

# GPH NEWS

THE WORLD'S  
LARGEST CRUISE  
PORT OPERATOR

## INTERVIEW

FEDERICO  
GONZÁLEZ-DENTON

San Juan Cruise Port Operations start

## SPECIAL FEATURES

CARLO MICALLEF

Valletta: Most Enchanting Natural  
Harbours of the World

COLIN C. JAMES

Antigua: Natural Beauty and Unique Attributes



GLOBAL PORTS  
HOLDING

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20<sup>th</sup>  
*year*  
anniversary





# SPOTLIGHT

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**GPH NEWS SPRING 2024 ISSUE**

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## A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

### Dear Industry Partners,

As we gather here today at Seatrade Cruise Global held in Miami, it is with a profound sense of unity and pleasure that we address the state of our cherished cruise industry. In navigating the complexities of our ever-evolving world, we find ourselves drawn together by our shared commitment to excellence and progress within our cruise community.

The growth of our industry is a testament to our collective resilience and unwavering dedication. We have witnessed remarkable progress in recent years, surpassing previous milestones and setting new benchmarks for success.

This year, as we celebrate Global Ports Holding's 20th anniversary, we take pride in our global footprint, operating in 30 ports across 17 countries. This milestone underscores our company's unwavering commitment to operational excellence and collaborative partnerships.

We are thrilled to share news of the start of operations at the San Juan Cruise Port, a testament to our continued expansion in the Caribbean. We have been given the opportunity to put this passion to work by leading GPH's new venture in this part of the world, propelling this iconic cruise port to a whole new level. This project represents a significant investment in Puerto Rico's tourism industry and brings great economic opportunities to the region.

Furthermore, we continue to champion green initiatives among our cruise ports. Collaborating closely with local authorities, we have implemented innovative sustainability solutions, achieving a significant milestone at Valletta Cruise Port: the inaugural ship-to-shore connectivity within the GPH ports network. This marks just the beginning, with other GPH ports set to follow suit.

Our commitment to sustainability is further evidenced by ongoing investments in green terminals, with construction projects underway simultaneously in Las Palmas, Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, Tarragona, and Alicante. These projects incorporate green technologies and sustainable solutions, aligning perfectly with our vision for a more environmentally conscious future.

In closing, we extend a warm invitation to all stakeholders to engage with us as we continue to shape the future of cruise port operations. Together, we are poised to overcome any challenge and seize every opportunity that lies ahead.

We must always remember we are One World, One Community!

**Mehmet Kutman**  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Global Ports Holding Plc



# INTERVIEW: FEDERICO GONZALEZ - DENTON, SAN JUAN CRUISE PORT GENERAL MANAGER

PUERTO RICO IS INDEED  
'THE SHINING STAR OF  
THE CARIBBEAN'



## A New Shining Star in the Caribbean San Juan Cruise Port joins GPH's Global Network

Showing off to visitors the sheer beauty, endearing charm, and exciting lifestyle of his birthplace and contributing to the economic and social development of his fellow islanders have been the two great passions of Federico González Denton during most of his professional life. Now, this Puerto Rico-born maritime lawyer-turned-cruise line executive and all-around tourism industry expert will have a chance to thrive in both of his passions as the new General Manager of San Juan Cruise Port, Global Ports Holding's most recent addition to its constellation of shining cruise ports around the world.

It's a dream come true. I truly believe there's a tour guide inside every Puerto Rican. And I'm the first one. We love our Island...and we love showing it to every visitor from around the world. I may be biased, but as one of our most successful tourism campaigns used to say, Puerto Rico is indeed 'the shining star of the Caribbean'.

### What is San Juan Cruise Port?

San Juan Cruise Port ("SJCP"), a wholly owned subsidiary of GPH, is the Puerto Rican entity that will manage and operate the San Juan cruise port project in Puerto Rico, under the expert leadership of a local team backed by GPH's vast global operations network. SJCP will operate as a separate, distinct legal entity incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

We recognize the significance and potential of the San Juan cruise ports and know that they are an essential part of Puerto Rico's economy and social fabric. We aim to protect, expand and enhance the livelihood of the Island's tourism industry by putting our global experience and well-recognized commitment to environmental protection to work for the benefit of Puerto Rico as a whole.

We are committed to (1) repair, enhance, develop and operate the San Juan cruise ports infrastructure adhering to world-class standards and making sure it's capable of handling the largest ships, (2) achieve best-in-class customer satisfaction, (3) increase cruise passenger traffic, and (4) create a mutually beneficial partnership with the destination to secure San Juan's position as the leading cruise port in the Caribbean and one of the very best in the world.

Hand-in-hand with Puerto Rico's public authorities and cruise industry stakeholders, GPH will put its best-in-class practices and global expertise behind a talented local team to position the San Juan cruise ports where they need to be so that everyone benefits from projected industry growth.

### More specifically, how did SJCP come about and what does it consist of?

The SJCP project is a 30-year Public-Private Partnership Agreement ("PPPA") with the Puerto Rico Ports Authority ("PRPA") for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of and investment in the cruise ports at San Juan.

The concession was the result of a rigorous and competitive qualification, evaluation, selection and negotiation process led and managed by the Puerto Rico Public-Private Partnerships Authority ("P3A") as provided by Puerto Rico law.

Under the PPPA, GPH, through its San Juan Cruise Port local subsidiary, will manage, operate and make investments in the ports during the term of the concession, but the ports will continue to belong to the people of Puerto Rico.

Our main objectives are, first to rebuild and enhance the current port's infrastructure to ensure continued operations and, second, to develop new infrastructure to maximize the long-term potential of the cruise ports, both with the aim of increasing cruise, tourism, transportation and retail activities, to create jobs and maximize economic development opportunities for Puerto Rico.

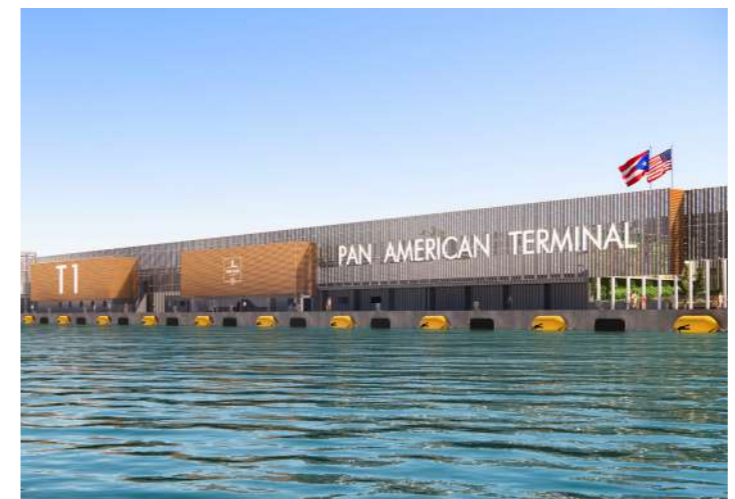


GPH will invest more than \$425 million, including an upfront payment of \$75 million to the PRPA, and a capital investment program of more than \$350 million to address the poor current conditions of the ports' infrastructure, expand their capacity, and deploy GPH's world-class operational practices to improve customer service.

