



Symphony of the Seas: The largest cruise ship in the World.



The Symphony Central Park neighborhood offers real trees, fresh lawns, and upscale dining.

Cruising into the Future

TWO NEW CRUISE SHIPS OFFER STUNNING AMENITIES AND EXPERIENCES

C RUISE IS THE BEST WAY to visit a myriad of destinations within one vacation experience. Cruises provide families and groups with time together—while still having some personal space—secure in knowing that the quality of lodging, food, and excursions will be consistent throughout. Solo travelers are now accommodated more readily on cruises with single cabins and no supplemental fares on many sailings. Today’s newest generation of ships are a marvel of design and high-tech innovation with re-imagined entertainment options that will impress even the seasoned cruiser.

Two major cruise companies have just debuted fabulous new ships; Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines “Symphony of the Seas” and Celebrity Cruise Lines “Edge”.

SYMPHONY OF THE SEAS

The 5,500+ passenger RCCL “Symphony of the Seas” (along with sister ships Oasis, Harmony, and Allure) is the largest ship afloat. This mega

ship is divided into neighborhoods featuring a Coney Island style boardwalk with carousel, fun restaurants, and an outdoor water amphitheater presenting thrilling high-dive water shows.

The Central Park neighborhood with natural grass and trees hosts specialty restaurants such as Chops Grill, Central Park 150, and Jamie’s Italian. New to this specific ship are the plummeting water slides (the highest at sea), and laser tag arena which make great additions to the ice skating rink, zip-lines, surf rider, rock wall, full-court basketball, arcade, kids water park, and mini-golf course. The new Family Suite cabin, accommodating eight guests, is two stories of fun, with your own slide, air hockey table, reading cubbies, Lego wall, karaoke, on-call “Royal Genie” concierge, and more!

Nighttime on-board brings on an array of entertainment options for the grownups, with the Latin fusion dance club Boleros, Contemporary dance venues, Comedy Central, Casino, and Broadway style productions such as “Grease”.



The highest water slides at sea are onboard the Symphony of the Seas.



The Edge's Rooftop Garden Terrace featuring live greenery and live music give this space an outdoor garden effect.



Some Suite categories offer direct entrance to the sun and pool space.



Eden venue on the Celebrity Edge offers a casual dining venue and unique entertainment.


THE CELEBRITY EDGE

Celebrity Cruise lines, sister company to Royal Caribbean and known for “Modern Luxury” has just introduced the “Celebrity Edge”. Hailed as the most high-tech ship at sea, the Edge has a very hip and well...“edgy” feel overall. The ship is sleek, contemporary, refined, and full of surprises! Although children are allowed, this is styled to be an adult’s ship. The ship uses facial recognition for boarding. A phone app allows for control of your room lights and cabin temperature. A visit to the bionic bar finds a “robot” that will mix the perfect made-to-order drink. Dinner at the French bistro provides an entertaining, table-top, animated dining experience.

This ship is said to “blend edges” between indoor and outdoor, audience, and stage. The three-story multipurpose area called Eden serves as a peaceful, garden-like lounge and restaurant by day, transforming into an exotic entertainment

venue by night offering inventive craft cocktails and unique performances. The ship’s most publicized feature is the Magic Carpet, a tennis court sized moveable platform which is raised or lowered along the side of the ship to various decks, functioning as an outdoor eatery, private event space, or embarkation deck.

A cabin feature unique to some of the Edge staterooms are infinite verandahs. These verandahs serve as an air-conditioned ocean view solarium with floor-to-ceiling views, when closed. A push of a button transforms the space into a “French Balcony” as the top window lowers. Single studio cabins are available, as are spacious and opulent suites. Exclusive to every suite class guest, the Retreat which includes a spacious outdoor country club type sundeck area with refreshing pool, never-closing bar, and concierge services. Doors that access some suites directly from the sun deck create a private villa effect.

New ocean-going cruise ships are being built continuously and the demand for larger, more inventive and creative onboard experiences continues to increase. Most cruise lines offer package pricing including airfare, beverage, and dining packages, making cruising a great travel value. It will be exciting to see what the future of cruising has on the horizon for those seeking a comfortable, convenient, and exciting way to see the world. 

Dee Dee Werner is a travel advisor, former travel agency owner, and travel industry speaker. She has traveled throughout the world and has experienced many ocean and river cruises. Reach Dee Dee at Travelex International, a Virtuoso member agency in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. To learn more, call 847-519-4795 or email: deew@travelexinternational.com.