

# GPH NEWS

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

**INTERVIEW**  
**JACOBO FLORIDO**  
Councillor for Tourism of Malaga

**INTERVIEW**  
**CARLOS RUBIO**  
President of Malaga Port Authority



**GLOBAL PORTS  
HOLDING**



# SPOTLIGHT

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**GPH NEWS FALL 2024 ISSUE**

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## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

### Dear Industry Partners,

I am excited to share some developments at Global Ports Holding that will shape our future trajectory. Recently, GPH made the strategic decision to delist from the London Stock Exchange, transitioning into a private company, with all management rights will remain with Global Investment Holdings as before. This move, which I believe is in the best interest of our company, reflects our commitment to maintaining agility and competitiveness in an industry that demands both. By going private, we have unlocked new potential, allowing us to move more swiftly and decisively as we continue to expand our global footprint.

Our journey through the pandemic and our transition to becoming a private company would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our parent company, GIH. As a diversified conglomerate with interests spanning from gas and power to real estate, GIH has provided the stability and resources needed to navigate these challenging times.

As we navigate this new chapter, it's important to acknowledge both the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for the cruise industry. The increasing number and capacity of cruise ships present significant challenges for ports worldwide. At GPH, we recognize that staying competitive and relevant in this evolving landscape requires significant infrastructure investments, particularly in key regions like the Caribbean. For instance, our recent projects, including San Juan Cruise Port, where we plan to invest \$400 to \$500 million, are crucial to addressing these challenges.

This transition is more than just a change in our status; it marks a significant inflection point in GPH's journey. From our beginnings with the acquisition of Barcelona, through our expansion into the Caribbean with Nassau and Puerto Rico, to this latest chapter, our focus has always been on strategic growth and innovation. Now, as a private entity, we are poised to pursue new opportunities with even greater vigour.

In parallel, we are expanding our sustainability program. Recently we proudly inaugurated the new sustainable terminal at Tarragona Cruise Port, designed with environmentally friendly technologies and practices. Our commitment to sustainability is further evidenced by ongoing investments in green terminals, with construction projects underway in Alicante, Las Palmas, Fuerteventura, and Lanzarote. We also recognize the significant carbon reduction benefits of Onshore Power Supply (OPS). Our close work with port authorities and local governments on potential shore power projects reflects our dedication to sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of cruise operations.

As we gather in Malaga, one of our beautiful port destinations, for Seatrade Cruise Med, I encourage you to engage with us and explore the many ways we can work together to advance our shared goals. Together, we will navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, ensuring that GPH remains at the forefront of the cruise industry.

### Mehmet Kutman

Chairman & CEO, Global Ports Holding Plc

# IT'S ALL ABOUT MALAGA!

## MALAGA CRUISE PORT ADVANCES MODERNIZATION WITH NEW GANGWAY INSTALLATION AT TERMINAL B

Malaga Cruise Port has embarked on a significant infrastructure upgrade with the assembly of a new gangway at Terminal B. This project marks a major milestone in the port's ongoing efforts to modernise and enhance its facilities, ensuring that it remains a premier destination for cruise passengers.

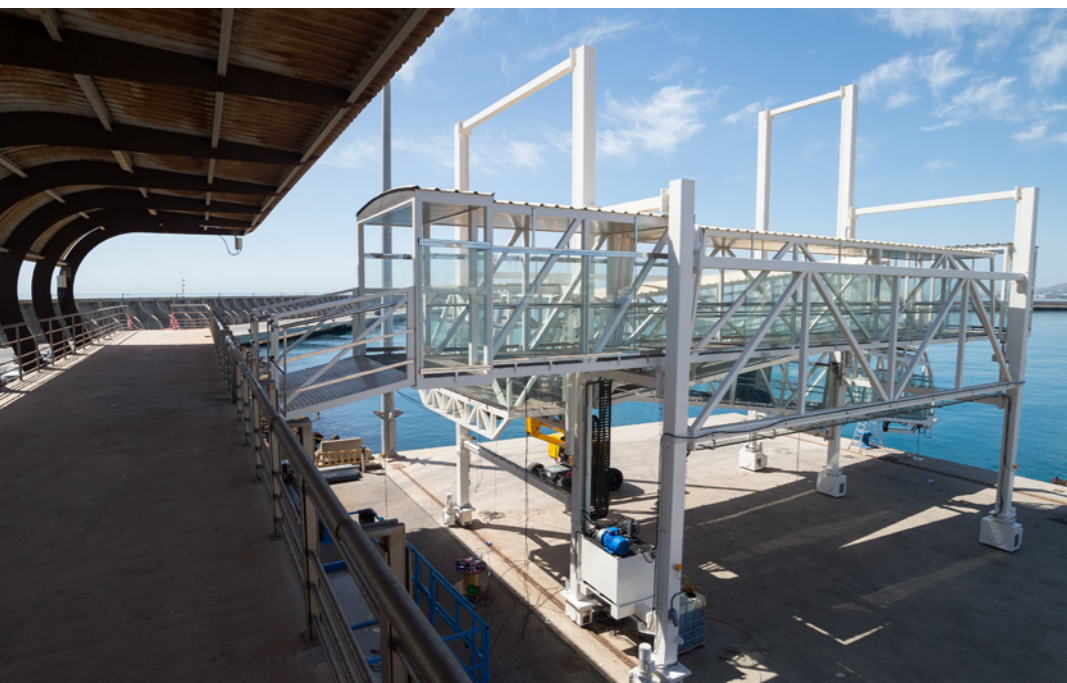
The new gangway has been meticulously designed to provide a comfortable, efficient, and secure embarkation and disembarkation experience for cruise passengers. Its state-of-the-art structure will accommodate the latest generation of megayachts and cruise ships, reflecting the port's commitment to staying at the forefront of maritime service and innovation.

This development underscores Malaga Cruise Port's dedication to continuous improvement and excellence. By investing in cutting-edge infrastructure, the port not only enhances the overall passenger experience but also solidifies its position as a key player in the global cruise industry. The new gangway is expected to significantly improve operational efficiency, allowing for smoother transitions and minimising wait times for passengers.



