

# GPH NEWS

**THE WORLD'S  
LARGEST CRUISE  
PORT OPERATOR**

## **INTERVIEW ECE GURSOY**

GPH's Chief Legal Officer talks about the industry.

## **UPGRADES TO GPH TERMINALS**

Read more about what's happening at GPH ports.

## **INTERVIEW MIKE MAURA, JR.**

Nassau is the place to be this year.



**GLOBAL PORTS  
HOLDING**



# SPOTLIGHT

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**GPH NEWS SPRING 2023 ISSUE**

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Contact [info@globalportsholding.com](mailto:info@globalportsholding.com)

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## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

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### Dear Industry Partners,

As the world's largest cruise port operator, we take pride in playing a significant role in the cruise industry's growth. As we move past the pandemic and gather for another fruitful Seatrade Cruise Global, we are excited to witness the industry's continuous growth, with new cruise lines emerging, old ones returning, and passenger volumes rising.

At Global Ports Holding (GPH), we have had an exciting 2022 and look forward to even more in 2023. We have welcomed several new cruise ports from around the world, including Las Palmas, Lanzarote, and Fuerteventura Cruise Ports in the Canary Islands, Tarragona Cruise Port in Spain, Crotona Cruise Port in Italy, and Prince Rupert Cruise Port in Canada, our first cruise port in the North American region. Furthermore, we have just signed a concession agreement for Alicante Cruise Port, where we plan to refurbish and modernize the cruise terminal. We are also working on several terminal projects aligned with our commitment to sustainability and greener projects with a low carbon footprint.

We are thrilled to announce that the grand opening of Nassau Cruise Port will take place this upcoming May. Our project of over \$250 million will transform the port into one of the world's finest cruise ports through pier upgrades, the extension of select berths, and the establishment of new marina and mega-yacht zones.

At GPH, we are committed to expanding our complementary businesses. Our Global Ports Services company is now up and running. This business is capable of offering an integrated service package to cruise lines in all GPH ports, as well as non-GPH ports around the world. Our team is also developing an app with a leading AI system that will enhance sustainable tourism in port cities.

As you know, we were shaken by the devastating earthquake in Turkiye last month. Considered as one of the largest natural disasters of the century, the earthquake has caused devastation across much of the country. Global Investment Holding, the parent company of GPH, and its group companies have been working with public institutions and civil society organizations to support disaster response efforts. Our ports in Turkey, Kusadasi and Bodrum, are being utilized as logistics centers, and we have started welcoming earthquake victims in our guesthouses. Through our 27 ports across 14 countries, we have set up an earthquake relief campaign in collaboration with local and international NGOs.

We are committed to continuing our partnership with the cruise industry and working together towards a brighter future. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

**Mehmet Kutman**

Chairman & CEO, Global Ports Holding Plc

THE RIGHT  
LEGAL STRUCTURE  
WILL PAVE THE WAY TO THE  
INDUSTRY'S GROWTH.

Meet Ece Gursoy, Chief Legal Officer of Global Ports Holding Plc, based in London, UK. With over 25 years of experience in legal, managerial, financing and strategic expertise, Ece leads the modern in-house lawyers school and uses legal skills and knowledge to advance business growth. She shares her insights on the role of her legal team in driving M&A and expansion plans for GPH, the success story of her legal team, the right legal framework for the cruise industry, the biggest legal challenge in the industry, and where she would like to see GPH in the next five years.

## **Please tell us about yourself. Where are you based?**

I am the Chief Legal Officer of Global Ports Holding Plc and based in London, UK. I have about 25 years of experience at in-house and private practice in England and Turkey blending legal, managerial, financing and strategic expertise. Before Global Ports I acted as CLO and a senior manager in the energy business with private equity and worked at private practice Dentons and White & Case prior to become a CLO.

## **What is the role of your in-house legal team? How does it drive M&A and expansion plans of GPH?**

I am one of the advocates and the leaders of the modern inhouse lawyers school. I deliver the legal function as a conduit to effective business growth, therefore at GPH, our Legal team combines the legal expertise with the commercial realities of the company and sector. We closely work with all the commercial teams, work side by side and use legal skills and knowledge as a tool to advance the company's business and create sector specific law. We act not only as preventative lawyers but also create the structures for the M&A and operational teams at the outset of the projects. Particularly in growth businesses, the role of the well positioned legal teams are key for the success. This is more than providing strict legal advice or company secretarial support together with litigation support. As the general counsel with my C level hat, my team's contribution to the business extends across diverse areas such as strategic planning, efficient legal and bankable documentation, financial affairs, business processes and project management. We serve directly to the core expansion and company's commercial growth. This is of course in addition to all the functions that carry out including compliance, corporate governance in 14 jurisdictions together with loan compliance, UK listing rule compliance and all sort of commercial and construction contracts.

## **Why is your legal team a success story?**

When creating the relevant legal documentation, we provide the right legal structures that addresses the day to day commercial, operational and financial needs of the projects and the assets. More importantly, when creating these structures, we also try and make sure that it also works for the wider stakeholders for the sector itself to benefit from it and through these we create the law for the industry.

