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Dedication:

To all home bound patients that can no longer physically travel I hope to give you travel experience and pleasure through my poems, while you relax in a recliner,

Marie Jose Temmink RN PHN

Previous books by Author:

Mourning poems	Published 2012
Travel Poems #1 Sidney to Venice	Published 2012
Travel Poems #2 South Africa to New York and Russia	Published 2014
Our Dutch Master Frans Verschoor	Published 2014



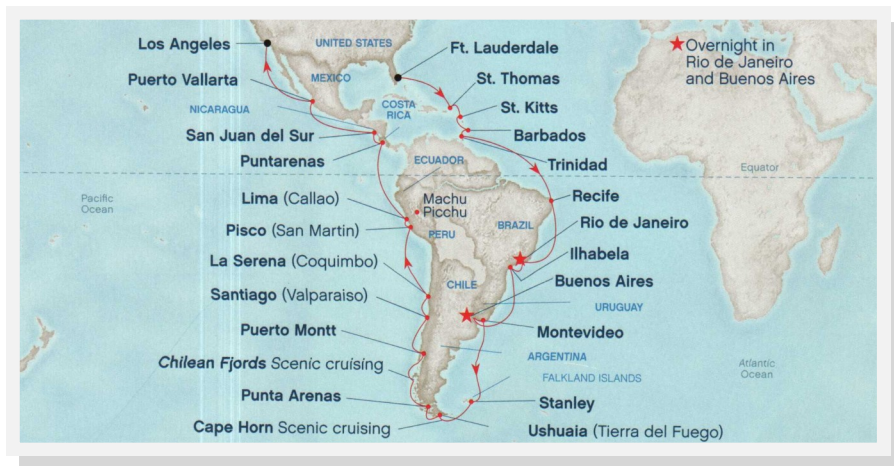
About the author:

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.



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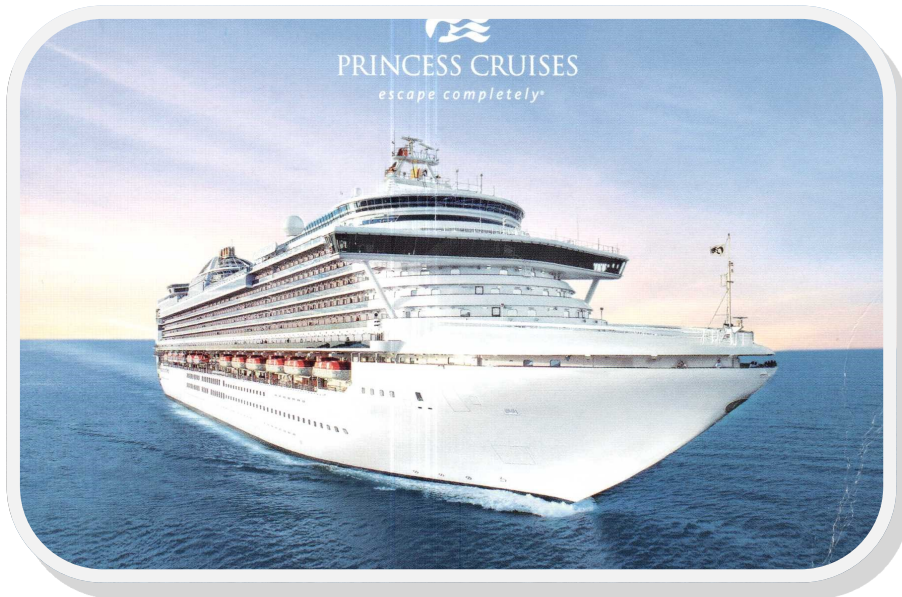
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02-14-2014



02-14 2014

LEAVING FOR SOUTH AMERICA

**Again I completed it all...
Even though the tasks were not small.**

**But it is a fact...
My bags are again packed.**

**My friends Dick and Lynne will knock...
At seven o'clock.**

**And drive me to LAX in the fast lane...
To catch my plane.**

**And be on time for the cruise ship boarding...
Early in the morning.**

**No need to guess...
This time it is the "Crown Princess"**

**To sail for 49 days...
And experience the South America ways.**

**It took some skill...
To get the visa for Brazil.**

**And I had to call back and forth...
To arrange for extra pages in my passport.**

**The Argentina reciprocity they could only assign...
If I paid in advance on line.**

**To be often on the go...
Takes time...effort and dough.**

**But I have to admit...
It is worth every bit.**

**So here I sit and wait,
At the "Jet Blue" gate.**

**Tomorrow I will sail...
With my friend Margaret from Fort Lauderdale.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-15-2014



DAY 1 OF 49...AT SEA

**My seat upgrade I thought was a deal...
But did not include a snack or meal.**

**The plane was oversold...
And freezing cold.**

**The woman next to me...
Upgraded for free.**

**She said it was a perk...
From having been injured years ago at work.**

02-15-2014

**We arrived on time..
And then I had plenty time to rhyme.**

**No need to rebuttal...
We had to wait for a shuttle.**

**I met a couple from Palm Desert that traveled a lot...
But living elsewhere they would not.**

**The ship arrived early in port today...
And first had to send all arriving passengers away.**

**Only then can they begin...
To check the new passengers in**

**For the next two hours I was awoken at times
by someone's cough...
As most of us waiting ... dozed off**

**It is interesting to watch this traveling crowd...
Tall... short ...skinny or well endowed.**

**I boarded the ship at noon
Then Margaret followed soon.**

**We had lunch in the Horizon Court...
While we still were in port**

**We were then able to begin...
Exploring the ship... and settling in**

**It was late when the ship was ready to go...
Because guest from New York were delayed by the snow**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-16-2015



2-16-2014

DAY 2 OF 49 ...AT SEA

**A full day at sea...
With a view of water as far as we can see.**

**A lecture about St. Thomas...
About how it is...and was.**

**Been here several times before...
But some of the specifics I remember no more.**

**Controlled over the years by many hands...
Now by the USA as part of the Virgin Islands.**

**Known for a soothing ocean wave sound...
And perfect weather year 'round.**

**Another lecture about Antigua Island next door...
Where I have not been before.**

**And a lecture about photography...
That was well spent on me!**

**High tea in the Da Vince Room...
A wonderful leisurely pastime for the afternoon.**

**The Captain's champagne water fall...
An impressive view for all.**

**With Sonya and Derrick from Australia we had dinner...
Another missed opportunity to get thinner!**

**We ended the day with a musical show by Nil Page
Which sounded good for ears of any age.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-17-2014



02-17-2014

DAY 3 OF 49...AT SEA

**Sun, sun and more sun...
3100 cruisers having fun.**

**Around the different pools or in the shade,
Not having to wait...**

**To get food or a drink...
At a wink.**

**“Assisted living” at its best...
Without worrying about the rest.**

**Have no pity...
For people in this floating city.**

**These seniors really have it made...
And are up to date.**

**They are not homesick or feel alone...
With their I-pad, I-book or I-phone.**

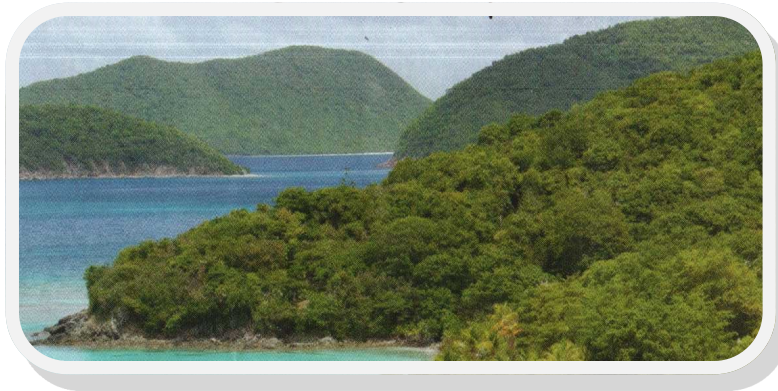
**They savor...
The fruit of their labor.**

**Hoping that their offspring...
Someday can afford to do the same thing.**

**And cruise for fun...
Somewhere around the world in the sun.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-18-2014



4
49....St. THOMAS

DAY
of

It is pleasing to ones eye to see...
This Island where Cristopher Columbus came in 1493.

The Dutch Indies Company established a trading
post here in 1667...
And it soon became a pirates heaven.

The Danes colonized this island in 1666...
And established a slave enterprise that made them very rich.

