



Ocean Cay

MSC MARINE RESERVE - BAHAMAS



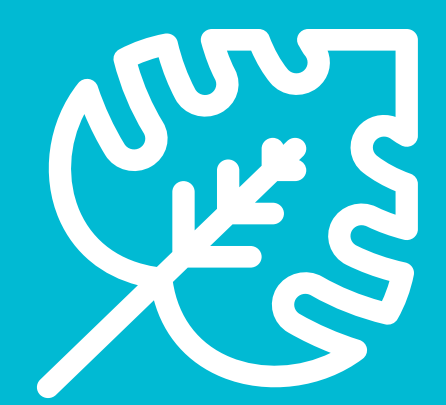
Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve has been designed to immerse guests in the natural beauty of their surroundings in the Bahamas. This unique private island destination allows guests to connect with the natural world and its beauty, feel the warmth, fun, and hospitality of the Bahamian spirit and immerse themselves in an ecologically-intelligent atmosphere.



The Island

- 20 miles south of Bimini, Bahamas and 65 miles east of Miami, Florida.
- Former sand-mining site located in the Bahamas.
- The site was abandoned in late 2015 after the decades of mining operations.
- MSC Cruises took on the challenge to transform this industrial wasteland into a flourishing marine reserve and island destination for MSC Cruises guests.

Reclaiming Nature



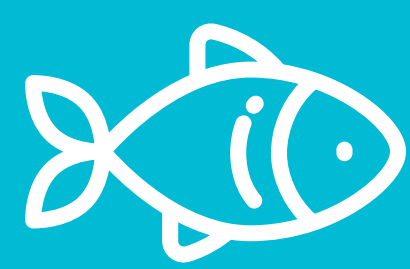
75,000
plants and shrubs planted



4,600
trees and palms planted



22
native Caribbean
plants species



64
square miles of marine
reserve safeguarded

Nature Restoration

ISLAND AND OCEAN CLEAN-UP

MSC Cruises made significant efforts to clear the island and the surrounding ocean bed from all discarded debris. 1,500 tons of scrap metal have been removed and transported with barges to a dedicated US-based licensed waste contractor.

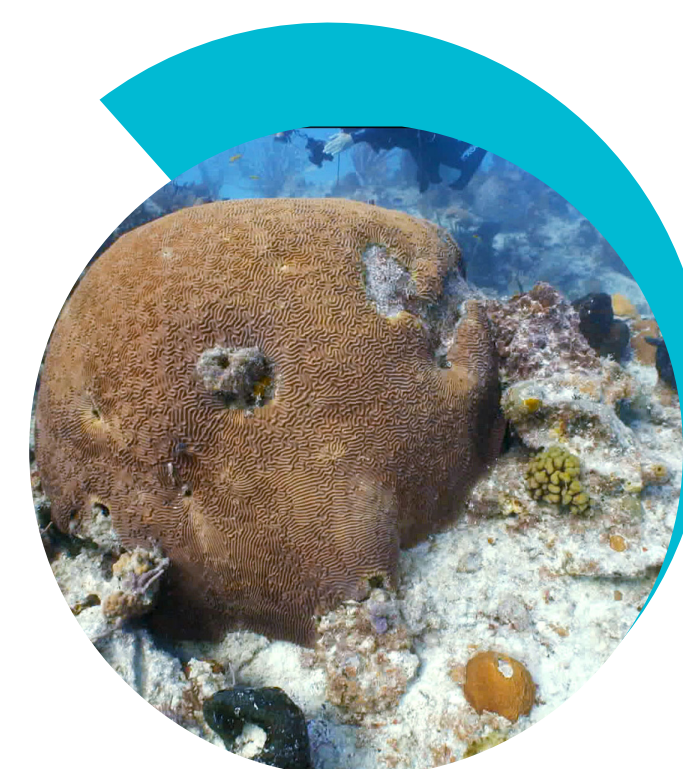
SAFEGUARDING CORAL COLONIES

During the development works, a team of marine biologists and expert divers carefully removed individual hard coral colonies from debris on the ocean bed and relocated them with the longer term vision of encouraging the coral to grow and repopulate.



INTRODUCING NATIVE FLORA

Actions were taken to create a biodiverse and sustainable environment. 4,600 trees and palms were planted across the island, totalling over 75,000 plants and shrubs.



MARINE RESERVE

The Government of The Bahamas and MSC Cruises have committed to protecting 64 square miles of waters around Ocean Cay by designating it as a Marine Reserve in which human activity is restricted to conserve the natural environment.

Conservation Efforts

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Ocean Cay will become a base for marine biologists to conduct scientific research into coral restoration. Through the MSC Foundation, MSC will work with local partners to establish a thriving coral nursery in waters around Ocean Cay.

CONSERVATION CENTER

A purpose-built scientific Conservation Center will be constructed and serve as a facility for biologists and coral reef experts. The Centre will be equipped with laboratories and facilities for coral research and education.

