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Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' 'Boudicca' to undergo extensive refit

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' 880-guest *Boudicca* is due to undergo an extensive refit from 17th March 2018, at the Blohm+Voss shipyard in Hamburg, Germany. The ship will then return to the UK for a five-night D1804 'Mystery Cruise', departing from Dover on 29th March 2018.

The Blohm+Voss schedule for *Boudicca* comprises engineering works, general refurbishments and painting of the interiors and exterior.

In addition, one of the main focusses will be the stripping out and rejuvenation of the 462 rooms across the ship. All rooms will have new carpets installed, along with new soft furnishings and lamps. As with the rest of the fleet, brand new balcony furniture will be installed, and all rooms will be equipped with mini-fridges, safes and interactive smart TVs.

There will be extensive upgrading and remodelling of *Boudicca*'s public rooms and dining facilities. The ship's Morning Light Pub – a feature across the whole of the Fred. Olsen fleet – will be moved from to the portside of the Secret Garden Café. The Heligan Room will be converted into the 'Indian Ocean Restaurant', with an Indian Ocean theme, offering the same style of imitate dining space as sister ship *Black Watch*'s 'Orchid Room'.

The space vacated by the Morning Light Pub on Lounge Deck 6 will be converted into the 'Oriental Tea Room', serving exotic teas and other Oriental specialities, with a Far Eastern influence and exotic décor.

The Guest Services area, the focal point and 'hub' of the ship – on Main Deck 5 – will also be renewed, making it more inviting and user-friendly for guests.

Mike Rodwell, Managing Director of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said:

“We are very proud of our smaller, classic cruise ships, and we recognise the importance of investment in upgrades and improvements to ensure that guests are always able to enjoy their holidays to the full.

“The upgrades and improvements to *Black Watch*, *Braemar* and *Balmoral* have all been very well-received by both new and existing guests, and we continue to focus on developing and enhancing the onboard experience.

“The significant investment that we are making to guest rooms and public areas throughout our fleet will ensure that we continue to provide facilities that meet – and exceed – guest expectations.”

Oliver Grün, Media Relations Manager (Sprecher) of Blohm+Voss, said:

“We are delighted to welcome *Boudicca* to our Blohm+Voss shipyard in the coming days, already the third cruise vessel from the Norwegian shipping company, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, to visit us in recent months. Our work on the more than 200-metre-long passenger ship is expected to be completed before Easter.”

As with the recent *Braemar* and *Balmoral* refits, Fred. Olsen will be working with Blohm + Voss and Hamburg charity, DER HAFEN HILFT! (‘The Port Helps!’), to pass on the used furniture and effects from *Boudicca* to support local good causes and help those most in need in the Greater Hamburg area.

From Spring 2018, Fred. Olsen guests will be able to sail aboard a fully-renewed ocean fleet. *Black Watch* benefitted from extensive improvement work at the end 2016 and has been achieving record revenues since. *Braemar* and *Balmoral* were refurbished before Christmas 2017.

All Fred. Olsen ships now feature new speciality dining venues, in addition to the main restaurants being refreshed. For example, on *Balmoral*, a new ‘The Grill’ premium steak and seafood restaurant has been created, portside of the Lido Lounge on Lido Deck 8, with stylish décor and a more ‘high-end’ feel.

In addition, a new ‘The Poolside’ casual restaurant has also been installed to the rear of *Balmoral*’s Palms Café, on Lounge Deck 7. Alongside a menu

inspired by the cruising region, this features the new 'Poolside and Gelato Bar', which serves delicious Beechdean Farmhouse Dairy Ice Cream and sorbets, along with the usual drinks selection.

Amongst the most significant changes on *Balmoral* has been the full refurbishment of the Neptune Show Lounge, on Lounge Deck 7, with new fabrics, new chairs and new lighting.

For further information on Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, visit the website at www.fredolsencruises.com

Fred. Olsen Cruise Line operates in the UK with four intimately sized ships for a more personal cruising experience.

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