## **How do you see the right legal framework for the Cruise Industry?**

The cruise sector did not have the right legal framework that protects and serves various stakeholders including the authorities, passengers and operators. As GPH we introduced bankable concession agreements, port operation and management agreements that not only protects authorities and operators but also creates an efficient operations model with the right legal protections that provides better results for the passengers. By addressing the day to day operational needs and realities in our contracts, we created law for the industry. It is also important to note that those bankable contracts attracted sophisticated financing models to various jurisdiction and led the way to limited to non-recourse financing as well.

From the enhanced guest experience perspective, we have created new services in our ports and through that, new model agreements were created. These agreements put everyone's rights fairly into the structure and protect the passengers welfare. Having said that, there is still room for improvement and we need to make sure that passengers continue to get the best services through the right legal structures.





### **What is the biggest challenge from legal perspective in the industry right now?**

As GPH we have operations in over 14 countries, while it is such a big achievement, the management of it from the legal risk perspective is not easy. There is no uniform set of regulations and structures that applies to the sector across the world. It is challenging to ensure that we comply separate set of regulations and requirements for each jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction requires a transition period to make sure that our systems are established properly so that GPH would be able to provide the best services in line with the applicable laws and rules. While jurisdictional differences are inevitable I believe it would create great results if we manage to have seamless set of rules that regulates the core behaviour and the services of the sector across the globe.



### **Looking into your crystal ball, where would you like to see GPH in the next 5 years?**

GPH has already paved the way for its next 5 years and it has undoubtedly secured its place as the world's largest cruise port operator. It has set the high standards and established the uniformed methods on port management with the right solutions, innovation and technical knowledge, comprehensive infrastructure, design and state-of the art terminals and improved guest experience. I believe GPH will continue to introduce the solutions to enhance the quality of its port management services without stopping the growth activities.

# **GPH HAS HIGH STANDARDS AND UNIFORMED METHODS FOR PORT MANAGEMENT.**



# A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EXCEPTIONAL CRUISE PORT DEVELOPMENT

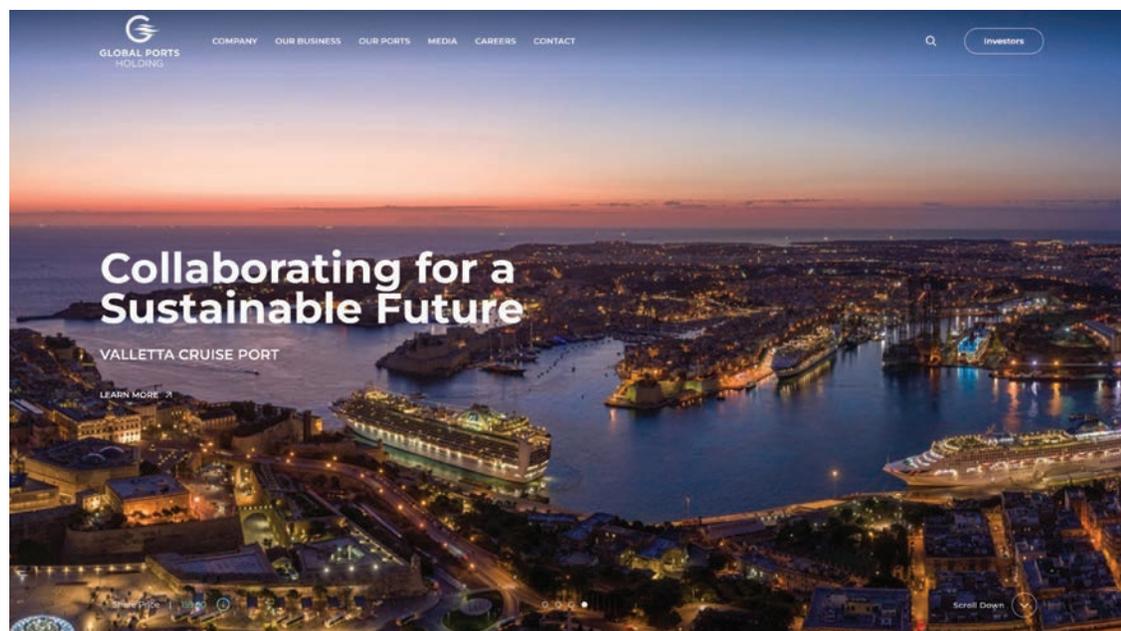
Global Ports Holding operates some of the most exceptional and memorable cruise ports in the world focused on the cruise experience for passengers, highlighting the need to embody a commitment to excellence in service and customer satisfaction in the design of these terminals.

By taking a holistic approach to terminal design, GPH prioritizes the needs of passengers and the surrounding community with functional and efficient designs that incorporate clear and intuitive wayfinding, ample seating areas, and a range of convenient amenities. With a strong emphasis on sustainability, its terminal designs utilize energy-efficient technologies and minimize environmental impact through waste reduction.