02-18-2014

**After WWI the Virgin Islands were sold...
To the USA for 25 million in gold.**

**What a deal...
For \$300 per acre... a real steal.**

**I was here in 1976, 1999 and the last time ten years
ago in 2004...
But little seems familiar from before.**

**In the shops the locals no longer seem in control...
As people from India seem to own them all.**

**But millions arrive here each year for a vacation...
To enjoy the beautiful beaches or tour a sugar plantation.**

**I also think...
This was the birthplace of the banana daiquiri drink.**

**And while here you somewhere hear soon...
Their favorite calypso tune.**

**People appear to live here comfortable and free...
Their first phone book they did not print until 2003.**

**It is hard to imagine... In this "God's creation"
They have a history of devastation.**

**Each time the Island is restored but never again
looks the same...
After an earthquake, cholera epidemic or hurricane.**

**But it remains an idyllic place...
And as memory I bought three tablecloth's of lace.**

**We left at 5 pm and enjoyed the view from our balcony...
And wondered if we would ever again see this city
Charlotte Amelie**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-19-2014



DAY 5 of 49...ANTIQUA

**We woke up very slow...
To a beautiful rainbow...**

**Over the bay with water in all shades of green...
Like seldom can be seen.**

**There are 365 beaches here they say...
One for every day!**

02-19-2014

**The highest point at 1319 feet recently got more fame...
Since 2009 "Barack Obama" is its new name!**

**Locals play cricket with zest...
And of all drinks like rum the best.**

**Slavery exists no more...
Since it was abolished in August 1834.**

**But each year they continue to celebrate this day...
In a Carnaval way.**

**The largest military base ever, here at sea...
Is part of the British maritime history.**

**The locals seem friendly and at ease...
And appear eager to please.**

**They use their powers in a gracious way...
To sell their ware to cruisers that are only here for a day.**

**We also fell prey...
To their charming way.**

**The afternoon we spend on the balcony...
And enjoyed the multicolor water as far as we could see**

**I know that after I can no longer cruise...
This image in my mind I will not lose.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-20-2014



02-20-2014

85

**If still alive...
Today... You would have turned 85.**

**When you died I could not believe...
Again there would be a time without grieve.**

**But your spirit has guided me...
Again to see...**

**The opportunities I have access to...
And the fun things I still can do.**

**So here again...
I am in the Caribbean!**

**Of course traveling together...
Was better...**

**But you are only gone physically...
And remain very much with me spiritually**

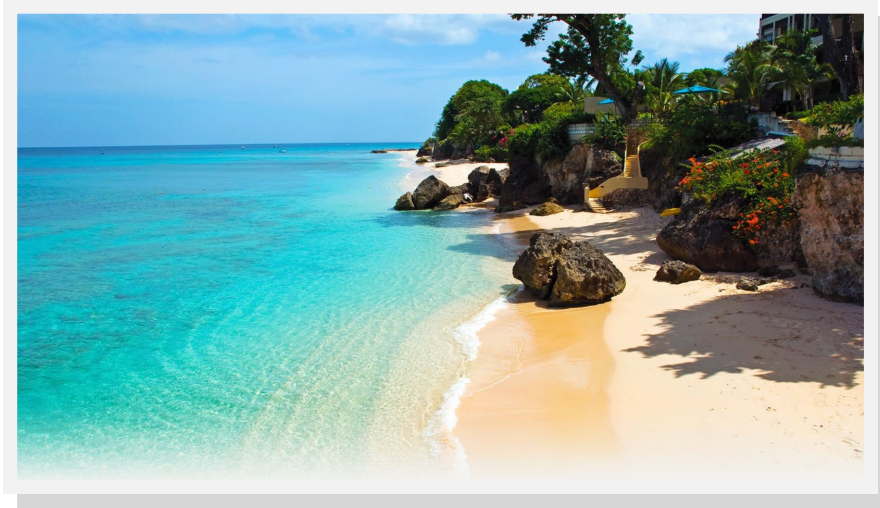
**No need to rack my brain...
And cause myself more pain...**

**And moan about what I miss...
But be thankful for what life was and still is**

**Happy birthday my dear...
You will always remain near!**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-20-2015



DAY 6 of 49.... BARBADOS

**Today again...
Another gem of the Caribbean.**

**Named after a local fig tree...
Barbados we got to see.**

**While I remember...
I was here in 2000 in the beginning of December.**

20-20-2014

**The British came here in 1627
And compared to their weather thought this
was heaven.**

**In summer they would melt...
But be thankful the Island is under the
hurricane belt.**

**Sugar plantations were established by the Dutch...
And they contributed much...**

**To the rich history...
And the local economy.**

**But England kept control...
Over every living Barbados soul**

**Until independence was reached in 1966...
By the local ethnic mix.**

**But they continue to believe and bet...
“To be more English than England” is being said”**

**They are proud and elated...
That here the best rum is being created.**

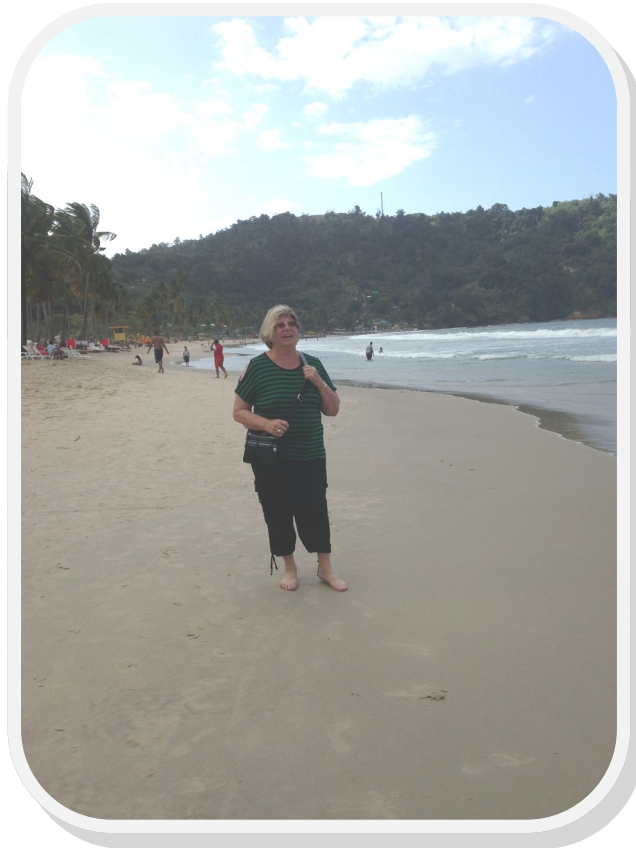
**Cricket is their national sport...
Along with water sports of any sort.**

**People that need to unwind...
Should keep this place in mind**

**Because far above the norm ...
Is this turquoise bay where year round it is warm.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-21-2014



49.....

**Day 7 of
TRINIDAD**

**A different view we had...
As we sailed into Trinidad.**

**Another Island found by Christopher
Columbus. This one in 1496
What remains... is a diverse and colorful ethnic mix.**

**There seems to be no reason to have fear...
There are 20 foreign Embassies here!**

**A 250 acre sugar cane plantation...
Was used for the creation...**

02-21-2014

**Of a city center multipurpose park
Where 1.2 million people can frolic from morning till dark.**

**Including Carnaval calypso and steel drum
competition...
Or any other feast with permission.**

**Trinidad has a strong economy...
Due to the petroleum industry.**

**They extract daily 100.000 barrels of oil...
From underneath their soil.**

**Venezuela across the bay...
Is only seven miles away.**

**I would have been glad...
To stay a bit longer in Trinidad.**

**Traffic was busy....
The mountain roads could make one dizzy.**

**But I felt a soothing sedation...
As we drove thru the semi rain forest vegetation.**

**We tasted fresh cocoa beans on the way...
To beautiful Maracas bay.**

**We sailed again at 4:30 in the afternoon...
Not expecting to be back soon,**

**But as we sail away from this bay...
I still hear the steel drums from far away.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-25-2015



GALLEY TOUR

**Thank you Omar and Cindy...for the intervention...
Of arranging the attention...**

**We received today from the Maître d...
Ignacio Agostino from Italy.**

**Who graciously arranged for me to shake hands...
With the executive chef Jozef Lisner from
the Netherlands.**

02-25-2014

**I was impressed to say the least...
How these two executives take responsibility to make
every meal a feast.**

**The galley...of shiny stainless steel...
Had a "spic and span" feel.**

**I knew what to expect...
But again came away with more respect.**

**Because It is hard to comprehend...
The time and effort that is spent...**

**With so much dedication...
On each culinary creation.**

**If only ALL passengers would participate...
In not creating any waste!**

**But agree...
In not wanting to see...**

**The waste left on their plate...
After they ate!**

**Exercising portion control...
Would be healthy and economical for all!**

**Ignacio and Jozef thanks for letting my table
mates and me...
Experience the workings of the cruise
"food industry"**

**You are instrumental in creating for me...
Another great memory.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-25-2014



