

PRESS RELEASE

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Heraklion Port records solid cruise performance in 2025 with passenger and call growth and stronger shoulder months

Heraklion Port Authority S.A. announces the cruise traffic results for 2025, confirming the destination's steady momentum and its continued positioning as a reliable Mediterranean port of call.

In 2025, a total of 536,543 cruise passengers were handled, compared to 518,575 in 2024, representing an increase of 3.46%. Cruise ship calls reached 281, up from 266 in 2024, an increase of 5.64%. In absolute terms, the year closed with 17,968 additional passengers and 15 additional calls, reflecting expanded activity and sustained confidence in Heraklion as a cruise destination.

A defining feature of 2025 was the stronger performance during shoulder months outside the traditional peak period. Indicatively, February recorded a strong uplift, June saw a significant increase in passenger volumes, and the autumn period showed clear strengthening, with October standing out in both passenger numbers and the number of calls. This pattern aligns with the broader industry trend toward season extension and a more balanced distribution of cruise flows across the year.

Passenger source markets further underline Heraklion's international reach. Germany remained the leading market with a 26.88% share, followed by the United States with 23.92% and the United Kingdom with 13.00%. Notable presence was also recorded from Spain, Italy, Canada and Australia, reflecting a diversified passenger mix that strengthens destination resilience and supports targeted market development.

Mr Minas Papadakis, Chief Executive Officer of Heraklion Port Authority S.A., stated: *"The 2025 results reflect the consistency of our work to keep Heraklion Port a dependable choice for cruise and a destination with strong international appeal. We remain focused on service quality and close cooperation with all stakeholders, so that cruise activity continues to generate tangible value for the city and the wider region."*

Heraklion Port Authority S.A. continues to implement its strategy to further strengthen the port's competitiveness, focusing on operational readiness, service quality for passengers and partners, enhancement of the destination experience and close cooperation with cruise lines and local stakeholders.

From Heraklion Port Authority S.A