Moreover, Global Ports Holding incorporates contemporary and welcoming design elements that reflect local culture and environment, in addition to state-of-the-art security systems, including CCTV coverage, security personnel, and other measures to ensure the safety and security of passengers and staff.

The company's commitment to designing functional, sustainable, and secure terminals that embody values of excellence and customer satisfaction sets it apart from competitors. As Global Ports Holding continues to expand its operations, this approach to terminal design will remain a top priority.

**GPH  
LAUNCHES  
IT'S NEW  
WEBSITE**



[www.globalportsholding.com](http://www.globalportsholding.com)

# IT'S BEEN AN AWARDFUL 2022!

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

AWARDS		PORT
Seatrade Cruise Awards	Destination of the Year	TARANTO
World Travel Awards	Europe's Leading Cruise Port	LISBON
World Cruise Awards	World's Best Cruise Terminal for Sustainability	VALLETTA
World Cruise Awards	World's Best New Cruise Development	NASSAU
World Cruise Awards	Asia's Best Cruise Destination	SINGAPORE
World Cruise Awards	Asia's Best Cruise Terminal	HA LONG
World Cruise Awards	Europe's Best Cruise Terminal	LISBON
Premios Cruceroadicto	Best Port of Call Global	VALLETTA



# MILAN PORT EQUIPMENT

## INTRODUCING THE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE OF GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING AND TALLERES MILAN:

Global Ports Holding, the world's largest cruise port operator, has formed a strategic alliance with Talleres Milan, a company with over 70 years of experience in the naval and industrial sector. In line with Global Ports Holding's strategy to provide a one-stop solution for the cruise industry, the alliance, Milan Port Equipment, will offer a complete, turnkey project for all your port equipment needs. With a focus on four key pillars - security, passenger experience, eco-efficiency, and health & safety - Milan Port Equipment provides a comprehensive range of services, from design to construction, repair, and maintenance.

GET THE  
BEST OF  
BOTH  
WORLDS



With GPH's expertise in design and product development, and Talleres Milan's extensive experience in the naval and industrial sector, you can trust us to bring your ideas to life. From boarding bridges and scales to hydraulic equipment and luggage trolleys, our team of experts is dedicated to creating tailored solutions for both public and private companies in the ferry and cruise business.

**DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,  
REPAIR, MAINTENANCE  
ALL IN ONE PLACE**

[www.milanportequipment.com](http://www.milanportequipment.com)



## WHO DOESN'T ENJOY A LOT OF SUNSHINE?

Fuerteventura is one of the Canary Islands, located in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Morocco. It is known for its stunning beaches, clear turquoise waters, and year-round sunshine. One of the main attractions on the island is the Parque Natural de Corralejo, a protected nature reserve that features sand dunes, beaches, and volcanic rock formations. The island is also home to several other beautiful beaches, such as Playa de Cofete, Playa de Sotavento, and Playa del Castillo.

In addition to its beaches, Fuerteventura offers many other attractions for visitors. The island's capital, Puerto del Rosario, is home to several museums and art galleries, including the Casa Museo de Unamuno, which is dedicated to the famous Spanish writer Miguel de Unamuno. The island is also known for its traditional festivals and celebrations, such as the Carnival of Fuerteventura, which takes place in February, and the Festival of San Juan, which is celebrated in June.

Finally, Fuerteventura is a popular destination for outdoor activities, such as hiking, cycling, and water sports. Visitors can explore the island's volcanic landscapes, go surfing or windsurfing, or take a boat trip to see dolphins and whales in the surrounding waters.



## DISCOVER THE HIDDEN CAVES OF LANZAROTE

Lanzarote is known for its stunning natural landscapes, unique geology, and cultural attractions. The island is dominated by volcanic formations, shaped by years of eruptions and weathering. The landscape is characterized by rugged coastlines, volcanic peaks, and vast plains of black, volcanic soil.

The island's climate is warm and dry, with average temperatures ranging from 18 to 25 degrees Celsius throughout the year. This makes Lanzarote a popular destination for tourists seeking sunshine and relaxation.

In addition to its natural beauty, Lanzarote is also home to a range of cultural attractions, including museums, art galleries, and historical sites. The island's capital, Arrecife, is a charming old town with narrow streets and historic buildings.

Lanzarote is a great destination for outdoor enthusiasts, with activities such as hiking, cycling, and watersports available year-round. There are also many beaches, some of which are famous for their stunning white sand and crystal-clear waters. Visitors can also sample the local cuisine, which includes fresh seafood, traditional stews, and local wines.



# IT'S TIME TO VISIT ZADAR

Cruising to Zadar is an excellent way to experience this beautiful Croatian city. Many Mediterranean cruise itineraries include a stop in Zadar, which is often described as one of the most beautiful cities on the Adriatic coast.

As you approach the port of Zadar, you will be greeted by stunning views of the city's Old Town and the surrounding landscape. The port is located only a few minutes from the city center.

