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Atlantis Gay Cruise Calls on the Cayman Islands

First Gay Cruise to Visit the Caymans Since 1998 Refusal of Access Incident

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif., February 2, 2006 – Atlantis Events, Inc., the world’s largest company specializing in all-gay and lesbian cruises and resort vacations, on Tuesday became the first company to bring a major gay tourism event to the Cayman Islands since one of its cruises was denied permission to make a port call there in 1998.

Subsequent to that incident, in 2001, the Cayman Islands government established an official policy of non-discrimination, making it unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of race, age, religion or sexual orientation. But up until Tuesday, when the Atlantis-chartered *Navigator of the Seas* arrived with approximately 3,200 gay and lesbian guests, no all-gay cruise charters or other large gay vacation groups had returned to the Caymans.

“Atlantis applauds the government of the Cayman Islands for reaffirming its policy of non-discrimination and for respecting the rights of all visitors,” said Rich Campbell, Atlantis CEO. “We want to thank the citizens of the Cayman Islands for extending such a warm welcome to our guests and their leadership for upholding their policy of non-discrimination.”

The cruise arrived into Grand Cayman at approximately 11:00 am local time on Tuesday, January 31, and departed the island at 6:00 pm that evening. Approximately 1,000 guests participated in organized tours throughout the island while another 1,400 enjoyed exploring the island on their own. The ship was met upon arrival by a number of supporters and onlookers, and without any substantial protests.

“We’re thrilled that we have been able to put the incident that took place in 1998 in the past,” said Campbell. “The Cayman Islands are a beautiful and charming destination, with so much to offer visitors in the way of fine beaches, shopping, snorkeling and excursions. Atlantis’ guests visited the Cayman Islands as tourists, just as any other visitors would, and had a terrific time enjoying the exceptional services, facilities and attractions that these islands have to offer.”

“The response from most guests on-board the cruise has been overwhelmingly positive and many look forward to returning to the Cayman Islands in the future,” noted Campbell.

The cruise returns to its port of origination, Miami, on February 4.

(more)



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About Atlantis

Atlantis is the world's largest company specializing in all-gay vacations. In its 15 years, the company has hosted almost 80,000 guests on more than 80 different cruise, resort or tour experiences. In 2006, Atlantis will host approximately 16,000 guests on 10 different events. Atlantis creates a unique vacation experience for its gay and lesbian guests by chartering entire cruise ships and all-inclusive resorts around the world for the exclusive use of its guests. Then it completely customizes the experience with unique and diverse entertainment, parties featuring leading DJs, and a team of talented hosts.

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