Furthermore, this project is part of a broader strategy to attract more high-end cruise liners and luxury vessels to Malaga, contributing to the region's economic growth and boosting its reputation as a world-class cruise destination. As the port continues to evolve, these enhancements will play a crucial role in supporting the local tourism industry and fostering stronger connections with international cruise lines.

With this latest addition, Malaga Cruise Port reaffirms its commitment to excellence, innovation, and the continuous development of its maritime services, ensuring that it meets the evolving needs of the cruise industry and the expectations of its passengers.



## MALAGA CRUISE PORT UNVEILS NEW RETAIL EXPERIENCE AT TERMINAL A

Malaga Cruise Port is proud to announce the inauguration of a new 350-square-meter retail establishment in Terminal A. This new retail space is strategically positioned to capture the attention of cruise passengers as they move through the terminal, offering an inviting shopping experience that complements the port's commitment to excellence.

One of the standout features of this new establishment is its innovative modular design, which allows the space to be easily reconfigured without disrupting the flow of visitors. This flexibility ensures a dynamic and personalised shopping experience, enabling the store to adapt to changing needs and preferences while maintaining easy access and smooth navigation for passengers.

The stores, operated by Terminales del Atlántico Medio S.L., are a showcase of modern elegance, incorporating high-quality materials that reflect a strong commitment to innovation and sustainability. The sophisticated design creates an exclusive and welcoming atmosphere where passengers can enjoy a diverse selection of products. From prestigious global brands to unique local and international gourmet items, the store offers an array of options, including wines, textiles, jewellery, cosmetics, accessories, and souvenirs.

This new retail space not only enhances the overall passenger experience at Malaga Cruise Port but also reinforces the port's position as a leading destination for luxury and convenience. By offering a curated selection of products in a setting that is both stylish and sustainable, the port is meeting the evolving expectations of today's discerning travellers.

Moreover, the strategic location and thoughtful design of the store are expected to contribute significantly to the port's commercial success, attracting a steady stream of customers and boosting sales. The introduction of this new retail area aligns with Malaga Cruise Port's broader vision of creating a vibrant and engaging environment for passengers, enhancing their journey from the moment they step off the ship.

As Malaga Cruise Port continues to innovate and expand, this new retail establishment represents a key part of its strategy to provide a world-class experience for all visitors, further solidifying its reputation as a premier cruise destination in the Mediterranean.



## INTERVIEW WITH **JACOBO FLORIDO**, COUNCILLOR FOR TOURISM OF MALAGA



### Can you tell us about yourself?

I am a public servant whose current responsibility in Málaga City Council is to ensure responsible tourism management. This is a sector that generates significant employment in the city, by applying the values of a smart destination -accessibility, technology, sustainability, innovation and governance- and by improving the quality of life of the people of Málaga as a daily priority. And all of this by maintaining fluidity and coordination with all the agents of the local tourism sector and opening up bonds and relationships with the national and international sector.

### What role does cruise tourism play in Málaga's overall strategy?

The city has a series of specific roundtables to work on the development of different tourism segments. One of these roundtables is focused exclusively on cruise tourism, in order to continuously monitor and study the potential profiles it presents.

### Can you elaborate on the economic, employment, and social benefits that increased cruise tourism has brought to Málaga?

There is no doubt that cruise ship tourism benefits relevant sectors of the city's economic engine, such as shops and businesses in the surrounding area: shopping, culture and museums, monuments and the hotel and restaurant trade...

### What current or upcoming initiatives are being undertaken to enhance Málaga appeal as a top tourist destination?

The city is working to establish itself as a reference in high added-value tourism, thanks to its growing range of facilities in this area. For this reason, we are seeking to seduce tourist profiles that provide wealth and quality over quantity. Among them, without any doubt, we can find the users of luxury cruises.

### How important are partnerships between the city, the port authority, and cruise operators in driving the success of the cruise industry in Málaga?

Partnerships are essential. The inter-institutional relationship with the Port & Port operator is excellent. Indeed, we are 'rowing' in the same direction and both institutions know that what is good for the Port is good for the city and vice versa.

### How does Málaga Cruise Port's operation contribute to the economic development of Málaga?

This kind of alliance has a positive impact on the destination and opens horizons in the tourism strategy and has a positive impact on the economic activity of the city. So, the contribution of Malaga Cruise Port and Global Ports Holding is always welcome.

### What is your vision for the future of Málaga as a cruise destination?

It is essential for Málaga to be a revelation in two aspects, and we are currently working on them. In the first place, as a destination for premium and high added-value cruises, to move towards quality rather than quantity. In the second place, the need for these luxury cruise ships to set their sights on the capital as a base port, to work on increasing the average stay and favouring overnight stays in the city.



# One World Community



Our commitment to **sustainability** extends across all our ports, where we invest in green terminals and uphold the highest operational standards. Let's navigate towards a brighter future.

*The World's Largest Cruise Port Operator*

Alicante - Antigua - Bar - Barcelona - Bodrum - Bremerhaven - Cagliari - Casablanca  
Catania - Crotone - Fuerteventura - Ha Long - Kalundborg - Kusadasi - La Goulette - Lanzarote  
Las Palmas - Lisbon - Liverpool - Malaga - Nassau - Prince Rupert - Saint Lucia - San Juan  
Singapore - Taranto - Tarragona - Valencia - Valletta - Venice - Vigo - Zadar



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# WELCOME TO MALAGA

## The Gateway to Andalusia



### Gibralfaro Castle

Gibralfaro Castle, a fortress dating back to the 14th century, stands proudly atop a hill overlooking Malaga and the Mediterranean Sea. Originally built to protect the nearby Alcazaba, the castle is surrounded by impressive ramparts that offer breathtaking views. A walk along the walls provides not only a historical journey but also some of the best vistas in the city.

