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Norwegian Epic



Cruise

11/15/14 - 11/22/14

Especially Prepared for: Mar

SAMPLE

Norwegian Epic

Cruise Line: Norwegian Cruise Line
Toll-free: 866-234-7350

Passengers: 4,228
Tonnage: 153,000
Crew: 1,730

Year Built: 2010
Decks: 15
Registry: Bahamas

Web: <http://www.ncl.com>



Norwegian Epic, measuring more than 155,000 tons, was introduced to Eastern and Western Caribbean cruising in July 2010.

This 1,080-ft Post-Panamax ship, NCL's largest and most ambitious to date, carries 4,100 passengers double occupancy and provides some of the most innovative entertainment afloat, with performing contracts signed with Blue Man Group and Cirque Dreams, among others. Dining venues number 20, and 128 studios have been configured for single passengers, an industry record. All outside cabins have generous-sized balconies. The ship's profile may be one of the least pleasing afloat with a massive pile of forward superstructure, but once aboard, most public spaces and cabins are actively designed.

Norwegian Cruise Line, in business since 1966, has amassed a fine fleet of state-of-the-art ships, all but one built in the 21st century. From the time of its founding, when passengers may dine

when and where they wish at a wide window of hours and in many different restaurants, the line's trademark of "freedom of choice" is another anticipated breakthrough.

The Epic is the line's largest vessel by 60%. It also allows NCL to re-establish the "Freestyle" concept, something beyond an array of specialty restaurants.

When the Epic is based in Florida, the clientele is largely American and represents a wide range of ages, although other nationalities are also aboard. The ship also regularly embarks in other regions, and the passenger list is considerably more international.

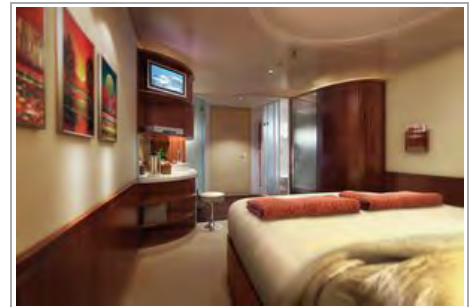
The huge range of public rooms spreads over decks 15-19, with the cabins located in the middle on decks 8-14. Front and center is an exclusive cruise-line contract with the Blue Man Group, presenting highly popular theatrical shows (currently in New York and Las Vegas) four nights a week. The shows combine acrobatics, music and comedy. Cirque Dreams performs acrobatics in a tentlike setting while up to 265 passengers dine supplied with a \$15 charge). Diners might have their wine glasses filled when the music suddenly drops down from the domed ceiling.

Other entertainment offerings on the Epic include a Cat Cats jazz and blues, Howl at the Moon dueling pianists, the H2O poolside adults-only entertainment and dancing. Legends in Concert, a show featuring celebrity impersonators, performs in the ship's Manhattan Room. The Legends show has been performing in Las Vegas for 25 years, impersonating singers such as Elvis Presley, Rod Stewart, Madonna and Barry White. The characters change from season to season.

Activities on the Epic include bowling, an Aqua Park with a double rubber-tube waterslide, rappelling and climbing walls, a squash court, batting cage, full-sized basketball court and drinking in O'Sheehan's, an Irish Bar, and at the Ice Bar, with temperatures kept at a steady 17 F. In total, Epic offers 18 lounges, bars and clubs.

Children have not been forgotten and have three distinct age-specific areas for groups ages 2-9, 10-12 and 13-17, with lots of supervised activities and independent games. The Nickelodeon Breakfast (extra charge) features a half-dozen characters with a short show and a long revenue-producing photo op. Outdoor sunbathing spots are stacked atop portions of Decks 15-19, so there are some nicely removed quiet spaces as well as ones near all the action.

Dining runs to 20 locations, 11 without charge and others with a set fee or a la carte. They include the already-popular Le Bistro for a French menu, the largest teppanyaki room afloat, dim sum, sushi, sashimi and Chinese food at Shanghai's, Cagney's Steakhouse with an Argentinean churrascaria, and a New York-style supper club called the Manhattan Room. The Garden Cafe is especially well-planned to



minimize queues, and tables are set both inside by large picture windows and outside in an adjacent area called The Great Outdoors. As this area abuts the Aqua Park, it can be very noisy at lunchtime.



