**Make Bahrain a must-visit destination for your passengers**

The Middle East and Arabia – and specifically Bahrain – offers an experience quite unlike that of traditional cruise markets such as the Mediterranean or Caribbean.

With its rich 4,000-year history, vibrant cultural heritage and wealth of events, Bahrain provides exceptional shore excursions and attractions that meet consumer demand and fit perfectly with any regional cruise itinerary.

It is therefore natural that Bahrain is a popular stop for cruise ships – and increasingly so. In the 2015-2016 season alone, there were 32 calls from prestigious lines carrying 68,000 passengers.

This makes Bahrain a popular port within the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council).

### How many calls?

Visits to Bahrain are growing significantly this year, with further calls projected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 (scheduled)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 (projected)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Developing Bahrain’s cruise sector**

Bahrain is committed to the growth of cruise tourism within the GCC, and at home.

There has been steady growth in the number of cruise passengers visiting Bahrain. It is clear to cruise ship operators as well as local authorities that the cruise industry has great potential for further growth throughout the region.
At the same time, the Alliance brings together tourism organisations, port authorities, tour operators and other entities to promote the Middle East and Arabian Gulf as a world-leading choice for winter cruises.

Bahrain itself is investing more than USD 30 billion in large-scale projects, many of which focus on tourism infrastructure. The country’s tourism sector is also developing tailored tour packages for cruise lines that enable passengers to enjoy the full breadth of our offering – from luxury spas and resorts, to historic sites, colourful souqs and modern retail malls.

**Who’s landing?**

Vessels from these high-profile lines are among those visiting and due to visit Bahrain in the period from 2015-18:

- TUI Cruises
- Noble Caledonia
- AIDA
- HapagLloyd
- Phoenix Reisen
- Azamara Cruises

**Excellent facilities for ships and passengers**

Bahrain boasts the Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Port. Opened in 2009, it is designed to cater for every type and size of visiting cruise liner, and provides up-to-date facilities, including a range of attractive duty-free outlets.

**Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Port – quick facts:**

- **Channel depth:** 15 m
- **Area:** 300 m²
- **Vessel length (2014):** 360 m

Managed by the world’s largest operator, APM Terminals, the port takes advantage of Bahrain’s well-developed infrastructure to offer quick access to the capital, Manama and to the city of Muharraq.

**On the right lines**

From its strategic position in the Arabian Gulf, Bahrain is a convenient distance from key locations:

- Dubai – 290 NM
- Abu Dhabi – 240 NM
- Doha – 140 NM
- Muscat – 550 NM

**Learn more**

The Bahrain Economic Development Board promotes investment into the Kingdom. We offer no-cost practical advice, consultation and information to help you set up your business quickly and smoothly.