



# Voyager Today



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## Voyager Of The Seas' Kiwi Debut

### Live From The High Seas

Voyager Today pages will run daily this week, covering the ship's maiden voyage across the Tasman. If you've got any questions about the ship you'd like answered, e-mail them to [news@traveltoday.co.nz](mailto:news@traveltoday.co.nz) and we'll do our best to answer them for you.

### Stateroom Options



Voyager of the seas offers a total of 1557 staterooms, including: **Oceanview:** 939 (707 with balconies). **Interior:** 618, including 138 overlooking the Royal Promenade. **Wheelchair access:** 26 staterooms. All staterooms convert to queen bed configuration with ensuite bathrooms, flatscreen LED televisions, mini-bar, hair dryer and Air conditioning.

### Minor Details

**Onboard currency:** US dollars  
**Maiden voyage:** 1999 (at the time, Voyager of the Seas was the largest cruise ship in the world).  
**Power plugs:** US twin-pin.  
**Ships top speed:** 22 knots.  
**The crew:** 1176 (International).  
**Last refurbishment:** Apr 2012.

Hailed as a local industry game changer when it was announced last year, the arrival of Royal Caribbean International's Voyager of the Seas in New Zealand over the weekend has brought with her a wave of publicity for the local cruise industry.

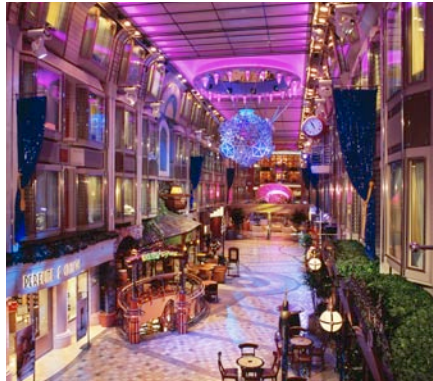
"[Voyager of the Seas] will change the profile of cruising in New Zealand, [she will] be a phenomenal sight," said RCI New Zealand sales manager Mark Kinchley at the time Voyager's deployment was revealed.

The mega-liner's passengers are spoilt for choice with activities, entertainment and dining, including ice skating, rock climbing, mini-golf, three swimming pools, kids clubs, spa facilities and 13 lounges and bars. There's also 11 dining venues, including the 1920-seat main dining room—dubbed the largest restaurant in Australasia. The ship is also said to attract a high percentage of families.

A standout feature of the Voyager is the indoor four-deck high Royal Promenade, lined with shopping, dining and entertainment options and also featuring the only inside cabins with a view in the region.

This season she will make 50 calls to New Zealand ports on a series of 12 New Zealand, South Pacific and Australia itineraries—having completed her first series of Asian cruises in the winter.

With the arrival of Voyager of the Seas, Royal Caribbean anticipates the record growth of the Australasian cruise industry to continue.



Voyager of the Seas boasts a four-story Royal Promenade, lined with shops, dining and entertainment, and offering guests in some inside cabins a view.

"We are particularly enthused by the very strong growth of New Zealanders cruising in local waters, which we believe reflects the significant growth in quality and choice of ships based Down Under. We expect the New Zealand market to grow even further," says RCI commercial manager Adam Armstrong.

### Hot Demand

Royal Caribbean International commercial manager Adam Armstrong says the local demand for Voyager has been 'extremely high'. "This size and quality of ship has previously only been based in Europe and the Caribbean—so Australasians are naturally excited to try out 'mega-ship' cruising on their own doorstep."

Wholesalers are picking Voyager Kiwi sales will spike after her maiden calls. "I suspect we'll see an increase in bookings in the next couple of weeks once the ship visits Auckland and other Kiwi ports and following recent publicity," says GO Holiday's cruising product manager Lisa Johansen.

RCI has confirmed Voyager will return for the 2013/14 Australasian summer.

### Shopping At Sea

Guests cruising on Voyager can see to their tax and duty free shopping needs in the Royal Promenade Boutiques, with a range of merchandise and everyday needs available. There's also the Art and Photo Gallery where clients can purchase photos or a new piece of art to remember their journey by. New to the shopping promenade is a Coach store, with the luxury brand's range of leather handbags.

