

## **Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines commences second cruise season from Belfast with *Boudicca***

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines has returned to Belfast this Summer, with *Boudicca*'s departure on an eight-night D1415 'The Greatest Fjords of Norway' cruise. This cruise calls at Norway's **Olden**, **Flâm**, **Bergen** and **Lerwick** on the Shetland Islands, and will return to Belfast Harbour on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014. 880-guest *Boudicca* will then set sail on a 10-night D1416 'Sun, Souks & Sultans' cruise, visiting **Leixoes** (for Oporto, Portugal), **Lisbon** (Portugal), **Tangier** (Morocco) and **Vigo** (Spain).

Nathan Philpot, Sales and Marketing Director for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said:

"Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is pleased to be back in Belfast for a second season, following a successful series of cruises last year.

"It is a great opportunity for our guests from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to take a cruise so much closer to home, from 'right on their doorstep', and enables them to start their holiday in a relaxed, stress-free way...ready for the warm Fred. Olsen welcome that our guests have come to expect from us on board!"

Fred. Olsen will also be operating an increased number of cruises from Belfast in 2015, with a total of three, this time on board 804-guest *Black Watch*:

**- 16-night W1527 'Scandinavian Capitals' cruise, ex Belfast on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**  
Prices start from £1,599 per person

This Baltic cruise covers seven countries and seven different cities. The first port of call is vibrant **Amsterdam** (Netherlands), where guests can stroll through the streets and past pretty canals, head into the countryside to admire the windmills, or simply enjoy a spot of 'people-watching' from one of the numerous cafés.

The next port of call is **Stockholm** (Sweden), for an overnight stay. Set on 14 islands at the start of an archipelago, which stretches out into the Baltic, the city's 'Old Town' – 'Gamla Stan' – is a delight of narrow streets waiting to be explored.

Next, *Black Watch* will move onto Estonia's picturesque capital, **Tallinn**. Made up of medieval town walls, cobbled streets, churches and towers, with an enchanting UNESCO-listed Old Town, this Hanseatic city is sure to delight guests with its beautiful fairytale setting.

From here, the cruise will take guests onto **St. Petersburg** (Russia), where guests should take time to visit to the architectural highlights of the Hermitage, Catherine's Palace and the Peterhof.

Next, *Black Watch* heads to **Helsinki** (Finland), where Art Nouveau buildings, museums and cafés all vie for guests' attention.

Then it is onto the stunning city of **Copenhagen** (Denmark), which has something for everyone, from the fun-filled Tivoli Gardens to the former sailors' district of Nyhavn, with gabled houses and outdoor restaurants.

The final 'Scandinavian Capital' on this cruise is **Oslo** (Norway), where the medieval Akershus Castle and Fortress dominate the harbour front, and the National Museum houses Edvard Munch's iconic 'The Scream'.

**- Eight-night W1518 'Discovering Spain & France' cruise, ex Belfast on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**  
Prices start from £699 per person



The first port of call is colourful **La Coruna**, radiating with traditional Spanish charm. From here, guests can visit the sacred pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, or bask in the autumn sunshine in the many cafés and bars along the coast.

*Black Watch* will then glide onwards to **Getxo** (Spain), for visits to **Bilbao**. Be sure to visit the Museo Guggenheim, one of the world's most impressive buildings, which houses hundreds of sculptures and paintings from local and international artists.

Next comes **La Pallice** (France), for trips into nearby **La Rochelle**. Here, many fortifications are still standing, including the two towers that welcome boats into the bay.

*Black Watch* will then call at her last port, **Lorient**, in France. This spectacular, unspoiled town is famous for its food and wine. Visit the 'Cité de la Voile' – 'City of Sailing' – a modern interactive exhibition and museum, or take a tour to the Trevarez Castle and Gardens.

**- 14-night W1519 'Morocco, Portugal & The Canaries' cruise, ex Belfast on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015.** Prices start from £1,199 per person

*Black Watch's* first port of call is Morocco's **Casablanca**, a bustling mix of mosques and markets, where guests can barter for colourful clothing, leathers or spices.

The next visit is to **Las Palmas**, Gran Canaria, boasting a wealth of Neoclassical and Renaissance architecture. Guests should take time to visit the Santa Ana Cathedral and the Iglesia de San Juan, with their intricate latticework and ornate tiled ceilings.

*Black Watch* then sails onward to **San Sebastian** (La Gomera) for the day. Here, guests can watch the sun set in the National Park of Garajonay, or take a trek to the enchanting rainforest.

This Canaries cruise will then take in **Santa Cruz** in Tenerife, where the intriguing Pyramids of Guimar take pride of place. For those who 'love to shop until they drop', the main destinations for picking up trinkets are Playa de Las Americas and Puerto de la Cruz.

Fragrant **Funchal**, on the 'Garden Island' of Madeira, comes next, with its botanical gardens, alive with blossom and rainbow hues. There is also the opportunity to sample the world-renowned afternoon tea at Reid's Hotel, or take a stroll in the landscaped grounds.

The last stop on this Iberian cruise is **Leixoes**, for trips into **Oporto**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, guests can take a trip to the wonderfully ornate Sao Francisco Church, or sample the area's delicious Port wine.

All prices are based on two adults sharing an inside twin-bedded cabin, and include all meals and entertainment on board, and port taxes. Guests can also choose to upgrade to Fred. Olsen's 'all-inclusive' drinks package, from just £10 per person per night.

Fred. Olsen is proud to be named one of the Top 3 cruise lines in the UK and awarded a coveted 'Recommended Provider' accolade in *Which?* Travel's 2014 cruise survey, scoring a customer satisfaction rating of 85% out of 100%.

**For further information on Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, visit the website at [www.fredolsencruises.com](http://www.fredolsencruises.com) Book online, call Reservations on 0800 0355 242 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm; Saturday, 9am to 5pm; Sunday, 10am to 4pm), or visit an ABTA travel agent.**

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For media enquiries, please contact:

**Rachael Jackson**  
Public Relations Manager  
Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines  
Tel: 01473 292233  
E-mail: rachael.jackson@fredolsen.co.uk

**Ruth Ryland**  
Public Relations Executive  
Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines  
Tel: 01473 292407  
E-mail: ruth.ryland@fredolsen.co.uk