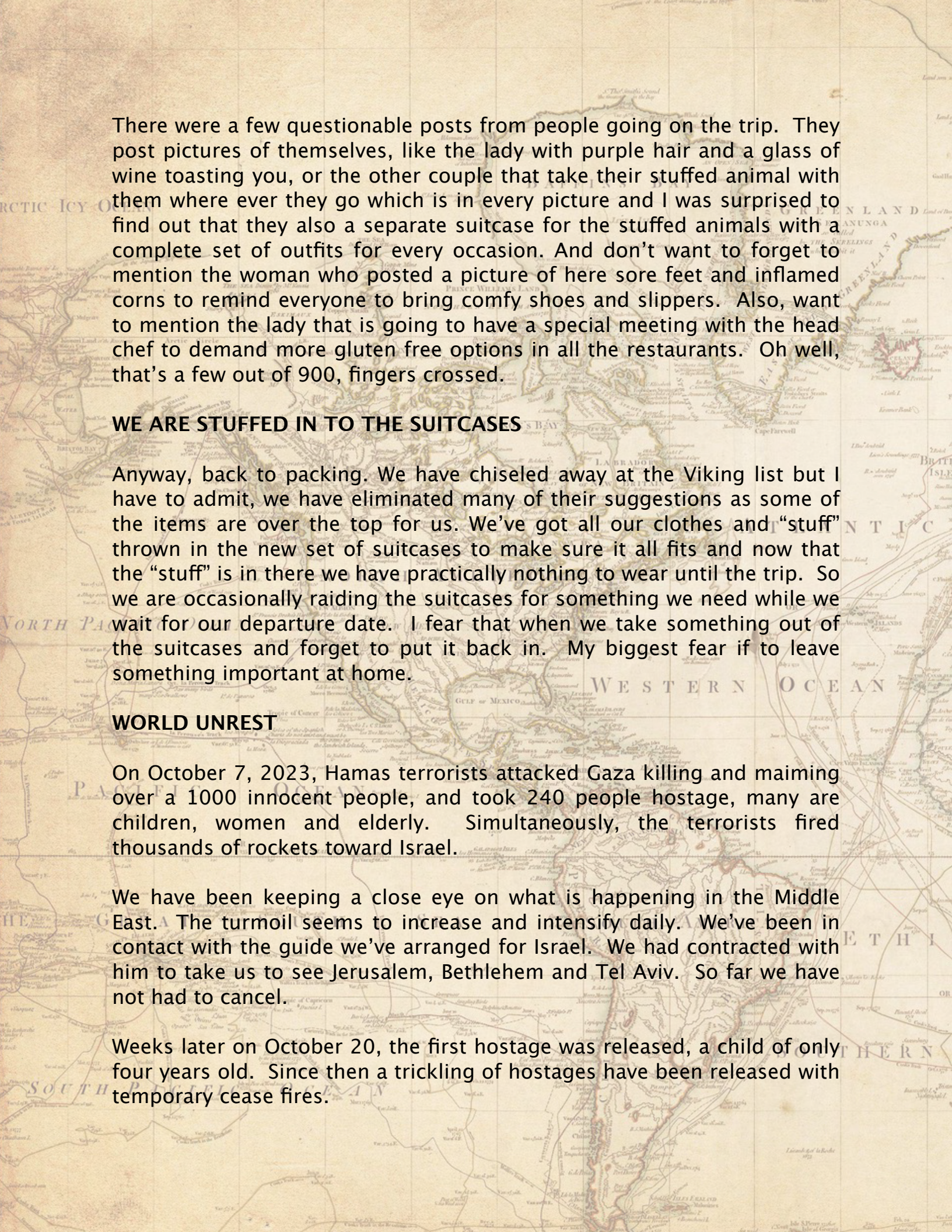
### **ONLY ONE THING GOOD FROM COVID**

Thank God for only one thing that evolved from Covid and that is...you now can order anything on-line and have it delivered to the house almost instantly. I think the Amazon, UPS and Fed Ex trucks have worn out the asphalt coming and going to and from our house. Tucson is not a shoppers dream so we had to do a lot of shopping online. As an example, it took 3 tries ordering and returning swimsuits, sports jackets, shoes, pants, etc. How would we have ever done this without this new way of shopping?

