

PASSION ISLAND

Last year in Cozumel there were at least ten other ships in port and it seemed everyone was determined to get into the mellow sunshine of this lovely island off the coast of Mexico as fast as possible. I knew the passengers on those other ships were miffed because their favorite island-within-an-island getaway was not available. Seems Bare Necessities Tour & Travel had an arrangement with Carnival Cruise Line for the exclusive use of Passion Island that day. Of



course, if other cruisers wanted to forgo the swimwear and join us we would have been happy to accommodate, but the excursion was sold out.

After finding the correct line for the catamaran over to the island, the fun began in earnest when our “Twister” captain said to hang on to our hats. We literally flew across the water, twisting and turning just enough to cool off in the spray raised by this speedy transport.

Hats still in place, we reached the island in record time to find other catamarans had already arrived and passengers were making themselves at home on this pristine beach. Where I walked the sand was still raked in neat rows and there were no other footprints but mine. The quiet and the palm trees began to work their magic.



Stashing my beach bag with friends and now sans bathing suit, I took a stroll to get acquainted with the amenities of Passion Island. The first thing I noticed was how clean the bathrooms were. They had an attendant that made sure everything necessary was available and all the fixtures and faucets were shipshape. From there I walked all the way to the end of the beach to get a little exercise and see how far our domain reached. It was a

pretty good size and walking back it seemed everyone had found either a sunny spot or a shady one depending on their preference. Volleyball was in full swing. Kayaks and paddle boards were in the water and every hammock and beach chair was full.



The staff on this Passion Island excursion really knows their stuff and were friendly and helpful. Waiters circulated among the tables and up and down the beach. The hosts that greeted us when we arrived clearly explained how everything operated and when they said it was all inclusive they meant it. Everything on the island is included; drinks, food, kayaks, hammocks, hanging beds, tables and

chairs and beach chairs. Everything is very clean and organized, with showers and lockers available. The food is delicious and fresh and included fish, watermelon, cucumber salad, and everyone's favorite guacamole.

Passion Island has an authentic, laid back, easy vibe and no obtrusive loud music. The island had three different areas and each area had several bars and an individual food pavilion. This made it extremely easy to get lunch, and even go back for second helpings of the delicious local guacamole. The drinks weren't too strong and delightfully fruity and cool. I enjoyed their signature cocktail, the "Passion Island" when I finally worked my way into a hammock. Boy, that is the life! We should change the name of the island from Passion

Island to Bare-adise Island!! You would think that's the drink talking, but it really was one of the loveliest afternoons I've enjoyed on a cruise. I can't wait to go back this year!

