

PRESS STATEMENT

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ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT PLANS MORE CRUISE TOURISM EVENTS FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL WEBINAR

[St. John's, Antigua, November 3, 2020] — Antigua Cruise Port and Global Ports Holding (GPH) in collaboration with Destinations Together and the Antigua Tourism Authority recently hosted a well-attended webinar focused on the restart of cruise tourism and enhancing the visitor experience. The event, entitled “Inspiring the Restart of Cruise Tourism,” featured opening remarks by the Minister of Tourism and Investment, the Hon. Charles Fernandez, along with featured cruise and tourism industry experts Larry Stauffer and Tom Anderson of Destinations Together. Barry Jacobson of Barry Jacobson Consulting rounded out the expert panel, sharing specific strategies for enhancing the guest experience.

“The response was overwhelming and very positive,” said Dona Lisel Regis-Prosper, General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port. “Larry and Tom of Destinations Together and Barry Jacobson did a phenomenal job in facilitating this webinar and putting together a program filled with tangible, real-time strategies and ideas that could be acted upon immediately. We shared a lot of helpful information and we received many questions, so it’s clear that we need much more discussion to clarify the way forward for our sector.”

During the webinar, which is available through a YouTube link on the Antigua Cruise Port Facebook page, the Destinations Together team shared COVID-19 tourism insights. Barry Jacobson shared an overview of the G.U.E.S.T. service training program with attendees and provided strategies for improving guest experiences as a distinguishing factor in tourism-related business.

“We received a lot of feedback,” Mrs. Prosper continued. “As we prepare for upcoming webinars, we plan to include more participation from local experts, so we will be certain to highlight that aspect of future events. We also received more requests for cruise tourism webinars and webinars focused on various aspects of tourism management, so we will review various topic areas and offer sessions that can assist our tourism partners in ways that will support the enhancement and growth of their businesses.”

She added that “The fact that we had over 165 attendees support this event affirms how many tourism partners are willing to work together to see this sector, and our nation, succeed. With this kind of support and planning, we can surely continue to push Antigua & Barbuda forward as a leading regional tourism player despite COVID-19.”

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. Once the project has been completed, Antigua Cruise Port will have a new pier that can accommodate the biggest ships in the industry, which will make it possible for the port to serve as many as 1 million 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.



Photo caption: Featured speakers during the October 13 “Inspiring the Restart of Cruise Tourism” webinar included (clockwise from top left): Barry Jacobson of Barry Jacobson Consulting; Tom Anderson, Co-Founder of Destinations Together, Samoya Kirby, Communications Officer, Ministry of Tourism and Investment; Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment; Dona Lisel Regis-Prosper, General Manager, Antigua Cruise Port; and Larry Stauffer, Co-Founder of Destinations Together. The event recording can be found on the Antigua Cruise Port Facebook page.

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