Day 8-9-10-11... of 49... At SEA

**The ship rocked all night...
And in the morning we have clouds in sight.**

**But as we sail thru the Caribbean Sea...
I wished our view you could see.**

**The ship creates a streak of white and green...
That only from an aft deck or balcony can be seen.**

**The sound it creates is music for ones soul
and mind...
And only on a cruise ship one can find.**

**Then as we entered the Atlantic Ocean...
I felt a different motion.**

**Seasickness....??
On this "Princess"??**

**Is my stomach less tough?
Even when the sea is not rough?**

**Or was the salmon I ate....
The reason for not feeling great?**

02-25-2014

**But after taking a Canadian ginger pill...
I felt less ill.**

**Thru Omar's arrangements... Ignacio The
Maitre Dee...
Is as hospitable as can be.**

**He arranged for me to meet...
Jozef Lisner a Dutch chef with this fleet.**

**I continue to cruise with this line I should mention...
Because of Omar and Cindy's arranged attention.**

**They have never failed...
In all the years I have sailed**

**Since our wedding on the Grand Princess in 1999...
To make every cruise memorable and fine.**

**And while we gently rock back and forth...
There is no time to be bored.**

**In between the activities we relax on our balcony...
And are amazed about the many birds we see.**

**Occasional they take a dive...
But we wonder how they survive.**

**It was also nice to see...
Several people I have traveled with before at sea**

**I enjoyed dinner with Judy...
And her friend Ruby.**

**We ended the evenings after dinner and a show...
Tomorrow we will be again on the go.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-26-2014



RECIFE

**Early morning after four days at sea...
Miles of high buildings we see.**

**Behind a bay that is emerald green...
And from far away can be seen.**

**A city that from the distance appears asleep...
As this early we hear no sound or beep.**

**We had not expected...
To hear from the Captain that the Noro virus
was detected!**

02-26-2014

**People try not to be shaken...
And participate in precautions that need to be taken.**

**We hope not too many people are ill...
To prevent entering Brazil.**

**They say 1.2 million people live here...
But almost as many high rises appear!**

**Internet access is near....
But Crown Princess network does not appear.**

**We were at ease when the cruising flock...
Started getting into buses waiting on the dock.**

**Brazilian health officials could have been mean
And keep us in Quarantine,**

But they must have said...That we were no threat.

**The city tour was revealing...
And showed areas that were less then appealing.**

To our dismay... We saw a lot of decay

**From a distance the buildings looked new...
But many are inhabitable and covered with mildew.**

**Colonial buildings are crumbling...
And Olinda's historical churches appear to be tumbling.**

**But the locals do not seem to notice this at all...
They are busy preparing for carnival!**

**The phrase "Brazil is up and coming" we lately hear...
Will take awhile I fear.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-27-2014



02-27-2014

DAY 13 of 49.... At SEA

**High tea is for many a favorite pastime...
Also the parties to taste wine.**

**There are lectures about care...
Of eyes, skin and hair.**

**Lectures about curing aches and pains...
But don't expect any gains...**

**It is about products you should buy...
For a prices that are very high.**

**But these seminars are not attended by too many...
As seasoned cruisers do not spend a penny...**

**On miracle lotions...
Or promising potions.**

**But on this ship there is a doctor on board...
That offers enhancement of a different sort.**

**With a twinkle...
He can fill every line or wrinkle.**

**I wonder why people think it is healthy...pretty
or wise...
To have their lips made double the size.**

**My opinion I do not need to voice...
I appreciate everyone can exercise their choice.**

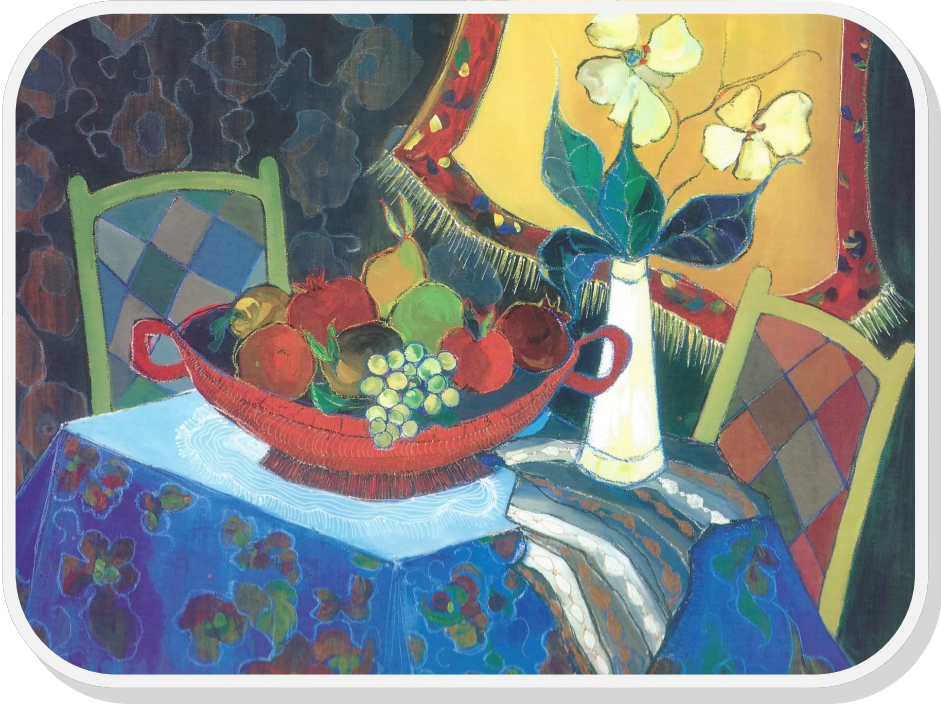
**In any case...
I hope they are happy with their new expensive face.**

Marie Jose Temmink

02-28-2014

I'm going to the
**CHAMPAGNE
ART AUCTION**

Tuesday, 1:00 pm | Explorer's Lounge, Deck 7 M



02-28-2014

Day 14 of 49 ... At SEA

**We attended an art auction with champagne...
Where someone was happy to gain...**

**While being told she was very smart...
To buy a \$10,000,00 piece of art.**

**I was surprised no one was fainting...
When the auctioneer gave the amount of
the next painting...**

**Mohammed Ali's face...by Peter Max
\$19,000.00 plus tax!**

**The crowd seemed tense...
But luckily had common sense,**

**And passed on this deal...
That was promoted as "a steal"**

**The Captain's cocktail party was well attended,,,
Where of course more cruising was recommended!**

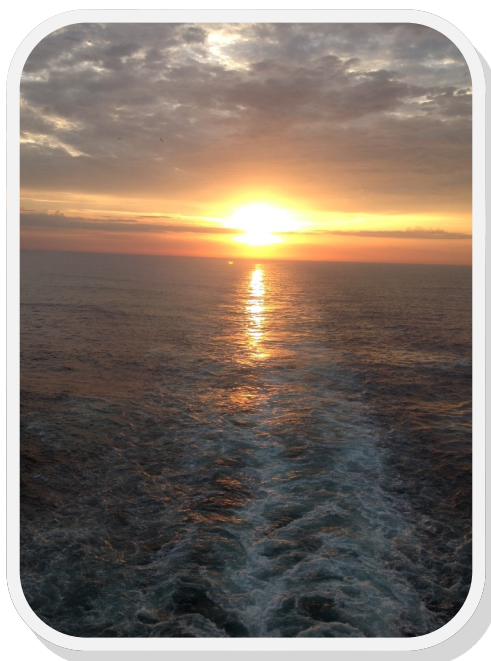
**The couple that won first place...
Had been sailing for 1,372 days!**

**I would need a lot more!
After this cruise I will complete 234,**

**But more days I will be filling...
God willing.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-01-2014



**RIO DE
JANEIRO**

DAY 1

**The sunrise is mesmerizing...
Soon in Rio we will be arriving.**

**The Portuguese came here in 1501. The French in 1555.
But the French were ousted ten years later in 1565.**

03-01-2014

**In 1822 Brazil became independent from Portugal...
And for Capitol they thought Rio was the best place of all.**

**But since 1960 it no longer functions as the Capitol
of Brazil...
The town Brasilia was selected at the Government's will.**

**But it is exciting to enter...
In what is now called Brazil's "cultural" and
"emotional" center.**

**How could I have dreamt at all...
To arrive in Rio... on carnival!**

**Impressive to say the least...
To arrive on the first day of this great annual four-
day feast.**

**Everyone tries to do the samba dance...
The entire city pulsates with exuberance....**

**We saw the floats from up close...
And bikini clad girls eager to pose.**

**And for all the sinning on a carnival day...
They receive forgiveness in a different way...**

**Christ the Redeemer stands high above this place...
To include EVERYONE in his embrace!**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-02-2014



RIO DE JANEIRO DAY 2

**This Rio Carnival street scene...
To believe it... has to be seen!**

03-02-2014

**It is a mix of Latin and African ways...
Dating back to the pioneer days.**

**10 cruise ships arrived and added thousands to the crowd...
To sing dance and scream very loud.**

**Before arriving we had heard...
Rio is the most marvelous city on earth.**

**A city with fame...
“Cidade Maravilhosa” is its Portuguese name.**

**We visited Sugar loaf Mountain and Copacabana beach...
Everything is close by and within easy reach.**

**But today the city was very congested...
And we saw several people being arrested.**

**Carnival appears to appeal to the ones under thirty...
Who parade in the streets that are more then dirty.**

**The economy relies on creating textiles and
pharmaceuticals...
Building materials, beverages and chemicals.**

**One wonders why...
Unemployment remains so high?**

**To live here I would not desire...
This city earns first place in graffiti, tattoos and barb wire .**

**It is a shame...
But only themselves they can blame!**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-03-2015



ILHABELA

**A few hours after watching the Oscars last night...
I am sitting on the balcony with multiple islands in sight.**

**And the sunrise that in the distance appears...
Could bring anyone to tears.**

03-03-2014

**My imagination...
Could not have been close to such a creation.**

**And I thank God...
To be able to see the world from this spot.**

**After one night cruising...
And leaving behind thousand's of people screaming
and boozing.**

**The cruise planners I am sure thought it to be wise...
To schedule a day in this tranquil paradise.**

**Few ships come here...
The Island still does not have a pier.**

**So to reach land...
The crew gave us a hand...**

**And took us ashore...
In a lifeboat like I have been in before.**

**We walked the village in balmy tropical heat...
Everything looked very neat.**

**A vacation spot for the happy few...
That cruise the bay in boats that look brand new.**

**I had never heard of Ilhabela before
But would love to return at least once more.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-05-2015