## FIJIAN DREAM

9 nights onboard Voyager of the Seas®

FROM \$1349

pp, share twin

Cruise departs 10 Feb 2013



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# Voyager Today

## Kiwi Agents On Board

Kiwi travel agents were able to see Voyager of the Seas for the first time this week—and a group of agents onboard in Wellington yesterday gave the megaliner the thumbs up. Jeff Leckey from Orbit Corporate Travel Nelson with Rhonda Doole and Kylie Pauling of House of Travel Richmond, Nelson are pictured below relaxing poolside. The group expect sales of Voyager to increase next season, and says they'll be on the phone to their clients sailing this summer with their own tips for enjoying the ship.



## Shore Bookings

When it comes to booking shore excursions, there are two options for clients. They can visit the Explorations Desk on deck five, or book from their stateroom where they can read about different trips and get immediate confirmation via their in-room television.

## Movie Time

Throughout the day the Screening Room shows a range of crowd-pleasing films, including in 3D—great for sea days or bad weather. Options range from *The Dark Knight* to *Mary Poppins* or *The Adventures of Tin Tin*.

## A Small World On A Mega-ship



While the novelty of travelling on a mega-ship such as Voyager of the Seas may be the main appeal of booking a cruise—there are times when clients will prefer to find a nook in the sun to sip a coffee, read a book and watch the world go by.

During the daytime, Voyager's many bars are perfect for this—and there will be passengers snapping up the best spots from early in the morning on sea days. There is also the adults only pool on Deck 11 with enclosed areas featuring cushy loungers grouped in fours and surrounded by palms, creating a relaxing atmosphere away from playing children and blaring music.

## ... Big Time Cruising

But let's face it, the sheer spectacle of sitting in the Royal Promenade—four decks high and glittering with neon lights and buzzing with the chatter of hundreds of people shopping, eating and drinking—is the reason most cruisers will give the mega-ship concept a go. The destination is the ship, after all. Voyager of

the Seas was the largest ship in the world when she first set sail in 1999, and even though she has since been eclipsed by big-sister ships Oasis and Allure of the Seas, there's still some charm in the idea that she really was the first of her kind.

Finding the highest point on deck 12 to overlook the pool decks and the main funnel, emblazoned with a huge RCI logo—and just taking it in for a while, is a must do for any first time superliner cruiser.

## Adam's Voyager Insider

RCI's Sydney-based commercial manager Adam Armstrong recently sailed on Voyager of the Seas. Here's his tips to make the most of the ship:



**Rock climbing:** We have a wall on every RCI ship and it's good fun, especially at sea; take a pair of socks. There's also mini-golf and it's not as easy as it looks!!

**Solarium pool:** It's a swimming pool but adults-only, so much quieter.

**Champagne Bar:** Say no more. They have Champagne by the glass.

**Spa:** The lime and ginger salt glow treatment is particularly amazing.

**Johnny Rockets:** 1950s diner serving great hamburgers, with some outdoor seating if the weather is nice.

**Peek-a-boo bridge:** On Deck 11 in front of the gym, there's an outdoor area where you can look into the captain's bridge through windows.

## Relaxing Start

Passengers who want to start off the day relaxed can learn Tai Chi on some cruise days, with international Tai Chi Master Supol. There are also daily yoga classes in the fitness centre.

## PACIFIC ISLAND FUSION

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## Show Time On The Voyager

### The Rat Pack At Sea

"Do I know you sweetheart?" croons ol' Blue Eyes. "You will soon," replies his catch, as she stands up and moves away from her husband for a dance, in front of hundreds of laughing onlookers. It's show time at Voyager's La Scala Theatre, and the Rat Pack is Back. 'Frankie', along with 'Sammy Davis Jr' and 'Dean Martin' spend an hour bringing back to life well-known hits. For passengers gearing up for a night of dancing and entertainment, there's also pre-dinner dancing up at High Notes on Deck 14, and various low-key events at the ship's other bars. Even during the day, bands play by the pool—where there are often Caribbean line dancing classes too.

### Playing Games

All over Voyager of the Seas, the crew is playing games with passengers—making them race against time, wrack their brains for the right answer or remember the right lyric. There's bridge to be played, afternoon trivia to be remembered and traditional British pub quizzes to be fought over. Contestants taking part in the 60 Seconds or Less game show race against the clock and staff to complete physical challenges with ordinary household items.

