



PORT OF KIEL

# PRESS RELEASE

by SEEHAFEN KIEL GmbH & Co. KG

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## MS VASCO DA GAMA welcomed at Ostseekai for maiden call Eight visits by two CMV/TransOcean cruise ships in Kiel

(Kiel, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019) Coming from Norway, the youngest addition to the fleet of the shipping company Cruise & Maritime Voyages (CMV) / TransOcean Kreuzfahrten, the vessel VASCO DA GAMA, arrived in Kiel in the early Friday morning (19<sup>th</sup> July) for its maiden call. The City Councillor, Gerwin Stöcken, welcomed the Captain to the Capital City of Schleswig-Holstein at the on-board reception and presented him with the inaugural plaque, handcrafted by the metal artist Patrick Schloßer.

Gerwin Stöcken: “TransOcean is one of our port’s long-term customers. We are very happy that Kiel is the starting point for no less than eight cruise voyages of the shipping company.” In addition to the VASCO DA GAMA, the vessel ASTOR, which was built on the fjord, will berth at the Ostseekai resp. Norwegenkai Terminal several times this summer. The VASCO DA GAMA is the sixth cruise ship to be seen for the first time in the Capital City of Schleswig-Holstein this season. As it is its premiere in Kiel, the VASCO DA GAMA’s departure will be accompanied through the fjord up to the beacon “Friedrichsort” as from about 4 p.m.

The VASCO DA GAMA arrived in Kiel after a Nordland Cruise that had taken it also to the Geirangerfjord and to Bergen. This afternoon (19/07) the next voyage is about to start: a taster cruise to Gothenburg and Copenhagen. After that, the ship will undertake two longer journeys throughout the Baltic Sea: “Glamorous Cities & Impressive Landscapes – Vegan Cruise through the Baltic Sea Summer Breeze” (22/07 – 01/08) and “Baltic Summer Serenade – Metropolises of the Baltic Sea & two days in St Petersburg” (01/08 – 13/08). Then there are “Stars at Sea – Event Cruise with Matthias Reim & Nico Santos” (13/08 – 17/08). Finally the vessel will head from Kiel to “A Southern Fjord Cruise – Norwegian Deceleration”. The VASCO DA GAMA has a tonnage of 55,820 GT. It is 219 m long and offers a lot of room to 1,150 passengers. The vessel was built as “Statendam” in Italy in 1993 for the Holland America Line Shipping Company. It was passed on as “Pacific Eden” to P&O Cruises Australia in 2015 before CMV acquired it in 2018. It has been operated as MS VASCO DA GAMA by DMV/TransOcean Kreuzfahrten since June 2019.

Maiden calls at the port of Kiel in the Season 2019 up to now:

- 5<sup>th</sup> January: “Mein Schiff 2” (TUI Cruises)
- 27<sup>th</sup> April: “MSC Meraviglia” (MSC Cruises)
- 17<sup>th</sup> May: “AIDAprima” (AIDA Cruises)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May: “Nieuw Statendam” (Holland America Line)
- 16<sup>th</sup> July: “Marella Explorer” (Marella Cruises)
- 19<sup>th</sup> July: “Vasco da Gama” (CMV / TransOcean Kreuzfahrten)

Visits 2019 by CMV/TransOcean Kreuzfahrten in Kiel:

- 24<sup>th</sup> April: MS ASTOR
- 19<sup>th</sup> July: MS VASCO DA GAMA
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July. MS ASTOR
- 01<sup>st</sup> August: MS VASCO DA GAMA
- 05<sup>th</sup> August: MS ASTOR
- 13<sup>th</sup> August: MS VASCO DA GAMA
- 17<sup>th</sup> August: MS VASCO DA GAMA
- 08<sup>th</sup> October: MS ASTOR

*The PORT OF KIEL (SEEHAFEN KIEL GmbH & Co. KG) operates the commercial port of Kiel by public order of the State Capital City of Kiel as its 100% subsidiary. Kiel disposes of three modern and top-performing terminals for ferries and cruise ships located directly in the city centre: the terminals at Ostseekai, Norwegenkai and Schwedenkai. In addition, the ships also dock at the Cruise Berth No. 1 in the Ostuferhafen port area. During the season 2019, 33 different cruise ships will visit Kiel on 176 separate occasions. More than 600,000 cruise passengers will have boarded or left a cruise ship in Kiel by the end of the season.*



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