

Saturday 14 January 2012 – At Sea - 15° overcast

All these late nights mean that we are having difficulty getting up in the morning. Rick is frustratingly slow in the mornings at the best of times. However, we're not the only ones, the Sidlesham couple just about made our 10am Bridge session but hadn't had time for breakfast. We're doing less and less. Had to prod Rick when he let out a resounding snore in the cinema while we were watching "Dead Again". Terrible news about the cruise liner that ran aground, relatives have been texting passengers to make sure they are okay. Our Captain has made an announcement to reassure passengers that there are lots of safety procedures they have to adhere to. He then spoilt it all by saying that we are about to pick up three Maltese armed guards to safeguard us from pirates.

Sunday 15 January 2012 – At Sea – forward 1 hour - 12° Speed 20.1 knots North Force 7

Despite losing another hour we are much more alert and switched on today. Not really learning that much at Bridge and managed to get away without actually having to play. Rick stayed awake for the whole 163 minutes of David Lean's 1984 film "Passage to India". Our mobiles think that we are in Norway and we each have 25mb daily data allowance. Rick spent a few hours transferring my blog to his mobile, then back to one of the laptops where he was able to update our website. I am still not completely confident that we won't get an enormous mobile phone bill but he assures me it's okay. Watched comedian Peter Piper's finale, he is hilarious. It's pile on the jumpers tomorrow in Piraeus as they are only forecasting a high of 6°.

Barcelona to Piraeus 1162 nm

Monday 16 January 2012 – Piraeus 4° - 6° Bright and sunny



I'm in agony, paying for not going to the gym this past month. We are berthed in the port of Piraeus, one of the largest ports in Europe and about 5 miles from Athens. We're looking forward to recapturing our cheap Greek early 80's holidays; Retsina, Ouzo, Metaxa and Greek salad. It was 4° with a biting wind and some poor ladies were only wearing shorts and flip flops. Of course we also had to do the cultural bit with the Acropolis and the ancient city of Athens. I heard one lady mention that it was the coldest she has been since her visit to Alaska. I've recapped on the history but it was difficult to appreciate everything to the full when you are so cold. It's hard to believe seeing the perilous state Greece finds itself in at the moment, that the foundations of life today are based on life in ancient Greece. It was the birthplace of democracy, they discovered new ways of thinking, new technologies and invented and defined philosophy, politics, mathematics, astronomy, art and sciences. One of their problems is that they don't have much industry. The city looks a bit run down with lots of graffiti but they appear cheerful and try to encourage us to spend our money to help their economy. As soon as we were dropped off at the Plaka, which is famous for its plentiful

neoclassical architecture, I bought some woollen gloves and hat. Rick remembers visiting this area with his mother but we didn't buy anything from the numerous tourist shops as they don't travel. Instead we head for the warmest looking restaurant and get started on those holiday memories. Rick is not good on boats and the strange thing is that once he gets off he still thinks he is on there as everything is going up and down. It was a good long lunch and we did everything but the Metaxa. Back at the ship I took 3 hours to sleep off the lunch, warm up and rest my aching thighs. Rick's trying to get ahead of me with the exercise but I couldn't go to the gym today if I wanted to as I can hardly sit down with my aching legs and bottom.



The original Olympic Stadium that is just used for opening ceremonies



We are berthed next to a Costa ship, it's enormous compared to The Arcadia and the one that went down was even bigger. The honeymooners are sweltering in 32° in Singapore.