



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' 'Balmoral' at the Port of Tyne, Newcastle on 21st April 2019. Copyright: R. Whitelaw 2019.

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## Fred. Olsen's flagship 'Balmoral' commences record cruise season from Newcastle in 2019/20

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' 1,350-guest flagship, *Balmoral*, has commenced its 2019/20 cruise season from Newcastle on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2019, setting sail from the Port of Tyne on an eight-night 'Cruising German Waterways' voyage.

*Balmoral*'s ex-Newcastle cruise season will extend from April to June, from where the ship will reposition to Edinburgh (Rosyth), before returning to Newcastle from August to October, and then undertaking a further two departures in March 2020.

Clare Ward, Director of Product and Customer Service for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said:

"We are delighted that *Balmoral* will be operating a record 16 departures from Newcastle in 2019/20 – an increase on the 15 that we offered in 2018/19 – demonstrating the very loyal customer base that we have built up in this popular North Eastern port since we started cruise departures on our flagship in 2016.

"Fred. Olsen's attractive combination of exciting destinations – including Norway, Iceland, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the Baltic – and great value-for-money have seen many first-time cruisers and repeat customers from Newcastle and the North East make the decision to sail from their convenient, local Port of Tyne.

"To date, our bookings for 2019 have shown that *Balmoral*'s 'The Best of the Fjords in Seven Nights' adult-only sailing from Newcastle in May, and our 11-night 'Mystery Cruise' in September – with the added bonus of visiting a different country every day – are amongst our best-selling holidays overall."

Balmoral's ex-Newcastle sailings in 2019/20 include:

- Five-night L1921 'The Norwegian Fjords in Five Nights' cruise, ex Newcastle on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. Prices start from £649 per person.

**Ports of call:** Newcastle, UK – *Cruising Lysefjord* – Eidfjord, Hardangerfjord, Norway – *Cruising Ulvikafjord* – *Cruising Hardangerfjord* – Bergen, Norway – Newcastle, UK

For more information: See 'The Norwegian Fjords in Five-Nights' - L1921

<u>- 11-night L1922 'France, Spain & Portugal' cruise, ex Newcastle on 28<sup>th</sup></u>
<u>August 2019.</u> Prices start from £1,199 per person.

**Ports of call:** Newcastle, UK – La Coruňa, Spain – Vigo, Spain – Lisbon, Portugal – Leixões, Portugal (for Oporto) – Lorient, France – Newcastle, UK

For more information: See <a href="France">'France</a>, Spain & Portugal' - L1922

- 12-night L1926 'Uncrowded Baltic' cruise, ex Newcastle on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Prices start from £1,499 per person.

**Ports of call:** Newcastle, UK – Copenhagen, Denmark – Helsinki, Finland – St Petersburg, Russia (overnight stay) – Tallinn, Estonia – Oslo, Norway – Newcastle, UK

For further information: See 'Uncrowded Baltic' - L1926

All prices are based on two adults sharing a twin-bedded Interior Room, and include accommodation, all meals and entertainment on board, and port taxes.

Guests booking a Fred. Olsen cruise can enjoy extra peace of mind with the company's new 'Brexit Promise', which means that, if a cruise is cancelled as a direct result of the UK leaving the European Union, Fred. Olsen will give guests a full refund on that sailing, PLUS a free cruise.

In 2019/20, Fred. Olsen's fleet of four smaller, more intimately-sized ocean ships – *Balmoral*, *Braemar*, *Boudicca* and *Black Watch* – will be visiting no fewer than 219 destinations in 75 countries around the globe, covering 79 areas of scenic cruising.

For further information on Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, visit the website at <a href="https://www.fredolsencruises.com">www.fredolsencruises.com</a> 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.

## **Photo caption:**

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' *Balmoral* at the Port of Tyne, Newcastle on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Copyright: R. Whitelaw 2019.

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

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