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SUMMER 2024

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TARRAGONA CRUISE PORT, SPAIN



SPOTLIGHT

INTERVIEW ALBA COLET

A new terminal for
Tarragona Cruise Port

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INTERVIEW RUBÉN VIÑUALES

Words from
the Mayor of Tarragona

GPH NEWS SUMMER 2024 ISSUE

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THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND INNOVATION.



Meet Alba Colet, General Manager of Tarragona Cruise Port. Alba has been instrumental in developing strategies to attract cruise tourism to Tarragona, leveraging her marketing expertise to drive the port's growth. As GM, she is dedicated to overseeing exciting new developments and ensuring an exceptional experience for all passengers and stakeholders.

Can you tell us about yourself?

I bring a wealth of experience from my nine years in the tourism sector's marketing department, which equipped me with a deep understanding of how to promote and enhance travel experiences. Transitioning to the cruise sector in 2013, I collaborated closely with the Port Authority to attract cruise tourism to Tarragona, using my marketing skills to develop successful strategies.

These experiences have significantly influenced my career by allowing me to blend my marketing expertise with the maritime industry, ultimately leading to my role as General Manager of Tarragona Cruise Port. Here, I continue to apply my knowledge to drive growth and innovation, ensuring exceptional experiences for our passengers and stakeholders.

What are your thoughts on the recent inauguration of the new cruise terminal at Tarragona Cruise Port?

The inauguration of the new cruise terminal at Tarragona Cruise Port, operated by Global Ports Holding, marks a significant milestone for us. This state-of-the-art facility is a testament to our commitment to excellence, sustainability, and innovation. It represents a new era for Tarragona as a key player in the Mediterranean cruise market, offering modern amenities and a seamless experience for both passengers and cruise lines. We are excited about the opportunities this terminal brings for the local economy and tourism.

How does being part of GPH help Tarragona Cruise Port stay ahead in a competitive cruise industry?

Being part of Global Ports Holding provides us with invaluable resources and expertise. GPH's extensive network of ports and their experience in managing cruise operations globally allows us to adopt best practices and innovative solutions. This affiliation also gives us access to a broader market and promotional opportunities. GPH's commitment to sustainability and excellence aligns perfectly with our goals, helping us stay ahead in the competitive cruise industry.

How is Tarragona Cruise Port positioning itself in the competitive Mediterranean cruise market?

Tarragona Cruise Port is leveraging its unique cultural heritage, strategic location, and world-class facilities to stand out in the competitive Mediterranean market. We are actively marketing our destination at international cruise industry events, building strong relationships with cruise lines, and offering tailored services to meet the needs of both cruise operators and passengers. Our focus on providing a high-quality, sustainable, and memorable experience sets us apart from other ports.

Tarragona's rich cultural heritage, including its status as a UNESCO destination due to its Roman legacy, the Poblet Monastery, and the Biosphere Reserve of the Ebro Delta, enhances our appeal. We also celebrate the Mediterranean diet and the tradition of human towers, both recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. These unique attributes make Tarragona an even more attractive destination for international cruise passengers.

Additionally, the nearby attractions further enhance our port's appeal. Reus, known for its modernist architecture and as the birthplace of Antoni Gaudí, offers a rich cultural experience. PortAventura World is one of Europe's largest theme parks in Europe, it provides fun and adventure for all ages. The region's wine tourism is also noteworthy, with exquisite local wines and vineyards offering tours and tastings. The combination of cultural, recreational, and gastronomic experiences ensures that visitors have a diverse and enriching experience when they arrive in Tarragona.



Could you elaborate on some of the key environmentally friendly technologies?

As all the ports of GPH, sustainability is at the core of our new terminal's design. Strategically located at the Moll de Balears of Port Tarragona, the new terminal has been meticulously designed with a focus on functionality, energy efficiency, and passenger comfort. We have incorporated a range of environmentally friendly technologies and practices, such as energy-efficient lighting, solar panels, and advanced waste management systems. Additionally, we have implemented water-saving fixtures and landscaping with native plants to minimize water usage. Safety and accessibility have been fundamental pillars in its design, with the implementation of advanced measures to ensure a comfortable and secure experience for all passengers, including those with reduced mobility.

Moreover, the port is analyzing the equipment for shore power capabilities, allowing ships to plug into the local power grid instead of using their engines while docked, significantly reducing emissions.

What does this new terminal mean for the future of Tarragona as a cruise destination?

The new terminal is a game-changer for Tarragona. It positions our port as a premier cruise destination in the Mediterranean, capable of accommodating larger ships and more passengers. This development is expected to significantly boost tourism and economic growth in the region. Additionally, Tarragona's proximity to Barcelona's airport, just an hour away, opens up numerous opportunities for us to become a homeport. The close connections and ease of access between the airport and our port make Tarragona an attractive option for cruise lines and passengers alike. By providing top-notch facilities and services, we aim to attract more cruise lines and passengers, making Tarragona a must-visit stop on Mediterranean itineraries.



THE NEW TERMINAL IS A GAME-CHANGER FOR TARRAGONA. IT POSITIONS OUR PORT AS A PREMIER CRUISE DESTINATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

TERMINAL INAUGURATION AT TARRAGONA CRUISE PORT



The official opening ceremony of the new terminal took place on June 11th featured folklore entertainment from the city. The terminal's doors opened, followed by speeches from key figures including Alba Colet, Javier Rodríguez, Mehmet Kutman, and Rubén Viñuales. Emphasizing sustainability, Kutman highlighted the terminal's eco-friendly technologies and future operations. The new terminal, located on the Balears Wharf, boasts modern facilities, a 759-meter berthing line, and a 40,000 m² esplanade, enhancing passenger services and port operations. The ceremony concluded with a ribbon-cutting, dinner, and celebration of the terminal's inauguration and the start of the 64th MedCruise Assembly. The terminal, designed with functionality and eco-efficiency in mind, will incorporate Onshore Power Supply, marking a significant step towards sustainable cruise tourism in the Costa Daurada region.

