



# *Classic International Cruises*

## **General editorial – 2010/11 Summer Season For *Athena* in Australia and *Princess Daphne* in the Far East**

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### **The Classic Cruising Experience**

Classic International Cruises will double its presence in Australasia this summer (2010/2011) by basing two of its cruise ships in the region, with *Athena* based in Perth and *Princess Daphne* in the Far East.

The line's flagship, the 550-passenger *Athena*, will offer 13 cruises to and from Fremantle/Perth in WA for four months from November 14, 2010, to April 14, 2011 – the longest-ever summer season in Australia for Classic International Cruises, which has based its liners in Perth every year since 2004, with *Athena* representing the line here for the past three years.

And Classic International Cruises will this summer also introduce its liner, *Princess Daphne*, to the Far East this summer, with the 508-passenger ship offering nine, mostly round-trip cruises from Singapore and Hong Kong from December 2010 to April 2011.

Together, the two classic-styled liners will carry thousands of Australians as well as passengers from NZ and other countries during the 2010/11 summer season in the region.

### ***Athena***

Cruises from two to 39 nights will be available aboard *Athena* in the summer of 2010/11 including a Christmas cruise from Perth to Christmas Island and Bali, an 11-night cruise from Perth to the seafood capital of Australia, Port Lincoln, as well as Kangaroo Island, Adelaide and Esperance – the first ever return cruise from WA to SA, an extended Asian cruise, popular short and weekend cruises around the WA coastline and two traditional line voyages between Europe and Australia.

Fares start from **\$445** per person, twin-share, for a two-night cruise aboard *Athena*, with children under 18 cruising for free on six selected cruises, with only nominal taxes to pay. And supplements for solo travellers in selected cabins are as low as 25 per cent, instead of double. And Classic International Cruises is also one of the few cruise lines to allow single travellers to share cabins to lower the fare. The currency onboard *Athena* is Australian dollars, adding to the savings.

“*Athena* will again be based in WA this summer, underscoring our ongoing commitment to this growing market,” said Classic International Cruises Managing Director for Australia, Grant Hunter. “Classic International Cruises has served Western Australia every summer since 2004 after 15 years in which no ship at all was based in WA, and in 2010/11 we will again offer our highly successful formula of traditional cruising on a real ocean liner, affordable fares, attractive itineraries, fine cuisine, friendly and personal service and a warm and relaxed atmosphere that you only get on a smaller vessel,” Mr Hunter said.

“Between one third and half of all passengers on our cruises from Perth have sailed with us before, which underlines our appeal and success. Onboard passengers surveys also show that 92 per cent of passengers rate their *Athena* cruise last season 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.”

Named after the Greek goddess of wisdom and originally a transatlantic liner, the 16,144-ton *Athena* was completely rebuilt as a cruise ship in 1994 at a cost of US\$150m and refurbished in 2005. The mid-sized, eight-deck ship features a wrap-around promenade deck, many traditional wooden deck chairs, a pool, fitness centre and sauna, five bars and lounges, nightclub, showlounge, casino, library, boutiques, cinema, internet café, formal and casual restaurants and 276 spacious cabins – all with a shower and a bathtub - a luxury only found in suites on the latest superliners. All 43 suites, including eight balcony cabins, have jacuzzi baths.

Children's activities operate during school holidays and fares include all gratuities, enhancing the value for money *Athena* offers passengers.

\* According to the Berlitz Guide to Cruising, considered the 'Bible' of cruising: 'This sturdily built ship (*Athena*) is really one of the old classics that has been lovingly maintained and holds a special charm for those not seeking the newest large resort ships.'

### ***Athena's 2010/11 Season to and from Fremantle/Perth, WA***

*(Seventh consecutive summer season from WA for Classic International Cruises and third for Athena)*

- 35-night line voyage from Rome to Fremantle, sailing November 14, 2010, from **\$5995** per person, twin-share
- 11-night Christmas cruise to Christmas Island and Bali, departing Fremantle December 19, 2010, from **\$2195** per person, twin share
- 3-night New Year's ocean cruise to 'nowhere', from December 30, 2010, from **\$755** pp, twin-share
- 5-night cruise to Albany and Esperance, dep Jan 2, 2011, from **\$1080** per person, twin share
- 3-night ocean cruise to 'nowhere' from January 7, 2011, from **\$655** pp, twin-share
- 11-night return cruise to Bali for an extended three-day stay, dep Jan 10, 2011, from **\$2095** pp, twin-share
- 2-night weekend ocean cruise to 'nowhere' from January 21, 2011, from **\$445** pp, twin-share
- 4-night Australia Day cruise to Bunbury and Albany, sailing January 23, 2011, from **\$890** pp, twin-share.
- 11-night return cruise from Fremantle to Port Lincoln, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide and Esperance, sailing January 27, 2011, from **\$2095** pp, twin-share
- 5-night cruise from Fremantle to Esperance and Albany, on February 7, 2011, from **\$995** pp, twin-share.
- 2-night weekend ocean cruise from Fremantle to 'nowhere' on Feb 12, 2011, from **\$445** pp, twin-share
- 20-night cruise from Fremantle on February 14, 2011 – Valentines Day – past Christmas Island and the spectacular Krakatau Volcano and to Singapore and ports in Malaysia and Thailand, from **\$3450** pp, ts
- 39-night line voyage from Fremantle to the UK, sailing March 6, 2011, from **\$6850** pp, twin-share

### ***Princess Daphne***

*Princess Daphne* will offer nine, mostly round-trip cruises from Singapore and Hong Kong. Itineraries from seven to 17 nights are available with exotic destinations including China, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Korea, Brunei, Vietnam and India's Andaman Islands, with overnight stays planned in many ports.

