

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE PORT OPERATOR

# GPH NEWS

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GLOBAL PORTS  
HOLDING

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# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear industry partners,

Finally, the restart of the cruise industry is here. All around the world, cruise ships have started sailing and our ports have been welcoming guests. After a long pause, we are delighted to see strong demand in the industry. We believed that the industry would be back even stronger but increasing occupancy rates and demand for next year's itineraries has everyone eyeing the cruise industry once again.

During this time, we have focused on investing in the future as always. In the Caribbean, Antigua Cruise Port has completed its marine works and the build of the new pier. With the aim of turning Antigua into a turnaround destination, we have completed a security building, area for buses and a connection bridge to the Heritage Quay Shopping Centre. Antigua Cruise Port can now welcome more than 15,000 passengers per day and the largest cruise ships in the world.

Meanwhile, at Nassau Cruise Port, repairs to infrastructure and the expansion of the piers continues with the goal of accommodating three Oasis-class vessels per day upon completion of the works by the end of 2021. The upland work is now starting too. Cruising, and for the first time, homeporting has started in Nassau with brands such as Royal Caribbean and Crystal Cruises. Additionally, thousands of Bahamians will have an opportunity to invest in the project through Bahamas Investment Fund (BIF) when we launch the highly-anticipated equity raise in October.

Some of our European ports have been hosting cruise ships on a weekly basis since last year. Valletta Cruise Port continues its successful operations as more cruise lines have also started making turnaround operations. Our Italian ports continue to welcome calls from MSC and Costa Cruises. Harmony of the Seas, one of the world's largest cruise ships, will have started weekly sailings from Barcelona.

Recent news of our ports being nominated for several awards made us very proud: Antigua Cruise Port is running as the Port of the Year at the Seatrade Cruise Awards, our ports in Malta, Zadar, Malaga, and Barcelona have been nominated as Europe's Best Cruise Terminal at the World Cruise Awards, whereas Nassau has been nominated as Caribbean's Best Cruise Port at the World Travel Awards. This is a proof of our solid performance through strong focus on operational excellence, enhanced security practices and customer-oriented service.

After the completion of our loan agreement with the leading global investment firm Sixth Street Partners in July, we look forward to new opportunities to make other ports around the globe "ready for the future". We want to invest and provide these cruise ports with the standard operating procedures of GPH to make them become more desirable to cruise ships and cruise guests and to improve the service level using our know-how and network.

It would not be an over statement to say that the cruise industry has been hit hardest during this crisis, but I am proud to say that we have held firm and shown our resolve to come back even stronger. I look forward to seeing how much further we can go!

Sincerely,

**H. EMRE SAYIN**

CEO GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING PLC





## *ETNA AN UNFORGETTABLE SHOREX*

CATANIA, ITALY

When you arrive at Catania Cruise Port, even before being greeted by the warmth of the local staff, your gaze is drawn upwards by the majestic figure of the Etna volcano, which almost seems to embrace and protect the city with its soft slopes.

Shore excursion among the most preferred by all cruise passengers, Etna is an unforgettable must see of the South-Eastern Sicily, an opportunity to stay in contact with nature in a multifaceted landscape that changes its face with the seasons of the year.

The people of Catania call the Etna “A Muntagna”, the mountain par excellence. Authoritarian and elegant like a beautiful queen, it has accompanied this part of Sicily for millennia. In winter the snow covers it all with a soft white blanket, transforming it into a real ski slope. In summer, however, it returns to the black color of lava and ashes, dressing in red when, at night, it wants to give a show. As often happens now: with about 50 paroxysmal episodes that have affected the south-east crater since 16 February 2021, Etna has even increased its height, reaching 3,357 meters and confirming its title as the highest active volcano in the Eurasia region.

Contrary to what one might imagine, Etna is not a volcano like many others, arid, monochrome and lifeless. It hosts indeed a rainbow of landscapes: from the green of the woods, to the blue of the forget-me-nots and to the delicate scent of the violets of the Etna Natural Park, it follows the spectacle of the rural terraces used for the cultivation of vineyards, orchards and citrus groves, whose products have acquired a particular aroma thanks to the volcanic soil. Farther south, the Caves, tortuous tunnels formed due to the flow of lava, offer stories of all sorts: the best known are the Grotta del Gelo (Frost Cave), so-called for being an inexhaustible reserve of ice; the Grotta dei Lamponi (Raspberry Cave), whose entrance is covered with these plants; the Grotta dei Ladri (Cave of Thieves), hidden in a birch forest, an historical and legendary refuge for brigands.