It is projected by independent cruise traffic experts that current cruise passenger volume at San Juan has the potential to grow threefold from 1.8 million in 2019 to over 5 million by the end of the 30-year concession, a conservative estimate which is consistent with the projected growth of the industry worldwide. GPH has the investment capital and global expertise to work together with Puerto Rico authorities, cruise lines, and industry stakeholders to position the ports of San Juan where they need to be so it can capitalize on this foreseen growth.

### How will the people of Puerto Rico benefit from this San Juan Cruise Port project?

A local economic consulting firm estimated that the SJCP project will contribute an estimated \$12 billion in positive economic impact for Puerto Rico over the term of the concession. It is expected to generate some 4,525 direct and indirect jobs during the development and construction phases and 215 permanent jobs at peak times during operations. We understand many of the necessary skill sets are readily available in Puerto



Rico and we are excited to tap into the best local talent and work with local service providers and suppliers as much as possible.

SJCP acknowledges the importance of providing exceptional services to cruise passengers during their stay in San Juan and Puerto Rico. If satisfactory guest services are delivered to cruise passengers when they first enter a new destination, the rest of their trip would be more satisfying as well. In line with its guest-oriented approach, SJCP will develop a variety of guest services to satisfy the needs of the cruise passengers and optimize their experiences.

### In that regard, what is your plan to partner with local businesses so that they may benefit from the new economic activity?

SJCP strongly believes that retail and service offerings can be further enhanced in the San Juan metropolitan area. SJCP will partner with local stakeholders, cruise lines and governmental agencies to introduce new offerings through a Guest Information Center ("GIC") model consisting of Exclusive Information Centers and Public Information Centers to offer Guest and Transportation Services.

In order to provide the best possible experience to cruise passengers, it is critical to interact with them, understand and act upon their needs. That's the purpose of GICs. Through the GIC, cruise passengers can get information on attractions in San Juan and around Puerto Rico, local businesses can market their products and services, and additional services can be offered to cruise passengers, such as transportation options. GICs serve as tourist information exchanges where guests are provided local maps and information. Trained and well-equipped personnel will be assisting cruise passengers in order to maximize the integration with the destination. As such, the GIC creates opportunities for additional revenue for local businesses.

SJCP will pursue a holistic approach for the entire destination of San Juan and Puerto Rico. Strong passenger growth is predicated upon further development of the land-based tourism infrastructure. Further, the projected increase in cruise passenger traffic will result in increased economic activity that will positively impact Old San Juan retailers, restaurants, tour operators and other stakeholders of the cruise industry.



**Speaking of which, what are your marketing plans to ensure growth of passenger traffic?**

We are confident that the Caribbean will remain the most stable and desirable base for cruise operators worldwide. Competition is strong. This partnership between GPH and Puerto Rico public authorities will ensure that Puerto Rico remains the leading player in this market. Our local ports team will be committed to the destination. We intend to work with the local authorities and stakeholders to support the promotion of the destination itself. Engagement, alignment and knowledge sharing are keys to sustainable success.

San Juan offers many things that make it unique, such as proximity to major homeports, having the biggest port and airport in the region, being part of the U.S. and having unique tourist attractions, like Old San Juan. In addition, GPH will facilitate the growth of the homeport business by ensuring that San Juan continues to be the gateway to the Eastern and Southern Caribbean cruise industry.

We will deliver on our promise to offer a world-class customer service experience, in addition to offering improved operations, safety standards and customized service offerings according to the type of ship and best-in-class environmental stewardship.

The overall objective of SJCP is to expand the quantity and quality of service offered to cruise lines and passengers. Improving port operations and maximizing Puerto Rico tourism industry growth are, thus, SJCP's primary goals.

We will work to bring all major cruise lines to the table from the beginning and will do it openly and transparently. As an independent operator, GPH maintains longstanding working relationships with all the major cruise lines and is a partner of most of the ports we operate across the ports. It is also part of GPH's DNA to promote and protect fair competition, so we will accommodate and welcome a variety of cruise lines, big and small, new and old.

SJCP will place great emphasis on marketing San Juan to both consumers and cruise lines as a "must-see destination" in the Caribbean cruise market. SJCP will collaborate with local stakeholders on the promotion of the Island's tourist attractions and the development of the entire destination.



**WE ARE EXCITED TO TAP INTO THE BEST LOCAL TALENT AND WORK WITH LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SUPPLIERS**



**IT'S BEEN AN AWARDFUL YEAR!**

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

**AWARDS**

**PORT**

Asia's Best Cruise Terminal

World Cruise Awards

SINGAPORE

Europe's Best Cruise Terminal

World Cruise Awards

ZADAR

Europe's Leading Cruise Port

World Travel Awards

LISBON

Best Port of Call

Premios Cruceroadicto

VALLETTA

Outstanding Business Initiative

Las Palmas Ports Awards

LAS PALMAS



# OLD SAN JUAN: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AND CULTURE

Nestled on the northwestern coast of Puerto Rico, Old San Juan stands as a testament to the intersection of history, culture, and beauty. With its vibrant colors, cobblestone streets, and historic forts, this UNESCO World Heritage Site invites visitors to immerse themselves in a rich tapestry of experiences. As you set foot in this enchanting district, prepare to be captivated by its colonial charm and modern allure. Here is our curated guide to the must-sees and things to do in Old San Juan.

## El Morro: Travel Back in Time

Start your journey by exploring the iconic Castillo San Felipe del Morro, or simply El Morro. Rising proudly along the coastline, this 16th-century fortress stands as a guardian overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Wander through the intricate maze of tunnels, dungeons, and barracks while soaking in panoramic views of the sea. As you stand atop the fortress walls, you'll find yourself transported to a time when El Morro played a crucial role in protecting the island from invaders.

## Cobblestones and Colors: Beauty Everywhere

Immerse yourself in the kaleidoscope of colors that define Old San Juan's historic streets, with something to discover around every corner. Lined with vivid-hued buildings, the cobblestone streets are a photographer's paradise. Don't miss the opportunity to explore the numerous boutiques, art galleries, quaint cafes, and local restaurants that dot the area. The lively atmosphere and historic architecture make every single street a must-visit destination for those looking to experience the city.



## La Fortaleza: Governor's Mansion

At the top of Calle Fortaleza lies La Fortaleza, the official residence of the Governor of Puerto Rico. Marvel at the colonial elegance of this fortress-like mansion, dating back to the 16th century. The surrounding gardens and the captivating Chapel of Christ the Savior add to the charm of this historic site. While access to the interior may be limited, the exterior and its fascinating history make La Fortaleza a captivating stop on your Old San Juan itinerary.