Fares start from **A\$1135** per person, twin-share, for a seven-night cruise from Singapore and the currency onboard the *Princess Daphne*, which normally sails in Europe, will be in both Australian dollars and Euros. Each itinerary is different and can be sailed back-to-back with a 10 per cent discount to create longer voyages. Up to a quarter of CIC passengers have previously combined cruises in Asia.

Classic International Cruises has offered numerous successful Asia cruise programs over the last decade, using two of its smaller ships, Funchal and Arion, most recently in 2006. The 508-passenger *Princess Daphne* will be the line's latest vessel to be based in the Far East.

Registered in Portugal, refurbished in 2008 and once named Port Sydney, the 15,833-ton *Princess Daphne* boasts a deep hull for ocean cruising as well as five lounges and bars, elegant restaurant, gym/spa, library, casino, showlounge, spacious decks and 241 cabins including 73 suites – six of which offer private balconies. A high 86 per cent of all cabins offer ocean views, mostly through traditional portholes and almost all cabins boast a shower and a bathtub – again a luxury only found in suites on the latest superliners around the world.

\* According to the Berlitz Guide to Cruising: ‘This solidly built ship (*Princess Daphne*) has a pleasing, traditional, shipboard ambience and the décor combines a mixture of the classic and contemporary.’

### ***Princess Daphne’s* 2010/11 Summer Season in the Far East:**

- Nine-night round-trip Christmas cruise from Singapore on December 19, 2010, to four ports in Malaysia plus three days in Phuket, from **\$1455** per person, twin-share
- Nine-night return New Year’s cruise from Singapore on December 28, 2010, to Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia from **\$1580** per person, twin-share
- Seven-night round-trip cruise from Singapore on January 6, 2011, to Penang, Phuket, Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur, from **\$1135** per person, twin-share
- 11-night round-trip cruise from Singapore on January 13, 2011, to five ports in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam from **\$1650** per person, twin-share
- 13-night Bay of Bengal return voyage from Singapore on January 24, 2011, to ports in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and India’s Andaman Islands from **\$1940** per person, twin-share
- 14-night return cruise from Singapore on February 6, 2011, to Cambodia and up the coast of Vietnam from **\$2095** per person, twin-share
- 14-night one-way cruise from Singapore to Hong Kong, sailing on February 20, 2011, via Cambodia and Vietnam from **\$2085** per person, twin-share
- 17-night round-cruise from Hong Kong on March 6, 2011, to six ports in China, Korea and Japan from **\$2545** per person, twin-share
- 12-night one-way cruise from Hong Kong to Singapore on March 23, 2011, via six ports in China, Vietnam and Cambodia from **\$1790** per person twin-share

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“In the summer of 2010-11, Australians will have the choice of sailing on *Athena* from Perth or flying to the Far East to enjoy a traditional ocean cruise aboard our beautiful *Princess Daphne*,” said Classic International Cruises’ Australian Managing Director, Grant Hunter.

“More than 50,000 Australians have sailed with Classic International Cruises as part of our annual summer season here since 2004 and up to 50 per cent of passengers on some cruises are repeat customers who love our mix of smaller ships, friendly, attentive service, relaxed atmosphere and fine dining.” Mr Hunter said.

“*Princess Daphne* will offer our loyal customers and new passengers our popular brand of classic cruising in the Far East. We expect our new cruises in the Far East to be very popular amongst Australians and other international passengers.

“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 we call 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.

“In fact, attentive, old-fashioned service from the Australian and international crew and first-class cuisine are the hallmarks of the Classic Cruising experience. It’s 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.

“Our elegant liners, *Athena* and *Princess Daphne*, are stylishly traditional and solidly-built liners purpose-built for blue-water ocean cruising,” Mr Hunter said. “They are both smaller than most cruise ships today, carrying less than 550 discerning guests, but therein lays their appeal. Both ships are easy to get around and boast a special warmth and charming ambience – an authentic home-away-from-home with a rewarding camaraderie that only smaller vessels can provide.

“Many like the convivial atmosphere onboard to that of an English country pub – cosy, informal and welcoming. Guests return to their ‘other’ homes refreshed and relaxed with an address book brimming with the names of new friends.

“Onboard, guests enjoy lazy days at sea and the many pleasure of shipboard life like sipping cocktails by the pool, taking a turn around the Promenade Deck, enjoying a gym work-out, feasting on fine cuisine, catching a cabaret show or a movie, lounging in the piano bar and letting your hair down in the disco – all the feel-good things that provide the perfect getaway at sea.

“And then there’s the ever-changing scenery. Unpack just once and a host of exciting destinations appear on the horizon.”

Founded in 1982, Classic International Cruises carries 200,000 passengers a year, with the five-ship fleet (*Athena*, *Princess Daphne*, *Princess Danae*, *Arion* and *Funchal*) offering cruises in Europe, the UK, South America and, since 2004, Australia, with Asia to return to the line’s line-up of cruises in 2010/11.

- **Bookings are available via travel agents. For general information, visit [www.classicintcruises.com](http://www.classicintcruises.com)**

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