

Travel Poems



by
Marie Jose Temmink

**Travel Poems
#1**

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Marie Jose Temmink

May 2012

I flew from Long Beach, California to Auckland, New Zealand on February 27, 2012 and on to Sydney in Australia. There I boarded the Pacific Princess cruise ship and cruised to Venice Italy.

I visited Cairns Australia; Iwo Jima, Tokyo, and Hiroshima in Japan; Busan in South Korea; Shanghai; and Hong Kong in China; Ho Chi Min City in Vietnam; Bangkok and Phuket in Thailand; Singapore; Chennai and Mumbai in India; Manama in Bahrain; Dubai United Arab Emirates; Salalah in Oman; Agaba in Jordan; Safaga, Luxor, through the Suez Canal, and to Alexandria in Egypt.; Dubrovnik in Croatia; Koper in Slovenia; and Venice in Italy.

I flew from Venice to Amsterdam, The Netherlands and visited family in many different towns.

I flew back from Amsterdam to Los Angeles on May 6, 2012.

My poems are based on the experiences during this time, while I cruised alone for 60 days for the first time and after I was widowed for the second time. My poems relate the experiences I had.

In June, I cruised from San Francisco to Alaska with 9 family members and a friend to celebrate my granddaughter Ashley's high school graduation. Poems about this trip are also included.

Marie Jose Temmink

Dedication

To my beloved, departed husbands

John Temmink married 1963-1992

Frans Verschoor married 1999-2010

With both of whom I have traveled extensively.

Acknowledgement

This publication came about thanks to the encouragement by my family and extended family members and friends that have urged me to share my recent travel poems.

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12-13-2011

TRAVEL

This world was created by God,
Who expects us to enjoy it a lot.

From every corner and nook,
He created a different look.

For us to explore
And stay home no more,

But take a vacation
And experience his creation.

Admire what is out there
And get to understand cultures everywhere,

Because everything new
Expands your view.

It enriches your mind
And encourages one to be kind,

To understand what you have and can give,
So everyone on earth can live

A decent life from birth,
Until he or she dies on this earth.

Tourism promotes this I know,
I will do my part and often be on the go.

Marie Jose Temmink

01-05-2012

CRUISING

From Princess Cruise Line, I received an e-mail,
They wanted to know why I like to sail.

Well, that is easy to say,
For me, it is the only way

To travel the globe and have fun
Somewhere in the sun.

I always plan not to gain but lose,
On a short or extended cruise.

Of course that is not realistic,
But it does not make me pessimistic.

On board I can use everyday the gym,
And try to stay slim.

After I became a widow, I met a widower, and
instead of tying the knot in 1999 on land,
We planned the event on The Princess ship called
The Grand.

We invited 61 guests
And Princess did the rest.

Our children lived across the globe,
And they answered our hope

That on a ship, they would have time to get to know
each other
As sisters and brother.

**We celebrated our fifth anniversary with 32 guests
in 2004,**

On the same ship as before.

**And the tenth anniversary in 2009,
Was just as terrific and fine.**

**Again everyone dear,
Had a stateroom near.**

**We cruised through The Orient, Europe, Russia,
Bahamas, Panama, and Alaska**

**at each other's side,
Before my beloved husband died.**

**Now I hope it to be also fine
When I cruise alone for the first time.**

**I will soon be 60 days on the Pacific,
And expect it to be terrific.**

**To relax, explore, write and rest,
While again experiencing the best.**

**Cruising for me, I can say,
Has become the only way**

**To travel in comfort, style and fun,
Across the globe in the sun.**

**And in the future, I hope you will see
Me often on a Princess ship at sea.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-25-2012

Long Beach to Auckland, New Zealand

**At 6 pm, we left from Long Beach.
Daphne and Ashley drove me to LAX, which is with-
in easy reach.**

**The International Terminal, I directed her to,
Only to find out, I was leaving from Terminal two.**

**But no reason to balk,
As we had a short, healthy walk.**

**Check in was easy, but because I had a big heap,
The extra luggage was not cheap.**

**Then we realized that today we would become
thinner,
As there was no place to for us to eat dinner.**

**We opted for cake and coffee at Starbucks instead
of a meal;
But had it been available, dinner would have been a
better deal.**

**Daphne was on the phone for a long time,
To resolve a blackberry problem of mine;**

**But she could not finish. It was getting late,
And I needed to get to the gate.**

**And again I am being seen,
By someone thru a security machine.**

**I had to be at the gate by nine,
And a grumpy guard told us to move fast in a very
long line.**

**That only gave time for a quick hug and kiss and off
I went,
With a last wave around the bend.**

**I still had to wait for awhile,
And was lucky to change my seat to an aisle.**

**Air New Zealand's plane was big and clean,
More comfortable than some I have seen.**

**There were good food, blankets, and pillows to
soothe,
And the flight was very smooth.**

**With an empty seat next to me,
It was better than I had expected it to be.**

**In 11½ hours , on 02-27-2012, I will arrive in
Auckland for a new sight,
We jump a day ahead as we crossed the Interna-
tional date line during this flight.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-27-2012

Auckland, New Zealand to Sidney, Australia

It was a glorious sight,
To see the New Zealand morning light,

A cheese omelet with fruit to eat,
After I awoke in a somewhat comfortable seat.

Over the beach, onto rolling hills in green,
A picture perfect view I have seldom seen.

After landing, five hours I had to wait,
For the not yet open Sidney gate.

But in any case,
I got to watch many International travelers in this
place.

Decaf coffee with a blackberry and custard muffin
to enjoy,
They accepted American dollars, but not having
change seemed a ploy.

Security was called when
A sweeper found a strange looking pen.

**But it was reclaimed soon by a young man
Who was happy that he could write again.**

**Five hours to wait was a long time,
But it gave me plenty of time to rhyme.**

**I sent an SMS to Daphne and Ashley to let them
know I was safe,
A senior traveling alone but brave.**

**In three hours I will be
In Sidney Australia to sail out to sea.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-01-2012

SIDNEY TO CAIRNS

**For the last three days you were able to see
Me cruising from Sidney to Cairns at sea,**

**On board you might guess,
On the Pacific Princess.**

**With three people from Oregon I arrived late,
Just before they were ready to close the gate.**

**My stateroom was perfect mid ship,
And Omar had made sure I could eat and have a sip**

**And be merry,
While drinking chilled wine and eating a chocolate
covered berry.**

**My steward told me for sure,
For every inconvenience she had a cure.**

**Soon Carlos the Maître D called to greet,
And hopes this evening we will meet.**

**He was instructed by Omar, his boss, to look out
for me,
And keep me happy as can be.**

**Omar, a neighbor of Frans in Woodland Hills is an executive with this fleet
His wife Cindy has arranged our travels and takes care of our every need.**