### **FACEBOOK GROUPS**

Another new thing was the Viking cruiser Facebook Groups. I began to wonder about other things Viking didn't include on their list. What about clothes hangers, magnified lighted mirror? We soon learned that some of these questions could be answered on Viking Facebook groups by people who have done this before. We joined a couple of groups just to see what we could learn. For instance you can find out things, simple things, that will come in handy, like getting some magnetic hooks, and a fold up laundry hamper. Some Groups are already forming groups to play bridge and other card games. It's a bit much for me as I booked this trip to see places not join a bunch of social groups for get-togethers and parties but I guess there are several long days at sea and who knows what might sound like fun then?





There were a few questionable posts from people going on the trip. They post pictures of themselves, like the lady with purple hair and a glass of wine toasting you, or the other couple that take their stuffed animal with them where ever they go which is in every picture and I was surprised to find out that they also a separate suitcase for the stuffed animals with a complete set of outfits for every occasion. And don't want to forget to mention the woman who posted a picture of here sore feet and inflamed corns to remind everyone to bring comfy shoes and slippers. Also, want to mention the lady that is going to have a special meeting with the head chef to demand more gluten free options in all the restaurants. Oh well, that's a few out of 900, fingers crossed.

### **WE ARE STUFFED IN TO THE SUITCASES**

Anyway, back to packing. We have chiseled away at the Viking list but I have to admit, we have eliminated many of their suggestions as some of the items are over the top for us. We've got all our clothes and "stuff" thrown in the new set of suitcases to make sure it all fits and now that the "stuff" is in there we have practically nothing to wear until the trip. So we are occasionally raiding the suitcases for something we need while we wait for our departure date. I fear that when we take something out of the suitcases and forget to put it back in. My biggest fear if to leave something important at home.