Tarragona Cruise Port stands out for its commitment to sustainability and eco-efficiency. In its construction and future expansion operations, technologies and practices respectful of the environment have been integrated, from the use of renewable energies to the efficient management of natural resources. This will significantly reduce its environmental impact and contribute to the development of responsible tourism.



CRUISES BRING A LOT OF
ADDED VALUE TO
TARRAGONA AND BOOST
THE LOCAL ECONOMY.



In Tarragona, we are committed to cruise tourism, but in a sustainable manner, ensuring that visiting Tarragona is the best experience for tourists while not affecting the daily life of our residents.

Rubén Viñuales, born in Tarragona in 1983, is the Mayor of Tarragona and the National Secretary of the Partit dels Socialistes de Catalunya (PSC). With a background in law from Rovira i Virgili University, Viñuales has served in various legal and academic roles, including as a lawyer specializing in public and criminal law and a professor at URV. His political career includes positions as a Provincial Deputy, Councillor of the Tarragona City Council, and a deputy in the Parliament of Catalonia. In the 2023 municipal elections, he was elected Mayor of Tarragona, where he now leads initiatives to promote sustainable tourism and economic growth in the city.

Does the City Council of Tarragona believe that cruises should be promoted?

In Tarragona, we are committed to cruise tourism, but in a sustainable manner. Therefore, we will commission a study on the maximum number of cruises the city can handle per day. This way, we will ensure that visiting Tarragona is the best experience for tourists while not affecting the daily life of the residents of Tarragona.

How can the city benefit from the arrival of cruises?

We want to enhance what Tarragona has to offer, which not every city can boast. We are a UNESCO World Heritage city – the only one in Catalonia, in fact – with increasingly renowned cuisine, unquestionably high-quality products, a vibrant street life year-round, beaches rarely found in urban areas, and a climate marked by the typical Mediterranean light of our city. But these visitors also have the opportunity to get to know the most important aspect: the people, the commerce, and daily life. They can witness unique traditions in the world, such as the Castells (human towers), while shopping at small businesses, which have the chance to showcase and sell their products to visitors. In a highly digitalized age, these visitors provide valuable foot traffic for physical commerce. Ultimately, they have the opportunity to live an experience to remember, share, and recommend. This experience begins right here at this terminal, which we have recently inaugurated, and which makes us proud. It will undoubtedly make our visitors feel well cared for from the first moment.

How can this be achieved?

Emphasis should be placed on collaborative work, which must be done through the institutional cruise board. It is very important that the entire region works together, with an institutional board for cruises, and we are already working on that.

Have you thought about how to achieve this?

One way to promote it is by selling the Tarragona Brand, along with Costa Daurada, because unity is strength. Moreover, the presence of cruises with embarkation and disembarkation on Fridays gives us the opportunity to extend stays and turn the experience of visiting Tarragona into an even richer experience. In every sense, the Tarragona Brand gains a new dimension with this new terminal. It is our responsibility and commitment to elevate the brand of this wonderful city to the highest levels of prestige and recognition with the arrival of cruises.



How does the City Council attract cruise passengers to find this city experience appealing?

By improving the visitor experience. That's why the Tarragona Tourism Board has produced a new tourist information brochure for 2024, which is distributed throughout the season to cruise passengers to inform them of Tarragona's distinction as a UNESCO World Heritage city and its Roman heritage. The brochure, titled "10 Essential Visits in Tarragona," also recommends discovering different unique spots in the city, such as the Mediterranean Balcony, the Central Market, and El Serrallo, among others. The goal is for cruise passengers, who mostly stay in our city, to be attracted to Tarragona, discover our history and heritage, and also enjoy our cultural and social richness. In this line, the tourism department has stated that new actions are being worked on to improve the cruise tourism experience in the city, which will be announced and implemented this very year, 2024. For now, we have placed tour guides to welcome these visitors upon their arrival at the port.

How do you combine the promotion of cruises with sustainable tourism?

This is our responsibility, and also the obligation of all companies and administrations, to manage this mobility of people in the most efficient way so that the opportunity we have is truly sustainable and to invest in technologies that minimize environmental impact. Partnering with allies like Global Ports Holding and Tarragona Cruise Port, who are unequivocally committed to the environment, is a guarantee of doing things right.

Is the city already seeing benefits from the arrival of cruises?

Cruise tourism is helping us reach audiences we did not have before, such as North Americans. Four percent of the cruise passengers visiting Tarragona are North American. We must work on the awareness that cruises are positive, otherwise, cruise passengers will go to other regions, and then our commercial sector will notice. We must consolidate Tarragona as a quality destination, always under the umbrella of sustainability.

Tarragona has recently been included in the Smart Tourist Destinations network. What does this mean?

We can now request a series of supports that will allow us to collect data to improve the entire tourism strategy in the city, for example, to get an accurate count of visitors to the city, among other things. We want to continue this continuous improvement path.

**TARRAGONA
DISTINGUISHED BY ITS
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
STATUS AND
RICH ROMAN HERITAGE.**





ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT CELEBRATES 500,000 PASSENGERS FOR THE YEAR

Cruise tourism in Antigua is showing no signs of slowing down. With the help of Celebrity Beyond and Norwegian Sky, Antigua Cruise Port set a new record on Thursday, May 9, by welcoming over 500,000 passengers since the beginning of the year. The landmark number of guests visited the captivating island aboard 255 ship calls, welcoming 42 more calls and 105,281 more passengers than this time last year.

Recent industry reports confirm that cruise tourism to the Caribbean is on the rise and is expected to exceed pre-COVID levels in the short-term.

