



Disney cruise ship stops in Cape Breton for first time

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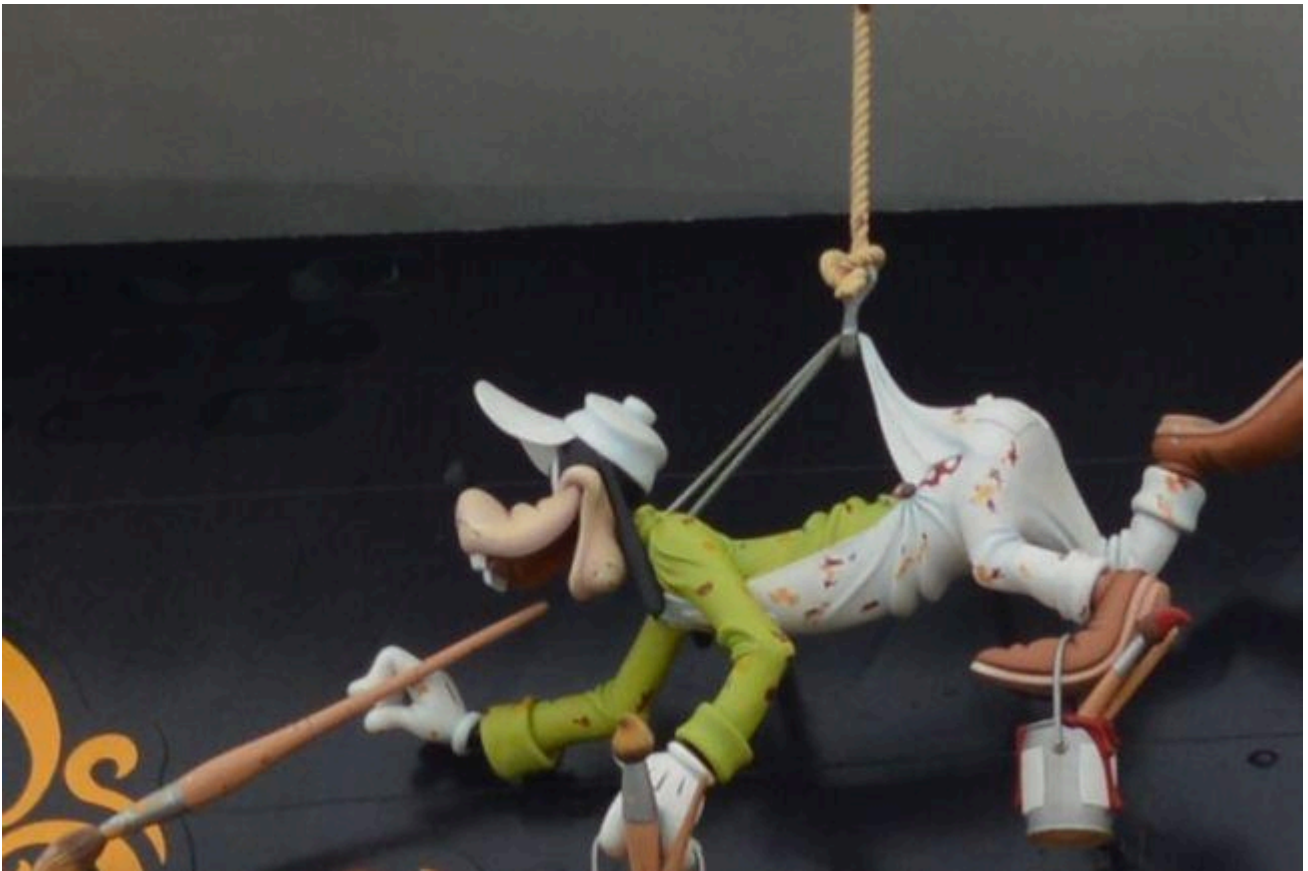
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Families from all over the world were believed to be on board the Disney Magic, which made a stop in Cape Breton on Friday. Orlando's Tal Cannisters, Autumn Cannisters, Ashley Cannisters, Morgan Cannisters, Cameron Kate and Nelson Cannisters, stopped to pose for a Cape Breton Post photo before exploring downtown Sydney.



SYDNEY - None of his previous 28 Disney cruises have disappointed Ludouicus Van Eijsden in any way and he didn't expect the one that made its way to Cape Breton on Friday to be any different.



The Disney Magic is shown from the air, thanks to photography from a drone used by Island Aerial Media.

SYDNEY - None of his previous 28 Disney cruises have disappointed Ludouicus Van Eijsden in any way and he didn't expect the one that made its way to Cape Breton on Friday to be any different.

The Belgium resident was on board the Disney Magic, which tied up outside of the Joan Harriss Cruise Pavillion just after 7 a.m. on Friday, as part of an eight-hour stop before the cruise ship continued on across the Atlantic.

"It is not the ports of call or the activities, it's the entire cruise and its quality," he said. "You get so much. It is so perfect."

His 29th cruise brought him to Sydney for the first time in his lifetime and he was impressed with his surroundings, despite some cool temperatures and cloudy skies.

"We are just walking around the city to see what it is and how people live that are here," he said. "It is dry, not too cold. That's what is important."

While Van Eijsden was travelling with his wife, the great majority of passengers to make their way to land during the ship's Sydney stop were families.

"It is beautiful, quaint and clean," Arizona native Stan Allen said about his Sydney surroundings.

"We want to see the big fiddle and we are going to try to go up to the town and see the city." Allen was travelling with his daughters Laura and Makayla on their sixth Disney cruise. He said once you take one cruise you want to take another.

That was also the case for Orlando's Autumn Cannisters who was part of a family group of six that boarded their fifth cruise when it departed Port Canaveral, Fla., on Sunday.

"It is the only vacation where you don't have to have an agenda," she said. "You don't have to worry about planning things. The kids are happy. There's stuff for grownups."

On board, she said Disney characters such as Mickey Mouse and Goofy are always walking around.

Destinations, like Sydney, are often interesting, too.

"This is very different from Florida, so we feel like it is what fall should look like, what New England should look like so we are just soaking that in."

Though temperatures were on the cool side on Friday, she said that was a nice change from the 90 F temperatures they felt just prior to leaving Florida.

The Sydney Ports Corporation worked for over a year to secure and prepare for the current Disney Magic visit. Disney lines themselves put a lot of effort into ensuring the visit would be enjoyed by passengers.

"They wanted to make sure of what their guests were coming to so they visited all the tour suppliers around the island and they have been to our operations to oversee everything from the port specifications on," said Bernadette MacNeil, manager of marketing and development for the port.

"They've done site visits in the past. They assess the port before they come into it. We know we can deliver perfection to them today and that's what we have aimed to do."

An early indication of success was seen as several bus tours left the dock on Friday morning, full of Disney passengers in search of Cape Breton adventures.

MacNeil said those tours are a revenue generator for Disney.

That should help with the port's goal of securing another Disney visit and get the attention of other cruise lines.

"Other cruise lines are looking at us, at how we deliver perfection to Disney, and it gives a great spotlight to our port."

As part of efforts to deliver perfection, dockside performances were scheduled, included a ceilidh for passengers to enjoy as the ship begins the last leg of its journey towards England.

<http://www.capebretonpost.com/News/Local/2016-05-20/article-4535748/Disney-cruise-ship-stops-in-Cape-Breton-for-first-time/1>