



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

ST. THOMAS • ST. CROIX • ST. JOHN

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2019

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VIPA DISPELS RUMORS OF ADDITIONAL CRUISE SHIP CANCELATIONS

Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director Carlton Dowe dismissed false reports that Royal Caribbean Cruise Line (RCCL) has canceled an additional six calls to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Dowe confirmed with RCCL's ship agent that while eight calls by the Allure of the Seas were previously canceled due to issues with the ship's propulsion system, there are no additional cancellations - as was erroneously reported by some local V.I. news media.

On May 7, 2019, VIPA reported that RCCL had canceled eight calls by the Allure of the Seas to the Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal in Crown Bay, St. Thomas on the following days:

- May 16, 2019
- June 6, 2019
- June 27, 2019
- July 18, 2019
- August 8, 2019
- August 29, 2019
- September 19, 2019
- October 10, 2019

The Allure is currently sailing at reduced speeds with only two of three of its propulsion pods operating. The ship has adjusted a total of 25 itineraries from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida throughout the Caribbean to eliminate destinations that require high travel speeds.

However, Dowe said VIPA was pleased to learn that RCCL had also recently changed its Empress of the Seas itineraries to include six additional visits to the USVI - one call to St. Croix and five calls to St. Thomas. "While the Empress of the Seas is a smaller vessel than the Oasis-class Allure, the additional calls are greatly appreciated. They will help to lessen the impact of the losses that we may have experienced otherwise," said Dowe. RCCL revised the Empress of the Seas' itinerary to add the following calls to the USVI:

Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility, Frederiksted - St. Croix

- June 19, 2019

Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Facility, Crown Bay - St. Thomas

- June 20, 2019
- July 18, 2019
- August 15, 2019
- September 12, 2019
- October 30, 2019

VIPA's cruise ship schedules are published on the Seaports section of its website at www.viport.com. Updates and alerts are also posted on VIPA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) social media pages.

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The Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) is an autonomous, self-sustaining government agency established in 1969 as the owner and manager of the United States Virgin Island's airports and seaports. VIPA owns and manages 14 seaports, two airports, and surrounding properties. It is a critical arm of the USVI's economy that facilitates travel and commerce and fosters tourism and economic growth via its port activities. VIPA's mandate is to develop and maintain the ports of the USVI to accommodate the current and future demands of our users, and to provide safe port facilities.