Cynthia Jacobs Browne, Officer-in-Charge at Antigua Cruise Port, called the achievement “monumental.” “These numbers are extremely exciting for us. Every passenger represents an opportunity for a taxi driver, restaurateur, shop owner, or tour operator to promote the best of Antigua and to make a better living. We are on track for a record-breaking year, and we could not be prouder of our team and our success at this point. Bookings for the summer season are also up and we are on course to outperform last year’s numbers. We look forward to sharing more record-breaking news soon.”

Jacobs Browne added, “We especially thank our cruise line partners, government partners, and port community for their support and for working with us to take cruise tourism in Antigua to even greater heights. This important event represents all of the progress that we have made in the local tourism sector and is a mark of accomplishment for our entire community.”

BODRUM CRUISE PORT AND MARELLA DISCOVERY PARTNER FOR A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT

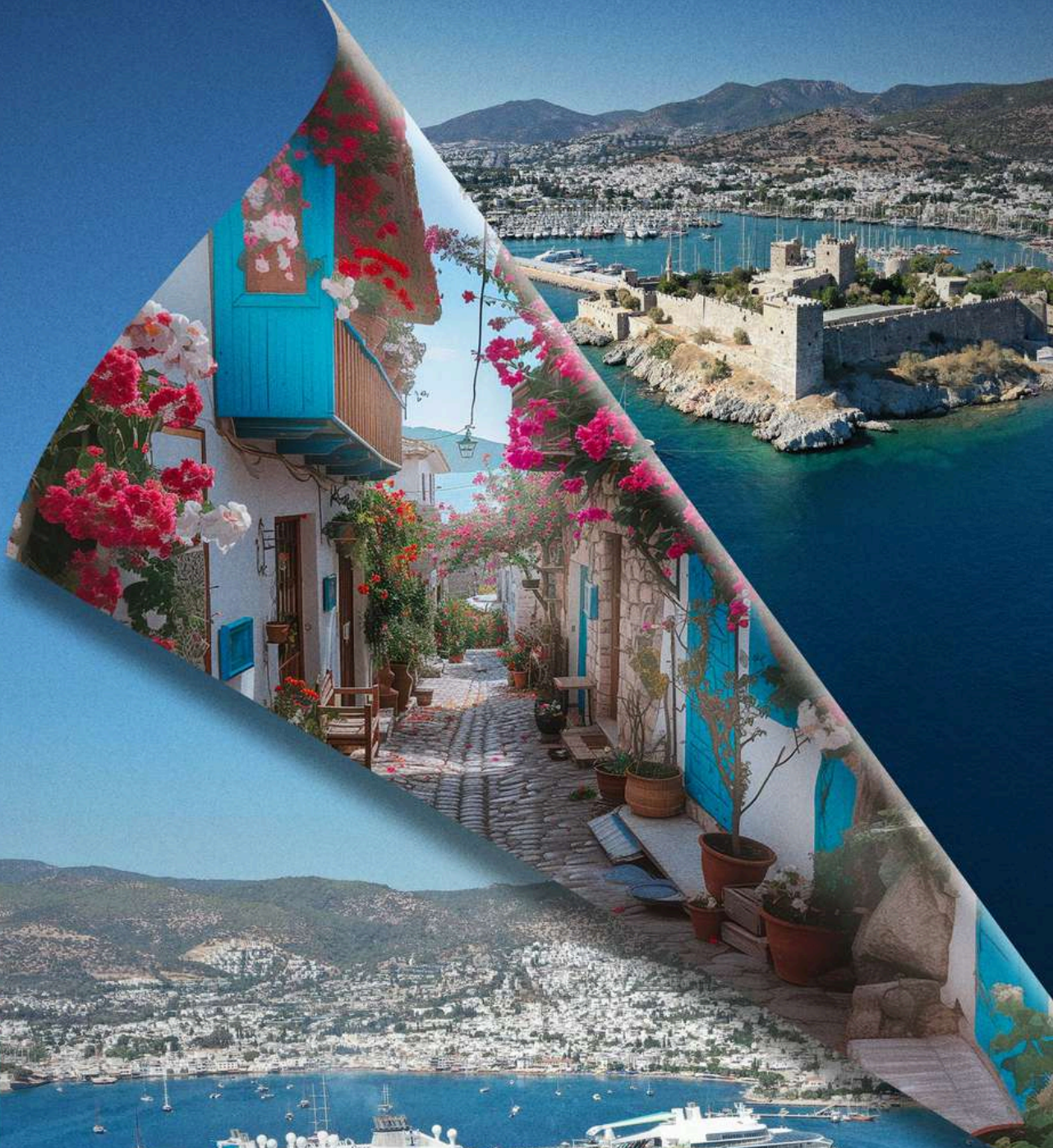
On May 11, 2024, Bodrum Cruise Port hosted Marella Discovery of Marella Cruises and Resilient Lady of Virgin Voyages. Bodrum Cruise Port also hosted a group of 30 students and 3 teachers from one of the local middle level school onboard the Marella Discovery. The students were provided with educational sessions covering maritime topics, cruise tourism, and the importance of ocean conservation.

BCP also to execute a social responsibility initiative. The visit included informative sessions about the port followed by a guided tour aboard the Marella Discovery. During this tour, the students received education on maritime affairs, cruise tourism, and the imperative of preserving our oceans.

Olivia Wells, Sustainability Manager, Marella Cruises said, “We are proud to be working with the Global Ports Holding on the Social Responsibility Project which is looking to educate future generations around sustainability at sea whilst improving knowledge of cruise tourism, maritime affairs and how we can preserve the natural environment in which our ships sail.”

