

The *Independence* Joins the American Cruise Lines Fleet in 2010

American Cruise Lines has announced the *Independence* will join its fleet of small cruise ships for the 2010 season. Currently under construction at Chesapeake Shipbuilding in Salisbury, Maryland, the *Independence* will be the fifth ship American Cruise Lines operates along the East Coast of the U.S. with destinations including Maine, New England, Hudson River, Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay, the Historic South and Florida. While having the same passenger capacity of two of its sister ships, the *American Star* and the *American Spirit*, the *Independence* will be a larger ship, allowing for an increase in size to the already spacious staterooms and other interior areas for which American Cruise Lines is well known.

The Latest Technology

Along with the increase in size, the *Independence* will have the latest technology in navigation and communication equipment and will meet the most stringent safety and environmental standards. The *Independence* will also be fully stabilized enabling it to smoothly navigate the coastal waterways and reach even more fascinating destinations while providing passengers exceptional comfort.

Exceptional Amenities

The *Independence* will feature all the luxuries American Cruise Lines' guests have come to expect including all staterooms having large, opening picture windows, roomy baths and eighty percent of the staterooms with private balconies. Every stateroom will be fitted with flat-screen satellite TV and DVD players, individual climate control, wireless Internet access and many other modern conveniences and amenities expected by the discerning traveler. The ship's layout will include an elevator to all decks, comfortable lounges, a spacious observation deck, a well-stocked library and a glass-enclosed dining room providing a panoramic view to passing scenery.

Maiden Voyage – June 2010

The *Independence* will go into service in June 2010, with its Maiden Voyage being planned on the Chesapeake Bay. Soon after, it will cruise the picturesque ports of New England, followed by the Hudson River and Historic South in the fall.

American Cruise Lines operates the newest fleet of ships in the industry and offers ten itineraries along the East Coast of the United States. Uniquely designed to navigate inland waterways, rivers and bays, American Cruise Lines' small ships bring passengers to some of the most fascinating places in America.