### Alcazaba of Malaga

Perched on a hill with commanding views of the city, the Alcazaba of Malaga is a remarkable Moorish fortress dating back to the 11th century. Its well-preserved walls, lush gardens, and serene courtyards offer a glimpse into Malaga's Islamic past. Connected to the ancient Roman Theatre below, this fortress is a historical gem that blends architectural beauty with fascinating history.



### Malaga's Beaches

Malaga's coastline is graced with several beautiful beaches, with La Malagueta being the most famous. Just a short walk from the city center, this urban beach offers golden sands and clear waters, perfect for relaxation or a refreshing swim. The lively promenade is lined with beach bars, or "chiringuitos," where visitors can savour local seafood while enjoying the sea breeze.

### Picasso Museum

Located in the heart of Malaga's historic center, the Picasso Museum celebrates the city's most famous native, Pablo Picasso. The museum showcases over 200 of his works,



spanning different periods of his life, from early sketches to later masterpieces. Visitors can explore the evolution of Picasso's artistry in a beautifully restored 16th-century palace, making it a must-visit for art lovers.



### Malaga Cathedral (La Manquita)

Known affectionately as "La Manquita," or "the one-armed lady," due to its unfinished second tower, Malaga Cathedral is a stunning example of Renaissance architecture. Its grand interior features intricate chapels, a majestic altar, and impressive stained glass windows. A rooftop tour offers visitors panoramic views of the city, providing a unique perspective on this architectural masterpiece.



### Calle Larios

Calle Larios is Malaga's main shopping street and one of the most elegant pedestrianised avenues in Spain. Flanked by grand buildings, this bustling street is a hub of activity, especially during festivals when it becomes the center of celebrations. With its array of boutiques, cafes, and street performers, Calle Larios is the perfect place to experience the vibrant local culture.





## DISCOVER THE KITSUMKALUM GLACIAL HERITAGE AND GASTRONOMY TRAIL IN PRINCE RUPERT

Prince Rupert, British Columbia, is renowned for its stunning landscapes and abundant wildlife, but its rich Indigenous culture often goes unnoticed. At Prince Rupert Cruise Port, we're dedicated to showcasing this heritage while creating value for our local partners. In collaboration with Indigenous groups and stakeholders, we've crafted unique shore experiences that bring visitors closer to the heart of Prince Rupert.

On July 5, 2024, Prince Rupert Cruise Port proudly launched the Kitsumkalum Glacial Heritage and Gastronomy Trail, an immersive adventure within the Great Bear Rainforest. This experience, developed alongside the Kitsumkalum community, blends culture, history, and gastronomy, all set against the backdrop of the majestic Kitsumkalum Mountains.

The journey begins with a scenic drive along the Skeena River, known for its breathtaking views and wildlife. Upon arrival at Exchamsiks Provincial Park, guests are welcomed with a traditional Kitsumkalum ceremony,

featuring dance and drumming performances. The park's pristine forests and towering rock faces provide a stunning setting for the adventure that follows.

Participants enjoy a roving gastronomy experience, sampling local delicacies at various stations throughout the forest. A highlight is the Glacial Currents stop, where guests can savour a crafted beverage while wading in the refreshing glacial waters. The day concludes with a return to the welcome area, where guests can indulge in homemade desserts and explore local crafts, including fireweed honey and handcrafted souvenirs.

As Kevin D'Costa, General Manager of Prince Rupert Cruise Port, stated, "This experience beautifully combines scenic beauty, cultural depth, and the natural wonder of Prince Rupert, creating memories that our guests will treasure." The Kitsumkalum Trail is just one of 26 excursions developed to highlight the unique offerings of Prince Rupert.

## INDULGE IN THE FLAVORS OF SAN JUAN WITH MOFONGO

When in San Juan, one culinary delight you simply cannot miss is Mofongo, a dish that perfectly embodies the bold and vibrant flavors of Puerto Rico. This iconic Puerto Rican specialty is a hearty and satisfying treat that captures the essence of the island's rich culinary heritage.

Mofongo is made from mashed green plantains, which are fried to perfection and then combined with garlic, olive oil, and pork cracklings, or "chicharrones." The mixture is then shaped into a ball or mound, creating a crispy exterior with a soft and flavorful interior. The magic of Mofongo lies in its versatility—you can pair it with a variety of delicious toppings such as shrimp, chicken, or in a savory broth.

A must-visit spot in San Juan to experience authentic Mofongo is El Jibarito, a beloved restaurant that has been serving up traditional Puerto Rican dishes for decades. Here, the Mofongo is prepared with the perfect balance of crunch and flavor, offering a true taste of the island.

As you savor each bite of Mofongo, you'll be transported by the rich flavors and textures that tell the story of Puerto Rico's culinary fusion, influenced by African, Spanish, and Taino cultures. Whether you're a seasoned foodie or just looking to try something new, Mofongo is a must-try dish that will leave a lasting impression on your taste buds and your memories of San Juan.



## INTERVIEW WITH CARLOS RUBIO, PRESIDENT OF MÁLAGA PORT AUTHORITY

**What is Malaga's vision for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, and how does the cruise industry fit into this plan?**

What we really need is to talk about commitment because the ports have a very important role to play in this area in addition to the international agreements reached on decarbonization.

It is, therefore, about achieving neutrality from the point of view of carbon emissions. Especially in Málaga, we are already working on it.

From the Port Authority we have not only launched a plan to reduce the port emissions but also to electrify the docks. In this sense, the ships coming to Málaga can plug into the red, stop their engines and eliminate their emissions.

Our time horizon is focused on the commitment we have for 2030, so the deadlines are getting shorter.

**What current initiatives are in place to reduce emissions in Malaga?**

Since 2019, the Port Authority has been promoting the Green Port initiative, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN.

In this period, it has carried out several phases of the project, creating tree barriers and other green areas to make the areas that delimit the spaces for citizen use and port activity more friendly.

The Port Authority offers bonuses to companies that call at our Port and are committed to decarbonization. Recently, photovoltaic panels have been installed for the generation of renewable energies that allow the public organism and its adjacent buildings to be self-sufficient.