Aziz Güngör, Global Ports Holding, Regional Director of East Med, said, “As we continue to deliver exceptional service to our passengers and cruise ship partners, we remain committed to implementing social responsibility projects. We anticipate another successful cruise season in Bodrum this year, showcasing our impressive range of ships and our dedication to providing outstanding service to our passengers. Moreover, by educating future generations about the importance of our oceans, we aim to promote both our industry and the sustainability of our seas, thereby assuming a significant responsibility for the preservation of our marine ecosystems.”





Bodrum: Where Every Step is a Delightful Discovery

Bodrum beckons as a realm of delightful discovery with each step. From the grand castle crafted by the Knights of Saint John to its charming streets, lively markets, and authentic eateries, the city reveals enchanting wonders, ensuring an unforgettable cruise experience.

GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING AWARDED PREFERRED BIDDER STATUS FOR CASABLANCA CRUISE PORT

Global Ports Holding is pleased to announce that following a public tender process, a majority-owned consortium between GPH (51%), local shareholder, Steya (40%) and Ocean Infrastructures Management (9%) has been awarded preferred bidder status for a 15-year concession agreement with Agence Nationale des Ports (“ANP”), to operate the Casablanca new cruise terminal. The consortium and ANP will now work towards agreeing on the terms of the concession agreement.

Casablanca, Morocco’s largest city, offers cruise passengers a wonderful blend of traditional Moroccan culture and contemporary experiences. It is also the cruise gateway to Rabat and the enchanting Red City of Marrakech, which will soon be within 1.2hrs reach with the new bullet train project, set to be completed before the 2030 FIFA World Cup to be hosted jointly by Morocco, Spain and Portugal. From historic mosques and cathedrals, historical neighbourhoods to relaxing beaches and vibrant promenades, the city offers visitors a wide range of experiences. Located on the Northwest coast of Africa, Casablanca is a key stopover port for Canary Island and West Mediterranean cruises, as well as crossing sailings between Europe and the Caribbean.

The Casablanca Cruise Port recently received a EUR 60 million investment led by ANP, resulting in a new cruise pier, terminal, and maritime station. Now capable of handling ships up to 350m and 400k passengers annually, the port expects to welcome around 150k transit passengers in 2024 and 180k in 2025.



GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING BEGINS OPERATIONS AT SAINT LUCIA CRUISE PORT

Global Ports Holding celebrated the commencement of cruise management services at Port Castries by Saint Lucia Cruise Port with the Government of Saint Lucia. The event was observed at a special ceremony held at the Northern Wharf of the port and was attended by government dignitaries and key port partners.

Lancelot Arnold, GPH Regional Director of Eastern Caribbean and General Manager of Saint Lucia Cruise Port, shared the enthusiasm of the SLCP team. “We are immensely proud to officially assume management of cruise operations at Port Castries. Today’s achievement is the result of an exceptional amount of hard work and commitment by many people. Following today’s announcement, our project designs will undergo refinement in collaboration with our stakeholders prior to submission to the government for approval. Construction will commence upon receipt of the requisite regulatory permits. Meanwhile, we will establish our offices and continue operation of the cruise port in preparation for the start of the new cruise season in October.”

He emphasised, “Enhancements to the berth at Pointe Seraphine in Castries will assist in reaching our passenger traffic targets by accommodating the world’s largest cruise ships. These days, cruise lines are constructing vessels that are wider and longer than ever before. It’s imperative that we modernise our port infrastructure to welcome these new ships and maintain our competitiveness as a premier cruising destination.”

Planning for the influx of larger ships and increased visitors also requires careful consideration of traffic management, a critical aspect of the redevelopment effort that the SLCP team will diligently address in collaboration with government and other stakeholders. By introducing innovative strategies to enhance the flow of passenger and area traffic, including the establishment of new tender jetties and ferry services for transporting larger groups of people by sea, Arnold and his team foresee that the project will create more opportunities for Saint Lucian entrepreneurs.





LANDMARK MOMENT AS LIVERPOOL CRUISE PORT WELCOMES QUEEN ANNE

Global Ports Holding and Peel Ports Group celebrated a historic moment as the magnificent Queen Anne, the newest vessel of Cunard, was named at Liverpool Cruise Port. This historic event marked the first cruise ship naming on the Mersey in over 60 years, reinforcing the strong bond between Cunard and Liverpool, their spiritual home.

The arrival of Queen Anne, with its capacity for 3,000 passengers and over 1,000 crew, also signifies a significant milestone in the partnership between GPH, the world's largest cruise port operator, and Peel Ports Group, as they commenced their 50-year agreement to operate services at Liverpool Cruise Port.

Stephen Xuereb, COO at GPH, expressed delight at the vessel's arrival, highlighting the ambition to elevate Liverpool's cruise experience. David Huck, COO at Peel Ports Group, emphasized their pride in hosting such a remarkable occasion, underscoring Liverpool's significance as a global destination. The ceremony included traditional maritime customs, with commemorative plaques presented to the vessel's Captain and performances by renowned artists.

GPH plans to invest up to £25 million in the port's infrastructure, aiming to double its operations and accommodate up to 7,000 passengers daily. Liverpool Cruise Port's strategic location positions it to capitalize on the growing cruise markets, with passenger volumes expected to soar following GPH's investment.



EXPLORING KALUNDBORG'S LEGACY

Kalundborg invites its visitors to find its extensive history of maritime along the crystal clear shores and serene seas. This city's maritime navigation turns back to the 19th century when the infamous Rosnaes lighthouse was built to help ships find their way through risky waters of the Great Belt. This lighthouse has become a symbol of maritime expertise for Kalundborg, beside the considerable importance of ensuring safe guidance of countless vessels.

