

Opening new horizons

PresseMitteilung



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Start of cruise season in Warnemünde

205 port calls by 43 vessels expected on 122 days

The 2018 cruise season begins at the Warnemünde cruise port on 8 April with the arrival of the passenger vessel *Boudicca* of the British Fred Olsen Cruise Lines. „All told we expect 205 port calls by 43 cruise vessels this year. Interest in Baltic Sea cruises continues to increase both in the international and in the national market“, says Jens A. Scharner, managing director of ROSTOCK PORT GmbH. 180 times the vessels will berth in Warnemünde and 25 times at the overseas port. Nine vessels will be heading for the mouth of river Warnow for the first time: *Brilliance of the Seas, Britannia, Marella Discovery, MSC Orchestra, Norwegian Breakaway, Sapphire Princess, Seven Seas Navigator, Viking Sun* and *Zenith*. There will be cruise ships calling at the port on river Warnow on 122 days of the year 2018.

Rostock-based shipping company AIDA Cruises will again operate two of its vessels from its Baltic home port of Warnemünde, *AIDAdiva* and *AIDamar*. 43 out of a total of 53 port calls with changes of passengers have been notified by AIDA Cruises for 2018. Nine port calls with change of passengers by the vessel *Zenith* are going to be carried out by the Spanish cruise shipping company Pullmantur at the overseas port and on one occasion the vessel *Berlin*, operated by FTI, will change its passengers in Warnemünde. Also the Italian shipping companies Costa and MSC Cruises as well as the US-based shipping companies Norwegian Cruise Line and Princess Cruises plan to change some of their passengers here during 57 port calls, with predominantly Italian and German passengers embarking or disembarking.

The sailing list for 2018 includes 39 port calls by very large passenger vessels with a length of more than 300 metres: *Britannia* and *Regal Princess* are each 330 metres long, *Norwegian Breakaway* is 324 metres and *Celebrity Silhouette* and *Celebrity Eclipse* are 319 and 317 metres long, respectively. *Norwegian Breakaway* is the largest vessel of the coming season with a gross register tonnage of 145,655.

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The Swiss-based shipping company Viking Ocean Cruises has included Warnemünde 24 times in the schedules of its four sister vessels *Viking Sea*, *Viking Sky*, *Viking Star* and *Viking Sun*.

In the coming year three port calls of the passenger vessel *Albatros* of Phoenix Reisen have been notified for December so that the 2018 cruise shipping season in Warnemünde will end unusually late.

More information: www.rostock-port.de