Lake Michigan Twilight Cruise Co.

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Cruise Ships Set to Land in Chicagoland by Plane

CHICAGO - The <u>Lake Michigan Twilight Cruise Co.</u> announced Tuesday that it will be adding two new ships to its fleet.

The ships are being built in sections in Scotland and loaded into a specially-equipped 747 jet, set to arrive Nov. 18. The completed sections will be re-assembled in Gary, Indiana, supporting local manufacturers.

Construction began in an iron factory outside of Glasgow in September. The Chicago-based engineers have been overseeing construction progress remotely.

"We are looking forward to the moment when that plane lands and we will unload all of the pieces to the new ships. It will be a sight to see, I'm sure!" said <u>Barbie Roberts</u>, Head of Manufacturing and Engineering at the Lake Michigan Twilight Cruise Co.

The new diesel-powered catamarans will have a capacity of 185 passengers and five crew members. Expected launch will be the second week of May 2024. With the added capacity, the company estimates 2023 profits to exceed \$3.4 million, roughly double the revenue earned in 2022.

Founded in 2011, The Lake Michigan Twilight Cruise Co. currently operates two dinner cruise ships that depart from Chicago and run brunch, dinner, and late-night cocktail cruises on Lake Michigan. In 2022, it served more than 45,000 passengers on the company's two cruise ships, the Twilight and the Star Gazer, marking its most successful season yet with gross revenues of \$1.69 million.

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