Home Town Travel News

A Newsletter for Friends and Clients of Home Town Travel 128 Bartlett Avenue • West Creek, NJ 08092 • (609) 597-5100

Summer 2018

Royal Caribbean Launches Multi-Billion Dollar **Private Island and More**



Royal Caribbean is upping the ante on amenities, facilities and services across its land-based private islands and ships in what company officials described as a "multibillion-dollar" effort designed to lure millennial and first-time cruise vacationers to its vessels.

Royal Caribbean's initiative is highlighted by the debut of a new, \$200 million "Global Private Island Collection" at the company's private island in CocoCay, Bahamas in 2019. CocoCay will be the company's first private island to offer Royal Caribbean cruisers a "Perfect Day Island Collection," a series of "unrivaled and exclusive" private island destinations around the world.

Royal Caribbean will eventually expand the program to include its private islands in Labadee, Haiti and at ports of call in Asia and Australia.

Upon its 2019 premiere, guests will find a new CocoCay, transformed with a series of new attractions. The Thrill Waterpark will feature two water towers with 13 slides, which company officials say are the most slides at any waterpark in the Caribbean. The 135-foot-tall Daredevil's Peak, will be the tallest waterslide in North America, they added. The waterpark will also feature the Caribbean's largest wave pool and a kid-friendly obstacle course pool.

Also scheduled to debut in 2019 is Oasis Lagoon, described as the Caribbean's largest freshwater pool, with a swim-up bar and in-pool loungers. A 1,600-foot zip line will extend across the island at up to 50 feet high and feature the Caribbean's only water landing, say officials.

Other attractions will include Up, Up and Away, a helium balloon that will float up to 450 feet above the ground and offer the Bahamas' highest vantage point. Two specially designed beaches, Chill Island and South Beach, will offer a quiet beach "escape" and an active beach filled with activities, respectively.

Finally, the exclusive Coco Beach Club will offer an upscale island experience highlighted by the Bahamas' first overwater cabanas.

Royal Caribbean ships departing from New York, Maryland and Florida will offer Per-

fect Day at CocoCay excursions. The CocoCay progam will debut in phases beginning in September with the construction of a new pier. The majority of the island's experiences will be open by the spring 2019. Coco Beach Club, the final phase, is scheduled to open November 2019.

Royal Caribbean will further court new cruisers via a \$900 million program to "reimagine" its fleet through Royal Amplified, a new modernization plan that will span 10 vessels in four years.

The program will impact "every facet of the guest experience," said Royal Caribbean officials, with innovative new features and experiences, including specialized pool spaces, experiential dining and nightlife concepts, and unprecedented attractions including Sky Pad, a virtual reality, bungee trampoline experience.

Royal Amplified reflects the company's passion for innovation, relentless attention to detail and commitment to delivering the best vacation in the world. RCCL is always focused on how to ◀ create phenomenal experiences for

our customers.

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If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send us your email address.

Nancy's Notes



Summer will be here and gone before you know it. It took so long to arrive, I want it to stay until November. Sure, wishful thinking!

I am so excited about the birth of my new granddaughter, Nora Grace, who was a bit late coming into the world but on May 21st she made her entrance to join her big sister Claire Addison.

I would like to congratulate Dave Cavalier of Barnegat who was the lucky winner of Southern Ocean Rotary's

Night of Cash in April at the Captain's Inn in Forked River. He walked away with \$10,000. It's that easy... buy a \$100 ticket (we only sell 300) have dinner and a couple of drinks (included) and you might have the lucky ticket. I will have more information on next year's event soon. I would like to thank everyone who supported the event as all proceeds go toward local scholarships and charities.

On September 11th I will be having a wine and cheese gathering to introduce you to our groups on MSC Cruises next year. It will take place in the Conference Room downstairs in our building at 6:00 PM. As we are very limited on space, an RSVP is required and will be limited to the first 25 people. Please see the Groups page for the details on our special departures.

