

Last updated: 08:19 PM ET, Tue May 25 2021

Royal Caribbean Receives CDC Approval To Conduct Test Cruises

CRUISE LINE & CRUISE SHIP | ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL | THERESA NORTON | MAY 25, 2021



Royal Caribbean's Freedom of the Seas at Labadee, the cruise line's private destination. (Photo via Royal Caribbean International)

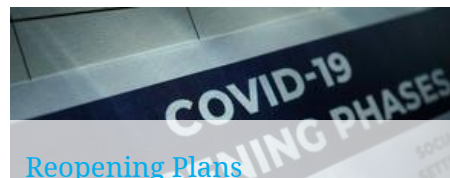
Royal Caribbean International is the first cruise line to receive approval from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to operate test cruises as a key step toward resuming operations from U.S. ports.

“To all our colleagues, loyal guests and supporters all over the world, I am proud and pleased to share some bright and wonderful news! Boom! Onwards and upwards team!” Royal Caribbean International President Michael Bayley wrote on Facebook, where he posted the CDC approval letter dated May 25.

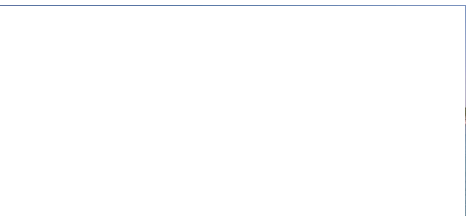
The company said the first test cruise approved is for Freedom of the Seas June 20–22.

“After 15 months of hard work and collaboration, today’s approval of our simulated cruises is the latest

TRENDING NOW



FEATURED VIDEO



TRENDING IN TRAVEL

U.S. Edition

loyal guests and supporters from around the world this summer.”

The test cruises will be operated out of PortMiami. Tens of thousands of people have [volunteered for test cruises](#), Royal Caribbean has said.

Bayley wrote on Facebook that Royal Caribbean submitted its plans for test cruises to the CDC on May 21.

“The huge success of vaccines in the USA and many other countries and a commitment from the industry to operate with all of our crew vaccinated and the large number of vaccinated guests has created a clear pathway forward,” Bayley wrote on May 22. “Yesterday Royal Caribbean submitted the first of several port/health plans to the CDC, which are required to receive approval for the simulated voyages, which are required to precede approval for regular cruises. As we continue to vaccinate our crew, we are preparing for our return to service. In the coming days and weeks, we will announce more exciting news for all our crew and all our loyal guests.”

The CDC said the path to resuming cruises in the U.S. is now clear.

“Over the past month, senior leadership from CDC have met multiple times a week with cruise line senior executives to discuss the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order (CSO),” a CDC statement said. “During these meetings, participants asked questions and discussed the fastest path back to sailing without compromising safety. CDC and the cruise industry agree that the industry has what it needs to move forward and no additional roadblocks exist for resuming sailing by mid-summer.”

The simulated cruises are required for [ships that don't mandate vaccinations](#) of at least 98 percent of its crew and 95 percent of its passengers – the latter of which is difficult to do for companies that attract families since young children aren't eligible for the vaccines yet.

The CDC has [outlined what the simulated cruises should include](#). Among the requirements is that passengers on test voyages must be 18 years old and present proof of vaccination or documentation that the passenger is not at high risk for severe COVID-19. All volunteer passengers “must be informed in writing



[Know About Traveling To Greece This Summer](#)



[Riviera River Cruises To Restart in Portugal on July 2](#)



[Alaskans Thrilled With New Law That Helps Cruising Resume](#)

RELATED OFFERS



SPRING SALE 2022 - UP TO \$4,000 BONUS SAVINGS
[VICTORY CRUISE LINES](#)



SPRING SALE 2022 - UP TO \$2,000 BONUS SAVINGS
[AMERICAN QUEEN](#)

[STEAMBOAT COMPANY](#)



Happily Ever Atlas!
[ATLAS OCEAN VOYAGES](#)

LATEST OPINIONS AND BLOGS

Cruise Planners Discounts Franchise Fee

[CRUISE PLANNERS BLOG](#)

Five Awesome Resort Waterparks

[AMRESORTS BLOG](#)

Bowman's Travel Brief: A Long Journey to Maui, Hawaii

[ERIC BOWMAN](#)