Declared by Unesco World Heritage Site since June 21st, 2013, for being one of the most emblematic and active volcano in the world, ‘a Muntagna is everyone's treasure, to be discovered with guided excursions by trekking, cable car and jeep. Only those who reach the top experience the feeling of literally being on cloud nine, of seeing the sun rise under their feet and getting a second wind. From up there you can discover the whole island of Sicily with its seas, Taormina's city and even the western tip of Calabria!

Ready for adventure?



# THE GATEWAY TO CRUISING IN ASIA

## SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE

The Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore (MBCCS) is an award-winning cruise terminal that boasts world-class facilities and is conveniently located near Singapore's top attractions such as Gardens by the Bay, the iconic Marina Bay Sands and its Central Business District. MBCCS is well-positioned as the leading cruise port in Asia with its geographical location and excellent air connectivity which attracts winter home-porting deployments from both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Backed by a dedicated team at SATS-Creuers Cruise Services (SCCS), a joint venture between SATS Ltd. and Creuers del Port de Barcelona S.A., that harnesses extensive experience in the aviation industry and cruise terminal operations, the terminal operator brings warm hospitality and end-to-end cruise-related services to passengers.

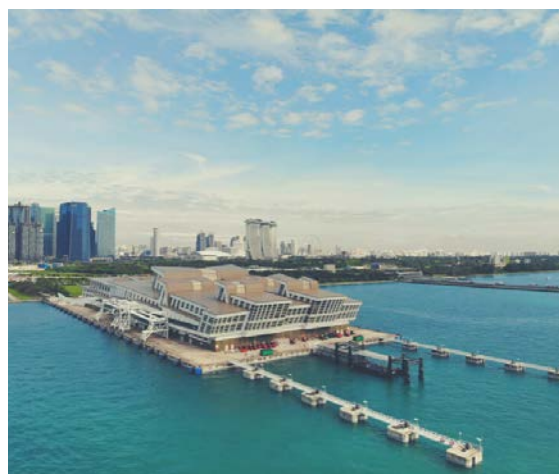
### Local “cruises to nowhere” have been sailing continuously since November 2020.

This new modus operandi was developed by the Singapore Tourism Board in collaboration with industry partners and is benchmarked against global health and safety standards for the safe resumption of cruises in Singapore. Passengers who have been tested COVID-19 negative will undergo a seamless process of multiple screening checks and observe prevailing safe management measures during embarkation at the cruise terminal to safeguard the health and safety of all aboard the cruise ship. Singapore has accounted for almost one-third of the global cruise volume in the first half of 2021 due to the success of “cruises to nowhere” as one of the first few ports to resume cruising. To date, MBCCS welcomed over 228,000 passengers with more than 190 sailings.

**Mr. Lionel Wong, CEO of SCCS,** said: “Cruises to nowhere are expected to continue as the new form of cruising, with cruise lines refreshing their on-board programmes and sailing itineraries to address the new market, until other ports in Asia are ready for ship calls.”

### Awards:

- Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore has been voted Best Cruise Terminal by the Travel Weekly Asia Readers' Choice Awards for three consecutive years.
- SATS-Creuers Cruise Services received the Special Award for Community Care (Business) in the Singapore Tourism Awards 2021 with Star Cruises as a recognition of the collaborative efforts to host over 8,000 recovered migrant workers on board two cruise ships during the COVID-19 pandemic last year.



# READY FOR THE FUTURE



Welcoming  
World's Largest  
Cruise Ships\* in Antigua

\*Representation of the world's largest cruise ships manufactured to date.



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## *RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY OF DANTE*

RAVENNA, ITALY

A chest of art, history and culture with a glorious past, Ravenna lies on the Adriatic coast, a destination to relax, have fun and go for walks in an unspoiled nature, one step away from beautiful Venice. Ravenna Cruise Port manages the Porto Corsini cruise terminal, a modern structure located between the yacht marina, the beaches and the pine forest, consisting of a pier with two berths capable of accommodating small and medium-sized ships for transit and turnaround operations.



Thanks to its strategic position in the Adriatic, with its up-to-date health protocols, and Safe Travel stamp from WTTC, Ravenna Cruise Port has inaugurated its 2021 cruise season in August, while hosting numerous cruise ships in idle stop during the suspension period of 2020 and early 2021.