There will be an info night with Trafalgar on September 20th, again at our office at 6:00 PM. Attendees will receive a discount on any tour. We will talk about the two groups for next year and other offerings by Trafalgar Tours. An RSVP is required and limited so let us know soon if you want to find out more and look at the Groups page for specifics.

I must tell you about the spectacular sailing adventure I recently had on Star Clippers' Royal Clipper. Being up on the deck, under the starry nighttime sky, the sails were hoisted, and we were on our way, leaving beautiful Barbados behind. It is most definitely a different kind of cruise; it was a sailing experience. It was a sight to behold when we were in port next to a large cruise ship and visiting ports where those mega-ships can't get to was wonderful. The food was delicious. From the flora and fauna of Bequia to zip lining between the Pitons in St. Lucia, it was a trip I will never forget. Next year you can sail to the tiny ports made famous in the movie Momma Mia and even climb to the church where Sophie was to get married. More information will be available soon.

The new Celebrity Edge will be sailing in the Fall with infinity balconies where the interior of the cabin meets the sea air with the push of a button.

As this newsletter is only published semi-annually, many specials come up in between mailings so please go to Facebook and like us or provide us with your email letting us know you want to receive more info more often and we will do a blast about once a month or so.

Until next time.

Magdalena, restaurant hostess aboard Celebrity's Summit with Maryann Rees.



Nancy, Linda Cronk (WJRZ 100.1/WRAT 95.5), and Midge Cannin Schuck, MPA, MA, LPC enjoy a cocktail aboard the Celebrity Summit

You Could Soon Be Able to Nap in the Cargo Holds of Planes

Long-haul flights are no picnic, unless of course you're in first class in a lie-flat bed. For most of us, however, the cost of booking that luxury travel experience is well out of reach, but Airbus is hoping to change that with new "nap pods."

Airbus is currently working with seat manufacturer Zodiac Aerospace to design new lie-flat beds to fit in the lower-deck cargo areas of their planes. Guests can go in, snooze for a bit, and return to their seat for a movie or a meal. Though the beds won't be available until 2020, they would most certainly be a game-changer.

According to Airbus officials, the sleeping berths would be installed as modules that could quickly be moved out of the way for regular cargo fittings during an aircraft's typical airport turnaround.

It really may be an easy plan to implement when you consider Airbus isn't reinventing the wheel. Holds have been used for some time as cabin crew rest areas for long-haul flights.

Sure, we'll have to wait a few years until these nap pods become reality, but that doesn't mean you need to suffer through your flight. Before boarding your next long-haul flight to a magical destination make sure to stock up on all the right gear including ear plugs and sleep masks.



Joan Roccki, Pam Pratt, Bob Babeu, Pat Havay, and Judith and Stephan Leone stopped at an Irish Pub while on their Collette Tour.

Celebrity Cruises Unveils Dining Details for Newest Ship, Celebrity Edge

Celebrity Cruises unveiled some of the dining features for its newest ship, Celebrity Edge, and it will feature more choices than ever.

Edge, which debuts in November, will offer four main dining restaurants, two Suite and AquaClass restaurants, seven new specialty restaurants, five complimentary dining venues, and 11 bars and lounges.

Main dining options

All four of its main dining restaurants will be different, inspired by four different regions of the world—one, Normandie, will feature French cuisine; another, Cyprus Restaurant, will open as a nod toward to Mediterranean and the line's Greek heritage; Cosmopolitan will feature new American cuisine; and the last, Tuscan Restaurant, will open as a nod toward Celebrity's Tuscan Grille with Italian-inspired dishes.

All together, the four restaurants will offer the largest selection of dishes in any of the ships in Celebrity's fleet. Regional wine, cocktail, and other dishes, served nowhere else onboard, will also be offered.

Specialty options

Edge's new specialty restaurants offer six different tastes.

Fine Cut Steakhouse, an upscale dining experience, will offer premium cuts of steaks.

Roof Garden Grille will offer backyard barbeque.

