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FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PORT OF BARCELONA WELCOMES EXPLORA I

As part of the sailing prior to receiving her first guests in Copenhagen on August 1, EXPLORA I is making a pre-inaugural “Insider First Look” stop in Barcelona

EXPLORA I left the shipyard on Thursday 20 July 2023 from the Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy and the Port of Barcelona has been chosen as her first port of call

The maiden journey will depart on 1 August 2023 from Copenhagen in Denmark for a seven-night sailing to Reykjavik in Iceland with visits en route to Lerwick, Shetland Islands and Kirkwall, Orkney

Barcelona, 24 July, 2023 - Today, the Port of Barcelona welcomed EXPLORA I, the first of a fleet of four luxury ships for the lifestyle brand of the MSC Group. Following her delivery on 20 July 2023 at the Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy, the ship has sailed to Barcelona ahead of the maiden journey departing on 1 August 2023 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The maritime tradition of a crest exchange to celebrate a ship's first visit to a destination took place on board between the ship's master Captain Serena Melani and Lluís Salvadó, president of the Barcelona Port Authority. Michael Ungerer, CEO, Explora Journeys and local port officials, also attended the event.

The stopover reinforces the Cruise Division of MSC Group's commitment both to the Port of Barcelona and to the city itself, one of the group's key destinations, where it is building a new cruise terminal that will be dedicated to both Explora Journeys and sister company MSC Cruises when completed in 2024.

Michael Ungerer, CEO Explora Journeys said *"Barcelona is one of the most important ports in the western Mediterranean, and it is our absolute honour to finally showcase our highly anticipated, extraordinary new ship EXPLORA I. We have pushed the boundaries of innovation and design to create a ship that embodies our commitment to excellence. We are delighted to showcase our ship today in Barcelona, offering a taste of what Explora Journey will offer her guests".*

Lluís Salvadó, president of the Port of Barcelona, expressed that *"the commissioning of ships like EXPLORA I is strategic for Barcelona and for the maritime sector as a whole. Incorporating sustainability innovations to cut NOx emissions by 90% and with equipment to connect to electricity on land, eliminating emissions when docked, is important for the ports and cities that host them because it shows how the sector works to achieve clean maritime activity. And it is also an example of the success of the strategy that we follow at the Port of Barcelona to make the necessary infrastructure available to ships to make this emission-free future a reality".*

EXPLORA I will set sail on her maiden journey from Copenhagen, Denmark on 1 August 2023. This remarkable seven-night sailing will take guests through the majestic landscapes of Lerwick, Shetland Islands and Kirkwall, Orkney before heading to Reykjavik, Iceland.

The luxury ship will spend several weeks in Northern Europe, offering a range of different itineraries, both on and off the beaten path, and will then cross the Atlantic Sea via Greenland to spend the autumn in North America, the winter in the Caribbean and spring on the US West Coast and Hawaii before returning to Europe in Summer



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2024 for a collection of journeys in the Mediterranean Sea. During all sailings the ship will call lesser-travelled ports for guests to enjoy a more authentic experience,

With journeys from seven to 11 nights which are all combinable, a best-in-class guest experience will ensure relaxed mornings and exhilarating evenings. Non-conventional arrival and departure times combined with overnight stays in port will allow Explora Journeys to offer guests exclusive access to once in a lifetime experiences and a slower pace of travel.

All of the Explora Journeys vessels will be equipped with the latest environmental and marine technologies, including selective catalytic reduction technology, shore power plug-in connectivity, which will be available in the Port of Barcelona in the coming years, underwater noise management systems to help protect marine life, and a comprehensive range of onboard energy efficient equipment to optimise engine use to further reduce emissions.

Today's event was a unique opportunity for both Barcelonans and many visitors to see, for the first time in history, an Explora Journeys ship outside of a shipyard.

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For media enquiries please contact press@explorajourneys.com

About Explora Journeys

Explora Journeys is the privately-owned luxury lifestyle brand of the MSC Group, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, created at the heart of Swiss luxury hospitality. The brand stems from the long-held vision to redefine the ocean experience for a new generation of discerning luxury travellers, drawing on the Aponte family's 300 years of maritime heritage. The brand's aspiration is to create a unique 'Ocean State of Mind' by connecting guests with the sea, with themselves, and like-minded others, while remarkable itineraries will blend renowned destinations with lesser-travelled ports, for a journey that inspires discovery in all its forms.

The four ships on order will be launched from 2023 to 2027, starting with EXPLORA I's delivery on 20 July 2023. Equipped with the latest environmental and marine technologies, Explora Journeys will introduce a new style of transformative ocean travel. EXPLORA I offers 461 oceanfront suites, penthouses and residences designed to be 'Homes at Sea' for our guests, all with sweeping ocean views, private terrace, a choice of eleven distinct culinary experiences, across six vibrant restaurants plus in-suite dining, twelve bars and lounges, (eight indoor and four outdoor), Chef's Kitchen, four swimming pools, extensive outdoor decks with 64 private cabanas, wellness facilities, and refined entertainment. Inspired by the company's European heritage, Explora Journeys will provide guests with an immersive ocean experience and respectful and intuitive hospitality.

EXPLORA II is currently being built and will come into service in August 2024, followed by EXPLORA III in 2026 and EXPLORA IV in 2027 with both ships being LNG-powered.