



# *Classic International Cruises*

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## **Athena Ends Classic International Cruises' Sixth Annual Season in Australia**

Classic International Cruises' popular liner, Athena, will leave Perth and sail back to Europe this Sunday, March 14, bringing to an end the line's sixth annual summer season in Western Australia.

Athena's final cruise for Australian passengers this summer will be her 40-night voyage from Fremantle to Portsmouth in the UK, sailing at 7pm this Sunday.

Her return to Europe follows the release of figures showing 92 per cent of passengers rate their Athena cruise this summer as very good to excellent. The season also saw 150 travel agents visit Athena in port in Fremantle and Adelaide and another 60 agents sailing on the ship. A range of Perth and Adelaide travel agents also organised in-port tours and lunches on Athena for more than 600 customers over the season.

Registered in Portugal, the 550-passenger Athena has been based in Australia for four months since November 14, 2009, when she commenced her voyage to Australia from Europe with a ship-load full of Australians. While homeporting from Fremantle and Adelaide, Athena offered Australians 16 cruises from two to 40 nights, with an onboard currency in Australian dollars. This is the classic-styled liner's second successive summer in Australia, following four previous seasons by CIC's Funchal.

Athena's 2010/11 Australian program - Classic International Cruises' seventh annual season here - starts on November 14, 2010, when she leaves Rome bound for Perth where she arrives on December 19, 2010 to offer 13 cruises to and from Western Australia. And fleet mate, Princess Daphne, will also be based in the Far East next summer offering Australians nine mostly round-trip cruises from, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Classic International Cruises Managing Director for Australia, Grant Hunter said Classic International Cruises' sixth annual summer season in Australia had proved extremely successful, with an increasing number of Australians won over by Athena's small-ship friendliness, fun and traditional charm.

"Our product is different with its own special appeal but it's a formula that has won many fans, with up to 50 per cent of passengers on many of our cruises this summer being repeat customers," Mr Hunter said. "But this summer we also noticed a lot more younger people and families cruising with us so Athena's appeal has definitely broadened across all demographics and our customers appreciate that we have remained committed to the WA market.

"Forward bookings for Athena's 2010/11 season in Australia and Princess Daphne's first Asia program this December are looking very promising and we are committed to a long future serving the Australian market."

Cruises on Athena can only be booked through travel agents, with fares starting at **\$445** per person, twin-share, for a two-night cruise, with children under 18 cruising for free on selected itineraries, with only nominal taxes to pay. And supplements for solo travellers in selected cabins are as low as 25 per cent.

Visit [www.classicintcruises.com](http://www.classicintcruises.com).

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