Eden Restaurant, which features an open kitchen, will give guests both a culinary and entertainment experience with Edenists performing during the meal.

Le Grand Bistro will offer selections including macaroons, cheeses, and freshly baked bread for breakfast and lunch.

Raw on 5, a seafood eatery, will blend "St. Tropez and New England seafood," Celebrity said. Diners at Raw on 5 will also get the chance to eat on Celebrity's new Magic Carpet, a tennis-court size travelling platform that hangs off the side of the ship, for a "Dinner on the Edge" meal.

Different ways to dine

Edge will give guests two options with its Celebrity Traditional Dining program, including both an early and a late seating. Guests choosing Traditional Dining will also get to dine with the same waiter every evening, in the same restaurant, with the option to dine in another one upon request.

There's also a Celebrity Select Dining Plus option, which gives guest the option of choosing when and where they'd like to eat each moving, with all four main dining rooms an option.

Other options

A new private restaurant, Luminae at The Retreat, will be available for Suite Class guests on Edge. AquaClass guests will also have the option of eating at Blu, a spa-inspired restaurant.

Edge will also offer 11 bars and lounges including the Eden Bar, The Retreat Lounge, The Retreat Pool Bar, and other bars near the ship's casino, theatre, and pool.

Edge will sail its first itineraries starting in November 2018 from Fort Lauderdale. It will sail four, three-night Bahamas itineraries starting on Nov. 21, 2018. It will then sail two different seven-night Caribbean itineraries—the first will include calls to Key West, Costa Maya, Cozumel, and Grand Cayman while the second will call at San Juan, Tortola, and St. Maarten.

Bookings are now open.

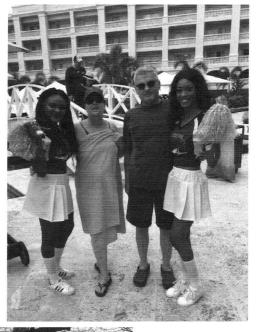


Clare Bojus, owner of Devil Brownies, of Toms River and her brother, Larry Healy, who came from Ireland to enjoy the Canadian Rockies.

Our trip to Jamaica in February was a last minute decision, and with Nancy's expertise, we had an awesome time! Superbowl celebration, reggae music, blue water, sun, good food and the beautiful all-inclusive Hyatt Zilara. Who could ask for more.

Thank you, Nancy; we really loved it!

Janice & Jim Thielke, owners of The Salt Box





Lori Morgan, Lea McNabb, and Tanja & John Larabee "From LA to Paris"

Awesome so far and it's only the first day! You were on the money re: AMA, everyone is awesome.

More to come, Tanja





Friends visit the Blue Lagoon

Do we look ten years younger?

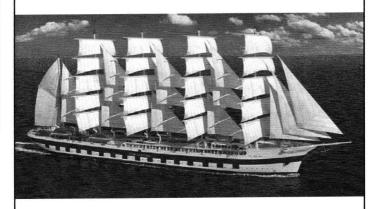
Iceland 2018

Group





A Cruise Experience Like No Other



Inspired by the legendry tall ship Preussen, the Royal Clipper had the proud distinction of being the largest and only five-masted fully-rigged sailing ship built since her predecessor was launched at the beginning of the 20th century. With her compliment of 42 sails, Royal Clipper is a splendid sight to behold. She boasts a state-of-the-art navigation system along with every comfort and luxury you could wish for. For connoisseurs of sail cruising, the 439-foot Royal Clipper offers the ultimate seagoing experience, balancing the splendor, adventure and tradition of sailing with superb service, amenities and accommodations of the finest private yacht. Royal Clipper carries just 227 guests in luxurious style. Imagine 54,000 square feet of billowing sails, three swimming pools and an expansive outdoor environment.

