



Royal Caribbean will launch the **Oasis of the Seas** late 2009. At 22,000 gross tons and holding 5400 passengers, it will be the largest cruise ship in the world.

It's hard to describe the **Oasis of the Seas** in words so here are a few numbers:

- 1.7 Million hours spend designing the ship
- 15 architectural firms involved in the Oasis-class design
- 3,000 miles of cable on the Oasis
- 2,300 workers still onboard
- 2,160 crew members who will staff the Oasis
- 95 percent of crew pulled from existing Royal Caribbean ships
- 2.5 average years of experience for each crew member
- 5,000 cumulative years of customer service on the Oasis by staff
- 24 restaurants on the Oasis
- 37 bars
- 12,000 plants will be planted onto the grounds of the Boardwalk neighborhood of the ship
- 650,000 liters of paint were used on the Oasis
- 150 suites on the Oasis
- 2,700 deck chairs on the ship
- 6 and 3 – maximum and minimum numbers of trips up and down the Rising Tide Bar can make in an hour
- 21 feet is the depth in the diving pool in the Aqua Theater
- 139,000 gallons of water in the Aqua Theater pool, more than all the pools combined on Royal Caribbean's next largest ships, the Liberty and Freedom of the Seas.

Stay tuned for the launch. The sister to the Oasis will launch in 2010. Will it help or hurt the cruise industry? All signs point to a renewed interest in cruising which is still the best value in the travel industry. Something to watch in these uneasy economic times!

Carole Weishaar
Independent Travel Consultant
Access Travel Services – FT Phoenix