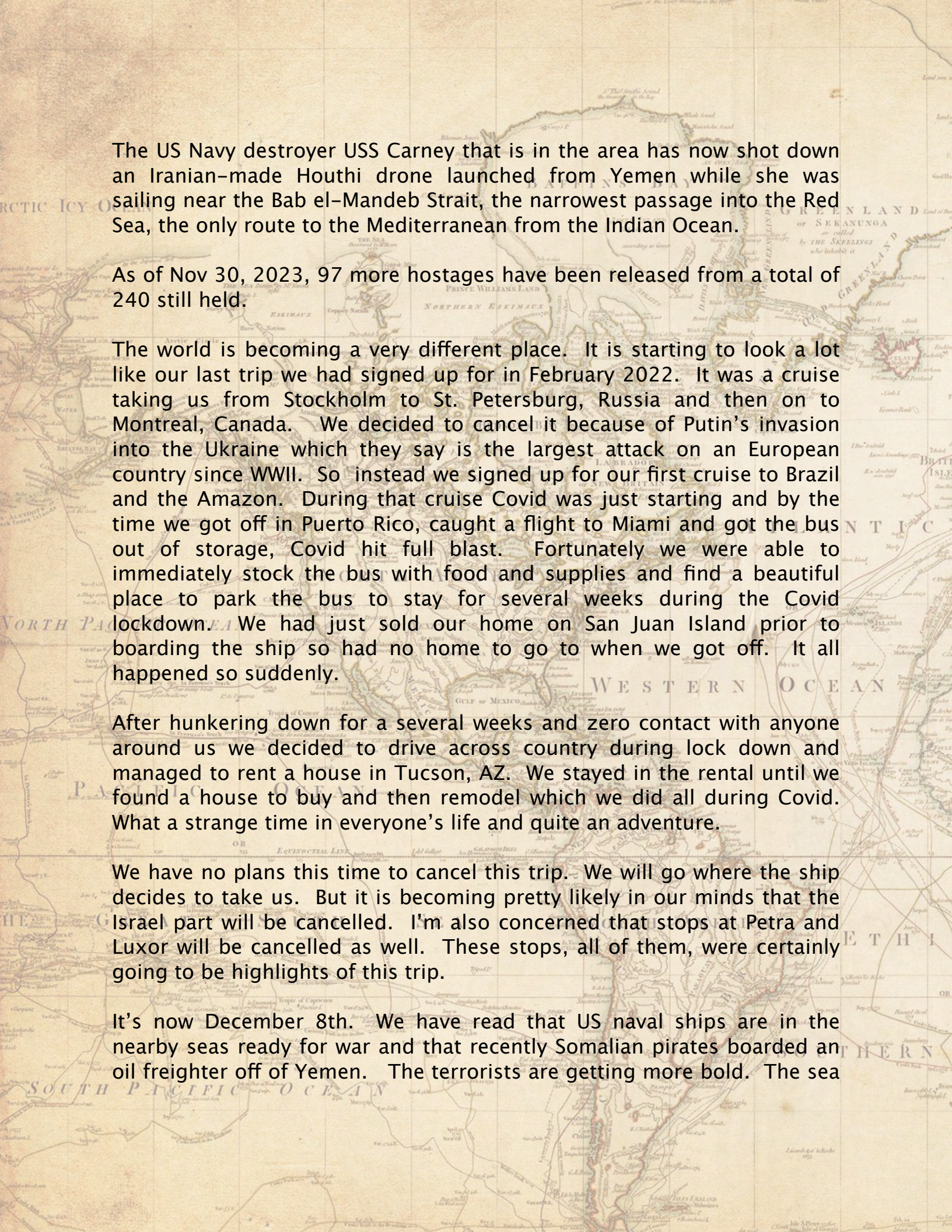
### **WORLD UNREST**

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists attacked Gaza killing and maiming over a 1000 innocent people, and took 240 people hostage, many are children, women and elderly. Simultaneously, the terrorists fired thousands of rockets toward Israel.

We have been keeping a close eye on what is happening in the Middle East. The turmoil seems to increase and intensify daily. We've been in contact with the guide we've arranged for Israel. We had contracted with him to take us to see Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Tel Aviv. So far we have not had to cancel.

Weeks later on October 20, the first hostage was released, a child of only four years old. Since then a trickling of hostages have been released with temporary cease fires.





The US Navy destroyer USS Carney that is in the area has now shot down an Iranian-made Houthi drone launched from Yemen while she was sailing near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the narrowest passage into the Red Sea, the only route to the Mediterranean from the Indian Ocean.

As of Nov 30, 2023, 97 more hostages have been released from a total of 240 still held.

The world is becoming a very different place. It is starting to look a lot like our last trip we had signed up for in February 2022. It was a cruise taking us from Stockholm to St. Petersburg, Russia and then on to Montreal, Canada. We decided to cancel it because of Putin's invasion into the Ukraine which they say is the largest attack on an European country since WWII. So instead we signed up for our first cruise to Brazil and the Amazon. During that cruise Covid was just starting and by the time we got off in Puerto Rico, caught a flight to Miami and got the bus out of storage, Covid hit full blast. Fortunately we were able to immediately stock the bus with food and supplies and find a beautiful place to park the bus to stay for several weeks during the Covid lockdown. We had just sold our home on San Juan Island prior to boarding the ship so had no home to go to when we got off. It all happened so suddenly.

After hunkering down for a several weeks and zero contact with anyone around us we decided to drive across country lock down and managed to rent a house in Tucson, AZ. We stayed in the rental until we found a house to buy and then remodel which we did all during Covid. What a strange time in everyone's life and quite an adventure.

We have no plans this time to cancel this trip. We will go where the ship decides to take us. But it is becoming pretty likely in our minds that the Israel part will be cancelled. I'm also concerned that stops at Petra and Luxor will be cancelled as well. These stops, all of them, were certainly going to be highlights of this trip.

