



MSC FOUNDATION AND FOCUSED ON NATURE BRING AN EXCLUSIVELY CURATED EXHIBITION OF PRINCE HUSSAIN AGA KHAN'S PHOTOGRAPHY OF MARINE LIFE TO GUESTS ON BOARD EXPLORA II



Geneva, Switzerland, 3 October 2024 – Explora Journeys is proud to announce the launch of an exclusive exhibition of Prince Hussain Aga Khan's marine photography, titled Marine Encounters, now available for guests aboard the brand's newly launched second ship, EXPLORA II. The exhibition, located in the ship's Galleria d'Arte, offers a stunning visual journey into the wonders of marine life through the lens and storytelling of Prince Hussain.

This collection of 28 limited-edition photographs on display for an initial period of six months has been gifted to the MSC Foundation by acclaimed photographer and conservationist, Prince Hussain Aga Khan, reflecting a collaboration underpinned by a shared dedication to environmental conservation, education and public awareness-raising.

On 14 September, Explora Journeys President Anna Nash, MSC Foundation Executive Director Daniela Picco, and Prince Hussain Aga Khan, came together to officially open the exhibition. The gifted collection is available for purchase, with proceeds going to support the MSC Foundation, as part of a joint commitment to marine conservation.

The trilateral collaboration also represents a fortified bridge across oceans with the MSC Foundation connecting Explora guests to ocean education advocates through Prince Hussain's art and offers an opportunity for guests to support scholarships at the University of The Bahamas, complementing the contributions already made by the Foundation to launch the first scholarship.

“I’m very grateful and blessed to be showing my work in this beautiful space on board Explora II. My mission is to show people what’s out there – the diversity, beauty, fascinating behaviour, intelligence – to try to make them fall in love with fauna, flora and habitats,” said **Prince Hussain Aga Khan, Photographer and Founder of Focused on Nature.** *“At the very least encourage them to care but also highlight the terrible decline, the threats, and some of the solutions and changes we can make in our own behaviours.”*

This unveiling was part of the broader Naming Ceremony festivities for EXPLORA II, the second ship to join the luxury travel brand of the MSC Group’s fleet of six ships. She set sail on her maiden journey on 16 September from Civitavecchia in Italy to Spain, Sicily and Malta, with the exhibition on display in the *Galleria d’Arte* for an initial period of six months.

Anna Nash, President Explora Journeys said: *“For over 30 years, Prince Hussain Aga Khan's photography has fostered a profound appreciation for nature and has influenced how we interact with our natural resources. Our partnership with the MSC Foundation and Focused on Nature embodies a unified vision for environmental awareness and education. By leveraging our global presence at sea, this inaugural collaboration with Explora Journeys is designed to inspire action in preserving marine life and advancing marine science.”*

A walk through *Marine Encounters* takes cruise guests on a journey from coral reefs to the deep ocean, focusing on the importance of coral protection, ending at the **MSC Foundation Area**, a space dedicated to MSC Foundation's awareness-raising and education activities on board and the 7th hub on MSC Cruises vessels with Foundation Representatives dedicated to fostering environmental awareness among guests of all ages. EXPLORA II guests can connect with and donate to programmes that are making a tangible difference worldwide. Purchasing one of Prince Hussain Aga Khan's limited-edition prints from the Marine Encounters exhibition will directly fund a scholarship for one semester of studies for a student enrolled in marine science at the University of The Bahamas.

“We are incredibly honoured to partner with an exceptional artist and ocean ambassador, Prince Hussain Aga Khan, to showcase his exceptional photography on Explora II. This exhibition gives cruise guests a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of our oceans through art while also being inspired by Prince Hussain’s unwavering dedication to marine conservation and his powerful advocacy for their protection,” said **Daniela Picco, Executive Director of the MSC Foundation.** *“By giving the guests a chance to support our common cause, we are also building connections to our partner, the University of The Bahamas, to concretely support education in marine science for the next generation of ocean champions.”*

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For press inquiries, please contact
press@explorajourneys.com

About MSC Foundation

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the MSC Foundation is the philanthropic entity of the MSC Group. Established by the Aponte family in 2018, the Foundation supports causes in environmental conservation, community support, education, and emergency relief. Its mission is to use MSC’s global reach and knowledge of the sea to take action that contributes to protecting and nurturing the blue planet and its people. For more information, visit: www.msccfoundation.org and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Focused on Nature

Focused On Nature was established by Hussain Aga Khan in 2014, to support global conservation, advocacy, and research efforts that protect threatened and endangered species, safeguard biodiversity and preserve habitats. Through photography and education initiatives, Focused on Nature raises awareness around the necessity and urgency to protect fragile and threatened ecosystems around the world. Focused on Nature collaborates with globally renowned conservation organisations to support responsible stewardship of wildlife and wild spaces around the world.

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](#).