

News

Cruise Lines Once Again Extend Sailing Start-Up Dates

Major U.S. cruise companies won't resume operations until spring 2021.



by [Lisa A. Grimaldi](#)

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Updated Jan. 19, 2021.

Major U.S. cruise lines, including [Carnival Cruise Line](#), [Celebrity Cruises](#), [Disney Cruise Line](#), [Norwegian Cruise Line](#), [Royal Caribbean International](#) and [Princess Cruises](#), have pushed their return to sailing to the spring, with the earliest trips scheduled from March 31. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) lifted its no-sail order for ships operating in U.S. waters on Oct. 30, 2020, and went on to state that before resuming service, cruise lines must meet the requirements of its [Conditional Sailing Order](#). The regulations detail a phased return to the seas designed to mitigate the risk of spreading Covid-19.

In its statement on the Conditional Sailing Order, the CDC had said it decided to drop the no-sail order because the new framework "enables cruise ships to operate if they are willing to take the necessary precautions to mitigate risk, while it continues to

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prohibit passenger operations on ships that have failed to implement such precautions. This framework allows for individual cruise lines to progress through phases at variable paces."



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The first phase calls for testing and safeguards for crew members, "while these cruise-ship operators build the laboratory capacity needed to test future passengers." The next phase requires the cruise lines to operate test voyages to ensure that ships meet specific requirements and are able to minimize the risk of Covid-19 transmission. At this time, the CDC recommends all travelers avoid cruise ships.

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Several weeks after launching the Conditional Sailing Order, the CDC turned around and recommended that travelers avoid cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide, "because the risk of Covid-19 on cruise ships is very high," according to its [statement](#) on the topic. The agency has not issued any further direction for cruise lines since; as the pandemic continues, U.S. cruise lines have extended their operations suspensions again, as noted below. For further details, contact the operators directly.

Carnival Cruise Line

[Carnival](#) has paused service through March 31, 2021.

Celebrity Cruises

[Celebrity](#) has extended its sailing suspension through April 30, 2021.

Disney Cruise Line

[Disney Cruise Line](#) announced the cancellation of its sailings through March 31, 2021.

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Norwegian Cruise Line

[Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings](#), parent company of [Norwegian Cruise Line](#), [Oceania Cruises](#) and [Regent Seven Seas Cruises](#), said all three of its brands would extend their suspensions through March 2021.

Royal Caribbean International

[Royal Caribbean](#) has suspended sailing of its global fleet through April 30, 2021.

Princess Cruises

[Princess Cruises](#) has cancelled all cruises through May 14, 2021.

Virgin Voyages

The [new cruise line](#) has postponed the maiden sailing of the 2,700-passenger *Scarlet Lady* until May 2021.



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