



Embargoed until 0900 Monday, February 11, 2019

P&O Cruises reveals Iona's first winter season Itineraries to showcase "hidden secrets" and local adventures

Late departures and overnight stays in iconic destinations are among the key features of P&O Cruises new ship Iona's inaugural winter season, which goes on sale on Monday March 18, 2019*.

Between October 2020 and March 2021 Iona will sail south to Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands for winter sun as well as visits to spectacular cities in northern Europe.

Guests will be able to enjoy day-into-night visits on shore to discover local nightlife with late departures from Barcelona, Valencia, Tenerife and Fuerteventura.

Overnight stays in Barcelona, Lisbon, Cadiz and Rotterdam are also part of the mix as Iona sails conveniently from its home port of Southampton.

An exciting choice of hand-picked shore adventures are being developed, ranging from waterfall canyoning in Madeira and river rafting in Vigo, to tuk tuk tours of Lisbon and star-gazing from Mount Teide, Spain's highest peak, in Tenerife.

Traditional shrimp fishing by horseback in Bruges and cruising canals in Amsterdam on a vintage boat are among other new city-based shore experiences.

A mix of seven and 14-night itineraries will be offered during Iona's maiden winter season.

Ports of call in Spain, Portugal and the Canaries will include: Cadiz, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, Lisbon, Madeira, Tenerife, Alicante, Barcelona, Gibraltar, Malaga, Valencia and Vigo.

Rotterdam (for Amsterdam), Zeebrugge (for Bruges), and Hamburg are among the northern European cities featured.

P&O Cruises president, Paul Ludlow, said: "P&O Cruises is promising to deliver opportunities for guests to discover hidden secrets in these wonderful ports.

"We've used insider knowledge to develop shore visits and adventures that will be off the beaten track and give once-in-a-lifetime local experiences.

"P&O Cruises has a strong tradition of taking guests to enjoy winter sun and vibrant northern European cities, and now we're helping them discover a new side of well-known destinations.

"By scheduling late departures for Iona from ports our guests will be able to make the most of days and evenings on shore, with an enviable selection of experiences that will showcase the very best of hidden Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands and northern European cities."

Guests travelling on *Iona* to Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands could look forward to shore experiences including:

Canyoning in Madeira – an action-adventure in the crystal clear waters and gushing waterfalls of Madeira. A hand-picked adrenalin-fuelled canyoning trip will see guests splashing and sliding down the beautiful river falls or swimming and abseiling in ravines.

Sundowners with the stars in Tenerife - For a truly memorable experience guests will be taken to watch the sunset at the summit of Mount Teide as they savour a cocktail and dinner designed by two-Michelin starred chef, Erlantz Gorostiza. They can watch the skies darken, ready for magical stargazing in Teide National Park. The park has the reputation as being one of the top three best places in the world to observe the night sky.

Rafting adventure in Vigo - For an exhilarating experience guests will be able to tackle the lively Mino River on a rafting adventure through white water rapids. Along the way they will see some of the most stunning Galician countryside.

Lisbon by tuk tuk – a truly immersive journey through this beautiful city, moving through the streets in an open sided tuk tuk to all the well-known sights and panoramic views. There will also be an opportunity to sample regional food including Lisbon's traditional custard tarts - pastel de nata.

Trek on a moonscape in Lanzarote - In this unique volcanic landscape guests will enjoy an otherworldly hike. Walkers will get a real insight into the various forms and features of this luna-like scenery with an opportunity to visit craters and see lava gorges.

Guests travelling to Northern European cities could look forward to:

An evening canal cruise in Amsterdam – An exhilarating city-by-night trip on a vintage canal boat.

Discovering Bruges independently – at the heart of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Climb the 365 steps of the 13th Century Belfort tower for magnificent city wide views, sample a selection of beers at an award-winning brewery and browse the myriad of chocolate shops.

Roam the Reeperbahn – Guests can follow in the footsteps of The Beatles in Hamburg. An evening adventure to uncover where the Fab Four found fame it includes a visit to a cult bar for German Schnapps and a visit to the Ritze, an old cellar boxing club.

*pre-registration from 8am on Monday March 11, 2019

For more information or to book call P&O Cruises on 03453 555 111, visit www.pocruises.com or see a travel agent.

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About P&O Cruises

P&O Cruises is Britain's favourite cruise line, welcoming guests to experience the good life and enjoy a blend of discovery, relaxation and exceptional service catered towards British tastes. P&O Cruises fleet of premium ships combines genuine service, a sense of occasion and attention to detail, ensuring guests have the holiday of a lifetime, every time.

In 2020, P&O Cruises will launch *Iona*. The new LNG-powered ship, with 5,200-guest capacity, will be the largest ship built to serve the UK market. *Iona* will feature enhancements to already successful

brand signature venues from the existing fleet, as well as features newly developed for *Iona*. These include a breath-taking three deck atrium in the heart of the ship as well as SkyDome – an exclusively designed glass dome by award-winning British engineers Eckersley O’Callaghan. This will be a world first at sea and offer a unique space for both relaxing in all weathers and providing entertainment, featuring aerial performers and a wealth of live acts.

P&O Cruises continues to enhance its entertainment line-up, launching Astonishing on *Azura*, *Britannia* and *Ventura*. This revolutionary guest-interactive magic and illusion show was produced through a partnership with BAFTA-winning presenter Stephen Mulhern, performer Jonathan Wilkes and the mind-blowing trickery of master illusionist Guy Barrett.

P&O Cruises visits over 200 destinations worldwide and offers itineraries generally ranging from two to 17 days and also an annual world cruise. P&O Cruises sails to Australia & New Zealand, Baltic, the British Isles, Canada, the Spain, Portugal & the Canary Islands, the Caribbean, Central America, Dubai & the Arabian Gulf, the Far East & Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, South America, the South Pacific, the United States and Western Europe.

Carnival Corporation has long been an industry leader in developing innovative solutions for sustainability, including the environmental technology breakthrough of making its Advanced Air Quality Systems (AAQS) highly functional in the small confines of a cruise ship. The Advanced Air Quality Systems (generically known as exhaust gas cleaning systems, or scrubbers) are installed on 71 of the company’s more than 100 ships and, through extensive independent testing, the systems have proven capable of outperforming low-sulfur fuel alternatives such as marine gasoil (MGO) in terms of cleaner air emissions with essentially no negative environmental impact to oceans and seas.

Carnival Corporation has also been a leader in the cruise industry’s use of liquefied natural gas (LNG), the world’s cleanest burning fossil fuel, resulting in significantly reduced air emissions. Following AIDAnova’s launch in December 2018, the company has ordered an additional 10 next-generation “green” cruise ships powered by LNG in port and at sea with expected delivery dates between 2019 and 2025.

Over 40 percent of the company’s fleet has “cold ironing” capabilities, enabling ships to use shoreside electric power where available while in port. The company has also implemented broad initiatives to optimize onboard energy usage and innovative hull designs and coatings to reduce fuel consumption by minimizing frictional drag.

For images visit: <http://www.pocruisespresspictures.com/>

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