



Norwegian Encore cruise ship to call Miami home

Posted by [Miguel Pena](#) / February 11, 2018

FEBRUARY 9, 2018 1.05 PM

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Norwegian Cruise Line has named its newest cruise ship Norwegian Encore and will be sending it to Miami.

The first steel for the fourth Breakaway Plus class ship was cut at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany on Jan. 31, and cruise line President Andy Stuart was on hand to reveal the details.

When she leaves Meyer Werft in 2019, she will head to her new home for the winter of 2019-2020, which will be a great place to spend the winter - our very own hometown, Miami, he said.

This is the fourth of four ships in the class, and the third that will sail out of Miami. The first, Norwegian Escape, currently sails the Caribbean from the port. The second, Norwegian Joy, sails in Asia, while new ship Norwegian Bliss will debut this year with summer sailings in Alaska before repositioning this fall to Miami.

The Breakaway Plus ships are a larger version of sister ships Norwegian Breakaway and Getaway. With the delivery of Norwegian Encore in October 2019, the cruise line will have debuted six ships in just over six years.

This new class has allowed us to bring a lot of new things to our brand and to really start to change the face of the brand as we move the company forward, Stuart said.

Meyer Werft officials said construction will continue with a target of sending the final ship on its conveyance down the Ems River in September 2019. Stuart said the ship will begin service in November, first with a British-based sailing, and then repositioning to Miami.

Norwegian Encore will be similar to its sister ships, the largest in the fleet, which will grow to 17 ships with Encores arrival. Norwegian Bliss will be 167,800 gross registered tons with a 3,994-passenger capacity based on double occupancy.

Details about what will exactly be on the new ship were not revealed. Norwegian Escape features a giant water park and ropes course. Both Norwegian Joy and Norwegian Bliss feature go-kart tracks. All feature more than 20 dining options, several with waterfront seating.

Beyond 2019, the cruise line plans to build four more ships, but as part of a smaller ship design, with the first coming in 2021.