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Norwegian Star the final sparkle in Portland Port's 2015 Cruise Season

On Sunday the final 2,160 passengers arrived back at the Norwegian Star after a full day's exploring, the Nothe Forte Artillery Volunteers then fired the final 3 shots of 2015 as the Norwegian Star departed and Portland Port's cruise season drew to a close. 2015 saw another record year for both ship calls, 23 in total, and passenger numbers – around 26,500, as Portland Port's cruise programme continues to grow in reputation throughout the cruise industry.

During 2015 the port welcomed 5 new cruise ships into the port for the first time, celebrated Crystal Cruises 25th anniversary with both of their vessels visiting the port, picked up another industry leading award and welcomed Norwegian Cruise Lines to Portland for the first time. Ian McQuade, General Manager – Commercial, concluded; "2015 has been an excellent year for us in the cruise sector with record numbers and plenty of inaugural calls. We are now looking to build on this success and are already planning for 2017."

Whilst cruise lines continue to frequent Portland, the port is always planning ahead for the next two years. The main focus looking ahead to 2017 will be the introduction of an extended cruise berth which will allow ships in excess of 330m long to visit the port. Mr McQuade commented; "the berth extension will transform our capabilities and will enable us to remain competitive for many years to come."

END

For more information or images please contact Jack Brooke at Portland Port on 01305 825368 or email j.brooke@portland-port.co.uk

PHOTO:

Norwegian Star of Norwegian Cruise Lines departing Portland on the 27th September 2015.

Notes to Editors:

Previously a naval dockyard for over 150 years, Portland Harbour is now a thriving and successful commercial facility. It still maintains a close relationship with the past through its ongoing contract to support the RFA, as well as being home to the activities of Global Marine and Portland Bunkers International. It has almost 2,500 hectares of water at depths of up to 15m (C.D.); and provides vessel services from long term lay-ups to brief maintenance calls, luxury cruise liner docking facilities to industrial cargo shipments.

The cruise schedule for 2015 can be seen and downloaded here, 2016 schedule to be uploaded December 2015:

<http://www.portland-port.co.uk/cruise/cruise-calls>

The tariff and general Portland Harbour Authority information can be viewed at

<http://www.portland-port.co.uk/>

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Portland Port has over 2,000 metres of alongside berths and 11.6 metres (C.D.) depth of water at the deepest alongside berth.

Berthing for vessels up to 300 metres (subject to Harbour Master's approval).

11 designated anchorages are within the 1,015 hectare inner harbour. Six designated anchorages are within the 1,436 hectare Outer Harbour.

A width of 210 metres and depth of over 12.6 metres (C.D.) at the entrance of the harbour mean that there are few vessel beam, lock, or air draft restriction.

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