

## NEW SALES AND RESERVATIONS MANAGER FOR THE CRUISE PEOPLE

Mona Hedlund has been appointed as Sales and Reservations Manager at The Cruise People. Hailing from Sweden, Mona first joined The Cruise People as a travel and tourism student from South Bank University while doing a six-month posting in the UK. She then joined us full time as a cruise consultant.



Mona has excellent credentials for booking both cruise and freighter passengers. Before coming ashore and going back to university she spent two and a half years at sea as a cook and steward aboard a cargo ship. Then, after a year and a half with The Cruise People, she spent a similar amount of time with a cruise-only agency closer to her home.

She has decided to come back as she hankered after the combination of cruise, freighter and expedition voyages and the interesting clients that go with the mix that only The Cruise People offer.

## WEEKLY TRANSATLANTIC CARGO-PASSENGER SAILINGS BETWEEN US AND EUROPE

Three additional ships - the seven-passenger sister ships *Lukas Achincor* and *Lukas Voyager* and the five-passenger *APL Atlantic* - have joined the eight-passenger container ship *APL Europa* in providing a weekly freighter service to New York. The four ships operate on a 28-day rotation. All four ships are German-owned, crewed by German officers and international crew, and feature outside staterooms, some with separate living room and bedroom.

All four ships now run Antwerp - Bremerhaven - Thamesport - Antwerp - Le Havre - New York - Norfolk - New York. There are inward and outward calls at both Antwerp and New York.

## MILLENNIUM CRUISE TO ANTARCTICA

There is a wide choice of informal learning activities on board, including natural history lectures and classes in fitness and art.

The *Agean I* is of Greek registry with a Greek captain and officers. A cruise director oversees all the entertainment on board. A shore excursion manager supervises landings, and an expedition leader coordinates special Antarctic-related activities. There are nine categories of accommodation on board *Agean I*, from suites and double and triple outside cabins, to double, triple

and quad inside cabins. The added passenger berths will meet the rising demand for transatlantic passages on freighters, with 28 passenger berths a month now on offer in each direction.

Fares are based on the number of days spent on board, and vary between £50 and £57 per person per day double occupancy and £57 and £70 per day single occupancy, plus port taxes and deviation insurance of £125. Sample voyage times are 11 days from New York - Thamesport and 12 days from Thamesport - New York, although shorter passages are available if passengers are willing to travel via Antwerp or Le Havre. A valid US visa is required for non-US passengers sailing to the USA by this route.

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Her itinerary includes flights from Miami to Ushuaia, Argentina (the southernmost city in the world) - Beagle Channel - Drake Passage - South Shetland Islands (Millennium night) - Turbet Point or Penguin Island - Drake Passage - flights from Ushuaia to Miami.

Rates include round trip airfare from Miami, all meals on-board ship, educational and recreational activities, all shore excursions and a special on-board Millennium celebration with complimentary champagne.

## NEW AMSTERDAM-GREAT LAKES CARGO-PASSENGER SERVICE BY PZM

The 26,696 ton Polish ship, *Ziemia Gnieznieńska* is one of six 80s-built Ziemia class tankers that are now running a twice-monthly service from IJmuiden, just outside Amsterdam, to Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago/Burns Harbor. The service is operated by the Polish Steamship Company (PZM) which is also introducing five brand new 34,600 ton ships on to the route, starting in July. The *Isa*, *Isolda*, *Isadora*, *Isyda* and *Irena* are being built by Mitsui in Japan. The frequency and operating patterns will depend on cargo requirements but the fares will be extremely competitive at \$645 to Cleveland or Detroit and £705 to Chicago or Burns Harbor. The new ships have been ordered on the back of a contract to carry steel products for the Dutch steel company Hoogovens which has just announced a merger with British Steel.

At this point, it is not clear how many passengers the new ships will carry but The Cruise People recently sent one of its agents to inspect the *Ziemia Gnieznieńska*, and then followed up with an inspection of sister ship *Romana Zachodnie*. The two passenger cabins are quite spacious, but fairly basic with only a radio for company. The owner's cabin is just over 204 square feet and has two windows to starboard and one to stern, while the radio officer's cabin is 124 square feet and has two starboard windows. Both have en-suite showers and toilets.

The captain and crew are reported to be friendly with open access allowed to the bridge. The décor and fittings are those of a working ship, although the on-board facilities are reasonable, with a small swimming pool, recreation room with video and TV, a washing machine and a steward for passengers. This is a not a voyage for the luxury-seeking but Polish Steamship does offer a reasonably priced regular transatlantic routing and therefore will be attractive to a number of passengers. The Cruise People has been appointed exclusive passenger agent for PZM.