### Which Lift To Use

If you're booking clients in cabins below deck five, to be of extra help be specific about which lift they use when first going to their stateroom, as the forward and aft cabins on decks three and four are only accessible by their respective lift or staircase. The ice-skating rink in mid-ship obstructs through access.



Passengers looking for a spectacle need look no further than Voyager's ice-skating rink—whether to have a go at skating themselves or to catch the Ice Odyssey Ice Show. The performance, just one of the many entertainment options available onboard, features Olympic-style figure skating on a rink a quarter of the normal size. The skaters have very little space in which to pull off their moves, but the post-show consensus is that it's one of the best at sea. Clients who want to have a go

at skating themselves should consult the Cruise Compass daily update for time slots (note they need socks and trousers to take part).

### Take A Chance

Clients with a lucky streak can of course head to the casino. There's a range of slot machines and card tables as well as lotteries, bingo and even poker tournaments to test clients' best bluffing tactics. Today's lotto jackpot is estimated at USD579,000!

### The Vault Nightclub

Voyager of the Seas nightclub The Vault hosts a plethora of themed events for passengers to enjoy, including 80s flashback evenings, Michael Jackson tribute nights and club nights hosted by DJ Rob. The two-level club is one of the largest at sea in this part of the world this summer. Clients bringing their teenagers onboard should note The Vault is reserved for those 18 and older after 2200. Keep an eye out for the ship's many entertainers on the dance floor, or at the bar—they are always up for a chat.

### On-line On-board

Voyager of the Seas has internet packages from USD35 for 60 mins to USD150 for 500 mins. Internet use without a package is charged at USD0.65/minute for adults and USD0.30/minute in the Teen Zone. There's computers for general use 24/7 in the library and Wi-Fi hotspots available around the ship. Agents should note Wi-Fi is not available within cabins. Hotspots are currently in High Notes, Solarium, Café Promenade, the Pig & Whistle pub and Schooner Bar. Tips for reducing internet spend include turning off toolbars, pre-writing e-mails to loved ones and reducing the size of pictures to be uploaded to websites such as Facebook (uploading can take some time).

### Open All Hours

A number of Voyager's amenities are open 24 hours for guests to enjoy at their convenience, including the basketball court, library, some swimming pools and hot tubs, the mini-golf course, table tennis and shuffleboard. The Café Promenade bar opens at 0700 for those after an early tippie, and the Pool Bar follows suit at 0900.

## TASMANIAN DISCOVERY

8 nights onboard Voyager of the Seas®

# FROM \$2379

pp, share twin

Cruise departs 05 Jan 2013

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## Taking Activities To New Heights



### Cupcake Corner

In a tiny nook on Deck 11 aft, clients will find Cupcake Corner, open twice a day for a couple of hours for a treat. There's red velvet, carrot and Oreo cupcakes to choose from, in bite and full size, topped with a mountain of icing. On each voyage and depending on demand, Cupcake Corner offers cupcake decorating courses. There is also cupcake corner merchandise available, from t-shirts to pens and key rings.

### Flop By The Pool

For those with a decidedly un-PC sense of humour, there's the chance to spectate or take part in the Men's International belly-flop competition at the main pool on Deck 11. Watch the blokes try every technique available to make the biggest splash, from the safety of Deck 12 overlooking, or from a perch at the bar.

### Learn A New Language?

Making use of the vast range of nationalities working on Voyager of the Seas, there are basic lessons in French offered on some voyages, held informally at the Schooner Bar.

I've climbed myself into a corner, clinging with both hands to a tiny blue grip, 20m up—and my tired arms are failing me.

But that bell at the top is only one more haul away, and there's not a chance of giving up now—I have an audience. Just minutes earlier, taking that first up-close look at Voyager of the Seas' rock climbing wall, I had contemplated not giving it a go at all.

Not having any rock climbing experience, I didn't think I could pull it off. There's also that slightly irrational fear of letting go for just a second; and out of the corner of my eye I can see the Tasman Sea rolling by, definitely more than 20m below.

But one more push and a slight fumble later, the bell rings out, and so does a cheer from the group of climbers waiting below. If nothing else, climbing the wall is a confidence boost.

