

Norwegian Cruise Line corners Bermuda market

MICHAEL COLEMAN
Cruise Guide



Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has unveiled a series of Bermuda-bound itineraries from five East Coast cities in 2008. It's the largest such deployment in



IMAGE COURTESY NCL

company history.

Look for Norwegian Dawn to sail from New York and Norwegian Dream to depart from Boston.

Norwegian Majesty, meanwhile, will sail to the island from three cities: Philadelphia, Baltimore and Charleston.

Beginning in mid-April 2008, Norwegian Dawn will embark on a series of seven-day sailings through Aug. 24 and then again from Sept. 28 through Oct. 26. Departing on Sundays, the cruises feature three days in Bermuda at King's Wharf.

Norwegian Dream begins an inaugural season out of Boston, offering a series of seven-day sailings to Bermuda departing on Sundays from May 11 through Aug. 24, 2008 and again from Sept. 28 to Oct. 26. Norwegian Dream replaces the Norwegian Majesty, which has been sailing out of Boston to Bermuda since 1998.

Norwegian Majesty, meanwhile, will begin sailing seven-day Bermuda cruises from Charleston on April 19, 2008, followed by a five-day Bermuda cruise on June 14, 2008.

On June 21, 2008, the ship will return to Baltimore for the first time since 2004. From there, it will embark on a series of nine, seven-day cruises from Baltimore to Bermuda, departing on Saturdays. A six-day sailing from Baltimore to Bermuda on Aug. 23, 2008 is scheduled before the ship repositions to Philadelphia. On Aug. 30, 2008, the vessel will begin a series of five, seven-day sailings to Bermuda from

Norwegian Cruise Line is making a big family splash by offering a host of Bermuda-bound itineraries from five East Coast cities in 2008.

Philadelphia with Saturday departures.

PGA Tour partner

Meanwhile, in an effort to drive awareness of NCL golf programs in Bermuda and Hawaii, the line has inked a partnership deal with the PGA Tour.

The three-year agreement also provides NCL the right to use the PGA name in advertising, as well as promotional and tournament hospitality opportunities built around both the PGA Tour and Champions Tour.

"In our continuing effort to embrace new and innovative marketing programs, we expect that this partnership with the PGA Tour will let golfers around the world know that you can combine a great cruise vacation with top golf experiences at the best courses in the world on NCL," said Scott Rogers, NCL's senior vice president of sales and marketing.

Headquartered in Miami, with a fleet of 14 ships in service and under construction, NCL also operates NCL America and Orient Lines. The company recently took delivery of its newest ship, Norwegian Pearl, and is building Norwegian Gem for delivery in October.

CONLON FROM PAGE 1B

people. They had left a small town about 7 p.m. and were to arrive in the administrative capital, La Paz, about 7 the next morning. Around 2 a.m., Conlon awoke and realized the bus had stopped.

"I saw a big truck ahead of us that was full of squealing pigs," she says. It turned out that striking miners had blockaded the road.

Once the dawn light made it possible to see better, Conlon counted 55 vehicles altogether that had been halted on the highway.

After the bus passengers had spent some time just sitting there, "with only little nibbles or bottles of water," their English tour guide presented them with options: Continue to stay in place for an undetermined amount of time, or gather their bags and walk up the road, past the strikers, until they could catch empty taxis headed back into the nearest town. (Those taxis, Conlon notes, were ferrying the miners' wives out to bring them "booze and food and supplies.")

In the meantime, Conlon says, the passengers kept "hearing rumors that a tour bus up ahead of us had been shot out" and a couple of passengers injured or killed.

Although the tour group members ultimately discounted the rumors, everyone agreed that moving was better than staying in place. They made it to the next town and were able to catch a bus that dropped them off in La Paz about 23 hours later than their original schedule had estimated.

"That was kind of ... something to write

home about," Conlon says with a laugh.

Conlon does hope her book will inspire others to travel, to seek out the paths around the world that aren't so worn.

"I just knew I was meant to spend my life traveling," she says, "but I never, ever could have written the script myself. I never could have designed ... a life so full, so blessed."

Dorothy Conlon will be signing copies of her book in the area in upcoming weeks:

▼ Sunday, Sept. 16, 1-3 p.m., Circle Books, 478 John Ringling Blvd., St. Armands Circle.

▼ Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Sarasota News & Books, 1341 Main St.

▼ Saturday, Oct. 27, 1-3 p.m., with a reading at 1:30 p.m., Books-a-Million, 4230 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice.

▼ Saturday, Nov. 10, noon to 2 p.m., Village Voices and Eclectic Art Emporium, 1010 10th Ave. W.,

CORRECTION

An article in the Sept. 6 issue about portrait artist Patricia Lynch provided the wrong phone number and Web site for her. She may be reached at 925-4225 or at www.PatriciasPetPortraits.com

ARTS CALENDAR FROM PAGE 6B

3368.

GOLDEN APPLE DINNER THEATRE - "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," a Neil Simon comedy, runs Sept. 25 through Nov. 18. Theatre located at 25 N. Pineapple Ave. Tickets are \$31-\$45; call 366-5454.

PLAYERS THEATRE - "Fame Forever," Sept. 27 through Oct. 7, opens the 78th Broadway Musical Series. Tickets are \$23, or \$105 for a 6-show subscription. Call 365-3494. Located at

838 N. Tamiami Trail.

FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE - Call 366-9000.

VENICE LITTLE THEATRE - In the Cabaret, "The Big Bang," a musical history of the world, runs through Sept. 23. Tickets, \$23. Call the box office at 488-1115.

BACKLOT THEATRE - At 2208 Industrial Blvd. Call 363- 9300. Also, **Backlot's East Village Cabaret**, 6265 Lake Osprey Dr., Lakewood Ranch. Call 363-9300.

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