

New Royal Caribbean vessel makes its U.S. debut in Miami

By **Ronnie Lovler** on November, 21 2018 | Industry News





Billboards announcing the debut of Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas are all over Miami. The vessel made its U.S. debut in Miami last week

It's hard to be in Miami these days without being aware that Royal Caribbean has a new vessel in town. Billboards and painted advertisements all over downtown Miami let people know that Symphony of the Seas, the newest RC ship will now be making year-round cruises from Miami.

Symphony of the Seas made its inaugural trip out of Royal Caribbean's Terminal A in Port Miami November 17 and it will be full steam ahead now with weekly trips to the Eastern and Western Caribbean.

Billed as the world's largest cruise ship, LMVH- owned Starboard Cruises Services, which operates Royal Caribbean, said the shopping experience on board will be one of a kind, with retail shops, known more appropriately as Royal Shops on three decks.

Shopping includes stand-alone boutiques for high-end watches such as Bvlgari and Hublot, as well as a Cartier Espace. Other stores include fine jewelry at Regalia, fragrances and cosmetics at Solera, spirits and Port Merchants and beachwear and sunglasses at Surf Shack.

In fact, you might call it a shopping experience on steroids. In its blurb, the online CruiseBe described the retail offerings on Symphony of the Seas as, "Temptation time. Shop the designer names and onboard exclusives, all at price you won't find on land. Swiss timepieces, spirits, fine jewelery, beauty and high fashion are all here, tax and duty free."

But of course, one does more than shop aboard a cruise and the passengers sailing now, are getting exposed to a series of firsts, including the show 'Flight: Dare to Dream,' that takes the audience on a journey through past, present and future of air travel.

This show features a former astronaut who is involved in the production, Clayton C. Anderson. He lived 167 days in space and completed 38 hours and 28 minutes over 6 spacewalks in two separate missions.

"I'm thrilled to have had the opportunity to relive my five months aboard the International Space Station for this out-of-this-world Royal Caribbean production," Anderson shared, "I worked with Royal Caribbean to ensure the show's zero gravity simulation, and appearance of the ISS replica, were as true to life as possible to further enhance the show's wow factor."

Symphony of the Seas hit the water in April when it made its maiden voyage out of Barcelona. It followed a European itinerary before crossing to Miami.

The vessel measures 1,188 feet in length and 215.5 feet in width, with 18 decks and can accommodate 6,680 guests.

It offers guests diverse experiences in seven 'neighborhoods' that include Central park, Boardwalk, Royal Promenade, Pool and Sports Zone, Vitality and Spa Fitness Centre, Entertainment Place and Youth Zone.