



Classic International Cruises

General editorial

The Classic Cruising Experience

Western Australia's favourite cruise line, Classic International Cruises, returns to our shores this summer with the encore season here of the line's stylish flagship, *Athena*.

The 2009/10 summer cruise season is Classic International Cruises' sixth consecutive season from Fremantle, with the success and huge popularity of the smaller *Funchal* from 2004 to 2007 paving the way for the introduction here last year of the bigger and equally popular *Athena*.

Athena will offer 16 value-for-money voyages to and from Fremantle and Adelaide, between November 2009 and March 2010.

A selection of cruises from two to 35 nights duration are available from Fremantle aboard *Athena*, including round cruises to Bali, Asia, the WA coastline, two-night short breaks, cruises to or from Adelaide and on to Tasmania and also exotic line voyages to and from Europe.

Fares start at just **A\$435** per person, inside twin-share, for a two-night sojourn at sea – and that includes all onboard meals and entertainment. Rail and sail packages are also available.

In contrast to the rapid growth of ever-expanding resort-type superliners, with their rock climbing walls, rides, boxing rings, skating rinks 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.

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.

The elegant *Athena* is a stylishly traditional and solidly-built liner purpose-built for ocean cruising.

Athena is smaller than most cruise ships today, carrying around 600 discerning guests, but therein lays her appeal. She's easy to get around and boasts a special warmth and charming ambience – an authentic home-away-from-home with a rewarding camaraderie that only smaller vessels can provide.

Onboard, guests enjoy lazy days at sea and the many pleasure of shipboard life. Do it all, or nothing at all! Sip cocktails by the pool, take a turn around the wrap-around Promenade Deck, enjoy a gym work-out, feast on fine cuisine, catch a cabaret show or a movie, lounge in the piano bar and let 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.

Our ships have delighted European passengers for 26 years. For the past five years, we have offered thousands of passengers cruises to and from Australia, with many repeat guests bringing back friends and family to live it up at sea together. In fact up to 50 per cent of passengers on some cruises are repeat guests.

Our ships achieve a high 96 per cent 'very good to excellent' rating from passengers, with the onboard service, dining experience and entertainment singled out for the highest scores.

Classic International Cruises' success in Western Australia from 2004 to 2007 led to the debut last summer (2008/09) of the line's biggest liner, *Athena* in Fremantle. Her popular maiden season paves the way for her return here this summer for her 2009/10 program.

Named after the Greek goddess of wisdom and originally a transatlantic liner, the 16,200-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 bath/shower. All 43 suites, including eight balcony cabins, have jacuzzi baths.

Children's activities operate during school holidays and the onboard currency will be Australian dollars. Fares include all gratuities, enhancing the value for money *Athena* offers passengers.

* According to the latest 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.'

Encore 2009/10 Season from Fremantle, WA, for *Athena*

(Sixth consecutive summer season from WA for Classic International Cruises)

- 34-night line voyage from Athens to Fremantle via Gallipoli, Egypt, and Asia, sailing November 14, 2009, from **\$5395** per person, twin-share
- 2-night ocean cruise to 'nowhere', departing Fremantle December 18, 2009, from **\$435** per person, twin share
- 10-night Christmas cruise to Bali and back, dep December 20, 2009, from **\$2095** pp, twin- share
- 3-night New Year's ocean cruise to 'nowhere', from December 30, 2009, from **\$740** pp, twin-share

- 2-night ocean cruise to ‘nowhere’ dep Jan 2, 2010, from **\$435** per person, twin share
- 11-night return voyage to Bali, dep January 4, 2010 from **\$2095** pp, twin-share
- 3-night ocean cruise to ‘nowhere’ from January 15, 2010, from **\$655** pp, twin-share
- 4-night return cruise to Albany and Bunbury, dep Valentine’s Day, Feb 14, from **\$850** pp, twin-share
- 24-night Asia cruise to six ports in Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia, sailing February 18, 2010, from **\$4150** pp, twin-share
- 35-night line voyage to Nice in France via Asia, Egypt and the Mediterranean, sailing March 14, 2010, from **\$5795** pp, twin-share.

On selected cruises, children can cruise for free (paying just gratuities and port charges) and supplements for singles in selected cabins are only 25-50 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.

Founded in 1982, Classic International Cruises carries 100,000 passengers a year, with the five-ship fleet offering cruises in Europe, the UK, South America and, since 2004, Australia.

For a brochure, professional assistance or reservations see your travel agent. More information also available on www.classicintercruises.com

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