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Non-Stop Carnival at Sea: UberSoca Cruise Makes Historic First Stop in the Virgin Islands

The Premier and Minister of Tourism, Honourable Dr Natalio D. Wheatley, has announced that the world's largest Caribbean music festival at sea — UberSoca Cruise — will make its inaugural call to the Virgin Islands on Tuesday, 18 November 2025, docking at the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park in Road Town, Tortola.

This non-stop carnival experience at sea takes place aboard the Norwegian Encore from 15–22 November 2025, with approximately 4,000 guests on board. The Encore is one of the newest and largest ships in Norwegian Cruise Line's fleet, and it even features its own go-kart Speedway, a thrill for guests both on and off the water.

The UberSoca Cruise is renowned for its vibrant fusion of live concerts, themed parties, and cultural experiences that unite thousands of Soca enthusiasts from around the world. It celebrates Caribbean creativity through music, dance, cuisine, and community, offering a fully immersive festival atmosphere at sea.

A Celebration of Caribbean Culture

During its historic stop in the Virgin Islands, visitors and residents can look forward to a dynamic showcase of entertainment and local flair, including:

1. Music and Entertainment: Featuring over 80 entertainers, DJs, and international Soca artists.
2. Cultural Immersion: Celebrating Caribbean identity through events like J'ouvert, Playing Mas, and themed nights.
3. Activities: Beyond the music — pool and beach parties, workshops, comedy shows, seminars, and sports tournaments.

Key highlights of the 2025 UberSoca Cruise – Virgin Islands Edition will include:

1. Punk Rock-Themed J'ouvert – "Tramping through the Streets of Road Town."
2. Live Concerts showcasing top local and regional Soca artists, alongside international performers. The local artists are Jougo (Raul Sprauve), TeeJay (TieJie Henley), Boss (Eustace Freeman), and Pascal the Artist (Dante Wattley)

Premier Wheatley expressed pride in welcoming this major cultural event to the Virgin Islands' shores for the first time: "The UberSoca Cruise represents the heartbeat of Caribbean culture, and its inaugural visit to our Virgin Islands is a milestone moment. We are ready to show the world that the VI is not only a premier cruise destination but also a vibrant stage for music, art, and celebration. This partnership strengthens our tourism industry, supports our creative economy, and showcases our people's warmth and spirit to thousands of new visitors."

Junior Minister for Culture and Tourism, Honourable Luce Hodge-Smith, also welcomed the announcement: "This is a powerful moment for our artists and cultural ambassadors. The UberSoca Cruise will give our local talent a world-class platform to shine, while allowing visitors to experience the authenticity of Virgin Islands culture. We are excited to celebrate our music, creativity, and community with the world."

The Government of the Virgin Islands continues to collaborate with international partners to strengthen its tourism offerings, ensuring that the territory remains a leading destination for both cultural and cruise tourism.

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About:

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sustainable Development is responsible for advancing the Territory's tourism sector, preserving and promoting cultural heritage, and implementing policies that support sustainable growth and environmental stewardship.