

CRUISE NEWS!



After news broke yesterday that the U.S. House of Representatives had unanimously approved a measure that would save the Alaska cruise season, three Carnival Corp. brands wasted no time in reaffirming their intention to sail Alaska this summer.

Princess Cruises became one of those brands on Thursday, along with Holland America and Carnival Cruise Line, when it announced that its restart will kick off in Alaska starting in July. The sailings will end Princess's year-long pause in operations.

Princess will sail a slate of seven-day sailings out of Seattle aboard Majestic Princess starting on July 25 and running through Sept. 26, 2021. The sailings include stops in Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Glacier National Park.

Holland America announced that they will restart cruising to Alaska in July sailing round-trip from Seattle. The seven day Alaska Explorer itineraries, aboard the Nieuw Amsterdam will operate from July 24th through October 2nd. The sailings include calls at Juneau, Icy Strait Point, Sitka and Ketchikan. Holland America's new 'Have It All' promotion, which includes shore excursions, drinks, specialty dining and WiFi will apply to these sailings.

Carnival Cruise Line has already opened Alaska sailings departing from Seattle beginning July 27, with weekly departures through Sept. 14 aboard Carnival Miracle. Seven seven-day cruises will feature calls in Juneau, Skagway, and Ketchikan, as well as scenic cruising in Tracy Arm Fjord. The Sept. 14 departure is an eight-day cruise with an additional stop in Icy Strait Point.

The cruises will be open to guests who have received their final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least two weeks prior to the start of the cruise. All guests will be required to produce proof of vaccination.

The sailings still need to be approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but Carnival Corporation said that it was confident that it would be given approval.

IF YOU WANT TO CRUISE THIS YEAR, CALL US FOR YOUR ALASKA RESERVATION SOON!

Weeklong sailings from Los Angeles onboard the Navigator of the Seas



A sprawling resort-style pool deck that's perfect for soaking up the sun. Game changing thrills like The Blaster aqua coaster and Riptide mat racer. And cocktail bars that channel serious island vibes. When you cruise from Los Angeles aboard the Amplified Navigator of the Seas, every sea day is something to look forward to.



COME WITH US, THE WORLD HASN'T BEEN THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

Ireland is easing its lockdown rules. On May 17th, all non-essential shops will reopen, followed by the reopening of hotels on June 2nd and pubs and restaurants on June 7th. In a recent interview with the Irish Times, Trade Minister Leo Varadkar said, "Life will be relatively normal again by August."

St. Francis Ireland with Father Kevin

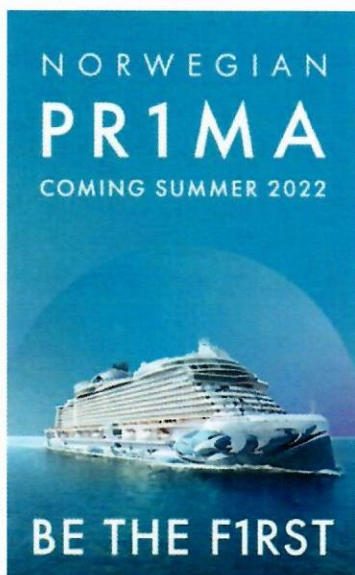
October 21-29, 2021

Father Kevin will escort a private journey to Ireland with Belfast and Giants Causeway. Round trip air-fare on United from Newark (including all current government fees and taxes), seven hotel nights (2-Westport, 1-Donnegal, 2-Belfast & 2-Dublin) with private facilities and full Irish breakfast; including day of arrival. Six dinners including Taste n' Tour Belfast and a dinner show at Taylors Three Rock. Highlights include: Cliffs of Moher, Achill Island, Mass at Knock Shrine, Giants Causeway, Guinness Brewery, and Titanic Belfast along with a city tour there, Dublin, and Derry. **We still have six seats left. Please call for more information.**

Royal Caribbean on Anthem of the Seas Thanksgiving Cruise

November 21st-28th, 2021

Set sail on a seven-night Thanksgiving cruise from Cape Liberty, with a full day stop on Coco Cay. Conquer the tallest waterslide in North America or snap a shoot from a height of 450 ft. in a helium balloon. Grab a drink at the swim-up bar, grab a bite at five new dining venues through the island (no extra charge) or find a spot in the shade at Chill Island. Other ports include Orlando (Port Canaveral) and Nassau. A rate of \$1179.00 per person double occupancy includes: all current taxes and port fees, plus a \$50.00 on board credit per cabin. Additional room categories available. Please call Nancy with more information.



