



welcome to the beach

YOUR CRUISE



COURTESY OF: Sandy Patterson
 COMPANY: Sunrise Travel
 ADDRESS: 200 Brookstown Ave.
 Raleigh, NC 27612
 PHONE: 555-555-5555
 E-MAIL: sandy@sunrisetrvl.com
 WEBSITE: www.sunrisetrvl.com



COMMENTS:

Happy Cruising!

NORWEGIAN GEM

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



NCL's newest cruise liner, the 2,394-passenger Norwegian Gem entered service in Europe in October 2007 then repositioned to New York for an inaugural winter program to Florida, the Bahamas and the Caribbean. At 965 ft and with a 28-ft draft, this 93,530-ton ship cruises at 25 knots. She represents the fourth and last ship in the Jewel-class that includes the Norwegian Jewel (2005), Norwegian Jade (2006) and Norwegian Pearl (2006), all slightly larger than the Norwegian Star (2001) and Norwegian Dawn (2002). The international crew numbers 1,100. As the newest member, she offers NCL's free-style cruising where passengers may choose where and when they eat from 10 restaurants and may dress as they wish. She also adds a four-lane, 10-pin bowling alley, the second one at sea, and a 30-ft rock climbing wall.

Norwegian Cruise Line began as the Florida-based Norwegian Caribbean Line in the mid-1960s operating a new fleet of purpose-built cruise ship referred to as the White Fleet. The line grew into a major operator and had—for the past two decades and until recently—a mismatched fleet. Star Cruises, a Malaysian company, bought NCL and built a new fleet of ships that used its Asian model of multiple restaurants. That concept blossomed into Freestyle Cruising. It is a very popular feature for the line.

Passengers are of all ages and mostly North Americans, though some Europeans are also attracted on certain itineraries. Multi-generation families are a big market as NCL ships have many interconnecting cabins for extended families and lots of outdoor activities.

The Gem cruises from New York on 7-day cruises to Florida and the Bahamas and 10- and 11-day Southern Caribbean itineraries in the spring. She repositions to the Mediterranean for weekly circuits from Barcelona to Malta, Italian ports and France until November. Returning to New York, she resumes her previous winter pattern.

The main public rooms run pretty much the length of Decks 6 and 7, and passengers generally embark into the two-deck-high Crystal Atrium. The atrium's open-plan *Java Cafe* is a gathering place for drinks, coffees and pastries all day long and the reception and shore excursion desk are positioned here. The central space is overlooked by the *Blue Lagoon* and *Tapas* restaurants above. The three-deck-high Stardust Theater for major production shows and the sprawling Gem Club Casino are forward with the shops on the deck above. The single place with the most buzz is called Bar Central, a four-section combination of a champagne, wine, beer, martini, whiskey and cigar bar. A cabaret-style entertainer is featured in the central open space connected by stairs from above. A thoroughly decadent place situated aft is Bliss Ultra Lounge and Night Club. Its tame daytime game entertainment turns raucous after dark with lounging beds, semi-private

rooms, sexy plasma-screen entertainment, a DJ, dance floor, and twin bowling alleys.

High up on Deck 12 is a huge spa, hair salon and gym complex overlooking the bow and above, Spinnaker Lounge provides a top-of-the-ship view, a bar, pub games, musical entertainment and a dance floor. The Maritime Library, Card Room, and Lifestyle Room provide quiet hideaways on Deck 12. Extra tariff dining runs to NCL's popular *Le Bistro*, a French Restaurant and *Cagney's Steakhouse* for prime ribs, lamb chops, veal chops, rotisserie chicken, big lobsters and a variety of steaks up to a 24-oz porterhouse. Cagney's has its own Star Bar. The *Orchid Garden* Asian restaurant offers a standard pan-Asian menu, sushi and sashimi and a teppanyaki room. No extra charge dining includes *La Cucina* for Italian food, *Blue Lagoon* (hamburgers and fish and chips), *Tapas* (Tex-Mex), the *Garden Cafe* and *The Great Outdoors*, and the two main dining rooms, the stunning art-deco-style *Grand Pacific Dining Room* and the much more intimate *Magenta*. These buffet restaurants are set up with multiple stations to avoid queuing. The restaurants that require reservations are listed on TV monitors all over the ship with the waiting time. If you have a favorite place and it is full, you get a call monitor to summon you when your table is available.



Deck space is generously arranged on Deck 12 through 15 for jogging, shuffleboard, a giant chessboard, basketball, volleyball, deck tennis, golf driving nets, rock climbing, two pools, whirlpools, a water slide and just relaxing in deck chairs in multiple areas. Teenagers and younger children have a suite of rooms with TVs, films, games, video games, juke box, foosball, and arts and crafts for specific ages.

Of the 1,197 cabins, the 412 insides measure 143 sq ft; 243 outsides are 161 sq ft; 360 balcony cabins are 205 sq ft; and 134 mini suites are 284 sq ft. They all share flat-screen TVs, minibars, tea- and coffeemakers and Internet connection. Romance Suites (460 sq ft) on up feature butler and concierge service, espresso/cappuccino coffeemakers, TVs with CD/DVD players, Wi-Fi and tub baths. Other suite accommodations include Penthouse Suites, Owner's Suites and Deluxe Owner's suites plus arrangements unique to NCL. The 10 Courtyard Villas (572 sq ft), including eight with

a small children's bedroom, share a Deck 14 private enclosed courtyard with a pool, hot tub, gym equipment, steam room and a private sun deck above. Nothing beats NCL's two signature Garden Villas, each with 4,390 sq ft on two top-of-the-ship levels. The complex comprises three bedrooms with private tub baths, a living room with a piano and entertainment center, open-air dining, whirlpool, steam room and sunning deck. These two splashy accommodations always sell out to extended families and groups of friends. Of the cabins and suites, 27 are wheelchair-accessible. Cabins can be combined for families, offering up to three connecting bedrooms.

There is nothing lacking aboard the Norwegian Gem, and a one-week cruise will leave most passengers with the feeling that they have just scratched the surface of things to do and places to go and to eat and be entertained.

Review Updated: March 2008

Images



Ship Profile

Cruise Line: Norwegian Cruise Line
Ship Type: Cruise Ship

Year Built: 2007

Year Refurbished:

Gross Tonnage: 93,530

Length (ft): 965 ft

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------|
| Deck Quantity: | 12 | Beam (ft): | 125 ft |
| Passenger Capacity: | 2,394 | Speed (knots): | 25 |
| Number of Inside Cabins: | 405 | | |
| Number of Outside Cabins: | 792 | | |
| Nationality of Officers: | European | | |
| Nationality of Crew: | International | Number of Crew: | 1,100 |
| Number of Indoor Pools: | | Spa: | Yes |
| Number of Outdoor Pools: | 2 | Casino: | Yes |

Dining

Grand Pacific

Cuisine: Grand Pacific
Room Capacity: 558

Magenta

Cuisine: Magenta
Room Capacity: 304

Cagney's Steakhouse

Room Capacity: 160

Entertainment

Stardust Theater

Description: Production shows
Capacity: 1042

Spinnaker Lounge

Description: Game shows, cabaret, dancing
Capacity: 372

Bliss Ultra Lounge

Description: Games, nightclub, bowling alley

Bar Central

Description: 3 themed bars, cabaret
Capacity: 152

Star Bar

Description: Light entertainment
Capacity: 56

Java Cafe

Description: Drinks, coffee, pastries
Capacity: 70