**I unpacked and was settled soon like home,
While from my balcony I viewed the Sidney Opera Dome.**

**The emergency drill I attended this time,
Just in case our Captain would also drink wine.**

**Like the one of a Costa cruise,
That gained fame for the ship he was about to lose.**

**Dinner was on deck while we sailed away,
Out of the Sidney Bay.**

**A robe, slippers and chocolates on my bed,
For this lifestyle, there is something to be said.**

**I tried Zumba with zest,
But it was too painful for my radiated breast.**

**But what the heck,
I can walk daily on deck.**

**My dining table partners are fine,
I can write, rhyme and pay bills online.**

**500 minutes of free internet 'til Singapore,
But I am sure I will use a lot more.**

**The first day I felt a bit uneasy,
As my stomach was a bit queasy.**

**There are no interruptions while I write,
While I enjoy from my balcony this beautiful sight.**

**A surprise disc in my computer case,
Brought tears down my face,**

**As family and friends let me know,
They love me and are happy I am on the go.**

**The food is superb, activities galore,
Plenty of reasons to cruise a lot more.**

**Elegant ship and a friendly staff,
What more to enjoy could I have.**

**First gala evening since Frans is gone,
During which they played our favorite song.**

**I am not alone cruising the barrier reef,
He is with me I truly believe.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-02-2012

ARRIVAL IN CAIRNS

**Tropical air,
Birds everywhere.**

**The serenity is mesmerizing.
This place must be to everyone's liking.**

**Private Yachts are lined up.
Probably, all owners are fans of the Australian cup.**

**On my balcony I feel this vibe
That I cannot describe.**

**Sailing along,
On a ship I think I belong,**

**In a private cabin with people around me -
No reason to be lonely.**

**And in my vivid memory,
Frans is still with me.**

**And for every future cruise or ride,
I know he will remain to be my steady guide.**

**I now must go to eat
Before the land tour in this tropical heat.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-02-2012

THE MYSTERY WOMAN IN CAIRNS

**We drove in a comfortable bus,
With about twenty of us.**

**Our guide had immigrated from Holland here,
And seemed well informed about everything near.**

**We drove to Kuranda, a village in the rain forest,
where snakes in big trees built their nest.**

**An official entourage was in front of us
When we got off the bus.**

**The premier of Australia, we were told, was here,
And no one could get near.**

**I took her picture from a far
When the group came down to their car.**

**The “Premier” reached out and took my hand
And asked me to come next to her and together
stand**

**For a picture to be taken on my camera by a pho-
tographer,
Without ever knowing the name of her.**

**Whoever she was I will probably never know,
It was a funny experience while on the go.**

**No one had any information about her around here.
All they said was that “she was the labor party
Premier”.**

**But the woman Premier I had seen on the news had
a different look.
But to meet this official mystery woman is a note-
worthy event in my book.**

**Maybe some day I will know
The name of the “mystery official “ I met in the
rainforest while on the go.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-07-2012

CAIRNS TO GUAM

To travel alone was maybe meant,
To find out one can be his own best friend.

I have undisturbed time to reflect on the past,
And in my mind, I see the entire cast

Pass by during this time,
While I have time to create this rhyme.

They say people get stronger the more you endure,
I have had my share for sure.

The energy I earned I now use,
To write rhymes on a cruise.

Five full days at sea,
With only water around me.

I am as comfortable being alone,
As in my Long Beach and Desert home.

For today, it is getting later,
Tomorrow again we will cross the equator.

I attended a few classes to become a computer wiz,
But that did not help what I really miss -

**To communicate with everyone in an easy way,
Because the internet is slow, I must say.**

**But I cannot complain, as in the time of my Mother,
It was even slower to send a letter to one and another.**

**But it did improve my skill,
Not bad for a senior over the hill.**

**No bed to be made, no dish to be done,
A private stateroom with a balcony and sun.**

**No grocery shopping, no meals to prepare,
The food is better than almost anywhere.**

**Interesting seniors fortunate to travel the world
around,
I enjoy listening to their stories and sounds.**

**They hope their children will be able to experience
the same,
But are not sure as they think many things have become insane.**

**The ship is comparable to well known resorts,
But able to stop in many ports.**

**Private TV with selective world news,
Without comments of everyone's views.**

**Evening shows by people that appear on many lists,
of the world's best artists.**

**A library where I can quietly reflect,
On what poem to write next.**

**I am as content as I can be,
Traveling alone at sea.**

**Smooth sailing until now,
Tomorrow we will be in Guam. Wow.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-08-2012

GUAM

**At 8 am, the ship was in dock,
And out streamed the whole flock.**

**To set foot again on steady ground,
And get on a bus that will take us around.**

**We viewed the battlefields of WW2, where a park
was created in memory
For the ones that fought the enemy.**

**Japan brutally ruled for more than two years,
And the native Chamorro's shed happy tears**

**When the US recaptured the island in July, 1944,
and this occasion
Is remembered yearly with a big celebration.**

**The main income now is tourism from Japan,
Who love to spend as much time here as they can.**

**After the occupation,
They now have a friendly relation**

**And play golf here very cheap,
Since at home that price is very steep.**

**One third of the population is US military,
And the number of guards here could make some-
one feel scary.**

**The weather is tropical year round
With a soothing wave crashing sound.**

**Most people are Catholic and many related,
The last three girls were cousins that our tour guide
dated.**

**They do not slaughter animals here and import all
the meat,
As well as many other things they eat.**

**Recurring typhoons, earthquakes and over 2 meters
yearly rainfall,
But that does not bother the locals at all.**

**Many have to sweep,
If a dry home they want to keep.**

**Parasailing and surfing , both dangerous above
sharp edges of coral,
Are much enjoyed by people that are local.**

**Back on ship before we were ready again to go,
We were treated to a local cultural show.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-11-2012

GUAM TO TOKYO

**We sailed on 3-10 at sunset with a beautiful red sky,
While on the other side of the ship the moon was up
high.**

**We are again on the go,
Sailing three full days to Tokyo.**

**On 3-11 we sailed around
Iwo Jima Island, and only heard the sound**

**Of a wreath being dropped in the water
for the young men that died here with honor.**

**And I cannot imagine the fear,
They experienced on this island where now no one
lives or even near.**

**And I cannot imagine this battle in 1945,
Where no one had respect for life.**

**The Japanese committed suicide,
When, from the Americans, they could no longer
hide;**

**Because, they thought,
Suicide was more honorable than being caught.**

**Rusted metal of ships is all I can see,
Around this now peaceful island here in the sea.**

**This trip gives us a lesson in history
While we now cruise in luxury.**

**It was the fiercest battle of WW2 it is said,
Where the Americans and Japanese met.**

**But after years of anger and hate,
The island was returned to Japan in 1968.**

**On deck there was much discussion with a glass of
wine,
Until all realized it was time again to dine.**

**The next docking, on 03-12, will be in Tokyo,
Where, we are told, we will probably see snow.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-12-2012

TOKYO

**At 7 am, we cruised for miles between tall buildings
cranes and docks,
In sunny weather, no snow, but cold enough to wear
socks.**

