

Portsmouth’s busiest ever cruise season welcomes Seabourn maiden call

As Portsmouth continues its busiest ever cruise season, another new visitor made their debut today as luxury cruise line Seabourn arrived for a maiden call.

Seabourn Quest, which boasts award winning restaurants, penthouse suites and a spa, entered the harbour in the early hours of this morning before passengers disembarked for an onshore day exploring the city. At 650ft, its 458 passengers are treated to one of the highest space per guest ratios in the industry, adding to the premium experience.

The leading cruise line, which is part of the Carnival Corporation, are famed for their ‘ultra-luxury’ cruising and take their guests on trips to some of the world’s most desirable destinations.

Andrew Williamson, passenger operations manager at Portsmouth International Port, said:
“It has been a pleasure to welcome Seabourn to our port today. Their brand and guest experience represents everything we are aspiring to here in Portsmouth. We pride ourselves on giving these boutique brands and their passengers a personal level of service and showing guests everything our great maritime city has to offer.”

To mark Seabourn’s inaugural call to the port, a traditional plaque exchange took place onboard between the ship’s Captain Sybe de Boer and the Lord Mayor, who represented the city.

The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Canon Dr Hugh Mason said: “Arriving into Portsmouth through our historic harbour is a special experience. We are very proud of our waterfront, and hope Seabourn’s guests enjoy their time in the city.

“I was honoured to be invited onboard today to hand over the port’s plaque and receive one from the ship in return. The captain and crew gave us a very warm welcome, and it is clear their guests are being given a first-class service.

“Portsmouth International Port has seen great investment over recent years to support its cruise ambitions, and welcoming new lines such as this is a marker for that success with each call bringing significant opportunities for local businesses and raising the city’s profile.”

Work is currently underway for a new terminal extension that will facilitate the growing number of cruise passengers passing through the port. Expected for completion in Spring 2023, the carbon neutral extension will transform the ports cruise and ferry offering and create capacity to manage an anticipated additional 250,000 passengers a year, in addition to the current two million.

Seabourn will be returning to the port in October, when Seabourn Ovation visits for the first time.