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Banana Coast bags 16 Norwegian Jewel calls

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Norwegian Cruise Line has scheduled 16 calls at the new port of Banana Coast beginning in October. The 2,376-passenger Norwegian Jewel is scheduled to visit Banana Coast in Trujillo, Honduras, through April 2015.

Norwegian Jewel's Oct. 15 call will be the destination's first big ship, according to Randy Jorgensen, general manager of Grande Trujillo Autoridad, which developed the port.

Six cruise lines have scheduled 34 calls on eight ships at Honduras' first mainland cruise port.

Holland America Line was the first major operator to commit to a series of visits from November 2014 through March 2015. In addition to Norwegian and HAL, Silversea Cruises booked calls in December 2014 and March 2015, and P&O Cruises and Oceania Cruises plan stops in the first quarter of 2015.

In all, Banana Coast expects to host more than 80,000 passengers and crew during the 2014/15 winter cruise season

Banana Coast, 'where the rainforest meets the sea,' has shopping, a tender dock, reception center and transportation hub as well as 10 acres of beachfront in the colonial town of Trujillo, established in 1525. Excursions feature the region's Spanish heritage and lush tropical setting with cultural, historical, soft adventure and eco-tour offerings.

The destination's first cruise call was Travel Dynamics International's 138-passenger Yorktown on Feb. 10.

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