And, of course, the Port of Málaga has water, noise and air meters, since our responsibility with the environment is greater as we are so close to the city.

In addition, the fleet of vehicles of the Port Police and operational services has been updated and now it is electric and hybrid. Moreover, from the Port of Málaga we continue working to make real our commitment to the development of a sustainable activity.





## 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 "stronatura", 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.



## ALICANTE CRUISE PORT: PREPARING FOR ITS GRAND OPENING

Alicante Cruise Port is nearing a significant milestone as it prepares to reopen with a series of major upgrades. Central to these enhancements is a new boarding bridge, currently undergoing test procedures, designed to elevate the cruise guest experience while meeting the highest Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE) standards.

The terminal itself has been completely revamped, featuring a modern and upgraded interior design. This transformation includes a renewed air conditioning system, updated electrical and water systems, and a refreshed glass façade and windows, all contributing to a more welcoming and comfortable environment for passengers.

Sustainability has been a key focus, with the installation of solar panels to reduce the port's carbon footprint and support global environmental goals. Additionally, new x-ray machines, metal arch detectors, and improvements to the lift, roof, mechanical ladder, and flooring have been added, enhancing both security and functionality.

Alicante Cruise Port is now poised to offer a modern, sustainable, and secure gateway for cruise passengers, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable journey from start to finish.



## LANZAROTE: A VOLCANIC VINEYARD IN THE HEART OF EXTREMES

In the easternmost part of the Spanish archipelago, just off the northern coast of Africa and near the vast Sahara Desert, lies the remarkable island of Lanzarote. Born from fiery volcanic eruptions 15 million years ago, this island is a dramatic landscape of solidified lava flows, rugged volcanic rocks, and expansive stretches of black sand. With only about 16 days of rainfall a year and temperatures on its stark black plains soaring to 50°C (120°F), Lanzarote might seem inhospitable at first glance.

Yet, despite these harsh conditions, Lanzarote is home to a thriving and unique wine industry, producing between 400,000 to 600,000 bottles annually. The island's wines, known for their distinct character, are crafted from grapes grown in the nutrient-rich volcanic soil. This soil, known locally as picón, not only retains moisture exceptionally well but also imparts a unique mineral quality to the wines, giving them a flavor that is as bold and resilient as the island itself.



Lanzarote's winemakers, among the most dedicated in the world, developed ingenious cultivation techniques in the 18th century that transformed the challenging environment into fertile grounds. Vineyards here are unlike any others, with each vine planted in individual pits, known as hoyos, dug into the volcanic ash. These pits, often protected by low stone walls, shield the vines from the harsh winds and conserve precious moisture. Following the last eruption of the Timanfaya Volcano in 1730, which lasted six years and drove many residents to emigrate, those who remained discovered the hidden potential of the volcanic soil. The resilience and innovation of Lanzarote's farmers turned a land of extremes into a flourishing vineyard, where the harsh beauty of the landscape is mirrored in the robust character of the wines they produce. Today, these wines, particularly the island's famed Malvasía Volcánica, are celebrated for their freshness, vibrant acidity, and subtle mineral notes, offering a true taste of Lanzarote's unique terroir.

Lanzarote's method of dry cultivation, using the very volcanic soil that once seemed so destructive, stands as a powerful symbol of human resilience and ingenuity. The island's winemakers have not only adapted to their environment but have also elevated it, producing wines that are a testament to the extraordinary synergy between the land and those who cultivate it.



## ZADAR: A CULINARY DELIGHT AND UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY

Zadar, a historic town on Croatia's Dalmatian coast, is a hidden gem for gastronomic and wine enthusiasts. Its cuisine is a fusion of Mediterranean flavors and traditional Croatian fare, offering a rich culinary experience. Over the past few years, with Zadar Cruise Port welcoming record numbers of cruise ships and significant investments in branded hotels, Zadar's restaurateurs have recognized the town's potential, emphasising local products like olive oil, wine, cheese, truffles and fresh seafood.

Before the pandemic, many Zadar residents worked in the global cruise industry. However, some chose to stay home during and after the pandemic, bringing their experience to Zadar's tourism, particularly in restaurants and bars. This shift has elevated the local gastro scene significantly. Great examples are the restaurants Corte & The Well, which have introduced global gastronomy to Zadar's residents and visitors through breakfast, brunch, teatime, fine dining, and service excellence. These projects have inspired other restaurateurs, indicating a shared vision for Zadar as a world-renowned gastro destination.

Zadar's local markets are vibrant places where fresh produce, artisanal cheeses, and locally-cured prosciutto are available. Pag cheese, made from sheep's milk, is a local delicacy with a unique flavour. Wine lovers will find Zadar a paradise, with exceptional varieties like Plavac Mali, Pošip and Royal Vineyards' Crljenak/ Zinfandel that pair excellently with local dishes.

In Zadar, dining is about the experience. Many restaurants offer al fresco dining with breathtaking views of the sea and historic architecture. This combination of exquisite cuisine and stunning scenery makes gastronomy in Zadar an unforgettable journey for the senses.

## YOUNG TALENTS SHINES WITH THE MALAGA CRUISE PORT COMPETITION

Malaga Cruise Port has once again demonstrated its commitment to the local community by organising the second edition of an innovative road divider painting competition. The first edition took place in 2020. The theme to be presented had to be inspired by Malaga and its relationship with the sea. Coastal and seafaring city, its colours, smells, and an open and happy character. The event, held between February and March this year, saw the enthusiastic participation of students from the San Telmo Art School.

The objective of the contest was to beautify the port area, and to provide a friendly image of welcome to the cruise passenger with images that emulate the local destination, the sea and its port, as elements closely linked to the destination. Three students were selected as winners and received a financial prize, underlining the tangible support for the artistic and professional development of Malaga's youth.

The selection of the winners was an inclusive and transparent process. A panel of representatives from the Port of Málaga, together with a competition on Instagram, were in charge of choosing the best works. This combination of professional judging and public participation allowed the community to feel an integral part of the event, reinforcing the link with local residents.