Arriving passengers found not only the warm welcome and the efficient services of the cruise terminal, but also the Ravenna city in full celebration: in fact, 2021 marks the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri, the Supreme Poet. In addition to the eight buildings declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO, Ravenna also preserves and takes care of the remains of the Father of Italian Literature.

“We are pleased to resume operations in our Ravenna Cruise Port. Above all, we aim to give our passengers a unique experience in the city through a precious interpretation of Italian culture, that of Dante Alighieri, a renowned and appreciated advocate” **Antonio Di Monte, General Manager of Ravenna Cruise Port**, said.

During a call in Porto Corsini you can relive the journey of the Supreme Poet and, at the same time, discover the Ravenna area through the "Le vie di Dante" journey, awarded by Lonely Planet as Best in Travel 2021 for the sustainability category. This itinerary retraces Dante's possible trip from Florence, his homeland, from which he was exiled, to Ravenna, where he found welcome and inspiration, spending the last years of his life in serenity, during which he completed the Divine Comedy.

But there are many tributes that the city offers to the Poet this year: among these, the light installations in the historic center dedicated to the Divine Comedy and the appointments at sunset to read some passages in front of his tomb. There is even a special train, a convoy built more than a hundred years ago, called "Dante's Train", which leads passengers to rediscover his lands in a slow, unique and evocative travel experience.

# *CREATING SEAMLESS GUEST EXPERIENCES*

## *AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN XUEREB, COO GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING PLC*

### **TELL US ABOUT GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING**

Global Ports Holding (GPH) the world's largest independent cruise port operator operates 20 cruise ports in 13 countries across 4 continents from Kuşadası to Zadar, Valletta to Barcelona, Antigua to Nassau. Global Ports Holding started its journey in 2004 with Ege Port Kuşadası in Turkey and growing slowly but surely. The company was listed on the London Stock Exchange in 2017 with the objective of expanding its cruise portfolio even further. Our network of ports allows us to share and transfer our know-how and best practices with a strong focus on operational excellence, enhanced security practices and customer-oriented services.

### **HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED THE GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING PORT NETWORK?**

The cruise industry voluntarily stopped its cruising operations in March 2020. However, GPH commenced preparations for the post-COVID cruising reality way back in January 2020, at the first sightings of the pandemic. The Emergency Response Plans and the Health and Safety Protocols for all of the 20 ports forming part of the GPH network, were revised to reflect the new reality.

In addition, all our ports obtained the Safe Travels stamp from the World Travel and Tourism Council, based on the reinforced protocols. This process meant that Valletta Cruise Port was well prepared to welcome back the first cruise calls in August 2020, with cruise calls ongoing weekly since then, followed gradually by a number of other GPH ports.

We continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure the team is ready to increase our operational capacity when the time is right. For example, in Malta together with local authorities and partners we have worked on COVID-19 Cruise Operations Guidelines for a Safe Continuation of Cruising in Valletta with the aim of facilitating operations in this transitional phase. These operating guidelines have been mirrored in other ports and approved by the local health authorities. The guideline document establishes, embodies and merges the port's operational plans, procedures and guidelines with cruise line protocols to ascertain the safe continuation of operations. The compilation of these guidelines is based on the results of facility assessments within the context of recent and current regional events brought about by the pandemic.

With the right frame of mind challenges can be turned into opportunities. All is only possible with the drive, flexibility and perseverance of our personnel worldwide and that of the supporting stakeholders. Where once the industry's primary message was about providing passengers with affordable vacations, relaxation and fun, today that message is all about 'creating safe guest experiences'. Our ability to work in synergy with all stakeholders is key to that, so our ports can provide passengers and crew with a seamless experience. Of course, this was a time of adaptation and resilience, where it was paramount to be agile and innovative.