Located in the northernmost point of the peninsula, the lighthouse carries a legacy of witnessing significant maritime history. The light coming from the lighthouse currently brings tourists to explore its aesthetic and engineering importance, in addition to its mission to guide sailors properly in the dangerous seas of the north. Rosnaes region is formed by wars and uncommon ecology shaped in the last Ice age, becoming an attraction for both nature and history enthusiasts. Three different wars, the Gunboat War, World War II, and the Cold War, paved distinct paths for themselves merging at the lighthouse. Maritime legacy of Kalundborg town symbolised by Rosnaes Lighthouse invites visitors to embrace the past of the region and appreciate the engineering and craftsmanship that embody this coastal city throughout history.

THE ICONIC
ROSNAES
LIGHTHOUSE

AN EVERLASTING TREASURE OF HERITAGE IN KUŞADASI: PIGEON ISLAND

A small yet significant island, stands as an iconic landmark, Pigeon Island is a legacy to Turkish maritime history. Being a home to a castle built by famous mariner of his era, Barbaros Hayrettin in the 16th century, this island merged with the coast in 60s. In the Ottoman era, the island witnessed several historic events and made its service to the empire as a forward base. Over centuries, the castle on the island has seen several important enhancements and currently the entrances to the castle are totally free to visitors.

Beside the castle, the island offers a view from a different perspective of Kuşadası, it is surrounded by serene waters of Aegean sea and arised from a beautiful landscape of its own. Looking back to the coast from the island provides a magnificent scenic route of historical background of the city, standing side by side with modern establishments and vibrant marine life underneath. Nowadays, the island serves as a cultural field, hosting many events including concerts and exhibitions and together with not only its historical heritage but also its natural beauty and its potential to panoramically show Kuşadası, make the island a top attraction for visitors.



HALONG: WHERE NATURE MEETS GASTRONOMY



Nestled in the heart of Bai Chay, Halong Cruise Port stands as a gateway to one of Vietnam's most treasured destinations, Halong Bay. Beyond being a mere port of embarkation, it is a marvel of architectural ingenuity, blending tradition with contemporary design. Crafted by the visionary architect Bill Bensley, the port's façade evokes the nostalgic charm of ancient Hoi An while embracing the modernity demanded by today's travellers.

One of the highlights of visiting Halong Cruise Port is the opportunity to embark on enchanting dinner cruises. As the sun dips below the horizon, casting a golden glow over the bay, guests set sail on a journey of culinary indulgence. Panoramic vistas of Halong City, the majestic Bai Chay Bridge, and the iconic Sun Wheel unfold before their eyes, creating a picturesque backdrop for an unforgettable dining experience.

The dinner cruises feature an exquisite buffet spread showcasing the best of Halong's seafood bounty alongside a tantalising array of international cuisines. From succulent grilled prawns to delicately steamed fish, each dish is a testament to the rich culinary heritage of the region. Live music fills the air, with upbeat DJ remixes and captivating dance performances adding to the ambiance, ensuring that every moment on board is infused with joy and celebration.

For those eager to explore the culinary treasures of Halong Bay further, the vibrant night markets beckon with their array of local delicacies. Street vendors tempt passersby with fragrant bowls of mussel porridge, crispy squid cakes paired with steamed rice rolls, and other delectable treats that showcase the bounty of the sea.



EXPERIENCE SINGAPORE FROM THE TOP

Seeing the bustling city centre of Singapore panoramically standing at a tower of 165 metres, Singapore Flyer surely protects its reputation of being one of the world's largest observation wheels. A quota of 28 passengers for each capsule is available, a 30 minute journey of Singapore Flyer to higher altitudes are operated in capsules considering the hot weather in Singapore, they are perfectly air-conditioned and big enough to fit 28 people into capsules comfortably. You can fully enjoy the scenic route over the city and the frequency of the wheel allows you to catch magnificent pictures and ensure you do not miss any moment of this precious experience.

Architectural design perfections of the Marina Bay Sands, Gardens by the Bay, and the Merlion can be observed in the morning, presenting themselves to the enchanting skyline of Singapore; when night comes, a sea of lights dazzle you with completely different yet unforgettable moments. The inspiring and educational side of Singapore Flyer is engaged with in-capsule commentaries. This adds depth to the journey through understanding the cultural legacy and rapid-growth of Singapore. If you are up for a luxurious and maybe romantic night, you can dine at cloud level, when the whole skyline of the beautiful city is spread underneath you.

Singapore Flyer is one to add to your must-see list, whether you are an inexperienced tourist or a returner.



JARDIN DE CACTUS, LANZAROTE: A HARMONIOUS FUSION OF ART AND NATURE

A perfect blend of human creation and natural beauty shows itself in Jardin de Cactus designed by local artist César Manrique located on the picturesque island of Lanzarote. This stunning attraction is just a 20-minute drive from Lanzarote Cruise Port, making it easily accessible for cruise passengers. Over 1300 species of cacti welcome you once you are in the garden from all around the globe. Each species brings its own shape, color, texture together to form a natural tapestry.

Cactus, as a species, is a perfect example of nature's adaptation to environmental conditions, in this case severe drought and in Jardin de Cactus at each corner visitors can expect a different story from the cactus world. The creator of the garden aimed to bring together contemporary art and traditional vibes by assembling a windmill at the heart of the garden as a symbol of the agricultural background of the island.

Visitors to the garden take this place as a resting area to appreciate for a moment what is surrounding them. As a cultural landmark, the garden demonstrates the island's unique properties well thanks to Manrique's vision. His characteristic use of volcano, combined with witty architectural touches is definitely a delight to eyes. The depth of the experience around the garden increases with guided tours and educational resources to explain the ecological importance of the cactus family.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AT ZADAR CRUISE PORT

Zadar Cruise Port, a vital hub on Croatia's Dalmatian coast, is setting a benchmark for social sustainability through its innovative initiatives. Recognizing the port's role not only in economic development but also in community engagement, the port management has focused on integrating educational opportunities and fostering local talent.

