



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Cabinet Office

Department of Communications

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2018 Growth Expected as Cruise Season Extended in Spring and Fall

The just published [2018 Cruise Ship Schedule](#) projects a sharp rise in cruise visitors to Bermuda outside of the summer months, as the Ministry of Transport & Regulatory Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Development & Tourism and the Bermuda Tourism Authority execute on a joint strategy to boost tourism during the shoulder season.

April, October and November are expected to see the biggest percentage gains in cruise visitor arrivals next year, with 17 more cruise calls during those months alone, when compared to 2017.

Scheduled Cruise Calls by Month

Month	2017	2018	Difference	% Change
April	12	20	8	+67%
October	18	24	6	+33%
November	6	9	3	+50%

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, The Hon. Jamahl Simmons, JP,MP, said, "Extending the cruise season beyond the summer months creates more work opportunities for Bermudians in the tourism industry."

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Deputy Premier, Minister of Transport and Regulatory Affairs, The Hon. Walter Roban, JP, MP said, “We are excited to have Disney Cruise Lines make its first set of calls in October 2018 and our ongoing relationship with Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings means their smaller cruise ships, like the Oceania and Regent Seven Seas brands, will be back to Hamilton and the Town of St. George this year, stimulating economic activity.”

According to the 2018 Bermuda cruise ship schedule, cruise calls are projected to rise 12 percent and cruise visitor arrivals are forecast to jump 13 percent. Bermuda is expected to receive 180 cruise ship calls bringing approximately 470,000 passengers. That amounts to 19 more cruise ship calls and 53,500 more passengers in 2018, when compared with 2017.

Cruise Visitor Arrivals by Year

(*Projected)

2016	2017	2018	Difference	% Change
397,904	416,049	470,652*	53,587*	+13%*

Meantime, 2017 proved to be a growth year for Bermuda’s cruise travel market. Bermuda received 161 cruise ship calls, bringing 416,049 passengers, an increase of 18,145 visitors and 4.6% respectively over 2016. The total estimated economic impact of both visitor spending and government tax revenue is expected to be more than \$72 million, comprised of an estimated \$50 million in visitor spending and \$22 million in tax revenue.

In 2018, the total projected economic impact of both visitor spending and government tax revenue is \$84.8 million with \$59.8 million estimated in visitor spending and \$25 million in tax revenue. The total economic impact would be an increase of approximately \$12.7 million.

Economic Impact of Cruise Market (millions)

(*Projected)

Economic Impact	2016	2017	2018	Difference	% Change
Tax Revenue	\$22.3	\$22.0*	\$25.0*	\$3.0*	13.6%*
On-Island Spending	\$44.5	\$50.1*	\$59.8*	\$9.7*	19.4%*
Total	\$66.8	\$72.1*	\$84.8*	\$12.7*	17.6%*

The City of Hamilton will see 17 calls in 2018, down from 26 calls in 2017. The Hamilton increase in 2017 was primarily due to the 35th America’s Cup, which brought additional luxury callers during the summer. St. George will see 16 calls in 2018, up two from 2017. The ports in Hamilton and St. George are best suited for small cruise ships that make occasional calls; Bermuda has been increasingly successful in attracting them here.

Cruise Calls by Year

(*Projected)

2016	2017	2018	Difference	% Change
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139	161	180*	19*	+11.8%*
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Norwegian Cruise Line

The *Norwegian Breakaway* is being replaced in 2018 with the *Norwegian Escape*, which has a slightly higher passenger capacity (about 500 more) than the *Breakaway*. The *Escape* will make her inaugural call to Bermuda on April 25th, 2018. The NCL Tender running between the Royal Naval Dockyard and the Town of St. George saw approximately 45,000 passengers visit the east end town this past summer, after getting off the ground in May.

Bermuda Tourism Authority Chief Product and Experiences Development Officer Pat Phillip-Fairn said: "A 2017 highlight for us was having the tender operation begin service and seeing St. George and the businesses there re-energized with tourism activity. The potential economic impact of direct calls to the east end and the dedicated tender service, in addition to arrivals from the public ferries, is something the town can build upon further."

The NCL Tender is scheduled to maintain annual summer service exclusively for NCL guests through 2022.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

Bermuda's partnership with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines continues with regular calls from its Quantum-class ship as well as occasional calls from Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises, RCL's smaller affiliated lines. In 2015, RCL partnered with the Government of Bermuda to dredge the North Channel, making way for the Quantum-size *Anthem of the Seas*.

Carnival Cruise Line

Carnival branded ships will make 13 calls to Bermuda 2018. The Carnival Corporation also has interests in Holland America Line, Princess Cruises, Adia Cruises, Cunard Line, Costa Cruises, Seabourn Cruise Line and P&O – all of which will make stops in Bermuda over the next year. In total, Carnival Corporation brands will make 32 calls to Bermuda in 2018, which is up from 21 calls in 2017.

Disney Cruise Line

Disney Cruise Line is coming to Bermuda for the first time beginning October 2018. The *Disney Magic* will sail to Bermuda five times next year from New York City. The Bermuda Tourism Authority's product and experiences team is working closely with Disney and local tourism businesses to create and promote unique port experiences for Disney passengers who have specific vacation desires and a reputation for spending more than typical cruise ship passengers.

[The 2018 Cruise Ship Schedule](#) is on-line.