

**Double S Travel**

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**Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Four Years of service to the residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 - 2009**

**Steve of Double S Travel's Factsheet for 09 May 2009**

**Today's Exchange Rates**

Euro. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.07851 better than last week  
US Dollar. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.45981 worse than last week

**Stop Press**

Swine-flu. The FCO have lifted their advice against travel to Mexico, but still check the country you are going to by visiting [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) .

New Offer. 25% off Hurtigruten Northern Lights 2009 cruises if booked through a travel agent by end of May

**Taster Cruises.**

**Why go on a taster?**

If you have never cruised before it will enable you to experience cruising:

- a. Without committing to a high value cruise.
- b. Without compromising on ship quality.
- c. Without spending a long time on a holiday you may not like (but I find most people love cruising)

Research your cruise, itinerary, ship etc on one of the most comprehensive websites in the UK at [www.upadeck.co.uk](http://www.upadeck.co.uk)

**Some general Cruising tips**

Choose a cabin that is in the middle of the ship (midships) where possible.

Remember 'POSH' on long cruises (Port out Starboard home). This was used on Transatlantic crossings so passengers cabins were on the S side to get the most sun. Same applies to most cruises.

Check the ship. Is it aimed at the UK passenger? Is it traditional or modern? Is it built for families? Does it have the facilities you want? Do you have to dress for dinner? What is the size of the ship?

Check the 'Complete guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships' before booking if you don't know the ship personally. This guide is invaluable as it gives a critical objective view of each ship.

Holland America.

MS Eurodam 02 July, 4 days, Nordic Highlights from £282  
06 July, 4 days, Charms of the Channel from £389  
10 July, 2 days, North Sea Romance from £239

P&O

Ventura 30 August, 3 days, Welcome Party from £284  
Oceana 03 October, 3 days, The Weekender from £293  
Arcadia 31 October, 3 days, The Weekender from £303  
Aurora 05 December, 3 days, Cruise to Nowhere from £313  
Artemis 02 July, 4 days, Short Break from £445  
28 August, 5 days, Short Break from £405

Fred Olsen

Balmoral 28 August, 3 days, Weekend Break from £270  
18 December, 4 days, Christmas Mini from £296  
Black Prince 21 June, 2 days, Irish Jig from £128  
Boudicca 01 August, 4 days, A Summer Break from £299  
01 October, 5 days, Autumn Escape from £218  
19 December, 2 days, Amsterdam from £160

About these ships

Eurodam is an elegant new ship built in 2008 and featuring a topside Pan-Asian Restaurant and lounge with panoramic views as well as sophisticated interiors, wood panelling and an outstanding display of art throughout.. Eurodam passengers tend to be 40-60, some families and mainly American. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 46.5 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.3 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 38.2 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.8 passengers.

Balmoral is a handsome and well built ship (1988) that is spacious and has a good selection of fine public rooms. Now internally refurbished to bring her in line with Fred Olsen style , this ship offers an elegant and comfortable cruise experience. Balmoral passengers tend to be 50+ and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 32.5 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.7 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 31.1 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.8 passengers.

Black Prince is a friendly ship built in 1966 with a homely restrained décor. It is solidly built and well maintained but can pitch in heavy seas. Black Prince passengers tend to be 50+ and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 27.2 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.1 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 24.9 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.3 passengers.

Boudicca is a sleek comfortable but older ship (1973) that has been fitted with new engines and refurbished in 2006 with more balcony cabins, spacious public areas and a restful décor. Fred Olsen staff are friendly and attentive. Boudicca passengers tend to be 50+ and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 33.8 tons per passenger and a crew to

passenger ratio of one for every 2.6 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 31.5 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.8 passengers.

Ventura (built 2008) is designed for British tastes and features innovations in family entertainment, including a 3D cinema, Scalextric at sea and a contemporary circus skills school as well as an enrichment programme developed with Tate Modern. Ventura passengers tend to be older outside of summer holidays and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 37.5 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.5 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 32.2 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.9 passengers.

