



COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

## MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT, AND MARITIME INITIATIVES

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### Press Release

#### For immediate release

#### Dominica welcomes first cruise call since COVID 19

After over a year of no cruise calls to Dominica due to COVID 19 restrictions, stakeholders can expect the first cruise call to Dominican shores on Tuesday, July 27 2021.

The Ministry of Tourism, International Transport and Maritime Initiatives joins with all major stakeholders in anticipation and excitement for Tuesday's call. The SEABOURN vessel, Seabourn Odyssey will be docking at Woodbridge Bay with approximately 135 passengers. In accordance with approved cruise protocols for Dominica, only vaccinated passengers will be allowed to disembark and proceed on tours in Dominica.

Although cruise activity had been halted due to COVID 19 restrictions since March 2020, regular discussions were held between the Ministry and cruise lines to enable a restart of cruise activity here in Dominica. Discussions are ongoing with Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean to review options, in an effort to have a safe return of cruise activity, once again on the nature island. As we address the challenges brought on by the pandemic our priority during all of the discussions has always been about the health and safety of citizens and passengers.

The approved COVID 19 protocols for Dominica reinforce this strict adherence to measures such as temperature checks, mask-wearing, hand sanitization, safe distancing, and importantly, safe practices for vending and tours. The protocols ensure that only certified actors are allowed to interact with cruise visitors. For this cruise call, only organized or pre-sold tours will be permitted as an initial measure for limiting comingling and maintaining social distancing whilst our visitors enjoy the experience of the nature island.

Although this first call will be at Woodbridge Bay port for the summer season, subsequent calls are scheduled for the Roseau cruise ship terminal.

To the taxi drivers, tour guides, vendors, braiders, tour operators and all who are to interact within the safe corridor established for cruise ships, lets give the passengers the same Dominican hospitality that our island is known for and give them an experience beyond their expectations as they enjoy our natural wonders.

The Ministry of Tourism wishes all our stakeholders the very best as we ease back into cruise economic activity and reminds everyone to stay safe and follow the established health protocols.