You can spend the day exploring the charming streets of the Old Town, which is packed with historic buildings, museums, and local shops. Visitors can also take a stroll along the city's famous seafront promenade, which offers stunning views of the Adriatic Sea and nearby islands.

One of the best ways to experience Zadar's rich history is by visiting the Roman Forum, a well-preserved complex of ancient ruins that date back to the 1st century BC. Other top attractions include the Cathedral of St. Anastasia, a beautiful Gothic church, and the unique circular building of the Church of St. Donatus.

Zadar is also known for its delicious local cuisine, which includes fresh seafood, local wines, and traditional Croatian dishes. Visitors can sample the local cuisine at one of the many restaurants and cafes located throughout the city. Overall, cruising to Zadar is an unforgettable journey.



## THE PEARL OF HA LONG BAY

Ha Long Bay is a beautiful and popular travel destination located in the northeastern region of Vietnam. Cruising in Ha Long Bay is a wonderful way to explore the stunning landscape of the bay, which features thousands of towering limestone islands and islets, emerald waters, and beautiful caves.

**Scenic views:** The most popular attraction in Ha Long Bay is the stunning scenery. You can take a boat tour or go kayaking to explore the area, see the many islands, and rock formations that make up the bay. There are also many lookout points on land where you can take in the beautiful views.

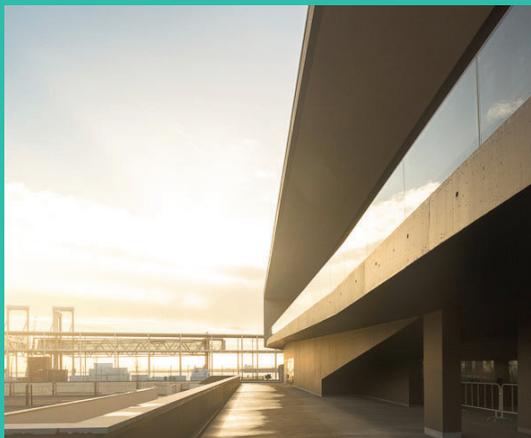
**Caves:** Ha Long Bay is home to many caves and grottoes, which are known for their unique geological formations and stunning beauty. Some of the most popular caves to explore include Sung Sot Cave, Luon Cave, and Thien Cung Cave.

**Beaches:** While there are few beaches in Ha Long Bay, there are a few that are worth visiting, including Ti Top Island and Cat Ba Island. These beaches offer crystal-clear waters and a chance to relax and enjoy the scenery.

**Floating villages:** The local fishing villages in Ha Long Bay are a unique attraction, as many of the residents still live in traditional floating houses. You can take a boat tour to visit these villages and learn about the local way of life.

**Seafood:** Ha Long Bay is known for its fresh seafood, so be sure to try some of the local dishes while you are there. Some of the most popular dishes include grilled squid, steamed clams, and fried fish.

**Sunsets and sunrises:** The sunsets and sunrises in Ha Long Bay are some of the most beautiful in the world. You can take a boat tour to watch the sun go down over the bay area.



## THE THRIVING CRUISE INDUSTRY IN LISBON

Cruise tourism has been a significant contributor to the growth of the tourism industry in Lisbon. With its rich history, beautiful scenery, and thriving economy, Lisbon has become a top destination for tourists worldwide. In a recent study conducted by the Nova School of Business and Economics, the impact of the cruise industry on the local economy was evaluated. The results of the study were published earlier this month and they are impressive.

According to the study, the cruise industry in Lisbon has contributed to an increase in production of 840 million euros. The local economy has also benefited from a value-added of 336 million euros in the GDP, while generating 133 million euros in taxes. Additionally, 8,863 new jobs were created, providing more opportunities for locals to work and earn a livelihood.

It is not just the financial impact that makes the cruise industry so important to Lisbon. Cruise passengers spend an average of 2.1 days in the city before embarking and 1.5 days after disembarking. This provides an opportunity for them to explore the city, learn about its history, and experience its culture. 65% of the cruise passengers plan to revisit Lisbon in the future, highlighting the positive impact the cruise industry has on tourism and the overall perception of Lisbon as a desirable destination.

The results of the study confirm that the cruise industry is an essential contributor to the local economy and the growth of the city. As the cruise industry continues to thrive, it is essential that stakeholders in the industry work together to ensure that it is sustainable and benefits everyone involved.



## ARE YOU A NATURE LOVER OR HISTORY BUFF?

Kalundborg is a municipality in the western part of Zealand, Denmark, and is located on the shores of the Kalundborg Fjord. The town is known for its rich history, scenic beauty, and cultural heritage. Kalundborg is home to several notable landmarks and attractions that make it an ideal destination for tourists and travelers. One of the most iconic landmarks in Kalundborg is the 12th-century Church of Our Lady, a stunning example of Romanesque architecture. The church is one of the best-preserved buildings from the medieval era and is a popular destination for visitors who are interested in history and architecture. Another notable attraction is the Kalundborg Museum, which offers a fascinating insight into the town's history, culture, and traditions.

