

CDC: Cruises Can Begin Sailing Out of U.S. Starting in July



After countless stops and starts for the U.S. cruise industry over the past 14 months, the definite light at the end of the tunnel appears to be on the horizon.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday told cruise lines, according to a report by both USA Today and Reuters, that they could start sailing again in July.

According to the reports, the CDC will allow cruise lines to resume passenger trips in July if they are fully compliant with the Conditional Sail Order (CSO).

That order will now allow cruise lines to skip simulated test voyages if 98% of crew members and 95% of passengers are fully vaccinated, it also required cruise lines to submit Phase 2A port agreements "as soon as possible" in order to meet that July goal. The CDC also promised to respond to applications from cruise lines for simulated voyages within 5 days instead of the previous 60.

While many cruise lines have announced plans to restart away from U.S. ports, and many are already sailing, Thursday's news marks the start of the end of a major period of uncertainty for the industry.

In a statement on Thursday, Royal Caribbean Group CEO Richard Fain applauded the news and mentioned that the CDC's timetable could even mean hope for this year's Alaskan season.

"Last night, the CDC notified us of some clarifications and amplifications of their Conditional Sail Order, which addressed uncertainties and concerns we had raised," Fain said.

"They have dealt with many of these items in a constructive manner that takes into account recent advances in vaccines and medical science. Although this is only part of a very complex process, it encourages us that we now see a pathway to a healthy and achievable return to service, hopefully in time for an Alaskan season."

While the CDC had been previously holding firm on a November restart for the industry, the July timeframe was mentioned not only by a number of cruise line executives but by U.S. Senators who also wanted to get ships sailing. Earlier in April, three U.S. Senators—Marco Rubio (R-FL), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Rick Scott (R-FL)—introduced a new bill that would revoke the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) current Conditional Sail Order on cruises and allow cruise lines to start sailing out of U.S. ports.

The act, called the Careful Resumption Under Improved Safety Enhancements (CRUISE) Act, would have required the CDC to provide COVID-19 mitigation guidance for cruise lines to resume safe domestic operations by July 4. It was the third bill introduced over the last year aimed at helping the cruise industry regain normal operations. Two other bills, including one aimed at allowing ships to sail to Alaska without having to stop in Canada, failed.

All three Senators, along with Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL), who is leading companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, come from states that have cruise ports hubs and are most negatively affected by the cruise ship ban.

HOLLAND AMERICA INTRODUCES NEW ALL-INCLUSIVE PREMIUM PACKAGE CALLED 'HAVE IT ALL'

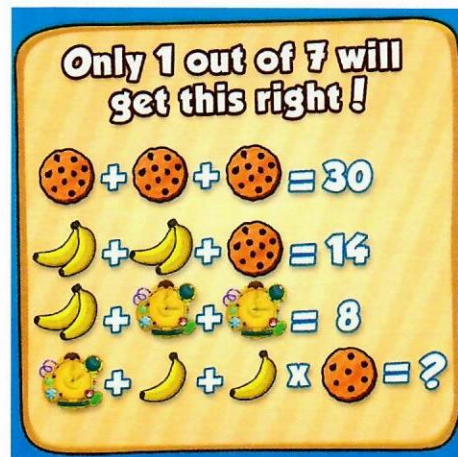
The fare, called "Have It All," will be available year-round on all itineraries six days or longer except for Grand Voyages. The fare is valued at \$99 per guest per day for a seven-day sailing, which Holland America says is a savings of 50% or more if the amenities were purchased individually.

The inclusions differ depending on a sailing's length.

Cruises between six to nine days will include one shore excursion of up to \$100 value or \$100 off any one tour for all guests in a stateroom, the signature beverage package, one night of specialty dining, and a WiFi package for the first and second guests in a stateroom.

For sailings between 10 and 20 days, guests will get all the previous benefits plus a second specialty dining night an additional \$100 shore excursion or tour credit (\$200 per guest total).

And for cruises 21 days or longer, aside from the Grand Voyages, guests will get all the previous extras plus a third-night specialty dining and an additional \$100 shore excursion or tour credit (\$300 per guest total).



CAN YOU FIGURE THIS OUT?

I DID NOT GET IT BECAUSE MY MATH SKILLS
LEAVE A BIT TO BE DESIRED.

RIGHT UP THERE WITH MY COMPUTER
SKILLS.

ANSWER WILL BE ON ANOTHER PAGE

Israel to Reopen to
International Tourism
May 23



The **Israel Ministry of Tourism** in tandem with the **Ministry of Health** has announced that on May 23, 2021, the country will begin welcoming vaccinated groups of international travelers through a phased approach after more than a year without tourism due to **COVID-19** restrictions.

The series of phases and guidelines will be outlined and released next week. The first phase will include a pilot program, kicking off on May 23, allowing a select number of tour groups to visit Israel. The number of groups will then increase based on the overall health situation and progress/success of the program. Individual travelers will be welcomed in a later phase of reopening, likely in July (although the Ministry of Tourism says this is still to be determined).

In all phases, visitors will be required to undergo a PCR test before boarding their flight to Israel, and a serological test to prove their vaccination upon arrival at **Ben Gurion Airport** (about 28 miles from **Jerusalem** and 12 miles from **Tel Aviv**). In the meantime, discussions will continue to reach agreements for vaccine-certificate validation, with the goal of canceling the need for the serological test.

60 percent of the adult population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 56 percent are fully vaccinated. Those numbers are the third-most and most, respectively, for any country.

DHS Announces Extension of REAL ID Full Enforcement Deadline

WASHINGTON – Today, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas announced the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is extending the REAL ID full enforcement date by 19 months, from October 1, 2021 to May 3, 2023, due to circumstances resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has significantly impacted states' ability to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards, with many driver's licensing agencies still operating at limited capacity. DHS will publish an interim final rule in the coming days to effectuate this enforcement date change.



