



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY NEWS RELEASE

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Empress of the Seas Changes Date of Call to St. Thomas, Adds Two Calls to St. Croix

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's Empress of the Seas has added two visits to St. Croix to its itinerary – one in February and one in March. The ship has notified the Virgin Islands Port Authority that it has changed its schedule and canceled its call to the Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal in Crown Bay, St. Thomas on February 13. Instead, the revised itinerary will bring the Empress of the Seas to Crown Bay on February 12 at 8 a.m. with departure at 7 p.m. The ship will then sail to St. Croix and berth at the Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility in Frederiksted on February 13, arriving at 7 a.m. and departing at 3 p.m. The Empress of the Seas has also scheduled an additional call to Frederiksted on March 25, arriving at 8 a.m. and departing at 6 p.m. The Empress of the Seas is an Empress-class cruise ship with a passenger capacity of 1,840 guests and 668 crew.

VIPA previously announced two changes to its Frederiksted cruise ship schedule, adding a call from the Empress of the Seas on January 16 and from Holland-

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America Cruises' Nieuw Amsterdam on January 22. VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dowe said that he is thrilled to announce more cruise ship visits particularly for the island of St. Croix. "We welcome every additional cruise ship visit as they bring thousands of passengers to our shores. Increased visits from tourists positively impact the tourist-related businesses, our restaurants, taxi drivers and the territory's economy overall, said Dowe.

Cruise ship schedules for the U.S. Virgin Islands are posted on the Seaports section of VIPA's website: 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. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).