



Grant Holmes, Global Sector Head - Cruise Industry, INCHCAPE Shipping Services

Based out of Dubai, Grant Holmes spearheads the Inchcape Global Cruise Solutions team, overseeing 10,000+ cruise calls per year, serving cruise ships across the world's largest Port Agency network, with 300+ own offices, extending coverage to over 800+ ports with the support of our valuable Business Partners.

Grant's career started in Shipbuilding at HMS Dockyard in Portsmouth, where he completed master craftsman apprenticeship. His passion for travel transported him on a journey to Spain in 1986 to work in Leisure & Tourism. After a series of performance-based promotions, in 1990 he was appointed as Caribbean Area Manager for a leading UK Tour Operator.

With 20+ years of cruise industry experience, Grant's first taste of cruising activity started when he directed operations for First Choice Cruises from its inception in 1999. He was later hired by Festival Cruises in 2000 for the role of Director of Global Shore Excursions, Destination Services, Tour Operations and On-Board Revenue until 2004, where he managed a 110-million-euro budget and innovated new cruising concepts.

In 2006, Grant founded Progress International PI, a company that provided Cruise Consultancy to 12 Cruise Lines and training services of all levels for major cruise line brands, Governments and port authorities. Over 75,000 Cruise Industry Crew went through the training courses that Grant created with an original methodology. PI successfully conducted studies and strategic consultancy services in multiple destinations located in Venezuela, Colombia, Cyprus, Dubai, Abu Dhabi & Sharjah.

Under Grant's leadership, Inchcape provides Shore Excursion, Ground Handling, Surveying, Crew Logistics and Bunkering services on a worldwide scale in addition to Cruise Destination consultancy for Tourism Authorities and Ports with a comprehensive past/present portfolio.

