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EXPLORA JOURNEYS CELEBRATES NAMING CEREMONY OF EXPLORA II IN CIVITAVECCHIA, ITALY

Explora Journeys' second of six luxury ships officially named by godmother Rosalba Giugni, a renowned marine environmentalist, during spectacular event in Rome's port

Civitavecchia, Italy, 16 September 2024 - EXPLORA II, the second ship in the fleet of the luxury lifestyle ocean travel brand of the MSC Group, Explora Journeys, has been officially named in the Italian port of Civitavecchia, near the country's capital, Rome.

With a vision to redefine luxury ocean travel for discerning travellers, Explora Journeys blends European hospitality and 300 years of maritime heritage, offering guests the chance to experience a unique "Ocean State of Mind," connecting them with the sea and curated destinations.

The traditional maritime ceremony featured the symbolic cutting of a ribbon to break a bottle on the ship's bow. This honour was conducted by EXPLORA II's godmother, Rosalba Giugni, founder and president of the Marevivo Foundation, a non-partisan environmental conservation organisation committed to the preservation of marine environments, founded in 1985.

Rosalba was chosen for this honour, as a friend and partner of the MSC Foundation, but also as a mark of respect for her 35-year commitment to the protection of the world's oceans.

The naming ceremony brought together distinguished guests from across the globe, including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Antonio Tajani, Admiral Nicola Carlone, ART President Nicola Zaccheo, the President of the Port Authority, Pino Musolino, the Mayor of Civitavecchia, Marco Piendibene and Italian film director, screenwriter and Academy Award winner Giuseppe Tornatore, as well as international journalists, key travel partners, and senior MSC Group representatives, including Founder and Group Chairman, Gianluigi Aponte. The event was hosted by Italian actress and TV personality Lorella Cuccarini and concluded with a traditional parade of ship officers.

Following the formal proceedings, guests enjoyed a gala dinner and an evening of vibrant celebrations, including a captivating musical performance by English pop singer Tony Hadley, along with a breathtaking drone show that creatively narrated the story of Explora Journeys, featuring a stunning display of the Mandala and the Explora Journeys logo.

Executive Chairman of the Cruise Division of MSC Group, Pierfrancesco Vago said: *"Naming a new ship is a proud maritime tradition, and tonight's celebration marks our continued growth as we redefine luxury ocean travel. Our vision began with the contemporary brand MSC Cruises where we developed a premium offer with MSC Yacht Club and from there we identified a further demand for luxury experiences at sea. With Explora Journeys we offer an unparalleled value proposition and a unique offering compared to other types of luxury holiday. By 2028 the Explora Journeys fleet will comprise six ships offering a spirit of luxurious ocean adventure visiting sought-after destinations, where our guests can expect the same high standards and quality service across our fleet, all over the globe."*



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EXPLORA II introduces new features to enhance guest's luxury ocean travel experience, including new retail options - the first Buccellati jewellery boutique at sea and special collaborations and limited editions by Borsalino, Kampos, and Massaba for Explora Journeys, exclusively available at the ship's 'The Journey' boutique.

The re-designed Ocean Wellness Spa offers a series of new treatment programmes inspired by authentic Ayurvedic principles. And the Helios Pool & Bar has been refreshed with bespoke Unopiù outdoor furniture designed by Matteo Nunziati.

EXPLORA II features original artwork by Emilio Isgró and Prince Hussain Aga Khan's 'Marine Encounters', an exhibition of his marine photographs showcasing diverse underwater species and ecosystems. The exquisite collection of marine photography was gifted to the MSC Foundation as part of the partnership between the MSC Foundation and 'Focused on Nature', reflecting a shared vision to educate and inspire action on the need to preserve marine life and biodiversity.

EXPLORA II's 7-night maiden journey, starting today, will include stops in stunning Sorrento, Lipari, Trapani, Siracusa, and Valletta, ending in Tarragona, Spain.

EXPLORA II and EXPLORA I will reposition to the Caribbean for the winter season, offering incredible itineraries. Highlight destinations include Gustavia in St. Barts, Oranjestad in Aruba, and St. John's in Antigua. In the summer of 2025, EXPLORA II will sail in the Western Mediterranean visiting ports such as Barcelona in Spain, St. Tropez in France, Monte Carlo and Porto Cervo in Italy.

Last week, Explora Journeys celebrated the keel laying of EXPLORA III and the steel cutting of EXPLORA IV at the Fincantieri shipyard in Sestri Ponente, near Genoa, Italy. EXPLORA III, set for delivery in 2026, will be the first of four liquefied natural gas-powered ships in the Explora Journeys fleet, followed by EXPLORA IV and EXPLORA V in 2027 and EXPLORA VI in 2028.

All ships feature modern environmental and marine technologies, including selective catalytic reduction systems, shore power plug-in connectivity, underwater noise management systems to protect marine life, and a comprehensive range of onboard energy-efficient equipment designed to optimise engine use and reduce emissions. The ship has been designated 'Green Plus' by RINA – the highest level that the certification body grants for environmental sustainability.

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About Explora Journeys

Explora Journeys is the privately-owned luxury lifestyle brand of the MSC Group, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, created at the heart of Swiss luxury hospitality. The brand stems from the long-held vision to redefine the ocean experience for a new generation of discerning luxury travellers, drawing on the Aponte family's 300 years of maritime heritage. The brand's aspiration is to create a unique 'Ocean State of Mind' by connecting guests with the sea, with themselves, and like-minded others, while remarkable itineraries blend renowned destinations with lesser-travelled ports, for a journey that inspires discovery in all its forms.

A fleet of six luxury ships will be launched from 2023 to 2028, starting with EXPLORA I's delivery that took place on 24 July 2023. Explora Journeys introduces a new style of transformative ocean travel. EXPLORA I offers 461 oceanfront suites, penthouses and residences designed to be 'Homes at Sea' for guests, all with sweeping ocean views, private terrace, a choice of eleven distinct culinary experiences across six vibrant restaurants plus in-suite dining, Chef's Kitchen, twelve bars and lounges (eight indoor and four outdoor), four swimming pools, extensive outdoor decks with 64 private cabanas, wellness facilities, and refined entertainment. Inspired by the company's European heritage, Explora Journeys will provide guests with an immersive ocean experience and respectful and intuitive hospitality.

EXPLORA II was delivered on 12 September 2024. EXPLORA III will come into service in 2026 and EXPLORA IV in 2027 with both ships being LNG-powered. EXPLORA V and EXPLORA VI will enter service in 2027 and 2028, respectively.

To learn more about Explora Journeys, visit explorajourneys.com or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).