



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar debuts as port of call for American cruise company in 2015

Gibraltar has been included as a port of call in the 2015 schedule of American cruise company Grand Circle Cruise Line , which will be introducing a new small ship tour named 'Classic Cities & Moorish Traditions of Iberia & Morocco'.

The ten-day itinerary on board the 98 passenger all-suite Corinthian, comprises Lisbon, Portimao, Casablanca, Tangier, Gibraltar and Sevilla.

The Rock's inclusion in the programme came about thanks to the leading efforts of ship agents MH Bland in close consultation with the Minister for Tourism and the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

Minister for Tourism, Public Transport, Commercial Affairs and the Port Neil Costa MP, said he was delighted at the breakthrough which underlined Gibraltar's growing reputation as a major port of call in the Mediterranean and its determination to continue expanding the local cruise industry.

Mr Costa said: "We are very excited that the US cruise operator Grand Circle Cruise Line has chosen Gibraltar as port of call for its novel Iberian and Moroccan tour. Grand Circle is a newcomer to the Rock, and I am confident that the local travel trade will put out all the stops to impress our visitors and provide them a first class experience of everything that Gibraltar has to offer. The US is an important market for us, and we must rise to the challenge. "

The programme includes a panoramic tour of Lisbon, the blend of cultures in Casablanca and Tangier, a visit to the Upper Rock and naval history of Gibraltar, a tour of the Guadalquivir and sites of Sevilla.

A spokesman for MH Bland said: "We are very pleased to have secured Grand Circle Cruise Line as a customer for Gibraltar, and we look forward to a very fruitful and lengthy commercial partnership with them beyond 2015."

Denise Sablone, President of Grand Circle's Worldwide Business Operations said: "Gibraltar is an historical, iconic landmark in the Mediterranean, and we thought it appropriate that our 'Classic Cities and Moorish Traditions of Iberia and Morocco' should include Gibraltar tradition in our new itinerary. We look forward to the launch of our exciting new tour in 2015 and to introducing our travellers to a fascinating part of the world.

Established in 1998, Grand Circle Cruise Line offers 15 river cruises and cruise tours throughout Europe and Russia as well as eight small ship cruise tours to Burma, Antarctica, Panama, the Dalmatian Coast, Greece and the Greek Islands, the Aegean, Adriatic and beyond. The cruise line is a division of Grand Circle Corporation, which is also comprised of Overseas Adventure Travel (est, 1978) and Grand Circle Travel (est. 1958). Grand Circle has 42 offices worldwide and approximately 2,500 associates, guides, and crew serving more than 110,000 travellers per year. Since 1992, the non-profit Grand Circle Foundation has donated or pledged more than \$97M to over 300 humanitarian, cultural, and educational organizations in 50 countries, including 100 schools in 30 countries.

For Further information see

<https://www.gct.com/trips?f=r!Europe.t!Small%2bShip%2bCruise%2bTour&linklocation=footer&p=0!500>