## San Juan Cathedral: A Spiritual Retreat

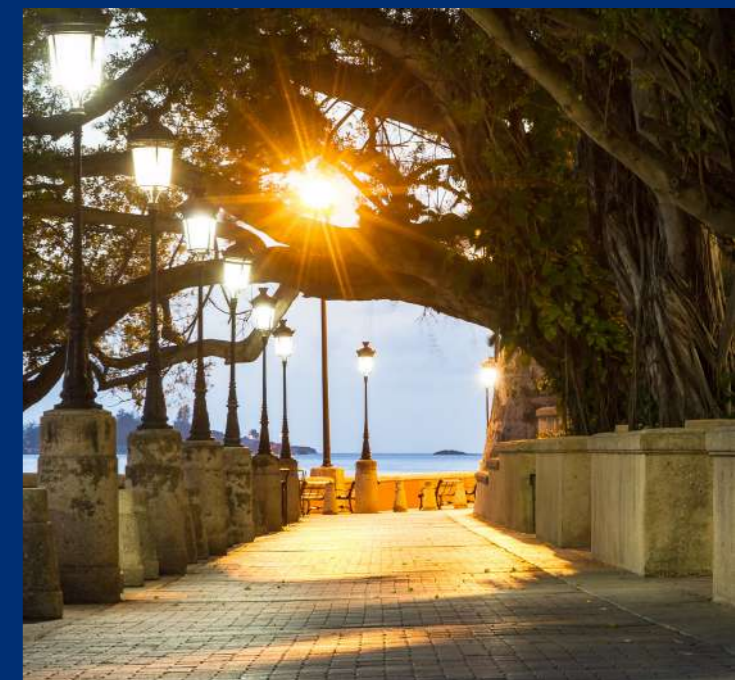
In the heart of Old San Juan, the San Juan Cathedral is a sublime blend of history and spirituality. Dating back to the 16th century, this cathedral boasts a stunning Gothic and Neoclassical architectural fusion. Step inside to discover intricate stained glass windows, ornate chapels, and the final resting place of the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León. The cathedral's serene ambiance provides a peaceful retreat amid the bustling streets of Old San Juan.



## Paseo de la Princesa: Stroll Along the Waterfront

Conclude your Old San Juan adventure with a leisurely stroll along Paseo de la Princesa. This picturesque waterfront promenade offers stunning views of the San Juan Bay and the city walls. Lined with statues, fountains, and lush greenery, the promenade is an ideal spot for an evening walk or a romantic sunset experience. Street vendors and local musicians often add a touch of Caribbean flair to the atmosphere, making Paseo de la Princesa a perfect ending to your exploration of Old San Juan.

As you navigate through the cobblestone streets, absorb the history, and indulge in the vibrant culture, Old San Juan will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on your travel memories. This historic gem, with its blend of old-world charm and contemporary allure, invites you to step into the past while enjoying the present. Whether you're a history enthusiast, an art lover, or someone seeking the authentic flavors of Puerto Rico, Old San Juan promises an unforgettable experience that transcends time.





## ZADAR CRUISE PORT POISED FOR RECORD YEAR IN 2024

Zadar Cruise Port, the most awarded Croatian cruise port, is poised for an exceptional year ahead as it anticipates a remarkable surge in cruise traffic in 2024. With projections soaring to unprecedented heights, the port expects to host a record-breaking 120 cruise calls from 23 prestigious cruise lines, welcoming approximately 240,000 passengers and 93,000 crew members. This anticipated 67% increase from 2023 reflects the port's commitment to service excellence and marks a significant milestone in its journey.

General Manager Rebeka V. Pevec expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "The projected growth in cruise traffic at Zadar Cruise Port underscores our dedication to providing exceptional service and memorable experiences for all visitors. We are proud to be increasingly recognized as the gateway to Croatian treasures, connecting cruise industry with the beauty and culture of Zadar and the region, and we look forward to welcoming guests from around the world."

Nestled along the picturesque Croatian coastline, Zadar boasts a rich tapestry of historical landmarks, cultural treasures, and stunning natural landscapes. As Zadar Cruise Port embarks on its most remarkable year yet, it invites cruise travelers to embark on a journey of discovery, adventure, and unforgettable moments along the shimmering shores of the Adriatic. With its unwavering dedication to excellence and boundless spirit of hospitality, Zadar Cruise Port stands as a beacon of inspiration within the maritime landscape, poised to redefine the future of cruising in the Adriatic region.



## MALAGA SET TO WELCOME SEATRADE CRUISE MED 2024: BUILDING ON SUCCESS

After the resounding success of the previous event, Malaga is once again gearing up with excitement to host the international fair for the cruise sector, Seatrade Cruise Med, in 2024 for the second consecutive year. This marks the first time that the organization has chosen the same destination as the previous edition.

Within the framework of the International Tourism Fair (FITUR), Malaga presented this next edition of Seatrade Cruise Med, one of the most important meetings in the cruise segment worldwide that will bring together the main cruise companies, tourism companies, tour operators and travel agents of this industry.

Thus, the cruise industry will meet again on September 11 and 12, 2024 at the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos (The Malaga Trade Fair and Congress Center), which last edition received more than 2,000 visitors from 78 countries, including the attendance of more than 170 executives from shipping companies.

In Malaga, a committee has already been established for the organization and attendance of this fair which, in addition to repositioning the city on the world map of the cruise industry, will also reinforce Spain's role as one of the main destinations of cruise ships in Europe. Malaga Cruise Port is proud to play an integral role in this committee, contributing to the success of the event and the enhancement of Malaga's reputation as a premier cruise destination.

## FAMILY FUN IN THE SUN: NASSAU

Embarking on a family cruise to Nassau, Bahamas, promises not just sun-soaked shores but a treasure trove of experiences for every member of the family. Cruise ships docking at the vibrant, newly reimagined, and revitalized Nassau Cruise Port, can experience a myriad of exciting activities and attractions. From historical landmarks to thrilling water adventures, Nassau has it all. Here's a guide to the top things for families to do while exploring Nassau Cruise Port (NCP) and its surroundings.

Along with the numerous attractions in Nassau, the cruise port itself offers a range of amenities to enhance the experience for visiting families. Following a \$300 million expansion and revitalization, NCP boasts brand new surroundings and a taste of The Bahamas that evokes the spirit and true nature of Bahamian culture and the people of The Bahamas.

Guests can enjoy diverse retail offerings at NCP and can find souvenirs, jewelry, art, apparel, straw work, woodwork bath and body products and much more. Meet the artisans behind these impressive authentic Bahamian goods and take a piece of unique Bahamian culture home.

Indulge in Bahamian cuisine and beverages at NCP with a visit to the variety of bars, restaurants and even a gelateria, all offering a taste of local flavors. Events and entertainment: Enjoy music, live bands, cultural performances, and other entertainment options available at the cruise port. The Bahamas Museum of Junkanoo, in the Arrival's Plaza, for immersion in the culture of The Bahamas and education on Junkanoo, The Bahamas' most popular festival. Surrounding Nassau Cruise Port is the 300-year-old historic city of downtown Nassau. Families visiting NCP can take in the sights and sounds of the surrounding area and explore all that the capital of The Bahamas has to offer.



## INNOVATIVE CRUISE TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION AT TARRAGONA CRUISE PORT

Tarragona Cruise Port embarked on an innovative journey in port infrastructure with the commencement of construction on its new cruise terminal in June 2023. The construction progress has seamlessly adhered to the planned schedule, showcasing a steadfast commitment to efficiency and punctuality.