By giving the students the opportunity to exhibit their work in a public space, not only has it contributed to urban aesthetics, but also to road safety, as the painted dividers improve visibility and perception of the roads.

In short, this second edition has once again allowed young artists to leave their mark on the city, beautifying the streets and reinforcing safety, while the cruise terminal has consolidated itself as a key player in the cultural and social life of Malaga.



## 61ST ANNUAL JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW IN ANTIGUA

Antigua Cruise Port recently sponsored the 61st Annual Jaycees Queen Show, an event that has made significant contributions to Antigua's summer Carnival celebrations over many years. The glamorous, multi-faceted pageant will featured twelve contestants from across the Caribbean celebrating the art, culture, and heritage of their respective countries. JCI Antigua, a nonprofit organization, has dedicated its resources to youth development programs in Antigua for 64 years.

The issue of offsetting some of the critical event expenses, including supporting artists, transportation, accommodation, food, security, show preparation, and prizes, has been resolved through the financial assistance provided by Antigua Cruise Port according to President of JCI Antigua, Therese Mills.

Gasper George, general manager at Antigua Cruise Port, spoke about why it is so important to provide such substantial support to JCI Antigua. "We are enormously proud to serve as the title sponsor of this year's Jaycees Queen Show. Events like this one help to promote goal setting, inspire confidence, and help teach our children to handle success and failure with grace. We especially applaud the fact that the pageant includes contestants from across the region, encouraging unity and a shared sense of responsibility for our collective future. As a company, we believe in investing in people, especially young people, to build and strengthen communities, which makes this partnership with JCI Antigua a great fit for us. We encourage other corporate partners to also support JCI Antigua."

## NASSAU CRUISE PORT CELEBRATES UTOPIA OF THE SEAS' INAUGURAL VISIT WITH BAHAMIAN FLAIR

Nassau Cruise Port (NCP) pulled out all the stops to welcome Royal Caribbean's Utopia of the Seas on its inaugural visit on Sunday July 21st. Over 26,000 cruise passengers who sailed into Nassau aboard six ships including Utopia of the Seas, Carnival Conquest, Carnival Sunshine, Disney Fantasy, Carnival Freedom and Allure of the Seas, joined in the day's festivities as they poured into downtown Nassau. Live music filled the air, with two bands from Falcon Entertainment rocking the arrivals terminal and creating a celebratory mood in the Port Plaza. DJ Kenny, NCP's resident DJ, kept the energy high in the Port Marketplace, where the NCP team hosted Bahamian trivia games with prizes selected from port vendors and Authentically Bahamian luxury brands. Passengers captured the special day with the help of the Focus 360 Photo Booth team and snapped thousands of selfies featuring branded "Utopia" pier signage and a custom step-in NCP magazine cover photo frame. The day culminated in a Bahamian concert at the amphitheatre, sponsored by the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and featuring DMac, Funky D, Nishie LS, and more, backed by Shad Collie and the VIPs.

"The arrival of Utopia of the Seas created an incredible buzz here because of the significance of this unique event to our community," said Mike Maura, CEO of Nassau Cruise Port. "This oasis-class ship dedicated to The Bahamas means potentially 16,000 passengers are coming straight to Nassau each week, pouring into our economy. This is a call to action for entrepreneurs and business owners to get creative with their products, services, and brands to share our Bahamian culture, history,

identity and experiences. This will not only allow us to sustain the increase in passengers but also increase those numbers and expand to other islands in The Bahamas."

With Utopia of the Seas now making regular calls to Nassau, the island is poised for a significant boost in tourism and economic activity. The Nassau Cruise Port's commitment to providing an unforgettable experience for passengers ensures that the island remains a port of choice for cruise lines and travelers.



## LA GOULETTE CRUISE PORT: NAVIGATING TOWARDS EXCELLENCE

As the gateway to Tunisia, La Goulette Cruise Port has long been a cherished stop for cruise liners traversing the Mediterranean. Recently, the port has undergone significant upgrades, reinforcing its position as a premier destination for cruise passengers and a vital hub in the industry.

Over the past year, La Goulette Cruise Port has upgraded its infrastructure to accommodate the growing number of passengers. These efforts have paid off, with a noticeable increase in cruise arrivals and passenger satisfaction. The port's team has worked tirelessly to ensure that every visitor's experience is seamless, from the moment they disembark to when they explore Tunisia's historical treasures.

One of the major highlights for passengers docking at La Goulette is the proximity to some of Tunisia's most iconic destinations. A short drive from the port takes visitors to the heart of Tunis, where La Medina offers a mesmerising blend of history, culture, and bustling marketplaces. The ancient city of Carthage, with its awe-inspiring ruins, provides a glimpse into Tunisia's glorious past, while the charming village of Sidi Bou Said captivates with its whitewashed buildings and stunning views of the Mediterranean.

La Goulette's commitment to enhancing the passenger experience has paid off, with a noticeable increase in cruise traffic, positioning it as a premier destination for cruise lines seeking to offer their passengers an unforgettable North African experience. As a port that combines modern amenities with rich cultural experiences, La Goulette is proving to be a valuable asset to the Mediterranean cruise circuit, ensuring that both cruise lines and their passengers enjoy an unforgettable journey through Tunisia.





## TARANTO: FROM SEA TO PLATE IN THE HEART OF MAGNA GRAECIA

Taranto is one of the most important ports in the Mediterranean, as well as one of the oldest places in Magna Graecia. This incredible history is fully reflected in the local cuisine, which spans from meat to fish to the ever-present pasta dishes. Just behind Piazza Castello, in the historic center of Taranto, you can find numerous small, lively restaurants nestled in the tiny streets of the old city.

The city of two seas favours fish dishes, with "cozze alla tarantina" (mussels Taranto style) being its signature dish. The locals also enjoy a fresh glass of local white wine with a barbecued octopus sandwich. For those who prefer meat, the "bombette"—meat rolls stuffed with ham and cheese—are a true explosion of flavour, with local butchers creating them in many varieties.

