

10 April 2012

## **Titanic Anniversary Cruise prepares to set sail**

440 paying passengers from all over the world will set sail from New York at 5.00pm EST on Tuesday 10 April on an eight-night cruise to commemorate the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic.

As part of a meticulous effort to recreate the maiden voyage of arguably the most famous ship of all time, many features on board – from food to a live band – will be representative of the Titanic era.

Relatives of those who lost their lives on the great ship, relatives of survivors, authors, historians and people who are just fascinated by the Titanic story will set sail on the historic event.

Passenger on the Titanic Anniversary Cruise, and relative of someone who lost their life 100 years ago on board Titanic, Sharon Willing from Arizona in the USA explained:

“For me, it’s about being able to stand above the wreck exactly 100 years after my great grandfather died, and to be able to throw a flower down for him. I have grown up with this knowledge that my great grandfather died in that ship. This trip will bring closure to many people and it’s going to be very, very poignant.”

The Titanic Anniversary Cruise will meet another ship chartered for the commemorative events – Balmoral – at the site Titanic sank for a special memorial service on 14 April. Starting at 11.40pm, when the ship hit the iceberg 100 years ago, with a dedicated service at 2.20am on 15 April, when the great ship sank beneath the waves.

Azamara Journey is operated by Azamara Club Cruises and has been chartered for the event by ABTA-bonded UK company Miles Morgan Travel, which specialises in tailor-made holidays. Miles Morgan Travel has also chartered Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines’ Balmoral for a Titanic Memorial Cruise which left Southampton on 8 April and will arrive in New York on 19 April 2012.

A line up of specialist lecturers, some of the world’s leading experts on the tragic ship, will be on board Azamara Journey including Brigitte Saar – one of the few people in the world to have seen Titanic having completed a dive to the wreck site in 1998 and 2005.

Miles Morgan, managing director of Miles Morgan Travel, said: “This cruise has been five years in the making and every step of the way we have sought to make it authentic to the era and a sympathetic memorial to the passengers and crew who lost their lives.”

The food on board will be based on the dishes served in April 1912. The menu has been created by executive chef on the Azamara Journey Frédéric Camonin, who has researched the menus that were served on board. A formal dinner on 13 April will have a menu made up entirely of dishes which were served on the Titanic and guests will enjoy a daily Titanic-inspired dish.

Ends

**Editors' note:**

**PICTURES:** More information about the ship, lecturers, itinerary and quotes from passengers travelling can be downloaded from the press centre of the Titanic Memorial Cruise website at:

<http://titanicmemorialcruise.co.uk/press.php>

High resolution images of the Titanic, Azamara Journey and more can also be downloaded at <http://titanicmemorialcruise.co.uk/press.php>

All passenger quotes and/or interviews on the website can be used in editorial copy.

The Mission to Seafarers is the charity partner of the Titanic Memorial Cruise and a donation from every booking has been made to the charity. For more information please visit <http://www.missiontoseafarers.org/>

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