**STEPHEN XUEREB, COO OF GPH**



## WHAT HAS GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING ACCOMPLISHED DURING THIS TIME?

Regardless of the stop in cruise operations it was a busy time for Global Ports Holding. We had just acquired Nassau and Antigua in the Caribbean and in parallel we started construction work in order to gear up for the upcoming seasons. Antigua Cruise Port now features a fifth berth that is able to handle the largest cruise ships, as well as turnaround operations. We acquired La Goulette Cruise Port in Tunisia and started working on enhancing policies and reinforcing the team in December 2019. Taranto Cruise Port in Italy has joined our network of ports where we have constructed a new temporary terminal facility for a regular cruising seasons. Zadar and Bar served as practical destinations for various cruise lay-ups. In Valletta, we worked on a €2 million project with bespoke canopy structures being installed along the waterfront, a project which fully respects the destinations' rich history of the port. Meanwhile on the maritime front Valletta hosted the first international cruise call in August 2020 with weekly calls ongoing since then, with a steady gradual increase in operations.

## GPH PORTS SUCH AS VALLETTA AND SINGAPORE WERE THE MAJOR STARTING POINTS OF THE CRUISE INDUSTRY, FOLLOWED BY NASSAU IN THE RECENT MONTHS. WHAT WERE THE KEY INSIGHTS OUT OF THESE OPERATIONS?



One of the strongest characteristics of our company is the transfer of know-how and experience. Valletta and Singapore became the first ports of the cruise industry to restart operations. Through these operations we have learnt the importance of collaboration and communications between all the stakeholders. We have created a synergistic platform for the cruise lines with the government, health authorities and service providers for a successful restart. By creating a set of protocols and guidelines, we have been hosting calls since late summer 2020.

## WHAT IS NEXT FOR GPH? ANY NEW PROJECTS?



Currently we operate 20 cruise ports in 13 countries over 4 continents, in 2019 handling circa 13 million passenger movements. Our network is of an unrivaled size and reach and a demonstrable market leader with a dynamic management team with experience in port investment, operations, business turnarounds and marketing.

We look forward to add even more ports to our network in the next few years, bringing new backgrounds and experiences into the network thus continue in the creation of our own diverse workplace and service culture. We are always eager to work with our industry stakeholders, as well as become partners to the authorities of the many ports around the world.

As GPH, our aim is not just to operate a port but bring more to the cities and communities around the ports – we work with a global mindset and focus on local excellence. We invest in local projects and in local communities: until COVID, we brought our “Global Run” initiative to our port cities in where people from around the world ran to support of local charities. Our ports engage with and work with their local communities to raise funds and help and empower the local people and charities. As the world’s leading cruise port we take our responsibility very seriously.





## *BARCELONA CRUISE PORT KICKS OFF THE RETURN OF CRUISE OPERATIONS WITH FULLY OCCUPIED WHARF TERMINALS*



BARCELONA, SPAIN

Since February 2020, the cruise industry has been grounded to a halt on a global scale due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, Barcelona Cruise Port is picking up where they left off with full terminal occupancy within one month of becoming operational again.



Barcelona Cruise Port accommodated the MSC Seashore during guest embarkation process whilst Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas was docked during a technical visit in preparation for her first guest operation since the outbreak.

This is a sign of good things to come as many routine operations are expected in Barcelona during the final months of the 2021 and the return to normality in 2022. **Javier Rodriguez, General Manager of Barcelona Cruise Port and GPH Director of West Med and Asia Regions** said "Barcelona was one of the first cruise terminals in the world to achieve the WTTC Safe travels stamp by setting up all health protocols in our terminals. We are proud that all these protocols are working fine with the resumption of the activity and all stakeholders are satisfied with the service provided."



Barcelona Cruise Port is proud to announce that as of May 2022 they will host Virgin Voyages as their homeport for their western Mediterranean itineraries. A big milestone achievement for the company after 2 years of hard work mediating with Virgin Voyages management and departments of Barcelona Port Authorities.

Needless to say, that during the months of inactivity Barcelona Cruise Port has been far from idle. They have taken advantage of this time to improve their terminals and develop their facilities to continue to deliver excellent service to cruise guests and cruise lines alike.



## *FIRST CRUISE PASSENGERS OF THE SEASON BRIGHTEN THE DAY AT EGE PORT KUŞADASI*

KUSADASI, TURKEY

After a long pause, today, Ege Port Kuşadası , part of Global Ports Holding network of ports, welcomed its first cruise vessel Blue Sapphire cruise ship. 300 guests arrived and brightened the day at the Port & City of Kuşadası.

Blue Sapphire operated by Selectum Blu Cruises arrived this morning, September 2nd , with its 300 passengers, welcomed with a grand water salute by Ege Port Kuşadası's Tugboat and an excited crowd at the port. The call of this cruise ship has marked the start of the cruise season in Kuşadası and Turkey.