A marina platform lowers from the stern for ocean access to watersports activities. You can find your own secret sanctuary on one of the hidden balconies on either side of the bow. Or climb the mast (with safety harness and instructor provided) to one of the passenger lookout 'crow's nest', 75 feet over the water level. Wile away the day in the bowsprit net suspended above the ocean and be on the lookout for dolphins. Meet your friends for pre-dinner drinks at the Piano Bar before heading to the tri-level dining room to sample delicious cuisine in an open seating and no-ties dress code. Experience the one-of-a-kind Captain Nemo Lounge, the site of the spa and health club with underwater glass portholes.

Even if you have cruised before, you have never cruised like this. Experience sailing as it was meant to be. Let me tell you all about it. Star Clippers-unique, worldwide sailing adventures.

Disney World to charge for parking at resort hotels

Just weeks after announcing its annual move to raise the price of theme park tickets, Disney will now charge guests a fee to park overnight at a resort hotel.

What has always been free will now cost guests \$13/per night to park at a value resort, \$19/night for moderate and \$24/night for deluxe and deluxe villa resorts.

The new hotel parking fees will reportedly go into effect for reservations made for March 21, 2018 or later. All fees will be applied to the guest's hotel bill.



Bob Allen of Gluck & Allen, LLC in Toms River and his family, and spent a week at the Beach Palace in Cancun. Great beach and ocean views. Took a tour and snorkeled through the Cenotes and saw everything from tropical fish to fresh water fish. Also got to swim through a cave they illuminate with the clearest fresh water I have ever seen - that was truly different and memorable.

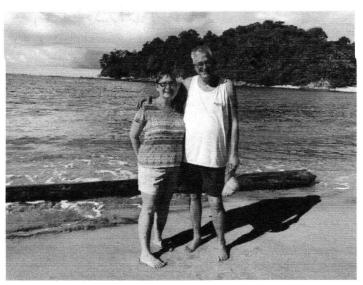


Sue and Al Perugini in Venice, Itlay.

MSC's Wine & Cheese Party on Sept. 11! Remember to RSVP Soon.



Pat Boelte and Chrissy Force stand on the equator while on their Galapagos cruise.



COSTA RICA-NATURAL PARADISE

Frank and Sally Vernile enjoyed a fabulous 8 day motor coach tour of Costa Rica with Caravan Tours which included all meals, accommodations and activities. Traveling the countryside and the coast, we experienced the culture and wonder of the country: coffee and pineapple plantations, wildlife preserves, aerial tram through the Rainforest, the famous Arenal volcano and 2 river boat cruises to view many exotic birds, crocodiles, howler monkeys, spider monkeys, iguanas and turtles. All of this was explained to us by our very knowledgeable guide who was born and raised in Costa Rica. Here we are on a Pacific Ocean beach in Manuel Antonio National Park.

The Costa Rican mantra is Pura Vida-which means good life.

Home Town Travel's Groups

www.hometowntravelinc.com

FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 8, 2019 NORWEGIAN GEM ROUND TRIP FROM NYC

Set sail on an 11-night southern Caribbean cruise out of New York on the newly refurbished Gem. Set sail to the following ports of call: San Juan, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Barbados, Antiqua, St. Thomas and four days at sea. Rate is per person based on double and includes all current port taxes, cruise accommodations based on double occupancy, all meals on board in eight restaurants with room service (specialty dining additional). Broadway style shows and entertainment, all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and a \$50.00 on board credit per cabin for shore excursion (maximum 4 ports). Ocean view picture window is at \$1679.00 per person and a balcony cabin is at \$2198.00 per person. A valid US passport is required. Deposit of \$250.00 per person is due by August 25, 2018. For more information please call Tara.