One of the cornerstone initiatives is the partnership with the University of Zadar, particularly the Department of Tourism and Communication Studies and Department of Maritime Studies, facilitating student visits and internships. These programs provide students with firsthand experience in cruise and maritime operations, and destination management, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application. By hosting educational tours, Zadar Cruise Port offers students insights into the complexities of port operations and the significance of sustainable practices in the cruise industry.

Internships at the port are tailored to equip students with practical skills and professional networks. Participants are involved in various departments, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of port operations. This hands-on experience is invaluable, preparing students for future careers and fostering a sense of responsibility towards sustainable practices.

Rebeka V. Pevec, General Manager of Zadar Cruise Port, emphasises the importance of these initiatives: "By engaging with local educational institutions, we are investing in the future of our community. Our goal is to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed while promoting sustainable practices within the cruise industry."

Furthermore, the port's commitment to social sustainability extends to community involvement. By engaging local residents and businesses in port activities, Zadar Cruise Port fosters a collaborative environment where the community benefits from the economic and educational opportunities presented by the port's operations. This inclusive approach ensures that the port's growth contributes positively to the local community, promoting social equity and cohesion.

Through these initiatives, Zadar Cruise Port is not only enhancing its operational efficiency but also nurturing the next generation of cruise and maritime professionals and fostering a sustainable and inclusive community.



JOURNEY THROUGH GLOBAL CLIMATES: KLIMAHaus BREMERHAVEN

Klimahaus Bremerhaven offers its visitors a unique experience by enabling them explore different climates and cultures at 8th degree longitude east. You can take a journey starting from Bremerhaven and take an interactive step on 5 continents and 9 different locations through highly realistic simulations, exhibits and enchanting displays.

Passing through the Alpine mountains of Switzerland, you can feel the snow crunching underneath your shoes and shiver with cold weather surrounding you to understand the effects of altitude on climate. Changing route to warmer climates in the south, you can find yourself in the Sahel in Niger to meet with fascinating culture of Tuareg people and experience desert conditions of weather. Polar cold in Antarctica, greenest tropical forests in Cameroon, humidity in Samoa and bustling city lifestyle in China are not that far thanks to Klimahaus Bremerhaven 8° Ost.

Weather impact on different cultures can be understood easier than ever right now. Interactive exhibitions and displays pull you to a unique experience and personal stories of people and culture at those locations add depth to this journey. All programs at Klimahaus Bremerhaven 8° Ost are designed to be educational and inspiring for visitors from any group, temporary exhibitions, visual aids and simulations are all designed for this purpose. Protecting our planet and understanding the importance of sustainability at all age groups are possible right now due to science, adventure and culture topics' intersection at Klimahaus Bremerhaven 8° Ost.



UNVEILING THE HERITAGE AND MAJESTY OF CASTILLO SAN CRISTÓBAL IN PUERTO RICO

Built as an extension of Castillo San Felipe del Morro after a series of attacks, the centuries-old Castillo San Cristóbal stands as a symbol of Puerto Rico's enduring heritage and resilience. This fortress offers visitors an immersive journey into the island's rich cultural history. As you explore, you can imagine the lives of Spanish soldiers who once guarded the port of San Juan.

The architectural marvel of Castillo San Cristóbal is evident in its intricate tunnels and underground chambers. Its strategic location provides stunning views of the crystal-clear waters below and the picturesque cityscape, offering a glimpse into the fortress's crucial role throughout history. From Spanish soldiers in the 1600s to World War 2 soldiers in the 20th century, it has ensured safe passage for countless vessels navigating the treacherous Atlantic waters.

Castillo San Cristóbal embodies Puerto Rico's vibrant cultural heritage, captivating visitors with the island's enduring spirit and storied past.

EMBRACING THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL WONDERS OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, SAINT LUCIA

Dive into the natural wonders ranging from hot springs and mineral rich mud baths to greenest jungles and volcanoes, Sulphur Springs in Saint Lucia invites its visitors to discover its vibrant Caribbean landscapes. Mesmerising from the island shaped by volcanic eruptions over centuries as you explore the beauty around is something to be prepared beforehand. Therapeutic effects of mineral rich mud baths awaits its visitors to welcome them by not only physical healing and also a relaxation of their soul.

Covered by enchanting natural beauty and sounds of the place, a peace of mind state expects you to be attained in Sulphur Springs mud baths. Not only are natural attractions there to be discovered by visitors, also the rich cultural legacy of Sulphur Springs offers a variety of local traditions, legends and mystical rituals that have been inherited from generation to generation over centuries. Embrace the spirit of Saint Lucia when visiting to uncover its unique natural beauty and connect with the warmth of its hospitality shaped by the depth of its culture. Both mysterious adventures and spiritual relieveness are on the table for visitors of Saint Lucia, be prepared to experience unforgettable moments that will leave a lasting mark over the years.



PRINCE RUPERT CRUISE PORT ADDS SIX NEW SHORE EXCURSIONS



Prince Rupert Cruise Port proudly celebrates the addition of six incredible new shore excursions this year, adding more undeniable appeal to this charming destination. From train adventures across the Great Bear Rainforest, to exclusive craft beer tasting, to waterfront kayaking and rainforest strolls, few places have so many varied & interesting experiences to offer! Prince Rupert now boasts a collection of 26 shore excursions with more planned for launch in the short term.

Kevin D'Costa, General Manager of Prince Rupert Cruise Port, highlighted how the port's commitment to creating unique and memorable experiences for cruise visitors is establishing Prince Rupert as a premier destination. "We believe that cultural understanding begins with education and immersion, which is why we have placed so much emphasis on working with local partners to create incredible shore excursions for our passengers." Prince Rupert is located within the indigenous Ts'msyen Territory.

