

TOP 20 HIGHLIGHTS

A hand-picked selection of cruises showcasing
some of the finest itineraries in 2016/17



Mar 05, 2015 17:42 GMT

Sail scenic seaways, discover the world and get 'closer to the destination' with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines in 2016/17, to a record 253 ports in 84 countries

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is excited to announce that, in 2016/17, its fleet of four ships – *Balmoral*, *Braemar*, *Boudicca* and *Black Watch* – will be visiting no fewer than **253 destinations in 84 countries** around the globe – more than ever before! [The new 2016/17 itineraries](#) will be unveiled to existing guests today [5th March 2015], and will go on general sale from 10th March 2015.

Fred. Olsen will be sailing from a total of ten convenient, regional UK

departure ports in 2016/17 – **Southampton, Dover, Harwich, Tilbury, Falmouth** – a new addition – **Liverpool, Newcastle, Rosyth** (for Edinburgh), **Greenock** (for Glasgow) and **Belfast**.

Fred. Olsen's new 2016/17 cruise programme will include a record 23 maiden calls:

Arendal (Norway), **Baltimore** (Maryland, USA), **Fort William** (Scotland, UK), **Tasiilaq** (Greenland), **Pyramiden** (Svalbard), **Holy Loch** (Scotland, UK), **Laguna San Rafael** (Chile), **Isla de San Andrés** (Colombia), **Gloucester** (Massachusetts, USA), **Klaksvik** (Faroe Islands), **Charlotte Amalie** (St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands), **Falmouth** (Jamaica), **Banana Coast** (Trujillo, Honduras), **Tampa** (Florida, US), **Rosslare** (Ireland), **Aabenraa** (Denmark), **Rovinj** (Croatia). In addition, there will be six 'mystery' maiden calls, which will only be revealed to those guests who book a place on Fred. Olsen's first-ever '**Maiden Call Mystery Cruise**'.

In 2016/17, Fred. Olsen's 1,350-guest flagship, *Balmoral*, will be sailing from **Newcastle** for the first time ever, with a record 11 departures, representing a 45% increase in capacity from the port. Departures include: a five-night '**Norwegian Festival & Fjords**' cruise, visiting Bergen during the 'International Festival'; a 10-night '**UK Castles**' sailing, offering guests the chance to visit Balmoral and Braemar Castles, both of which lend their names to Fred. Olsen ships; and an 11-night '**Spain, Portugal & Guernsey**' cruise.

Fred. Olsen's *Boudicca* will also be cruising from the port of **Falmouth** for the first time in 2016/17 – offering guests in the South West of the UK a 12-night '**Canaries & Portugal Spring Break**' (18+ only) and a ten-night '**Land's End to John O'Groats**' voyage.

Fred. Olsen will be reconfirming its commitment to the port of **Liverpool** in 2016/17, with a total of 15 cruise calls on board *Boudicca*, including a 16-night '**Rugged & Rural Canada**' journey and an 18-night '**Canaries Christmas & Funchal Fireworks**' sailing.

Fred. Olsen will also be reinforcing its reputation as the 'local, global cruise line of choice' in 2016/17 with a 50% increase in sailings from **Tilbury** on *Black Watch*, with a total of six departures, including an adults-only nine-night '**Cruising the Fjordland**' voyage and a seven-night '**European Cities & Waterways**' experience. Fred. Olsen will also be offering a total of six cruises

on *Black Watch* from **Rosyth (Edinburgh)** in 2016/17, including a nine-night '**A Taste of Iceland**' cruise and a 13-night '**Scandinavian Capitals & St. Petersburg**' sailing.

Fred. Olsen will be offering a further 18 '**18+**' cruises in 2016/17, for guests who would rather cruise with people of a similar age. These adults-only voyages include *Braemar*'s 11-night '**Great British Cruise**', for tours to the award-winning Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan from **Falmouth**, a call in The Beatles' home city of **Liverpool**, and the chance to sample the UK's 'official' best fish and chips with a visit to **Lerwick**, in the Shetland Islands; guests can also choose to enjoy all the pomp and pageantry of **Edinburgh**'s spectacular 'Military Tattoo'.

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

"For 2016/17, we have a clear focus on 'Bringing the world *closer to you*', offering innovative cruise experiences that stand out, to destinations that our guests really want to explore and enjoy. We are 'closer' to the market, with more regional departures; 'closer' to the destination, with our smaller, more intimate cruise ships; 'closer' to our global partners, offering our guests the best possible experiences in ports around the world; and we are 'closer' to our guests, with award-winning customer service across our fleet.

"Our focus on 'closer to you' will be enhanced significantly in 2016/17, with *Balmoral*'s deployment to the Port of Tyne in Newcastle, where we have a rapidly-expanding and very loyal cruise market. Historically, this is a very important port for Fred. Olsen, as Newcastle is where we built a dedicated Fred. Olsen terminal and started sailing from in 1906.

"2015 is also a very special year for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, as it is the 200th anniversary of the first 'Fred. Olsen' – Mr. Fredrik Christian Olsen, the founding father of our company – and so we are taking this opportunity to celebrate our history and heritage. Mr. Olsen was born in 1815 and started the Fred. Olsen Company in 1848; we have been a world-leading shipping and cruise company ever since."