03-05-2014

DAY 18 and 19 of 49....AT SEA

**It is very quiet at sea...
Only an occasional freighter in the distance we see.**

**Internet remains sporadic...
But when reachable we are ecstatic!**

**Noro virus precautions remain in place...
To prevent another case.**

**Our Stewart deserves a high rating...
She is pleasant and very accommodating.**

**The weather remains pleasant and warm...
So far we have had no severe storm.**

**Had another gala night...
And the ladies jewelry twinkled very bright!**

**We decided today...
To start walking the stairway...**

**To prevent weight gain...
Because it is very hard to refrain...**

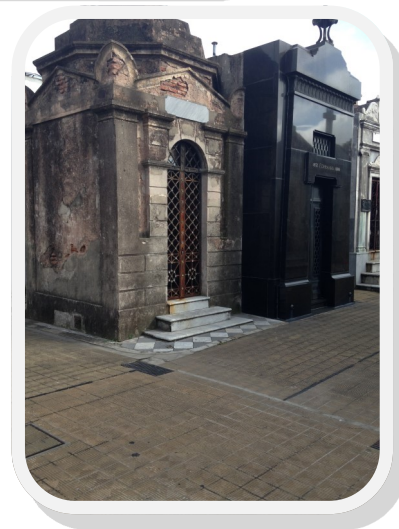
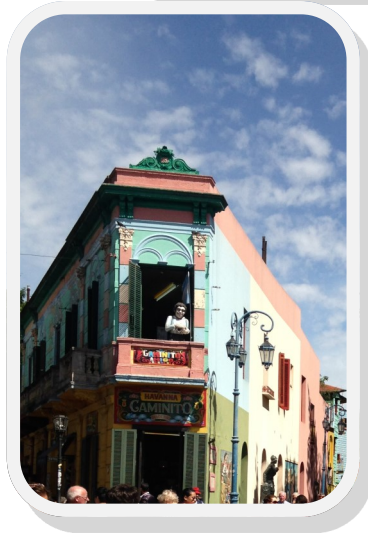
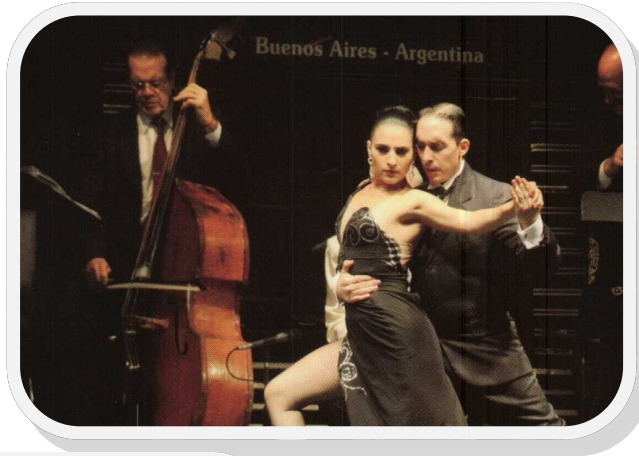
**From desserts or anything sweet...
That is available all day to eat.**

**A talent show by the guest...
It was not difficult to select the best.**

**Yes, it is easy to guess....
Life is good on the Crown Princess.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-06-2015



BUENOS AIRES

**The mud the ship stirred up... made us shiver...
As we cruised towards Buenos Aires thru the Rio De La Plata river.**

**A local pilot's expertise was required...
He came on board just before we retired.**

**When we awoke we wondered why...
We were docked between containers stacked very high.**

03-06-2014

**But we were told... here the ship would stay...
For the rest of the day.**

**We strolled along historic La Boca's brightly multi-color
painted homes,
And saw many statues of previous leaders on a horse or
on their thrones.**

**Plaza de Mayo just had a demonstration...
But for the locals that is a daily expectation.**

**According to the tour guide there are a minimum of four...
Demonstrations daily while often not knowing what for.**

**The balcony at Casa Rosada or Pink Palace is a shrine...
Where Maria Eva Duarte better known as Eva Peron did shine...**

**When she gave her famous speech...
Telling everyone she would remain within reach.**

**We toured the famous Recoleta cemetery...
And viewed "Eva's" black marble crypt in her memory.**

**A colony of wild cats still roam the ground...
But the old woman feeding them is no longer around.**

**The "Argentina beef" lunch we enjoyed very much,
Followed by a tango show where they danced very close touch.**

**We saw the best part of the city today...
With only a glance of a shanty town along the way.**

**The day went by too fast...
We wanted it to last.**

**I enjoyed being here again....
Hope to be back... but don't know when!**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-07-2014



03-07-2014

MONTEVIDEO DAY 1

**We arrived midday in sunny weather...
With help of a local pilot because they know
the waters better.**

**It was a precision maneuver to dock...
In this city of mainly Spanish and Italian stock.**

**He docked the vessel in the middle of the city...
But it was a pity...**

**That our arrival was too late...
And our tour bus was not at the gate.**

**But exploring the town on foot...
Turned out to be very good.**

**The town is charming, exceptionally tidy
and clean...
And everywhere sweeping women were seen.**

**Beautiful colonial buildings, well preserved and
up to par...
The most attractive city in South America so far.**

**A local Uruguay tango show on board...
And we stayed overnight in this port.**

Marie-Jose Temmink

03-08-2014



MONTEVIDEO DAY 2

**Today we had the city tour...
And saw no evidence of people being poor.**

03-08-2014

**The tour guide Enrique was a retired bank employee...
Who gave us a detailed description of Uruguay to
hear and see.**

**Like all Latin America Republics they took part...
In stormy and bloody battles from the start.**

**But because of one man's effort in 1918...
Social programs were established like nowhere
else were seen.**

**Uruguay established justice and liberty...
And became Latin America's heaven without poverty.**

**But Enrique was sad to share...
That many young people no longer seem to care.**

**The influx of multi ethnic immigrants that arrive...
Appear to change every one's life.**

**From the manners, respect and civic pride, this
country started...
They have departed.**

**Their future will depend...
On how they will deal with this new trend...**

**Of invading thugs...
That import graffiti crime and drugs.**

**And so...
Also in Montevideo**

**Good old times...
Are being replaced by crimes.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-10-2014



03-10-2014

DAY 23-24 of 49 AT SEA

**A day at sea...
Is a good place to be.**

**But the ship rocks more...
Then ever before.**

**We sat in the Piazza...
The three story center Plaza.**

**Another gala night...
With high waves in sight.**

**Seasickness has caught up with me...
Feeling as nauseous as can be!**

**No energy... No appetite
No eating... Not even light.**

**I feel best...
At rest.**

**When you receive my next rhyme...
You know I again feel fine!**

**I hope tomorrow the weather is good...
When on the Falkland Islands we set foot.**

**For now I pray...
And hope this misery goes soon away.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-11-2014



03-11-2014

FALKLAND ISLANDS

**A bitter conflict that ended in July 1982...
Determined who these Islands belong to.**

**The Falklands fate...
Was to become a British protectorate since that date.**

**But the Argentine's did not agree...
And 'til this date still see...**

**The "Islas Maldivas" as they call them by name
Are still part of their fame.**

**Signs are still all around...
That landmines are still lying on the ground.**

**It rained and the wind was bitter cold...
Year round the weather is not great we were told.**

**I wonder why anyone desired this place...
Or maybe it was just in case...**

**They hoped to find oil...
In this barren soil.**

**Nearly 30 years they have been drilling...
3000, people live here and seem willing...**

**To exist here 'til the end...
While belonging to England.**

**Back on the ship the waves seemed to swell...
Contributing... to me not feeling well.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-12-2014



SEASICKNESS ADVICE

You have been given an injection of Promethazine, a strong anti-histamine. It will probably make you sleepy for anything up to a few hours, so go and lie down, and try to rest. Don't stand suddenly at first, as you may feel giddy. You should feel improvement within the hour. If vomiting continues, please contact the medical centre again.

In eight hours time, or at bedtime if earlier, start taking Avomine tablets. A single dose of Avomine usually prevents seasickness for up to 24 hours. If you take it at night the drowsiness it causes will be less noticeable. Avomine can be repeated up to three times a day, but during the daytime half or quarter tablets are less likely to make you sleepy. Please read the leaflet inside the packet for further information.