The cruise passengers were welcomed by Ege Port Kuşadası with a great show of a marching band and folk-dance team courtesy of the Municipality of Kuşadası. All the while Kuşadası Chamber of Commerce presented local souvenirs to the passengers.

“We are delighted to see a cruise ship with passengers after such a long break here in Kuşadası. It has been a tough two years for those in the travel industry of Turkey and today the wait is over. We are finally welcoming our cruise guests with delightful festivities.” commented **Aziz Güngör Ege Port Kuşadası General Manager and Global Ports Holding Regional Director for East Med.**

“We will be hosting the Blue Sapphire for the next 13 weeks at our port. This is not only a major starting for us but all of Kuşadası. The cruise industry in Turkey creates many economic benefits. It is not only a key part of the travel industry but also a main support to local merchants, both small and large. As Ege Port Kuşadası, we hope to welcome more cruise ships and passengers and continue to represent the city of Kuşadası and Turkey.” Said Güngör.

Ege Port Kuşadası, one of the busiest cruise ports in Eastern Mediterranean, part of the Global Ports Holding network of ports, is the gateway to the world-famous ancient city of Ephesus and the House of Virgin Mary. The Port has been awarded with Safe Travels (WTTC) and Safe Tourism (TÜV) certificates since 2021 and has established protocols to secure the health & safety of all its passengers and visitors.



## *OPEN PORT PROJECT*

### TARANTO, ITALY

New name on the vibrant Italian cruise scene, Taranto Cruise Port, a member of Global Ports Holding, manages the cruise terminal of S. Cataldo pier as of April 2021, inaugurating the first year of activity with a surprising cruise traffic, which includes the calls of MSC Seaside, hosted by the Apulian port of Taranto every Wednesday from May to November for partial turnaround operations.

This fervent growth of the port sector and the addition of new important stakeholders, such as Taranto Cruise Port, have highlighted how the local maritime context is changing and how the port is not just a physical infrastructure, a place of exchange, transit, arrivals and departures, but also and above all the mirror of a culture, the fruit of a society which, in Taranto, is strongly linked to the sea.

From the conscious need to open the port to the city and encourage the participation of citizens in the creation of a new way of enjoying the port culture, “Open Port - Exhibition center of the Port of Taranto”, is born: the new project of the Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea which aims to bring this magical context to the many who, even today, have not had the opportunity to approach the port reality closely.

Anticipated by the creation of a virtual community on social media, thanks to the precious collaboration with a team of professionals, Open Port aims at the construction of a museum, first virtual then physical in the multipurpose center, where it will be possible to have different and numerous, multidisciplinary and multi-target experiences, cultural, emotional, playful and creative, and where the local community and the economic players of Taranto must be able to find expression and tell their story, their present and their aspirations.

Above all, it will be the result of a shared experience, an open lab of new ideas and new routes born from the meeting of the various local stakeholders with Italian and foreign citizens, visitors and tourists, with a view to transnational cultural exchange.

“We are proud to be part of such a lively port context and exalted by this initiative. It's a new, interactive and dynamic way to experience and discover Taranto, exploring its past to build its future through the relationship with the sea and with everything that comes from the sea, such as cruises and cruise passengers”, **Antonio Di Monte, General Manager of Taranto Cruise Port**, said.





# MÁLAGA 2022

14-15 September – Trade Fairs and Congress center of Málaga

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# MÁLAGA 2022

14-15 September – Trade Fairs and Congress center of Málaga

# WELCOME TO A SMILING DESTINATION WELCOME TO MALAGA CRUISE PORT



MALAGA, SPAIN

Málaga Cruise Port is located in Southern Spain, and because of its strategic location it can be considered in routes to the Med & to the Atlantic, both North & South. It provides an easy access for ships, and trouble-free weather conditions all year round, as for winds and waves, which are mostly under 0.5m. Tides are not an issue either, with a tide level range of max. 0.80m.

The port has been completely renewed and enlarged in just a few years, now boasting 5 cruise-dedicated berths, 3 state-of-the-art terminals and a wide range of services for cruise lines and cruise guests, a great option for transit and also homeport in Southern Europe.