Every outside cabin has a balcony, and the interior design features walls that are curved, some with domed ceilings and concealed indirect lighting, and separate shower stalls and toilet compartments, while the sinks are in the room. For some, it may take some getting used to, but the separated facilities do make it easier for two or more sharing the same cabin. The beds are too short for anyone approaching 6 ft, and standard family cabins for four are pretty tight when all the berths and bed are in the sleeping position.

One set of 128 inside cabins, called Studios, break the mold for the economy-minded singles with a window to the corridor, relieving the claustrophobic nature of just 100 sq ft. Having the window "open" doesn't mean you see anything but the light from the hallways, but it definitely minimizes the sensation of being in an inside cabin. Most of the Studios have

connecting doors. The nests of singles have a private bar and TV lounge called the Living Room, and a mezzanine board facilitates socializing. The rates are about 20% above the minimum per-person for inside double-occupancy cabins. They instantly became hugely popular, as dedicated singles are largely unavailable in the mass-market cruise industry.

Moving up in price, Spa Suites have a private spa enclave and a separate entrance to the spa facilities. The villas, two-level suites high up on decks 16 and 17, are accessible by private elevator and offer large sleeping accommodations, concierge service, private gym, pool, sundeck, bar, outdoor nightclub, and dining at the indoor Epic Club and outdoor Compass Grill. The view from some of the floor-to-ceiling suites can be dizzying.

Epic is a spectacular ship, though sadly rather ugly to look at from the outside, with a lot of white and heavy metal. It's the only other mainstream line that is packed with so many bells and whistles, some different from some ships like the Royal Caribbean.

Profile

Cruise Line: Norwegian Cruise Line
Ship Type: Cruise Ship
Line Class: Mainstream
Registration: Bahamas
Year Built: 2009
Deck Quarters: 15
Passenger Capacity: 4,228

Statistics

Grande Class: 3,000
Length: 100
Beam: 110 ft
Speed: 18 knots
Inside Cabins: 560
Outside Cabins: 1,352
Nationality of Officers: European
Nationality of Crew: International
Number of Crew: 1,730

Recreation

Indoor Pools: No
Outdoor Pools: Yes
Is there a Spa? Yes
Is there a Casino? Yes

Dining

- **Manhattan Room**
Cuisine: Continental
- **Teppanyaki Room**
- **Le Bistro Restaurant**
Cuisine: French

Entertainment

- **Epic Theater**
Description: Blue Man Group
- **Headliners Comedy Club**
Description: Comedy
- **Fat Cats**
Description: Jazz and blues
- **O'Sheehans Bar & Grill**
Description: Irish bar
- **Shaker's Martini Bar**
- **Spice H2O**



2-Bedroom Family Villa

With a living room, dining area, separate bedroom and private balcony, this Villa has a maximum capacity of six and is perfect for the whole family. There's even a separate children's bedroom so the butler can bring the kids a pizza while you dine out on the balcony, or the concierge could make dinner reservations instead. Decisions, decisions. This Villa also features two bathrooms and exclusive access to the Courtyard area, Concierge Lounge and private restaurant and bar.

Category: A6

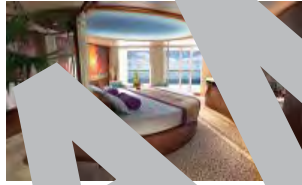
Courtyard Penthouse



After a good night's sleep, you're more than ready to start your day. It's a delicious breakfast in the queen-size bed or a cup of coffee on the private balcony. The choice is yours. With a maximum capacity of two, these Penthouses boast a luxury bath, separate shower, bar and concierge service. Also features exclusive access to the Courtyard area, Concierge Lounge and private restaurant and bar.

Category: A7

Aft-Facing Penthouse with Balcony



Who doesn't want to stay in a Penthouse? With a maximum capacity of two, there's plenty of room to spread out. You can relax in the living area or lounge around in the bedroom complete with queen-size circular bed. The butler can also serve you a delicious meal out on the private balcony or if you prefer, you can ask the concierge to make dinner reservations. Sushi? French? Italian? So many choices. Also features exclusive access to the Courtyard area and the Concierge Lounge.

