



13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## **PORTLAND PORT'S 2020 CRUISE SEASON WILL BRING 80'000 PASSENGERS TO DORSET**

Portland Port's 2020 cruise season is going to be another record breaker with the greatest number of cruise calls and passengers to date. This has been the general pattern for more than ten years, with numbers increasing from just 3 ships in 2000 to the 46 that are expected this year. Along with the 46 cruise ships, they will be bringing more than 80,000 passengers and crew into Dorset and the surrounding area.

The port's cruise season is much longer this year, with the first ship arriving on the 9<sup>th</sup> March and the last, on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. Of the 46 ships expected, 10 are inaugural calls, each of which, will receive a hand carved Portland stone plaque to commemorate their first visit to Portland Port.

The first ship to arrive on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, is a new ship and cruise line for Portland; Hurtigruten's vessel, MS Fridtjof Nansen. Hurtigruten offer expedition cruises where passengers can experience unique nature-based tours in remote areas of the world. The MS Fridtjof Nansen is the latest addition to their fleet and has a variety of custom-built expedition equipment on board, such as kayaks and underwater drones. She has a relatively small passenger capacity of 530, which is on a more intimate scale compared to the Norwegian Escape who will visit the port for the first time shortly after.

The Norwegian Escape will become the heaviest vessel and have the most passengers on board, of any vessel, to ever visit Portland Port. She has a staggering passenger capacity of 4,266 and a gross tonnage of 165,157. This vessel also boasts an amazing hull design with a huge sailfish as the figurehead art, with lots of other fish species and sea creatures as well.

Silversea Cruises are sending one of their vessels to Portland Port for the first time this year, with the Silver Whisper due to visit on the 16<sup>th</sup> July. Silversea is a luxury cruise line that was created to offer more space for fewer guests, with the highest level of personalised service.

Celebrity Cruises are also visiting Portland for the first time, with the luxurious Celebrity Reflection visiting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Other first-time vessels for the year include the Regal Princess, Pullmantur's Monarch, Phoenix Reisen's Amara, the Seven Seas Splendor, the Island Princess and CMV's Columbus.

It is always exciting to see cruise ships in the port, regardless of their size and this year there is certainly a huge variation.

Ian McQuade, General Manager – Commercial commented "2020 is going to be a fantastic year for cruise ships at Portland Port and we look forward to giving every ship a warm welcome to Dorset, as well as a departure to remember with the help of local entertainment groups".

As well as the first-time ships, the port is pleased to be welcoming back ships from Phoenix Reisen, AIDA, Regent Seven Seas, Saga, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Seabourn and the family favourite, Disney Magic.

The full 2020 schedule can be viewed on the Portland Port website; <http://www.portland-port.co.uk/cruise+calendar>



Picture: Saga's Spirit of Discovery and the Disney Magic berthed at Portland Port

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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For more information or images please contact our cruise department on 01305 824044 or email [cruise@portland-port.co.uk](mailto:cruise@portland-port.co.uk)

Previously a naval dockyard for over 150 years, Portland Harbour is now a thriving and successful commercial facility. It still maintains a close relationship with the past through its ongoing contract to support the RFA, as well as being home to the activities of Global Marine and Portland Bunkers UK. It has almost 2,500 hectares of water at depths of up to 15m (C.D.); and provides vessel services from long term lay-ups to brief maintenance calls, luxury cruise liner docking facilities to industrial cargo shipments.

The tariff and general Portland Harbour Authority information can be viewed at <http://www.portland-port.co.uk/>

Portland Port has over 2,000 metres of alongside berths and 11.6 metres (C.D.) depth of water at the deepest alongside berth.

Berthing for vessels up to 340 metres (subject to Harbour Master's approval).

11 designated anchorages are within the 1,015-hectare inner harbour.

Six designated anchorages are within the 1,436-hectare Outer Harbour.

A width of 210 metres and depth of over 12.6 metres (C.D.) at the entrance of the harbour mean that there are few vessel beam, lock, or air draft restriction.