

# LIVES OF THE LINERS: CRUISING & CRUISE SHIPS



*Above: Evening first arrival – the mighty, 228,000-ton Oasis of the Seas is seen off Lower Manhattan. She is the largest passenger liner ever to visit the Port of New York.*

*From Bill Miller*

*Update: September 2021*

**Sun Aug 29<sup>th</sup> Norwegian Cruise Lines** is again sailing from Miami and from their brand new, state-of-the-art terminal.



**Mon Aug 30<sup>th</sup> Farewell!** The 48-year-old *Boudicca* of Fred Olsen cruise line is meeting her end out in Aliaga in Turkey (below). The 28,500-ton ship has had a long & diverse career, beginning as the *Royal Viking Sky* of the legendary Royal Viking Line.



**Tue Aug 31<sup>st</sup>** Italy's **Alitalia Airlines** has come to end – no further reservations are being accepted and the last flights completed. The largely Government-owned company is being replaced by a new, privately owned Italian airline.





**Wed Sep 1<sup>st</sup> Return!** Over 200 cruise ships – or more than 50% of the worldwide cruise industry are back in service.

**Virgin Cruises** has removed Key West port calls from its itineraries, citing its desire to respect locals' decision to ban ships carrying more than 1,300 passengers.

**P&O Cruises** is returning to service including UK-Caribbean air-sea cruises. Below: The *Aurora* at New York's Pier 88.



**China:** The first Chinese-flag high luxury cruise ship, the *Zhao Shang Yi Dun*, is planned to set sail in October as cruising resumes in mainland China. The former *Viking Sun* is the first ship in a joint venture between China Merchants Shekou and Viking. The 940-bed *Zhao Shang Yi Dun* will offer a series of seven-night cruises to destinations on China's coast. Thirteen voyages are scheduled in 2021.

*Below: The Viking Sun & MSC Meraviglia at New York*



**More News from Viking Ocean:** Viking today announced its new 2023-2024 Viking World Cruise, which will span 138 days, 28 countries and 57 ports, with overnight stays in 11 cities. As a result of strong demand among guests, with the 2021 and 2022 World Cruises selling out in record time, according to a press release, Viking for the first time

will offer a choice of two departure dates for this extended voyage. Guests can pick from the *Viking Sky*, which will depart on December 20, 2023, from Ft. Lauderdale – or the new *Viking Neptune*, which will depart Ft. Lauderdale on December 23, 2023; both ships will sail the identical itinerary in parallel.



**Thu Sep 2<sup>nd</sup> Azamara Cruises** is among those now back in business with their first cruise to the Greek Isles. The Company has 4 ships and is already projecting greater expansion by 2030.





**Royal Caribbean** reports that 60% of its huge cruise fleet are now back in service.



**Fri Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> New York:** Our good friend Sam Ruda informs us: After a 17-month pause, the *Oasis of the Seas* is back in cruise service for Royal Caribbean International. Sailing on its first post-pandemic commercial cruise later today, the first Oasis-Class vessel is launching service from Bayonne, in the New York region. Based in New York for the first time, the 228,000-ton vessel is now offering a series of seven-

night voyages to the Bahamas. Through the end of October, the *Oasis* is making weekly visits to Nassau, Port Canaveral and Perfect Day at CocoCay – Royal Caribbean's private island in the Bahamas.



**Sat Sep 4<sup>th</sup> Brazil:** After a silent winter cruise season in 2020-21, several cruise lines including Costa & MSC are preparing for full '21-22 winter (summer down there, of course) seasons of cruises.



**Hong Kong:** Genting Hong Kong, with its Dream Cruises, has completed its first month of cruises from Hong Kong & with great success.





**Hurricanes!** Cruise lines such as Carnival, Norwegian Cruise & Bahamas Paradise Cruise Lines are all but queuing up to secure Government charters for use as assistance & accommodation ships during recent North American hurricanes.





**Mon Sep 6<sup>th</sup> Cunard:** The *Queen Mary 2* (below) is now in the big graving dock at Brest in France and is being readied for a return to service in mid November.



**World Cruises:** Sister companies: Holland America, Princess & Seabourn have canceled their 2022 world cruises.

**Cargo:** Big container companies such as French-based CMA-CGM are reporting record amounts of cargo, income & therefore profits.







**Tue Sep 7<sup>th</sup> Cunard:** The *Queen Mary 2* was scheduled to resume Southampton-New York crossings & then cruises in mid-November. But now, the ship will remain in UK waters and instead cross to New York (for the very first time in some 18 months) in mid-December, spend several nights at her Brooklyn berth and then sail as scheduled on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> on a New York-Caribbean Christmas-New Year holiday cruise.



**The Panama Canal** published a proposal that modifies the waterway's toll structure and the measurement regulations for passenger ships.



**Late Summer Sales:** The lists are seemingly endless – but as examples cruise travelers can do Royal Caribbean with as much as 60% off or as little as \$59 per person per night or Norwegian Cruise at \$54 per person.



*Out of the old shoebox:*



*Below: The legendary Lurline arriving off Honolulu.*



*Thank you to all our readers, correspondents, those “agents” in faraway places!*