

CINDY WRIGHT'S AFRICAN CRUISE

ITINERARY

TUE 10OCT23 Sail from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, US 4:00pm
WED 18OCT23 Funchal (Madeira), Portugal 8:00am 5:00pm
THU 19OCT23 Arrecife, Lanzarote, Canary Islands 11:00am 6:00pm
FRI 20OCT23 Agadir, Morocco 7:00am 1:00pm
SAT 21OCT23 Casablanca, Morocco 7:00am 9:00pm
TUE 24OCT23 La Goulette (Tunis), Tunisia 7:00am 5:00pm
THU 26OCT23 Souda (Chania), Greece 11:00am 10:00pm
SAT 28OCT23 Limassol, Cyprus 7:00am 5:00pm
MON 30OCT23 Enter Suez Canal at Port Said
MON 30OCT23 Transit the Suez Canal Cruising Only
MON 30OCT23 Exit Suez Canal at Suez Cruising Only
TUE 31OCT23 Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt 7:00am 5:00pm
WED 01NOV23 Aqaba (for Petra), Jordan Overnight 7:00am
THU 02NOV23 Aqaba (for Petra), Jordan 5:00pm
FRI 03NOV23 Safaga, Egypt 8:00am 11:59pm
THU 09NOV23 Crossing the Equator
FRI 10NOV23 Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles Overnight 4:00pm
SAT 11NOV23 Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles 5:00pm
TUE 14NOV23 Zanzibar, Tanzania Overnight 8:00am
WED 15NOV23 Zanzibar, Tanzania 5:00pm
FRI 17NOV23 Mamoudzou, Mayotte 8:00am 5:00pm
SAT 18NOV23 Andoany (Hell-Ville), Nosy-Be, Mada 7:00am 3:00pm
TUE 21NOV23 Maputo, Mozambique 8:00am 4:00pm
WED 22NOV23 Durban, South Africa 11:00am 8:00pm
SAT 25NOV23 Cape Town, South Africa Overnight 8:00am
SUN 26NOV23 Cape Town, South Africa 11:00pm
TUE 28NOV23 Luderitz, Namibia 8:00am 5:00pm
WED 29NOV23 Walvis Bay, Namibia 10:00am 11:00pm
SAT 02DEC23 Luanda, Angola 7:00am 5:00pm