Start thinking about 2023, we have two new groups on Norwegian Cruise Line on the Brand new Prima and Getaway, doing a Transatlantic from NYC to Iceland and a 9 night Copenhagen doing Russia, Germany and Scandinavia. More information to follow soon.

MSC Cruises to Become First Cruise Line to Restart in U.K.

MSC Virtuosa, MSC Cruises' latest flagship, has arrived in **Southampton**, preparing to welcome guests as the first cruise line to restart in the U.K. The newest and most innovative ship in MSC Cruises' fleet, **MSC Virtuosa** embarked on its maiden voyage around the **British Isles** on May 20.

Upon **MSC Virtuosa's** restart, MSC Cruises will offer guests a choice of three- and four-night mini cruises starting from May 20, then from June 5, begin seven-night cruises. These week-long sailings include calls at the picturesque isle of **Portland** and the cultural city of **Belfast** in **Northern Ireland**, as well as offering multiple ports of embarkation including **Liverpool** and **Greenock**, close to **Glasgow, Scotland**, on top of Southampton.

The 19-deck **MSC Virtuosa** will offer its British guests of all ages fine dining restaurants, world-class entertainment, relaxing bars and lounges, boutique shopping, spa and fitness centers, an aquapark and clubs for toddlers to teenagers. The ship's highlight is its 367-foot promenade with an LED sky dome, the social heart and hub of the ship.

The brand-new **MSC Starship Club** will launch on **MSC Virtuosa**, introducing the world's first futuristic, immersive experience at sea. MSC Starship Club will be home to a humanoid robotic bartender, **Rob**, shaking up a galactic choice of cocktails for guests.

MSC Virtuosa's homeport for the summer will be **Southampton**, with whom MSC Cruises recently announced a long-term partnership. The ship will initially set sail from City Cruise Terminal, before moving to embark guests from the newly named **Horizon Cruise** terminal once it has opened.

MSC Virtuosa will become the third MSC Cruises ship back at sea when it departed on her maiden voyage on May 20, joining two ships already operating in the **Mediterranean**: **MSC Seaside**, which welcomed guests back on board last week, and **MSC Grandiosa**, which has been sailing in the Mediterranean since August 2020. All ships operate under the same health and safety protocol, including universal testing upon embarkation.



Who says you need a week away to enjoy your vacation? On a Getaway, you can recharge and reconnect with those you love over just a few days. A MedallionClass[®] vacation makes life at sea even easier so you have more time to do your vacation your way.

Better yet, upgrade to Princess Plus with drinks, Wi-Fi and crew incentive^A for all for only \$40 a day!



California Coast Getaways

Explore more of San Diego on a Getaway with a late night departure, sailing roundtrip from Los Angeles and San Francisco. Or take in scenic views from the ship over drinks with friends. With OceanNow[®] delivery, order whatever you want, and it'll find you.





Face Coverings Throughout Walt Disney World Resort

	Face Coverings Required	Face Coverings Optional
Upon entering and throughout all attractions	✓	
All theaters, including theater entrances	✓	
All transportation, including transportation entrances	✓	
All indoor locations, including restaurants, except when actively eating or drinking while stationary	✓	
Outdoor common areas		✓
Pool decks		✓

Breaking News: Masks No Longer Required Outside in Walt Disney World

Breaking News! Starting May 15th, 2021 there will be new face masks rules in Walt Disney World! Following more information from the CDC last week regarding vaccinated people not needing to wear masks, Disney has started to make adjustments to their safety procedures and this is the newest one that has surprised us all.

