

**‘A NEW DAY HAS DAWNED’ AS CELEBRITY EDGE BECOMES
FIRST CRUISE SHIP TO SAIL
FROM A U.S. PORT IN 15 MONTHS**

**New-luxury ship [Celebrity Edge](#) departs from Ft. Lauderdale on June 26,
led by First American Female Captain, Kate McCue**

FT. LAUDERDALE (June 26, 2021) – “#HopeFloats. Today marks the rebirth of our company and our industry, as our beautiful [Celebrity Edge](#) sets sail on a new-luxury experience that will - once again - feed peoples’ love of travel.” Those were the inspirational words tweeted from Celebrity Cruises’ President and CEO, Lisa Lutoff-Perlo today, as the exquisite [Celebrity Edge](#) prepared to sail from Ft. Lauderdale at 6.00pm ET, becoming the first cruise ship to sail from a U.S. port in more than a year.

What seems only fitting, now, 15 months after being at the helm of history for the first all-female bridge and officer team sailing in March 2020 and the last sailing before the industry was put on pause, Captain Kate McCue, the first and still only American female to captain a major cruise ship, now leads the fleet – and the industry – back into operation from Fort Lauderdale’s Port Everglades. The ship set sails for Mexico and the Bahamas.

Rarely has a seven-night cruise of the Caribbean come with such symbolism and hope, but there is no underestimating that this is an historic moment for the brand as it cruises back to normal. [Celebrity Edge](#) was given the green light - and the honor - to be the first ship back in the water, having met all new standards for providing a healthy and safe cruise experience for its guests and crew.

“This is a momentous sailing and one that we have been preparing for a long time. It’s not only a huge honor to be the first ship back in the water, leading the industry in the long-awaited return to U.S.-based cruising, it’s also an incredible achievement and testament to the tireless efforts of our shoreside team and onboard crew”, said Richard Fain, Chairman of the Royal Caribbean Group, the parent company of Celebrity Cruises. “Travel is a powerful catalyst for positive change in our world. There’s nothing more enriching in life than exposing yourself to new cultures, sights, and experiences... *and* nothing more luxurious than doing it on board a Celebrity cruise ship,” he added. “All that’s left to say is welcome aboard.”

“The significance of this moment is not lost on anyone on our team or the industry. We have longed for this day, not only because it represents a return to service and doing what we love to do most, but because we know that for many the return of cruising is a symbol of the world’s return to normalcy,” said Brian Abel, Senior Vice President of Hotel Operations for Celebrity Cruises. “For too long, we’ve had to encourage one another with dreams of ‘someday’ returning to being together, again. Now, as the world opens up, and we can gather and enjoy our families and friends on an amazing cruise vacation, ‘someday’ is here.”

Named ‘[one of the world’s greatest places](#)’ by [Time Magazine](#), [Celebrity Edge](#) is widely regarded as the most innovative cruise ship on earth. The ship’s onboard experience stands apart from anything else at sea, creating an exciting modern cruising experience with offerings like the incredible [Magic Carpet®](#), soaring cantilevered above the sea and transformational accommodations like hyper-lux two-story villas with private plunge pools.

Inaugurated in 2018, [Celebrity Edge](#)’s unique outward-facing design breaks from traditional shipbuilding. Aboard, guests feel more connected with the sea and the places they visit, whether it’s sipping cocktails from the sundeck of [The Retreat](#), a private oasis within the ship, or taking in the



stunning vistas from the botanical Rooftop Garden. The ship's amenities and views will infuse new life into passengers that have longed to travel and see the world once again.

"The week after our entire industry was grounded, last March, I started a #HopeFloats tradition of blowing the ship's horn every evening to let the world know that not only were we safe, but we were thinking of those at home and hoping the same for them, said Captain McCue. "Now, the sound of a ship's horn symbolizes rising above from any hardship. The entire crew is so happy to be back and we can't wait to welcome our guests aboard!"

