



Explora

JOURNEYS

TIMELINE

1675

First record of the Aponte family's involvement in maritime transport to and from Naples. The Aponte family records date back to the 17th century and testify to its long and unbroken seafaring traditions

1940

Gianluigi Aponte is born in Sorrento, Italy. Years later, he started his career as a captain operating passenger ferries in the Mediterranean for his family's business after graduating from the Italian Maritime Academy



1970

Captain Aponte founded the Mediterranean Shipping Company in Brussels, Belgium in 1970, beginning with one small conventional ship, the MV Patricia

1971

Captain Aponte acquires the company's second ship, a bigger vessel which he named after his wife, Rafaela

1973

Captain Aponte acquires the company's third ship, a carrier named Isle

1988

MSC announces its entry into the cruise business, purchasing the iconic liner, Monterey

2013

Pierfrancesco Vago is named Executive Chairman of MSC Group's cruise business and broader passenger division

2018

The MSC Group announces its intentions to enter the ultra-luxury market



2019

Michael Ungerer joins the MSC Group as the CEO of the company's newly created luxury division

2020

MSC is the second-largest container shipping line in the world, and the third-largest cruise brand in the world



2021

Summer
MSC launches Explora Journeys, and celebrates the steel cutting of Explora I
Autumn
Bookings for the Inaugural Collection open

2022

Keel Laying for Explora I

2023

Maiden Voyage Explora I

2024

Maiden Voyage Explora II

2025

Maiden Voyage Explora III

2026

Maiden Voyage Explora IV