**Mount Fiji is still far away,
But its symmetrical snow-topped cone was visible
today.**

**People believe the mountain is sacred and there is
an entrance there
To another world out somewhere.**

**We were welcomed with a ruffling drum sound,
And photographers all around.**

**And before we went on shore,
There were a few tips for the ones that had not been
here before.**

**Sumo wrestlers can weigh up to 550 pounds,
Do not be surprised if you see them walking around.**

**Slurping sounds while eating are allowed,
Even when you do it out loud.**

**And after you enjoy a meal, you can say at least
“Yachisa-sama deshita”- it was a real feast!**

**People greet, say goodbye or pay respect with a bow -
Some with a nod , others with their head very low.**

**In this city, Frans and I would have felt apprehensive
Since holding hands in public is considered offensive.**

**Tea seems no longer the drink for some to like the best
As they import 85% of the Jamaican coffee for the rest.**

**The bus was designed for tiny people, with a personal ash tray,
But also here, one can no longer freely puff away.**

**A serious city in business dress and many with a mask on their face
To prevent getting germs or blowing them into space.**

**A city with the same size people, dressing dark, and many women wearing Uggs,
But no empty stores, beggars, trash, depravity or signs of drugs.**

**Destroyed in WW2 by more than 50%,
Makes one realize how their time was spent.**

**We reached the top of Tokyo Tower that is
higher than the Eifel Tower in Paris.**

**Now the Tokyo Tree ,at double the height,
will open in May for an even more far away sight.**

**In this remarkable city, we were shown a lot in a
short time,
With a good guide and a chauffer that drove just fi-
ne.**

**For the tourist, no internet access in this city,
Due to decisions from authorities, is a real pity.**

**But by phone, I was able to reach
My daughters and a friend in Long Beach.**

**In the evening, we sailed away
From this gigantic, serious, clean and serene city
on its own bay.**

**In Tokyo, I had never been,
But I am thankful for what I have seen -**

**Even though it was only a glimpse of the city that I
saw today,
I leave with memories I did not have yesterday.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-13-2012

HIROSHIMA

**From Tokyo we sailed a day and two nights,
And arrived in Hiroshima in the early morning
light,**

**After the day at sea was again comfortably spent
With a great wine tasting event.**

**This was the only city in the world that was de-
stroyed by an atomic attack,
But the resilient residents have built it back,**

**Bigger than it was ever before,
While praying destruction will happen no more.**

**They work very hard and built the Mazda car
That is shipped very far,**

**And it is mostly the steel industry
That drives the local economy.**

**There are many Memorials to remind the world
what happened here,
To never forget the effects of a war that was more
than severe.**

**Spring flowers and some trees are already in bloom,
And uniformed men clean the streets with a hand made broom**

**No visible tattoos or slouching men with their pants hanging low,
But well dressed business men on the go.**

**Western cities everywhere,
No longer seem to compare.**

**Traffic moves steady and disciplined, directed by signs of all sorts,
But nowhere were screaming billboards.**

**A pleasant day in a city that was once no more,
But that resurfaced with an even stronger core.**

**This stop made us realize that no matter what happens in life,
Human beings, if they have a chance, do their best to survive.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-15-2012

BUSAN

**As I sailed into the harbor like once before,
On a cruise in 2004,**

**I see many more buildings than I remember,
On that trip with Frans in September.**

**Very high apartment buildings line every street,
For which a city with 3.6 million people has a big
need.**

**An attractive city with a mile long downtown beach,
But a relationship with their Northern neighbors
out of reach.**

**No space for golf courses, but many enormous cov-
ered cases,
To create driving range spaces.**

**We are told that here the civil engineers
Are better trained than their worldwide peers.**

**That is why
They built most of Dubai.**

**For our tour, Korea's largest Buddhist Temple had
been reserved
Where the oldest Buddhist scriptures in the world
are preserved.**

**The only United Nations Memorial Park in the
world is here,
As bitter fighting in the Korean war was near.**

**And young men of 16 different countries died on
this land,
Including 117 young men from the Netherlands.**

**They never again saw their family,
But their names are here on a marble stone under a
bonsai tree in their memory.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-16-2012

CHEF'S TABLE

**I would not have wanted to lose
The best kept secret on this cruise.**

**An invitation to the Chefs food affair
Is an opportunity to experience something extraor-
dinaire.**

**To have a galley tour and see the staff prepare
Everything that leaves here with the utmost care.**

**The selection of wine and food
Put us soon in a very good mood.**

**And having it served so well,
Made this evening unforgettable.**

**A salute to Antonio Cortese, the Executive Chef, and
Carlos Da Rosa, Maître D, and their entire crew,
Who certainly knew**

**How to make this evening a fairy tale feast
That had us all leaving this banquet very well
pleased.**

**This cruise is not complete
Until you do more than just eat.**

**So I hope everyone will be able
To dine at the Chef's table.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-17-2012

SHANGHAI

**After another easy day cruising at sea
We were in for a big surprise of what we would see -**

**So much more
Than I remember from 2004.**

**A city that is big, futuristic and mysterious,
23 million people are living here looking friendly,
but serious.**

**Many new skyscrapers, up to nearly 100 stories
high,
Built of gleaming stainless steel, marble and granite
will make them certainly last for awhile.**

**The street-lined sycamore trees are still bare,
But new multi-color spring flowers are everywhere.**

**We reached the Jin Mao Towers top in a silent 45
seconds ride
From the street to the 88th floor height.**

**The Shanghai museum, was like I remembered it,
But this time, I did not have as much time to visit.**

**The bund is an elegant riverfront promenade
with 19th century European buildings that were
beautifully made.**

**Nanjing road, with every elegant worldwide shop,
Is a desirable place to shop 'til you drop.**

**New construction is going on everywhere -
No other city seems to compare.**

**But, the middle class shifts again to being poor,
As we are told the top 20% strives to take every-
thing for sure.**

**And the tour guide thinks the only solution
Will, again, some day to have a revolution.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-17-2012

PRINCESS SUNDAY BRUNCH

**The Princess pater reads: Sleep in, relax and come
to the table,
And eat as much as you are able**

**At the lazy Sunday brunch,
While you enjoy a drink with a punch.**

**The chefs are ready to prepare
Anything at this food affair.**

**Tables many feet long -
Today this is where you belong.**

**Carving stations of beef and lamb,
And many sorts of pork or ham.**

**Vegetables and salads of any kind -
The one you like you will find.**

**And in between all these delicious goods,
Is a table with worldwide fruits.**

**All breads are homemade -
For sure you must take some on your plate.**

**Many pates and a variety of cheese -
You must try at least some of these.**

**Cold cuts sliced at the table -
You would think this is all a fable.**

**Pastas made to your taste -
Enjoy eating a lot without haste.**

**The skillfully prepared omelets
Are as good as it gets.**

**The ambiance, with ice carvings, flowers and music,
is great
And for the mimosa and champagne you do not
have to wait.**

