

MEDCRUISE NEWS

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MEDCRUISE GENERAL ASSEMBLY No.30 held May 17th and 18th in Sochi



MedCruise in Russia

The Black Sea resort city of Sochi hosted the 30th general assembly of MedCruise on May 17th and 18th, which brought together port officials and cruise line executives to network and confer on the cruise industry in the greater Mediterranean region, and on this occasion, with a special focus on the Black Sea.

Approximately 50 delegates representing over 30 Mediterranean and Black Sea ports attended and were joined by three industry leaders from Holland America, Princess Cruises and Seabourn (see Page 3), plus invited local and international media.

On the way to Sochi, and prior to the General Assembly, the Board of Directors held its 53rd meeting at the President Hotel in Moscow, on May 15th. Many delegates participated in the Moscow programme, which included a guided tour of the city.

Highlights of the May 17th Sochi meeting included a discussion on the MedCruise submittal to the European Commission on its Green Paper for a Unified Maritime Policy, the development of an at-sea MedCruise professional development course on passenger port management for its port members' staff slated for November 2007, MedCruise involvement at trade events including its sponsorship of Seatrade Med 2008, redesign of the MedCruise website, the MedCruise report on the local economic benefits of the cruise

industry, member port statistics, MedCruise involvement on matters concerning port security regulations, and a report on promoting cruise development in the Black Sea.

One new member port was voted in: Sinop in Turkey (see Destination MedCruise June issue); and two ship agents were also admitted to MedCruise as associate members: P&B Agencies, out of Barcelona, and Navlomar Maritime, representing Sochi (see Back Page). Almeria was chosen as the venue for MedCruise's next General Assembly on the 18th and 19th of October 2007.

The Government of the Krasnodar region of

southern Russia hosted a gala dinner in the evening that included Russian folk and contemporary song and dance performances.

On May 18th afternoon, MedCruise hosted a Black Sea Roundtable (see page 2).

On Saturday, May 19th, MedCruise delegates were invited by the Olympic Committee of the Russian Federation to visit Krasnaya Polyana mountain ski resort.

The MedCruise event was sponsored by the Port of Sochi, headed by David Stupelman, and supported by the Governor of Krasnodar, the Mayor of Sochi.



L-R: MedCruise president Laurent Monsaingeon, David Stupelman director Port of Sochi, Grigory Minaev head of Dept of Transport & Communications Krasnodar Region, Valeria Mangiarotti vp MedCruise and Albert Poggio svp MedCruise

Any company wishing to become an associate member of MedCruise please contact Jose Campos on email jose_campos@apb.es

MedCruise General Assembly No 30, Sochi

The Sochi general assembly started miles away in Russia's capital city of Moscow, where a number of delegates gathered together with the members of the MedCruise board for a day's sightseeing before jetting off to Sochi in the evening. This picture gallery highlights the Moscow trip, sightseeing around Sochi and the evening entertainment plus a report from the conference sessions.



From Russia with love ... MedCruise delegates see the sights of Moscow



Grafting accomplished Albert Poggio is awarded a diploma



The town of Sochi

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SOCHI 2014



Cruise line executives and delegates outside Stalin's Dacha in Sochi



Delegates catch some sunshine outside the Radisson SAS Lazurnaya during conference coffee break

Black Sea Round-table

Representatives from ports and tourism from five of the six countries that are washed by the Black Sea participated in a round-table discussion on May 18th.

Predominant in the discussion was the call for a revival in Black Sea cruising, as during Soviet times, Black Sea cruises peaked with as many as 3 million annual passengers. Area port and ship owner association representatives proclaimed at the roundtable the goal of establishing a Black Sea country-owned cruise ship or line to serve pent-up local demand for cruising, particularly in Russia. Discussions continued around tapping into the local source markets and in developing local



Black Sea revival under discussion

capacities to support and encourage an increase in cruise tourism.