Nature lovers will also find much to enjoy in Kalundborg, as the town is surrounded by beautiful countryside and offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Kalundborg Fjord is a wonderful place for swimming, fishing, and boating, and there are also several nature reserves and hiking trails in the area.

In summary, Kalundborg is a picturesque town that offers a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, and is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in exploring the best of Denmark.

A TRULY  
AUTHENTICALLY  
BAHAMIAN EXPERIENCE

## A TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT FOR NASSAU

Mike Maura Jr., GPH Regional Director, Americas and CEO of Nassau Cruise Port Ltd. describes all the excitement to come with the completion of the \$300 million revitalization and expansion of **Nassau Cruise Port (NCP) in The Bahamas**.

### Tell us about the Nassau Cruise Port project.

Revitalization of Nassau Cruise Port is almost complete. Set to open in late May 2023, our project aims to showcase the sights, sounds, flavour, and culture of The Bahamas. From the moment a guest steps onto our newly refurbished piers, they will be stepping into a new Nassau, and a reimagined destination. The 11 acre redevelopment of the Nassau waterfront includes an immersive Junkanoo experience at the Junkanoo Museum, authentic Bahamian retail, food and beverage offerings, an Amphitheatre, art gallery and much more.. The project considers a keen focus on all things "Authentically Bahamian", and guests will be encouraged to immerse themselves in Bahamian culture. Entertainment will be a key factor at Nassau Cruise Port, with the Amphitheatre having the ability to showcase everything from concerts and musical performances to cultural shows, poetry competitions and simulcast sports events on large digital screens.

### Why is it important for the Nassau Cruise Port experience to be "Authentically Bahamian?"

Nassau has been a port for over 500 years, enjoyed by pirates and traders of all nationalities. In 2019, in support of the desire to elevate the guest experience in and around downtown Nassau, The Bahamas government partnered with GPH to not only redevelop the city's historic waterfront but to position authentic Bahamian goods, services, works of art, music, entertainment, apparel, and more at the doorstep of the cruise port. Part of reimagining of Nassau as a destination involves discovering what makes Nassau special. We want our guests to take home not only beautiful, handcrafted, unique mementos, but one of a kind garments, locally produced jewelry, handbags, chocolates, and even sample culinary works of art produced by young Bahamians enrolled in the University of The Bahamas Culinary Program - all creating wonderful memories during their visit with us.

In 2021, Nassau Cruise Port Ltd., in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation, formed the Authentically Bahamian Advisory Committee and brought together stakeholders and creative authorities to assist in the curation of authentic Bahamian product offerings. In all facets of our business, we are looking to offer a truly Bahamian experience for the 4 million guests projected to visit Nassau by sea. The authentic Bahamian offering serves to promote an important aspect of the Bahamian culture while differentiating the port destination from the many others that source their souvenirs from abroad and generally sell the same foreign produced items. The Nassau waterfront redevelopment is a component of the Bahamas government's destination development plan. The government's initiative will see improvements and expansion in the city experience and heritage site offerings, all supporting the Bahamas experience.





### **What makes The Bahamas special as a cruise destination?**

The Bahamas is only 50 miles southeast off the coast of Florida, and world-famous Nassau is served by three of the largest and busiest turnaround cruise ports in the world - PortMiami, Port Everglades, and Port Canaveral, within easy cruising distance. Nassau is the busiest single transit port in the world, and cruising in Nassau has been around for decades. There are 700 islands and cays which make up the archipelago of The Bahamas, and each destination is unique and breathtakingly beautiful. Nassau was formally designated the capital city over 300 years ago and was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Arts in 2014. The Bahamas is famous for its sun, sand and sea – vibrant turquoise waters that are crystal clear to a depth of 200ft. Given its close proximity to the United States, for guests arriving by air and sea, it's a short trip from home and is a popular destination for family vacations and repeat visits.

### **When will Nassau Cruise Port officially open?**

Our cruise guests have been watching the steady development of our new Nassau waterfront since 2021. We are pleased to advise that the highly anticipated Grand Opening is set for the weekend of May 26, 2023. We are planning to showcase a taste of the Best of The Bahamas, through Bahamian entertainment, retail offerings, bites, and beverages. We will have a concert at our new Amphitheater and will feature local and international acts in a two-day celebration to usher in a reimagined destination in the heart of downtown Nassau.

### **What is an initiative your team is especially proud of?**

In 2021 we launched our sustainability brand, It's In Our Hands, which is symbolized by a green turtle surfacing from time to time in Nassau harbour. Nassau Cruise Port has a 25ft boat, Pier Pressure, which patrols the harbour each day removing garbage from our marine environment. The Nassau Cruise Port project also aims to generate 1MW of solar power through solar panels harnessing the power of the beautiful Bahamian sunshine. The team at NCP is also looking into a comprehensive recycling program to keep our port clean, and to minimize our ecological footprint. Our goal in the years ahead is to produce 100% of our power from sun and sea.

