

Ministry of Tourism, Equality, Social Services and Housing

## PRESS RELEASE

No. 277/2015

Date: 5th May 2015

## 'Viking Star' to shine bright in Gibraltar

MV Viking Star, the popular river and ocean Norwegian cruise vessel, arrives in Gibraltar today Tuesday May 5, for its first ever visit. This is the second inaugural cruise ship call to Gibraltar this week.

Part of the Viking Ocean Cruises group, the ship has a gross tonnage of 47,800, is 228 metres long and carries nearly a thousand passengers.

As part of the ship's programme of events for the visit, the Gibraltar Tourist Board has organised an evening concert at St Michael's Cave by the band of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, as an added attraction for the guests, who will be able to enjoy the awe inspiring surroundings of the Cave in an unforgettable night of entertainment.

Minister for Tourism Samantha Sacramento MP, said the Gibraltar Tourist Board was always at the ready to accommodate special requests from cruise companies to enhance and provide added value to the visitor experience, which of course encourages the industry to continue to call upon us as a destination.

Ms Sacramento added: "We pride ourselves in the professional service that we deliver to all visiting cruise ships which choose Gibraltar as their port of call. We are more than happy to make special arrangements with shore excursion agents, to enhance the onshore leisure amenities that are made available to guests.

"We are constantly reviewing our tourist product and looking at ways in which to improve it to ensure its continued and successful development. The Gibraltar Government fully recognises that tourism and the opportunities it generates for our leisure industry and commerce are vital components in our overall economic performance."

The local ship agent for the vessel is Wilhelmsen Ships Service.