MON 04DEC23 Crossing the Equator Cruising Only

WED 06DEC23 Takoradi, Ghana 8:00am 5:00pm

THU 07DEC23 Abidjan, Ivory Coast 8:00am 5:00pm

SUN 10DEC23 Banjul, Gambia 8:00am 5:00pm

MON 11DEC23 Dakar, Senegal 8:00am 5:00pm

WED 13DEC23 Mindelo, Cape Verde 8:00am 5:00pm

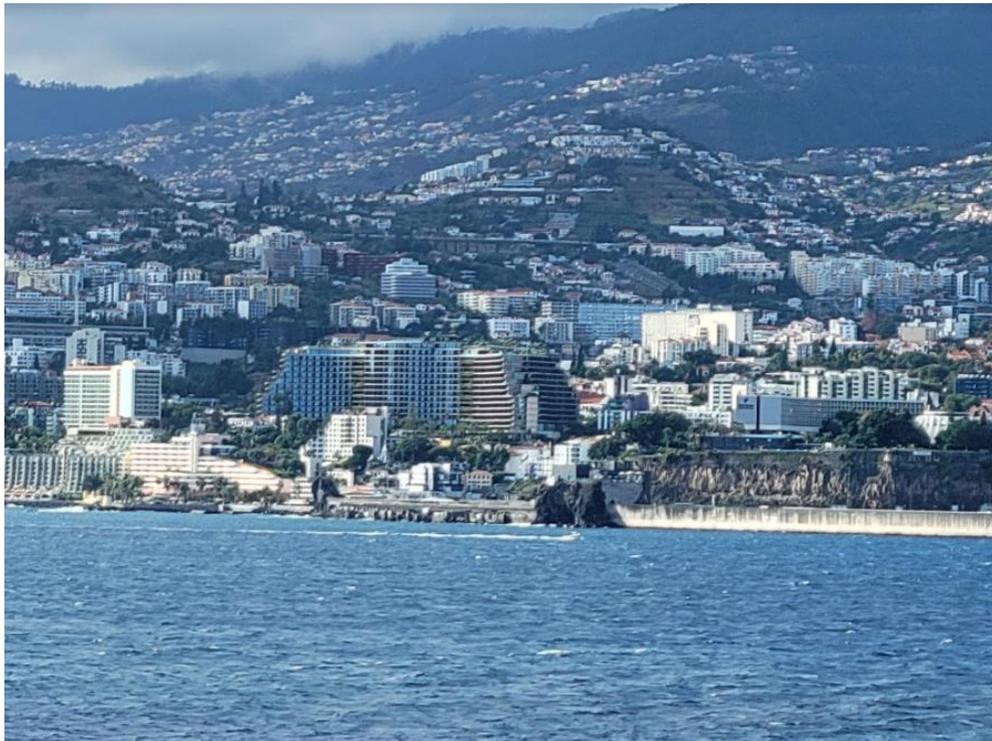
TUE 19DEC23 San Juan, Puerto Rico 8:00am 11:00pm

FRI 22DEC23 Debark Ship Fort Lauderdale, Florida, US 7:00am

DOCUMENTARY AND PICTURES

Hello everyone!

WED 18OCT23 Funchal (Madeira), Portugal 8:00am 5:00pm



THU 19OCT23 Arrecife, Lanzarote, Canary Islands 11:00am 6:00pm

- This is Lanzarote, Canary Island. It is COMPLETELY a volcanic rock island and this is how they have to grow grape vines. So strange because they are completely dependent on condensation for moisture as it rains only 15 days a year. The people depend on a salinization process for their drinking/bathing water. The white building in the background is a winery. All buildings on the entire island are white in order to preserve the authenticity of the country and because it is cooler-no air conditioning or heating of homes is necessary. It is very windy so the rock walls protect the plants.





October 30, 2023

Hi there Everyone,

Well, since my last email to everyone we went to two ports in Morocco-Agadir and Casablanca. I wasn't enamored with Casablanca but I loved seeing the marketplace in Agadir and will be sending you pictures of this. I've never seen anything like it-I've never seen so many different kinds of dates in my life.

We then entered into the Mediterranean Sea through the Strait of Gibraltar and saw the actual "Rock of Gibraltar". No one even tried to sell us any insurance! LOL! It was very overcast but I will send you the best picture I have. (no picture submitted)

TUE 24OCT23 La Goulette (Tunis), Tunisia 7:00am 5:00pm

We then traveled to the Northern country of Africa called Tunisia and the port was in a city called La Goulette which is right next to the Capital called Tunis. This is where we saw Carthage and the Roman Ruins and the Roman Baths.

THU 26OCT23 Souda (Chania), Greece 11:00am 10:00pm

Then we went to the island of Crete in Greece. The port is in a town called Chania. Not pronounced Chainia but Highnea and you have to pass air through your throat when you say it-like a guttural sound. I've taken excursions at each port so far. I loved Crete.



SAT 28OCT23 Limassol, Cyprus 7:00am 5:00pm

Next we went to Cyprus which is an independent island south of Turkey. The port is in a town called Limassol. The Southern part is Greek and the Northern third is Turkish. I took a 4 x 4 jeep excursion which will be my last 4 x 4 jeep excursion.



MON 30OCT23 Transit the Suez Canal Cruising Only

Today we are passing through the Suez Canal. We have had our stop in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt as well as our stop in Aqaba, Jordan cancelled because they are so close to the Gaza Strip. We are very sad because one of the main two places we wanted to go was to Petra in Jordan. Everyone on the ship is disappointed.