With today's sailing, eight of the 14 ships within the Celebrity Cruises' fleet now have plans to return to sailing in 2021 and are ready to take guests to breathtaking destinations, from the Caribbean to Europe, Alaska and the Galapagos, including:

- The magnificent [Celebrity Millennium](#) led North America's return to service as the first ship to sail in the Caribbean on **June 5** from St. Maarten.
- [Celebrity Apex](#), the newest addition to the Celebrity fleet, made her world debut in Athens on **June 19**, with seven-night sailings to the Greek Isles. The cruise marked a historic return to Greece for the company, which was founded there 33 years ago.
- [Celebrity Silhouette](#) prepares to summer in Southampton, UK beginning July 3 and offer stunning cruises of the British Isles and coastline.
- Beginning **July 4**, the luxurious, state-of-the-art mega-yacht, [Celebrity Flora®](#), will resume sailing the magical Galapagos Islands. She will be followed soon after by the award-winning [Celebrity Xpedition®](#) and intimate 16-passenger [Celebrity Xploration®](#) on July 24, and September 18, respectively.
- And, Celebrity's long-awaited return to the incomparable natural wonders of Alaska begin **July 23**.

Healthy at Sea

Celebrity Cruises has established new health and safety measures in accordance with guidance from public health authorities, government agencies, and its own team of health and safety experts to provide guests with the peace of mind to fully enjoy their voyage.

All Celebrity ships will sail with a vaccinated crew. U.S. guests ages 16 and older must be fully vaccinated and, as of August 1, 2021, all U.S. guests ages 12 and older must be fully vaccinated. In Florida, vaccinations are strongly recommended. Requirements for Non-U.S. guests vary and more details can be found by visiting <https://www.celebritycruises.com/healthy-at-sea>.

These measures will evolve in keeping with current public health standards. Guests are encouraged to regularly check the guidance on all health and safety measures across the entire Celebrity Cruises vacation experience can be found at <https://www.celebritycruises.com/healthy-at-sea>.

Wonder Returns

Simplifying the luxury vacation experience, Wi-Fi, drinks, and tips are now '[Always Included](#)SM' on every Celebrity cruise. And, Celebrity's "[Cruise with Confidence](#)" program provides flexible cancellations and the best price guarantees.

For more information on Celebrity Cruises' new U.S. summer sailings, guests and travel advisors should visit <https://www.celebritycruises.com/2021-2022-cruises>.

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About Celebrity Cruises:



Celebrity Cruises' iconic "X" is the mark of a fleet of 14 award-winning ships redefining luxury cruise travel with cool, contemporary design and accommodation; dining, spa, and entertainment experiences for modern tastes; and culturally rich and diverse destination experiences, all complemented by warm, personalized service. Celebrity has pioneered many industry firsts at sea, including the first use of solar panels on a cruise ship; the first to eliminate the use of plastic water bottles; the first American female captain of a cruise ship; the first-ever all-female bridge and officer team sailing; the first West African woman to work on the bridge of a cruise ship; and one of the first legal same-sex weddings performed at sea. Driven by wanderlust and a passion for opening the world, Celebrity journeys to all seven continents, visiting nearly 300 destinations in more than 70 countries. Celebrity Cruises is one of five cruise brands operated by global cruise company Royal Caribbean Group. (NYSE: RCL).

Celebrity Cruises is applying the recommendations of the [Healthy Sail Panel](#) of public health and scientific experts to provide a safer and healthier cruise vacation on all of its sailings. Health and safety protocols, regional travel restrictions and clearance to visit ports of call, are subject to change based on ongoing evaluation, public health standards, and government requirements. U.S. cruises and guests: For more information on the latest health and travel alerts, U.S. government travel advisories, please visit <https://www.celebritycruises.com/travel-alert> or consult travel advisories, warnings or recommendations relating to cruise travel on applicable government websites.

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Editor's Note: Media can stay up-to-date on all Celebrity Cruises news at www.celebritycruisespresscenter.com