

Caitlin Levandoski, age 24, Seabourn Cruise Lines – Rosen College Career Fair Job Connection

I'm currently 24 years old and I was born and raised in Leesburg, Florida. I graduated in 2017 with a dual Bachelor's degree in Restaurant Management and Events Management from the Rosen College of Hospitality Management. Before working on Seabourn I didn't travel much. I went on a couple cruises to Mexico and the Bahamas and I travelled to a few states with my Grandma.

What made you choose the cruise ship job?

I always wanted to travel and see more beyond the Florida line but with going to school full-time and managing restaurants while in school, I never got the chance. Upon graduation, I knew it was time to leave the company I was with and try something different. I had many different ideas in my head and the cruise ship popped up. Having the image of traveling while I worked stuck in my head, I talked to Professor Wickey about my idea and she thought it was great and told me to talk to Tim Krabill with Seabourn at the Rosen College Career fair and go to his presentation after. I talked to Tim and set up an interview, and landed the job. I had 10 days to decide if I wanted to take the job.



Tell us how your parents, family and friends reacted when you said you were heading to out to sea.

I talked to all my family members about it. My grandma was super supportive, my sisters didn't want me to leave and my dad told me I could look elsewhere that was closer to home. I knew what I wanted, so I took the job. I joined a crew Facebook page, and asked if anyone was on my ship and gave my embarkation day. I ended up linking with a girl named Sarah who happened to be on the same ship, the same day... and she also graduated from Rosen College. We talked throughout the next couple months about our paperwork and what to bring. Another girl named Clair already worked on the cruise and wrote me to walk me through everything. She told me if I had any questions she would be there. I brought all the normal items to live, clothes and personals. I wish I brought more socks honestly. I brought the wrong work shoes and it's not easy to find good shoes for a good price.



Sarah and I met on our layover in LA. We didn't get to sit next to each other but when we got to New Zealand they had us in the same hotel room. We spent the day together and then embarked the next day at 5 a.m. Kyla was our trainer and she took us around the ship. We had to learn a lot on our first day but they shortened it so it wasn't so long. Our cabins were guest cabins and they put three to a room. I

liked those cabins. The ship was way better than any ship I have been on and much smaller, only made for 650 guests.

Describe your experiences during the internship.

Our days were long and hard, not what I expected at all when I took the job. During training I actually texted my parents and told them to find me a flight home. Clair talked me out of coming home every time. Told me to get through a month and I would be glad that I stayed. So I did, and she was right. I ended up making a lot of friends and seeing the most amazing places.



I went from New Zealand all the way to Spain stopping at 17 different countries. Honestly, the best experiences was seeing all the different cultures and personalities. I took in every place. It opened my mind to so much more and it made me realize how closed off to the world most Americans are.



What's the biggest lesson you learned about long-term travel?

The biggest lesson I learned was to keep in touch with your friends and family back home as much as possible. Also, take every chance you get and explore. Even for just an hour. You have to get off the ship to feel like a human.



The ship helped me in a lot of ways. I was able to see a different style of management, some I agreed with and others I didn't. I grew stronger mentally and I know what I am capable of now. I am no longer with Seabourn. I am currently managing a country club in the Villages. I find myself missing the ship, my friends and traveling, but I am working to obtain a job where I can travel and also enjoy myself.