We now have one stop in Safaga, Egypt tomorrow and then four sea days in a row. I will be sending separate emails with pictures.

We have met three couples that we meet almost every night in one of the bars for Happy Hour and then eat dinner together in the dining room most nights which takes at least two hours! Randy and I actually prefer the Lido deck where you can walk around to different stations and select your food buffet style but we love visiting with these new friends.

I miss all of you!



11/27/23

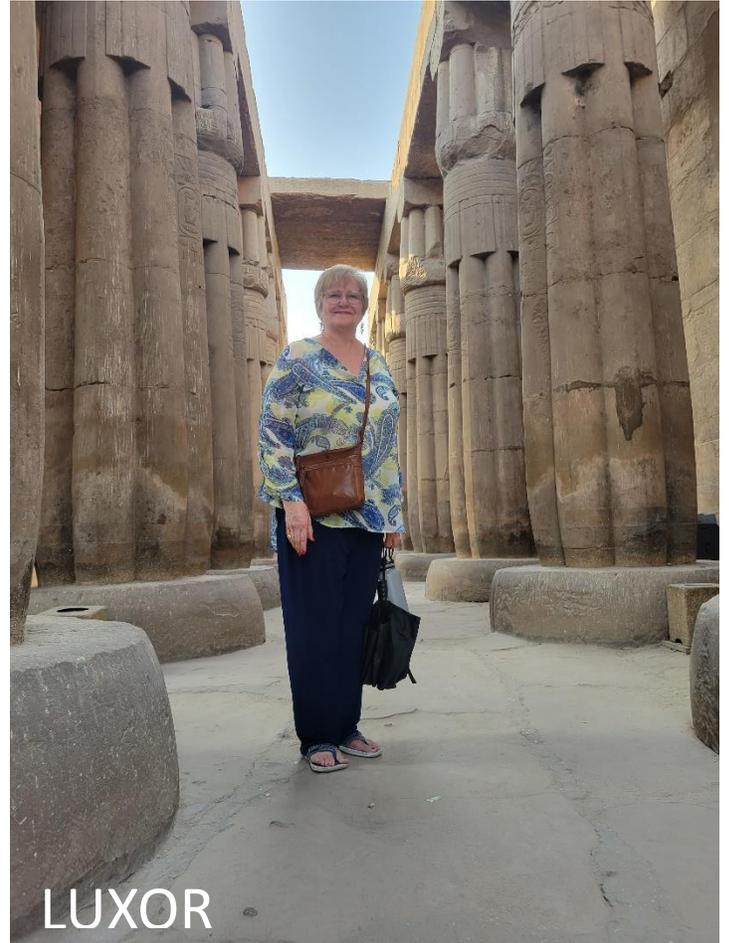
Greetings to all my friends back home,

Well, it's been a few weeks since I've sent my last update, so I am way overdue. Since my last email I have traveled down the Eastern coast of Africa. After exiting the Suez Canal we spent one day in Safaga, Egypt where we spent one very long grueling day visiting Luxor.

Luxor is a city on the east bank of the Nile River in southern Egypt. It's on the site of ancient Thebes, the pharaohs' capital at the height of their power, during the 16th–11th centuries B.C. Today's city surrounds 2 huge, surviving ancient monuments: graceful Luxor Temple and Karnak Temple, a mile north. The royal tombs of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens are on the river's west bank.



LUXOR



From there we traveled to the Seychelles in Victoria, Mahe. Victoria, on Mahé Island, is the capital city of the Seychelles archipelago in the Indian Ocean. Seychelles National Botanical Gardens showcases endemic palms and orchids, as well as giant tortoises and fruit bats. Victoria was quite beautiful, and I will be sending pictures of Luxor as well as Victoria.



