

October 1, 2025

Daily Reflections



SERENDIPITOUS AWAKENING

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

*Serendipitous:
come upon or found by accident; fortuitous ...
good; beneficial; favorable*

[DICTIONARY.COM](https://www.dictionary.com)

Reflection

Harkening back to last month, where you were introduced to [my friend who helped to actualize my desire to see the Grand Canyon](#), another extraordinary adventure occurred that same year. For my friend, as probably with many of us who are aware of the brevity of life on earth, her bucket list became paramount and she wanted at least one more great adventure. Before I could say, “Whoa,” my traveling companions had booked a cruise to the Caribbean and the

Panama Canal. Now, I have never had much interest in such a journey -- perhaps too touristy. However, it seemed to work with everyone's schedules and before you know it, off we went.

Embarking from Fort Lauderdale, we connected with a friend and cousin who lived in the area prior to launching the cruise. Unlike other cruises we had shared in the past, there were a number of sea days before visiting a location. This was relaxing and restful. We then made very quick stops at Half Moon Cay, Aruba and Curacao, and visited many sites along the way. It was much more adventurous than I had anticipated. Best not to assume facts not in evidence, as they say. However, I was really looking forward to the Panama Canal.

As it was, we were scheduled to enter the Canal, but not to make a full journey from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. We would enter through the Gatun Locks, do a doughnut around Gatun Lake, and then dock at Colon from where we would travel overland to the Miraflores Lock on the Pacific side of the Isthmus of Panama. Now, that might seem like a big to-do about nothing, but in fact it provided us an opportunity to see many sights along the way that we wouldn't have if we'd gone completely through the Canal.

Early in the morning, we entered the Canal moving through two locks before entering Gatun Lake. The ship was abuzz with excitement as we made our way slowly through the water and levels. The sides of the ship were so close to the edge of the Canal that from my room balcony I was able to lean over and touch the concrete wall. We bussed over to the Pacific side of the Canal, visited the Miraflores Lock and museum, saw a number of ships (including a submarine) going through the Canal, and returned to the ship by way of the Panama Canal Railway. The train had to stop in the middle of the lake to allow another train to pass, which gave us time to enjoy the jungle scenery.

On our return journey we made one more stop in Limon, Costa Rica, where we visited a site in the rainforest, saw and heard howler monkeys hanging from the trees, and experienced local music and dance. What an adventure! Would I have ever thought in my wildest imaginings that such a journey would take place? Thanks to my friend who loved life and all it has to offer, and appreciated the gift that life is, the unexpected happened. Sharing life and adventures with friends is such a blessing, and doesn't God hold surprises and favor with both?



Panama Canal
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- When have you experienced serendipitous adventures?
 - What were the blessings?
-

For Prayer

*God of surprises,
thank you for unexpected adventures and discoveries,
and the joy of sharing them with friends.
Help us to appreciate all that life and people in our lives have to offer
through each moment on earth,
and to find You in all things and experiences.
Amen.*

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