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**J. M. BAXI & CO.**



MONTHLY UPDATE – JANUARY 2024

# CRUISE



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**CRUISE VESSELS AT INDIAN PORTS UNDER J M BAXI AGENCY – JANUARY 2024**

| Port          | Domestic  | International |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| MUMBAI        | 8         | 6             |
| MORMUGAO      | 5         | 5             |
| COCHIN        | 2         | 5             |
| AGATTI        | 5         | 0             |
| NEW MANGALORE | 0         | 3             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>19</b>     |



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cruise terminal will be operational by March**
- **Cordelia to offer international cruises to UAE and Sri Lanka.**

## Cruise terminal will be operational by March

- *A cruise tourism company has accorded an MoU with the cooperation of state and central governments to start cruise tourism in Visakhapatnam in March. The company will run services to Chennai to Singapore via Vizag, Vizag-Chennai-Sri Lanka, and also services to Maldives. Efforts are also underway to run services to Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. Additionally, there are plans to run cruise services to Andaman, South Asian countries, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. Vizag Port Chairman Dr. A Angamuthu hopes that Vizag will gain a place on the world tourism map with cruise tourism.*

The much-awaited cruise tourism would start in March from Visakhapatnam as a cruise tourism company had accorded MoU with the cooperation of state and central governments. The company would run services to Chennai to Singapore via Vizag, Vizag-Chennai-Sri Lanka, and also services to Maldives. Besides, efforts are on to run services to Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia with an investment of 1200 crore. It is recalled that the Vizag Port had already constructed 100 crore Vizag International Cruise Terminal (VICT) at the channel berth in the outer harbour in the port and it was inaugurated by the Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on September 5 of last year. VICT is the first cruise terminal on the east coast from West Bengal to AP. It can accommodate big vessels like Panama vessels of 50,000 to one lakh DWT. Cruises that can carry 2000 to 2500 passengers can berth in Vizag's 330-meter-long cruise berth. The VICT has a terminal building with a passenger lounge, customs, immigration, recreation area, restrooms, duty-free shops, and currency exchange counters. The Vizag Port Chairman Dr. A Angamuthu said that an MoU was accorded by the Littoral Cruise Limited company and the terminal would be operational by March. He added that there are plans to run cruise services to Andaman, South Asian countries, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. "We have plans for a tourist circuit linking Chennai, Puri, and Kolkata. The chairman Angamuthu said that Vizag would get a proper place on the world tourism map with cruise tourism. The city has scope to draw more attention of the international tourists once the cruise tourism takes place, he hoped.

*Source: Times of India*

## Cordelia to offer international cruises to UAE and Sri Lanka.

### *-First cruises are scheduled from Mumbai, mid-June onwards*

- After success in the domestic waters, Cordelia is looking at expanding internationally. It has received permission to start operations to Sri Lanka and UAE, among others. First cruises are scheduled from Mumbai, mid-June onwards. Bookings have already begun. According to Jurgen Bailom, President and CEO of Waterways Leisure Tourism, which operates cruises under the 'Cordelia Cruises' brand, sailings start from June 17 and will cover Middle Eastern ports like Musat, Khor Fakkan, Dubai, Sir Bani Yas Island, Bahrain, Doha and Abu Dhabi. "Our first voyage to Dubai received good response and it is evident that there are enough booking queries which can lead to full occupancy. We have received more than 5,000 inquiries in total," he told businessline. Besides this, the cruise company will introduce new packages to Sri Lanka as well. Cordelia has recorded over 200 sailings in the span of two years with passenger count exceeding 4,00,000. "We aspire to make India a global leader in cruise tourism. Our new itineraries and destinations are not just a celebration but it's a testament to the limitless possibilities that lie ahead," he added.

### **Healthy growth**

- According to Rajeev Kale, President & Country Head – Holidays, MICE, Visa, Thomas Cook (India) –initial surge (post launch of Cordelia) saw sustained momentum of 100 per cent month-on-month during the year. "With reopening of international borders and removal of travel protocols, sales numbers continue to reflect a healthy growth of 20 per cent y-o-y for Cordelia," he said. Meanwhile, Indian cruises MV Ganga Vilas and other river cruises here like Costa, have spurred global cruise majors to look into the country. International biggies like MSC Cruises (which specialises in cruises on the Mediterranean Sea) and Royal Caribbean (another international cruise major with operations in Singapore, Thailand, and elsewhere) are eyeing an entry here. India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has also announced an investment of ₹45,000 crore towards setting up of dedicated cruise infrastructure, including jetties, terminals, etc. Indian cruises are also said to be exploring travel along India-Bangladesh protocol routes (waterways). The global river cruises market is projected to have a revenue of around \$ 1.71 billion by 2032, up from \$1.45 billion in 2022 with a CAGR of 2 per cent during 2022 to 2032. India's Tourism Ministry expects the cruise tourism market to be valued at ₹35,500 crore by 2041 with a passenger count of 4 million.

**Source: The Hindu Business Line**



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