



AUSTRAL ASIA LINE

AUSTRAL ASIA LINE PTE

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Press Release:

Austral Asia Line Introduces a Passenger Service

Passengers seeking an alternative and more unique mode of travel compared with traditional cruise liner services can now look forward to sailing onboard one of Austral Asia Line's modern heavy lift vessels. The newly introduced AAL passenger service caters to passengers seeking to see the Asia Pacific regions while experiencing life onboard a cargo ship.

Two 31,000 deadweight A-Class vessels have been picked to offer such service – AAL Newcastle and AAL Hong Kong. The service will start in the middle of July onboard AAL Newcastle departing from Melbourne and middle of August onboard AAL Hong Kong departing from China. Both vessels are currently employed on the Australia East Coast and New Zealand service and cover the following ports: Brisbane, Newcastle, Melbourne, Lyttelton, Wellington, Tauranga, Tianjin, Qingdao, Shanghai, Inchon, Pusan and Khaosuiung. They may also call Mackay/Townsville, Nelson and Napier on inducement basis. The liner service covers the full rotation in approximately 93 days but the duration and ports called can vary based on various circumstances. Passengers have the option of completing a full round voyage or alternately selecting their desired embarkation and disembarkation ports (subject to visa and local regulations).

"Although AAL used to offer a passenger service on a similar route over 10 years ago, this was stopped when the AAL services were operated with long term chartered tonnage. Now that AAL has successfully completed its new build delivery program with parent company Schoeller Holdings, and operates group tonnage, we are proud to be in a position to offer this service again. There has been a lot of demand in the past years for passengers to join our new fleet, as the route covered from Australian East Coast to China, Korea and Taiwan, via New Zealand is an attractive one, offering a variety of countries and cultures, and the nature of our operations (project and breakbulk cargoes) allows sufficient time in port for our passengers to explore" says Christophe Grammare, Managing Director of AAL.

Passengers can expect to see firsthand life onboard a merchant vessel while enjoying the sights and ports along the way. While onboard the vessel, passengers have a choice of either a double bed cabin or an Owner's suite which includes a private day room. They may also get a chance to see various areas of the vessel under supervision and permission of the Captain and officers as well as enjoy the vessel's swimming pool and passenger lounge equipped with a library of books, board games and tea/coffee facilities.

Austral Asia Line appointed Hawke's Bay Travel Center & Freighter Travel (NZ) and Freighter Expeditions as the travel agents. The two companies are responsible for the inquiries and bookings of the AAL passenger service. Interested passengers are encouraged to get in touch with the respective travel agents for further information about sailing onboard one of the AAL vessels.

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Freighter Expeditions

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About Austral Asia Line:

Established in 1995, Austral Asia Line provides liner and tramp shipping services for industrial project, heavy-lift, breakbulk and dry bulk cargoes. The company deploys a fleet of modern, owned/operated multipurpose/heavy-lift vessels, supported by a first-class engineering department to ensure on-time and safe carriage of cargoes. Headquartered in Singapore, with traditional core trading area of Asia-Oceania, AAL has expanded into the Americas and Europe. The AAL team is supported by regional offices in Brisbane, Shanghai and an extensive network of agencies and representative offices in North Asia, South East Asia, Americas and Europe. The AAL team has the local presence and commercial/technical competence to provide superior shipping solutions for the most challenging shipping requirements.

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