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Watercraft Philately



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Escaping winter, cruising in the Caribbean



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It was great to get out of the snow (10 feet in my yard and counting), coming back from our ritual winter cruise. This time, we sailed on the **CARNIVAL BREEZE** on a Western Caribbean cruise from Galveston to Montego Bay, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cozumel, Mexico. We were traveling with a few of our friends, but if you are looking for peace and quiet, 5,000 passengers do not do it. We also learned one important thing – the larger the waterslide on a ship, the more children (640 in all). Makes it quite crowded and the elevators slow as hell—more about Hell later.

As for ship-spotting, these are not the ports for you unless you like cruise ships; but overall, we had a good time. We sailed from Galveston, Texas, and as we had a later boarding time, we were able to take advantage of some nautical museums in the area. Texas Seaport Museum is situated right next to the cruise dock. It has a small exhibit on the Texas Navy as well as local shipping history. Highlighting the fleet of ships that kept the shores of the Gulf Coast safe from invaders, both foreign and domestic, this exhibit takes the public back to a time of cannon fire, sailing ships and adventure on the high seas. Focusing on the first and second Texas Navies, museum goers will see artifacts and paintings of the time, as well as ships models, including the infamous topsail schooner **INDEPENDENCE**.

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