Fred. Olsen's *Black Watch* and *Boudicca* will be embarking on two epic '**Grand Voyages**' in January 2017, visiting a total of 67 ports in 38 countries between them. *Black Watch* will be taking in the exotic destinations of **Hanga Roa**

(Easter Island), **Bora Bora**, in French Polynesia, and three stops in New Zealand – **Auckland**, **Tauranga** and **Wellington** – on a 107-night **‘Around the World’** cruise. *Boudicca* will be offering a 77-night **‘South American Discovery’**, which includes stops in Brazil’s **Rio de Janeiro** and **Buenos Aires**, in Argentina, as well a cruise of the **Chilean fjords** and a maiden call at **Laguna San Rafael**.

In 2016/17, Fred. Olsen will be making the most of its smaller, more intimate ships by offering even more river, fjord and scenic cruising, taking guests along narrow sea passages and waterways, and past awe-inspiring scenery. Fred. Olsen will be visiting 84 picturesque scenic sea passages and waterways in 2016/17, including the 350-mile **Strait of Magellan**, in Chile, which links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; **Loch Fyne**, one of the longest and finest sea lochs; the beautiful **Bay of Kotor** in Montenegro; and the winding and mysterious **Stockholm archipelago**. Fred. Olsen’s fleet will also be sailing right into the heart of cities and towns, such as **Portoferraio**, on the Italian island of Elba, **Seville**, in Spain, and **Bordeaux**, in France.

Highlights of Fred. Olsen’s new 2016/17 cruise programme are as follows:

- Following its tremendous popularity in 2015, Fred. Olsen will also be offering another **‘Arctic Explorer’** cruise, exclusively for adults. *Black Watch* will visit the remote lands of Greenland and Svalbard, as well as Iceland and Norway.

- *Braemar* will be serving Southampton in 2016/17, offering smaller-ship cruising to the UK cruise market on a variety of itineraries, including a 14-night **‘Cruising the Waterways of Scandinavia’** voyage, and a three-night **‘Rouen & the Seine River Mini-Cruise’**.

- Fred. Olsen will be building upon its reputation as THE ‘Fjords Specialist’, with a 15-night **‘Exploring the Fjords of Greenland’** adventure, taking in over 16 hours of scenic cruising through Greenland’s fjords, as well as stopping in Tasiilaq, a maiden call for Fred. Olsen.

- Fred. Olsen will be offering its first-ever **‘Norwegian Fjords’** cruise with a duration of just five nights; sailing from the Northern port of Newcastle will give guests the chance to enjoy such a short ‘taster’ break. The cruise will take in Bergen and Eidfjord, as well as two days of scenic cruising, through the mighty Lysefjord – one of the ‘pearls of Norway’, featuring ‘Preikestolen’ (‘Pulpit Rock’) and ‘Kjerag’ (‘The Mountain Bolt’).

- Yet another 'first for Fred.' – a nine-night '**Maiden Call Mystery Cruise**', where every destination that *Braemar* visits is a maiden port of call! All that guests will know is that this 'cruise to the unknown' will take in six destinations, four countries and five UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Two fantastic US adventures on board *Balmoral*; a 34-night '**Old England to New England**' sailing, which incorporates two calls in Bermuda, six American states, three maiden calls and three overnight stays – including Boston and the 'Big Apple'; or a 46-night '**Central America & the Mardi Gras**' cruise, where guests can visit the NASA rocket launch sites, enjoy traditional Southern hospitality and join in the fun at the colourful and vibrant 'Mardi Gras' in New Orleans.
- Fred. Olsen will be offering 14 Mediterranean cruises in 2016/17, including a stunning 16-night '**Barcelona, Monaco & the Island of Elba**' cruise on board *Braemar*, plus a chance to see the Monaco F1 Grand Prix on board *Black Watch*'s 15-night '**Sun, Sea & Monaco Grand Prix**' cruise.
- Even more cruises around the UK and Ireland, including *Balmoral*'s seven-night '**Easter Ireland**' sailing around Northern and Southern Ireland, and an 11-night '**Tinsel & Hogmanay**' cruise on *Black Watch*, offering guests an unforgettable Christmas at sea and Hogmanay celebrations in Edinburgh – with the added benefit that those who do not hold a passport can still join the ship with a valid form of photo identification.
- Explore snow-capped mountains, glaciers and elusive wildlife on *Balmoral*'s 14-night '**The Wonders of Spitsbergen**' cruise, with a maiden call to Pyramiden, in Spitsbergen (where the new Sky Atlantic blockbuster 'Fortitude' is based), which was once a Russian mining town, but is now eerie and deserted.
- Back by popular demand is Fred. Olsen's 10-night '**German Waterways**' cruise, which will sail along three German rivers – the Elbe, the Weser and the Trave – as well as taking in a canal and a fjord.

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

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

Contacts



Georgina May

Press Contact

Acting PR Manager

Public Relations

georgina.may@fredolsen.co.uk