No meal is complete without dessert! Try the local sweet "carteddate," sheets of fried dough with a curled shape rich in meaning, allegedly related to the sheets in which the Baby Jesus was wrapped. The name comes from the thinness of the pastry sheet, like "greaseproof paper," which is rolled up on itself until it forms a sort of rose fried in plenty of oil and soaked in warm vincotto or honey, then sprinkled with cinnamon, powdered sugar, or coloured sprinkles.

Before leaving Taranto, you cannot fail to try Raffo beer, which is considered the "beer of the Tarantines" par excellence.



## SAINT LUCIA CRUISE PORT SETTLES OVER \$17 MILLION OF SLASPA DEBT



Saint Lucia Cruise Port, the new operator of the cruise port at Port Castries, has settled outstanding cruise-related debts in the amount of over USD 17 million on behalf of the Saint Lucia Air & Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA). The substantial payment was a part of the terms of the cruise port management agreement made between the Government of Saint Lucia and Global Ports Holding, the world's largest cruise port operator, which was finalised in April.

The announcement regarding the debt repayment was made shortly after the ceremony marking the commencement of cruise port operations was held on April 30 at the Northern Wharf of Port Castries.

In late April, the Saint Lucia Cruise Port team met with SLASPA executives to provide an update on the project plans, discuss the transition of various responsibilities, and identify opportunities for collaboration. Additionally, the team confirmed during the discussions that all stevedoring services will continue to be retained by SLASPA and handled through its contracted stevedoring company. SLASPA will also maintain responsibility for access to all ports of entry, including Port Castries.

Lancelot Arnold, Director of GPH Eastern Caribbean and General Manager of Saint Lucia Cruise Port, spoke about the development of the relationship between the SLASPA team and Saint Lucia Cruise Port. "We are settling well into our new partnership. It has been extremely helpful to engage with the SLASPA executives and management team, who have been very supportive of our plans and are looking forward to our progress. By working together and maintaining open lines of communication, we will further enhance the quality of our service delivery and the reputation of Saint Lucia as a top cruising destination."



## CHAMPIONING DIVERSITY AND ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES IN BARCELONA

Barcelona is a European beacon of diversity and opportunity. Its rich blend of cultures and commerce offers incredible possibilities for people from all walks of life. Among these is strong support for outreach and development programs aimed at assisting individuals with disabilities. At Barcelona Cruise Port, we are proud to collaborate with Refruiting, an organisation making significant strides in this area.

Refruiting is a fruit delivery service that operates across Spain, providing businesses with a steady supply of fresh produce through a subscription model. Their mission extends beyond just delivering fruits; they are committed to doing so in an eco-friendly and socially responsible manner. By sourcing fruits from local farmers and vendors, Refruiting not only reduces its carbon footprint but also bolsters the local economy. They further minimise food waste by maintaining consistent purchasing and delivery schedules, ensuring that fruits which might otherwise go to waste are utilised. Additionally, all packaging used by Refruiting is made from recycled and reusable materials, reinforcing their commitment to sustainability.

Beyond their environmental efforts, Refruiting's core philosophy is to foster the inclusion of people with disabilities and those at risk of social exclusion in the workforce. They strive to create greater access to opportunities and uphold the rights and freedoms of all individuals in the workplace, promoting equality across the board. To achieve this, Refruiting partners with the Sifu Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing the social integration and job prospects of people with disabilities and special challenges.

Together, we are committed to advancing towards a more environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive workplace.



## MUST-TRY FOOD IN BREMERHAVEN: FRESH NORTH SEA FISH

When in Bremerhaven, indulging in fresh North Sea fish is an absolute must. This coastal city is renowned for its seafood, and the best way to experience it is by trying the local favorite: freshly caught fish, prepared simply to let the flavors of the sea shine.

One of the most popular dishes is Fischbrötchen, a traditional German fish sandwich. Served on a crusty roll, it's typically filled with fresh herring, mackerel, or smoked fish, complemented by onions, pickles, and a touch of remoulade or horseradish. For a more substantial meal, try Bremerhaven Fischplatte, a mixed seafood platter that showcases the day's catch, including grilled fish fillets, shrimp, and other local delicacies.

A great spot to savor this maritime treat is the Schauenster Fischereihafen, an area in the old fishing harbor where you'll find a variety of fish restaurants and stalls offering the freshest seafood straight from the boat. Enjoy your meal with a view of the harbor, and you'll experience Bremerhaven at its culinary best.

Whether you're a seafood lover or just looking to try something quintessentially local, the fresh North Sea fish in Bremerhaven will provide a memorable and delicious experience.





## JOURNEY THROUGH MUSICAL LEGENDS: THE ICONIC CAVERN CLUB IN LIVERPOOL

Host of the legendary The Beatles, located in the vibrant city, discovered the music scene living in Liverpool, the iconic Cavern Club. Right after you enter the club, the visitors find themselves surrounded by the pure energy and electricity of music that creates an ambiance just like a temple for music lovers all around the world.

Iconically poorly lit places, have seen countless musical greatness over the years, the stage has witnessed pure musical talent echoed from the walls of this legendary club in Liverpool. If an artist wants to be the upcoming legend of musical scene and history, the Cavern Club offers its stage and atmosphere to music from any genre, varying from the upbeat rhythm of rock and roll to melodies of blues and jazz touching soul, almost creating a biblical ambiance for people inside.

The Cavern Club is a place where undiscovered talents built from scratch and get out of their cocoon like a butterfly and dreams are born and realised. Rich musical heritage belonging to the spirit of Liverpool has become a living icon in this club, which is the reason why this club is more than a venue. Doesn't matter if you are a rock and roll fan, a visit to this iconic venue promises unforgettable memories since it guarantees an everlasting allure of Liverpool music scene through a journey to history of musical legends.



## ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT SPONSORS HALCYON STEEL ORCHESTRA FOR 2024 PANORAMA FESTIVAL

Antigua Cruise Port sponsored the Halcyon Steel Orchestra and their participation in the 2024 Panorama Festival to be held on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at the Antigua Recreational Ground in St. John's.