MOST READ

- 2021 Travel Restrictions: International Destinations Open To Vaccinated Travelers This Summer
[DESTINATION & TOURISM](#)
- The Safest Places to Travel in 2021
[DESTINATION & TOURISM](#)
- US Virgin Islands Travel Restrictions: Things Tourists Should Know for 2021
[DESTINATION & TOURISM](#)
- What You Need To Know About Traveling To Jamaica This Summer
[DESTINATION & TOURISM](#)
- COVID-19 US Travel Restrictions: Updated State-by-State Guide for May 2021
[IMPACTING TRAVEL](#)



- NEWS
- MAGAZINES
- OFFERS
- VIDEO
- OPINIONS
- BLOGS
- SUPPLIERS
- DESTINATIONS

SPONSORED CONTENT



Book 7 nights for the price of 6

PROMOTED BY THE EXCELLENCE COLLECTION



Get Paid to Upgrade

PROMOTED BY ALG VACATIONS



Win a Free Trip With ALGV's YOLO Giveaway

Follow TravelPulse

For more information on [ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL](#), [MIAMI](#), [FLORIDA](#)

For more [CRUISE LINE & CRUISE SHIP NEWS](#)

MORE BY [THERESA NORTON](#)



- *Holland America's Eurodam Extends 2021 Med Cruise Season*
- *Crystal's Luxury Expedition Ship Nears Completion*

[Alaska senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Rep. Don Young](#)

[Riviera River Cruises To Restart in Portugal on July 2](#)

[Crew Members Disembark After Testing Positive for COVID-19](#)

[Royal Caribbean CEO Says US Cruises Might Resume Next Month](#)

Alaskans Thrilled With New

[President Biden Signs Law To Restart](#)

TRENDING IN TRAVEL

U.S. Edition



- [NEWS](#)
 - [MAGAZINES](#)
 - [OFFERS](#)
 - [VIDEO](#)
 - [OPINIONS](#)
 - [BLOGS](#)
 - [SUPPLIERS](#)
- [DESTINATIONS](#)

... on Facebook will appear with your comment, and may be used on TravelPulse.com. [Click here](#) to learn more.

[LOAD FACEBOOK COMMENTS](#)

TravelPulse.com

[NEWS](#) | [MAGAZINES](#) | [OFFERS](#) | [VIDEO](#) | [OPINIONS](#) | [BLOGS](#) | [TRENDING](#) | [SUPPLIERS](#) | [DESTINATIONS](#)

Categories

[DESTINATION & TOURISM](#) | [IMPACTING TRAVEL](#) | [CRUISE LINE & CRUISE SHIP](#) | [AIRLINES & AIRPORTS](#) | [HOTEL & RESORT](#) | [FEATURES & ADVICE](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [TOUR OPERATOR](#) | [CAR RENTAL & RAIL](#) | [VACATION PACKAGES](#) | [TRAVEL TECHNOLOGY](#) | [TRAVEL AGENT](#) | [HOST AGENCY & CONSORTIA](#) | [BUSINESS TRAVEL](#) | [PEOPLE](#) | [LGBTQ](#) | [MORE](#)

Northstar Travel Group

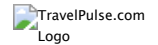
[TRAVELPULSE](#) | [TRAVELPULSE CANADA](#) | [TRAVELPULSE QUEBEC](#) | [TRAVEL WEEKLY](#) | [TRAVEL WEEKLY ASIA](#) | [TRAVEL WEEKLY CHINA](#) | [TRAVELAGE WEST](#) | [MEETINGS + INCENTIVES](#) | [TRAVEL TECHNOLOGY](#) | [CORPORATE TRAVEL](#) | [HOTEL INVESTMENT](#) | [DATA PRODUCTS](#) | [AGENT STUDIO](#) | [TRAVEL AGENT ACADEMY](#) | [DIGITAL EVENTS & SEMINARS](#) | [TRAVALLIANCEMEDIA](#)

Connect

[FACEBOOK](#) | [TWITTER](#) | [LINKEDIN](#) | [YOUTUBE](#) | [RSS FEED](#) | [SUBSCRIBE AGENTATHOME](#)

About

[WRITE FOR US](#) | [ADVERTISE](#) | [TERMS OF USE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [CONTACT US](#)



Copyright © 2021 Northstar Travel Media, LLC. All Rights Reserved. 100 Lighting Way Secaucus, NJ 07094-3626 USA | Telephone: (201) 902-2000