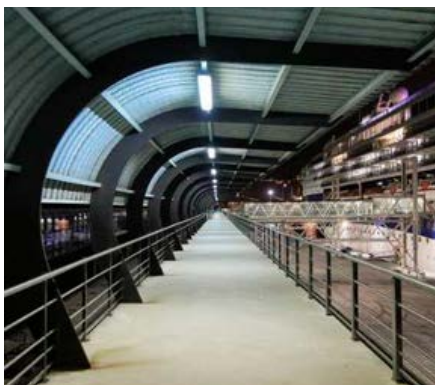
Malaga Cruise Port has become a reference of quality to cruise service at the national level being the first port in Spain to be awarded with a Quality Service Certification concerning Cruise Traffic, also certified with the recognized standards ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 for the management of businesses and environment respectively.



## Terminal A - Turnaround Terminal

State-of-the-art terminal specially designed to host turnaround operations. Luggage handling is carried out with the help of 4 carousels comprising 800 linear

meters in total to handle 7,000 pieces of luggage in just 2.5hours. Two boarding bridges allow a comfortable operation.



A guest information desk, open during the call hours, offers a wide range of services and information of the city, at the same time our shopping area provides an immersive experiential retail journey with duty-free and duty-paid stores, local products and typical shows and tastings turning the moment into a first step into

the city and the Andalusian idiosyncrasy.

It has received the biggest cruise ships like RCI's Oasis class or Carnival Cruise Line's Dream Class, prepared for every single cruise ship in the world.

## Terminal B

Operating several cruise ships simultaneously Terminal B offers full turnaround and transit services to cruise passengers, and it can operate up to three ships simultaneously in transit and/or turnaround, guaranteeing an optimal signing and organization of operations, to ensure a convenient and easy access for cruise passengers.

A completely renewed and involving retail area designed exclusively for cruise passengers improves their experience in our facilities.



# *ZADAR CRUISE PORT HAS RESTARTED CRUISE OPERATIONS & IS SETTING NEW SERVICE EXCELLENCE STANDARDS IN CROATIA*

ZADAR, CROATIA



Zadar is vibrant and unique Dalmatian treasure and destination with immense potential in the cruise industry, which GPH has recognized in 2019 with the opening of brand-new state-of-the-art cruise port terminal, since then operated as Zadar Cruise Port under GPH management. This new cruise port and terminal have been purposely built for transit and turnaround cruise operations and to accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world.



In the past two years Zadar Cruise Port has become the most awarded cruise port in Croatia, having been awarded as Port of the year 2019 by Seatrade Cruise Awards and as the Best New Terminal Development in 2020 by Cruise Insight. Now in 2021 Zadar Cruise Port has been nominated as Europe's Best Cruise Terminal by World Cruise Awards. It is also the only port in Croatia certified with Safe Travels stamp by WTTC.

And it all has not been without the reason, because Zadar Cruise Port is making big efforts in setting new, higher standards in cruise port management and passenger terminal operations in Croatia.

**Rebeka V. Pevec, General Manager of Zadar Cruise Port** and cruise industry shipboard veteran commented: "The essence of these standards is service excellence, creating close partnerships with cruise lines and individual approach to the needs of the ships, guests and crew. As always, the emphasis is on safety, security and hospitality, and we are doing our utmost to make sure that ship's management, guests and crew feel welcomed during their stay at Zadar Cruise Port and while visiting this beautiful destination."



Zadar Cruise Port has been at the forefront of the cruise industry related initiatives in Croatia since the start of the pandemic, working diligently with various local and governmental bodies to ensure safe and successful restart of cruise operations in Croatia and in the Adriatic. After spearheading conversations at the beginning of pandemic to allow foreign ships to arrive for lay-up in Croatian ports, followed by months of conversations with relevant government bodies about lifting the 200 passenger limitation, the most recent success was obtaining governmental decision which allows foreign crew members to be COVID-19 vaccinated in Croatia.

During the pandemic Zadar Cruise Port has welcomed Marella Cruises' ships Marella Dream and Marella Discovery2, and Allseas M/V Bright Spark for lay-up operations. While the restart of cruise operations in July 2021 was marked by Viking Cruises and with the inaugural call of newbuilt Viking Venus, followed by Viking Sea.

In following two months Regent Seven Seas and Holland America Line will have several transit calls as well. Although it is somewhat slow restart for 2021 transit calls, there is significant increase in number of cruise ship calls which are currently being announced for 2022 and consequent years.