It's now December 8th. We have read that US naval ships are in the nearby seas ready for war and that recently Somalian pirates boarded an oil freighter off of Yemen. The terrorists are getting more bold. The sea



passages past Yemen and the Red Sea will be the most critical as it is the narrowest point of passage through the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

## ITINERARY CHANGE

Not surprisingly, Viking has sent us a notice that our stop has been cancelled to Haifa. So we had to cancel our time with the guide we made arrangements with. It was sad as I've always wanted to see that area of the world but more sad to think about what the people are going through. Viking has made up the stop by substituting two stops in Greece: Crete and Kalamata.

We are still now after Christmas day watching the news closely. The activity has increased on the Red Sea as the Houthis are now firing rockets at cargo ships passing through the narrow part of the Red Sea between Yemen and Somalia. Already many shipping companies are cancelling their routes through the Red Sea which forces them to take the longer route south around Africa.

I now wonder if our stops to Petra and Egypt will be cancelled? Keep you posted.

## COUNTRIES AND PLACES IN ORDER THAT WE WILL VISIT:

Now it's a waiting game until departure date. We now just spend time contemplating our stops, keep a watch on the news and how it might effect our route, and continue to do more research on places we will visit. In the meantime we are getting very excited....it seems like the time is moving too slowly as we can't wait....**here are the present list of stops:**

- Oahu, Hawaiian Islands
- Kauai, Hawaiian Islands
- Bora Bora, French Polynesia
- Mo'orea, French Polynesia
- Tahiti, French Polynesia
- Bay of Islands, New Zealand
- Auckland, New Zealand – 3 days
- Rotorua, New Zealand
- Napier, New Zealand
- Wellington, New Zealand





Nelson, New Zealand  
Tasmania, Australia  
Phillip Island, Australia  
Melbourne, Australia  
Sydney, Australia  
Mooloolaba, Australia  
Whitsunday Islands, Australia  
Cairns, Australia  
Thursday Island, Australia  
Komodo National Park, Indonesia  
Bali, Indonesia  
Java, Indonesia  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – 3 days  
Koh Samui, Thailand  
Singapore – 2 days  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Langkawi, Malaysia  
George Town, Malaysia  
Phuket, Thailand  
Colombo, Sri Lanka – 3 days  
Cochin, India  
Goa, India  
Mumbai, India – 3 days  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
Aqaba (Petra) – Jordan  
Luxor, Egypt  
Haifa, Israel – 2 days **Cancelled**  
Crete, Greece – **Added**  
Kalamata, Greece – **Added**  
Rhodes, Greece  
Ephesus, Turkey  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Athens, Greece  
Sicily, Italy  
Naples, Italy  
Rome, Italy  
Monte Carlo, Monaco  
Barcelona, Spain  
Murcia, Spain  
Lisbon, Portugal



Honfleur, France  
Rouen, France  
Dover, England  
Greenwich, London, England

As it gets closer to departure now (less than two weeks), Viking is having our two big suitcases picked up at the house tomorrow. They are sitting in the dining room tagged and waiting. They remind me of Larry and I as we wait, fat, stuffed and anxious. They weigh a ton each so very relieved that we don't have to manage them ourselves. I keep wondering if everyone else's bags weigh as much as ours, as the ship might surely sink! Viking will take them to the ship where they will be waiting for us in our stateroom when we board. That in itself is a life saver for us.

### DECEMBER 28, 2023 – STILL IN TUCSON

Viking has picked up our large bags and they are on their way to Long Beach to be stored and then put aboard **Viking Sky** when it arrives on January 5th.

By now, **Sky** has transited the Panama Canal now and just now is headed to the port of Puntarenas, Costa Rica. We heard some rumblings from the passengers on Facebook that some were upset because one of the ship's stops had been eliminated. As far as we could tell from their cryptic posts is that it took longer to clean the underside of the boat in the canal than anticipated and therefore they would have to skip a stop. The reason for this hull cleaning we assume is because New Zealand has very strict rules about ships coming into their waters with invasive organisms attached to the underside of the ships.

In fact, last year, **Viking Orion** arrived in Sydney on Jan 4th and was forced to change itineraries after New Zealand authorities found "biofouling" on its haul. **Orion** was not the only one, **Regent Seven Seas Explorer** and **Coral Princess** also had to have hull work done to abide by NZ's tough laws which caused them delays and cancellations of port stops and unhappy passengers.

