

FIVE-YEAR DEPLOYMENT PLAN

ROYAL CARIBBEAN IN BUOYANT MOOD

Cruise liner expects to bring in 430,000 visitors to Malaysia, region in next 2 years

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ROYAL Caribbean International expects to bring a total of 430,000 tourists to Malaysia in the next two years.

This is part of the five-year deployment plan in Southeast Asia through 2024 for the world's largest global cruise brand, which will bring hundreds of thousands of tourists to Malaysia and the region.

An estimated 189,000 tourists were expected to visit Port Klang over 43 ship calls, said Royal Caribbean managing director for Asia Pacific Angie Stephen.

She said the deployment underscored Royal Caribbean's confidence in the flourishing cruise industry in Malaysia and the region, which had shown tremendous growth potential in recent years.

She said Malaysia was one of the fastest growing source markets in the region for Royal Caribbean, which had grown 20 times in the past 11 years.

"We are committed to growing the cruise market and aim to bring in bigger and better ships to

Malaysia and the region.

"This will not only enable more guests to experience our innovative and first-at-sea offerings, but also discover many attractions in Malaysia," she said during a media visit onboard the refurbished Quantum of the Seas cruise ship, here, yesterday.

The five-year deployment will see an increase in the number of sailings into Malaysia, boosting the country's tourism industry.

Royal Caribbean recently announced that it would be making a record-breaking 55 calls to Malaysia during its upcoming 2020-2021 season, starting October next year.

In an interview with the *New Straits Times* recently, Stephen said the cruise's guests spent an average of RM200 and RM400 per person on shopping, dining and excursions when visiting Malaysia.

She said there were only 10 ports with infrastructure ready for cruise lines in Southeast Asia, including Port Klang and Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) in Penang.

In September last year, Royal Caribbean formed a joint venture with Penang Port Sdn Bhd to expand SPCT for RM155 million.



Royal Caribbean's Quantum of the Seas docked at Boustead Cruise Centre in Port Klang yesterday.

Meanwhile, Royal Caribbean also announced new amenities onboard its Quantum of the Seas, including an escape room and

glow-in-the-dark laser tag.

These features, along with iconic Quantum-class offerings, such as the North Star observa-

tion capsule and Two70 hi-tech entertainment venue, are set to raise the bar for multi-generational travel experiences.