

CHRISTMAS IN THE CARRIBBEAN

Our Christmas Eve festivities start after dinner with a show in the main entertainment lounge. Called "The Spirit of Christmas", it is a mixture of song, dance and pantomime, put on by the passengers for the passengers. The lounge is so full, that Owain and Tony have to stand at the back for the whole show.

It is a really good performance, and there is much booing, hissing and shouts of "He's behind you", and "Oh no it isn't"! We have seen some of the hard work and preparation that has gone on over the last few weeks, and it is good to see it all come together on the night. After the show, there is a carol service, and readings from the Bible. For those who wish to attend, there is also midnight mass.

Late night snacks normally contain sandwiches, cakes and fruit, but tonight they also have mince pies! They run out several times, as some passengers take platefuls to their cabins, but eventually everyone is satisfied, including Owain!

On Christmas day, the normal routine of breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and late night snacks is altered. No one wants to get up early, so a Brunch is organised for 9.30 - 12.30, with High Tea at 4 pm and Christmas dinner at 8.30pm.

In the afternoon, we listen to the Christmas choir, again all passengers, who have been practising for weeks. We all join in with one gospel song. Afterwards, Father Christmas makes an appearance, and there is a queue of passengers wanting to sit on his knee, and have their pictures taken with him!

Even though it is Christmas day, we still have a couple of computer jobs and queries, although we do have time to sit on deck in the hot Caribbean sun, and have a swim in the pool. Not bad for December!



Tonight we have our Christmas dinner and have already seen the menu and chosen our courses. Alvina has prawn cocktail, game consommé, broiled lobster,



and diabetic desert of poached pears in strawberry coulis. Owain has chosen goose pâté, tomato and sherry soup, turkey and all the trimmings, and plum pudding. He is hoping there will also be more mince pies. Sheila knows Owain's weakness for mince pies, and has brought some down from their dinner table (they are on first sitting whereas we are on second).

Tonight's entertainment is in two sittings, so it should not be as crowded in Club Live. The professional dancers and singers we have on board - The Higher Notes Production Company - are performing their Christmas show, and as they always have an excellent show, we are looking forward to it.

All in all, it has been a fantastic Christmas, the temperature has been in the early 30's C , the food has been excellent, the entertainment great, and no shopping, cooking or washing up! What more could we ask for?!

