



New for 2026: Norwegian Luna

By Ashley Kosciolek

Norwegian Cruise Line knows a good thing when it sees one, and the approach to the cruise brand's newest ship, Norwegian Luna, was to keep the ship very much in-line with the cruise line's three most recent sister ships, Norwegian Prima, Norwegian Viva, and Norwegian Aqua.

Like its three Prima and Prima Plus sub-class sisters, Norwegian Luna has a slightly smaller footprint than the largest ships in the Norwegian Cruise Line fleet. With many of the brand's newest innovations onboard, Norwegian Luna has no shortage of bells and whistles.

Here is how Norwegian Luna has embraced some of the biggest trends right now in the cruise industry.

A Smaller Size

Norwegian Luna isn't exactly what you'd call a small ship, but it's also not the largest in the Norwegian Cruise Line fleet. For decades, cruise lines vied for the title of "world's largest" cruise ship. Every time a line claimed to have the biggest cruise vessel, another brand would strive to outdo it, and ships continued to upsize. (The world's largest vessels can hold nearly 9,000 people at full capacity.)

But, when Norwegian rolled out the Prima Class in 2022, it went smaller, rather than larger. Norwegian Luna carries 3,571 guests and is 156,300 gross registered tons, making it about 21% smaller in terms of passenger count than Norwegian Encore, which is NCL's largest ship, and about 36% smaller than Royal Caribbean's Icon of the Seas and Star of the Seas, which are currently the world's largest ships.

The smaller size caters to passengers who prefer to sail with fewer people but with big ship amenities – in the case of Norwegian Cruise Line including adults-only areas, top-deck fun attractions, and even Starbucks outlets. Smaller ships can also get into some ports that the world's largest ships can't.

Norwegian Cruise Line's move toward smaller vessels is part of an industry trend of cruise lines leaning into smaller newbuilds. With two more Prima Class ships on the way, Norwegian Cruise

Line joins Disney Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean, for instance, in having orders on the books for vessels smaller than the largest in their fleets.

Entertainment highlighted

The main differentiator between Norwegian Luna and other Prima Class vessels is in entertainment. The ship debuted with three new main-theater entertainment options. One is a riveting tribute to Elton John, featuring pianos, top tier singing, dancing, and some mind-blowing costumes. There's also a tribute to The Eagles, featuring many of the band's greatest hits sung by a group of four singers backed by live music.

A show called "HIKO: Innovation Meets Wonder," incorporates a laser show, aerial acrobatics, digital projections and a performance set entirely on trampolines.

The productions tie into the trend of cruise lines competing to have the flashiest, most technologically advanced and most captivating shows afloat, complete with elaborate sets and costumes and Broadway-worthy casts.

A smaller, more exclusive, for-a-fee cabaret-style show on Norwegian Luna is held in one of the ship's lounges – and speaks to a new wave of speakeasies and elevated entertainment options held in smaller, more intimate venues across the ships of several cruise lines.

Jaw-Dropping Top-Deck Fun

Another current trend is cruise lines courting multigenerational families with kids more than ever. That means adding exciting family friendly attractions, and Norwegian has put itself firmly in that realm with its newest additions.

Norwegian Luna carries over several innovations from its sister ships. On the ship's top outdoor decks, passengers can play on waterslides, thrilling dry slides, and the Aqua Slidecoaster, which weaves together waterslide and rollercoaster elements.

Sustainability Efforts

The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) requires its members to abide by strict [environmental practices](#). Cruise lines, including Norwegian Cruise Line, have, for instance, taken steps to reduce waste, avoid single-use plastics, implement recycling and water purification systems onboard, reduce energy usage, and plug into shoreside power when available. CLIA's member cruise lines [are pursuing net-zero emissions by 2050](#).

Practices on Norwegian Luna also include keycard-controlled cabin lights (that turn off automatically when the card is removed) and cutting down on food waste including, creatively using fruit by-products and peels as ingredients for a sustainable cocktail menu at the Metropolitan Bar.

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