This experience is just one of many available on Voyager that is unique to the ship. Among other activities is a full mini-golf course, in-line skating rink—all on the deck with the climbing wall is a full-sized sports court for volleyball or basketball, three swimming pools, a kids play area with slide, the ice-skating rink and



a jogging track that takes exercisers on a parade of sorts past passengers lounging in the sun.

Royal Caribbean International commercial manager Adam Armstrong says Voyager's activity-packed offering is unrivalled in Australasian waters.

"There is no other ship in this market that can match the breadth and depth of facilities offered onboard," he says.



### Fine Dining Portofino

Voyager of the Seas specialty restaurant, Portofino, is an intimate fine-dining option for clients celebrating a special occasion, or looking to have a secluded evening with a guaranteed sea view.

The Italian fare is complemented by an extensive wine list. Signature dishes include a prawn risotto with a hint of saffron, and a seafood 'skewer' with juicy scallops, Tasmanian salmon, prawns, lobster with crispy vegetables and a reduced tomato and wine sauce. For dessert, there's the traditional tiramisu, a pine-nut and almond tart with ricotta or a rich and creamy dome of chocolate mousse—for the chocolate lover. A USD20 surcharge applies, and clients should book in advance to ensure a place.

## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND JOURNEY

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## On Board Rest And Relaxation Options

### Mark's Voyager Tips

Royal Caribbean International's New Zealand sales manager Mark Kinchley shares his tips for enjoying Voyager of the Seas as a family:



1. Ben & Jerry's ice Cream. A perfect treat at any time especially after a day on shore.
2. The unique atmosphere of Royal Promenade. A great location for a relaxing coffee, drink or to shop.
3. The Pig and Whistle pub. A fantastic venue on Royal Promenade to relax and people watch. Great for a pre or post dinner beer!
4. As a family man, Adventure Ocean is fantastic for my kids, especially the video arcade. However the activities supervised by our superb staff keep the kids very happy as well as Mum and Dad so we all have a fantastic holiday.
5. Another family favourite is the Dreamworks parade. Great fun for young and old.
6. Studio B. Having a go at ice skating at sea is a unique experience only on Royal Caribbean!
7. Mini golf and golf simulator. I am always keen to show the world how bad my golf is and on Voyager I have two different experiences. Mini golf, which I usually lose to my seven-year-old son, and a golf simulator where I can try my hand at different golf courses around the world.



**Voyager Day Spa offers clients rest and relaxation before a night out, or after a day of activities ashore or onboard.**

Treatments include the Elemis Aroma Stone Therapy, bamboo massage, deep tissue massage and the popular Elemis Exotic Lime & Ginger Salt Glow (from USD155, plus gratuity for 50 minutes).

The therapist starts with a vigorous and fragrant scrub, before wrapping the client in foil and giving a gentle head massage. Then it's in the shower

to rinse off and prepare for a massage, focusing on stress points and kneading away knots and niggles—the hour passes and you come out of the spa feeling shiny and new.

There are treatments specific for men as well, including deep cleansing with a shave, plus couples massages, weight-loss therapies and acne attack treatments for teens. Hair, waxing, teeth whitening and nail services are also available. The Voyager Spa often has onboard specials throughout sailings, particularly on port days.

### Off Like A Rocket

Johnny Rockets is the first burger joint at sea, complete with singing and dancing waiters, malt shakes, onion rings and a selection of juicy third-pounder burgers to satisfy the largest of appetites.

Get in quick by 1230 for lunch to avoid the rush, or leave it until around 1500—this place is popular. Tell your clients to be prepared to eat, and not to be surprised when the waiters offer a tuna melt and more fries, even after the dessert plates have been cleared. There's a USD5 charge for all-you-can-eat, plus extra for drinks. The malt shakes are particularly tasty.



### Crown & Anchor

Royal Caribbean International's Crown & Anchor loyalty programme offers tiered members exclusive benefits across all RCI plus Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Cruises. After one cruise, clients are gold members, and can work their way to Pinnacle Club if they reach 700 cruise nights. Each cruise night adds to their tally. Benefits include onboard credit bonuses, advance notice of special offers, welcome back parties onboard, discounts on activities and amenities and upgrades based on availability.

## NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE

14 nights onboard Voyager of the Seas®

**FROM \$2329**

pp, share twin

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