



Classic International Cruises

May 3, 2011

New Line Voyage for 40 Days and 40 Nights

Classic International Cruises will offer its first-ever line voyage from Australia to Europe via South Africa instead of the Suez Canal next year, with the traditional liner, Athena, taking sea lovers on an exotic journey lasting '40 days and 40 nights'.

The mid-sized, 600-passenger Athena will end her annual season in Australia next summer by sailing from Perth on April 14, 2012, bound for Portsmouth in the UK, with the 40-night voyage taking passengers to many destinations rarely visited by Australians, including Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic isles of St Helena Island, Ascension Island, the Canary Islands and the Cape Verde Islands as well as Mauritius, South Africa, Morocco and Athena's home base of Portugal.

The full 40-night voyage from Perth is available from \$6995 per person, twin-share, with fares for solo passengers in selected cabins just 30 per cent more than twin-fares instead of double.

Classic International Cruises is also offering Australians the chance to sail on the first half of the voyage from Fremantle in Perth to Cape Town – an 18-night cruise priced from \$3575 per person, twin-share, with the solo traveller supplement as low as 30 per cent in selected cabins. The second half of the voyage from Cape Town to Portsmouth – a 22-night cruise – is available from \$4220 per person, twin-share.

Australians keen to experience the romance of a classic line voyage on a traditional liner can also sail aboard Athena from Rome on November 15, 2011, bound for Fremantle in Perth, with the 33-night itinerary taking in ports in Italy, Malta, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Thailand and Singapore. This cruise is available from only \$4995 per person, twin-share, with the solo supplement in selected cabins down to just 25 per cent.

Both line voyages between Europe and Australia offer many days at sea for passengers to relax onboard Athena, which served as a trans-Atlantic liner and was purpose-built for ocean cruising.

"A voyage aboard Athena is cruising as it was meant to be, with a sense of the ocean and all its mystery, adventure and nautical traditions, and that special personal touch often lacking in today's hectic age," said Classic International Cruises Managing Director, Grant Hunter. "Attentive, old-fashioned service and first-class cuisine are the hallmarks of the Classic Cruising experience," Mr Hunter added.

"Up to half of all passengers on our cruises from Australia have sailed with us before, which underlines our appeal and success. Onboard passenger surveys also show that 92 per cent of passengers rate their Athena cruise as very good to excellent, with the onboard service, dining experience and entertainment singled out for the highest scores, which is a great endorsement of our unique product."

In contrast to the rapid growth of ever-expanding resort-type superliners, with their rock climbing walls, flying foxes, skating rinks, rides, boxing rings and long queues, Classic International Cruises offers a return to what it calls the 'Classic Cruising Experience' where crew escort passengers to their cabins on embarkation and know their names throughout the cruise in an intimate, friendly and relaxed setting.

Originally a transatlantic liner, the classic-styled, 16,000-ton Athena features traditional wooden deck chairs, pool, fitness centre, five bars and lounges, casino, library, cinema and two restaurants. Athena has 276 spacious cabins and each boasts a bath – a luxury only found in suites on the latest superliners.

Bookings and fly/cruise packages are available via travel agents. For information, visit www.classicintcruises.com.

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