"Protecting the health, safety, and security of our communities is our top priority," said Secretary Mayorkas. "As our country continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, extending the REAL ID full enforcement deadline will give states needed time to reopen their driver's licensing operations and ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card."

Beginning May 3, 2023, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another TSA-acceptable form of identification at airport security checkpoints for domestic air travel.

All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and four of five U.S. territories covered by the REAL ID Act and related regulations are now compliant with REAL ID security standards and are issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards. However, many state licensing agencies have extended the deadline for renewing expiring licenses due to a widespread shift to appointment-only scheduling protocols during the pandemic that has significantly limited states' capacity to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards. As a result, only 43 percent of all state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards are currently REAL ID-compliant. DHS and various states also need time to implement requirements mandated by the REAL ID Modernization Act, including changes that will streamline processing by allowing the electronic submission of certain documents.

DHS continues to work closely with all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories to implement REAL ID Act requirements. For more information on REAL ID, visit www.dhs.gov/real-id.



Vaccinated US travelers will be able to visit Europe this summer, but their travel may be restricted

US travelers who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may be able to travel to Europe this summer without restrictions. Liderina/iStock/Getty Images

- **Fully vaccinated US travelers will be able to visit the EU this summer, an official told the New York Times.**
- **The EU will announce a timeline and rollout as vaccination situations evolve in both the EU and US.**
- **Despite the EU's recommendations, travel restrictions may still be decided by individual countries.**

Did you ever wonder?

Significance of Epaulettes worn by Cruise Ship Staff



FOUR STRIPES:

Captain, Chief Engineer, Hotel Manager, Staff Captain and Staff Chief Engineer



THREE STRIPES:

A/C Engineer, Casino Manager, Chief Housekeeper, Doctor, First Purser and Second Engineer



TWO AND A HALF STRIPES:

Assistant Bar Manager, Assistant Chief Housekeeper, Assistant Food Manager, Guest Relations Manager, Nurse, Printer, Second Electrician, Second Electronic Engineer, Security Officer, Sous Chef and Third Engineer



TWO STRIPES:

Second Deck Officer, Second Engineer Officer and Second Purser



ONE AND A HALF STRIPE:

Third Purser



ONE STRIPE:

Cadet, Fourth Deck Officer, Fourth Purser, Petty Officer

Although there might be some variations, this would be a good guide to follow.

Colors between the stripes indicate the department: White-hotel, Red-Medical, Purple-Technical and Engineering, Electrical, Green-Communications, Bronze-Security and No color-Deck.

MSC Cruises Will Sail to Italy, the UK, and Beyond This Summer

More than 60,000 guests have sailed with the company in the Mediterranean since August 2020.

MSC Cruises will launch a series of sailings over the summer throughout Europe, offering one of the most robust restarts to the cruising industry since COVID-19 stymied travel around the world.

On May 1, MSC will sail from Genoa on the MSC Seaside with stops in Sicily and Puglia planned, including a private beach experience on the Ionian Sea.

On August 1, the company plans to sail the MSC Seashore on 7-night cruises throughout Italy, Spain and France before bringing the ship to Miami in November for Caribbean cruises.

While several cruise lines have pledged to [require passengers to be vaccinated](#) before boarding, MSC will not require guests get the jab.



CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO

Tacos al pastor are a serious source of pride in Mexico's capital. Here's what you need to create them at home.

Tacos al pastor—thin slices of pork shaved from a giant tower of layered meat rotating on a spit beside an open grill, piled onto one or two soft tortillas and topped with onions, chopped cilantro, a spear or chunks of pineapple, and a dollop of salsa—are to Mexico City what chili is to Cincinnati.



How to Make Tacos al Pastor


























INGREDIENTS

- 1½ pounds boneless pork tenderloin
- 1 clove garlic, halved
- Salt and pepper
- Achiote paste
- Orange and lemon juice to cover
- Corn oil
- 8 fresh corn tortillas
- Fresh pineapple sliced into spears
- Finely chopped cilantro and onion

MAKE IT

1. Rub the pork with garlic, salt, pepper, and achiote paste, and then marinate it in the juices for at least two hours or overnight.
2. Two hours before making tacos, remove the pork from the marinade and freeze the meat to facilitate slicing.
3. When you're ready to cook, cut the pork into the thinnest possible slices.
4. Coat a cast-iron skillet with a thin layer of corn oil, bring up the heat to high, and fry the meat until slightly crispy on the edges.
5. Warm the corn tortillas on a flat griddle, and then scoop a generous portion of the meat into the center of a single tortilla (or a stack of two).
6. Top the filling with a slice of pineapple and a sprinkle of chopped cilantro and onion.
7. Fold. Serve immediately, with salsa.

COVID-19 vs. Allergies

	COVID-19	Allergies
 Common		
Fever or chills		
Cough		
Body aches		
Headaches		
Tiredness		
 Less Common		
Loss of taste or smell		
Shortness of breath		
 Not Common		
Sore throat		
Sneezing		
Itchy or watery eyes		
Runny or stuffy nose		

*Seasonal allergies do not usually cause shortness of breath, unless a person has a respiratory condition such as asthma that can be triggered by pollen.



ITINERARY

7-Night Cozumel & 2 Days at Perfect Day

PORT OF CALL

Nassau, Bahamas • Grand Bahama Island • 2 days at Perfect Day • Cruising • Cozumel, Mexico • Cruising • Nassau, Bahamas

SAIL DATE

June 12, 19, 26, 2021
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021
August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021
September 4, 11, 2021

Q1Z ANSWER (Order of Operation)
 $2 + 1 + (1 \times 7) = 10$