

DAILY NEWS

Living

Norwegian Breakaway, a New York City-themed cruise ship, is part Coney Island, part Times Square, part Foxwoods, and ALL fun

Norwegian Cruise Line CEO Kevin Sheehan, a native New Yorker, envisioned the waterborne version of Manhattan. Vessel features Rockettes dance classes, goodies from Carlo's Bakery, spinning and yoga classes. Ship travels weekly to Bermuda for \$749

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The Norwegian Breakaway, featuring Peter Max art on its hull, celebrates New York, even when it carries New Yorkers away from their hometown.

On board the new 4,000-plus-passenger Norwegian Breakaway, guests can eat a real New York hot dog, wash it down with a Brooklyn Lager, and indulge in a cannoli from Carlo's Bakery, then work it all off with the Rockettes.

Breakaway is a ship created by a cruise company helmed by a New Yorker for New Yorkers. Reminders of the Big Apple are everywhere.

Norwegian Cruise Line CEO Kevin Sheehan was born and raised in the city. While at Hunter College, he drove a cab. At Norwegian, he envisioned the line's newest mega cruise ship — the largest ever to port year-round in New York — as a waterborne version of Manhattan. Mission accomplished.

The Breakaway is part Coney Island, part Times Square, part Foxwoods. This is an energetic, floating resort with a whole lot going on — and very few quiet places to get away from it all.

Setting the tone is the ship's hull design, a bright pop art depiction of the Manhattan skyline by Peter Max. The dramatic image will be seen by millions as the ship heads every week from Pier 88 in midtown and out to sea.



DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

The musical show "Rock of Ages" is performed on the Norwegian Breakaway.

And like the city it so often invokes, the Breakaway has many diverse options to explore.

On-board branding

Celebrity brands are big on the Breakaway.

"Cake Boss" star Buddy Valastro, owner of the Hoboken-based Carlo's Bakery, opened a little outlet on the ship (just as he recently did in Times Square). The response was huge — and the cruise line has already added treats, including \$3 cannolis, at a second location on the ship. Passengers can even order customized cakes.

Kicking up a storm onboard select sailings (the first one of every month) are two of the Rockettes. Passengers can work up a sweat in complimentary Rockettes-themed exercise classes, with special attention paid to the quads and hips, areas used for high-kicking.



DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

Passengers can work up a sweat in complimentary Rockettes-themed exercise classes.

Passengers can also take complimentary Rockettes dance classes, learn Rockettes history, see classic costumes on exhibit in the library, meet dancers at photo sessions on select sailings and indulge in the pink, fruity and somewhat lethal beverage, the Rockettini (\$8.75).

“Iron Chef” [Geoffrey Zakarian](#) has three outlets on board. Passengers can shell out a \$49 cover charge for dinner at Zakarian’s Ocean Blue, pay à la carte pricing at a raw bar or dole out \$9.75 for a takeaway lobster roll. Zakarian, also known for being a judge on TV’s “Chopped,” will be on board for some sailings.

Globetrotting grub

Among the ship’s 27 dining choices are Italian, sushi, Teppanyaki, classic steakhouse, Brazilian churrascaria, Asian noodles, Irish pub grub and French bistro.

New Yorkers are used to shelling out a lot for food, and several of the more interesting venues on the Breakaway come with a fee. Some eateries have indoor/outdoor seating, and restaurants and bars line the ship’s landmark quarter-mile outdoor promenade, the Waterfront.



Passengers can even find a Sabrett hot dog on board the Breakaway.

The freestyle dining system means you can eat when and where you want, though reservations are advised at popular spots. For quick options, look to Sabrett's hot dogs, complete with classic toppings and served from an authentic cart. Over at the open-air grill, New York-style meatballs, sausages and deli treats await.

Night feels right

Start with 18 bars and lounges — including a subzero ice bar with sculptures of New York landmarks. Then add three shows that have played on Broadway, a dose of improv comedy, blues, disco, plenty of 1980s music and an active casino and you'll begin to envision the Breakaway's nightlife.

