

# PRESS STATEMENT

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## RELEASE DATE:

April 19, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT HOSTS THREE CELEBRITY CRUISE LINE SHIPS IN TEN-DAY BLITZ



### Technical Calls and Warm Lay Ups Serve as Testing Opportunities for Confirmed Summer Calls

**[St. John's, Antigua April 19, 2021]** —More than one year after the closure of Antigua Cruise Port due to the global shut down of the cruise industry, the management of the port, along with a contingent of Government officials, welcomed the Celebrity Cruises vessel “Celebrity Silhouette” on Saturday, April 17, 2021 departing tomorrow, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Her sister ship, the Celebrity Edge joined her yesterday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with 60 crew members embarking and will conduct maintenance works while in port remaining in port for a ten-day

period. Celebrity Reflection is expected to call on Antigua on Wednesday April 21st, 2021 with 14 crew members embarking.

Recently, these vessels remained on warm lay-up in Barbados. However, due to weather concerns tied to the eruption of the La Soufriere volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines a few weeks ago, special permission to call on St. John's was granted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda after strict health protocol requirements were satisfied. The vessels will have no passengers and the crew will not be permitted to disembark.

As the cruise port operator, Antigua Cruise Port is pleased to partner with Celebrity Cruises and local Agent Bryson's and is grateful to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for their support of the facilitation its cruise line partners in such difficult times. Celebrity Cruises has also thanked Antigua Cruise Port for quickly responding to assist their displaced vessels stating that "this is another example of a great partnership during hard times."

While the ship calls are short-term, they will bring some economic benefits to Antigua as the vessels will require maintenance work, crew embarkation services, and other forms of assistance including taxi transfers, hotel stays, provisioning services, and refuelling services. The Antigua Cruise Port team will continue to work closely with the Government and relevant health authorities to ensure that adherence to the approved health measures is strictly maintained, which will help the cruise sector to continue to gain traction in the short and long term.

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## ABOUT ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT

Located In St. John's harbor, Antigua Cruise Port is the gateway to the city, serving over 800,000 passengers annually. The port will be redeveloped under the Antigua Cruise Port Development Project through a 30-year lease agreement between the Government of Antigua & Barbuda and Global Ports Holding. The newest pier constructed at the port, which was completed in November 2020, can accommodate Oasis Class vessels, making it possible for the destination to serve as many as 1 million cruise passengers per year. The new port will also have brand-new retail and food and beverage facilities, plus an additional 50,000 sq. ft. of commercial space to be leased to Antiguan and Barbudans.

Antigua Cruise Port launched operations in October 2019. Learn more about Antigua Cruise Port at [www.antiguacruiseport.com](http://www.antiguacruiseport.com).