

NORWEGIAN DAWN

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Company: STAR Service Online
E-Mail: starserviceonline@ntmlc.com
Website: www.STARServiceOnline.com



Norwegian Dawn

7665 Corporate Center Dr, Miami, Florida, Miami, Florida
Norwegian Cruise Line



Norwegian Cruise Lines' Norwegian Dawn is a 92,250-gross-ton megaship completed in late 2002. This vessel provides every imaginable onboard attraction to please the young and the young at heart. She represents the informal Freestyle Cruising image that the line touts.

The Dawn was the first ship in 20 years to be based year-round in New York, and her success brought other ships to the Big Apple.

The ship accommodates 2,683 more in the school-vacation periods when many upper berths are in use, and carries a crew of mostly Norwegian officers and an international staff, largely Filipino and eastern European.

From April to September, the Norwegian Dawn is now based in Boston instead of New York for weekly cruises to Bermuda, docking at King's Wharf for three days with a sea day going and two sea days coming back. In September and October, she heads from Boston to New England and Canada as far as Quebec City. In winter, Miami is the homeport for 11-day cruises to the Southern Caribbean, then in winter 2012, the Dawn will be based in Tampa for 7-day Western Caribbeans. Passengers are primarily North American.

For the active, facilities on the Dawn include a combination basketball and volleyball court, a golf driving range, shuffleboard, gym and spa, swimming pools, a hot tub, wading pool and a jogging track. NCL prides itself on entertainment, and the Stardust Theater mounts big music and dance productions and solo acts, while game shows, cabaret acts and a late-night disco are showcased in the observation lounge Spinnaker.

The exuberant Caribbean Deck Party takes place by the pool. The best show is Bollywood, with the Jean Ann Ryan Company, and loaded with amazing special effects.

Additionally, there is a sports bar, video arcade, Internet center, renovated casino, a disco for teens, and fanciful play areas and a separate pool for young children. For those who seek quieter pursuits, a library, and reading and writing room are available, and so is a venue for cards and games.

Like her sister Norwegian Star, Dawn has many restaurant choices. But to dine around, especially in the evening, a plan of action is required. Reservations are taken for six of the 10 restaurants by phone, and at the atrium desk from 9 am to 5 pm for that evening and the next. When the facility is closed, phone or pay a visit in person during restaurant hours beginning at 5:30 pm. Although there is no dress code (other than no shorts, jeans or T-shirts in the restaurants at night), most passengers are neatly attired, and some men wear jackets.



The best of the lot may be Le Bistro, a French cafe with tables placed adjacent to original impressionist, post-impressionist and pop-art paintings by well-known artists, or in the open wine cellar. The menu, with a \$15 basic charge, runs to escargots in rich garlic butter, cream of forest mushroom soup, tender filet mignon topped with foie gras, and salmon in a sorrel cream sauce.

Cagney's, decorated with evocative gangster-era photographs and newspaper clippings, features five types of high-quality steaks for a \$20 charge and tasty appetizers such as oysters Rockefeller and crab cakes. Some tables are within view of the open kitchen, while others share the cozier piano bar.

For an Italian meal at no extra charge, 186-seat Impressions Italian restaurant offers a limited printed menu with pasta and a choice of seven different sauces, pizzas, salads and Italian desserts. While the Teppanyaki Room (\$10) is often well-booked for the theatrical Japanese grill performance, the sprawling adjacent Pan-Asian Bamboo (\$12.50) rarely seems busy. The new Moderno Churrascaria specialty restaurant has replaced the Tex-Mex Salsa. This Brazilian steak house was introduced on the Norwegian Epic and serves skewered meats tableside.



No reservations or charges apply to the two main restaurants—278-seat Aqua and 476-seat Venetian, offering different menus and variable service experiences—or to the 24-hour Blue Lagoon dispensing hamburgers and fries, or the vast self-service buffet with a separate small-furniture section for kids.

Cabins range from inexpensive insides to plentiful ocean-view cabins with private balconies, and all the way to NCL's signature garden villas, the largest accommodations at sea. The pair of three-bedroom 5,350-sq-ft suites boast a living room furnished with a

grand piano, an entertainment center, kitchen, butler and concierge services, outdoor dining area, private Italian garden for relaxing, hot tub and roof terrace. All staterooms have flat-screen TVs broadcasting on a digital signal.

The Dawn received 58 additional cabins during a nearly month-long drydock in spring 2011. Thirty of the new staterooms are inside cabins, and 28 are suites. The suites include four 667-sq-ft to 732-sq-ft deluxe owner's suites and 24 family suites, ranging from 408 sq ft to 495 sq ft, most of which can sleep six passengers. Owner's suites are forward below the bridge, and the family suites have floor-to-ceiling windows and are situated near the pool.

Concierge services, especially useful for making dining reservations and booking tours, come with the minisuites and full suites.

With such a wide variety of eateries and so much activity onboard, passengers should enjoy their sea days aboard the Norwegian Dawn. Her principal competition is Carnival, Princess and Royal Caribbean.

Review Updated: September 2011

Images



Ship Profile

Cruise Line:	Norwegian Cruise Line		
Ship Type:	Cruise Ship		
Registration:	Bahamas		
Year Built:	2002	Gross Tonnage:	92,250
Year Refurbished:	2011	Length (ft):	971 ft
Deck Quantity:	15	Beam (ft):	107 ft
Passenger Capacity:	2,683	Speed (knots):	25
Number of Inside Cabins:	361		
Number of Outside Cabins:	761		
Nationality of Officers:	Norwegian		
Nationality of Crew:	International	Number of Crew:	1,100
Number of Indoor Pools:	1	Spa:	Yes
Number of Outdoor Pools:	1	Casino:	

Dining

Venetian Restaurant
Room Capacity: 476

Aqua Restaurant
Room Capacity: 278

Pan-Asian Bamboo
Cuisine: Pan-Asian Bamboo

Entertainment

Stardust Theater
Description: European opera house ambiance
Capacity: 1150

Red Lion Pub
Description: Pool, darts, large screen TV
Capacity: 105

Spinnaker Lounge
Description: Dance floor
Capacity: 504

Gatsby's Champagne Bar
Description: Art Deco
Capacity: 66

Internet Cafe
Description: Computer, Internet , lectures
Capacity: 51

Dazzles
Description: Cabaret
Capacity: 388

SAMPLE