In 678 Ocean Place, the indoor hub of the ship, the energy is kinetic. Think Times Square, complete with people heading off in all directions, or else just lingering to people-watch.

While the ship has a resort casual dress code, some may want to go slightly more formal to the Manhattan Club. It's a complimentary cabaret-style dining room with dance music and, on select nights, unfairly good-looking dancers from the show "Burn the Floor." They create sexy gyrations on the floor — and also perform in a longer show in the theater.



The Breakaway, which evokes New York City on board in its food and activities, sails by the Statue of Liberty.

The marquee show shipboard is “Rock of Ages,” recommended for adults only. This Tony nominee is based on hair metal music from the 1980s — and it’s raunchy good fun, featuring a bunch of F-bombs, simulated sex and, taking a line from the show, “poop jokes and White Snake songs.”

Want to channel Madonna during her “Like a Virgin” era or big-haired David Lee Roth, as you bob your head to tunes from Devo and the Go-Go’s? There’s a don’t-miss party for adults one night, held outdoors at the open-air Spice H2O club, complete with live fireworks. For a more family-friendly dinner theater option, consider Cirque Dreams & Dinner Jungle Fantasy, a circus held under a real Spiegeltent.

Activities for all ages

Some passengers may be happy to just sit at the main pool, listening to a Caribbean band. Others may prefer heading to the forward end of the sun deck, where quieter jazz plays on the sound system.

But then you’d miss all the fun.



A waterpark area takes its theme from Nickelodeon.

There's a waterpark at sea, with five brightly colored waterslides breaking records for being the fastest and longest on a ship. A tamer waterpark area takes its theme from Nickelodeon, with characters like SpongeBob offering fun for younger kids. Norwegian's deal with the TV network includes family-friendly game shows and parties, and opportunities to get "slimed."

Breakaway has the largest Splash Academy kids' playroom facilities in the fleet, while a separate teen lounge hosts activities for older kids. Both of these areas are designed to keep kids occupied while parents play.

More opportunities for an adrenaline rush come on the three-deck Sports Deck. Attractions include some 40 activities, like a zipline and the Plank, an 8-foot stretch where you walk out beyond the ship, with nothing below but the sea.

Sweat vs. spa

In the ship's fitness area, several machines come with ocean views and there's a separate weight room. Or work off cruise calories at unusual classes, including "Chiball Fire Yoga," "Black-Light Spinning" or the "Norwegian Fight Klub," which takes place in a boxing ring. You'll pay \$12 to \$30 per class.



One newcomer to the city scene greets another: The Breakaway passes by One World Trade Center.

In the adjacent spa, you can relax in the first salt room at sea or pay \$119 for a 50-minute basic massage. Get your pedicure before you cruise because the cheapest one onboard is \$65. A kids/teens sauna caters to little princesses with treatments like a fruity facial (\$99).

Accommodations

At some point, you'll need to rest your head. Highrollers who pay for the privilege can do so in the luxurious, contemporary environs of the Haven, an exclusive suites complex with keycard-only access and private facilities. There's a restaurant, bar and all-weather swimming pool — one of the quieter places around.

Norwegian has not forgotten about the rest of us. Cabins and bathrooms on this ship are a tad larger than on the line's other ships, although balconies were cut down to add to the indoor space. There are special cabins designed for families, and a whole dorm-like complex with a shared lounge for solo travelers.

IF YOU GO

The Norwegian Breakaway cruises weekly to Bermuda this summer, with fares from \$749 per person.

Beginning Oct. 13, the weekly route is south to Port Canaveral, Fla. (near Orlando), and the Bahamas. Through April, fares start at \$599 per person.

For reservations, visit ncl.com or call your travel agent or 1-866-234-7350.

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/nysea-norwegian-breakaway-manhattan-water-article-1.1360046#ixzz2hi2MQUrG>