In Almería, industrial manufacturing of the terminal's modules is currently underway, serving as both an efficiency booster and a pillar of environmental sustainability. This method significantly cuts material usage, reducing waste generation by 50%. Moreover, it slashes CO2 emissions during construction by 60%, with an anticipated 30% reduction during operation. Notably, water consumption and energy usage for climate control see substantial decreases, with a 40% drop observed. These statistics underscore the alignment of the project with the ambitious goals of the Sustainability Plan of the Port of Tarragona, particularly in improving waste management within the port community. The substantial reduction in emissions and waste reflects a genuine and practical commitment to environmental sustainability, in line with strategies to optimize water management within the plan.

The Tarragona Cruise Port terminal's evolution not only revolutionizes the visitor experience but also sets a new sustainability benchmark for the port community. Adopting industrialized construction methods in Almería enhances construction quality and minimizes on-site risks. This meticulous approach significantly reduces accidents and injuries by limiting work in hazardous conditions, underscoring the project's commitment to both environmental sustainability and worker well-being.





## INTERVIEW: MR. CARLO MICALLEF, CEO OF THE MALTA TOURISM AUTHORITY

### What makes Valletta Cruise Port, Malta an ideal location for cruise tourism?

The Maltese islands have a long history particularly due to their strategic location and natural harbours, which before air travel were the lifeline of Islands like Malta and Gozo. The Grand Harbour where Valletta Cruise Port is today was the main port for merchant shipping and later also the port for tourism arriving by sea. Malta's location at the heart of the Mediterranean undoubtedly gives Valletta Cruise Port a unique proposition in that it can be included in several cruise itinerary permutations of the Mediterranean. The central location offers proximity to several other popular transit Mediterranean ports. The Maltese Islands are an attractive and diverse destination offering 7,000 years of recorded history, a great diversity of sites and attractions to meet the interests of all ages, short distances of travel to make the most of one's time in Malta, ease of access and transportation options to the capital city Valletta as well as other parts of the islands, and a variety of organised excursion options, tour buses and guided tours. The Maltese are also renowned for their hospitable nature and genuine welcome to visiting tourists. Communication is easy as English together with Maltese is an official language of Malta while many also speak Italian, French, German and Spanish. Anyone who has had the privilege of sailing into Valletta Grand Harbour can vouch that it is one of the most enchanting natural harbours of the world, with the fortifications of Valletta and the three cities of Birgu, Bormla and Isla offering an unforgettable experience and a picture perfect setting. It is no wonder that cruise passenger surveys always place Valletta Cruise Port as a favourite destination with high passenger satisfaction ratings.

### What's Valletta Cruise Port's attractiveness as a homeport? What about connectivity?

Apart from the ideal location at the heart of the Mediterranean, the Maltese Islands enjoy excellent direct flight connectivity with over 130 airports in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Malta is also a year-round destination, and the tourism industry never closes down, allowing tourists joining cruise itineraries from Malta to plan pre or post cruise stays. In fact, Malta has been described as a vibrant cosmopolitan city with great nightlife and a varied calendar of events in the winter months and a trendy Island with all the beauty the Mediterranean in the summer season. The excellent flight connectivity has also been fuelled by the cruise industry when homeporting activities in recent years have been the catalyst of incremental airlift from Germany and the United Kingdom in particular. The accommodation offer is top notch with renowned international hotel brands operating properties in Malta as well unique historic beautifully restored boutique properties in close proximity to the Valletta Cruise Port. Distance from airport to port is also very short, a mere 15-minute drive with service providers at Malta International Airport and Valletta Cruise Port offering impeccable service in the handling of large volumes of guests and luggage. This is testament to the close collaboration of all stakeholders in the industry, having one common objective, which is that to offer the best possible experience to visiting guests.

### In recent years Malta has seen considerable growth in cruise tourism. What role does destination sustainability play in this?

Cruise tourism is a very important contributor to the economy of the capital city Valletta and the other cities and towns overlooking the Grand Harbour. It is no wonder that the regeneration of the area has run at par with the growth of cruise tourism over the last 10 to 15 years. Cruise tourism has been the catalyst to many investments, restoration of historic buildings, job generation, regeneration of open spaces and attractions that are enjoyed by both the resident population as well as visitors giving a positive contribution to the community.



### What synergies are there between stakeholders in the cruise industry in Malta?

There is of course competition between stakeholders in any industry and Malta's Cruise Industry is no exception, but I am pleased to state that by and large the relationship between stakeholders in Malta is very healthy and all come together to overcome any challenges that may from time to time arise with the ultimate objective of providing visitors with the best service in the destination. There is pride in all that we do, promoting the destination, welcoming visitors and then ensuring that visitor expectations are met and if possible, exceeded. It helps that Malta is a tight knit community, with Government, the Malta Tourism Authority and several other entities working in synchrony together with Valletta Cruise Port and the private stakeholders. Any matter that needs to be discussed and solved is often only a phone call or a short meeting away for the needed decisions to be taken. There is unity of intent and purpose between stakeholders in Malta's cruise industry.

### How does the collaboration between the Malta Tourism Authority and Valletta Cruise Port as a subsidiary of Global Ports Holding contribute to the sustainable development of the cruise tourism sector in Malta?

As mentioned already the investment in Valletta Cruise Port has been a prime catalyst to the regeneration of the Port area, incentivising big investment by both the public and private sectors both on the Valletta side of the harbour as well as across the port in the Cottonera region. This

has improved the appeal of the destination and the touristic product that the Malta Tourism Authority actively promotes around the world. The Malta Tourism Authority and Valletta Cruise Port enjoy a long-standing productive cooperation that has seen the development of the cruise industry with a plan running in synchrony with the growth and diversification of Malta's tourism industry. Malta's tourism industry has achieved phenomenal growth in the last decade, except during the pandemic of course, culminating with the best results ever in 2023, when the Maltese Islands welcomed 3 million tourists, a number that is six times the resident population. The tourism industry is one of the key pillars of the Maltese Islands economy, contributing up to 20% of the country's GDP.

### What is the Malta Tourism Authority's vision for the local cruise industry?

The Malta Tourism Authority shall continue to support Valletta Cruise Port and industry stakeholders with the aim of seeing Malta's cruise industry grow faster in the winter months and spread arrivals throughout the year, to have a more sustainable tourism industry and keep giving best experience to visitors to the Maltese Islands. The Malta Tourism Authority also wishes to attract more homeporting activity as the Islands have the right infrastructure, services, attractions, flight connectivity and location for successful homeporting operations offering cruises to all corners of the Mediterranean. The Malta Tourism Authority shall also continue to be a vehicle for synergies between stakeholders to ensure to provide a memorable few hours to those who visit as a port of call, first to ensure client satisfaction and also to possibly attract day visitors to return for a longer stay on holiday.





## CRUISING WITH FAMILY IN BARCELONA

Barcelona stands out as one of Europe's premier destinations for families worldwide, drawing travelers to its vibrant atmosphere and rich cultural offerings. As a bustling cruise hub, ensuring seamless experiences upon arrival at our terminals can pose a challenge due to high demand. To aid in your exploration, we've compiled a comprehensive list of tips to help you maximize your time in this dynamic city.

Foremost among Barcelona's attractions is the awe-inspiring Sagrada Familia, an architectural marvel crafted by the visionary Antoni Gaudí. Its otherworldly design captivates visitors, rendering it an essential stop on any itinerary. However, its immense popularity necessitates careful planning, as tickets often sell out well in advance. To secure entry for your family, it's advisable to book tickets online through the official website ahead of your visit.