Oceana is a large but nicely profiled ship that has a warm intimate feel yet a wide range of spacious public rooms. Built in 2000, the four deck high atrium lobby and the use of a lot of glass on the upper decks provides light and space to the ship interiors. Oceana passengers tend to be older outside of summer holidays and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 38.2 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.2 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 33.9 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.5 passengers.

Arcadia is a contemporary adults only ship built in 2004 providing a British cruise experience in modern surroundings. The spacious public rooms and sea facing glass walled elevators are impressive. Arcadia passengers tend to be older outside of summer holidays and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 41.7 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.3 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 34.6 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.8 passengers.

Aurora is a traditional British cruise ship that was built in 2000 and well equipped. The focal point is the five deck high atrium leading to a wide variety of facilities. Children and families are well provided. Aurora passengers tend to be older outside of summer holidays and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 40.6 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.2 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 39 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.3 passengers.

Artemis is a handsome child-free ship offering an intimate, small ship feel yet it features large, spacious public rooms with a pleasing décor and all outside cabins. Artemis passengers tend to be older outside of summer holidays and mainly British. When all cabins have double occupancy, the ship provides a space ratio of 38.2 tons per passenger and a crew to passenger ratio of one for every 2.3 passengers. At full capacity the space ratio is 35.7 tons per passenger and the crew ratio is one to 2.4 passengers.

**Double S Travel Worldchoice 01582 752 752.**  
Visit our cruise website at [www.doublestravel.co.uk](http://www.doublestravel.co.uk) .

**In brief:**

Thinking of going to New Zealand next year? Join my group! Call me on 01582 752752 or email me at [steve@doublestravel.co.uk](mailto:steve@doublestravel.co.uk) for details.

Members of ABTA, Association of Cruise Experts, Leading Cruise Agent  
IATA accredited. CAA ATOL licence 6766.

Proprietor: **SJ Pattenden TD, BA (Hons).** VAT Number 449 3040 53.

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2009, 2006, 2005.

Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006. Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2008, 2007.

Interested in a cruise? Visit our cruise club website at [www.upadeck.co.uk](http://www.upadeck.co.uk) it contains details of over 20,000 cruises, port descriptions and ship details!

Do you Twitter? Follow Double\_S\_Travel.

Travelling to or through the USA? You need a visa (called an ESTA) in order to travel.

If you would like to join my emailing-list to receive offers and news, simply email [steve@doublestravel.co.uk](mailto:steve@doublestravel.co.uk) and put 'Mailing List' in the subject box.

### **Always:**

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- Check that your passport does not expire within six months of your return date.
- Ensure you have taken out good travel insurance and if going to Europe, take your EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with you too.
- Put the 24hour UK Consular Assistance number - +44 020 7008 1500 into your mobile telephone – just in case you need emergency help.
- If hiring a car, don't forget to take both parts of your photo driving licence (the card and the paper counterpart) and a credit card with you. Some rental companies no longer accept the old-style green paper non-photo driving licences.
- Ensure you have all the visas you need in order to travel.
- If you have booked connecting flights, the baggage allowance may be smaller than your long-haul flights. To avoid extra charges, pack to the lowest baggage allowance.
- Tell your credit card and debit card issuer where you are going and for how long otherwise you may find your cards may be blocked. Take a Cash Passport instead of your debit card – much safer.
- Use public transport to get to the airport. Most travel insurance will only cover you for a missed departure if you used public transport.
- Take a photocopy of your passport with you. If you lose your original it is much simpler to replace if you have a copy available.
- Protect your money and your holiday by booking an ATOL protected holiday through a reputable travel agent. Even short-breaks using no-frills airlines can be covered if booked through and agent.
- Declare all medical conditions and hospital visits at the time of taking insurance and tell the insurer if you develop a medical condition before you travel otherwise they may not settle if you try to make a claim.

Remember, travel safely, protect your money by booking through and ATOL holder, but most of all - enjoy your travelling.

All the best,

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Our aim is to be your most trusted dream provider

Steve Pattenden.

[steve@doublestravel.co.uk](mailto:steve@doublestravel.co.uk)

Acknowledgements. DG&G Gazetteers for much of the destination information.

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