# *ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT WELCOMES CELEBRITY EQUINOX AFTER ENHANCING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS*

## ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Premium cruising continued its return to Antigua & Barbuda today as the magnificent Celebrity Equinox sailed into Antigua Cruise Port. Over 2,000 passengers were warmly welcomed to St. John's by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism and Investment: Senator, The Honourable Mary-Clare Hurst along with other tourism executives and representatives of Antigua Cruise Port, the Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority, and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. This Solstice-class ship was the first large vessel to dock at St. John's since the restart of the Antigua & Barbuda cruise season in July.

"We have truly missed the breathtaking sight of the colossal, larger cruise vessels here at the port, so we are extremely excited to welcome Celebrity Equinox," **Dona Regis-Prosper, General Manager at Antigua Cruise Port**, stated enthusiastically. "As with other recent cruise ship visits, the disembarkation of passengers was carefully managed to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. At Antigua Cruise Port, we continue to maintain and enhance our COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols daily to ensure that our facility is as safe as possible for every passenger on every voyage."

She indicated that the Government remains committed to ongoing collaboration with cruise line partners on the development of health protocols.

The Government of Antigua & Barbuda recently revised its COVID-19 protocols, requiring that all cruise passengers over 12 years old are vaccinated. Passengers who are over 2 years old but are not fully vaccinated prior to embarkation were required to present a negative RT PCR COVID-19 test before boarding the ship in Fort Lauderdale.

Remedial works at Heritage Quay, including safety and security upgrades to the facility and passenger experience enhancements to further support reducing the risk of spread of COVID-19, will begin soon. We continue to enhance the port through the implementation of ISPS requirements. Upgrades to the ground transportation area are also included in the works.

Antigua Cruise Port continues to remain a port of choice for the world's top cruise brands, particularly for luxury liners and discussions about homeporting are ongoing.





# *NASSAU CRUISE PORT CEO LEADS \$250,000 FUNDRAISING EFFORT FOR CARIBBEAN MARITIME SCHOLARSHIPS*

NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS



The American Caribbean Maritime Foundation (ACMF) has announced that Mike Maura, Jr. CEO of Nassau Cruise Port Ltd., will serve as the Chairman of the distinguished 2021 Anchor Awards Gala. This highly anticipated annual affair is the premier fundraising event for the ACMF, at which it recognizes and honors top regional performers in the maritime industry. This year, the distinguished honorees are Alyse Lisk, Senior Vice President of Technology & Operational Excellence at Tote LLC and Harriat “Harry” Pershad Maragh, former Chairman and CEO of The Lannaman & Morris Group of Companies.

Mr. Maura, Jr., expressed his enthusiasm about participating in this year’s gala and fundraising efforts. “These honorees are incredibly inspirational. Harry paved the way for locals, like me with dreams of impacting the sector in the region; and Alyse is a role model for the highest level of professionalism in the industry, and of course for women and girls as we seek to encourage more women to participate.”

The grand affair will be held on Friday, November 5, 2021, at the historic New York Yacht Club in Manhattan, New York. The fundraising goal of the gala is to bring in \$250,000 to support the education of the next generation of Caribbean maritime professionals. The Foundation provides full-tuition scholarships and grants to Caribbean nationals who plan to work in the industry and qualify to attend any one of these three academic partners - the Caribbean Maritime University in Jamaica, University of Trinidad and Tobago, and the LJM Maritime Academy in The Bahamas.

“I firmly believe that education is the most empowering force in the world,” Mr. Maura Jr. shared. “As a part of our support of the event, two Nassau Cruise Port Ltd. scholarships will be established and awarded to Caribbean maritime students this year. I think that it is incumbent upon us as regional maritime professionals to help ensure that our best and brightest young minds have access and opportunities in such a vital industry.”

“Seafarers and those who support them make the world go round,” Mr. Maura, Jr. continued. “If we, as Caribbean maritime professionals, do not support and push the development of this sector, we will put the growth of all our economies at risk. If we want to remain competitive in the cruise and maritime sectors, we must give our children a chance – as engineers, navigators, managers, artists, and specialists of every sort – to be a part of it. All of our futures depend on it.”

Geneive Brown Metzger, President of the ACMF, explained why Mr. Maura, Jr. was selected to chair this year’s gala. “Mike is a certainly a trailblazer, so we are very excited to have his support and that of Nassau Cruise Port Ltd. this year. He is a champion in bringing people together and believes strongly in supporting our communities, and that’s what the ACMF is all about – reducing poverty and improving lives through education and advancement. Events like these and those who support them are critical in moving our nations, and our region, forward.”

