

Briton, 83, Dies on Cruise Ship in Naples

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— *Categories: General News*

An 83-year-old British passenger has died aboard the Marella Voyager cruise ship while it was docked in Naples, Italy. The man, reportedly from Scotland, was found unresponsive in the ship's swimming pool on Wednesday afternoon. Crew members and fellow passengers attempted resuscitation, but their efforts were unsuccessful.

Italian authorities boarded the vessel following the incident, temporarily detaining the ship for investigation. Police later confirmed that the passenger had suffered a medical episode, ruling out any foul play. The Marella Voyager, operated by TUI's Marella Cruises, was scheduled to depart Naples at 5 pm local time, but its departure was delayed for several hours. The ship has since been cleared to continue its Mediterranean itinerary.

A Marella Cruises spokesperson said: "We can confirm that, sadly, a passenger passed away from natural causes on board Marella Voyager. Our thoughts are with the passenger's family during this difficult time, and our care team is assisting."

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) confirmed that support is being provided to the family.

The Marella Voyager departed Majorca on 16 August, with scheduled stops in Sardinia, Naples, Rome, Corsica, Spain, and a return to Majorca. The incident occurred while the ship was moored in Naples, ahead of its next leg to Rome.

The tragedy highlights the risks faced by older passengers while at sea and underscores the importance of medical readiness on cruise vessels, particularly as Mediterranean cruises continue to grow in popularity.

Meanwhile, European cities are taking steps to manage the impact of cruise tourism. In Barcelona, authorities have announced plans to demolish three ageing cruise terminals as part of a €185 million (£160 million) redevelopment scheme. Terminals A, B, and C will be dismantled, with a new modern facility replacing Terminal C, expected to handle up to 7,000 passengers at a time by the end of the decade. Daily cruise capacity will reduce from about 37,000 to 31,000 passengers once the changes are implemented, following an agreement between the port authority and the city council.

The incident aboard the Marella Voyager and broader measures in European ports illustrate the challenges of balancing growing tourism demand with passenger safety and local infrastructure considerations.