

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## Amid COVID-19 concerns, cruise lines continue operations

August 9, 2021



*The Seven Seas Splendor. Image courtesy of Regent Seven Seas Cruises*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Although the global concern is rising over the spread of the Delta variant and overall impact of the COVID-19 virus, several luxury cruise lines are resuming their trips.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**  
Plus: Just released  
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

After more than a year of restrictions and lockdowns, cruise organizations are setting out for the sea, resuming their operations. Several luxury cruise lines relaunching services include Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Crystal, Ponant and more.

Returning to sea

Regent Seven Seas Cruises has scheduled its first sailing for Sept. 11, 2021. The ships include Seven Seas Splendor, Seven Seas Explorer and Seven Seas Mariner exploring the regions of Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and Panama Canal.

Regent's full five-ship fleet is scheduled to return to service by February 2022.

The new Seven Seas Splendor will be the first ship to resume service for the brand this September for an 11-night voyage, round-trip from Southampton, England, visiting Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Luxury cruise line Crystal has already begun resuming operations with its Crystal Serenity, Crystal Endeavor and Crystal Symphony ships sailing to the regions of the Bahamas, Iceland and Bermuda. Crystal restarted operations in July, and there are currently two vessels in service with one to the Bahamas and the Crystal Endeavor from Reykjavik to Iceland.

The Crystal Symphony is scheduled to be reactivated on Aug. 22.



*Ponant Explorer. Image courtesy of Ponant*

French cruise line Ponant is currently in service with its following ships: Le Dumont-D'Urville, Le Bellot, Le Lyrial, Le Bougainville, Le Champlain and Le Jacques Cartier.

The ships are traveling to the Corsica, Brittany, Eastern Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean and Iceland regions.

The six vessels have resumed service through September.

In July, a U.S. federal appeals court blocked an order from a lower court that would have allowed cruise ships to sail from the state of Florida without mandating rules from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention intended to prevent future COVID-19 outbreaks during voyages.

The situation has pitted cruise lines including Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, owner of Regent Seven Seas Cruises and the CDC against Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. The state has argued that the CDC's Conditional Sail Order, which established a four-phase process for companies to resume sailing, is too burdensome and hinders one of Florida's most valuable industries ([see story](#)).

Last Friday, [Reuters](#) reported that a U.S. judge ruled to allow Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, parent of Regent Seven Seas Cruises, to demand that passengers show written proof of coronavirus vaccination before they board a ship, dealing a major blow to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's effort to ban "vaccine passports."

---

© 2021 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.