- Take medication before you feel unwell.
- Go outside, and look at the horizon, or find a place to sit where the motion is least noticeable.
- If you feel worse, go and lie down:
- Some solid food in your stomach helps. Usually bread, buns or crackers are best.

03-12-2014

SEASICKNESS

**Last evening I spend...
Time with an acupuncturist for a treatment.**

**She promised one treatment would be for sure...
A definite cure.**

**But it did not have the effect...
That I did expect.**

**Even the follow up complimentary session...
Did not prevent a regression.**

**With no more result from the ginger pill...
At once I became deadly ill.**

**It was time to enter...
The ship's medical emergency center.**

**After being treated... I was out for twelve hours straight,,,
And woke up this morning very late.**

**The Captain had decided he was not about to lose...
His ship during the Cape Horn scenic cruise.**

**He knew we would not be safe...
In an 18 ft. wave.**

**The ship rocked and creaked all night.
And we felt each roll 'til the morning light.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-13-2014



03-13-2014

USHAIA

**Not easy to say...
O-shoo-AYE-ah.**

**Never had thought to arrive...
In this place during my life.**

**But when the bus turned the last bend...
We stared at the “world’s end”!**

**An odd sensation...
To look at the end of this creation.**

**Fuego National Park is very pristine...
Which not to many people have seen.**

**Then through a sub- Antarctic way...
We reached Ensenada Bay.**

**Overlooking the Beagle channel named after Darwin
Dotted with small Islands of various shapes within.**

**Snow covered mountains around...
And we hardly heard a sound.**

**We enjoyed a nature walk at Roca Lake...
And saw a big wolf... that was not fake!**

**We stopped at Lapalata Bay...
The last stop of the Pan American Highway.**

**This engineering marvel of 8,661 miles from Alaska til here
Which you should only travel when you have no fear!**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-14-2014



03-14-2014

PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE

**One had to be tough...
To endure this “tender” ride that was very rough.**

**25 minutes before we reached land...
With everyone holding a barf bag in their hand!**

**But once on shore...
We felt sick no more.**

**A stroll to the market place...
Changed the color from green to red in our face.**

**But getting back on the ship...
Became an unforgettable trip.**

**We were in line for more then an hour...
While the passengers mood turned sour.**

**The ride back to the ship was 45 minutes in agony...
While only splashing and crashing we could hear and see.**

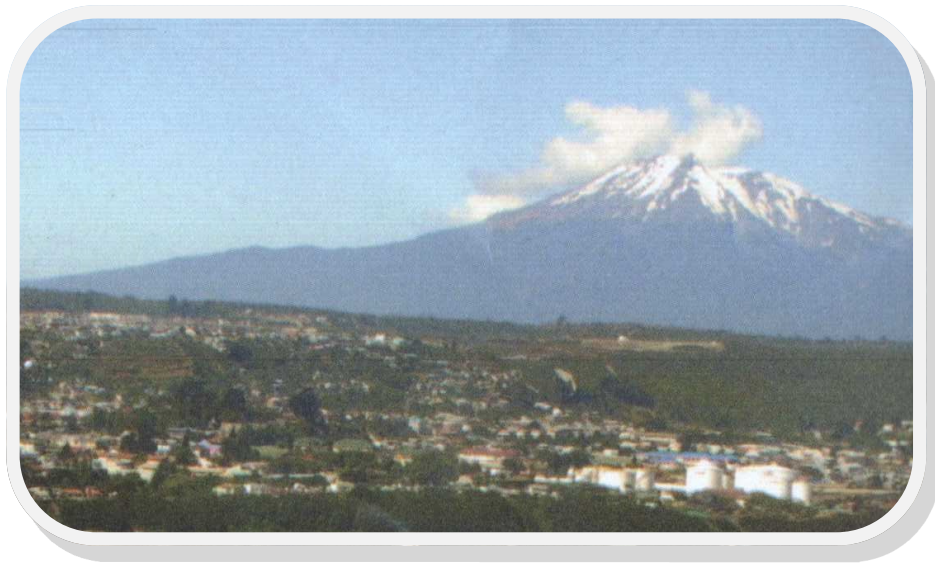
**We were packed like sardines in a can...
All had a scared look, even the man!**

**The promise when rubbing the toe of an
Indian’s statue to return...
We had wanted to earn.**

**But after weather of this kind
We changed our mind.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-17-2014



03-17-2014

PUERTO MONTT

**“The Shoestring Country” is Chile’s nickname...
And for its 3,075 miles length got its name.**

**It is only 150 miles wide...
With the Pacific Ocean on one side.**

**I remember being fond...
Of Puerto Montt.**

**When I was here in 2011 on the first of November...
It’s the view of the Osorno volcano what I remember.**

**Referred to as the “Fuji of South America”...
A beautiful view from our walk on Avenida Constanera.**

**There still lingers a German atmosphere...
Because in 1850 many settled here.**

**Their names left a mark...
We see the original settlers statues in the park.**

**But their language apparently did vanish...
As we only hear Spanish.**

**We walked for a long while...
And saw most people smile.**

**They stopped to take pictures of our ship in the bay...
Apparently not too many cruise ships come this way.**

**We did not feel queasy...
Today the ride back on the Tender was easy.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-20-2013



CHILE.

SANTIAGO

**We left from Valparaiso on our day tour
before it was light...
And most of the scenery was still out of sight.**

**From the ship it was not far...
To Vina Del Mar.**

**But it was still too dark to see...
This pretty city by the sea.**

**Thus...
Most of us slept for two hours to Santiago by bus.**

**But we felt thrills...
As the sun rose over the vineyard hills.**

**Beautiful wine estates...
With very ornate entrance gates.**

03-20-2014

**Downtown was crowded this weekday afternoon...
No one moved like they had to go to work soon.**

**Also here they cope with too many immigrants...
From Peru and Bolivia their neighboring lands.**

**From previous visits I know the locals care...
But now graffiti is everywhere.!**

**We were amazed...
How many beautiful buildings have been defaced.**

**But of them all...
No scratch (yet) on the Palace wall.**

**Because police keep the crowds away...
Where immigrants (we are told) try to
demonstrate every day.**

**There is reconstruction of many buildings in the city...
Many were unable to see due to the surrounding
fences which was a pity.**

**They are proud the highest building in South
America is reaching here for the sky...
It is a recent finished new building 62 stories high.**

**They build it to “roll” instead of shake...
In the next earthquake.**

**Lunch we did devour...
It was good and started ... with a glass of Pisco Sour.**

**I am glad to have great memories from the visits before...
Because the same appearance this city has no more.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-21-2014



COQUIMBO, CHILE

**Feeling we are far away...
No internet for the third day.**

**We docked in Coquimbo, Chile early am...
And after breakfast boarded a bus again.**

03-21-2013

**We drove to La Serena...a vacation resort...
But it did not look like a prosperous place of any sort.**

**It had a Mexican touch...
And looked like Tijuana very much.**

**La Serena is the Capital of Chile's north and
sits like an alley
Between the Atacama desert and the central
fertile valley.**

**Plaza de Armas and Avenida del Mar is where locals
shop.....
And can buy everything they need in one stop.**

**Tourist can buy souvenirs...
Shipped here from "worldwide" piers!**

**We visited an archeological museum but did not
"comprehend"
The guide spoke little English besides calling us often
"my friend"**

**There are 29 Catholic churches in town...
The recently other added, including a Mosque, make
some frown.**

**We arrived on time to sail away...
From this not so pretty bay.**

**To give you a clue...
Our next stop will be in Peru.**

Marie Joe Temmink

03-23-2014



GRAFFITI

**It is easy to grieve...
Because it is hard to believe**

**The changes I see...
When I travel over land or by sea.**

**More and more youngsters seem to insist...
To deface all walls that exist**

**Passing a blank spot...
They apparently can not.**

03-23-2013

**They rush...
To use a spray can or brush.**

**It is not the ones that have contributed to what is here...
But the ones eager to destroy what is not theirs I fear.**

**Their life apparently has no spark...
But they want to leave their mark**

**For their comrades to see...
By destroying someone else's property.**

**It is a shame ...
But authority every where is to blame.**

**If they would just use the appropriate tools...
And establish effective rules...**

**To punish the hoodlums...
And force them to work to gather the necessary sums...**

**To remove their "art" ...
Of which most people want no part.**

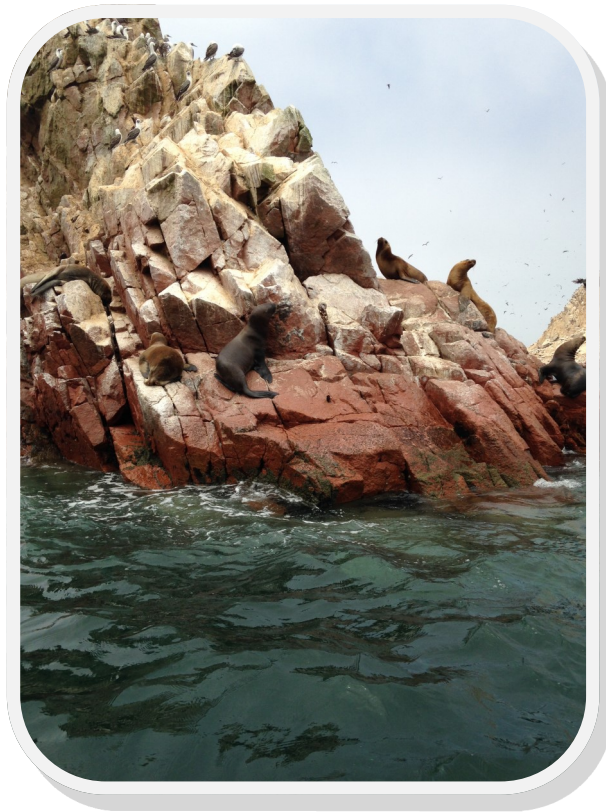
**I just hope to see the days...
That graffiti artist find other "expression" ways.**

