

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT POISED TO SHATTER ANNUAL PASSENGER RECORD

St. John's, Antigua, December 28, 2024 – This week, Antigua Cruise Port reached a significant annual milestone, welcoming four vessels and a remarkable 13,312 passengers as it approaches a record-breaking year. As of today, the port has recorded 570 cruise ship calls and 825,526 passengers for the year compared to 446 cruise ship calls and 670,234 passengers in 2023, reflecting an extraordinary year-to-date increase. These figures represent a 27% increase in ship calls and a 23% increase in passenger arrivals year-over-year. The port's overall performance underscores the increasing demand for Antigua as a key stop in the Caribbean.

Among the ships docked at the port on this day were the *Norwegian Gem* and *Norwegian Breakaway* from Norwegian Cruise Line, *Arvia* from P&O Cruises, and the elegant *Emerald Azzurra*. Notably, *Arvia* and *Emerald Azzurra* are homeporting at Heritage Quay, further solidifying Antigua's growing reputation as a premier homeport.

Gasper George, General Manager, expressed his excitement at the day's events, stating: "Today is a shining example of what teamwork, vision, and dedication can achieve. The significant growth we have experienced this year reflects the success of our strategic efforts to position Antigua as a leading cruise destination. It is an honor to welcome these magnificent vessels and the thousands of passengers who bring energy and vibrancy to our shores. This is just the beginning of what we can accomplish together."

The Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister for Tourism and Investment, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the significance of the achievement for the nation's tourism industry. "Today's success underscores the strength and resilience of Antigua and Barbuda's cruise tourism sector," said Fernandez. "I am proud of how our collective investments in infrastructure and service excellence are paying off. Antigua Cruise Port's innovative approach and tireless dedication have helped solidify our standing as a sought-after destination. This achievement is not only a win for our tourism sector but also for the economic prosperity of our communities."

As we celebrate this record-breaking year, we remain committed to excellence and look ahead with even greater ambitions for 2025. With plans to welcome more visitors, form new partnerships, and continue delivering unforgettable experiences, Antigua Cruise Port is poised to play a significant role in shaping the future of the Caribbean cruise industry.

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Photos: On Saturday, December 28th, Antigua Cruise Port celebrated welcoming four cruise ships and over 13,000 passengers as it prepares to break its annual passenger record.

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 is being redeveloped under the Antigua Cruise Port Development Project through a 30-year lease agreement between the Government of Antigua & Barbuda and Global Ports Holding. In late 2020, Antigua Cruise Port completed construction of its fifth berth, a 700 ft. pier that can accommodate the biggest ships in the industry, making it possible for the port to serve as many as one million passengers per year. The new port will also have brand-new retail and food and beverage facilities, and commercial space to be leased to local entrepreneurs.

Antigua Cruise Port launched operations in October 2019. Learn more at www.antiguacruiseport.com.