

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **‘Explorer of the Seas’ makes inaugural call to Gibraltar**

Gibraltar today received yet another inaugural cruise visit, the seventh of the year, when the Royal Caribbean International vessel ‘MS Explorer of the Seas’ sailed into the port early this morning.

The ‘Explorer of the Seas’ which has recently undergone major dry dock refurbishment, is a Voyager class cruise ship with a gross tonnage of 138,194 and a length of 311 metres. The spectacular 15-decked vessel can carry 3,114 passengers and has a crew of over 1,100,

Minister for Tourism, Samantha Sacramento MP said she was delighted that the Port of Gibraltar was hosting yet another inaugural cruise call.

The Minister said: “The Gibraltar Government attaches great importance to the cruise industry and all the efforts undertaken by the Gibraltar Tourist Board, working with other government departments such as the Port Authority, to consolidate the Rock as a major port of call for the global cruise trade.

“It is politically significant, to note that the Explorer of the Seas is the seventh inaugural cruise call that we have received in Gibraltar so far this year, testament to the extraordinary work that we have done since we were elected in December 2011 to promote Gibraltar as a leading tourist destination in the Mediterranean and shows the confidence that the market has in Gibraltar as a port of call.

“I am confident this will be another successful season for all sectors related to the cruise industry and commerce that are benefitting from this high period of activity we are experiencing. Our untiring commitment the local shipping, tourist and leisure industries will continue.”

The Minister added that this had been an extremely busy week for the Port of Gibraltar whose professionalism in the handling of all these megaships had been admirable.

The local ship agent for the Explorer of the Seas is Incargo Shipping Services.