

STAR GUESTS WELCOMED ONBOARD THOMSON CRUISES FOR “AN AUDIENCE WITH....”

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To mark the beginning of the summer season, Thomson Cruises (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) has announced a fantastic line up of interesting and entertaining guests onboard the Thomson Spirit over the coming months. From sporting heroes like Derek Redmond, to the gardeners favourite Charlie Dimmock, star guests will be hosting ‘Audience with....’ style evenings onboard selected cruises (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) through the summer.

Starting at the end of May, quiz master extraordinaire, Jim Bowen will be launching the programme. Joining the Thomson Spirit in Newcastle, he will sail the fourteen night Baltic Highlights cruise (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) itinerary, taking in the most beautiful parts of Northern Europe including Oslo, Stockholm, St Petersburg and Tallinn. Jim, who is best known for his “super, smashing, great” catchphrase whilst presenting the hit 80’s game show Bullseye, has since had guest appearances in comedy dramas like Phoenix Nights and even sailed the seas as a trumpet player onboard the QE2! His witty stories, northern charm and love of cruising will make for an interesting evening entertainment.

Ex Radio 1 DJ, Mike Read, will be welcomed onboard the North Cape Adventure cruise (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) itinerary in June. Again, embarking the ship in Newcastle, he will join the ship as it sails a fourteen night itinerary towards the stunning Norwegian fjords. This jaw dropping itinerary will be made even more unmissable with the interesting tales from Mike’s BBC Radio 1 hey day and more recently the time spent in the jungle with “I’m a celebrity”.

Gardener’s everywhere will be keen to spend an evening with the lovely Charlie Dimmock, in June onboard the Fire & Ice cruise (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>). Having made her name as the gardening guru on Ground Force, with Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie has become a firm favourite with horticulturalists. The thirteen night Fire & Ice cruise out of Newcastle, will sail towards the Faroe Islands before heading to Iceland, where there isn’t a great deal of mud for Charlie to get stuck into!

Gold medal sprinter Derek Redmond, won the hearts of the British public in the 1992 Olympics when he snapped his ham string mid-race and with determination, limped across the finish line. In July, he will be taking a much more relaxed method of transport onboard the Thomson Spirit, sailing around the Treasures of the Baltic (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>). From Newcastle, the ship will sail to Denmark, Sweden and Finland before reaching the pinnacle of the itinerary – St Petersburg. Derek, will host an evening of questions and answers during the itinerary, so whether it is training tips for the 2012 Olympics or a question about winning Celebrity Gladiators, Derek will be there.

Lord David Steel, the former Liberal leader, will be joining the North Cape Explorer cruise (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) from Harwich to the fjord lands in July. Having led an interesting life, growing up in Kenya and Scotland, chairing an anti-apartheid movement and holding the title of Presiding Officer of Scottish Parliament, Lord Steel will certainly have something to talk about.

Fondly known as Cleggy from Last of the Summer Wine and the voice of the cheese loving Wallace, from

Wallace and Gromit, Peter Sallis is one of Britains best-loved actors. Sailing from Harwich in August, Peter will join the Thomson Spirit for the fantastic Baltic Capitals cruise (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) – visiting Latvia, Finland, Russia, Estonia and Sweden, entertaining guests onboard with an evening of comedic and endearing stories of his 25 years as Mr Clegg.

As Margaret Thatcher's Chief Press Secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham adopted a wicked sense of humour, one he will share with the passengers onboard the Cities of the Baltic cruise (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) in September. Sailing from Harwich the fourteen night itinerary will take in some of the most beautiful cities in Northern Europe, including Gothenburg, Helsinki and Tallinn.

Finally, long standing journalist and author Michael Nicholson, will be joining the Idyllic Iberia cruise out of Southampton in September. Best known for his ITN correspondence during the Falkland and Gulf wars, Michael is also the wonderful man who rescued and adopted a Bosnian orphan – Natasha, an interesting and heart warming story he will share with Thomson Cruises (<http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise.html>) guests onboard the Thomson Spirit. The cruise will depart from Southampton and visit Lisbon, Portimao, Gibraltar, Malaga and Tangier.

For more on Thomson Cruises please visit <http://www.thomson.co.uk/cruise> or call 0871 231 3253

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