The Orchestra, which has been in existence for more than 50 years, faced severe challenges that threatened its participation in the event. The National Panorama

Championship is the annual music contest for steel bands from Antigua and has been held for many decades. Headed by Principal Consultant W. Baldwin Spencer, the Orchestra secured support through the government for its participation.

This sponsorship, championed by the government of Antigua, highlights Antigua Cruise Port's commitment to cultural preservation and youth development. The Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister for Tourism, endorsed the initiative, emphasising the importance of supporting local talent and fostering community engagement.

"We are proud to support the Halcyon Steel Orchestra, a group that represents the vibrant cultural heritage of Antigua," said Gasper George, General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port. "This sponsorship not only ensures their participation in the Panorama Festival but also strengthens our ties with the community and the government, promoting cultural activities that engage and inspire our youth."

The Halcyon Steel Orchestra, primarily composed of young individuals, plays a crucial role in nurturing positive attributes and talents among Antigua's youth. The title sponsorship will provide the necessary funding to purchase equipment and cover other expenses essential for their participation.

This initiative aligns with the corporate social responsibility objectives of Antigua Cruise Port, enhancing the company's visibility and reputation within the community and the business sector. By supporting the orchestra, Antigua Cruise Port also leverages opportunities for brand visibility as the group will carry the Antigua Cruise Port brand at all engagements, fostering a positive image and strengthening community relations.



## 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.

[bodrumcruiseport.com](http://bodrumcruiseport.com)

## GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING PLC ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF JOHN MAWER AS GENERAL MANAGER FOR LIVERPOOL CRUISE PORT



Global Ports Holding welcomes Mr. John Mawer as the new General Manager for Liverpool Cruise Port, GPH's latest acquisition and first port in the United Kingdom. In his new role, John Mawer will oversee the development and management of Liverpool Cruise Port, a key component in GPH's expansion within the Northern Europe Region. Reporting directly to the Chief Operating Officer, John will play a pivotal role in enhancing the port's operations and service offerings.

"We are delighted to welcome John Mawer to the Global Ports Holding family," said Stephen Xuereb, Chief Operating Officer of Global Ports Holding Plc. "John's extensive experience and proven leadership in the maritime sector make him an invaluable addition to our team. We are confident that his deep knowledge of the sector in the region will contribute significantly towards further establishing Liverpool as a thriving cruise destination."

"I look forward to the continued success of Liverpool Cruise Port and am very excited to be a part of the Global Ports Holding team. This port has immense potential, and I look forward to working to enhance its operations and deliver exceptional experiences for our passengers and partners through collaboration with all of our Liverpool stakeholders." John Mawer, Liverpool Cruise Port General Manager.

John brings over two decades of extensive maritime and port management experience. His career began with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, where he held several senior leadership positions, including Port Operations: Training Manager and Company Security Officer. Transitioning to the cruise sector in 2017, John served as the Cruise Manager at Liverpool Cruise Terminal. Most recently, he excelled as the Head of Cruise and Operations at Cruise Liverpool, demonstrating exceptional leadership and operational planning skills.

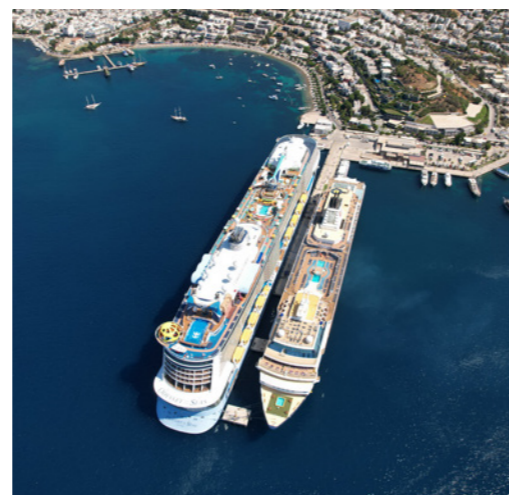
## BODRUM CRUISE PORT: THE HEART OF BODRUM'S MARITIME BEAUTY

Located in the heart of Bodrum, Bodrum Cruise Port offers an unparalleled gateway to one of Turkey's most charming destinations. Passengers arriving at the port can easily reach the vibrant center of Bodrum by taking a scenic walk along the coastline. Within just a 10-minute stroll, they find themselves amidst the bustling streets of Bodrum, ready to explore the town's unique blend of modernity and tradition.

Bodrum, with its stunning sea, pristine bays, and iconic wooden Tirhandil boats, is a place where the allure of modern living meets the simplicity of traditional village life. The city beautifully merges these contrasting elements, offering a one-of-a-kind experience to visitors. Among the city's treasures is the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, standing as a testament to Bodrum's rich history and cultural significance. Visitors arriving by cruise are greeted by the majestic Bodrum Castle, a landmark that captures the essence of the city's historic charm.

As a cruise destination, Bodrum continues to rise in prominence, earning its place as the shining star of the Mediterranean. This year, the port has proudly hosted several inaugural calls, including the Crystal Symphony, Seven Seas Grandeur, Costa Fortuna, Marella Discovery, Norwegian Getaway, Silver Whisper, and MSC Explora 1. With each passing year, Bodrum solidifies its reputation as a must-visit port of call, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming even more new ships to our waters in the coming seasons.

Comparing the statistics from July 2023 to July 2024, Bodrum has seen a remarkable 35% increase in passenger numbers. The Mediterranean region has witnessed a significant uptick in cruise traffic, and Bodrum is no exception. This growth is also reflected in the private yacht category, which has seen an 18-20% increase. These numbers underscore Bodrum's growing appeal as a premier destination for cruise travellers and luxury yachts alike.



## NEW CALLERS AND BUSY TIMES FOR VALLETTA CRUISE PORT

The last months at Valletta Cruise Port were characterised by a hustle and bustle in port with a number of regular callers including weekly calls by MSC World Europa, P&O Azura and Costa Fascinosa, numerous calls by Norwegian Epic, Norwegian Escape, Queen Victoria and Marella Explorer 2 to mention a few, but also a number of new visitors.