The ACMF is a United States non-profit organization whose mission is to “alleviate poverty and transform lives in the Caribbean through maritime education and community development.” Past honorees of the Anchor Awards include Michael Bayley, President and CEO of Royal Caribbean International; Rick Sasso, Executive Chairman of MSC Cruises USA; Rick Murrell, Chairman of Tropical Shipping; and Win Thurber, Chairman, President & CEO of Norton Lilly International.



# *EGE PORT KUSADASI & BODRUM CRUISE PORT RENEW SAFE TOURISM CERTIFICATES FOR THE SEASON START*

KUSADASI & BODRUM, TURKEY



Ege Port Kusadasi & Bodrum Cruise Port has fulfilled the right to renew its Safe Tourism Certificates. After going through a detailed audit both ports are inline with the regulations and the framework of "Safe Tourism Certificate Program". This accreditations is a proof of Ege Port Kuşadası's and Bodrum Cruise Port's standards to a safe start to the cruise tourism.

Turkey - Greece sea borders had opened in August for Technical Call, followed by the same permission for yachts. The announcement states that Greece is permitting cruise vessels to call NoN-EU ports for "Technical Call" purposes during their Greece itineraries. In this respect, if cruise vessels arrive in countries (such as Turkey) for which special restrictive measures apply during their itineraries, upon their return to the Greek Territory, they are allowed to continue their journey, without arriving in Greek ports. However, if passengers are not disembarked during the arrival and no interference of passengers happen in these countries, upon their return to the Greek Territory, cruise vessels are allowed to continue their voyage in Greek ports after sending relevant written information, by any appropriate means, to the competent port authorities by the captain at least three 3 hours before the arrival in a Greek port.



**Aziz Gungor, GPH Regional Director of East Med and Ege Port Kusadasi General Manager** commented: "We are ready to welcome cruise passengers as soon as the water borders open between Greece - Turkey for regular cruise calls. Our ports of Bodrum & Kusadasi are open and have ongoing operations. It is of outmost importance to provide the best and safe services to our guests during these times."

# SHALL WE START FROM SARDINIA?

CAGLIARI, ITALY

Tall and elegant buildings in narrow streets of ancient charm, climbed on soft hills that surround the gulf area. Green parks, old Roman villas and large panoramic terraces, where you can admire groups of pink flamingos traveling towards the horizon at sunset. The beauty of Cagliari has fascinated visitors for millennia, and after Punic, Roman, Pisan, Aragonese and Spanish, D. H. Lawrence, in 1921, arriving by ship towards its port, described it as a city of stone, a Jerusalem on the Mediterranean Sea.

It is the sea from which Cagliari has always originated its life and its appeal. Located in the center of the western Mediterranean Sea, on the Italian island of Sardinia, it has always been coveted as a connection point between different destinations and cultures, becoming an exceptional melting pot. Its port still characterizes its soul and adorns the streets of its waterfront, decorating them with boats of all kinds from all over the world.

And here it is, a few steps from its heart, Cagliari Cruise Port, with its modernly built terminal and its large docks always ready to host cruise ships. Both a transit and turnaround port, Cagliari Cruise Port provides full terminal, marine and auxiliary services, continuously updating to always be competitive within the market. The latest improvement is the new wired data network system for ship-to-check-in connection that guarantees excellent connection standards and a faster embarkation.

The city waterfront has also been newly updated: the Port Network Authority of the Sardinia Sea has recently completed several redevelopment works of the port area, such as the "Good Wave", a shading structure which, similar to a wave of wood, embellishes the pedestrian path connecting the port to the city centre, as well as the new cycle-pedestrian path that ends in the freshly inaugurated "Parco del Nervi" (Nervi Park), an equipped green area on the seafront, a unique example of industrial archeology in the port area of Cagliari and a starting point for excursions to discover the naturalistic oasis of Molentargius.

In this context, the international airport of Cagliari-Elmas, located only seven kilometers away from the cruise terminal and the ever wide range of accommodation facilities in the metropolitan area, the valid infrastructure and local transport system, give Cagliari Cruise Port the potential to easily manage intense turnaround operations also with Fly & Cruise or other packages that include pre or post cruise stays. Why not discover the Mediterranean Sea starting from the island with its oldest civilization?



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