## **NASSAU CRUISE PORT IS THE PLACE TO BE IN 2023!**



## NASSAU CRUISE PORT GOES THE EXTRA MILE IN SUPPORT OF LEGACY TENANTS

Over the last three years, and more recently the last 12 months, Nassau Cruise Port has been engaging its legacy Marketplace Tenants (former Festival Place tenants) to support them and enable them to thrive in the new cruise port.

Training sessions have been held monthly on everything from budgeting and bookkeeping to merchandising and customer service. Like all tenants at Nassau Cruise Port, the focus and mandate are on authenticity, and offering truly Bahamian wares.

Supported by the Authentically Bahamian Advisory Committee, this group of tenants has been encouraged to engage in the craft cottage industry and to carry only unique, Bahamian-made products within their boutiques. Recently, prototypes of the Marketplace Boutiques were unveiled, and a training session was held on the principles and best practices of merchandising. Nassau Cruise Port is bolstering these entrepreneurs in new and innovative ways to improve the offerings within the port for the millions of guests annually who will visit the new Nassau.



## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TURKISH SOUVENIRS AT EGE PORT KUSADASI

Opened back in July 2022, Global Portier is the new "Bazaar" art shopping concept located at Ege Port Kusadasi. Connecting the Passenger Terminal to Scala Nuova Village Shopping Center, the bazaar offers a wide range of high-quality authentic Turkish souvenirs and products, including Zultanite silver jewelry, traditional Turkish ceramics, and delicious Turkish delights.

What makes Global Portier stand out is its commitment to providing excellent customer service and high-quality products. Visitors can easily find the perfect souvenir or gift without the worry of getting lost or running out of time to explore the town.

Overall, Global Portier is the perfect destination for cruise passengers who want to discover the best of Turkish souvenirs and products. With its convenient location, high-quality products, and commitment to excellent customer service, Global Portier is a must-visit for anyone interested in exploring Turkish culture.

## HOMEPORTING STARTS AT ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT

Antigua Cruise Port successfully commenced homeporting operations on January 28, 2023. P&O Arvia made its inaugural homeporting call at the fifth berth at Antigua Cruise Port to a warm and exciting welcome, receiving widespread acclaim.

Arvia is the largest vessel to ever call on Antigua. Captain Paul Brown spoke positively about the work that has been done to accommodate larger vessels at the port. Homeporting has created greater economic opportunities for the twin-island nation, which depends primarily on tourism for its revenue. Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez thanked the Antigua Cruise Port team for its hard work and said the government is, "...very fortunate to have a partner such as GPH."

Antigua Cruise Port General Manager, Dona Regis- Prosper said, "We want to ensure that we set ourselves apart as leaders in the cruise industry. We do not want to continue doing what was done before but we want to show that we are able to bring a tangible change to the cruise sector in Antigua & Barbuda."

During this inaugural call, Arvia passengers were treated to a full day of entertainment including pan music, stilt walkers, an iron band, and an unforgettable sendoff with fireworks as the vessel departed. Local entertainment will continue to feature at Antigua Cruise Port for all upcoming calls.





## DISCOVER THE CHARM OF BODRUM

Bodrum is one of the most special tourism centers in the world with its bougainvillea, wooden gulets, magnificent hotels, blue and green, but also natural ethnic beauties. It will make you feel the hospitality of Turkish culture and the blending of European ambience with Turkish culture with the contribution of tourism.

It is an Aegean town. Everywhere you look, you are greeted by the smiling faces of the Aegean. Whatever details you are looking for, you will find answers to Turkish culture, magnificent local cuisine, local stalls, luxury shops, nightlife, international festivals, races, or concerts in Bodrum.

Bodrum Cruise Port, a unique option for the East Mediterranean cruise route, is the only cruise port in this region. The old city of Halicarnassus, where Mausoleum, one of the seven wonders of the world, is located, also hosts concerts in the Bodrum Antique Theater, which has the most beautiful views during the summer months.

In this direction, Bodrum Cruise Port offers a peaceful cruise destination in this luxury city to all cruise ships up to 350 meters with its dock that is available for overnight stay.

The port, which also serves ferries, yachts, and mega yachts between the Greek Islands and Bodrum, has a parking area for +100 vehicles. Bodrum Cruise Port is in Bodrum city center with its terminal building, which also has duty-free facilities.



## THE BEST OF SARDINIA

### EXPERIENCE THE SARDINIAN CULTURE WITH CAGLIARI

Cagliari itself is a beautiful city with a rich history and culture. The city is on the Gulf of Angels and boasts a mix of architectural styles, including ancient Roman ruins, medieval fortifications, and Art Nouveau buildings. Visitors can explore the historic old town, which is perched on a hill overlooking the sea, and take in stunning views of the city and surrounding countryside.

For the new cruise season Cagliari Cruise Port has invested in a renewed shopping experience within its cruise terminal featuring local products to promote the territory. This choice is part of the Company's "Glocal" strategy, GLObal reach, local touch, aimed at supporting the knowledge of local activities in the international cruise line market.

