SHIP NOTES · JEWEL OF THE SEAS

Small enough *to cross without thinking about it.*

Jewel carries about 2,100 guests — roughly a third of Wonder — on a hull almost 120 feet shorter than the Royal Caribbean average. Less walking, smaller crowds, shorter queues. The trade is fewer accessible cabins and fewer lifts, and that trade is the whole decision.

At a glance

CLASS	Radiance · ~2,100
ACCESSIBLE CABINS	19 of ~1,070
LIFTS	9
HARDEST PART	Fewest cabins and fewest lifts

WHY A SMALLER SHIP CAN BE THE EASIER SHIP

Everything is closer. The walk from cabin to dining room is a fraction of what it is on an Oasis-class ship, the gangway queue is shorter because there are a third as many people, and you spend far less of your day crossing the vessel. If distance and crowds are what cost you, that matters more than any single accessibility feature.

THE TRADE: 19 ACCESSIBLE CABINS, AND NINE LIFTS

Jewel has **19 wheelchair-accessible staterooms** among roughly 1,070 — two junior suites, six balcony, six oceanview and five inside. And **nine elevators** serve twelve passenger decks, against 24 on Wonder. Fewer, shorter walks; longer waits at the lift at dinner time. Book the cabin very early.

What's in *an accessible cabin*

- **Doors of at least 32 to 34 inches**, and **no sill** at the stateroom door.
- **Some have automatic entry doors**, which is not universal across the fleet — ask whether yours does.
- **Roll-in shower** with a fold-down bench and hand-held showerhead, and a ramped bathroom threshold.
- **Lowered vanity and closet rod**, with turning space a standard cabin doesn't have.

> **KNOW THE WEIGHT LIMITS BEFORE YOU BOOK**
>
> Royal Caribbean accommodates manual wheelchairs and powered chairs and scooters, with published limits of roughly **250 lb standard, 350 lb heavy-duty and 500 lb bariatric**. If your device is near a threshold, confirm it in writing before you sail rather than at the gangway.

9 **Nine lifts serve twelve passenger decks**, against 24 on Wonder. Shorter walks, longer waits.

What this ship *is built around*

- **Glass.** The Radiance class has more of it than any other Royal ship of its era: two-level windowed dining room, and **glass lifts on the outside of the hull facing the sea**.
- **The Solarium** has a retractable glass roof over the pool — warm, sheltered and out of the wind, which is exactly where a lot of people want to spend a sea day.
- **The Centrum**, a multi-deck atrium, is the heart of the ship and hosts music and aerial shows. It's also the reason to avoid cabins right off it if you're a light sleeper.

- **She's older** — built 2004, refurbished since — so her accessible cabins were designed to earlier standards than Wonder's. Ask what's actually in the specific cabin.

CABINS TO THINK TWICE ABOUT

Directly off the Centrum, where the music carries at night. Directly under the pool deck or the Windjammer buffet on Deck 11, where the day starts early overhead. Aft cabins can pick up some engine vibration.

> *"If your limit is distance, the small ship wins. If it's equipment, the big one does."*

Check with Royal Caribbean

- **Ask which of the 19 accessible cabins remain**, and in which category — some categories have only five or six.
- **Ask what's fitted in that specific cabin**, since an older ship varies more than a new one.
- **Ask how tendering is handled** on your itinerary and whether your device can board.
- **Request pier assistance 30 days ahead**, Royal's stated window, and use the Access Department on 866-592-7225 for anything unusual.

HOW TO CHOOSE BETWEEN HER AND A MEGA-SHIP

If your limiting factor is **distance, standing or crowds**, Jewel is the easier week. If it's **equipment** — you need a specific accessible cabin type, a pool lift, or the newest bathroom design — a larger, newer ship gives you more to choose from. Both are legitimate; they're just different questions.

Questions people *actually ask*

How many accessible cabins does Jewel of the Seas have?

Is a smaller cruise ship easier for limited mobility?

Where this comes from

- Royal Caribbean — guest special needs and accessibility
- Firsthand observation on recent sailings, with the date noted above.
- How we check things — our method, and what "last checked" means.

Last checked 22 September 2026.

Ships change, especially after a refurbishment. Everything here reflects publicly available information and recent sailings and is not a guarantee — always confirm with the cruise line. Sailed her recently? Tell us what you found and we'll fold it into the page.

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