

**PRESS RELEASE**

**TOURISM TRINIDAD WELCOMES THE MSC SEASIDE AS PASSENGER ARRIVALS  
CRUISE PAST TWENTY THOUSAND**

**Port of Spain, December 15th, 2023:** As the MSC Seaside made its inaugural visit to the Port of Port of Spain on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, visitor arrivals from cruise ships this season passed the twenty thousand mark. Tourism Trinidad welcomes the influx of travellers set to explore the rich culture and culinary delights of our destination. Marking the 18th call thus far for the 2023-2024 season, this arrival signifies the continued interest and appeal of Trinidad as a prime cruise stop.

The MSC Seaside's visit brings Trinidad to an impressive overall tally of 21,011 and 6,690 crew members to our shores since the start of the 2023-2024 season in October. Among these, an estimated 13,800 passengers have disembarked, with 25 percent opting for curated organized tours, creating deeper engagement and exploration of our landscapes, food and cultural treasures.

Building upon the achievements of the 2022-2023 season, initial projections indicate that approximately **88,000 passengers and 30,000 crew** will visit on Trinidad's shores for 2023-2024's season, ushering in an influx of economic opportunities and cultural immersion for local businesses. This represents an estimated 81 percent increase in passengers from last season.

Tourism Trinidad was happy to welcome the MSC Seaside and its passengers to Trinidad as we continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that passengers enjoy their time while on island.

This is evident in the fact that the City & Maracas Tour, Maracas Beach Tour, and the Caroni Bird Sanctuary tour, stand out as the most sought-after organized tours, drawing travellers to our most treasured sites.

The arrival of MSC Seaside not only amplifies our country's allure but gives us a chance through our activities specially put on in the capital city to underscore the significance of our culture and heritage.

**\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\***