**Many dishes, hot or chilled,
And for all of this you are not extra-billed.**

**One could not handle this every day
Therefore, it is only served at sea on a lazy Sunday.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-21-2012

HONG KONG

**The entrance into the city seemed long,
As we cruised into Hong Kong.**

**I have been here two times before,
But recognize it no more.**

**In 1972 it looked mysterious,
In 2004 much more serious.**

**But now it seems a place
In outer space.**

**Nowhere can you see
And nowhere can you be,**

**To experience a city that builds this fast,
Majestic buildings designed to last.**

**Limitations are only in one's mind,
Not in Hong Kong's buildings of any kind.**

**The meaning of status quo,
They do not seem to know,**

**Because within their range,
The focus is on change.**

**Bigger, better, taller and more
Are the buildings on their shore.**

**While traveling, one leaves behind
Frivolous matters that can clutter one's mind.**

**But, you can experience the thrill
To see accomplishments of people that have a will**

**And see how other souls
Accomplish their goals.**

**For the second time, I visited the Island of Lantau,
No longer a farming community now,**

**But also a sophisticated city,
And it really is not a pity**

**To see the new replace the old
In a manner that is very bold.**

**Stanley Market, Victoria Peak and Aberdeen
Still are familiar places that I remembered and had
seen.**

**And while watching the synchronized evening laser
light show,
I was sorry that tomorrow, again, we have to go.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-24-2012

VIETNAM

**We sailed from China to Vietnam in two days,
With another gala, more wine to taste and a cham-
pagne party under sunny rays.**

**Of all the places so far,
Vietnam is not yet up to par.**

**In many places, there is more
Junk and trash than in 2004.**

**The street are still not all paved,
Maybe for other things they have saved.**

**Quality of life here has a different meaning,
And towards poverty, they are still leaning.**

**But hungry they seem not,
As food is cooked on the sidewalks in more than one
pot.**

**Everywhere you see them eat and drink,
And one wonders what about they think.**

**Their rice exportation is now much more
Than when we were here in 2004.**

**But wages are low and taxes high -
That is probably why,**

**Unless the government will assist,
Conditions here will persist.**

**Smoking they can still afford,
With cheap foreign cigarettes that they can hoard.**

**Their pleasant local markets, with fruit, vegetables
and fish,
I was glad again I did not miss.**

**We visited home businesses for making rice wine,
rice paper or growing fruits.
And these people live better since they can sell their
goods.**

**We visited two Buddha temples, where we saw
many pray,
Hoping he has something positive to say.**

**As for their sake,
A decision they do not make,**

**Because they would be guessing
Without Buddha's blessing.**

**We had lunch and a peek
In the beach town Vung Tau, that was elegant and
chic.**

**It is not that they do not have style,
But, for most, it will still be awhile**

**Before they, too, can improve,
So from a hut to a home they can move.**

**It was interesting to see Vietnam again,
And I hope they too will have a better life again.**

**It was a glimpse through a bird's eye,
But we saw more than if we had not come by.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-26-2012

THAILAND

**We arrived in Laem Chabang at 7 am
And sailed in between many cranes and containers
again.**

**Bangkok was a two and a half hour drive away,
That would not leave enough time to see it in one
day.**

**We had stayed in Bangkok for a few days in 2004,
And I felt lucky that I had been there before.**

**So, this day was maybe meant
To spend time with an elephant.**

**We visited the elephant city, Pattaya, that was
opened in 1973 -
A sanctuary for working elephants, now retired and
free,**

**To spend their remaining years
In dignity and freedom without fears.**

**And show the public what tricks they can do,
While living happily in this elephant zoo.**

**They were not intimidating and I had no fear
To touch them and stand near.**

**So, I climbed on top in a basket,
But hoped I would not end up in a casket.**

**Elephants have been part of rural life in Thailand
for centuries,
And riding on top was already in my book of memo-
ries.**

**But, for me, on this day, it was worth
To have a chance again to ride the biggest animal on
earth.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-29-2012

SINGAPORE

After two smooth sailing days, we arrived in Singapore.

Also, here, I have been before.

**And again, I hope this visit is not the last,
Even though the years are slipping by too fast.**

**On this trip, I have not seen,
A place that is this clean.**

**A tropical paradise with orchids in bloom
And no evidence of doom and gloom.**

**It is a pleasure to see
How nice it can be.**

**In Singapore what one sees
Is a beautiful city with many tall trees.**

**Everything is well maintained,
And people are expected to behave like a saint.**

**And if their laws are not held dear,
The punishment is severe.**

**Authority is respected here,
And there is nothing else to fear,**

**As long as they remember to not be a fool
But follow every rule.**

**As a handout does not exist,
Work, the people here do not resist.**

**Under a \$10,000 income, one pays 10 percent tax,
And, at age 62, they can relax**

**When they start living from the 30 percent
Of income they did not spend,**

**But were forced to save during their careers,
To live on during their golden years.**

**Cars are too expensive to buy or maintain,
But everywhere they can take a bus or a train.**

**Here they live what they preach
Which, in the USA, still seems far out of reach.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-30-2012

PACIFIC PRINCESS WAITER

**Daily service of the best kind,
Comes to my mind,**

**When remembering Andrii serving my meals on the
Pacific,
Which every time he did terrific.**

**Such memory about everyone's likes and routine
I have not often seen.**

**Andrii, I trust your job in the future will expand,
As people that understand service will always be in
demand.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-31-2012

SINGAPORE TO PHUKET

**We finished the first segment of this trip,
On the Pacific Princess ship.**

**Now we will visit places I have not been,
And in unfamiliar territory I will be seen.**

**And at the Captain's will,
We just finished our first Pirate drill.**

**I do not mind this extra fuss,
But I sure hope they will not bother us.**

**We sailed 10,258 miles from the start,
And getting used to it is not very hard.**

**Today we explored the Island of Phuket,
The nicest place in Thailand, it is said.**

**Nature supposedly looks again like before
The devastating tsunami in 2004.**

**But the repairs by mankind
Seem to stay behind.**

**Many buildings are still in disrepair,
But the locals do not seem to care.**

**Because buildings and trash are hidden under a
veil of green,
And beautiful tropical plants not often seen.**

**The white limestone cliffs above water that is emer-
ald green
Is truly unique to be seen.**

**People keep monkeys as a house pet
On this magical Island of Phuket.**

**13 million tourists came each year
To spend their vacation here.**

**Now the locals do their best
To service again 7 million guests.**

**And pray the next tsunami will stay away
From their beautiful bay.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-02-2012

