

12/2/25



Peter Divine

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Today, the Odyssey is in its third Fiji port, Port Denarau. I am spending the day on the ship today, rather than taking the half-hour tender shuttle to land. And so it seems like a good time to write about my departure from the Villa Vie Odyssey in just two weeks. I will be disembarking on December 16 in American Samoa. I have canceled all of my future segments with Villa Vie. The company has already reimbursed me for the remaining deposits which I paid in December 2023, after deducting what I owe them for the next 2 weeks.

I moved out of my Boulder apartment on May 4, 2024 – more than a year and a half ago. The ship was originally scheduled to launch on May 15 from Southampton, England, but it finally launched on September 30, 2024 from Belfast, Northern Ireland. I was not on the ship the day it launched, because I had grown impatient and had booked a different cruise on Norwegian Cruise Lines, and then another cruise on Norwegian Cruise Lines. When the Villa Vie Odyssey finally launched, I was able to catch up to it in Bilbao, Spain, on October 7. The past 14 months have been a wild ride in many ways. Now I have decided that it is time to move on.

I have no plans to return to the United States, due to the political situation there. Instead, I will continue to travel the world, but on my own terms, setting my own itinerary and not following any ship's schedule. My immediate plans are to spend 3 extra weeks in the South Pacific visiting new countries, even though I generally do not care for hot, humid weather nor beaches. And then I will head for Asia, where I expect to visit Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Turkmenistan, Bhutan, and probably other places. And when I find Asia to be too "foreign", I expect to head for Europe or Mexico or Canada where I am more familiar and comfortable with the cultures and languages.

Life on this ship has become tedious after a year. I liken it to being required to go to Disneyland every day. It is wonderful to have three meals provided daily, along with laundry service, and twice-weekly housekeeping. But I found that I miss the challenge of travel-planning, that is, researching places to go, booking flights and hotels, and figuring out on my own what I want to do and see and how to get there. The community of residents on the ship is quite close-knit – both wonderful and stifling. There is naturally a lot of gossip, and drama, and bickering, and animosity, in addition to the good friendships and romances. I am overwhelmed by the number of interactions that I witness every day, both in person and electronically. I now believe that it is not possible for any group of 300+ people to live together in harmony in such close quarters, especially people of privilege, which we all are. And that made the decision to go explore the world as an independent much easier.

Villa Vie as a company continues to disappoint me in many ways, although I have not gone hungry, and my "villa" has been comfortable, having very few problems with plumbing, air conditioning, internet, or noise. I am not ready to elaborate on this. For anybody who wants more insight on this, I refer you to this interview with my friend Joe Rhodes who recently left the Villa Vie Odyssey for reasons similar to my own:

www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=-aa0_xr3a_o

I do not regret the past year and a half. But now it is time for me to move on and begin the next chapter in my life.

