

Noteworthy

Royal Caribbean's Harmony Of The Seas Is The World's Largest Cruise Ship Departing Out Of Port Everglades

by Lyssa Goldberg | November 2016



Stand Royal Caribbean's new Harmony of the Seas up vertically, and it's twice as high as the Washington Monument. Yep, the world's largest cruise ship has arrived in Fort Lauderdale and is now calling Port Everglades home.

The ship, which pulled into its new permanent homeport on Nov. 5 and was officially christened last week, will be taking passengers on seven-night Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries departing from Fort Lauderdale.

At 1,188 feet in length and nearly 227,000 gross tonnage in volume, Harmony of the Seas officially surpasses sister ships Allure and Oasis of the Seas in size but features the same seven-neighborhood, theme park-style layout. Oasis has transferred homeports to Port Canaveral to make room for the new record-setting cruise liner.

Harmony of the Seas' neighborhoods include a "Central Park" green sanctuary with 12,000 live plants and trees and the "Boardwalk," which features its own carousel, gourmet hot dog stand and other nostalgic seaside pier elements.

The other five entertainment areas offer a Royal Promenade for luxury shopping and bar hopping, a pool and sports recreational area, kids zone, Vitality Spa and Fitness Center, and Entertainment Place featuring a Vegas-style casino and a theater for Broadway-caliber performances.

Adventure-seekers on the ship can ride Royal Caribbean's new Ultimate Abyss, the tallest slide at sea. The 10-story slide, which stands more than 150-feet above sea level, takes guests down a twisting and turning drop from Deck 16 to Deck 6. It's not a water slide, but don't worry, there are several of those as well (not to mention FlowRider surf simulators, two 40-foot rock climbing walls, a miniature golf course, and zip lines that run across the ship's open-air central atrium).

And for art lovers, the Royal Caribbean ship's \$6.5 million art collection features 1,000-plus pieces, including sculptures, photography, paintings and installations.

Of Harmony of the Seas' more than 20 (yes, 20!) dining options, nearly a dozen are signature concepts, including Jamie's Italian by Food Network star Jamie Oliver; Wonderland, a whimsical Alice in Wonderland-inspired restaurant; and cultural experiences like Sabor Taqueria & Tequila Bar or Izumi Japanese Cuisine.

There are also several unique places to grab a drink, from the Bionic Bar, which features two robot bartenders that prepare custom cocktails for passengers who place their orders on tablets, to the central Rising Tide Bar that uses a moving platform to serve guests on different decks.

At the outdoor AquaTheater, guests on board the ship can catch an acrobatic, aquatic performance featuring high divers and synchronized swimmers, dazzling lights and fountains, and more. Putting the venue to good use, Joe Jonas and his DNCE bandmates performed a sunset concert at the open-air amphitheater during a recent sailing on Nov. 11.