Category: AC

Aft-Facing Balcony



These Aft-Facing Balcony Staterooms feature floor-to-ceiling glass doors that open to a private balcony. With room for up to three they include a separate bathroom with shower, two lower beds that convert into a queen-size bed, a sitting area and additional bedding to accommodate one more. These Balcony Staterooms are aft-facing, so the view from your balcony is amazing. Approximate size: 216 [including balcony] square feet.

Category: B1

SAMPLE

Line Overview

Originally Norwegian Caribbean Line, Norwegian Cruise Line dates to 1966, when the first of the White Fleet of brandnew ships—Sunward, Skyward, Starward and Southward—began sailing out of Miami. After the initial burst of success, expansion continued sporadically until 1980 when NCL rehabilitated the former French trans-Atlantic liner France into the Norway, instantly handing NCL the largest, longest and most spectacular cruise vessel afloat. In the early 1990s, the Dreamward and Windward entered service boasting four intimate reserved-seat restaurants, but overall the fleet was not equal in atmosphere, and the cabin assignment generally determined the dining locale. To attempt to unify the increasingly mismatched fleet, the NCL fleet received Norwegian prefixes but it was not until Star Cruises, a Malaysian company, took over that the line began investing heavily in new tonnage. Its ships now rival those of Carnival Cruise Lines, Princess Cruises and Royal Caribbean. The present fleet dates from the 21st century, and the line's two trademarks are varied and high-end entertainment venues and Freestyle cruising, where passengers dine when and where they wish in two score of locations. NCL's ownership is split between the Genting Group (Malaysia) and Apollo Management (USA).

Fleet

NCL started in 1999 with the introduction of the Norwegian Sky. Almost every year since then, it has introduced a new ship that meets its Freestyle Cruising concept while selling off its older tonnage so the line can boast one of the most modern fleets in the industry. NCL operates more ships from U.S. ports than any other line. It lobbied hard and won the right to enter the domestic intra-Hawaiian trade by launching NCL America, obviating the requirement to board a non-U.S.-flag ship in a foreign country or call at a foreign port in the course of a cruise. Rapid expansion coupled with the high cost and difficulty of keeping American crews has resulted in two of the three leaving these waters; the Pride of America remains to sail the intra-Hawaiian domestic route alone. In 2010, NCL took a big leap upward with the 153,000-ton Norwegian Epic, which is among the largest cruise ships in the world, and with much more entertainment added to the mix of even more restaurant choices. NCL's newest ships are the Norwegian Gem, based out of New York City, and the Norwegian Epic, based out of Miami, which are 143,000-tonners in the Breakaway-class. Two newer ships, expected to be slightly larger than Breakaway-class, are due in 2015 and 2017.

Itineraries

Most of the fleet sails from U.S. coastal ports to North England, Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Mexican Riviera, Alaska and Hawaii. Ships are also based in the Mediterranean in the summer months and head to South America in the winter.

Dining and Decor

Drawing on the Asian fleet's multiple dining spots, the freestyle concept has taken hold in an even broader and more sophisticated fashion within the NCL fleet. Those who still prefer a table at a set time do still have it, but otherwise the trend is to eat in one of the increasingly numerous ethnic dining venues in a wide variety of hours. Some ships count 12-14 dining venues (Norwegian Epic has 20) from sophisticated French and teppanyaki to pizza and fries. The better restaurants have an extra tariff. There is no dress code, but some passengers dress up for dinner. The decor is colorful and attractive, although the hull art is pure whimsy.

Programs

NCL operates a standard shore program and offers lots of activities aboard. Great Stirrup Cay, NCL's 250-acre private island, frequently adds new features such as a new marina to dock the island's tenders and an expanded 8,500-sq-ft dining area with two bars and undercover dining areas. Ongoing are beach expansion, additional activities and children's facilities, and more bars.

Onboard Experience

NCL ships are cities at sea with lots of moving about in the evening before, during and after mealtimes. Happily, there are attractions for the young and young at heart and quiet venues for those who like some solitude during the day and an intimate evening meal. The Norwegian Epic offers supper-club entertainment as well as breakfast-time entertainment for kids. In the main theater, the antics of the Blue Man Group are hugely popular.

Competitors

As a popular cruise line, NCL's competitors would be Carnival, Princess and Royal Caribbean and to a lesser extent, Holland America.