

PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT WELCOMES SAPPHIRE PRINCESS ON INAUGURAL CALL**

**St. John's, Antigua, October 19, 2024** — Antigua Cruise Port (ACP) today welcomed Sapphire Princess, a majestic vessel of the Carnival Corporation fleet, on her highly anticipated inaugural call. This significant event marks another milestone in ACP's ongoing collaborative efforts with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to solidify the island as a premier cruise destination in the Caribbean.

The Sapphire Princess, carrying over 2,600 passengers, docked in the historic harbor of St. John's where a celebratory plaque exchange ceremony was held aboard the vessel, involving government officials, cruise agents, and ACP representatives gathered to commemorate the occasion.

Rawle Reynolds, Operations Manager - Pier Services, represented Antigua Cruise Port at the ceremony. In keeping with tradition, Reynolds presented the official plaque to the ship's captain, symbolizing the strong partnership between the port and cruise lines.

"Today's call by the Sapphire Princess exemplifies the continued growth and positive trajectory of Antigua's cruise tourism sector," remarked Reynolds. "We at Antigua Cruise Port remain committed to delivering world-class port management services that elevate the visitor experience. The arrival of your vessel and guest here today, captain, underscores our dedication to providing seamless operations and exceptional service, ensuring that both cruise lines and passengers see Antigua as a premier destination."

Government officials were equally enthusiastic, noting this call's significant economic boost to local businesses, vendors, and the tourism industry. With increased calls from leading cruise lines, Antigua Cruise Port is actively investing in infrastructure and customer experiences to cater to a growing number of international visitors. The visit by Sapphire Princess comes at a pivotal time for ACP, celebrating a season of record-breaking calls and visitor arrivals. The growth aligns with the port's broader strategic goals to enhance the visitor experience while contributing to Antigua and Barbuda's economic development. As part of this vision, ACP works closely with cruise line partners to ensure passengers and crew a seamless and unforgettable experience.

As Sapphire Princess departs for her next destination, Antigua Cruise Port looks forward to strengthening its relationship with Carnival Corporation and welcoming even more vessels to its shores. This call is a testament to the ongoing collaboration between the government, local stakeholders, and ACP, ensuring Antigua remains a top choice for cruise travelers worldwide.

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Photos:

Photo 1: Rawle Reynolds, Operations Manager (fifth from right) and Orinzell Henry, Leasing Manager (third from left) represented Antigua Cruise Port during the Sapphire Princess inaugural call on October 19, 2024.



Photo 2: Sapphire Princess arrives at Antigua Cruise Port.



## 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](http://www.antiguacruiseport.com).