Seychelles



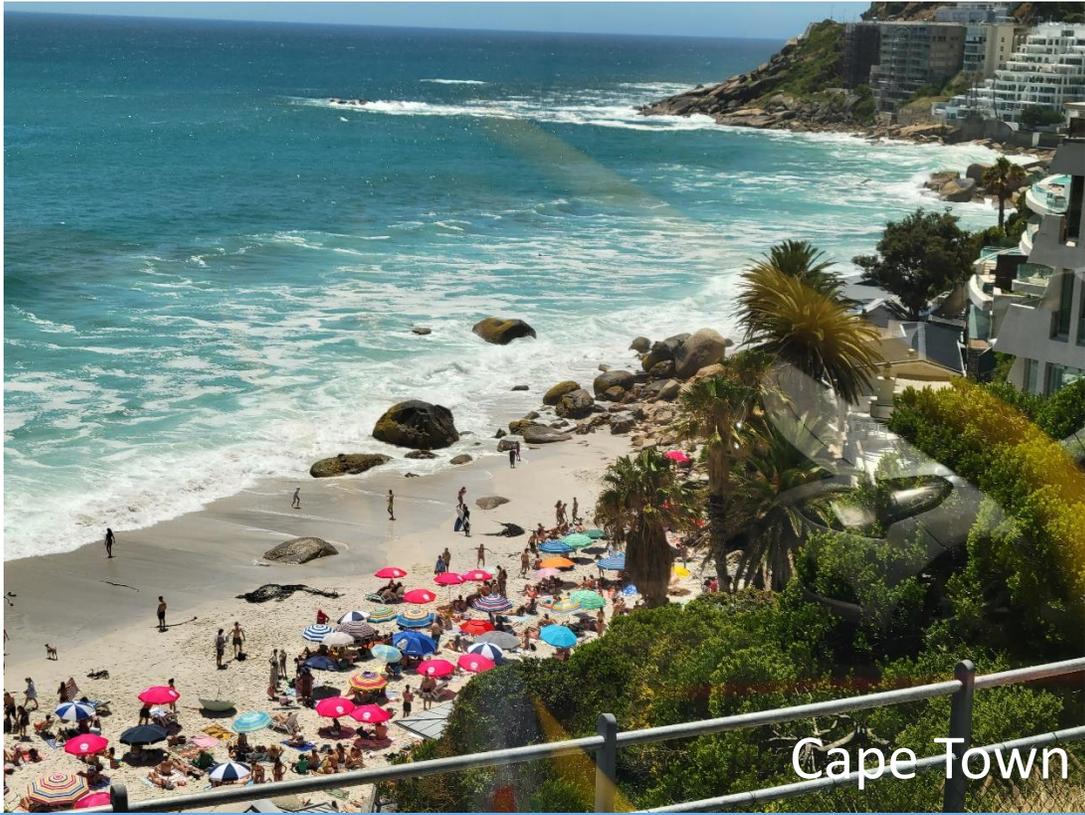
Seychelles



Seychelles

Next, we went to Zanzibar, Tanzania, Mamoudzou, Mayotte, Andoany, Nosy-Be, Madagascar, Maputo, Mozambique, Durban, South Africa and Cape Town, South Africa. I finally found my vibe in Cape Town. It is an unbelievable town-so beautiful! All the towns after the Suez Canal have been miserably hot. South Africa has been very pleasant temperatures in the 70's and beautiful.





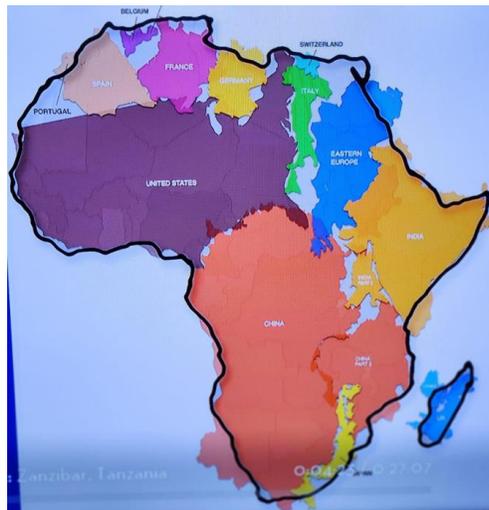
Cape Town



Cape Town



We are now traveling up the West Coast and I've been told that these countries are not very spectacular, but we shall see.