**And be punished for their temptation...
For defacing a new or century old creation.**

**Until people show they care...
Graffiti will continue to INCREASE EVERYWHERE.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-24-2014



ISLAND, PERU

BALLESTAS

**It was a totally different view...
When we docked in Paracas, Peru.**

**Not a tree or plant around...
In this barren ground.**

**By bus to San Martin, the other side of the bay...
Then we were strapped in fast speed boats for the tour of the day.**

03-24-2014

**The view for us was new...
In what they call the “Galapagos of Peru”**

**Ballestas Island was the destination...
A place of bizarre rock and arch formation.**

**We were in awe...
Of what we saw.**

**Thousands of marine creatures and sea birds...
Unable to describe it in words.**

**Thousands of sea lions lying around...
Together making a haunting sound.**

**The baby sea lions endure a few knocks...
As they are taught to climb the rocks.**

**Pelicans and seagulls crowding the rocks...
Or flying in sky darkening flocks.**

**Penguins on the steep slopes seem to know where to go...
As they walk neatly in a row.**

**We could have stayed here all day...
To watch this spectacular display...**

**To enjoy and see...
How breathtaking pure nature can be.**

**We ended the day on our balcony with an endless view...
Thankful we got to see this part of Peru.**

**Then before we retired we wondered when...
We will have internet again!**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-25-2014



LIMA,

PERU

**We docked in Gallao, The port of Lima Peru...
And the tour buses waiting were brand new.**

**Called the “City of King’s” Day since 1635...
Since becoming part of Spain that year on Kings day January five.**

**Before arrival the Captain did inform...
About the crime rate here, being above the norm.**

**But we saw no evidence...
And had no bad experience.**

**We had no reason to frown...
Because we experienced Lima as a very safe town.**

**Plaza de Armas a beautiful city center...
Has a magnificent Cathedral we were lucky to enter.**

**All tour buses stopped here...
And the mob of people did not cause panic or fear.**

**Historical buildings are immacutely kept...
And 24 hours a day the plaza grounds are being swept.**

03-25-2014

**So pleasing to the eyes...
That we wondered why...**

Everywhere... They could not show this much care.

**We were told people here have a history of pride...
Inherited from their ancestors...the oldest Indian
tribe worldwide.**

**No graffiti ,no beggars, no stray dogs lying around...
Church bells from the Cathedral, a very
pleasant sound.**

**Only a few cruise ships come here...
And that brings many entrepreneurial pheasants
to the pier.**

To set up shop...On a tabletop.

**They appear in a good mood...
While they hum along with the sound of a
Peruvian flute.**

**At the Indian market we did not see one imported
souvenir...
All artistic and folk art is made here.**

**30 million people live in Peru where a woman is
President...
And together with a woman Vice President we are
told they keep the people content.**

**But we heard before...that many flee...
To settle in Chile!**

**We returned to the ship...
After another unforgettable day trip.
Marie Jose Temmink**

03-26-2014



NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

**We attended a lecture on the fate of the Titanic...
And listened to that evening's panic.**

**It seemed absurd...
But it was the band's last tune we heard.**

**Before the passengers slipped away...
In this frozen bay.**

03-26-2014

**The music made an impression...
And I decided during this session...**

**To have this tune played at my funeral...
As a farewell to all.**

**“Nearer My God to Thee,”
Knowing every one ...again I will see.**

**I have been fortunate to have cruised 234 days...
And each journey were wonderful ways.**

**To be together with family and friends...
And see worldwide conditions and political trends.**

**Titanic passenger’s life came to a different end...
We learned how their last evening was spend.**

**The last tune they heard drifting across the sea...
Is now the last melody for me.**

**While being thankful and glad...
For “what a long happy life “I had.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-28-2014

THE CHEF'S TABLE

**Today the big venue...
Was the 'Chef's Table' menu**

**A real success...
Aboard the Crown Princess**

**An evening of "Nostril Teasers"
And "Palette Pleasers".**

**Created by Executive Chef Antonio
Costantino and his staff...
And served under direction of Ignazio d'Agostino
Maitre d and his half**

**And we were elated...
About the feast those two pro's and their staff created**

It started in an alley...Of the ships main galley.

We were dressed in kitchen whites...For the first two bites.

**Foie grass, tuna tartar...
Bistro quiche, new potatoes with sour cream and caviar**

**Champagne to bring out the delicate flavors...
All served by an attentive staff, trained to do us favors**

**The galley staff greeted us very kind...
As we left the galley jackets behind.**

**We were escorted to the dining table...
That was decorated as "out of a fable,"**

Porcini risotto with scampi...A favorite dish from Italy.



03-28-201

**Strawberry and cracked pepper to wish...
Having a clean palette before the next dish.**

**Surf and Turf a “double up” table side preparation...
Was a “flavor blending“ creation**

**Lobster tail, tiger prawns, filet mignon and lamb chops...
Vegetables from fresh crops.**

**The wine selected for this delicious food...
Put us in a good mood.**

**Ignazio and Antonio promoted a happy crowd...
That experienced what true dining is all about.**

**Baked camembert with pine nuts and port wine...
Walnut bread that was more than fine.**

**Chocolate mousse with raspberry filling...
What more could we be willing.**

**Then they poured after dinner wine in a glass to take home...
And gave us a cookbook with the recipes to try when
home alone.**

**A formal photograph with our group’s pose...
And the ladies received a red rose.**

**Coffee with more delicacies...
Ended the evening with wonderful memories.**

**After three and a half hours this gourmet event...
Came to an end.**

**We agreed that on any future cruise...
The opportunity of a “Chefs Table” we will not lose.**

**Thank you Antonio Costantino... And
Ignazio d’ Agostino.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-29-2014



PUNTA

ARENAS, COSTA RICA

**Discovered in 1502...
By Columbus and his crew.**

**There was no gain...
“Til 1821 when they became independent from Spain.**

**Compared to other Latin America entities...
They have maintained peace for almost six centuries.**

**We started with a scenic morning ride...
With a well informed guide.**

03-29-2014

**Who was proud to share....
How much the people care..**

**To live with ease
While keeping peace.**

**Families gather in the park...
'Til dark.**

**On the plaza...
Of Esparza.**

**In Costa Rica...
A man is called Tico and a woman Tica.**

**And they have no reason to be annoyed...
Only four percent are unemployed.**

**Computer chips is the biggest industry...
Since the eighties Intel is a well known entity.**

**They grow coffee, sugar and bananas...
And are used to living with monkeys and iguanas.**

**They use their hands...
To harvest a large variety of fruits and plants.**

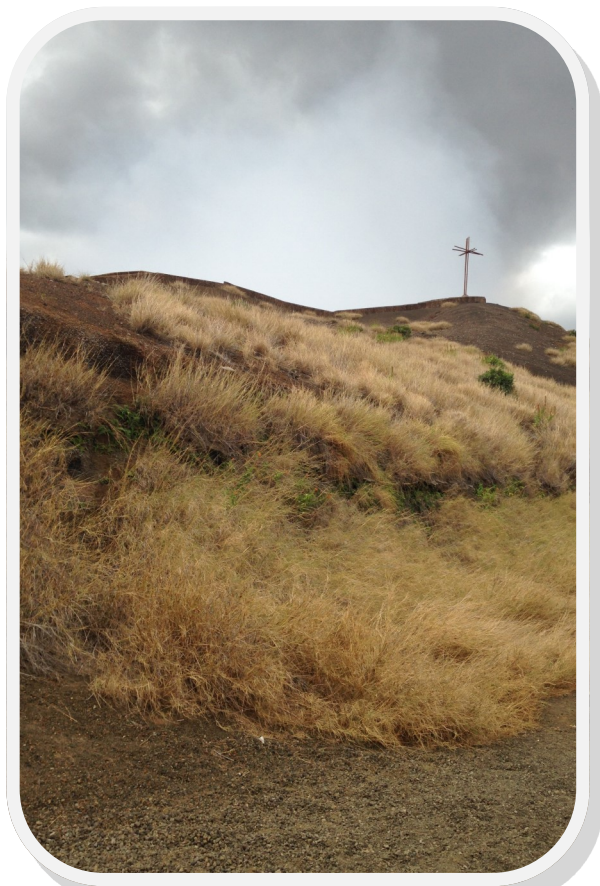
**It rains often and a lot...
But complain they do not.**