THOUGHTS ON MY SHIPS BALCONY

**I am sitting on my balcony on the ship called the Pacific,
And I am aware that my life is indeed terrific.**

**The ocean is as smooth as can be,
And 'til the horizon it is only water I see.**

**This environment puts me in a state of mind,
That I have no trouble to unwind.**

**I am not lonely or alone,
There are people on board, internet and I have my phone.**

**And even when there is no sound,
I feel Frans remains in the background.**

**People might think to live with a spirit is insane
But let me explain:**

**Sweet memories for me mean more,
Than a new relationship with a bore.**

**Because I would be insane
Thinking all men are the same.**

**I have been fortunate in life and bed
With the two man I have wed.**

**My only desire now is time to write,
As much as I desire day or night.**

**And let the world pass by in front of me
While I enjoy stunning views from this balcony.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-03-2012

THAILAND TO INDIA

**Between Thailand and India we cruised two days
in a calm sea,
In a comfortable stateroom that feels almost like
home to me.**

**And we arrived in former Madras now known as
Chennai,
And all I can exclaim is, "OH MY!"**

**I had no expectation,
But this for me was definitely a revelation.**

**Seven million people roaming around
In trash, bad odors, dusty pot hole roads and noisy
sounds.**

**Holy cows, of skin and bone, grazing on hills of
trash,
And seniors and children begging for cash.**

**Bathrooms sporadic or obsolete,
As people are seen using the side of the street.**

**On sandals or bare feet, they walk on hot stone or
sand.
Life has a different dimension in this land.**

**But women are pretty in their multicolor silk flocks
And children wear pressed uniforms and white
socks.**

**Internet cafes, McDonald's and pizza parlors are
busy places
And no longer foreign to the younger faces.**

**Changes are coming, according to our older guide -
But she did not divulge it with pride.**

**It seemed out of place and a bit ironical
That the only manicured ground was the Gandhi
Memorial.**

**Engineering and Nursing schools advertise along
the road frequently -
Maybe some day buildings and public health can be
their specialty !**

**Many Temples they have, and have prayed in for
centuries,
But it does not seem to have helped their life quali-
ties.**

**75 percent of marriages are still arranged -
And that tradition is also slowly being changed.**

**It was easy to get back on board,
As we were the only cruise ship in this port.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-07-2012

MUMBAI

**From Chennai to Mumbai it was three days in the
Arabic sea.**

In anticipation of what next we would see.

**The “no swimming” rule is not disputed
In this harbor that is polluted.**

**23 million people exist here
In a dirty polluted atmosphere.**

**The sea water is as brown as the air
And not an appealing pair.**

**It is a real pity
To see this decaying city,**

**Where they do not seem aware
Of the benefit of clean water and air.**

**And before too long,
Without intervention, the old will be gone.**

**But new buildings are arising
For a price that is surprising.**

**A small condo is sold
For 3 million American dollars, we are told.**

**Which only a very few of the people can pay,
While the majority cannot improve their way.**

**We stopped at the Taj Mahal hotel
Where only the super rich can stay, you could tell.**

**The city name changed to Mumbai from Bombay,
But the locals still call it Bombay anyway.**

**In the hanging gardens, the dead are laid down
And digested by vultures that fly over town.**

**The monument Gateway to India is
Comparable to Arc de Triomphe in Paris.**

**We had to pass more than one guard
at the prince of Whales Museum, with its ancient
art.**

**The Dhobi Ghat, or city laundry, in open air,
Is a sight not comparable anywhere.**

**The water is filthy and one wonders how they can
Get the laundry to look spic and span.**

**The Gandhi home with his mission explained,
Seems in contrast with what India over the years
has gained,**

**His teachings of cleanliness and purity
Still seem an obscurity.**

**Children and crippled galore are hard to pass,
Without giving them some cash.**

**It seems a few have it all
And let the rest stumble and fall.**

**Because the masses believe
That not until their next life they will get relief;**

**So they sit and wait
Hoping, in their next life, to enter a better gate,**

**And continue on this earth to suffer,
Because they accept that here there is no buffer.**

**We left Mumbai thankful for being able to say -
Thank God we live in the USA.**

**And we pray for the disadvantaged on earth
To have a life that has more worth.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-11-2012

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

**Three slow sea days again 'til Bahrain,
And I wondered what experience here I would gain.**

**But after Mumbai's demise,
This was really a surprise.**

**Manama, in the hot sun and sand,
in the Persian gulf,
Looks like a fairy tale land.**

**A ghost town of 1.5 million people where no one
seemed home -
It was like we were there alone.**

**There was no traffic by car or walking,
No chance to meet locals or be talking.**

**A place of trading and mystery
Dating far back into history,**

**We toured the area and saw the hole, where under
this arid soil,
in 1932, they struck oil.**

**The wealth we are told was not kept by just a few,
But, we are told, the entire population was able to
improve their life, too.**

**There is no poverty, no homeless, no baggers no
trash
And everyone lives well because of their earned
cash.**

**We stopped at the 400 year old “Tree of Life”,
Believed to be the spot of the Garden of Eden where
Adam lived with his wife**

**We fed camels on a farm
That were very tall, gentle and caused no harm**

**The guide told us that people from all over the
world live and work here in harmony,
But little news from here, on TV, do we get to see .**

**All this news from our Shia Muslim guide, who
moved here three years ago from Finland
And joined the many Shias, who are invited, to
come from all over, to live here under the rule of this
King’s hand.**

**But some of us had a different view
From a taxi driver who’s experience was not new.**

**A bombing yesterday
To stop the Shia Muslim King or, as they say, the
dictator’s way.**

**Of wanting control
Of them all**

**The relationship between Shias and Sunnis are not
easing,
And the riots are increasing .**

**Basic human rights are at risk or ignored for the
Sunnis group -
Foreign reporters are sent home to stay out of the
loop.**

**Curfews at night, and during the day,
The occasional demand to stay away.**

**Or risk being shot.
Or be punished a lot,**

**All this news
Shattered our fairy tale views,**

**That and the US battleship in port,
With two smaller ones that acted as our escort,**

**Had cruisers guessing, what does this all mean,
While customs were more lenient than in other
countries we have seen.**

**But a good impression apparently had been planned
For the few travelers that visit this land.**

**But we do not need to be fools,
To recognize here that he who has the gold still
rules.**

**It seems that the people in India who sit and wait,
Or the ones here that fight for their fate,**

**Have done so for generations in the past,
And their demise will probably last.**

**It is not fair and it is not right,
But will remain until leaders have human rights in
their sight .**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-13-2012