My classes continue to go well. Several of my players got off the ship in Cape Town so I started my beginner lessons from the beginning again. I have encouraged my beginners to join the

intermediate class and to begin playing in the duplicate game in the afternoon. I am working very hard actually. I teach classes from 10-12 on sea days and then run my game from 1:30-3:45ish. There are also preparations for the lessons as I set up hands for almost every class ahead of time. I can never attend any other lecture or port talk because they all take place while I am working.

I have grown disenchanted with the food. I dislike all the desserts except for the ice cream. I don't like their cookies which seem to be everyone's favorite. I actually miss my own brownies and my own cookies. Ha Ha!!! I guess these are good things. Breakfast and lunch are probably the best meals. Dinners are often very strange. This cruise is quite long and I'm definitely homesick.

I am really looking forward to getting back home again. I think I prefer cruises closer to a month in length. I am scheduled for two more in 2024. One in February to the Amazon and one in July. They are 28 and 35 days.

Four of my good friends on the ship got off in Cape Town so it might not be as much fun from here on out. The only time I get to play bridge is with this one awful player that no one else wants to play with. He is a very nice man, but it is very hard to play as well as direct with so many folks that are not used to playing in duplicate games. I've got them all trained on the Bridgemates now, but there are no hand records because we shuffle and deal. UGH! Occasionally someone ends up with 14 cards and no one can ever remember their hand to fix it.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Our meal here was not at all very traditional. There was turkey but nothing like our homemade traditional Thanksgiving meal back home. I can hardly wait to get home and cook Christmas dinner. I also wish all of you a joyous Christmas season.

Thank you to Chris, Martha and Peter for keeping bridge very much alive in Winston-Salem. Thanks to all of you for continuing to support bridge face to face. I really miss all of you and although everyone here is incredibly supportive of me and extremely complimentary, I really do miss my very good friends back home and anxiously look forward to returning to my games. The social aspect of bridge is so very important, and I am not only missing all of you but I am deeply saddened by the fact that so many of our friends no longer find that bond of playing in person.

I look forward to see you soon. Take care and Merry Christmas,

Cindy

12/12/23

I'M ON MY WAY HOME NOW!

Happy Holidays Everyone,

Well, I must admit I am extremely homesick and a bit tired of cruising around Africa. I am looking forward to Cape Verde which is an island to the West of the African continent. It is African but has more Portuguese influence and is supposedly very colorful and vibrant. It has truly been most depressing since leaving Cape Town, South Africa because of the poverty on the Western side of Africa. Here are pictures of Cape Verde.









These dots are painted oil drum lids.



I will then be five days at sea heading home and stop one day in Puerto Rico and then an additional two days at sea before arriving in Fort Lauderdale on Dec. 22. We will then have to fly to Charlotte and then drive home so we will be most exhausted whenever we do get home.

I will be unpacking and then preparing to host Christmas dinner on the 26th/27th for my family of 14 so I have a lot of grocery shopping to do. I plan on running my game on Dec. 29th so I am anxious to see everyone that day. I will be running around to both South Fork and Georgia Taylor to collect all my bridge equipment. It will just be a pairs game since I won't have time to organize a team game even though it is the fifth Friday of the month.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday party on the 16th. I hate to miss it. I also hope you all have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANEKKUH, OR whatever other holiday you may celebrate.

I'M EXCITED TO SEE YOU VERY SOON!

CINDY