

Greenock Cruise Port Unveils Winter Transformation as 2026 Cruise Season Gets Underway

Greenock Cruise Port, operated by Global Ports Holding, is set to launch its 2026 season in style on Sunday 12 April, welcoming Le Lapérouse, operated by Ponant, for the port's first turnaround call of the year, following a significant winter transformation programme delivered ahead of the new season.

Greenock Cruise Port has undergone a series of infrastructure and guest experience improvements over the winter months, all designed to deliver a higher quality and more seamless experience for cruise guests, crew and partners.

Enhancements include the removal of outdated gates, widened guest walkways, upgraded security arrangements, improved seating areas, enhanced passenger flow routes, and quicker baggage handling services to better support turnaround operations.

The port's marquee facility has also been upgraded to create an improved guest environment and expanded retail offering, helping showcase more local products and experiences to visiting passengers. Within the terminal building, a new welcome facility has been introduced to improve guest orientation and strengthen the arrival experience from the moment guests step ashore.

These improvements will be on full display as Le Lapérouse arrives carrying up to 264 guests and 112 crew at the end of a 10-night Norwegian cruise. Guests will disembark in Greenock before a new group embarks on the ship's seven-day Celtic Shores itinerary, ending in Dublin.

The call marks the first of 14 turnaround visits by Ponant during the 2026 season, underlining growing confidence in Greenock as a turnaround destination and gateway to Scotland.

The wider season is expected to be one of the busiest yet for the port, with more than 77 cruise calls scheduled and over 145,000 visitors forecast to arrive into Inverclyde and the west of Scotland, delivering significant economic benefit to local businesses, tourism operators, hospitality providers and transport services.

The combination of infrastructure investment, operational enhancements and growing turnaround business further strengthens Greenock Cruise Port's position as one of the UK's leading regional cruise gateways.

As the first ship of the season arrives, the team looks forward to welcoming guests from around the world and continuing to showcase the very best of Greenock, Inverclyde and the west coast of Scotland.

John Mawer, GPH UK Cruise Ports GM commented:

"The completion of our winter enhancement program marks a significant milestone in the evolution of Greenock Cruise Port. These improvements are not merely infrastructure updates; they represent a strategic commitment to defining Inverclyde as a premier international gateway. By optimizing passenger flow and refining our terminal facilities, we have created a sophisticated environment that meets the rigorous demands of global cruise lines and the high expectations of their guests."

Greenock continues to strengthen its position as one of Scotland's leading cruise destination, offering cruise lines and guests an exceptional gateway to the west coast. Located on the Firth of Clyde and within easy reach of Glasgow, Loch Lomond and the Highlands, the destination combines iconic Scottish scenery

with rich heritage and authentic local experiences. Supported by continued investment in port infrastructure and guest facilities, Greenock is increasingly recognised for delivering a high-quality turnaround and transit experience that enhances both passenger satisfaction and the wider regional economy.