In addition to cruise ports such as Odessa, Yalta

and Sevastopol (member) in Ukraine, Constanza in Romania, Varna in Bulgaria and Turkey's Istanbul there are a significant number of ports that expect to attract more cruise business such as MedCruise members; Sochi in Russia, Batumi in Georgia and the Turkish port of Sinop.

Sochi is expecting around 40 calls in 2007. David Stupelman, director Sea Port of Sochi noted the population of the countries bordering the Black Sea is no less than those located around the Mediterranean. 'A cruise line operating regular weekly cruises in the Black Sea would easily be able to fill a ship from local sourcing,' he commented.



Albert Poggio grafts a branch to add to the Tree of Friendship



Grigory Minaev head of Dept of Transport & Communications of Krasnodar Region welcomes delegates to Sochi



Gala surprise – traditional Russian dancing and singing

Guest speakers discuss the Med cruise scene

In a conference and workshop session on May 18th, delegates heard views and spoke face-to-face with invited speakers (pictured below). Simon Douwes said four HAL ships will sail in the Med this summer and in 2008 and 2009. HAL will call at 46 different Med and Black Sea ports on cruises of 10–14 days duration this year. 'We choose ports that are readily accessible, offer reasonable costs, operate a transparent regulatory environment, that are clean and secure (Sochi is one of the cleanest I have seen) and are preferably within walking distance of the town', remarked Douwes.

Princess Cruises will have four ships, ranging from 700 to 3,100 passengers, in the Med in 2007 visiting 30 different ports said Bruce Krumrine. In 2008, Cunard will base Queen Victoria in Civitavecchia for part of the season. Krumrine told ports they need to take full advantage of what they have to offer: 'look at what makes your port unique and protect and preserve the best of your port – your future may be your history.'

Peter Cox called Seabourn and the Mediterranean, 'a perfect match'. In 2009 with the introduction of its first newbuild, 'we will have three ships in the region from April to October,' he noted. Seabourn will call at 99 Med and Black Sea ports, of which 37 are currently members of MedCruise.

Cox addressed the question of congestion: 'no matter how marketable a destination may be, if we can no longer provide our guests with a positive experience ashore we will consider dropping it', although he added as a rule it is the passenger that ultimately decides whether we come back to a port or whether we drop it from future itineraries'.

All three executives said that because of the growing problem of congestion in the Med the potential and importance of the Black Sea as an area for growth is significant (see round-table report).

Peter Parinov gave an overview of the Baltic seaport of St Petersburg which gets over 300 cruise calls a year and is currently expanding its cruise facilities. Sochi is using the St Petersburg model for its plans to grow its cruise handling facilities he reported. The Sochi project calls for the a new passenger terminal plus 2km long quay projecting out into the sea.



Douwes, Krumrine and Cox at the Tree of Friendship

Profiles of Guest speakers

Simon Douwes director of deployment and itinerary planning for Holland America Line has the responsibility of researching, developing and implementing new and existing itineraries and deployment for all ships in the HAL fleet. A former captain, Simon served on HAL ships between 1993 and 2002.

Bruce Krumrine is vp shore operations for Princess Cruises and Cunard Line which includes port ops, shorex, passenger logistics and government and community relations covering over 300 ports worldwide and over 3,000 shorex.

Bruce began his cruise career in 1979 with Sitmar Cruises which was acquired by Princess in 1988.

Peter Cox is director of itinerary and land development for Seabourn

Cruise Line. Peter's cruise career spans more than 30 years. He is responsible for destination planning and development worldwide of the Seabourn fleet soon to be five in number.

Peter Parinov is head of St Petersburg Maritime Port Administration. A former navigator-engineer from 1994 to 2003 he worked for Inflot as passenger supervisor and director general. Since 2003 he has been at the helm of St Petersburg port.



Peter Parinov

Two new associate members

MedCruise welcomes two new associate members: Navlomar Maritime and P&B Agencies.