DUBAI

**As we sailed into Dubai,
We wondered why,**

**There was nothing in view
But we were told that is nothing new.**

**Because here it is often the norm,
To have zero visibility due to a sand storm.**

**We docked at 1 pm -
And it was not until then,**

**When we were very near,
That we saw the tall buildings appear.**

**Our sunset safari, by jeep as planned,
Was cancelled due to the flying sand.**

**The next morning for \$99.00 it was not worth
To see the tallest building, not only on, but buried in
the earth.**

**The view was not magical,
But only vertical,**

**As the horizon in this land
Was hidden by sand.**

**The sand looked like fresh snow on the ground
And created the same tracking sound.**

**All the buildings have the same sandy tone -
Probably so the sand will not be shown.**

**Construction is apparently diminished,
As many buildings are fenced in or unfinished.**

**The mega malls have it all,
But are a copy of any California mall,**

**With the same food courts and brand names,
And areas with the same electronic games,**

**Bigger and higher is their claim to fame,
But otherwise much looks the same,**

**But if one would compare,
I believe they would rather live elsewhere.**

**It will be interesting to see
What Dubai's future will be.**

**Out of the 1.2 million totals,
Only 18 percent are locals,**

**The rest come and go
As laborers, expats, or a temporary CEO.**

**There are no taxes but prices are over the top,
And only affordable for the Arabian snob.**

**This was a King's dream who had money to burn;
But, I wonder, if a return in the long run, he will
earn.**

**If not, this town will go down in history
As another era in the 5000 years of this areas mys-
tery.**

**It was a place I had looked forward to see,
As advertising makes it a place you want to be.**

**But in its totality,
It was a disappointing reality.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-16-2012

SALALAH IN OMAN

**It is exciting to be in the Middle East, a place I have
not been before,
And it is interesting to hear so much more.**

**A Sultan whose son was born here and educated in
the west,
Wanted for his country, truly the best.**

**But he could not regroup
Until he threw out his Dad in a swoop.**

**That was in 1970, when they only had one school,
Now education in one of the 1700 schools is the rule.**

**99% is Muslim, The Sunni are the minority,
But they rule the Shia majority.**

**Littering is one week in jail and a fine
That keeps everyone in line.**

**Only a few men we saw, they were friendly and
clean
And trash was nowhere to be seen.**

**No women or children were on the street,
Everywhere it was quiet and neat.**

**The Prophet Job's grave is here, they say.
We know he walked in the desert, but did he come
all this way?**

**There are no restaurants or places to eat,
But many fruit stands where you can buy a treat.**

**Men can have four wives,
But are learning it complicates their lives.**

**Progress here is slow,
But the rulers seem to know where they go,**

**With their 3000 miles of pristine beach,
To become a tourist destination, they are trying to
reach.**

**Europeans fly here to have fun
In big enclosed resorts in the white sand and sun.**

**So maybe someday,
This will be the place to stay**

**Or come to shop and have a look
In an Arabian souk.**

**But getting close to the locals, you can probably for-
get,
Because it is only your money they want, it is being
said.**

**Because history shows the minority did and always
will do their best
To continue ruling the rest.**

**Time will tell as time goes by,
What happens here and why.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-19-2012

CONSIDERATE CRUISERS

My earrings I wear every day,
To remember in my way,

The person who gave them to me
That I do not often see.

So I felt very sad,
When I noticed I had

One earring instead of two.
But someone referred me to Ranjan Sahoo,

Who knew,
What to do.

He documented my loss in his book,
And I was surprised how short it took,

Before the Junior Assistant Purser on the Pacific
Made me feel terrific.

When he called late that night and said I just might
Have the earring that was out of your sight.

He had no name of the considerate person that had turned it
in,
And I would not know where to begin,

Except via Brett's early show,
To let the considerate person know

My appreciation for their speed
In doing such a nice deed.

Marie Jose Temmink

04-19-2012

MY HAIR

For years, I have been in this rut,
Of every six weeks having my hair cut.

And for a long while,
It has been the same length and style.

So, I felt apprehension
And a bit tension,

When I sat in Laurie's chair,
Who was ready to cut my hair.

While cruising among the land of Sheiks,
And not being home for two more weeks,

I was forced out of my rut.
My hair no longer looked good without a cut.

My hair now looks terrific
After Laurie's cut on the Pacific.

And I now feel in my gut,
That there is no reason to stay in a rut.

Marie Jose Temmink

04-21-2012

AGABA JORDAN

**The temperature was predicted to be hot,
But unbearable, it certainly was not**

**In the Jordan Wadi Rum desert atmosphere,
On this sightseeing trip here.**

**I rode a camel in the sand,
While someone led the animal by hand.**

**This creature was taller than I expected,
When he got up and stood erected.**

**So here I went on a camel's back in the red sand,
In this far-from-home, foreign land.**

**We drank tea in a Bedouin tent,
Where once an English Colonel Lawrence was sent**

**To fight the battle of independence in 1916 -
One of the many in history this land has seen.**

**The life as we know it does not exist here,
And probably never will, I fear.**

**One million people live in this town now,
And they vow,**

**With the influx of Egyptians and Syrians, 10 million
are expected by 2022.**

**They built fast and already 50% of all buildings are
new.**

**Also here they aim
To gain,**

**By luring tourist to come and see,
This red sand desert town along the Red Sea.**

**To view the hidden city, Petra, and Wadi Rum,
That are treasures, they say, comparable to none.**

**But, for me, it is not a place to stay
Because coming on a cruise ship is the best way.**

**Billions are invested for tourist accommodations
here, but I doubt
That they bring enough money to feed this crowd.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-22-12

EGYPT DAY 1

In the Red Sea, all night the ship did not rock
And when I awoke, we were already in dock

In another foreign land,
With no trees in sight, but lots of sand.

We drove with several buses in a convoy,
Told that it's for protection, not to annoy.

Security was very strict,
Here in Egypt.

We were stopped often on the road,
For a policeman to check out our load.

But we arrived in Luxor
To admire its bygone splendor.

Prosperity is not seen here,
As many buildings appear bombed out that stand
near.

Then off to Tutankhamen's tomb in the valley of the
Kings,
While on the way, we were told, that in the bus, we
had to leave our things.

**Because cameras were not allowed,
As in the scan, the pictures would be definitely de-
stroyed.**

**The pesky vendors were aggressive males
And, because of their pushiness, lost many sales.**

**They did not leave us alone and in chorus would
holler,
“One dollar! One dollar!”**

**But I was happy to have come this way,
Especially while living in a young country like the
USA.**

**It shows profoundly that generations come and go,
While some do a lot, and others let their chance
forego**

**To leave their mark, that has worth
For the next generation on this earth.**

**But while driving in Egypt, it appears that this gen-
eration’s contribution
Seems to be their trash distribution.**

**By lack of their respect and civility,
Only for littering will they be remembered into eter-
nity.**

**Then, there will be more tears
By civilizations during the next thousand years.**

**Here, also, the difference between old and new
Is as stark as between the poor and a few,**

**Who control and have it all,
While the rest is up against the wall,**

**We had lunch in a posh hotel on the Nile,
Where it was pleasant to stay for awhile.**

**But the building next door
Looked like it was destroyed in a war.**

**Back towards the ship, the view from our convoy
bus was very dismal
And for the masses, there seems minimal potential.**

