

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 26, 2024  
**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Cruise Ship Update



This fall, Yorktown is excited to welcome 11 cruise ship arrivals, spanning 18 days at the Riverwalk Landing Piers. This follows a successful spring season that saw 16 arrivals over 26 days, servicing over 1,000 passengers. Visitors enjoyed more than 3,000 excursions focused on Historic Yorktown including tours of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Historic Yorktown walking tours, trolley tours, Steamer Wagon tours, and National Park Service Redoubts 9 & 10 tours, as well as excursions within the Historic Triangle to Jamestown Settlement and Colonial Williamsburg.

In addition to cruise ship visits, Yorktown will host a variety of events, ranging from special-themed markets to wine, beer, and tea festivals. Highlights include the upcoming Yorktown Victory Weekend from Oct. 18-20 and the Maritime Festival on November 9 & 10, featuring visits from the ships *Godspeed* and *Luna*.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have tentatively scheduled 28 arrivals, accounting for 54 days in port. This increase follows the Board's approval of a Priority Docking Agreement with American Cruise Lines (ACL), reaffirming a partnership that has benefited York County for over two decades. This agreement underscores our commitment to responsible tourism by welcoming river class and environmentally conscious vessels.

Yorktown will also play a pivotal role in Sail250® Virginia in June 2026, hosting an array of tall ships and military vessels from June 12-14 during the Yorktown Tall Ships Festival, a Sail250® Virginia Affiliate Event. This event celebrates our rich military and maritime heritage through regional cooperation.

Additionally, we anticipate a visit from the ultra-luxury Scenic Eclipse in October 2026, offering an experience aboard the world's first discovery yacht, which combines innovative design with state-of-the-art technology.

For more details on these events and vessels:

- American Cruise Lines: [www.americancruiselines.com](http://www.americancruiselines.com).
- Scenic Eclipse: [www.scenicusa.com/ocean](http://www.scenicusa.com/ocean)
- Sail250® Virginia: [www.sail250virginia.com](http://www.sail250virginia.com)
- Visit Yorktown: [www.visitorktown.org](http://www.visitorktown.org)

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