



## PRESS RELEASE

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM

### ***OCEANIA RIVIERA MAKES ITS MAIDEN CALL TO BRUNEI, MARKING THE FIRST CRUISE SHIP ARRIVAL TO THE SULTANATE***

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- 1. Bandar Seri Begawan, 30th January 2024** – Brunei Darussalam maintains its momentum in cruise tourism with the arrival of the first cruise ship of the year, *Oceania Riviera*, which also makes its maiden call to the Sultanate. Since the recovery of cruise tourism last year, Brunei Darussalam continues in strengthening its position as an increasingly prominent destination on the global cruise map.
2. The *Oceania Riviera*, originating its cruise from Abu Dhabi, UAE and docking at the Sultanate carries an estimated total number of 1,200 passengers. Upon disembarking the ship, they were warmly greeted with a lively hadrah performance and had the chance to take pictures with performers donned in traditional attire.
3. Welcoming these tourists was a diverse array of vendors, such as KommuniHub, AZ Back to Nature, Koleksi Husna, Aewon and Kingdom Rides among many others. They provided passengers with opportunities to acquire traditional Bruneian souvenirs as well as embarking on adventure and exploration packages to explore the country's iconic sites.
4. The tourists were provided with opportunities to join on tour packages to explore the country's famous landmarks such as the Royal Regalia Museum; the Jame' Asr Mosque; the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque; the Istana Nurul Iman and Kampong Ayer. During the short stay, they have indulged themselves in the diverse selection of local foods and beverages offerings as well as acquire traditional Bruneian souvenirs.
5. According to one of the tourists returning from the city tour, Mrs. Maria Hastings, from California, USA, both of Brunei's most iconic mosques, the Jame' Asr mosque and the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien mosque as well as the Istana Nurul Iman were memorable and she was most impressed by its majestic architectural structures.
6. Brunei Darussalam will anticipate the arrival of five additional cruise ships this year, with three of them set to make their inaugural calls leading further to the historic success of cruise tourism. The upcoming cruise, Norwegian Jewel, is scheduled for a return visit to the Sultanate and is expected to grace Brunei waters on the 22nd of February 2024.

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