MARCH 7-18, 2019 DISCOVERING POLAND

Highlights of this 12-day trip include Warsaw, the Black Madonna in the Jasna Gora Monastery, Krakow, Auschwitz, Wroclaw, Solidarity Shipyards and Gdansk while experiencing a folklore show & dinner and gingerbread baking. Spend every day discovering this wonderful country (3-Warsaw, 2-Gdansk, 1-Torun, 2-Worclaw, 2-Krakow) along with breakfast daily and five dinners. Tour includes local transfer to/from Newark, round-trip airfare from Newark, all current taxes and fees, all transfers within Poland. Insurance is suggested and available for \$315.00 per person. Call and book by September 7, 2018 for the rate of \$3.099.00 per person double. Singles are on request for and additional \$500.00. A passport with a six-month post tour validity is required.



APRIL 26-MAY 5, 2019 TASTES AND SOUNDS OF THE SOUTH

Experience a little Honky-tonk and Southern home cookin' while celebrating the legends of music from Hoedown to Rock 'n' Roll on this leisure jaunt in the deep South! Don't miss out on this trip as it also includes attending the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, a true local favorite!

Highlights of your Trafalgar tour include: Nashville, Memphis, Natchez, New Orleans, Graceland, Frogmore Plantation, Sun Studios, Country Music Hall of Fame to name a few; Trafalgar Exclusive as you Connect with Locals and dine with a pianist of true southern hospitality and food on an estate in Natchez, delve into the life and tunes of Johnny Cash with a member of his family, New Orleans School of Cooking for a fun cooking demonstration of a regional favorite and help preserve the heritage of a Cotton Plantation! This exciting foot stomping adventure through the deep South will be sure to deliver pleasure for all the senses! Nine hotel nights (3-Nashville, 2-Memphis, 1-Natchez and 3-New Orleans), 13 meals including a 'Be my Guest' dinner. Rate \$3,195.00 per person double plus air.

MAY 4-11, 2019 WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE ABOARD MSC'S SEASIDE

Sail from Miami aboard the new, spectacular MSC Seaside to the wonders of the Western Caribbean. Visit Ocho Rios, Jamaica, George Town, Cayman Islands, Cozumel, Mexico and Nassau, Bahamas. MSC's Seaside blends revolutionary architecture with cutting-edge technology with a waterfront boardwalk that circumnavigates the sides of the ship with outdoor spaces, bars and restaurants. If you are looking for something exciting, try a zip line over the pools or experience the first interactive water slide at sea.

Rate includes balcony cabin accommodations, all current port and government taxes, Drinks on Us promotion, \$50/cabin on board credit \$999.00 per person. A valid passport is required

and must be deposited by November 5, 2018. Insurance is recommended.

SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2019 CANADIAN ROCKIES

Join Trafalgar as we venture into the Land of the Grizzlies and Glistening Glaciers as you explore the scenic landscapes of the Rocky Mountains, Icefields and Alpine Villages.

Highlights include: Calgary, Jasper, Jasper National Park, Columbia Icefield, Banff, Banff National Park. Lake Louise, Athabasca Glacier, an also a Trafalgar Exclusive Connect with Locals that includes a Canadian Ranch-style dinner experience: Ride on an Ice Explorer, lace up for the Ice Hockey experience and meet a Canadian Mountie! An effortless way to experience the beauty of the Canadian Rockies with memories for a lifetime! Six nights hotel (1-Calgary, 2-Jasper and 3-Banff), nine meals including a 'Be My Guest' dinner. Rate: \$2,275.00 per person double plus air.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 TO OCTOBER 18, 2019 TRANSATLANTIC ABOARD MSC'S MERAVIGLIA

