

# MSC FOUNDATION



## **Government of The Bahamas approves official designation of Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve**

*Ocean Cay designated a marine reserve in recognition of MSC Foundation's pioneering conservation initiatives. Ocean Cay assigned status of designated port of The Bahamas*

**Nasau, The Bahamas – 13 January 2020** – The Government of The Bahamas today informed MSC Foundation of its decision to confer the official designation of marine reserve on Ocean Cay and its surrounding seas, while simultaneously assigning Ocean Cay the status of Designated Port.

The decisions, notified through the Bahamas Investment Authority and the subject of consultations with the Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Legal Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, recognise the immense conservation undertaking involved in converting the disused industrial sand excavation site into an ecological paradise island for MSC Cruises guests. Central to this recognition is that Ocean Cay is much more than a unique tourist destination, also having been created as a location to study and promote the protection and restoration of the marine environment, advance scientific understanding and educate visitors.

The MSC Foundation's coral restoration programme, pioneering the use of Super Coral in the surrounding ocean, and the associated Rapid Ecological Assessment were cited among the salient commitments recognised, as were the related #SuperCoralPlay public awareness initiatives and activities culminating in the Super Bowl LIV sports event on 2nd February.

The Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve Coral Restoration Programme sees the MSC Foundation partnering with a panel of conservation experts to restore and nurture the coral beds in 64 square miles of marine waters around Ocean Cay. The ecosystems here are populated by one of the most vulnerable sets of coral species on the planet, which face growing environmental pressures.

The speed of the Government of The Bahamas official designation of Ocean Cay as a marine reserve recognises both the value of the MSC Foundation's programmes and the urgency of the situations they address, with only 16% of the Caribbean's original coral reefs still surviving and predatory reef fish populations down 90% due to overfishing.

The strong partnerships formed between The Bahamas' authorities, the MSC Foundation and its panel of international scientific experts inspire hope that, together, we can build a brighter future.

### **About MSC Foundation**

The non-profit MSC Foundation leads and implements the MSC Group's conservation and humanitarian commitments worldwide.

Utilising MSC's global reach and unique knowledge of the sea, the MSC Foundation protects and nurtures the blue planet, helps disaster-struck populations toward recovery and supports vulnerable communities around the world to realise their full potential through education, sustainable development

and medical humanitarian programmes.

The Foundation works to achieve this both independently and together with trusted partners that have a strong innovative vision or track record for effective action, including UNICEF, the Andrea Bocelli Foundation, Marevivo and Mercy Ships.

Find out more about the work of the MSC Foundation [here](#).

### **About MSC Cruises**

MSC Cruises is the fastest growing cruise line in the world. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, MSC Cruises is part of the Cruises Division of MSC Group, the privately-held Swiss-based leading shipping and logistics conglomerate.

MSC Cruises' fleet of 17 modern and innovative ships is one of the most environmentally advanced in the industry. The Company is committed to environmental stewardship and works to minimize and continuously reduce the environmental impact of its fleet both while at sea and ashore by employing innovative marine and environmental technologies.

An industry-unprecedented €11.6 billion (≈12.7 billion USD) plan will see MSC Cruises' fleet increase to 25 ships by 2027. Additionally, MSC Group's Cruises Division is investing an additional €2 billion (≈\$2.2 billion USD) in a new luxury cruise brand comprising four super-yacht ships, launching one per year between 2023 and 2026.

Sailing to more than 200 destinations across five continents, MSC Cruises brings together more than 180 nationalities from around the world, offering an enriching and immersive cruise experience inspired by the Company's European heritage. Expect to find international dining, world-class entertainment, award-winning family programs and the very latest guest-friendly technology onboard.

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