Following your visit to the Sagrada Familia, indulge in Barcelona's culinary delights, spanning from traditional Spanish tapas to fresh Mediterranean seafood and inventive sushi creations. Despite the plethora of dining options, prudent planning is again encouraged, particularly due to the city's penchant for intimate, swiftly-filled eateries. With its wealth of attractions and culinary treasures, Barcelona promises an enriching experience for families. By taking the time to plan ahead, you can ensure a seamless and unforgettable visit to this captivating city.

## BODRUM CELEBRATES A RECORD - BREAKING CRUISE SEASON



As the curtains close on the 2023 cruise season at Bodrum Cruise Port, we reflect with pride and gratitude on the remarkable journey that unfolded in 2023. This season has been nothing short of extraordinary, marked by an impressive array of achievements and a bustling harbor that hosted a total of 101 ships, catering to 102,479 cruise passengers. Additionally, our port facilitated 836 ferry services, serving over 110k travelers, and have provided exclusive services to 388 private yachts.

One of the defining features of this season was the diversity of vessels that graced our shores. Notably, we proudly hosted the Virgin Voyages' Resilient Lady on 16 occasions, establishing a warm and hospitable environment for her passengers. It's worth mentioning that this marked Virgin Voyages' inaugural visit to Turkey, and Bodrum was their preferred destination.

Introducing new horizons, we welcomed Celebrity Apex from the Celebrity Cruises, Evrima from Ritz Carlton Yacht, MSC Opera ve MSC Sinfonia from MSC Cruises and the exquisite vessels Seven Seas Splendor and Seven Seas Navigator from Regent Seven Seas Cruises. Mystic Cruises also made its debut at our port with the enchanting Vasco Da Gama and Europa.

Bodrum Cruise Port not only achieved record-breaking numbers but also embraced novelty, diversity, and a commitment to education. Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate the opportunities that the next cruise season will bring, building on the successes and lessons of this unforgettable journey.



## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EXCEPTIONAL CRUISE PORT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

# GET THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS



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

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

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



## EXPLORING EASTERN SICILY: CATANIA

The city of Catania and the territory of Eastern Sicily, blessed with diverse natural setting, cater to cruise passengers of all ages, with multiple activities and places to visit. At Catania Cruise Port our guests can choose among a wide selection of experiences, such as the City Tour by bus, to easily discover the most beautiful and interesting places of the city; or the guided bike tours, leaving right from the Terminal, to discover the most hidden spaces where only a bicycle can go, or reach the Etna by taxi or by the unique Circumetnea, a metropolitan railway service which stops at many of the villages along the slopes of Etna - also in Bronte, world famous for its local, sweet green pistachios. Circumetnea travels through an area of wild beauty and it is no coincidence that its carriages are equipped with panoramic windows.

For the guests that prefer to visit the city, the Guest Information Center team helps building the perfect itinerary to explore Catania's museums, such as the Cinema Museum, which tells the story and techniques of cinematographic art, the Puppet Theatre, which allows you to learn about the art of puppetry, or the Astrophysical Observatory, where thanks to telescopes you can admire the sky and space. Or simply enjoy a walk through the most beautiful, lava stone streets and sit at a café in one of the amazing baroque squares.

For sea-goers, one of the many city beaches with their black stones from cooled lava, are a place of great charm and unique beauty.



## TARANTO CRUISE PORT SETS SAIL TO NEW HEIGHTS

Taranto Cruise Port marked its passenger record year in 2023, hosting 38 calls, 5 maiden calls and 7 different cruise lines. Costa Cruises, with its Costa Pacifica, has chosen Taranto as a partial turnaround port for 19 total calls. Costa's debut in Taranto was a success and involved around 140.000 guests including embarkations, disembarkations and transits.

The city and the area found strong appreciation from the guests, who were able to discover independently or on a booked excursion the vast range of experiences on offer, spanning from the visit of the old city of Taranto, or to the Valle d'Itria and Alberobello and to the tropical sandy beaches of Salento.

Proud of the remarkable achievements in 2023, Taranto Cruise Port looks ahead to 2024 with even greater enthusiasm and anticipation. With 45 calls from 9 different cruise lines and 16 partial turnaround calls by Costa Fascinosa starting from June, we are ready to embark on another exciting journey together!



## AN IMPRESSIVE YEAR FOR LISBON

Lisbon Cruise Port proudly declares 2023 as its best year ever, achieving a remarkable milestone with a record-breaking 758,328 passengers—an impressive 30% increase compared to 2019. This outstanding accomplishment reaffirms Lisbon's status as a premier cruise destination, attracting a growing number of visitors from around the world.

As Lisbon Cruise Port reflects on the triumphs of 2023, it looks forward to building on this success, strengthening partnerships with cruise lines, and continuing to offer unparalleled experiences. The record-breaking achievements and prestigious award serve as a testament to Lisbon Cruise Port's position as a global leader in the cruise industry.

Among the 347 calls received in 2023, Lisbon Cruise Port hosted 130 turnaround calls, constituting 40% of the total annual calls. This highlights the trust and confidence cruise lines place in Lisbon as a key embarkation or disembarkation point for their journeys. Lisbon Cruise Port's strategic importance in the cruise sector is evident through this significant achievement.

In addition to the impressive passenger and call numbers, Lisbon Cruise Port expanded its range of services in 2023. The port focused on delivering enhanced services, catering to the diverse needs of each vessel and ensuring an exceptional experience for passengers and crew members alike.



## NEW PORT, NEW BEGINNINGS: ALICANTE

Alicante Cruise Port has seen remarkable success since Global Ports Holding took over operations in March 2023.

The Port hosted 75 cruise calls in 2023, including 18 turnaround calls, marking a notable 40% surge compared to the previous year. Notably, cruise passenger numbers experienced a substantial uptick, soaring by 50% from 2022 to an impressive total of 180,000. Looking ahead, 2024 is poised for even greater achievements, with projections anticipating 95 calls and approximately 200,000 passengers. Furthermore, by the beginning of June, we look forward to commencing operations with our newly refurbished terminal, poised to elevate the guest experience at the Alicante Cruise Port.

The city of Alicante and the various institutional bodies, companies and civil society of Alicante and its province, the Costa Blanca, are celebrating the arrival of Global Ports Holding in this city, not only for the promotion and management of the cruise ship terminal of the Port of Alicante, which is already highly valued by the cruise ship passengers themselves in the various satisfaction surveys carried out at the cruise ship terminal, but also for the increased economic and social impact generated by the arrival of cruise ships and cruise passengers visiting this special tourist enclave that is Alicante and the Costa Blanca.

Gastronomy, shopping, culture, historical heritage sites, handcrafts, sand beaches, festivals, are all the amazing things that await the visitors of Alicante and Costa Blanca.



# INTERVIEW: COLIN C. JAMES, CEO OF THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TOURISM AUTHORITY

## Can you tell us about Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority's 2024 campaign encouraging visitors to travel to Antigua and Barbuda?

