

The port of Valencia will receive the stopover of thirteen cruises next week

- **Ships coming from nine different companies have a maximum combined capacity of around 21,500 passengers. This is the busiest week of cruise stops, during this year.**
- **Also, today and tomorrow, will arrive to Valencia about 8,000 passengers in three different ships.**

Valencia, October 12th 2016.- The port of Valencia plans to receive the scale of thirteen cruises from nine different cruise shipping companies, which have a maximum together capacity of around 21,500 passengers and will be attended by Trasmediterránea, next week. In this way, next week period stands as the busiest cruise traffic of all year. To these thirteen ships will be added the three stopovers that are planned to be received during today, and tomorrow Thursday, 13th of October, when is planned the stop of around 8,000 passengers. This quantity makes October the month in which most cruises are received at the port of Valencia.

So, on Wednesday October 12th in Valencia, has stopped the ship *Mein Schiff 5* of the German company Tui Cruises that accommodates 2,760 passengers. This ship, which has been built this year, is specifically designed to be more energy efficient managing to reduce energy consumption by 30% compared to other ships of the same size. Also, tomorrow is scheduled the docking of the cruise *MSC Preziosa*, at the dock of the northern extension, with a capacity of 3,221 passengers; and the cruise *Mein Schiff 1*, with capacity for 1,962 passengers.

Among the stopovers that are scheduled to receive next week, there are big cruise ships like the *Costa Favolosa* and *Costa Fascinosa* with 4.200 and 3.800 passengers respectively; or the *MSC Preziosa* with capacity for 4,000 people. Similarly, luxury ships will stop in Valencia like the *Seabourn Sojourn* from the company Seabourn Cruise Lines, with capacity for 462 passengers; the *Hamburg*, from Plantours & Partner with capacity for 423 passengers; the *Clio* from Grand Circle, with capacity for 95 passengers; and the *Serenissima*, from Serenissima Cruises with capacity for 117 passengers.

Trasmediterranea, meanwhile, operator of these cruises, will attend to 20,000 passengers expected to arrive to Valencia next week. "To attend all these cruises, Trasmediterranea brings its experience and trained staff to provide a quality service under the umbrella of Cruise Services company staff," said its director, Paula Casais.

In addition, Holland America Company has also reinforced its commitment with the port of Valencia with the stopover of the *Koningsdam* and *Eurodam* ships, with capacity for 2,660 passengers and 2,014 respectively. Similarly, the port of Valencia will receive the *Riviera* ship, from Oceania Cruises Company, with capacity for 1,260 passengers and will repeat the stop of the *Mein Schiff 5* ship, showing the commitment of the German company, TUI Cruises, with the enclosure of the Grao.

The arrival at the Port of Valencia of 13 cruises in one week; on statements by Manuel Rodriguez, responsible for shipping companies of the PAV; is interpreted by the Port Authority as "hopeful news, even more so considering that those boats belong to 8 different shipping companies. The APV, agents and maritime operators are doing their homework and shows that the expectations generated since the first meetings with Valencia Tourism to attract shipping companies and cruise passengers to the city of Valencia and Valencia are well established".

Cruise traffic

The port of Valencia closed 2015 with a total of 371,374 cruise tourists and in 2016 is expected to reach 402,000 cruise passengers. Currently, Valencia acts as homeport for shipping companies as MSC Cruises and Costa Cruises and receives stopovers from other 34 companies in the sector. The Strategic Plan of PAV expects 600,000 passengers by 2020, 250 stopovers and 40 shipping companies.

The Port of Valencia has two docks that allow the docking of ships up to 300 meters long and three other docks located in the area of the northern extension for those ships exceeding 300 meters in length. All facilities have the latest standards of quality service and safety for passengers and ships. It is also expected that the PAV will make the contest for the construction and operation of the new terminal at the cruise dock located on the northern extension in 2017.