Busy months for cruise ships ahead

Having already welcomed 3 cruise ships this season, there will be a further 24 cruise ships arriving in just two months. The start of May signals the beginning of the busiest period of 2014 at Portsmouth International Port.

When explorer ship MS Fram cruises into Portsmouth on May 3rd, bringing her guests to the waterfront city, it will be the start of an intensive 8-week period of activity at Portsmouth International Port.

Built to withstand the rigours of sailing in polar waters, MS Fram is designed to get guests closer to nature. It’s a type of expedition cruise ship that is now a regular caller at Portsmouth International Port. Staff have worked hard to corner this ‘niche’ cruise market, offering high levels of flexibility and service. Portsmouth is perfectly positioned for cruises of the British Isles and Northern European coastlines.

The busiest week of the two-month period comes at the beginning of June, as the country prepares to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. In the course of the week leading up to June 6th there will be eight cruise ships at Portsmouth International Port, many bringing visitors to visit historic attractions and events in the City.

The majority of the vessels will then make the journey to the Normandy beaches. Among them will be Fred. Olsen’s Braemar, a new visitor to the Port; and Cruise & Maritime’s Marco Polo. Swan Hellenic’s Minerva will also be starting and ending its special D-Day cruise in Portsmouth, and the German luxury liner Amadea makes a welcome return in early June, having last visited Portsmouth in 2008.

Passengers will visit the D-Day Museum and have the opportunity to see the many D-Day commemorative events that the city of Portsmouth is holding, including a spectacular Drumhead ceremony.
Among many new visitors to Portsmouth International Port in June will be MS Serenissima, a classic small luxury ship with a unique Swedish country house style interior. On a much larger scale the Greek cruise ship Louis Aura is also booked to call with nearly 900 passengers onboard. Le Boreal, the beautiful mega-yacht operated by Compagnie du Ponant, will also glide into Portsmouth Harbour in the busy early period of the month.

Martin Putman, Port Manager of Portsmouth International Port, said, "We’re never happier than when the Port is busy. Seeing so many cruise ships arriving in May and June will put smiles on the faces of all the staff. They’ve worked hard to ensure that Portsmouth has developed a name in the cruise industry for great service. The large numbers of passengers booked to arrive and depart is testament to the confidence cruise operators now have in us."

Every visitor to the Port will have the chance to view a special exhibition being hosted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the new terminal building. With so much interest in D-Day and the Centenary of the commencement of the First World War, it is expected the displays of personal stories and pictures will be a memorable addition to time spent in Portsmouth.

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