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's (ABTA) campaigns are created to catch the attention of the traveling public, and position Antigua and Barbuda as an aspirational beach destination that offers two unique island experiences. Our 2024 campaign "Be" is about being in the moment and allowing your senses to come alive. It focuses on all the potential feelings that a visitor can have in Antigua and Barbuda as they immerse themselves in our heritage and culture, sailing and yachting, find peace in our wellness settings, and romance in our intimate settings. The campaign intrigues the visitor and entices them to be back in Antigua and Barbuda, again and again.

## What is the role of Antigua and Barbuda in the cruise industry?

Our aim as a destination is to grow and enhance Antigua and Barbuda's position as a marquee cruise destination and be included as a port of choice on the itineraries of every cruise line that serves the Caribbean. We're ideally situated within the Eastern Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda with its tropical climate, 365 accessible and public beaches and friendly people has for years been a haven for travellers seeking a vacation in the sun. Small in size the country is easy to navigate and attractions and historic sites to include the historic Nelson's Dockyard, a UNESCO World Heritage site, are normally no more than 45 minutes from the cruise terminal.

Known for our warm hospitality, the country welcomes thousands of cruise ship visitors annually, and in 2023 with constant advancements and new product offerings on the horizon, the destination's cruise product is strategically evolving and expanding to ensure the sector's further contribution to the economic growth of our valuable tourism industry.

With our natural beauty, and unique attributes the destination is strategically differentiated from other ports. The ongoing modernization of our cruise facilities will put Antigua and Barbuda firmly on a path to becoming a major port of call and a leader within the Caribbean cruise industry.

## How has the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority contributed to the successful transformation of Antigua and Barbuda into a thriving homeport cruise destination?

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority played a pivotal role in the transformation of Antigua and Barbuda into a thriving homeport cruise destination through strategic collaboration with GPH. Together, we successfully positioned Antigua as a premier homeporting destination, particularly in the UK/European market through our strategic branding efforts, establishing a strong presence that attracted P&O Cruises.

Our collaborative partnership with GPH is strong and continues to grow. It stands as a testament to our combined commitment to the growth and development of cruise tourism.



A notable achievement was the confirmation and seamless facilitation of an inaugural ceremony for the cruise vessel, Arvia. The ABTA's commitment extended beyond this milestone, as we actively supported GPH throughout the ground operation phase. Our focus was on ensuring the cruise vessel and its guests received a warm, grand Antiguan and Barbuda-style welcome. We are pleasantly pleased with the high satisfaction ratings, which speaks volumes to our collaboration and dedication to Antigua and Barbuda branded as a booming homeport cruise destination.

## How do you propose sustainable tourism is implemented in both islands?

Through the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Tourism, the destination is focused on a sustainable path towards tourism development, with the focus on ensuring the economic benefits of tourism are felt by all our stakeholders.

To ensure that our future generations are able to benefit from tourism we have also placed emphasis on sustainability from an environmental perspective. In 2021 Antigua and Barbuda was named Emerging Sustainable Destination of the Year in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel Awards for our initiatives such as banning single-use plastics to establishing a "Green Corridor" of environmentally friendly businesses. The Green Corridor on the south coast of Antigua known for its lush, green rainforest features hotels, restaurants and excursion providers who are reducing the negative aspects of tourism on the environment by improving the efficiency of their operations. Under the "Green Corridor" initiative, Antigua has also introduced the "Green Fins Programme", a UNEP certification programme that provides support and guidance to snorkellers and divers – the only country in the Western hemisphere to have done so.

Antigua and Barbuda was also the first country in the Western Hemisphere to ban single-use plastic bags several years ago. We have also banned Styrofoam products – as we realise the impact that these items, that take years to disintegrate, have on our environment particularly the surrounding ocean and sea. We depend on our land, our beaches, and our marine resources. The pristine beauty of the country is what really makes it attractive for visitors to come. We have to do whatever it takes to preserve that. We are also blessed with several offshore islands, that make up part of our tourism offerings for pleasure boat cruises and other water excursions. The Environmental Awareness Group worked tirelessly to ensure the preservation of the wildlife on these islands and of the natural environs. The once endangered harmless Antiguan Racer Snake, facing extinction due to rodents, was brought back from only 50 snakes and is now a noted species found on Great Bird Island.

Antigua and Barbuda also introduced the Mapping of Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites to create awareness of cultural and heritage tourism assets and attractions, which is key for us in building a sustainable tourism product. 64 sites have been mapped out with their true histories being shared with taxi operators, tour guides, locals, and visitors alike. Under the Management of Historical Sites Antigua continues to work with the Sustainable Tourism Unit to restore and develop Betty's Hope as a sustainably managed historical site.

## How has the collaboration between GPH and Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority contributed to the overall growth and development of the cruise tourism?

The synergy between GPH and ABTA has been instrumental in fostering the overall growth and development of cruise tourism. Our partnership has been impactful, especially in navigating the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The ABTA's active input and support at conferences, planning meetings, and industrial events not only displayed our commitment but demonstrated our unified bond with GPH, with a common goal to develop our cruise tourism as world-class.

Let's continue to build on our foundation and chart the course together towards a greater success ensuring that Antigua and Barbuda remains a premier destination for cruise travelers world-wide.







made by local craftsman and also taste some while it's still warm, as well as savor a good pâté on a slice of typical Carasau bread, or sample myrtle liqueurs, typical of Sardinia. Adding to the sensory experience is a new beer tasting area, providing guests with the opportunity to savor the refreshing profiles of Sardinia's finest brews, available for enjoyment at the Guest Information Center. Cagliari Cruise Port stands as a beacon of culinary and cultural exploration, eagerly anticipating the adventures that lie ahead.

## LOCAL FLAVORS AND UNIQUE OFFERINGS FROM CAGLIARI

Cagliari Cruise Port embarked on a mission to elevate the guest experience to new heights. Focusing on the enhancement of the terminal's leisure area, the port dedicated efforts to enlarge the retail space and broaden the array of products available to guests, all with the goal of showcasing and promoting the treasures of the local territory.

The newly revamped retail area, vibrant and expansive, now boasts a diverse selection of authentic products catering to every palate. From exquisite Sardinian wines and cheeses to intricately crafted cork goods unique to the region, visitors can immerse themselves in the essence of Cagliari's cultural heritage.

A notable addition to the lineup is the "Cagliari Calcio" football store, offering enthusiasts the chance to purchase merchandise from the esteemed Cagliari team, a proud representative of Serie A, Italy's premier football league.

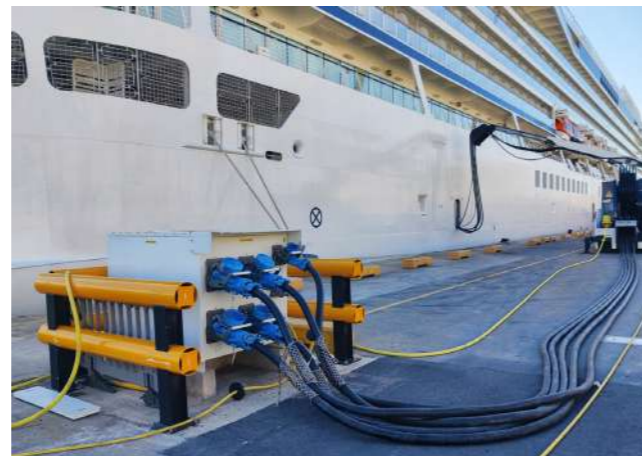
On top of the permanent stores, Cagliari Cruise Port hosts also a variety of temporary stalls where cruise passengers can see first-hand how nougat is

## VALLETTA CRUISE PORT'S SUCCESSFUL SHORE POWER INTEGRATION

Global Ports Holding is delighted to announce a significant stride towards environmental sustainability with the successful integration of shore power at Valletta Cruise Port, its subsidiary. On December 01, 2023 Viking Saturn has achieved the historic feat of becoming the first-ever cruise vessel to be fully energized through the Onshore Power Supply (OPS) system at Valletta Cruise Port's cutting-edge facilities. On the following day, Viking Venus berthed on Boiler Wharf, joined Viking Saturn in the historic port, and was also simultaneously provided with shore power, with both Viking ships successfully powered through the OPS.