Marie Jose Temmink

4-23-2012

ACTIVITIES ON BOARD

**About the cruise Director Brett,
Something needs to be said.**

**I believe he works day and night,
And he does not lose sight**

**Of any activity on this cruise
And under stress, his temper he does not loose.**

**The responsibility of keeping cruisers entertained is
his,
And, at that, he is a whiz.**

**Brett and his staff are the best,
In providing activities with zest.**

**I did not expect,
That besides how to direct,**

**He also knows,
How to be a great star in his shows.**

**His energy is inspiring
And keeps us admiring**

**This entertainment crew
That always seems to know what to do.**

**Brett, you will go far,
Because, in your field, you are a star.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-23-2012

CRUISE STAFF

LESTER

**Lester was a real winner
Compared to the others that helped during dinner.**

**He remembered details and my way,
After the first day.**

**Remind him I did not need to do,
It was as if he always knew,**

**Because he did his best
At remembering likes of every guest.**

MILAGROS

**Everyday during my cruise, she was there,
And always seemed to come out of nowhere.**

**Milagros (I never heard that name before)
did her job and much more.**

**I never had a complaint,
Because Milagros was a real Saint.**

**It made my cruise very pleasant
To have an attentive servant**

**That did her very best
At making me feel like a welcomed guest.**

MAURICE

**Being the dining room police,
Was handled expertly by a man named Maurice.**

**He is always pleasant and in a good mood,
While directing his staff in delivering food.**

**He is a great example for his staff,
And, for Princess cruises, an asset to have.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-24-2012

SUEZ CANAL

It is a thrill to see
The view from my balcony,

On this sunny morning of April 24,
In a place I also have never been before.

Who could guess
I would cruise through the canal of Suez.

My beloved husbands would want to be here,
But they cruise in my mind only, I fear.

Two birds slowly pass,
Some know what meaning it has.

The view is serene with little sound,
But armed guards all around.

It is difficult to imagine this creation by hand,
From the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, through
sand.

The grand opening was in 1869,
By then, 1.5 million had shuffled sand to create this
water line.

**Since then, many controversies have risen about
control,
And about who can haul**

**Their goods through this canal in the sand
Or cruise to a foreign land.**

**I am fortunate to sit here and contemplate
About the present and future world's fate.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-25-2012

ALEXANDRIA /CAIRO, EGYPT

**Today, we spent three hours by bus on the go,
In another armed convoy from Alexandria to Cairo.**

**An educated guide, traveled, and married to a diplomat,
Tells us that the people of Egypt now have a future
as they never had.**

**She tells us this is the most beautiful city -
While the views from the bus are a pity.**

**Civilization of 9000 years -
But what you see brings you to tears.**

**80 million people in Egypt, 21 million in Cairo -
And with their trash, they seem not to know where
to go.**

**A landfill as big as the Suez canal seems a must,
With a bulldozer to move in the trash and dust.**

**Small farms with human labor are seen along the
roads,
People herding their sheep or goats.**

**Minimal income (1600 American dollars a year),
With no quality of life for half of the people here.**

**Only because of the Nile,
Have they existed here for all this while.**

**First and foremost,
For tourists they should become a better host.**

**Because all of us
Prefer to be where an armed guard is not needed in
the bus.**

**And if they want to preserve their treasures,
They need to have more stringent measures.**

**Out of 118 pyramids , only 8 are left -
And they are unprotected from local vandalism and
theft.**

**They show no respect for their inherited wealth,
As everything looks like a trash belt.**

**And on this Pyramid tour,
No one was able to walk without stepping in camel
manure.**

**For 25 percent of the people, the problem is illiteracy -
Because they ignore that their education is compulsory.**

**It appears to be another country of haves and have nots-
But it seems a few here have lots.**

**And these few insist,
That the rest just exist.**

**Hopefully the people have a better selection,
In the upcoming election.**

**Then, maybe the income from the Suez fees
Will be used for improvements that everyone sees.**

**Egypt's name to fame is longevity.
For the masses, I hope the next leader will have a
focus on quality.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-28-2012

DUBROVNIK

It was certainly worth
To again see this gem on earth.

I was here over 30 years ago with my daughters by
bus
When we visited 10 countries in a 30-day rush.

It was then known as Yugoslavia, but after the 1991
war,
That country was no more.

Independent Croatia (they hope will be lasting)
Was worth the time of no electricity, water, and
fasting.

It is a Unesco world heritage site,
With its red roofs glowing in the sunlight.

No traces of the 1991 war are seen,
And the people seem very keen

In doing their utmost
To remain the gem on this coast.

**The atmosphere was great,
Even though five cruise ships today came through
their gate.**

**There was not a trace of trash
And nobody begged for cash.**

**And while the church bells outside were ringing,
We enjoyed a folkloric show of dancing and singing.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-29-2012

MORBIDLY OBESE TRAVELERS

**During my travels I was able to observe,
That very obese people have the nerve,**

**To eat non-stop
Until they look ready to pop.**

**They are comfortable to voice,
That they are obese by choice.**

**Because while traveling it is a given,
That they will be wheeled, pushed or driven.**

**They use their excessive weigh,
To be the first one through any gate.**

**No one needs to fuss,
Because they demand the first row in the bus.**

**And when needed at a wimp,
They will even fake a limp.**

**They enjoy being obese,
Because they travel with ease.**

**The best seat, the front row,
There is no problem being very obese and on the go.**

**There seems to be no motivation to lose weight,
Because when obese, you get help and are never
late.**

**The number of people that are very fat,
Seems more than we ever had.**

**Body weight is not measured in the air,
So they fly very comfortably anywhere.**

**They take as much space as they need,
Even if it is half of someone else's seat.**

**Rules for the handicapped I believe in,
But not abuse by the obese at the cost of the ones
that are thin.**

**Luggage, while traveling should include body
weight.
So everyone pays equal for their freight.**

**It could motivate one to lose
Before their next trip or cruise.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-29-2012

KOPER, SLOVENIA

**No need to frown
When we docked in the center of this Medieval
town.**

**While the church bells rang in harmony,
It was like stepping back in history.**

**It was a serene walk through this town called Koper,
With no billboards pushing a whopper.**

**It is very old but well maintained
And, also here, in 1991, independence they gained.**

**Ruled by many countries in history,
They are very happy to be free.**

**We were welcomed by a band that played polkas
And we were served local wine and vodkas.**

**All around here,
We felt a pleasant atmosphere.**

**People seemed relaxed in a beautiful park by the
sea,
While from an enemy they no longer have to flee.**

**A soothing ambiance is in the air,
Like we have not felt on this cruise anywhere.**

**I would not mind at some time to revisit
To experience more of this leisurely spirit.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-30-2012

MY FELLOW CRUISERS

This is news
And views

Of some that call this ship home,
Because they do not like to live alone.

They find it an easy way to see new places,
And along the way meet new faces.

Each person has a reason to be at sea,
And I will share a few that were new for me.

People are eager to share their views,
Not necessarily about world news,

But about experiences on this trip
Or behavior of others on this ship.