Right from disembarkation, the cruise passengers will find themselves immersed in Sardinian culture, food and wine, precious handicrafts, and folklore. It is important for us to introduce the City from the very first moments, before even leaving the port, the features of a region, Sardinia, increasingly known and appreciated throughout the world.

Cagliari Cruise Port is also strengthening the relationships with the Authorities and the Municipality, instrumental to the achievement of corporate goals and to the creation of events and initiatives that engage tourists. This enhances the already positive experience of cruise passengers who, year after year, visit Cagliari during their holidays.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GUESTS IN TARANTO

For the new season Taranto Cruise Port launches a larger and improved cruise terminal with the aim of enhancing hospitality and encouraging the development of cruise ship turnaround activities, thus increasing the number of embarkations and disembarkations.

The new structure allows the Company to improve the tourist experience with a better Guest Information Center, a flagship service provided by Global Ports Holding's cruise terminals, and to introduce new stores, which will boost the promotion of the territory and of local products.

Costa Cruises will be the main cruise company for the new season and will allow a substantial increase in the number of cruise passengers visiting and departing from the city of Taranto.

Thanks to these investments and the strengthening of the relationships with the Authorities, Taranto is increasing its attractiveness to travelers from all over the world. Taranto has been selected as the Destination of the Year at Seatrade Cruise Awards and has been developing as a cruise destination through collaboration of all stakeholders, with modern facilities and a range of services for visitors. The port is located near the historic city center and is within walking distance of many popular tourist attractions, including the Taranto National Archaeological Museum, the Aragonese Castle, and the Cattedrale di San Cataldo.



## AN UPGRADE TO CATANIA CRUISE PORT



Catania Cruise Port confirms its goal of facilitating and enhancing the embarkation and disembarkation activities at its cruise terminal. The port has restored the interior of the facilities for the upcoming 2023 cruise season. The renovation includes new partnerships with retailers, with a focus on local products for the cruise passengers to be immediately immersed in the Sicilian way of life.

As proof of the quality of work carried out so far, Costa Cruises has once again chosen Catania as partial turnaround port and will be the main cruise line calling Catania Cruise Port in 2023.

Catania is known for its rich history and culture, with ancient architecture, lively markets, and a vibrant nightlife scene. The city is home to several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the Baroque style city center, which features ornate churches, palaces, and public buildings. Visitors can also explore the Roman Amphitheater, the Roman Baths, and the Ursino Castle, dating back to the 13th century.

Catania Cruise Port, located near the city center, is equipped with all the necessary facilities to ensure a smooth disembarkation and embarkation process. The terminal has a large waiting area, cafes, and shops, as well as immigration and customs facilities. It serves as a gateway to many popular tourist destinations in Sicily, including Mount Etna, Taormina, and Syracuse.



## A NEW DESTINATION TO DISCOVER: CROTONE

Crotone Cruise Port is located about 3 km from the city center and can accommodate ships up to 200 meters in length on the east coast of Calabria, Italy, facing the Ionian Sea. A port city, Crotone, has a rich history and cultural heritage, with many archaeological sites and historical monuments, such as the Castle of Charles V, the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, and the National Archaeological Museum of Crotone. After a year full of successful operations, Crotone Cruise Port is ready to start its second season with a cruise schedule that runs from March to October.



Crotone Cruise Port proves that the city is a place of particular interest for developing the luxury segment. Through promotion of the city and its surroundings with the aim of supporting the community in showing its ancient cultural heritage, naturalistic beauty, and culinary excellence to an increasingly large public in the best way possible.

Besides, the strong relationships with all the main stakeholders are particularly useful to engage tourists and make the day spent in the city unforgettable. Of interest is the project of the local administration "Visit Crotone", an app that introduces a targeted tourist offer aimed at promoting and informing guests about what sets the city apart. Through various thematic itineraries, tourists will be able to get to know the city from different points of view based on their own interests.

Thanks to the work of Crotone Cruise Port, the Municipality, organizations and associations, Crotone will increasingly become a destination of international interest.



## TARRAGONA FEATURED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

The prestigious newspaper The New York Times has published a list of the 52 best cities to travel to in 2023 and has chosen Tarragona as one of the best places in the world. The American newspaper places the capital of Tarragona in position number 31, highlighting its tourist and gastronomic attractions.

The main argument of the prestigious newspaper to recommend Tarragona is its Roman legacy, World Heritage. He affirms that "it is one of the oldest Roman settlements in the Iberian Peninsula. The impressive ruins of Tarraco, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, transform the city into an open-air museum, from the powerful Roman walls to the amphitheater framed by the Mediterranean.

In Europe there are only 16 destinations, including Tarragona ahead of Madrid, which ranks 44th. News like this supports the commitment of Global Ports Holding to manage the cruise terminal in Tarragona. Its strategic location in the Mediterranean, just 1 hour south of Barcelona airport, and the wide range of excursions that can be offered from this port, make it especially attractive. The terminal is currently under construction and will be operational in the first quarter of 2024.