This achievement holds immense importance for both Valletta Cruise Port and GPH, representing a groundbreaking moment as the inaugural instance of shore-to-ship connectivity within the extensive GPH port network. This milestone not only marks a historic first but also signifies a strategic step towards the broader implementation of sustainable practices across Global Ports Holding's entire port network.

Global Ports Holding is committed to prioritizing ESG initiatives, paving the way for further advancements in green energy solutions. The company looks forward to playing a leading role in contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future for the cruise industry and the communities it serves.



## A TASTE OF CALABRIA: CROTONE

Crotone Cruise Port welcomes guests in this unique city on the Ionian coast of Calabria, that combines history, nature and good food and offers its visitors of all ages the opportunity to immerse themselves in the history of Magna Graecia. Crotona, founded well before Rome, has testimonies ranging from Greek archaeology to Aragonese fortifications, from the historic medieval city to elegant noble houses. Beauty and art are everywhere in Crotona.

Century old artefacts are made available to guests of all ages, sized with museums that offer workshops and activities that allow the guests to touch thousand-year-old artefacts first-hand, and children to learn through play. The national archaeological museum of Crotona, located in the heart of the city and a few minutes' walk from the Crotona Cruise Port, is an example of this. Thanks to its mild weather, overlooking the Ionian Sea, Crotona is a great destination in every seasons. Cruise passengers can enjoy the sea all year round on one of the several sandy beaches along Crotona promenade, chatting with the friendly locals, or playing in the kids areas.

Along the coast, don't miss Capo Colonna with its stunning archaeological park perched atop a cliff, offering breathtaking sea views. Explore its interactive museum showcasing ancient art and crafts unearthed from the cliff and sea.

Another must-visit is the renowned Amarelli liquorice factory and museum, housed in a historic liquorice factory established in 1731. Witness the unchanged centuries-old process and sample renowned Calabrian liquorice products at the adjacent shop.

For an enriching experience, visit the Codex Rossanensis, the world's oldest and most precious gospel book, displayed in a beautiful interactive museum a short drive away.



## A BEACON OF SUCCESS: PRINCE RUPERT

Prince Rupert Cruise Port experienced a truly enchanting year, marked by its remarkable achievements and positive impact on the port's reputation in 2023. Throughout the season, we celebrated several notable firsts.

An innovative collaboration between National Geographic Lindblad Expeditions led to the inaugural Stay & Fly Post Cruise Charter, enhancing guest experiences and fostering local business relationships. Carnival Miracle also set a record with 513 passengers participating in a single excursion, enjoying wheelchair-accessible Vintage Trolleys, promoting inclusivity. Enchanting Whale Watching experiences showcased the unique charm of the Prince Rupert Cruise Port environment, including captivating "Bubble-Net Hunt" encounters. The introduction of the port's first "garbage disposal" service through TYMAC, a service warmly welcomed by the cruise line and contributing to the overall positive experience for guests.

Prince Rupert Cruise Port emerged as a beacon of success in 2023, thanks to its innovative initiatives, memorable experiences, and the collaborative efforts that made it a standout destination in the cruise industry.





expanding with more than 50 brand new ships on the orderbook by cruise lines within 2028, with 11 entering the supply market during 2024. Locally prospects for 2024 are extremely positive and we believe that we will comfortably surpass the 900,000-passenger movement mark," Stephen Xuereb, CEO of Valletta Cruise Port & COO of Global Ports Holding.

## VALLETTA CRUISE PORT LOOKS FORWARD TO AN EXCELLENT 2024

Valletta Cruise Port has announced an exceptional 2023, recording close to 900,000 passenger movements, an impressive increase of more than 65 percent over 2022, which compares very well with 2019 which was a record year.

The cruise industry in Malta has left €85 million in the Maltese economy of which €32 million in spending by cruise passengers with the other €53 million in spending by the cruise lines.

It is estimated that the outlook for the cruise industry during this year will remain positive with over 900,000 passenger movements for 2024.

"This industry leaves a substantial impact on the Maltese Islands in economic terms: services to ships and services to passengers; flights to and from Malta with an impact on airlines and the airport, with passengers also having the option of spending several days in our country before or after their cruise. Of note is that the industry has not only achieved full normality post-pandemic, but is

## A NEW SEASON DAWNS: YEAR-END CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS IN LA GOULETTE

In 2023, La Goulette Cruise Port achieved remarkable success, welcoming over 170,000 passengers through 43 calls, setting sail for even greater milestones in 2024 with 73 scheduled calls and an anticipated 200,000 passengers. This growth solidifies La Goulette as a premier cruise destination, with the return of Costa Cruises after an eight-year hiatus marking a significant milestone. Additionally, the reopening of the Bardo Museum enriches our cultural offerings.

Mr. Sami Debliche, GM of La Goulette Cruise Port, said "As we embark on the journey of 2024, we stand at the threshold of a new era for La Goulette Cruise Port. Witnessing a remarkable surge in passenger numbers from nearly 55,000 to over 171,000 last season, we are poised for even greater achievements ahead. Our commitment remains

unwavering in fostering the growth and enhancement of the cruise industry in Tunisia. We will continue to provide the highest quality services while prioritizing the health and safety of our esteemed business partners."

La Goulette, a quaint port town on the Tunisian coast, welcomes visitors with its maritime allure and bustling energy. The sea breeze carries whispers of history as you explore its charming streets. A short journey away, the Bardo Museum stands as a cultural gem, showcasing Tunisia's rich heritage through a stunning collection of artifacts. From intricately crafted mosaics to historical relics, the museum invites you to wander through time and immerse yourself in the captivating tales woven into Tunisia's past.



## EXPLORE HA LONG BAY AND BEYOND

Ha Long Cruise Port is your gateway to an extraordinary adventure, inviting families to discover the enchanting wonders of Halong Bay. With its emerald waters and thousands of karst mountains and islets, this destination promises a remarkable experience for parents and children alike.

Imagine cruising on a quaint wooden boat through karst formations, arriving at a secluded white sandy beach. Here, enjoy precious family moments - from watching the sunset to board games, Vietnamese cooking, or simply enjoying each other's company as the sun sets.

As the Cat Ba Archipelago, including Lan Ha Bay, gains UNESCO recognition as a Natural World Heritage Site, Halong Bay and its neighboring bays, Lan Ha and Bai Tu Long, are in the spotlight.

