
MSC Cruises to send second ship to Cuba

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MSC Armonia will join MSC Opera, which is already sailing Caribbean itineraries from Havana this winter, making MSC the first global cruise line to homeport in the Cuban capital.

Demand for MSC Opera cruises has been so high that the ship will remain in Havana next winter when MSC Armonia arrives.

A typical seven-night cruise from Havana to Montego Bay in Jamaica calls at Georgetown the capital of the Cayman Islands, where its British colonial history is still apparent at Fort George and at the National Museum – although many people will prefer visiting the famous Seven Mile Beach or snorkeling at the Cali shipwreck site near town.

Cruises also call at Cozumel, a Mexican island with great scuba diving and snorkeling with dolphins, manatees and sea turtles in the Chankanaab eco park.

The highlight of these itineraries, though, will be several days in Havana itself – famous for its UNESCO-listed Old Quarter.

“With no less than nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and a long-held tradition of hospitality, Cuba has all the makings of a top world cruise destination,” says MSC Cruises Chief Executive Officer Gianni Onorato.



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MSC will be the first global cruise line to homeport in the Cuban capital

“MSC Cruises is honoured to be able to support the further development of this huge potential, and we’re very thankful to the Cuban authorities for their ongoing co-operation in this regard.”

MSC Opera, MSC Armonia and two other ships from MSC Cruises’ 12-strong fleet, recently underwent fully comprehensive refits under the company’s Renaissance Programme.

MSC Cruises will be offering free all-inclusive “Allegrissimo” drinks packages to cruises booked on selected sailings from December 15 until February 29, 2016.



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MSC Armonia recently underwent a fully comprehensive refit

The package includes cocktails, selected wines by the glass, draught beer, soft drinks, milkshakes, smoothies and fruit juices plus the cruise line's paid-for Italian coffee selection and award-winning gelato.