

Cruise feedback

Rating the cruise-conference

Percentage of respondents rating it excellent, very good or good

PRE-CRUISE	the Unlock the Past cruise web site?	96%
	Clean Cruising booking/communication?	93%
GENERAL PACIFIC ARIA CRUISE EXPERIENCE	overall	90%
	staff generally — room and meal service?	87%
	activities & entertainment?	76%
	meals	77%
UNLOCK THE PAST ONBOARD CONFERENCE	Aria as a conference venue?	93%
	conference organisation overall	100%
	speakers and presentations overall	100%
CRUISE-CONFERENCE OVERALL AS VALUE FOR MONEY		97%

How was the Research Help Zone?

- ◇ very useful — 29%
- ◇ moderately useful — 36%
- ◇ not useful — 4%
- ◇ didn't use — 32%

Was your research experience and knowledge enhanced by the cruise?

- ◇ considerably — 13%
- ◇ quite bit — 53%
- ◇ moderately — 27%
- ◇ not much — 7%

Did you connect with anyone with common research interests on the cruise?

- ◇ yes — 45%
- ◇ no — 55%

Of the 34 talks - how many did you attend?

- ◇ 6-10 3%
- ◇ 11-15 3%
- ◇ 16-20 23%
- ◇ 21-25 17%
- ◇ 26-30 23%
- ◇ 31-34 30%

General comments

PRE- CRUISE

- ◇ Clean Cruising very helpful. UTP organisation very helpful. Loved the opportunity to share research interests and my father's war details. Helped with bonding with some others at the conference.
- ◇ Had excellent service from Clean Cruising. Information on the web site was good, especially as the programme developed.

PACIFIC ARIA — CRUISE GENERALLY

- ◇ I am not a cruise person really but found the genealogy activities while at sea enabled me to enjoy these days where otherwise I would be looking at the water.
- ◇ The different restaurant choices were great.
- ◇ Two of my past Unlock the Past cruises had been on Voyager of the Seas which was superior in all aspects.
- ◇ Food was very disappointing.
- ◇ Did not enjoy the Pantry experience, chaotic service, lack of seating, no tray to carry food/drink items.
- ◇ Restaurant meals were quite good. However, service was a little chaotic. The Pantry meals were not as good.
- ◇ It was our first cruise and whilst we enjoyed the conference and island visits, we would not choose to go on a cruise ship like the Pacific Aria again.
- ◇ Found the meals a bit ordinary ... the staff were excellent though, especially the cabin stewards.
- ◇ Not up to usual P&O standards.
- ◇ Was very impressed with the decor around the ship with many comfortable nooks to sit and watch the ocean or read a book.

CRUISE-CONFERENCE

- ◇ I would attend another genealogy cruise.
- ◇ Can't fault the program. It would be interesting to have a few more sessions on special topics from the participants about their own special interest research. Might find a few interesting ones about places or names, I thought that this was an idea for this conference.
- ◇ Great experience.
- ◇ Just having all the lectures in the one room so avoiding having to make a choice worked very smoothly.
- ◇ More research help zones - they booked out too quickly, strategy for not being able to go ashore due to bad weather - even if just help zones.
- ◇ There was an over emphasis on sources for genealogy/ family history in place of time spent on how to establish the quality of specific sources, various research skills and processes, the production of family history in various ways (online, audio/visual/print).
- ◇ Dr Tom Lewis made it a real success for me. It would have been a bit flat without him. Also, the networking was of value to me.

- ◇ I would have liked to have a handout with the information the speaker was going to cover in the talk.-I did make notes and I have looked at most of the websites with the speakers notes but because such a huge range of information was covered I needed to get a more 'concrete' learning tool at the time of the talk.
- ◇ The bookshop and opportunity ... added interest to the conference.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

unsurprisingly many nominated Milne Bay and Rabaul as highlights. Here are some expanded and other comments:

- ◇ All were interesting and different.
- ◇ Milne Bay battlefields great, Rabaul history and military trip and glass bottom trip on Conflict Island.
- ◇ All were good but Conflict Islands - amazing.
- ◇ Milne Bay Village Tour.
- ◇ The war tours and Conflict Island was very special.
- ◇ ... [locals] guiding us was very moving and memorable as was their native markets and dancing. Conflict Island was a scenic contrast and again the native guide was exceptionally informative.
- ◇ all of them!
- ◇ Rabaul volcano tour; Alotau war tour; Conflict Is turtle recovery.
- ◇ Rabaul was very interesting to see the volcanos also the war history.
- ◇ Milne Bay war tour and volcanic tour on Rabaul.
- ◇ I did a small luxury cruise of PNG a few years ago. fortunately. I didn't really find any of the shore excursions exciting.
- ◇ The Milne Bay local experience visit to village. The driver guide had excellent knowledge of this area. Very friendly and helpful.
- ◇ Rabaul visit to cemetery excellent and ceremony very appropriate. Japanese tunnel and local market interesting.
- ◇ I found the historical war sites tour of Rabaul the most interesting and emotional. I was very moved when visiting the War Graves cemetery. The only other place I visited was the Conflict Islands where I only stayed for about an hour. I found the sand was very hard to walk on and, as I wasn't going swimming or snorkeling, there was not much of interest.
- ◇ We enjoyed all the island visits and activities.
- ◇ All the excursions were great. The areas we visited really made the cruise for us as we would not have experienced them otherwise.
- ◇ Rabaul the two tours were very good with the culture and history.

- ◇ Visit to war memorial.
- ◇ Battle of Milne Bay - Rabaul Volcano - Conflict Island walking tour and also glass-bottom boat tour.

FINAL COMMENTS

- ◇ A great thankyou to all the dedicated organisers.
- ◇ Loved the programme. It is a joy to be with folks who are similarly minded ...
- ◇ Hope to join you on another cruise.
- ◇ I thoroughly enjoyed the conference component of the cruise. I was disappointed in just 3 talks out of 34 ...
- ◇ I congratulate you on the choice of speakers and having the main theme relate to the area through which we were travelling.
- ◇ Thank you for a great experience, I enjoyed my third UTP cruise.
- ◇ I did enjoy the cruise. I felt like I was among friends and was able to meet new people, especially as I ate in the restaurant with different people each night. I also found other passengers were interested in what we were doing when wearing my UTP cruises T-shirt. I also appreciated that I wasn't locked into attending presentations which were of little interest to me. Finally, I was grateful for the extra monetary allowances we received and particularly for the allowance to buy the ebooks.
- ◇ Overall, I was very satisfied with the trip and felt I had a worthwhile experience and made some valuable connections. I would do it again as it is rather special to be cruising with like-minded people who all have a genuine interest in history. The (almost) daily lectures give us a lot to talk about. The cruise itinerary to PNG was a highlight as we got a lot out of the shore excursions and saw a part of the world that is really only accessible by ship. It would be nice next time to have a ship of a higher standard though (I guess we have been spoiled by our trip on the Celebrity Eclipse which was 5 star).
- ◇ Great experience all up. So much knowledge to take in and beautiful sights to see. Thank you everyone for your time and for sharing with us.
- ◇ The combination of cruise with conference offers a great "2-in-1" experience. For individuals, hard decisions needed to be made between attending desired conference presentations or participating in offered cruise ship activities. It was good that no presentations were held during shore excursions. I also appreciated the timing of the evening presentations to permit attendance at the later cruise ship theatre show, though sometimes, if presentations ran overtime, it was difficult to catch the start of these shows.