**They have many earthquakes and many volcanoes...
Of which six are active everyone knows.**

**We enjoyed this visit...
To experience the Costa Rica spirit.**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-30-2014



SAN JUAN DEL SUR, NICARAQUA

**An all day bus tour...
Through a country that looks very poor.**

**A few mansions along the sea...
The rest are huts what we see.**

03-30-2014

**The Transamerican Highway...
Was quiet this Sunday.**

**Unemployment is 30 percent we were told...
And people do not get very old.**

**They hope to boast their economy...
In the tourist industry.**

**But in that industry it seems they have a lot to learn...
Before they can start to earn.**

**With building a pier they could begin...
Because the two ships a week have to tender in.**

**Maybe the long discussed interocean Nicaragua canal...
Could bring prosperity for them all.**

**We visited the large market in the city of Masaya...
And drove along Lake Nicaragua.**

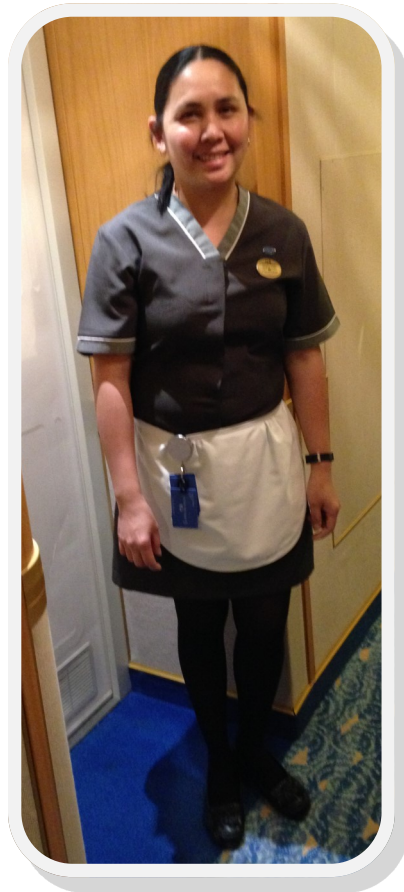
**We saw the Masaya volcano steam rising to the sky...
As we stood nearby.**

**We walked the hot streets in the colonial Granada
city and were told...
They depend on funds from Spain to restore what is old!**

**Nicaragua might boast a historic legacy...
But 'til now they show no prosperity!**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-31-2015



03-31-2014

CABIN STUART

**Meilani deserves a high rating...
She was always friendly and accommodating.**

**Always there...
Appearing out of nowhere.**

**She worked ten hours a day
And she was never far away.**

**She always did her best...
To keep our stateroom refreshed.**

**She knew our wishes...
Never left used dishes.**

**She provided extra pillows and a duvet...
And set the right temperature everyday**

**We often heard her sing...
While taking care of everything**

**Thank you for caring for us in many ways...
These wonderful forty nine days**

Marie Jose Temmink

03-31-2014



03-31-2014

DINING EXPERIENCE

**Ignazio, the Maître D was able...
To secure for us the best table.**

**In an intimate corner on a table for four...
Where we ate together or invited two more.**

**We were thankful to be able...
To select the guests for our table.**

**And “break the bread”
With friends I had previously met.**

**We dined each night...
On table 202 with the ocean in sight.**

**The room was never too loud to hear...
The classical music playing near.**

**Pisit and Mamun soon remembered our name and ta
taste...
And never served us with haste.**

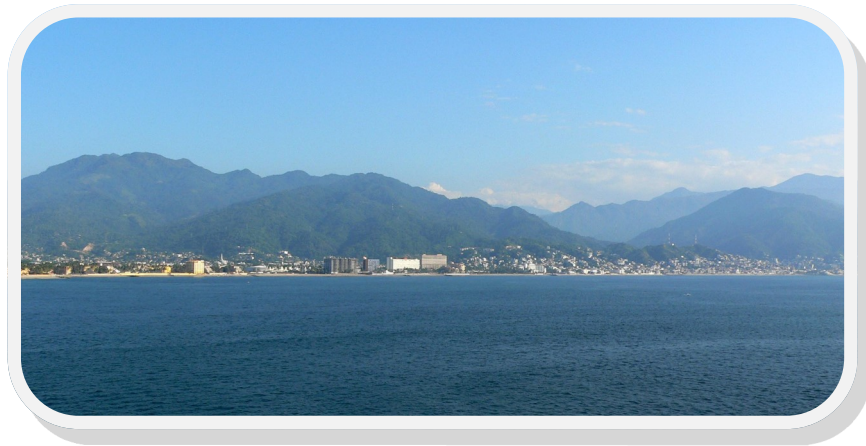
**Always concerned...courteous and polite...
Making sure we were satisfied.**

**The food was tasty, the portions just right...
Each dining experience was pure delight.**

**Thank you all for every bite you prepared...
And so elegantly served.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-01-2014



SEA DAY

**Watched the sunrise over the sea...
Another spectacular sight to see.**

**Ate breakfast on the balcony... late and slow...
No other place to go.**

04-01-2014

**Attended the lecture about Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
And learned what to see and where to go.**

**No mentioning of danger...
When walking around as a stranger.**

**But our time we already had decided to spend...
In a ship's sponsored event.**

**We then attended a lecture about the periods in Art...
The speaker was well informed and smart.**

**For lunch a slice of pizza on deck fifteen...
The rest of the afternoon on our balcony I was seen.**

**No one can tell us when...
We have internet again.**

**This lack of communication
Causes real frustration.**

**But Daphne reached me about an earthquake within
close reach...
And Ashley checking my home for damage in Long Beach**

**I am very thankful for loving family...
That watches over me.**

**The afternoon high tea...
Is very relaxing at sea.**

**Tomorrow dolphins will be our pals...
Because we will swim with these animals.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-02-2014



PUERTO VALLARTA

**We arrived midday...
In this sunny bay.**

**Have arrived here before by air or ships...
On numerous trips.**

**But the village it was before...
Exists no more.**

04-02-2014

**High rises galore...
Appear on this shore.**

**It has a prosperous appearance all around...
And signs of danger no one found.**

**The locals appear to behave...
And keep the tourists safe.**

**This time we went to the dolphin adventure center...
And were a bit hesitant to enter...**

**Not knowing where to begin...
Until instructed to hold on to a fin.**

**The dolphins were able to carry...
Us around on their soft belly.**

**They made many spins...
While we held on to their fins.**

**It was an odd sensation...
To be next to such a large creation.**

**They were soft to touch...
And appeared to like it very much.**

**They came close and did insist ...
To be kissed.**

**With another memory we will not lose...
We ended this terrific 49 day cruise.**

Marie Jose Temmink

04-04-2014



49 DAYS ON THE CROWN PRINCESS

**In the last 49 days we visited 21 Ports...
And had experiences of many sorts...**

**The captain was afraid his ship he would lose....
If around Cape Horn he would cruise.**

**He was not about to try...
Because the waves were very high.**

**Rough seas in many places...
Many passengers had green faces.**

**I experienced seasickness like never before...
My "entire being" was sore.**

**Strong earthquakes shook Chile a day after we where there...
Followed by a tsunami scare.**

**The Noro virus kept people in isolation...
And put a real damper on their vacation.**

**There was also lot of coughing and sneezing...
And we heard a lot of wheezing.**

**Many in wheelchairs or using support of walkers or canes...
Evidence they had all sorts of pains.**

04-04-2014

**Many excessively obese...
Ordering of everything... more than one piece.**

**The food was terrific...
But the amount people ate horrific!**

**We preferred the dining room instead of the buffet,,
An enjoy being served on a plate, instead of scooping it on a tray.!**

**The Maitre paid extra attention to us...
And we enjoyed the dining room's staff extra fuss.**

I had time to write...Day or night.

