

Penang saw highest number of cruise ship passengers in 2019

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GEORGE TOWN: Penang saw an overwhelming increase in their cruise ship passenger arrivals last year.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow announced that the state recorded a 27.1% increase in cruise passengers last year.

"A total of 449,885 passengers were recorded last year as compared to the 354,047 passengers in 2018.

"The number of vessels arriving in Penang also increased from 185 to 198 last year, which is a 7% increase," he said to a press conference held at Sia Boey before launching "The Path of Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta 2020" on Friday (Jan 10).

Chow said five cruise liners made their maiden call to the Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) last year.

"They were the Pacific Jewel, Costa Luminosa, Spectrum of The Seas, Mein Schiff 6 and Norwegian Jade.

"There was also a double-digit growth in passenger arrivals from Singapore, India, China, Australia, West Germany, United Kingdom, the United States, South Korea and Japan.

"The top five countries with the highest increase are South Korea with an increase of 75.82%, United Kingdom with an increase of 68.14%, India with an increase of 51.56%, China with an increase of 50.8% and Australia with an increase of 44.9%.

"Among larger cruise liners that docked at SPCT included Quantum of The Seas and Ovation of The Seas by Royal Caribbean Cruisers and the luxury liner Queen Mary II," he said.

Penang Port Commission chairman Jeffrey Chew said the plans to expand the SPCT to allow larger cruise liners to dock here were currently underway.

"This is to cater to the ships.

"Some of the ships that come are larger and take up the space of two ships.

"This year will also be a good year as many are looking to travel in Asia.

"We expect to see more cruise passenger arrivals in 2020," said Chew.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/01/10/penang-saw-highest-number-of-cruise-ship-passengers-in-2019>