Fly to Hamburg, Germany and take a 1.5-hour transfer to Kiel (Lubeck) where we will start our trans-Atlantic adventure. We will visit Copenhagen, Southampton (for London), Belfast, an overnight in Reykjavik, after a few days at sea stops in St. John, NB and Halifax, NS before one last day at sea and an overnight in the Big Apple. Whatever the season, whether you prefer to be indoors or out on deck, you'll find plenty of open-air spaces on the MSC Meraviglia for relaxing with friends and family. From the large indoor promenade with its giant 5,166 sq. ft. LED dome to the spacious deck areas and more, you'll be free to find the perfect place to make your own. The Carousel Lounge is designed to host exclusive shows by Cirque du Soleil®, savor first-class dining at the Wave or Panorama restaurants or try specialty restaurants that include teppanyaki and sushi menus or even a 20-hour a day buffet. Enjoy cocktails in one or all of the 20 bars and lounges. Entertainment options include a full-size bowling alley, Sportsplex, Formula 1 simulator, flight simulator, waterslides, pools and whirlpools in addition to a full casino. Our special group promotion rates are approximate and will be finalized in November. Rate will include a one-way flight to Hamburg, transfer to the ship, balcony accommodations, prepaid gratuities, a \$50/cabin on board credit and all current port and government taxes. Approximately \$3,450.00 per person based on double. Optional upgrade to include an open bar for the entire cruise, two massages per person and priority benefits for \$780.00 per person. A valid passport is required and insurance is recommended.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 OBERAMMERGAU'S PASSION PLAY WITH IMPERIAL CITIES

Plan the experience of a lifetime in 2020, you will not get you another chance until 2030.

Spend two nights in each city: Budapest, Vienna and Prague in addition to the quaint hamlet of Oberammergau for an unforgettable experience of the Passion Play, a play depicting the last days of the life of Christ. The tour concludes with one final night in Munich. Rate includes transportation from St. Francis to/from Newark, round-trip airfare including all current taxes and fees, 17 meals (nine breakfasts, one lunch and seven dinners) hotel accommodations and highlights including Budapest, Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion, Bratislava, Vienna, Grinzing Evening, Schoenbrunn Palace, Cesky Krumlov, Prague, Hradcany Castle, Oberammergau Passion Play and Munich. Rate: \$6,149.00 per person double plus insurance of \$500.00. A very limited number of singles will be available with a \$900.00 surcharge. A deposit of \$750.00 plus insurance is required to boo. In addition, a second payment of \$1,500 will be due one year prior to departure. We are holding only 15 seats so make sure to get your deposit in soon.

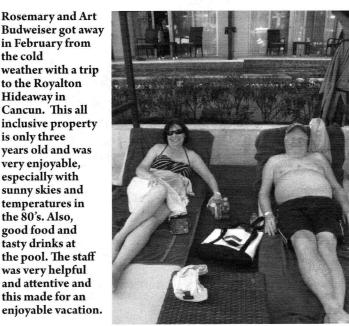
Antartica What an amazing trip! My husband, Jim, and I took a 23-day trip to visit the bottom of the world, Antarctica. Our trip started with a two

day stay in Buenos Aires.

A city tour, a Tango show, and some of the best

steak we have ever eaten made our short stay very memorable. A three-hour flight took us to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, where we boarded the Hurtigruten MS Fram which is a double hulled boat designed for travel in the Arctic and Antarctica. Sailing 3,800 nautical miles we visited the 3 locations in the Falkland Islands, 4 locations in South Georgia, and 8 locations along the Antarctica Peninsula. At each location we boarded Zodiacs for our trip to land. Every landing was a wet landing -no docks in waters that will freeze in winter. We were often within 5 meters of penguins, seals and albatrosses. A highlight was seeing 400,000 pairs of King Penguins in Saint Andrews Bay. We never tired of seeing the hundreds of penguin chicks. As we sailed we often passed blue icebergs that were two stories high. We spent one amazing 30 minutes watching fin and orca whales swim beside our boats. The at sea days were filled with talks provided by highly trained specialists, such as, an ornithologist and a biologist. We saw glaciers that were half a mile wide. It was a privilege to visit this pristine land and observe some of the most amazing animals and birds that spend their entire lives at sea -only coming to land to breed and nest. This is a trip for the adventurous!

Rosemary and Art Budweiser got away in February from the cold weather with a trip to the Royalton Hideaway in Cancun. This all inclusive property is only three years old and was very enjoyable, especially with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80's. Also, good food and tasty drinks at the pool. The staff was very helpful and attentive and this made for an



Thanks Nancy for finding us a nice place to enjoy a few days out of the cold and into the sun.

