

On the World's Largest Cruise Ship, the Sea Is an Afterthought

[caption id="attachment_1270" align="alignright" width="300" caption="Allure Of The Seas"]



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The Royal Caribbean International's Allure of the Seas, the world's largest cruise ship, was launched during December at a cost of about \$1.4 billion. This ship has taken the concept of land to a point where a passenger can completely forget they are at sea.

Is that a good thing? For romantic sensibilities screaming for the sublime, the metaphysical pondering of the deep — no. For those longing to get lost in a strange, wondrous, digital world of lights and colors that is not unlike the high-pitched energy of Manhattan or any world city — yes.

On the Allure, check-in is usually extraordinarily fast because of the huge new 5.5-acre, 240,000-square-foot terminal that Royal Caribbean built in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 2009 to make sure that the thousands of passengers moving on and off the Oasis and the Allure would be able to go "from curb to stateroom in 15 minutes."

The Allure is about 1,187 feet long and is 16 decks high. The ship has a capacity for 6,318 passengers and 2,384 crew members. The Allure is not just very long, but also really wide with a 215 feet width, in fact, more than 30 feet wider than Royal Caribbean's last big ship, Freedom of the Seas.

This ship is so enormous it is easy to get lost among the large crowds of people of many diverse cultures. Although this is true, it is also very spacious. The inside can be compared to a Dubai shopping mall. If you were thinking about a quiet, relaxing getaway, think again. This ship is for the up-beat personality who is looking not only for a voyage overseas, but also the commodities of home. [Boat shipping companies](#) can be used to transport it internationally. For more information on this enormous ship, it can be located on the official New York Times website.

Source: [Nytimes.com]