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**ODYSSEY OF THE SEAS TO MAKE BOLD, EUROPEAN ENTRANCE, ARRIVING TO ROME
FOR FIRST MEDITERRANEAN SEASON**

*The Game-changing Quantum Ultra Class Ship Ups the Ante with Extended Stays and Overnights in
Bucket List-worthy Mediterranean Destinations, beginning April 2021*

MIAMI, Dec. 18, 2019* – [Royal Caribbean International](https://www.royalcaribbean.com)'s newest ship, [Odyssey of the Seas](https://www.royalcaribbean.com/odyssey-of-the-seas), will deliver a bold lineup of sought-after destinations as the first Quantum Ultra Class ship to homeport in Rome and sail through the Eastern Mediterranean for the summer season. Royal Caribbean's game-changing ship will be the first to tout a combination of longer stays in every destination and overnights across some of the Mediterranean's most luring cities and famed beach destinations. Debuting in April 2021, the highly anticipated ship will sail from Rome for its first season before continuing its inaugural year in Fort Lauderdale, FL with 8- and 6-night Caribbean itineraries. *Odyssey's* Mediterranean cruises for summer 2021 open today for bookings.

Odyssey will take travelers on sun-soaked summer vacations in the Eastern Mediterranean on 7-, 9- and 12-night itineraries to the scenic shores and ancient ruins of Santorini, Mykonos, Athens and Rhodes, Greece; Ephesus, Turkey; Naples, Italy; Heraklion, Crete; and Haifa and Jerusalem, Israel. Vacationers will have more time than ever to explore local cultures with maximum time on shore, from longer days – up to 15 hours at every port – spent enjoying the multihued waters and beaches of Mykonos and waterfront tavernas of Santorini on 7-night getaways to the Greek Isles, to a double dose of destinations with overnight stays and two full days in Athens and Naples on both 9-night Greek Isles and 12-night Holy Land sailings.

"*Odyssey* will set the standard for delivering unforgettable European adventures, on which travelers will cruise to an exceptional combination of destinations that are in a league of their own as the most popular ports in the Eastern Mediterranean," said Michael Bayley, President and CEO, Royal Caribbean International. "With extended stays and overnights, Royal Caribbean is combining amazing itineraries with our game-changing ship to create a truly one-of-a-kind Europe vacation."

The lineup of local experiences available to guests go beyond historic attractions, digging deeper into the vibrant culture and communities of the picturesque destinations.

(more)

Highlights of adventures in store for *Odyssey of the Seas* guests:

- ***Sorrento and Amalfi Coast:*** When visiting Naples, guests can explore the Amalfi Coast, shop for majolica pottery, sample Southern Italian cuisine and enjoy downtime while wandering the flower-filled streets of Sorrento.
- ***Athens:*** Foodies can partake in the culinary history of Athens with a traditional cooking class for a taste of the local culture. Escorted by a local chef, the day begins with ingredient shopping in the Central Food Market before heading to the restaurant to prepare local dishes.
- ***Mykonos:*** A beach day for the books, where the entire family can soak up the Cycladean sun at one of Mykonos' best stretches of surf and sand.
- ***Crete:*** Foodies can embark on a visit to Boutari on the Fantaxometochos Estate, one of the most modern and impressive wineries of Crete, and sample a selection of homegrown wines produced onsite. The neighboring, recently restored village of Archanes is a 'must see' with its colorful backstreets, blooming flowers and fruit trees.
- ***Jerusalem and Bethlehem:*** The distinguished history of two biblically significant cities are brought to life while touring storied landmarks, such as The Wailing Wall, Church of the Nativity and Mount of Olives.
- ***Nazareth:*** By way of Haifa, vacationers will travel the region of Galilee to explore Nazareth and its churches, including the Church of Annunciation and the Church of St. Gabriel.

In November 2021, *Odyssey* will make its North American debut as the first Quantum Ultra Class ship to cruise the Caribbean's clear-blue waters. The new ship, sailing roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale, is set to offer 8- and 6-night itineraries that include visits to far-flung destinations like Curacao, Aruba and Grand Cayman. Caribbean cruises for winter 2021-22 open on Dec. 19, 2019.

The Quantum Ultra Class ship will tout game-changing, technological innovations like the next generation **SeaPlex**, the largest indoor space for recreational activities at sea, which will see the addition of this venue's first **Playmakers Sports Bar & Arcade** with club-level views of the competition below; a reimagined Adventure Ocean kids program and a maxed-out teen lounge with gaming consoles, music and movies.

(more)

Guests on board *Odyssey* can enjoy all-new dining, including **Teppanyaki**, serving East Asian flavors in a traditional Japanese style; and **Giovanni's Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar** with rustic Italian dishes and a contemporary flair. *Odyssey's* vibrant, two-level pool deck will feature two open-air, resort-style pools and four whirlpools with shady casitas and hammocks. The ship will also feature guest favorites, including **FlowRider** surf simulator; skydiving with **Ripcord by iFly**; the iconic **North Star** glass capsule that boasts 360-degree views from 300 feet above sea level; and robot bartenders at **Bionic Bar**.

For more details on the highly anticipated *Odyssey of the Seas*, visit www.RoyalCaribbean.com.

About Royal Caribbean International

[Royal Caribbean International](http://www.RoyalCaribbean.com) has been delivering innovation at sea for more than 50 years. Each successive class of ships is an architectural marvel featuring the latest technology and guest experiences for today's adventurous traveler. The cruise line continues to revolutionize vacations with itineraries to more than 270 destinations in 72 countries on six continents, including Royal Caribbean's private island destination in The Bahamas, Perfect Day at CocoCay, the first in the Perfect Day Island Collection. Royal Caribbean has also been voted "Best Cruise Line Overall" for 17 consecutive years in the *Travel Weekly* Readers' Choice Awards.

Media can stay up to date by following [@RoyalCaribPR](https://twitter.com/RoyalCaribPR) on Twitter and visiting RoyalCaribbeanPressCenter.com. For additional information or to make reservations, vacationers can call their travel advisor; visit RoyalCaribbean.com; or call (800) ROYAL-CARIBBEAN.

***June 2021 Update** *Odyssey of the Seas* will now debut in July when it sets sail as the first Quantum Ultra Class ship to cruise from the U.S. The brand-new ship will cruise roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale, Florida on a series of 6- and 8-night Caribbean itineraries. For more details, visit www.royalcaribbean.com/cruise-ships/itinerary-updates.

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