Mobile Passport Control



The Mobile Passport Control app speeds you through U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Just fill out your profile and answer CBP's questions - then go straight to the "Mobile Passport Control" express lane at the airport!

WHAT IS MOBILE PASSPORT CONTROL?

Mobile Passport Control (MPC) allows U.S. citizens and Canadian visitors to use the Mobile Passport app to expedite their entry process into the United States. It is the first app authorized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for eligible travelers with a smartphone or tablet to submit their passport information and answer CBP inspection-related questions prior to CBP inspection. Much like Automated Passport Control (APC), the app does not require pre-approval and is currently free to use. The app streamlines the traveler inspection process and enables CBP officers to focus more on the inspection and less on administrative functions.

HOW DOES MPC WORK?

Eligible travelers can download the Mobile Passport app from the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

Travelers will be prompted to create a profile via the app with their passport information. The profile includes the traveler's name, gender, date of birth, and country of citizenship. Upon landing in the United States, travelers will complete the "New Trip" section by selecting their arrival airport and airline, taking a self-photo, and answering a series of CBP inspection-related questions. Once the traveler submits their transaction through the app, the traveler will receive an electronic receipt with an Encrypted Quick Response (QR) code. Travelers then bring their passport and mobile device with their digital bar-coded receipt to a CBP officer to finalize their inspection for entry into the United States.

WHERE CAN ELIGIBLE TRAVELERS USE MPC?

MPC is available to U.S. citizens and Canadian visitors at the following 24 U.S. international airports and one sea port of entry:

- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)
- Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI)
- Boston Logan International Airport (BOS)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)
- Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)
- Denver International Airport (DEN)
- Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)
- Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
- Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
- William P. Hobby Houston International Airport (HOU)
- Miami International Airport (MIA)
- Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport (MSP)
- John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK)
- Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR)
- Orlando International Airport (MCO)
- Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX)
- Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- Sacramento International Airport (SMF)
- San Diego International Airport (SAN)
- San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
- San Jose International Airport (SJC) Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)
- Tampa International Airport (TPA)
- Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)
- Port Everglades (PEV)



Nancy and I had the opportunity to experience a two night inaugural on the new Norwegian Bliss in May. It was the first of her four inaugurals while making her way to her home port of Seattle for the summer months exploring the las frontier, Alaska, for seven nights. In the fall she will be coming back making her home port of Miami sailing seven night Caribbean itineraries. The Bliss features a revolutionary 180-degree Observation Lounge for you to soak in every stunning moment, from bald eagles soring over glaciers in Alaska to dolphins splashing through the warm turquoise waters of the Caribbean. The ship has something for everyone. Families will love the electric race cars that zoom around hairpin turns as you race for the checkered flag. Swirl down a double loop waterslide that whooshes you over the side of the ship or play a game of laser tag. The heart of the ship at 678 Ocean Place; one space connecting three dazzling decks of bars, restaurants, casino gaming, shopping and entertainment. There is

nonstop action day or night. We ate lunch one of the days at Food Republic, a specialty restaurant. Everything is ordered from a tablet where you can try anything from sushi to lamb chops. It is small portions made for sharing with a few people. It is a great way to try new things. We also had the opportunity to see the headline show, Jersey Boys. If you enjoy the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons you will love this. Frankie Valli and Bob Gaudio where actually on the ship for the first performance. The comedy show was a lot of fun and had some great acts for the 18 and over crowd. We had dinner both nights in the Main Dining room, where the menus change daily. A must try is the clam chowder in a bread bowl, it was delicious! There are a wide range of complimentary dining venues, specialty restaurants (additional surcharge applies) buffets and 24 hour room service. New to NCL is their first Starbucks at Sea and Coco's a chocolate lovers paradise, both at an additional cost. Come in and talk with us about your trip to Alaska or Caribbean on this beautiful new ship and see the pictures.



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