Disney Dream, the third ship in Disney Cruise Line's collection was on her maiden call to the Maltese Islands in the early summer days with an overnight stay at Valletta Cruise Port leaving Malta on the following evening – a highly anticipated call by locals who congregated on the adjacent waterfront to experience her iconic horn.

A ray of light made her way into port on an atypical cloudy summer day. The newly-launched Silver Ray called Valletta Cruise Port on her first call in early summer, impressing with her asymmetrical design and seamless destination connections.

More recently the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's superyacht Ilma, meaning "water" in Maltese, has made her stunning inaugural call at the Maltese port with a customary plaque exchange marking the day.

Meanwhile Atlas Ocean Voyages' World Traveller and guests enjoyed local bites, Maltese folk dancing and the lively tunes of a traditional village band on the Valletta Cruise Port quays with panoramic views of the historical Grand Harbour. Valletta Cruise Port is looking forward to yet another busy autumn and winter season welcoming more guests to experience destination Malta.



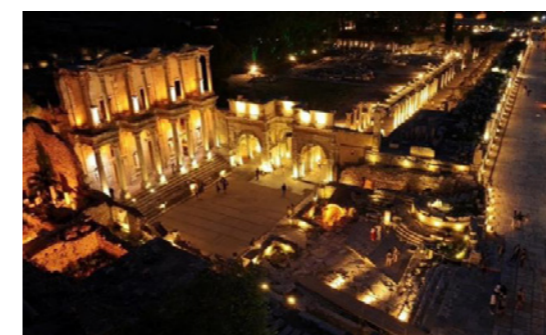
## EPHESUS NOW WELCOMES VISITORS UNTIL MIDNIGHT: EXPERIENCE THE ANCIENT CITY IN A NEW LIGHT

As of 2024, the ancient city of Ephesus has extended its visiting hours, allowing guests to explore its timeless beauty until midnight. This new opportunity transforms the experience of Ephesus, offering a magical journey through its storied streets and iconic landmarks under the night sky. The city's most significant structures, including the Library of Celsus, the Great Theatre, and the Temple of Hadrian, are now illuminated, casting a soft, enchanting glow that accentuates their grandeur.

Visiting Ephesus after sunset not only provides a respite from the daytime heat and crowds but also reveals a different facet of the ancient city. The carefully designed lighting brings the ruins to life, highlighting the architectural details and creating an atmosphere of mystery and wonder. The play of light and shadow on the marble columns and ancient stonework invites visitors to imagine the city's past grandeur in a new and evocative way.

As the evening progresses and the temperatures cool, Ephesus offers a serene and relaxed environment for exploration. The tranquil ambiance, free from the bustle of daytime tourists, allows for a more intimate connection with the site. Wandering through the illuminated ruins, visitors can fully appreciate the scale and significance of this once-great city, experiencing its history in a setting that feels both timeless and ethereal.

This nocturnal visit to Ephesus not only enhances the visual experience but also provides a unique opportunity to engage with the site in a more personal and reflective manner. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a photographer seeking the perfect shot, or simply someone looking to experience one of the world's most famous archaeological sites in a new way, visiting Ephesus at night promises an unforgettable adventure.



## GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING WELCOMES TIMO A. SCHÖN AS GENERAL MANAGER OF BREMERHAVEN CRUISE PORT



Global Ports Holding is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Timo A. Schön as the new General Manager for Bremerhaven Cruise Port, marking GPH's first port in Germany.

Timo A. Schön brings over two decades of leadership experience in the maritime industry to his new role. Most recently, he served as CEO of Jade-Dienst GmbH in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, since June 2020. During his tenure, Jade-Dienst GmbH expanded its services significantly, adding mooring, port forwarding, vessel supplies, MARPOL I waste disposal, marine engine repairs, maritime steel locksmith services, and terminal operations to its portfolio. Timo also led the spin-off of a marine propulsion division and founded a subsidiary focused on offshore services.

"Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Timo A. Schön. His extensive experience and proven leadership in the maritime industry will be invaluable as we develop Bremerhaven Cruise Port, our first port in Germany. We are confident that under his guidance, Bremerhaven Cruise Port will achieve new heights of success and operational excellence." Stephen Xuereb, COO of Global Ports Holding Plc.

"I am delighted to join Global Ports Holding and lead the Bremerhaven Cruise Port operations. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the growth of GPH's first port in Germany. I look forward to working with the GPH team and local stakeholders to create a world-class cruise port experience for passengers and cruise lines alike." Timo A. Schön, General Manager, Bremerhaven Cruise Port.



## NASSAU CRUISE PORT HOSTS RBPf SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM STUDENTS

Students in the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPf) Second Chance Programme recently spent a transformative day at Nassau Cruise Port. A group of 60 children and 10 RBPf chaperones received an exclusive tour of the cruise port, which included an exciting visit to the Bahamas Museum of Junkanoo. Members of the Nassau Cruise Port team, Bahari Bahamas, and other port community members made presentations about their careers and about creating entrepreneurial opportunities. Additionally, the students were treated to lunch from Preacher's Kid, one of the sensational Bahamian restaurants at the port, sponsored by Nassau Cruise Port.

The Second Chance program guides young individuals through personal transformation by imparting valuable lessons from past mistakes while gaining new experiences. The port tour gave the students a first-hand look at the operations of the cruise port and insights into careers in the maritime industry, encouraging them to envision a brighter future.

Superintendent Keith Ferguson of the Royal Bahamas Police Force expressed gratitude for the opportunity and support provided by Nassau Cruise Port. "We are sincerely thankful to the Nassau Cruise Port team for facilitating this enriching experience for our children. Exposing them to various aspects of life beyond their immediate surroundings is invaluable. The visit opened their eyes to new possibilities and reinforced the importance of perseverance and personal growth."

Nassau Cruise Port is proud to invest in our collective future by supporting initiatives like the RBPf Second Chance programme.

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