**Orion** issued this report "Following the exterior cleaning of a limited amount of standard marine growth (commonly known as marine biofouling or algae) from the ship's hull." The ship missed several ports



on their itinerary due to having to clean the hull. They provided their guests on board with a voucher valued at 100% of what they paid to Viking.

Apparently this has happened to several cruise ships. Those in charge contend that organic build-up on ship hulls including bacteria, plankton, sea grasses, mussels and barnacles can enable “stowaway” species to reach Australia. “If they make it to our reefs, they might decimate the environment and cause some serious issues.”

But at the moment it looks like **Sky** is still on schedule so we will wait and see.

In the meantime, our friends are on the new **Emerald Princess** which was in the canal same time **Sky** was. We may pass each other (our friends) as both ships are due to arrive in Long Beach on the same day or to close.

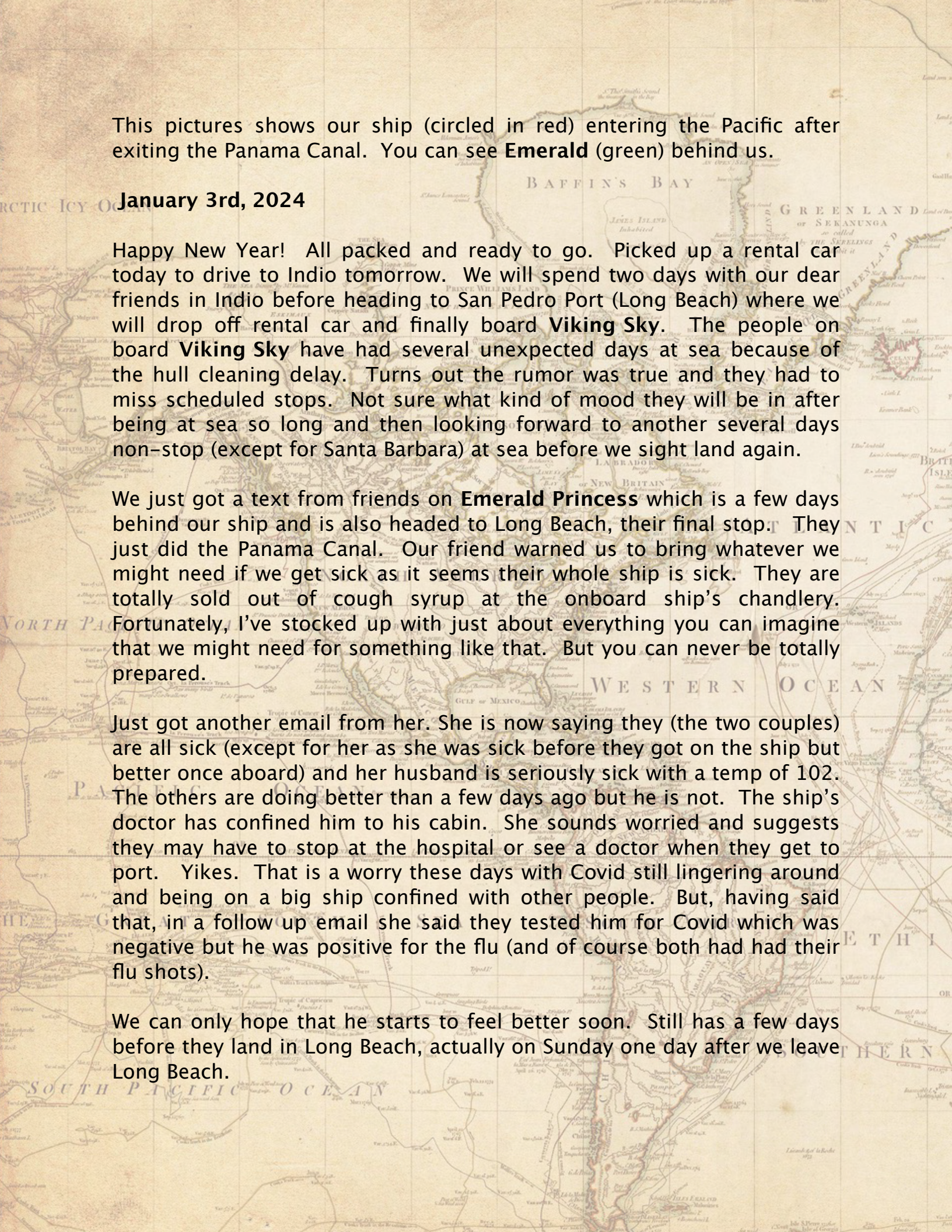
The screenshot shows the CruiseMapper website interface. At the top, there are social media icons and a search bar. The main header features the CruiseMapper logo and a search icon. Below the header, there is a section for the Viking Sky cruise ship, including a photo of the ship and a button to view the route. The current position of the ship is displayed as 7.93558 N / -79.45187 W, en route to CABO SAN LUCAS. The itinerary is shown as a one-way trip from Fort Lauderdale to Los Angeles, starting on December 20, 2023, and ending on January 6, 2024, with a duration of 17 days. A table lists the departure and arrival dates and the corresponding ports of call.

