

# Take a peek at Carnival's newest ship, Celebration, which embraces the cruise line's past and future



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With the launch of its newest ship, Carnival Cruise Line is looking toward the future while also embracing the company's past.

"It's a ship where nostalgia meets innovation in a way, because you're taking elements inspired by the past, but you're creating these experiences that are very innovative, very forward-looking," Glenn Aprile, Carnival's Director of New Builds Product Development, told USA TODAY.

Carnival Celebration, the second vessel in the line's Excel class, will sail its inaugural voyage from the U.S. on Monday. The debut of the 17-deck ship, which bears the same name as an earlier Carnival vessel launched in the late 1980s, marks the culmination of the line's 50th anniversary celebration this year.

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## Where will Carnival Celebration sail?

Celebration will sail year-round Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries from Miami, visiting destinations such as San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Grand Turk, according to a news release.

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## What will Carnival Celebration be like on board?

The more than 2,600-stateroom ship is made up of six zones, with festive touches and nods to its history incorporated throughout. Guests enter through the atrium in Celebration Central, with a ceiling designed to mimic a confetti cannon, courtesy of roughly 1,400 colorful light fixtures.

The zone is also home to Aquaria Bar, which features a wall spanning two decks behind the bar that incorporates glass murals by the Italian artist Luciano Vistosi from Carnival Victory, which launched in 1998, and is now Carnival Radiance.

Bar and lounge The Golden Jubilee, located in The Gateway zone, features decor from previous Carnival vessels, including a nickel, mahogany and etched glass partition wall from its first ship, TSS Mardi Gras, and night club doors from TSS Carnivale, which sailed for the line from the 1970s to the 1990s.

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The nearby promenade also features coins for each Carnival ship built into the floor design and a porthole gallery of interactive dioramas depicting various periods in the line's history, as well as "coming attractions," Aprile said.

More modern features include the line's second BOLT: Ultimate Sea Coaster ride and a new children's program in partnership with the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Young guests can learn about gravity and build paper rockets, among other activities, according to a news release.

The program will launch on Celebration before later being rolled out fleet-wide. The ship will also feature new food and beverage options like travel-inspired bar Latitudes and Emeril's

Bistro 1397 from Emeril Lagasse, serving international cuisine.

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## What else do travelers need to know?

A seven-day Eastern Caribbean cruise departing from Miami on Feb. 5, 2023, starts at \$479 per person based on double occupancy, according to Carnival's website, though prices vary by itinerary, stateroom, and other factors. The fare includes most food, beverages such as iced tea and regular coffee, and more.

The ship is also Carnival's second vessel powered by cleaner-burning liquefied natural gas.

Carnival ships feature accessible elevators, and accessible routes in most parts of the ship for guests with disabilities, among other accommodations, according to its website. However, the line noted that crew members do not assist with tasks such as eating or moving about the ship, and passengers must plan accordingly.