## LA GOULETTE AWAITS A GREAT SEASON AHEAD

After a fruitful season in 2022, which saw the return of the cruise industry to La Goulette, 2023 appears to be a season full of promise with more than 44 calls scheduled.

La Goulette Cruise Port will welcome cruise visitors from all over the world into its village, which has more than 40 shops. The village's various locally produced goods reflect the Tunisian culture, and its restaurants serve a variety of traditional Tunisian dishes.

Mr. Sami Debbiche, La Goulette Cruise Port General Manager commented: "We are excited to start this cruise season as we will receive more calls this year. And we hope this number will continue to increase during this season and those yet to come.

We will continue to provide our business partners with the best services while taking all necessary precautions for their health and safety."

La Goulette is the gateway to Tunis, the capital of Tunisia and one of many beautiful places to visit such as Medina, which is one of the best-preserved Arab-Muslim cities in the world, along with Sidi Bou Said and Carthage. All these places are worth visiting and offer a glimpse into the rich history of Tunisia.



## VALLETTA CRUISE PORT CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Valletta Cruise Port is fresh from celebrating its 20th anniversary. As part of the celebrations Valletta Cruise Port held a party within the historic Magazzino Hall with various stakeholders in attendance. During the event, 19 staff members who have provided 10, 15 and 20 years of service to the company received a gift in appreciation of their loyalty and commitment.

Stephen Xuereb, COO of Global Ports Holding and CEO of Valletta Cruise Port said: "I am so proud to have been part of this company since inception and to have led it over the past 8 years! It has been an eventful journey with plenty of milestones along the way.

The early days allowed us to return a formerly neglected historical site to its majestic state, such as Grand Master Pinto himself intended back in 1752. There is a success story to tell on the cruise operations side with year-on-year growth, with most cruise companies now being regular callers to our islands.

We are now strategically placed as one of the top Mediterranean ports-of-call, and a flourishing homeport. Valletta Cruise Port has carved a name for itself in the industry, and this is thanks to the support and commitment of all stakeholders."

Guests were treated to a photography exhibition by Davide Degano, showcasing photos of the Valletta Cruise Project, in what was formerly the engine room of the first Powerhouse in Malta, opened exclusively for the evening. The photos are a prelude to an upcoming publication that will showcase Valletta Cruise Port's milestones and achievements through photography and anecdotes.





## MORE THAN A PORT, A THRIVING EVENT VENUE

In December and in perfect sync with Port Authority, Malaga Cruise Port Terminal B hosted the Runners Fair as an essential part of the Generali Marathon celebrated in Málaga every year. This race called more than 8.000 runners, with 50% of them coming from out of the country and around the world.

The Runner's fair was celebrated two days before the race, where runners could pick up their bib number and visit all the little sponsors with their products exhibited in our facilities. Most of them, local suppliers related to the sport environment.

The race is consolidated over the years with great acceptance from the citizens and all the city take part and feel evolved. The port surroundings were a huge part of the tour, and the most charming, by visiting the city center, the Palmeral & Muelle uno and Levante quay and our facilities.

Malaga Cruise Port has worked hard in collaboration with the City hall, the PA and the local companies hearing the necessities of the city, promoting the facilities for this kind of activities and events, offering the spaces as venue to host professional events since 2015. In coordination with the Cruise Schedule and always aligned with the local authorities, this type of activities is increasing all over the years significantly and revitalizing the cruise low season, bringing also secondary revenues and opportunities to be taken.



PRESERVING  
THE TASTE OF  
NATURE

## IT'S SHOREX TIME IN PRINCE RUPERT

GPH has sponsored the Prince Rupert Olde Town Trolley Company in acquiring trolleys to provide Shorex for the incoming cruise passengers. Prince Rupert Cruise Port (PRCP) is located at the heart of British Columbia, just 40 miles from Alaska, one of the largest cruise markets in the world and ideally placed for cruise itineraries to and from the key homeports in the region, including Seattle and Vancouver.

With the introduction of the vintage style Trolley experience, passengers will be able to explore the city's history. A local expert and guide will take the visitors through the rainbow city neighborhoods, past Service Park, and the serene downtown core while sharing stories of the boom, bust, and rebuilding of the tumultuous economy.

Prince Rupert Cruise Port serves as the gateway to a beautiful city that is known for its stunning natural beauty, nestled in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest, one of the largest remaining temperate rainforests in the world. The area is home to an assortment of wildlife, including grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, and cougars, salmon, humpback whales, and other marine life.

With its existing infrastructure and capacity to accommodate larger vessels, PRCP is well-equipped to handle a significant rise in passenger traffic. At the helm is Kevin D'Costa, an industry veteran, as General Manager for PRCP. Kevin, in collaboration with local partners have set out to create engaging programs that showcase the region's rich heritage, culture, cuisine, and the incredibly diverse flora and fauna of the Great Bear Rainforest. These efforts will establish Prince Rupert as an essential stop for cruise ships and an ideal destination for travelers seeking an immersive and authentic experience.



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