**And wrote a poem about every port...
Some long some short.**

**I should not forget to mention ...
That our cabin steward always gave us special attention.**

**I could not have enjoyed more...
The new friends... and the ones I had met before.**

**Internet left a lot to be desired
Every one was getting tired....**

**For waiting on end...
For the emails they could not receive or send.**

**I Posted my dolphin encounter on face book...
And al my friends "liked" my adventurous look.**

**Margaret and I did a lot of laughing...
And decided together... do more traveling**

**For now I look forward to my home routine...
Till we are off to the next place we have not seen**

Marie Jose Temmink

06-16-2014



THE RITZ CARLTON REYNOLDS PLANTATION

**The Ritz Carlton Reynolds plantation...
A Georgia sensation.**

**Never heard of it before...
But enjoying this luxury room on the first floor.**

06-16-2014

**Let me mention...
My daughter is here for a convention.**

**She invited me to come along on her trip...
And this opportunity I did not skip.**

**It is not a place for the ones that have to "make do"...
But for the "happy few"**

**Prices...are over the top...
To eat or shop.**

**The surroundings are very serene...
Immaculately kept and clean.**

**The atmosphere true Southern style...
A place I like to stay for a while.**

**Every thing in slow motion...
Of time I have no notion**

**I am thankful for this invitation...
And to be here for the three day duration.**

**The only thing that throws a curve...
Is my very painful unpredictable trigeminal nerve.**

Marie Jose Temmink

07-08-2014



LAS VEGAS

**Daphne needed to be here for a four day seminar...
And I joined her to drive here by car.**

**In Las Vegas for a long time I had not been...
And the back roads drive here was beautiful and serene.**

**But my forehead turned into a deep frown...
Seeing the masses of people in this town.**

**I have travelled a lot...
But seeing something similar I have not.**

**People come from all over the world hoping to win...
And newcomers are dazzled where to begin.**

07-08-2014

**Two eyes are not enough...
To see all this promotional stuff.**

**Cash you no longer need...
To gamble, shop or eat.**

**People believe they can win...
As long as they remember their debit card pin.**

**Then they are told-it is best...
To use their a credit card to pay the rest.**

**It is interesting to see this show...
Of people that come and go.**

**Since my last visit the dress code went...
Some people dress like they have spend their last cent.**

**Besides, for seeing a good show, I will never understand...
What draws people to the corner of this land.**

**Tonight we will see...
A show of Donny and Marie**

**On Thursday we will hear the voice...
Of the Jersey boys.**

**Tomorrow I travel by bus...
To escape the rest of this rush**

**Because for me...
It is the Grand Canyon I rather se.**

Marie Jose Temmink

07-09-2014



07-09-2014

**And look so very far...
I realize how insignificant we are.**

**And that we are only for a split second on earth...
Hoping to contribute some worth.**

**A mild rain fell...
Casting a mysterious spell...**

**And after the rain cleared...
The sun appeared...**

**Casting its light...
Very bright...**

**Into this gaping hole...
As food for my soul.**

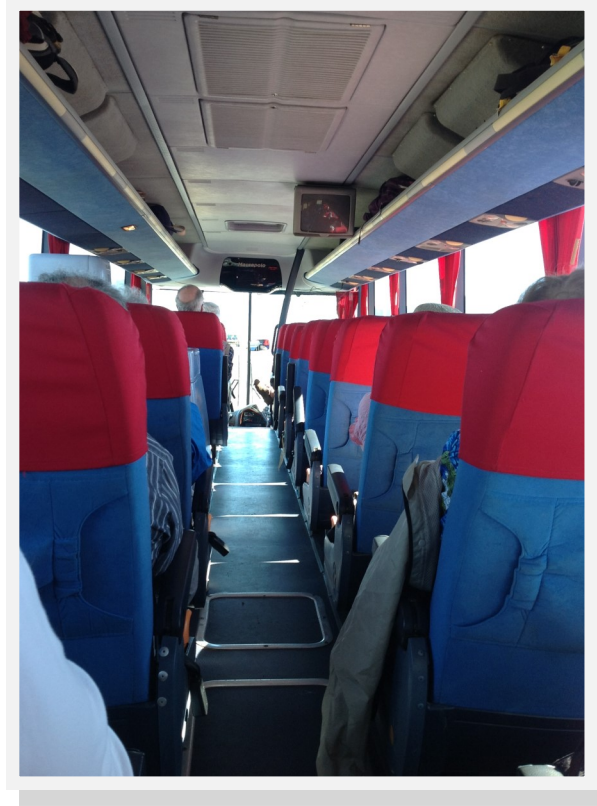
**The rock layers are a window into time...
Which I can see in a blink of an eye.**

**I stand here and feel inspired...
By this magnificent landscape I have always admired.**

**This most powerful landscape developed over
unimaginable time...
Has always been a magical attraction of mine.**

Marie Jose Temmink

07-28-2014



DOMESTIC FLIGHT

**It is no longer a pleasant mode of transportation...
Across this nation.**

**You need to plan how to survive...
Because often your luggage does not arrive.**

07-28-2014

**Your seat is compromised...
Because every seat is more then occupied .**

**Passengers that weight a lot...
Take halve your seat if you like it or not.**

**No need to get unnerved...
Food is no longer served.**

**But from hunger you do not need to gag...
You can buy potato chips at 4 dollars for a small bag**

**Just pray you do not get to sit...
Next to an unruly kid.**

**Or have a child kick the back of your seat...
With their feet.**

**People show chagrin...
Because there is no room in the overhead bin.**

**It is mass transportation...
Everyone seems to fly on their vacation.**

**Internet with limits..
\$5 for 30 minutes.**

**Stewardesses are older when hired...
And at the end of the flight look very tired.**

**Glamor no more...
Nothing ...like it was before.**

**But if you want to get from A to B
This is what it will be !**

Marie Jose Temmink

08-22-2014



Dinner in Bali Indonesia in 1991

08-22-2014

78 TODAY

**Today at dawn...
We remember Gerard -John...**

**On his tomb we will place a bouquet...
He would have turned 78 today.**

**He died abruptly in 1992...
Without being able to say adieu.**

**He was one in a million...
His qualities carry on his children.**

**His unexpected departure left a gaping hole...
But sweet memories mended our soul.**

**Thankful that his DNA left traces...
In beautiful faces.**

**In our memory he will remain...
Till we see him again**

Marie Jose Temmink

08-29-2014



L.A .TRAFFIC

It is 70 degrees when I leave Long Beach...
And I wonder how high the temperature today will reach,

As I drive alone...
To my desert home.

It started with a painful slow drive...
On residential streets till the 405.

I entered the 22 freeway and went with the flow...
Which was stop and go.

08-29-2014

**Thinking it might take me all day...
As I am not making headway.**

**Then ...I am ready to cheer...
When the 55 freeway is clear.**

**On the 91 freeway we come to a screeching halt...
Due to some drivers fault.**

**I am close to road rage...
At my old age.**

**But driving on the 60 freeway is a breeze...
And the temperature by now has increased 25 degrees.**

**After the mountain-pass like always...the sky is clear and blue...
While I am driving on this freeway as one of a few...**

**And I pray...
It will be the same on the 10 freeway.**

**No need to feel stressed...
This stretch was the best.**

**As soon as I leave the freeways behind...
I unwind.**

**Feeling great...
As I enter the Country Club gate.**

**While getting out of my car seat...
I feel the dry 111 degrees heat.**

**Remembering the traffic no more...
As soon as I unlock my desert home door**

Marie Jose Temmink

09-11-2014



AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

**Part of today...
Was spent in a most pleasant way.**

**With Dick and Ann I strolled along the beach...
To the Aquarium which is within walking reach.**

**Where creatures that live deep in the ocean without light...
Are close and within sight**

**We saw California King Crab, deep sea Isopod and
Moon Jellies...
And Otters floating on their back or bellies.**

09-11-2014

**Giant Sea Bas, Leopard Shark and California Moray Eel...
And the soft skin off Sting Ray we got to feel.**

**We enjoyed the California Sea Lion show...
Saw Garibaldi, blue Rockfish and Sargo.**

**It was a pleasure to revisit...
The Coral exhibit.**

**Unimaginable ...to have a close up...and see...
what all is alive at the bottom of the sea.**

**We heard the sea lion's barking sounds...
And saw a Sting Ray of 400 pounds.**

**In the Aquarium Aviary we were greeted by many Lorikeet
Multicolored birds...friendly and sweet.**

**The Aquarium of the Pacific...
Is indeed terrific.**

**Although...in this poem most Animals I missed...
There are just too many to list.**

**But it is worthwhile to spend time with a friend...
In this pleasant educational environment.**

**By now it was time to get off our feet...
And we stopped at Pf Chang's for a bite to eat.**

**Then it was time to say good buy to each...
And we strolled home again along the beach.**

Marie Jose Temmink

10-25-2014



THANKS TO THE USA

**Today is the day...
For me...to say thanks to the USA.**

**And on this occasion...
I am visiting Mount Vernon Plantation**

**For the second time in my life...I enter humbly...
The home of the Father of this Country**

10-25-2014

**Today 50 years ago I arrived...
After I left The Netherlands behind.**

**I am glad on that first day...
My husband John decided to stay.**

**Opportunities galore...
A desire to return to the Netherlands no more.**

**No tales...
The wind was always in our sails.**

**Finances secure...
No hardships to endure.**

**Proud to be an American...
No longer a Dutch citizen**

**I had my share of challenges...grieve and sorrows...
But always the strength to face tomorrow's.**

**Looking back 50 years...
I experienced much more happiness than tears.**

**I visited EVERY state...
And I live in the one with the Golden Gate.**

**Abroad I also travel a lot...
But a better place to live...believe me...there is not.**

**I am thankful for the many years I got to stay...
In the USA.**

**This land is my land.....
Praising it enough...I just can't!**

Marie Jose Temmink



CONCLUSION

**For years...I worked as a Home Care Nurse...
And observed...that being homebound was often a curse.**

**Therefore I share my travels poetry...
To lessen their misery.**

**Because I know...
That...what I write while on the go...**

**Will brighten some ones day...
While home they have to stay.**

**I hope that thru my poetry...
They can travel with me...**

**In the comfort of their chair...
Without having to go anywhere.**

Marie Jose Temmink RN PHN