



MINISTRY OF TOURISM

PRESS RELEASE

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GLOBAL COLLEGE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE T&T



Port of Spain, Trinidad – November 30, 2015 – More than six hundred (600) students and one hundred (100) lecturers arrived in the capital city of Port of Spain on board the World Odyssey on November 26, as Trinidad and Tobago officially bid “welcome” to its 2015/2016 cruise season. Sixteen (16) cruise ships carrying 30,000 visitors are expected to dock in Port of Spain during this 2015/2016 cruise ship season.

The inaugural visit to Trinidad and Tobago by the World Odyssey is part of the Semester At Sea initiative which serves as a travelling home and campus that brings undergraduate students to the farthest reaches of the globe every semester; giving deeper meaning to education, experiential learning, and global community engagement.

The World Odyssey is the German version of the popular Love Boat and is among the most luxurious vessels in the world with interiors that are reminiscent of the classic ocean liner era. The Main Lounge, for example, is two decks in height and sports a massive crystal chandelier hanging from the elegantly painted ceiling. It is the sixth floating campus in the 52-year history of Semester At Sea.

Speaking at the ceremonial Crest Exchange, the Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe, the Minister of Tourism noted that “Trinidad and Tobago is a tourist destination famous for its rich diversity of cultural heritage.”

Minister Cudjoe revealed that the TDC implemented a very special shore excursion program for the arrival of the Odyssey to ensure that the students receive an “awe–inspiring, amazing experience that showcase Trinidad and Tobago’s multi–cultural heritage; unlike anything they would have experienced before.”

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Disembarking students engaged in a range of activities from a River Lime Tour, hike to Marianne Waterfall, a visit to the world famous birding attraction of Caroni Bird Sanctuary and to a Panyard Experience Evening where visitors were introduced to the steelpan, limbo and tassa. A day tour to the sister isle of Tobago was also conducted.

The ceremonial crest exchange was also attended by the Ship Captain, Master Kostas Siamantas, Executive Dean Beth Hellwig and other senior crew members as well as other local dignitaries:-

- Ms. Charmaine Lewis, Chief Executive Officer of the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- Mrs. Greer Assam, Cruise Sector Specialist, Tourism Development Company Limited
- Mr. Balkaran Maharaj, Manager Cruise Shipping, Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

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