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## ROYAL CARIBBEAN OPENS FIRST YEAR-LONG PROGRAM TO CUBA

*Expanded Sailings Introduce 58 New Cruises, Including 28 Havana Overnights through March 2019*

**MIAMI, May 10, 2017** – The world's most adventurous cruise line is giving adventure-seekers more opportunities than ever to explore the vibrant island destination of Cuba with new sailings to Havana on [Empress of the Seas](#). [Royal Caribbean International's](#) newly refreshed ship will sail 58 cruises of 4- and 5-night itineraries from January 2018 through March 2019, more than half offering overnight stays in the culturally vibrant city. *Empress'* Western Caribbean and Havana sailings are open for bookings as of today.

"Since arriving in Cuba for the first time last month, we've seen the excitement of our guests when sailing into Havana and the passion they have for the city at sail away – its people, its architecture, its food, its music. This is the enthusiasm we strive to bring to adventure-seekers who vacation with us," said Michael Bayley, President and CEO, Royal Caribbean International. "The positive reaction to our Cuba sailings is very encouraging, and we are thrilled to expand on the number of sailings for our 2018-2019 itineraries."

*Empress of the Seas* will return to Tampa for summer 2018, offering a series of 4- and 5-night cruises, calling on Key West, Florida, and Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico, as well as Havana, [Cuba](#) on most sailings. The ship will reposition to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida for the winter 2018-2019 season, continuing short Caribbean adventures to the Caribbean destinations. Currently, *Empress* sails from Tampa through Nov. 4, 2017. The ship then returns to Miami for the winter 2017-2018 season, adding calls to Royal Caribbean's private island destination CocoCay and Nassau in The Bahamas.

The vibrant Cuban culture extends beyond land to the experience on board *Empress of the Seas*. From cortaditos and café con leche in Café Royal to salsa music and dancing in Boleros Latin lounge, guests can enjoy a range of onboard activities developed to bring the spirit of the island to life throughout the entire journey.

*Empress of the Seas* spans 11 guest decks, encompasses 48,563 gross registered tons, carries 1,602 guests at double occupancy and features 795 staterooms.

Media can stay up to date by following [@RoyalCaribPR](#) on Twitter and visiting [RoyalCaribbeanPressCenter.com](#). For additional information or to make reservations, vacationers should call their travel agent; visit [RoyalCaribbean.com](#); or call (800) ROYAL-CARIBBEAN.

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