

Somewhere on my bucket list was a cruise. It was penciled in because I wasn't sure if I really wanted to go on a big boat and hang out in the ocean. I've heard good and bad. I just wasn't sure if I wanted to be "tied" to a ship on vacation. I sometimes have issues with that.

After the Carnival Triumph story of an engine fire, malfunctioning bathrooms, lack of food and the smells, I think I'll just erase that line on my list.

The ship was "dead" in the water for five days. It has been said passengers were fighting over food, urinating in showers, doing the other in plastic bags and sleeping on the top deck because it was too hot and stinky anywhere else. One report said there were 5 working toilets for 4,200 people.

It was also believed there was no electricity or air conditioning on board. That means no ventilation. No air moving. No way to move smells out of cabins and off decks.

Yikes!

Yeah, that's my idea of a vacation.

Carnival is saying conditions were exaggerated. I'm not sure if I care. Even if a tenth of what passengers were saying happened did occur, I'm still outta there. And why would passengers make those reports up. If I'm talking to someone or texting a family member, I'm just going to tell it like it is. If anything, I may try to make it sound a little better than it is so they don't worry.

I think this incident just goes to show that no matter what you plan, you are at the mercy of someone or something else. You can plan to fly somewhere and flights can be delayed and canceled for a variety of reasons. You can plan to drive and your car can break down or there may be an accident. You can decide to stay home and some other happenstance can cause the plans to go awry.

My bucket list: one item shorter

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I guess how you determine if you still have a good time is the degree of uncomfortableness and if you can rise above the hardship.

I'm not sure that was going to happen on the Triumph. Things just went too far. Things were just too much. There was stuff in plastic bags, for God's sake. Oh my goodness!

Anyway, now I have room for something else on my list. I'm not sure what it will be right off-hand but I'm sure I'll figure it out. I just know what it won't be — a cruise.