



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

Gateways to the U.S. Virgin Islands' Economy

ST. THOMAS ▪ ST. CROIX ▪ ST. JOHN

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Contact: Monifa Marrero-Brathwaite
mbrathwaite@viport.com

Office of the Executive Director

PO Box 1707, St. Thomas, VI 00803
PO Box 1134, St. Croix, VI 00820
Tel: (340) 774-1629 / 778-1012
www.viport.com

REVISED

USVI WILL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL CRUISE VISITS JUNE 19th and 20th

The U.S. Virgin Islands will welcome two additional cruise calls next week. Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's Empress of the Seas will visit St. Croix on June 19th. The Empress-class ship will berth at the Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility in Frederiksted at 8:30 a.m. with 2,270 passengers and crew onboard. It will stay in port until 7 p.m. The ship will then sail to St. Thomas and berth at the Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal in Crown Bay on June 20th, arriving at 7 a.m. and departing at 5 p.m.

The ship's agent did not provide an explanation for the change in the ship's itinerary. VIPA's Acting Executive Director Anise Hodge said that the visits are enthusiastically welcomed by the territory during the usually slow summer season. The two visits will also help to slightly offset eight canceled calls by the **Allure of the Seas** this season due to propulsion-related mechanical problems, said Hodge. The USVI's cruise schedules are posted on the Seaports section of its Web site at www.viport.com.

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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.