"By educating guests about the wildlife, food, and culture of the port community, we are building our brand and fostering a new kind of awareness about this region and what we have to offer. Prince Rupert is becoming a destination of choice, and much of the buzz about what we're doing is happening because we've partnered with those who live here to showcase the best of this unique destination."

The latest array of local adventures now features the captivating Wilderness Wonders series, where guests can choose from sightseeing & tastings aboard a Vintage Trolley Tour, feasting at an Ocean-to-Table Luncheon, or exploring the immersive Kitsumkalum Glacial Heritage & Gastronomy Trail.

"Soon, we will launch even more exciting tour experiences in continuous appreciation of Prince Rupert's distinctive natural wonders and strong cultural heritage.," D'Costa added. "Stay tuned!"



ART EXPLORER VISITS VALLETTA CRUISE PORT, MALTA

Valletta Cruise Port has recently welcomed the Art Explorer, the world's first itinerant museum-boat that is travelling to 15 Mediterranean countries between spring 2024 and autumn 2026, connecting artists, arts organisations, curators, museums, nonprofit entities and Mediterranean people in a large-scale dialogue about the shared heritage and challenges of contemporary societies, with the aim of imagining a new vision of the Mediterranean.



The museum-boat berthed at Valletta Cruise Port, with the evocative backdrop of the historic Valletta Waterfront served as the setting around which the Art Explora Festival took place over 10 days with a program combining exhibitions, virtual reality, performances, conferences, film screenings, concerts and more. The festival included key collaborations with Spazju Kreattiv and the Malta Biennale locally, and also internationally with Louvre Museum and the Centre Pompidou amongst others.

This event underscores the crucial role that community engagement play in the sustainable development of cultural and social frameworks. The Art Explorer, provides a platform for artistic expression and also facilitates a meaningful exchange of ideas and cultures.



Tunisia's Premier Cruise Port

DISCOVER THE CHARM OF LA GOULETTE

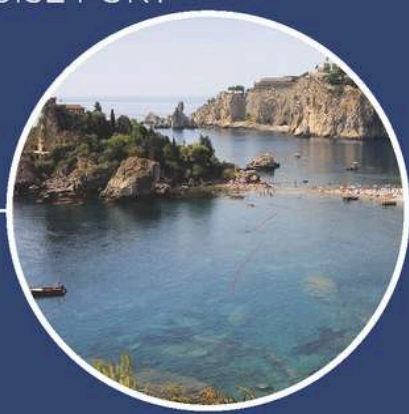
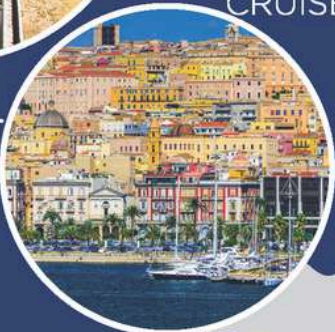
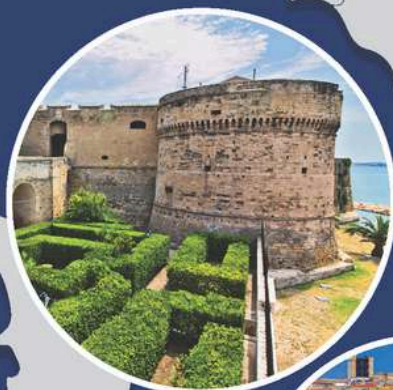
La Goulette Cruise Port, the gateway to Tunisia's rich history and vibrant culture, is set to welcome an impressive number of visitors in 2024. This bustling port has already seen 39,400 passengers with 17 calls this year. By the end of 2024, these figures are projected to soar to 250,000 passengers with 80 calls, showcasing a significant leap from the 180,000 passengers and 47 calls in 2023. Such growth highlights Tunisia's rising popularity as a top-tier cruise destination.

Tunisia offers a unique blend of ancient history and modern allure. From the moment cruisers disembark at La Goulette, they are transported into a world where past and present intertwine seamlessly. The country boasts a diverse range of attractions that cater to all tastes. A visit to the Medina of Tunis is a journey through time, with its narrow streets and vibrant markets. The ancient ruins of Carthage offer a glimpse into Tunisia's rich Phoenician and Roman heritage. Just a short drive away, the picturesque village of Sidi Bou Said captivates with its white-washed buildings and stunning Mediterranean views.

As Tunisia continues to enchant more cruise passengers, La Goulette Cruise Port continues to promise an unforgettable experience for every traveller.

SAIL THROUGH *Italy's* COASTAL TREASURES

Embark on Your Italian Adventure
and Explore an Array of Enchanting
Italian Destinations!



CAGLIARI
CRUISE PORT

TARANTO
CRUISE PORT

CROTONE
CRUISE PORT

CATANIA
CRUISE PORT



EXPLORING BARCELONA'S DIVERSE CULINARY SCENE: A FOOD LOVER'S PARADISE

Barcelona is one of the most visited cities in Europe, and its diverse culinary scene is a major draw for tourists. Visitors can easily find restaurants that cater to both their tastes and budget. The city offers a wide array of cuisines, including classic Spanish wine and tapas, renowned Italian pizzerias, authentic Indian curries, homestyle Middle Eastern dishes, fresh sushi, and much more.

Barcelona is also notable for its extensive range of vegan and gluten-free dining options. Those with dietary restrictions will find plenty of alternatives beyond the typical three choices, with diverse cultural cuisines accommodating various dietary needs. Almost every type of cuisine represented in the city has restaurants that cater to specific dietary requirements.

For those seeking fine dining, Barcelona boasts over 30 Michelin-starred restaurants, as well as numerous other upscale establishments that provide luxurious and unforgettable culinary experiences.

To fully enjoy Barcelona's culinary delights, it is advisable to research and make reservations in advance. These popular restaurants are often busy, so a bit of planning can ensure you get to experience all the gastronomic wonders the city has to offer.



