



Royal Caribbean Ship Classes

Ship class tells you more than ship name - it determines the size, the layout, and most of what there is to do onboard.

Tick the classes that appeal as you read, then send this back to Katie - it is the fastest way for her to narrow the fleet down for you.

Icon Class

Ships: Icon of the Seas, Star of the Seas

Icon Class is Royal Caribbean's newest and biggest, organised into eight distinct neighbourhoods so a ship this size still feels navigable. It carries the largest waterpark at sea, an enormous family-focused zone, and a genuinely quiet adults-only area at the front.

- Category 6 - the biggest waterpark at sea, with six slides
- AquaDome, a glass sphere at the bow with a waterfall and a show venue
- Surfside, a whole neighbourhood built for families with small children
- The Hideaway, a suspended adults-only pool overlooking the wake

Best for: Families who want everything onboard, and first-timers who want the ship to be the destination

Worth thinking about: It is genuinely enormous. If the idea of 7,000 people aboard sounds exhausting rather than exciting, look at Radiance or Vision Class instead. These ships also command the highest fares in the fleet and sell out furthest ahead.

☐ I would like to hear more about Icon Class

Oasis Class

Ships: Oasis, Allure, Harmony, Symphony, Wonder and Utopia of the Seas

When Oasis of the Seas launched she was half again the size of anything afloat, and the neighbourhood layout she introduced is now the template for big-ship cruising. Central Park is a real open-air garden in the middle of the ship, with over 20,000 living plants.

- Central Park - an open-air garden deck, and the quietest place onboard
- The Boardwalk, with a carousel and the AquaTheater at the stern
- The Royal Promenade, an indoor street of bars, shops and cafes
- The Ultimate Abyss, a ten-deck dry slide

Best for: First-time cruisers who want the wow factor, and multigenerational groups who need everyone entertained differently

Worth thinking about: Only a limited number of ports can take a ship this size, so itineraries lean Caribbean. Central Park and Boardwalk balconies look inward, not out to sea - lovely, but know before you book.

☐ I would like to hear more about Oasis Class



Quantum Class

Ships: Quantum, Anthem, Ovation, Spectrum and Odyssey of the Seas

Quantum Class is the most technically inventive part of the fleet, and crucially much of the fun is indoors. That makes these ships a far better bet than Oasis Class for Alaska, Northern Europe or shoulder-season sailings where you cannot count on the sun.

- North Star - a glass capsule on a crane arm that lifts you 300 feet up
- SeaPlex, the largest indoor activity space at sea, with bumper cars
- RipCord by iFLY, a skydiving simulator
- Two70, a lounge with a wall of glass that becomes a screen after dark

Best for: Alaska, Northern Europe, anyone sailing outside high summer, and travellers who like the gadgetry

Worth thinking about: No Central Park or Boardwalk here, and the pool deck is smaller than Oasis Class. For a pure sun-and-sea Caribbean week, Oasis or Freedom Class gives you more outdoor space.

☐ I would like to hear more about Quantum Class

Freedom & Voyager Class

Ships: Freedom, Liberty, Independence, Voyager, Explorer, Adventure, Navigator and Mariner of the Seas

Voyager Class introduced the Royal Promenade - an indoor street running through the middle of the ship - and Freedom Class refined it. These are the ships people are often happiest on: big enough for everything that matters, small enough to cross in a few minutes, and consistently cheaper than the headline ships.

- The Royal Promenade, lined with bars, cafes and shops
- FlowRider surf simulator on most of the fleet
- Ice rinks - yes, actual ice, in the middle of the Caribbean
- Rock climbing walls and full-size sports courts

Best for: Value without giving anything up, and anyone who finds the biggest ships overwhelming

Worth thinking about: These are older ships, so cabins and decor can feel dated on the ones that haven't been refitted recently. Which specific ship you're on matters more here than in any other class - ask.

☐ I would like to hear more about Freedom & Voyager Class

Radiance Class

Ships: Radiance, Brilliance, Serenade and Jewel of the Seas

Radiance Class ships were designed around the view. Glass lifts on the outside of the hull, floor-to-ceiling windows through the public rooms, and acres of deck space pointed at the scenery rather than at a waterslide. They are also small enough to reach ports the big ships cannot.

- Glass exterior lifts looking straight out over the water
- Solarium - an adults-only, glass-roofed pool, warm in cold weather
- Small enough for scenic cruising and tighter ports
- A calmer, more grown-up atmosphere than the mega-ships

Best for: Alaska, scenic cruising, port-heavy itineraries, and adults who want a quieter week

Worth thinking about: If you're travelling with teenagers expecting waterslides and surf simulators, they will be bored. This is a



scenery ship, not a theme park.

☐ I would like to hear more about Radiance Class

Vision Class

Ships: Vision, Rhapsody, Enchantment and Grandeur of the Seas

Vision Class are the veterans of the fleet - launched in the 1990s and refitted since. They carry a fraction of the passengers of an Icon Class ship, which means shorter queues, faster boarding, and access to smaller ports. Fares are usually the lowest Royal Caribbean offers.

- Small enough for ports the mega-ships cannot enter
- Quick embarkation and disembarkation
- Glass-roofed solarium pools
- The lowest fares in the fleet

Best for: Budget-conscious sailings, unusual itineraries, and repeat cruisers who care more about the ports than the ship

Worth thinking about: These ships show their age in places, and there is far less to do onboard. Wonderful for a port-intensive itinerary; a long run of sea days would be a mistake.

☐ I would like to hear more about Vision Class

Tell Katie what matters most

WHO IS TRAVELLING

WHAT MATTERS MOST

ANYTHING ELSE KATIE SHOULD KNOW

Fleets change - ships get refitted, moved between regions and occasionally retired. Ask Katie which specific ship you would be on and when it was last refurbished; within a class it makes a real difference.

Questions about any of this? Ask Katie - it costs nothing, and she would rather answer it now than have you find out at the pier. cruisingwithkatief@gmail.com