Disney's website has posted this new chart that outlines the updated requirements when it comes to masks throughout the Walt Disney World Property. The biggest change is that masks are no longer required in outdoor common areas or pool decks.

Guests will still be required to wear a mask in areas such as transportation, attractions, and indoor locations per CDC suggestions and guidelines.

For full details on the requirements and expectations from Disney, visit their 'Know Before You Go' for complete details and explanations.

Italy Is Now Open to All U.S. Leisure Travelers on COVID-Tested Flights



Delta's quarantine-free flights to Rome and Milan are available to all customers with negative COVID test results, starting May 16.

The wait is over to seek la dolce vita—leisure travelers from the United States can now travel to Italy. Starting on May 16, Delta Air Lines is making its quarantine-free flights to Rome and Milan available to all customers who submit to the COVID-19 testing requirements.

Delta made the announcement on May 14, following a decree issued by the Italian government stating that Italy will be expanding the availability of what it calls "COVID-tested flights" to all American passengers starting May 16.

Until now, they have only been available to those traveling for approved essential reasons. Another order issued in tandem stated that travelers from Europe, the United Kingdom, and Israel no longer need to quarantine in Italy if they test negative for COVID-19. All Delta flights to Italy are operated in conjunction with partner airline Alitalia. Flights to Rome and Milan take place on 293-seat Airbus A330-300 aircraft, while the other routes will be operated by the 226-seat Boeing 767-300 planes. All feature lie-flat Delta One seats, Delta Comfort+, and regular economy seats.

You Never Grow Up!



Sue and Al Perugini found this out at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter (Diagon Alley) during a recent visit to Universal Orlando.



Hi Nancy,

Thanks for your weekly updates and thoughts. At the end of long weeks, they are very uplifting, and filled with great tidbits.

I'm sending this quick note to let you know that I posted some comments a few weeks ago on Yelp for Hometown Travel and I wanted to make sure you saw them. I'm not all that great with the social media thing, so I'm not sure that my comments made it to all the places I sent them.

The comments were long overdue, and I wanted you and your clients and future clients to know what a great job Tara did for us. While she probably got tired of me constantly emailing and calling her, she never wavered in her commitment to provide the best advice and service to us. She has the patience of a saint and a professionalism that can't be matched.

As soon as things calm down a bit, we will be coming back for another round with you ladies. Through Tara's efforts, you have a customer for life.

The comments I posted on Yelp and other sites are listed below:

"This review is long overdue. I've been meaning to send this a long time ago, but never got around to it. Prior to the pandemic, Tara worked extensively with me to create a once in a lifetime trip to London and Liverpool to tour sites associated with the Beatles, and the English countryside. Tara did an outstanding job, especially as we had to navigate the closings of the UK due to the pandemic. She played a key role in getting our money refunded and in keeping my wife and I from going over the edge. I would highly recommend Home Town Travel and will use them again for my next trip once things calm down. Tara is outstanding."



READY **SET** **SAIL**
TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT THE RETURN
OF CRUISING IN THE UNITED STATES



Raspberry Sunrise Mimosa



Ingredients: 10 oz. fresh raspberries, 1/2 cup grenadine (chilled), 2 cups pulp free orange juice (chilled), one 750-milliliter bottle sparkling dry white wine (chilled). You will need a 12-cube ice cube tray.

Directions: Fill each compartment of the ice cube tray about a third of the way with water and freeze until solid (one hour). Puree about half the berries in a food processor until smooth. Add 1-2 tps. Of puree to each compartment and freeze until solid. Top off with water and freeze until solid.

Carefully pour the grenadine into a large pitcher (be careful not to splash the sides). Freeze for about 30 minutes. Slowly pour in the orange juice so it does not mix with the grenadine. Use the bowl of a large serving spoon. Use the same technique with the sparkling wine. Pour half the bottle letting the fizz subside. Continue slowly with the other half of the bottle. Slowly remove the spoon and top with remaining berries. To serve, stir to combine the cocktail in the pitcher. Add the prepared ice cubes to Champagne flutes. Fill with the cocktail mixture and top with a few berries. Enjoy!