CAGLIARI: SARDINIA'S CAPITAL OFFERING DELIGHTFUL LOCAL FLAVORS AND WINES

Cagliari is not only the political capital of Sardinia, but also capital of delicious food and excellent wines. All very well for the cruise guests that can find the best of local culinary delights just behind Via Roma, the main promenade along the touristic port. Here in the well-known Marina district, it is possible to taste typical dishes such as fregola, one of the treasures of traditional Sardinian cuisine, a local type of pasta which is cooked with seafood. Together with fregola you can taste a typical wine, such as Bovale or Carignano.

For an in-depth experience, there are several wineries that offer their visitors the opportunity to enjoy a wine tasting or to go for a walk in the surrounding countryside. If, on the other hand, you prefer to relax by the sea, do join the locals for the traditional "aperitivo" at Poetto beach. Here, not far from the port, it's possible to taste a selection of local finger food accompanied by one of the excellent local beers, while enjoying a breathtaking view over crystal-blue sea. And for those with a sweet tooth, the seadas, filled with cheese and dipped in honey, and a sip of mirth, are an absolute must!



LISBON CRUISE PORT LEADS THE WAY IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy sources, particularly solar power, offer a highly promising solution for mitigating the carbon footprint of cruise terminals. By incorporating solar panels and energy storage systems into terminal infrastructure, these facilities can significantly reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. This integration serves not only as an effective means of promoting sustainability but also as a tangible demonstration of a terminal's commitment to environmental responsibility. Transitioning to renewable energy is crucial in achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets and underscores the terminal's dedication to minimising its environmental impact.

Lisbon Cruise Port (LCP) is taking significant steps towards sustainability by planning to install solar panels on top of the air bridges. This initiative is expected to enable the terminal to self-consume 38% of its annual energy needs, thereby considerably reducing its reliance on non-renewable energy sources. Furthermore, LCP plans to sell approximately 36% of the energy produced to the power grid or local energy communities. This strategy not only fosters local energy independence but also promotes broader community sustainability efforts. The financial benefits are substantial as well, with LCP estimating annual savings of around €45,000.

This move by LCP sets a strong example for other cruise terminals worldwide, illustrating the practical and economic viability of integrating renewable energy solutions. By adopting such innovative practices, cruise terminals can play a pivotal role in the global effort to combat climate change, demonstrating that environmental responsibility and economic efficiency can go hand in hand. Ultimately, the success of such initiatives will depend on continued investment in renewable technologies and a collective commitment to sustainable practices.



SAVOURING CATANIA: A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY AND EXQUISITE LOCAL CUISINE

Catania is world famous for its thousand years of history, for the beauty of its streets and the incredible buildings in the shadow of the volcano Etna. The culinary delights are another great reason to visit the city. Food here is a serious business and the local fish market a not-to-be-missed experience.

Whether you buy or not, do ask for recipes to try at home. The locals love to share their knowledge! If pasta is your passion, then pasta alla Norma, a symbol of the island's cuisine and a specialty of Catania, is the right choice. This tasty first course is topped with fresh tomato sauce and fried aubergines cut into slices as per tradition. Make sure to choose a local red wine, smooth on the palate and rich in minerals from the vulcan's frequent eruptions. But Catania offers something special for everyone!

So if you are into sweets, then this is the city for you! From the marzipan pastries to the very catanese "Minne di Sant'Agata" (the bosom of Saint Agatha), a dessert prepared on the occasion of the feast of Saint Agatha, the patron saint of Catania, to the cannoli, you have only the problem of choice!

COLLABORATION WITH BALEARIC & SHORE HANDLING IN GPH SPANISH PORTS

Balearic Handling's collaboration with Barcelona, Malaga & Tarragona Cruise Ports began on July, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the company's history. Despite starting operations during the busy Mediterranean cruise season, the transition was seamless thanks to the dedication and expertise of all the teams involved..

Jack Robinson, Managing Director of Balearic Handling joined the firm over seven years ago with the ambition to elevate the company from a locally run business in the Balearic Islands to a nationally recognized name in port services.

Significant progress has been made, especially since partnering with Global Ports Holding in 2020. The group closed 2023 with over 2.5 million cruise and ferry passengers handled across 1,326 calls, a 92% increase from the 1.3 million passengers in 2019. The forecast indicates surpassing last year's numbers, with great excitement for future collaborations and strengthening relationships with clients, alongside industry leader GPH.

Balearic & Shore handling is a full-service ground operations group offering its services to all types of vessels in the maritime sector. The first of the group's companies, Balearic Handling, was formed in 2010 carrying out it's first operations in 2011 with TUI Cruises, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line & MSC Cruises. In 2012 Balearic Handling's sister company, Shore Handling was formed to support the Cruise Lines in the Canary Islands.



CROTONE: A NATURAL HAVEN IN THE HEART OF THE IONIAN MEDITERRANEAN

The natural beauties of Crotona and of the Ionian Mediterranean are well known, from Italy's largest marine protected area to the nearby Sila National Park and the "Sila Giants", ultra centennial larch pines of majestic size. But Crotona is also ideal for an incredible culinary journey.

In keeping with the sailor's century-long tradition, enjoy a pitta, a typical donut-shaped Calabrian focaccia bread, accompanied with vegetables and tuna. Or a short walk away from the marina, strolling through Crotona historical centre, a charming net of intertwining of streets, make sure to savour Calabrian pasta and its wide range of traditional dishes prepared with high-quality local ingredients.

From the "fileja" to the "stroncatara", via the typically Crotonese cavatelli to the Lågane, the authentic taste of Calabrian cuisine, in a journey that highlights millennia-old histories and traditions dating back to Magna Grecia. This rich territory is also home to the famous Cirò wine, red or white, it's perfect for accompanying local foods



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