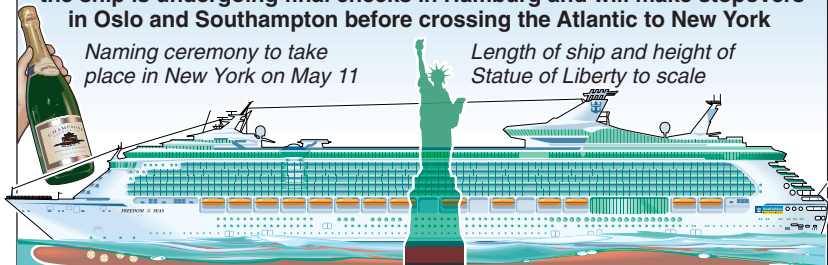


# Giant cruise ship to make maiden voyage

The world's biggest cruise ship – *Freedom of the Seas* – boasts a skating rink, rock-climbing wall and the first on-board surfing pool. Built in Finland, the ship is undergoing final checks in Hamburg and will make stopovers in Oslo and Southampton before crossing the Atlantic to New York

*Naming ceremony to take place in New York on May 11*

*Length of ship and height of Statue of Liberty to scale*



**Length:** At 339 metres, is 6m shorter than *Queen Mary 2* but 15 metres wider, at 56m

**Height:** 72m from keel to funnel – as tall as a 23-storey building

**Passengers:** 4,370 **Crew:** 1,370

**Cruising speed:** 21.6 knots

**Construction cost:** \$870m