

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Regent Seven Seas-owner schedules sailings, maintains vaccine requirement

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Norwegian passengers must be vaccinated to board the company's vessels. Image credit: Norwegian Cruise Line

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Miami-based cruise company Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, parent of Regent Seven Seas Cruises, has announced additional voyages as part of its U.S. voyage resumption plan.

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The group plans to set sail beginning summer 2021 with voyages from New York, Los Angeles, Port Canaveral and Miami, with its newest ship, Norwegian Encore, debuting in Alaska. Voyages expected to operate in the United States are contingent on obtaining a [Conditional Sailing Certificate](#) from the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), and all initial voyages will operate with fully vaccinated guests and crew.

"I am pleased to continue our Great Cruise Comeback with plans already announced for 23 of our 28 ships across our three brands beginning in July 2021 and phasing in through early 2022," said Frank Del Rio, president/CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd, in a statement. "We are currently in communication with Governor DeSantis' staff and legal counsel to ensure that we can offer the safest cruise experience for our passengers departing from the cruise capital of the world."

Safely setting sail

Norwegian Cruise Line has announced further details on its phased voyage resumption plan for additional ships beginning summer 2021.

Norwegian Gem will cruise seven-day itineraries to the Caribbean beginning August 15, 2021 and a four-day voyage to the Bahamas in November from Miami.

Additional itineraries on Norwegian Breakaway are open for sale to Bermuda starting September 26, 2021 from New York.



As vaccines continue to be distributed globally, the travel industry hopes to see some rebound this year. Image credit Norwegian Cruise Line

Norwegian Bliss will sail on October 24, 2021 to the Mexican Riviera from Los Angeles, and Norwegian Escape will sail on November 13, 2021 to the Caribbean from Port Canaveral.

In addition, Norwegian Encore, the newest ship in the line's fleet, will make its debut on the West Coast, taking the place of the previously announced Norwegian Bliss for the 2021 summer Alaska cruise season.

The Alaska itinerary will include visits to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Icy Strait Point, while also offering guests views of Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier or Glacier Bay.

The company continues to expect a phased-in approach to reintroducing additional vessels while taking into account the public health environment, global travel restrictions, regulatory restrictions and port availability, among other considerations.

All voyages will operate with the company's comprehensive SailSAFE™ health and safety protocols which were developed with leading public health and scientific experts including the Healthy Sail Panel and the SailSAFE Global Health and Wellness Council. The company's SailSAFE protocols will be continuously evaluated and modified with the latest science and technology.

Conversely, Royal Caribbean International changed its policy last week, **stating** that vaccinations against the coronavirus will be optional for cruise ship passengers.

In February, cruise line Seabourn canceled all of its Alaska and British Columbia departures for the year, as regulations around travel and cruising continued to evolve amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 19 voyages are impacted by the decision by the Canadian Transport Ministry's Interim Order to close national ports and waters to passenger vessels ([see story](#)).

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