
Flock to Marion Newsletter No. 2: 26 May 2021

Dear Flock to Marion passengers,



By now you may have seen the letter from MSC Cruises regarding the change from the MSC Lirica to the MSC Musica as well as the reversal of the departure ports, now **leaving Cape town on 24 January and returning to Durban on 31 January 2022.**

MSC Cruises has been liaising closely with BirdLife South Africa and we regrettably confirm these unfortunate changes. We do welcome the MSC Musica as our new vessel, as it is larger and better configured for birding. However, we will have to go through the process of reallocating cabins yet again, and we ask for your patience in this regard. We have been informed that these changes constitute the final arrangements for this once-in-a-lifetime voyage.

We ask you to please bear with us and with MSC Cruises. The past year has not been easy, and some tough decisions have had to be made by MSC Cruises. BirdLife South Africa remains enormously grateful to MSC Cruises for all that is being done to ensure a successful Flock to Marion voyage.

If you have any concerns, please contact us via email (click [HERE](#)) but please note that all correspondence will be answered in the order in which it is received and every effort will be made to respond to you timeously.

If for any reason you have not received the explanatory letter from MSC Cruises, please click [HERE](#) for a copy and further details.

Kind regards

Mark D. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
BirdLife South Africa

Disclaimer: BirdLife South Africa cannot be held responsible for any changes made to the Flock to Marion 2022 cruise arrangements. The MSC Cruises' Terms and Conditions (which all passengers are copied in on and required to accept on confirmation of their booking) can be found on our website at www.birdlife.org.za or click [HERE](#) for a downloadable copy.

Pre- and Post-Flock to Marion Accommodation and Car Rental

As this is our final confirmation from MSC Cruises, we are now able to work with various partners for special [pre-voage \(Cape Town\)](#) and [post-voyage \(Durban\)](#) accommodation rates, together with any car rental specials, if required.

More details to follow in our next newsletter!

Health and Safety: MSC Musica Occupancy

Due to COVID-19 protocols, strict occupancy percentage restrictions are in place which may limit final numbers and any further bookings on this voyage. Limited places are therefore available and last minute bookings are being accepted.

For all new booking enquiries click [HERE](#) to email us ASAP!



In the meantime, some detailed MSC Musica Information for you ...

MSC Musica is the first Musica-class cruise ship built in 2006 and operated by MSC Cruises. The vessel has 1,268 passenger cabins which can accommodate 2,550 passengers double occupancy, served by approximately 987 crew members.

MSC Musica not only launched a new class of eco-friendly cruise ship, she launched a new class of cruise - a spacious world of graceful lines and superlative choice, enriched by the creativity, fine natural materials and attention to detail that have always distinguished *MSC Cruises*.

MSC Musica – download a copy of the ship map [here](#)

Download all deck-plan information [here](#)

MSC Musica 360 Virtual Tour [here](#)

MSC Musica technical details [here](#)

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SHIP	
GROSS TONNAGE	92.409 tons
LENGTH	293,80 m
BEAM	32,20 m
HEIGHT	59,64 m
DECKS	16, incl. 13 for guests
LIFTS	13
VOLTAGE (IN CABIN)	110/220 volts
MAXIMUM SPEED	22 knots
STABILIZERS	Stabilized with 2 fins
NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	3.223
NUMBER OF CABINS	1.275, incl. 17 for guests with disabilities or reduced mobility
CREW MEMBERS	Approx. 1.014
POOLS	3, incl. 1 for children; 4 whirlpool baths

A question we've been asked aplenty! Registering for the cruise ...

There is no separate registration with BirdLife South Africa; your MSC Booking Confirmation number (BC number) is your confirmation.

Once you receive your updated Booking Confirmation from MSC, please proceed to the MSC website (Click [HERE](#)), Manage Booking, Web Check-in, and complete or update the fields for your booking – you can also correct your email addresses on this page. Should you be unable to complete this process, email us.

MSC Cruises send the Booking Confirmation to the first person on the booking. Please ensure that you forward (copy in your cabin companions).

*With the change of ship, we are working closely with MSC Cruises to ensure that every traveller has the necessary **updated booking confirmation** as soon as possible.*

The only exceptions are the Rockjumper Birding Tours group and a small group of guides and staff with whom we are dealing directly. These groups will be advised of their details directly from either Rockjumper Birding Tours or from BirdLife South Africa.

You may consider supporting BirdLife South Africa in another way. Our annual raffle provides much-needed funding for our conservation work, while offering bird and nature lovers the opportunity of an exciting windfall! The tickets are R500 each and only 1000 are available. That's good odds to win the R100,000 first prize or the three R10,000 consolation prizes! Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.birdlife.org.za/jackpot-birding/>. Please encourage your friends to support our raffle.

Jackpot birding!

Help our country's birds by purchasing a ticket in BirdLife South Africa's annual raffle. This year there are four prizes! **First prize is R100 000**, with three additional prizes of R10 000 each.

RAFFLE!
R500 per
ticket
(only 1000
tickets)



If you missed the first newsletter (Flock to Marion Newsletter No. 1: 3 May 2021), please click [HERE](#) for a downloadable version from our website page.

Topics discussed:

Email addresses: If you know of anyone booked on the cruise who is not receiving these newsletters, kindly contact us [HERE](#) providing the following information: First name, Last name, Booking reference number, Cabin number, Email address to be added to the database

Passports and Visas: Travel requirements for local South African and International passengers

Health & Safety update: The current COVID-19 measures in place on all MSC Cruises' ships can be found at www.msccruises.co.za/health-and-safety-measures.

A reminder, each time a newsletter goes out it will be saved to the website and copies of these can be found under **Newsletter Updates** at www.birdlife.org.za/flock-to-marion-2022.

Kind regards

The Flock to Marion Organising Committee