

The boat has arrived in the Caribbean! On Wednesday, more or less on schedule this time, the delivery captain and his crew appeared at the dock of Bobby's Marina in Philipsburg, St Maarten.

Philipsburg is a cruise ship port done right. We've visited there several times before, sometimes even with nonagenarian Mom in tow — she loved the warm breezes and the palm trees and the shopping — and from one or another elegant hotel on the beach (we favor the Holland House) you can watch the steady influx and outgo of cruise ship passengers from the safety of an upscale beach bar. And there's shopping on Front Street (the Cigar Emporium, also a Robert Graham clothing store, and search out Tess's art gallery at the end of the road.

We boarded on Friday (this is the 8th), sorted through provisions and such for a couple of days, then left the dock on Tuesday morning. One night at anchor in Philipsburg, then around to the back side of the island to the second country of Saint Martin — pronounced this time with a French accent. The food in Grand Case is worth the trip. We stayed there for three days, leaving Saturday morning for the nearby island of Anguilla. Check-in (boats have to clear in and clear out of each separate country, which in this part of the Caribbean is mostly each island) is in Road Bay, so that's where we stayed.

16 February 2019