

## **Norwegian Cruise Line Schedules 13 Calls at Banana Coast**

**MIAMI (Feb. 18, 2014)** – Norwegian Cruise Line has scheduled 16 calls at the port of Banana Coast beginning in October. The 2,376-passenger Norwegian Jewel is slated to call at Trujillo, Honduras, through April 2015.

To date, six cruise lines have scheduled 34 calls on eight ships at Honduras' first mainland cruise port. Holland America Line was the first major cruise company to commit to a series of Banana Coast calls from November 2014 through March 2015. In addition to Norwegian Cruise Line and Holland America, Silversea Cruises has slated calls in December 2014 and March 2015, and P&O Cruises and Oceania Cruises plan to call 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.

"On October 15 Norwegian Jewel will be our first big ship call and we're ready to welcome thousands of guests and crew," said Randy Jorgensen, general manager of Grande Trujillo Autoridad, which developed the port. "When we built the port we envisioned catering to ships of all sizes, and I'm certain visitors will not be disappointed."

Banana Coast has shopping, a tender dock, reception center and transportation hub as well as 10 acres of beachfront right in the town of Trujillo, which was established in 1525. Diverse shore excursions feature the region's Spanish heritage and lush tropical setting with cultural, historical, soft-adventure and eco-tour offerings.

The newest western Caribbean cruise destination welcomed its first ship, Travel Dynamics' 138-passenger Yorktown, Feb. 10.

**EDITORS NOTE:** Images of Banana Coast are available at <http://bit.ly/NbxzN4>.

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### **About Norwegian Cruise Line**

Norwegian Cruise Line is the innovator in cruise travel with a 47-year history of breaking the boundaries of traditional cruising, most notably with the introduction of Freestyle Cruising, which revolutionized the industry by giving guests more freedom and flexibility. Today, Norwegian invites guests to "Cruise Like a Norwegian" on one of 13 purpose-built Freestyle Cruising ships, providing guests the opportunity to

enjoy a relaxed, resort style cruise vacation on some of the newest and most contemporary ships at sea. Recently, the line was named "Europe's Leading Cruise Line" for the sixth consecutive year, as well as "Caribbean's Leading Cruise Line" and "World's Leading Large Ship Cruise Line" by the World Travel Awards.

### **About Banana Coast**

A new port development bringing the banana boom days back to life, Banana Coast is located at Trujillo, Honduras, offering retail shops and a 10-acre stretch of beach. Christopher Columbus landed there more than 500 years ago during his last voyage to the Americas and performed the first Catholic mass on the New World mainland. Since then, the area has been a Spanish colony and at various times was under the control of the Dutch, French, English — and pirates. During the early 20th century it was the banana export capital of the world, shipping more than 8 million banana stems annually. Today, visitors can enjoy the sun, sand, a nearby tropical rainforest and historic Santa Bárbara Fort, which was built in the late 16th century to protect Trujillo from pirates.

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