

MSC Cruises begins final phase of work on Ocean Cay island destination

By **Jas Ryat** on November, 19 2018 | Retailers



MSC Cruises has entered the final phase of work on Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, its private Bahamian island that will welcome its first guest in November 2019.

The company is working with Bahamian environmental experts to turn a former industrial site into a marine reserve and private island destination exclusively for MSC Cruises guests.

“In addition to 360-degree ocean views and stunning beaches, Ocean Cay will provide an authentic Bahamian experience with bars, restaurants, an iconic lighthouse and much more,” the cruise operator said.

After visiting the island to plant one of the inaugural trees, MSC Cruises’ Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago said: “It was a very special moment to be on the island together with the team that has been working non-stop on this incredible project to see how our vision is starting to take shape. Words cannot convey the unbelievable natural beauty of our island and it is only when you have stood there for yourself, surrounded by nothing but beautiful ocean with nothing else on the horizon, that you can really understand what we are accomplishing here. I can’t wait to welcome in one year’s time our first guests to this truly magical place, a one-of-a-kind island and experience that will set new standards for a private island experience in the Caribbean.”

With the landscaping work under way, over 75,000 native shrubs and plants will be planted to create a lush, tropical environment.

Work will commence soon on over 100 environmentally-friendly structures, which will include bars, restaurants and housing for employees and staff who will live on the island. Work will also start on the lighthouse – set to become a landmark of the island and a focal point of the evening’s entertainment for guests.

One of the island’s most distinguishing features will be a pier that allows the ship to dock alongside the island so that guests to simply walk on and off at their leisure throughout the day and evening.

MSC Cruises has designed each aspect of the island to create an authentic, immersive Bahamian experience, the operator said.

Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve will open November 2019, with four MSC Cruises ships calling at the island on different days.