My intention is not to abuse,
Therefore real names I will not use.

The stories are the same,
But I won't list their name.

One woman from a USA state
Told me her mission is to find a new mate.

Someone else was eager to share,
Why she is happier on a ship than anywhere.

**She had evaluated different retirement resorts for price.
And found none of them to be as economical and nice.**

**And she would not be losing
Her assets by forever cruising.**

**Therefore, she lives on the ship
And books trip after trip.**

**Some took this cruise four years in a row
To escape bad weather and snow.**

**One man after he lost his spouse,
Mortgaged, for this trip, his house.**

**All kinds of people cruise -
Some to overeat, others to booze,**

**Some to gamble
Or constantly ramble.**

**Some like to expand their view,
And look for something new.**

**Some travel with their mate
Before it is too late.**

**Some do not condone
Traveling alone.**

**One man, who was terminally ill,
Decided to leave for his family this cruise bill.**

**There was a woman whose husband she could not
stand,
And escapes him by travel at sea or on land.**

**And the man who had been married seven times,
Compared his ex-wives to good and bad wines.**

**Some people became ill
And were upset about the high medical bill.**

**In the casino some had overspent,
And argued about their final statement.**

**There were several cruisers who brought their nurse
To assist them and carry their purse.**

**People of all walks of life,
Coming from mansions or a dive,**

**And according to their sounds,
From many backgrounds.**

**And by their dress,
One could tell if they shopped a lot or less.**

**At the end, some people longed for their dog or cat,
As they felt sad**

**That no cruise line accommodates their beloved animal,
Because they could be quarantined in every terminal.**

**People cruise because the many activities on board
And not having to be bored.**

**The travel logs and seminars were very professional
And very educational.**

**The entire staff deserves to be commended.
Because of them, this cruise will often be recommended.**

**My apprehension of cruising alone, I no longer have,
Because of enjoying my fellow cruisers and the service of the entire Pacific staff .**

Marie Jose Temmink

06-05-2012

ALASKA CRUISE 1

**We are here
In the newest frontier.**

**Our group of eleven, a pleasant blend
Of family, extended family and a friend.**

**Alaska, a state like no other,
Where we anticipate seeing a bear cub and his
Mother.**

**We sailed for three days,
While everyone adjusted in their own ways.**

**For some sea sickness was a bother,
Even though we sailed in calm water.**

**We read, wrote, walked, exercised, danced, played
cards or a game,
We wined and dined and had delicious food that was
never the same.**

**Ketchikan, Juneau, and Haines, we will explore on
our own pace,
And occasionally, on land, we might see each other's
face .**

**There are activities to please each individual,
And we did not plan a must-stay-together ritual.**

**But at dinner we come together and share the experiences of the day,
That everyone spent on their own speed and in their own way.**

**I do not need to mention
That everyone experiences this cruise with a different dimension.**

**But let it be said,
This cruise, hopefully, none of us will forget.**

**Because we are privileged to be able to travel and explore,
And, for some of us, share notes about how life was before.**

**It is good memories that make us strong,
So a leisurely cruise with family and friends is never wrong.**

Marie Jose Temmink

06-09-2012

ALASKA CRUISE 2

**We visited Ketchikan,
A town designed for man,**

**That came to find gold;
But many left their fortune in the red light district, I
was told.**

**Then we toured Juneau, the State capital now,
But the locals wonder how**

**They will be able to stay,
If the Government business, as planned, moves
away.**

**It was worth
To see Haines, this hamlet at the end of the earth,**

**Where the locals are not often on the go,
Because half the year, they are covered by snow.**

**The Cruising time through Tracy Arm Fjord,
Was too short.**

**We missed hearing the glaciers calving sound,
Because the captain had to turn the ship around -**

**A maneuver that was very wise,
To prevent hitting floating ice .**

**The Sea Princess singers and dancers we enjoyed
each night.
Even though it was late, when we went to bed, it was
still light.**

**Some of us were often found
At the piano bar enjoying the sound.**

**And when the temperature outside felt like it was
freezing,
The afternoon tea, for some of us, was very pleasing.**

**Some of us were seen on deck to walk,
While others enjoyed coffee and talk.**

**A few of us were seen
At the daily Zumba routine.**

**Others spent
Their time watching TV to not miss a sports event.**

**The food was served with variety and taste,
And could be enjoyed at leisure or in buffet-style
haste.**

**And on some days,
Some, instead of lunch, just had fries and mayon-
naise.**

**We were lucky as the weather
Apparently was better,**

**Than for what ever reason,
The previous cruises this season.**

**Victoria, in Canada, was again a joy to see -
And this was the third time for me.**

**A picturesque city with the grand Empress hotel,
Where life has been, and still is, elegant, you can
tell.**

**The Sea Princess staff was pleasant and attentive,
Which we will remember when we give**

**A tip for gratitude
For experiencing their service and positive attitude.**

**Our pictures will show and tell,
That we all liked this cruise very well.**

**One more gala, then after tomorrow, we again will
all be seen
In our daily routine.**

**Even though we looked everywhere,
only three of us saw a glimpse of a bear.**

**But it was a pleasure to be together,
And we leave with memories that will last forever.**

Marie Jose Temmink

06-10-2012

THE “GRADUATION HAT” CAKE

This poem is written to mention
The special attention

We experienced on behalf
Of a caring staff.

Omar Silingardi
Facilitated this party

For the celebration
Of my granddaughter Ashley's graduation

On board the sea Princess -
And it was a real success.

All eleven of us were surprised to see,
This cake with a hat that was designed by Lugi
Pascale, the Maître D.

It was carefully created by Franco, the Chef of Pas-
try,
And, indeed, unbelievably tasty.

It had a special touch,
because it was made under the supervision of Chef
Batema, who was Dutch.

**And the complimentary dessert wine
Was also real fine.**

**It all was served with care by Patchie and Robet,
The two, for which we often said,**

**That under the watchful eye of The Waiter Marius:
This team, gave daily, the best care to all of us.**

**We look forward to another creation
For Ashley's next graduation.**

**And to give you all a tip,
We hope it again will be on a Princess ship.**

Marie Jose Temmink



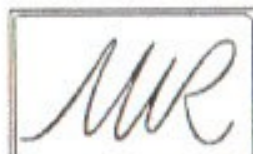
About the author:

Marie Jose Temmink, aka Verschoor, was born in the Netherlands and came to the USA in 1964.

She is a retired public health nurse with a long history in nursing management and who was owner and CEO for seventeen years of Associated Home Health Nurses of America, in Long Beach, CA, a home health staffing agency, and its sub-divisions (Neighborhood Home Health Services, a licensed home health agency, and Neighborhood Senior Care, an in-home supportive services company).

She now spends her time traveling and writing poetry about multiple subjects as well as documenting her life experiences.

Want to relax and enjoy an extended Ocean cruise and not leave your recliner? Marie Jose Temmink captures her travel experiences and observations with poetry at its best.



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