



Classic International Cruises

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Athena Sets Sail for Her Second Australian Cruise Season

Classic International Cruises has begun its sixth successive season in Australia, with its popular flagship, Athena, leaving Athens on November 15, 2009, with a ship-load of Australians for her voyage Down Under and a summer program out of Perth and Adelaide.

Athena's season in WA and SA will be her second, following her highly successful debut here last summer. The 2009/10 program will see:

- Athena visit Gallipoli on November 18, 2009, as the first Australian-based cruise ship to ever dock for a day at the historic war site, allowing passengers to explore the area instead of cruising by.
- The first ever round-cruise to Tasmania from Adelaide in January 2010 which has proved a big success, with all cabins almost sold
- Adelaide's longest ever cruise season for a locally-based ship, with Athena's Adelaide season this summer lasting 27 nights, up from 19 last summer
- The chartering of Athena by AllGayCruises in February 2010 – Adelaide's first ever gay cruise
- A special romance-themed cruise on Valentine's Day next February to the Margaret River vineyards
- An increase in onboard weddings and renewal of vows ceremonies on Athena
- Athena make 27 port calls around Australia and 32 international port calls in Asia and Europe as part of her 16 cruises for Australians this summer. These cruises include a mix of two-night weekend breaks, short cruises around the Australian coastline, cruises to Bali and Asia and line voyages of up to 40 nights between Europe and Australia
- Athena again offer an onboard currency in Australian dollars

Classic International Cruises Managing Director, Grant Hunter, said the cruise line's ongoing presence in Australia, which began with the liner, Funchal, in 2004, reflected the company's continued commitment to the region, with Athena again returning here in the summer of 2010/11.

Mr Hunter released new figures showing 91 per cent of passengers rated their cruise on Athena in Australia last summer as very good to excellent. More than one third of all passengers last season in Australia were repeat customers, he said. This year, 42 per cent of all passengers who have booked so far are repeat customers

Athena arrives in Fremantle/Perth from Athens on **December 18, 2009**, and sails on her return voyage to Europe from Fremantle on **March 14, 2010**.

Cabins on Athena's two cruises from Fremantle to Bali on December 20, 2009 (10-night Christmas cruise), and January 4, 2010 (11 nights) are available from **\$2095** per person, twin-share. A range of other sailings are also available including a five-night cruise from Fremantle to Adelaide via Port Lincoln on January 18, 2010, which is priced from **\$895** per person, twin-share.

All bookings for Athena's voyages are via travel agents. For more information, visit www.classicintcruises.com.

Originally a transatlantic liner, the classic-styled, 600-passenger Athena offers a traditional liner experience with two-sitting dinners, old-fashioned portholes, streamers at bon voyage parties, the escorting of passengers to their cabins on embarkation, late night buffets, a wrap-around promenade deck, traditional wooden deck chairs, pool, fitness centre, five bars and lounges, casino, library, boutiques, dedicated cinema, internet café and a bath in each of the 276 spacious cabins.

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