Viking Sky current position is at coordinates 7.93558 N / -79.45187 W en route to CABO SAN LUCAS

**One-way from Fort Lauderdale to Los Angeles**  
📅 20 Dec, 2023 - 06 Jan, 2024 (17 days)

Departure / Arrival	Port of Call
📅 20 Dec	🇺🇸 Fort Lauderdale
📍 22 Dec	🇲🇽 Cozumel
📍 25 Dec	🇨🇴 Cartagena Colombia
📍 26 Dec	🇵🇦 Panama Canal
📍 27 Dec	🇵🇦 Panama City
📍 29 Dec	🇵🇦 Puntarenas
📍 03 Jan	🇲🇽 Cabo San Lucas
📅 06 Jan	🇺🇸 Los Angeles





This picture shows our ship (circled in red) entering the Pacific after exiting the Panama Canal. You can see **Emerald** (green) behind us.

**January 3rd, 2024**

Happy New Year! All packed and ready to go. Picked up a rental car today to drive to Indio tomorrow. We will spend two days with our dear friends in Indio before heading to San Pedro Port (Long Beach) where we will drop off rental car and finally board **Viking Sky**. The people on board **Viking Sky** have had several unexpected days at sea because of the hull cleaning delay. Turns out the rumor was true and they had to miss scheduled stops. Not sure what kind of mood they will be in after being at sea so long and then looking forward to another several days non-stop (except for Santa Barbara) at sea before we sight land again.

We just got a text from friends on **Emerald Princess** which is a few days behind our ship and is also headed to Long Beach, their final stop. They just did the Panama Canal. Our friend warned us to bring whatever we might need if we get sick as it seems their whole ship is sick. They are totally sold out of cough syrup at the onboard ship's chandlery. Fortunately, I've stocked up with just about everything you can imagine that we might need for something like that. But you can never be totally prepared.

Just got another email from her. She is now saying they (the two couples) are all sick (except for her as she was sick before they got on the ship but better once aboard) and her husband is seriously sick with a temp of 102. The others are doing better than a few days ago but he is not. The ship's doctor has confined him to his cabin. She sounds worried and suggests they may have to stop at the hospital or see a doctor when they get to port. Yikes. That is a worry these days with Covid still lingering around and being on a big ship confined with other people. But, having said that, in a follow up email she said they tested him for Covid which was negative but he was positive for the flu (and of course both had had their flu shots).

We can only hope that he starts to feel better soon. Still has a few days before they land in Long Beach, actually on Sunday one day after we leave Long Beach.





Here's a pick of our ship, a lot smaller than the Emerald which our friends are on. They are docked somewhere in the Panama Canal. That black tender probably is the diving company that is cleaning their hull.

Well, Larry is going to post this log. Next log, we should be on the boat and on our way.....