

20 FUN THINGS TO DO ON BOARD

Thoughts



Adventurous, spontaneous, chirpy, thoughtful and at times also powerful...

Sheila Anand doesn't merely report the whereabouts of our general maritime events. She is best known for her outstanding sense of perception which she presents with justified eloquence and varied adjectives! Interviews with rare achievers, statements on facts seldom known and a column that makes an interesting read! She is your ST Saheli... watch out, she is always on the lookout of a paheli!

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he caffeine in my Vanilla Latte is kicking in... and I get my rare coffee treat while writing this article. Suddenly the mind is sharper and I go back in time. While on board sailing with your family there is a time warp of sorts. It's like you are stepping into a space that can be filled with loads of fun, ridiculous moments and quality time with loved ones and friends. I find that the pictures taken on the bridge wing or while in port when the wind is blowing through my hair reminds me of happy, carefree days that I

haven't been able to duplicate regardless of the location on land. There are some magical moments but they can also be dull if you don't make that special effort. All the ladies especially who have enjoyed their sailing days have had that spark and fun inside them. So what are you waiting for!! Let the countdown begin! Let us think of 20 ways to make your stay on board the ship funfilled, playful and memorable.

20

When we sailed in 2008 in Brazil, we **let the music lead the way**. There were live bands when you walked through streets and the music followed you wherever you went. Went to the swimwear store and got a new bikini for my daughter Kyna. She was ecstatic! I still have a picture of her in the tub.

19

Kidnap some friends/family and take them out for a good time. We were out one evening with Ch. Officer Chandan and his wife Mandeep and savoured barbeque, fun rides and especially I remember a guy painted in silver as a knight of sorts. If you paid for it, he would make a squeaky tinman sort of robotic dance with precise movements and then become a statue again. The kids went wild!

18

Many wonderful hours passed with Kyna and Mandeep when she went to her cabin, made cartoons and they **had a secret language all of their own**... Another 2nd officer Amadeos was taught Hindi by us and we were learning Italian, with hilarious results. I might add thought that his grasp of the language was very good and he made quick progress except when Pranav played a prank on him and he was bugged for the next two days!

17

Watch movies together with loads of popcorn. There are movies like *Asterix and Obelix*, *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron*, *How to Lose A Guy in 10 days* and those teen movies like *Back to the Future* that are great to watch in a group with butter popcorn. Yummy!

16

Learn a game like Chess or play Dumb Charades. It is a great Ice breaker and fun too. You'll be surprised how competitive the teams could get!

15

Taking digital pictures of your friends and colleagues and adding funny captions to them. The catch is everyone needs to be a sport.

14

Get to know each other better... talk among friends about your **favorite childhood injuries**. Gory! I still remember mine on my left arm knuckles and elbow when we were having this girl v/s boys thing with my cousin Arjun and his friends; and my cousin Moni was riding a cycle which we had been warned had bad brakes. Anyway we went accelerating down a slope and landed up in a pile at around 9 pm in a dark alley lined with ominous trees. Bleeding and humbled we reached home and tried to hide from 'the parents'... still remember that night so vividly... as I said makes a great memory!

13

Earlier there used to be big swimming pools that I heard were cleared out and made way for parties... literally. But with space restraints **you can buy a kiddie pool** and invite everyone over for a pool party.

12

On land or at sea... get all your friends to get a **similar tattoo that is a symbol of your friendship**. We went tattoo hunting and got fire breathing dragons for the twins Dishita, Daksh and Kyna. They lasted about a week!

11

Bar-b-q some man sized steaks and get everyone to do some chores. A huge sound system placed strategically should do the rest! It's time to party!

10

For the men, **Fishing is it**. Pranav used to escape with Kyna and together they spent hours while I was watching a horror film. After it was around 11.45 pm and I had scared myself sufficiently enough that I started imagining someone murdering me in the shower, I reached the CCR and saw an eel. Everyone took great pleasure in making me jumpy about that eeky thing...

9

Target shooting. This was fun unlimited. I won a stuffed toy while shooting balloons and felt such an adrenaline rush! It was right outside a mall and your points added up if you managed 4/7 three times in a row.

8

Treasure Hunt. With a bit of planning the teams will have a great time!

7

Experiment with makeup – try fake eyelashes and/or fake nails. We did that for our fancy dress party and had many Jack Sparrows. Pranav was Superman, Chandan a soldier, I was a rock star!

6

Wear a wig in the most unpredictable circumstance. I found a wonderful high ponytail wig in Brazil and my great regret is that I didn't get it. Would have been great for a fun party or just for the camera.

5

Check out what your friends' **zodiac sign** is and look up their horoscope online. This is a pastime that women love coupled with numerology and if you throw in psychic babble you have everyones attention my friend!

4

Take belly dancing lessons for a class of friends and kids on board. Haven't done this as yet... but it's on my to do list!

3

Seafood party anyone? Though I didn't participate, I watched as the guys dug into some lobsters and crabs. Prawns are my absolute limit (huh)!

2

Get yourself an external hard drive and dig into others **movie collection**. Absolutely divine!!!

1

Karaoke! Plan a talent contest and get everyone to participate. Do it professionally. Let there be a compere, jokes, surprises and prizes for all. In the end everyone can step in and sing a favourite song. Remember good or not, doesn't matter. Cameron Diaz displayed that with élan in *My Best Friends Wedding* when she sang out of tune but everyone cheered her on! **57**

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