



Gavin Brewer of Thomas Cook Airlines with guests Pauline Sherwood and Lindsay Sheriff, together with Colleen Crisp of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

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Jet, set, go...Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines celebrates inaugural Manchester to Mauritius flight, in partnership with Thomas Cook Airlines

Fred. Olsen guests enjoyed a colourful start to their 'Indian Ocean' fly-cruise holiday at Manchester Airport, on 15th November 2017, when they celebrated the cruise line's first-ever flight from Manchester to Mauritius, in partnership with Thomas Cook Airlines.

A total of 250 Fred. Olsen guests boarded the A330-200 flight to Port Louis, Mauritius, with a duration of 12 hours, to join 880-guest cruise ship, *Boudicca*, on a 14-night 'Islands of the Indian Ocean' getaway.

The lucky Fred. Olsen guests – who will be visiting the Seychelles, Comoros Islands and Réunion Island on this exotic fly-cruise holiday, along with Mauritius – were treated to a tropical 'Bon voyage!' at Manchester Airport, as they were each handed a floral 'lei' garland and a delicious branded cupcake.

As part of the celebrations, Mrs. Pauline Sherwood was chosen as 'Guest of Honour' to perform a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the airport check-in desk. Mrs. Sherwood, who has cruised with Fred. Olsen on 18 separate occasions since 2001, is a valued 'Platinum' member of its 'Oceans' loyalty club and a great 'Fred. fan'!

Speaking of her 'starring role' on the day, Mrs. Sherwood said: "I was very surprised to be asked to cut the ribbon and I thought I would go with the flow on the day.

"We do feel at home on the Fred. Olsen ships as we always like smaller ship sailing. It is nice going back and seeing such familiar faces."

Colleen Crisp, Contracts Manager – Air & Land Services for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said:

"We wish all our guests a wonderful time on their 'Indian Ocean' adventure and we are very pleased that they could join us in the excitement of launching our first-ever flight from Manchester to Mauritius with Thomas Cook Airlines.

"This is the first year that Fred. Olsen has offered this exotic 'Indian Ocean' itinerary, and we are looking forward to working with Thomas Cook Airlines and Manchester Airport Group over the coming months to really give our guests 'a holiday to remember'.

"What is more, our guests can take advantage of being able to fly direct to Mauritius and join their cruise ship from 'right on their doorstep', with all the convenience and excellent facilities of Manchester Airport just nearby."

Gavin Brewer, who has been leading the partnership for Thomas Cook Airlines, said: “After a successful few years of flying Fred. Olsen customers to Barbados, we are excited to be expanding our partnership to the Indian Ocean. Offering the only direct flight from Manchester to Mauritius, we expect this to prove popular with customers from across the North West who are considering a fly-cruise this winter.”

Fred. Olsen has teamed up with Thomas Cook Airlines and Manchester Airport Group for the duration of its inaugural ‘Indian Ocean’ fly-cruise season, from November 2017 to January 2018, which will feature five different exotic itineraries exploring a variety of tempting destinations, including the Seychelles, Comoros Islands, Réunion Island and Mauritius.

Building upon its inaugural ‘Indian Ocean’ fly-cruise season in 2017, Fred. Olsen will also be offering even more of these exotic itineraries in 2018, with *Boudicca* operating six ‘Indian Ocean Islands’ fly-cruises from October 2018 to January 2019.

Photo captions:

1) Pauline Sherwood, a frequent Fred. Olsen cruiser, and her friend, Lindsay Sheriff, cuts the ceremonial ribbon as designated ‘Guest of Honour’ at Manchester Airport on 15th November 2017, to celebrate the cruise line’s first-ever Manchester to Mauritius flight, in partnership with Thomas Cook Airlines.

For further information on Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, visit the website at www.fredolsencruises.com or call Reservations on 0800 0355 242 (Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm; Saturday, 9am – 5pm; Sunday, 10am – 4pm).

For further information on Thomas Cook Airlines, visit the website at <https://www.thomascookairlines.com/>

For further information on Manchester Airport, visit the website at <http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk/>

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

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