The destination is committed to enhancing the guest experience, offering guided hikes, cultural exchanges, and curated experiences to create lasting memories in Halong Bay's unparalleled beauty. Join Ha Long Cruise Port on a journey of discovery amidst this UNESCO-recognized marvel, where unforgettable bonds are formed.



## A LAND OF HISTORY & EXPERIENCE: TARANTO

Taranto, known as the city of the two seas because it is positioned between "Mar Grande" (Large Sea) and "Mar Piccolo" (Small Sea), a few steps from Taranto Cruise Port, is an enchanting destination for a visit to the historic city, immersed in archaeology and monuments, or for an excursion into nature and the traditions of Apulia. From a visit to the famous MARTA Archaeological Museum to spotting dolphins on board one of the boats operated by scholars of this splendid animal, a trip to Taranto is a fun and at the same time instructive discovery.

Taranto, founded by the Spartans in the 8th century BC, is rich in excellence. The MARTA Archaeological Museum is the place to start to learn the story of Taranto and its territory from Prehistory to the Middle Ages in a fun, engaging manner also thanks to the "DivertiMarta" (FunMarta) initiative and guided tours and workshops.

Dolphins grace the sea of Taranto since over 4000 years and are even in the coat of arm of the city of Taranto. At the doorsteps of Taranto Cruise Port, the guests can join the catamaran Operated by the "Jonian Dolphin Conservation" association, a team of scientists of global importance, that organizes experiences aimed at enthusiasts of all ages and with the presence of marine biologists and environmental experts helps to better understand the interactions between dolphins and people.

For cruise passengers wishing to explore the inland, a must see is Alberobello, the symbolic city of the trulli, the typical cone-structure houses of the area, or Grottaglie, a village famous in the world as the guardian of the art of ceramics. The family-run shops on the main street, preserve the tradition of ceramics from generation to generation, each family workshop with its own style and guests are welcome to take part in.





## MALAGA TERMINAL B UNVEILS ECO-FRIENDLY RETAIL AREA

Malaga Cruise Port's Terminal B unveiled its new retail area, a sprawling 300-square-meter space dedicated to enhancing the cruise passenger experience in September 2023. The area is strategically positioned to attract cruise passengers flowing through the terminals from or to the ship. Specifically that day 3000 pax from the Mein Schiff 2 docked at south berth and 2800 pax from Celebrity Silhouette docked at levante pier, both expertly operated by Terminal B. This impressive retail area is thoughtfully designed, employing sustainable materials to create an inviting and dynamic atmosphere. The focus on sustainability showcases a commitment to responsible business practices. Within this eco-friendly setting, cruise passengers can explore an selection of offerings, including local products, perfumes, tobacco, wines, parapharmacy items, textiles or accessories, from prestigious brands.

One of the notable features of this space is its flexibility, as it is designated with removable free-standing perimeters. This design enables smooth and independent traffic flow during closing hours, ensuring convenience and ease of access. Moreover, the retail area space guide visitors to a central cash desk that's open entirely.

In this path, Malaga Cruise Port is making a bold statement by prioritizing sustainability and innovative design, setting new benchmarks for retail spaces within cruise terminals.

The successful launch of the retail area in Terminal B serves as a testament to this commitment. As the journey continues, the upcoming phase of construction in Terminal A, scheduled for January to March, will see the implementation of the same forward-thinking concept witnessed in Terminal B. This evolution underscores the port's dedication to providing a superior, eco-conscious shopping experience for cruise passengers across all its terminals.

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE CRUISE TERMINALS BEGIN: LAS PALMAS, LANZAROTE AND FUERTEVENTURA

On November 2023, works began simultaneously with the construction of the cruise terminals in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura on behalf of Global Ports Canary Islands with an investment over 40 million Euros. Construction of specialized cruise facilities will positively contribute to the transformation of the sector with a remarkable impact in the local economy. The project will optimize Guest experienced at port by customer oriented-services, by enhancing at the same time the sustainable development of the cruise industry at the islands.

Global Ports Holding demonstrates its clear commitment to sustainability and environment with the construction of four cruise terminals focused on recycled and ecological materials to minimize wastes, by preserving natural resources and habitat and minimizing environmental impact.

In addition, cutting-edge technologies and innovative practices will be incorporated to achieve a minimal carbon footprint and the maximization of renewable resources. Planned constructions will be an example of eco-efficiency sustainable infrastructure for the cruise sector that will count with a functional design in favour of sustainability by combining solar energy, recycled materials, and waste management.



## ELEVATING WINTER CRUISES WITH MAGICAL ADVENTURES IN TARRAGONA

From mid-September to mid-November, PortAventura undergoes a bewitching transformation into a Halloween haven. The park becomes a realm of eerie enchantment, inviting adventurous cruise passengers to immerse themselves in chilling haunted passages that promise a rollercoaster of emotions. Sinister decorations envelop the entire park, creating an atmosphere charged with suspense and excitement. PortAventura's Halloween extravaganza isn't just an event; it's a captivating adventure that seamlessly blends emotions, fears, and the festive spirit, ensuring an unforgettable experience for those seeking a dose of spooky fun.

As November unfolds into January, PortAventura transitions into a winter wonderland, offering cruise passengers a magical Christmas atmosphere. Guests can delight in dazzling Christmas shows, including the standout musical Christmas Dream and the grand parade, The Arrival of the Royal Emissaries, set against the picturesque backdrop of the Mediterrània lake. The park transforms into a festive landscape adorned with twinkling lights, majestic Christmas trees, and cheerful ornaments. The joy of the season comes alive with thrilling attractions and encounters with beloved characters, creating a charming getaway that fosters timeless memories evoking the magic and nostalgia of childhood. PortAventura World solidifies its position as a premier year-round tourist destination, offering cruise lines an enchanting addition to their winter Mediterranean voyages. Easily accessible from Tarragona Cruise Port, PortAventura adds an extra layer of excitement to cruise itineraries in the region.

## A MEMORABLE VACATION IN MALAGA, ANDALUSIA

Planning a family cruise to Malaga in Andalusia promises a blend of cultural exploration and fun-filled activities, making for an unforgettable vacation. Malaga, located in the heart of Spain's Costa del Sol, offers an array of family-friendly adventures.

Begin your journey with a visit to the Alcazaba, a historic Moorish fortress. Explore its ancient walls and picturesque gardens, offering a captivating glimpse into the city's past. Adjacent is the Roman Theatre, an archaeological marvel perfect for an educational family outing.

Malaga boasts stunning beaches such as Playa de la Malagueta, where families can soak up the sun and enjoy the Mediterranean waters. Engage in beach activities like building sandcastles or participating in water sports for an exciting family bonding experience.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to sample traditional Andalusian cuisine. Venture into local eateries to indulge in tapas, paella, and churros—a delightful treat for both parents and children.

Consider booking a family-friendly shore excursion through your cruise line to explore the highlights of Malaga and Costa del Sol attractions without the hassle of planning. Visit Casa Natal, the birthplace of Pablo Picasso, and introduce the family to the world of art. This offers a glimpse into the life of the renowned artist.

When cruising with family to Malaga, following these tips ensures a remarkable vacation, creating lasting memories for everyone. The city's diverse offerings make it an ideal destination for families seeking both cultural enrichment and leisure activities.





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