Navlomar (an associate member providing shipping services to the member port of Sochi) is the oldest shipping agency in Romania (over 30 years) and a Bimco member since 1970, with the head office in Constanza and branches around the Black Sea.

Its main activities are shipping agency, consultancy, chartering, trading, forwarding, crew assistance, ship chandlery, bunkering, and full assistance for river transport including representing Grand Circle Line whose river cruise ships call in Constanza as part of a Grand European River cruise said Ioan Virgil Dragan, general manager Navlomar (pictured right, in Sochi at MedCruise's 30th general assembly). As an associate member, Dragan is linked to the member port of Sochi.



Xavier Pitarque



Ioan Virgil Dragan

provision, including high-quality land programmes and shore excursions. P&B Agencies also manages every aspect of turn around operations. The firm has agents and/or participated offices at 27 ports on the Spanish peninsula, Ceuta, Melilla, and in the Canary and Balearic Islands.

Heading up P&B Agencies is Xavier Pitarque (left), Executive Vice-President, who, as a pioneer in the cruise industry in the Mediterranean with over 42 years' experience, oversees the services the firm provides to over 26 passenger shipping companies. Xavier Pitarque has and continues to play a significant role in the development of the cruise industry in Spain. He anticipates that in MedCruise, his firm, and other ship agents, find a venue for a productive collaboration with the ports, the lines and other partners to promote and improve the industry's work in

the Mediterranean.

Any ship/port agent or tourist board wishing to become an associate member of MedCruise please contact José Campos on e-mail jose_campos@apb.es

MedCruise Miami tour

While at the Miami Seatrade Convention in March, MedCruise members were invited by the port of Miami to visit its twin passenger terminals under construction, each to service megaships of over 300,000 passengers. Dan Cowan of the Port of Miami guided the 23 MedCruise participants through



the massive terminals as the number one cruise port worldwide prepared the finishing touches. Members that took part in the tour enjoyed the privilege of this preview, which was of a significant educational value for those ports working on passenger terminal improvements.

Barbara McComb wins MedCruise competition

Barbara McComb, Tour Planner for Seabourn Cruise Lines is the winner of the MedCruise competition run in the September 2006 issues of MedCruise News and Destination MedCruise.

The prize, sponsored by the Passenger Port of Koper, the City of Koper and the Slovenian Tourist Board, includes flights to and from Slovenia, two nights accommodation, two



days of tours including port and city of Koper sightseeing, and the opportunity to visit the Slovenian coast, Lipica Stud farm, Postojna Caves and capital city of Ljubljana. We look forward to reporting on Barbara's upcoming visit in a future issue of the newsletter.

Any port/destination that would like to host a similar-style trip for

this year's competition please e-mail José Campos on jose_campos@apb.es

Almeria in Spain will host the 31st General Assembly on 18-19th October, 2007 (see June Destination MedCruise newsletter for more information on Almeria as a cruise destination).

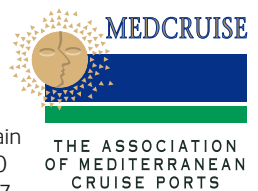
MedCruise Members

- Alanya
- Alicante
- Almeria
- Balearic Islands
- Barcelona
- Bari
- Batumi
- Cagliari
- Cartagena
- Castellon
- Catania
- Ceuta
- Cyprus ports
- Dubrovnik, Korcula
- Egyptian ports
- French Riviera ports
- Gibraltar
- Koper
- La Spezia
- Lattakia
- Livorno
- Malaga
- Messina
- Monaco
- Moroccan ports
- Naples
- Palamos
- Palermo
- Pescara
- Piraeus
- Portoferraio
- Portuguese ports
- Ravenna
- Rijeka
- Sete
- Sevastopol
- Sibenik
- Sinop
- Sochi
- Split
- Tarragona
- Toulon, St Tropez
- Trieste
- Tunis
- Valencia
- Valletta
- Venice
- Volos
- Zadar

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