

TUI Cruises announces schedule for Gulf operation for the first time from Dubai

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The fascinating metropolis on the Gulf is the home port during the winter 2012/2013 season for Dubai & Orient cruises on *Mein Schiff 2 (My Ship 2)*



TUI Cruises, a joint venture of TUI AG and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd, becomes the newest operator to offer cruise services in the Gulf from Dubai. This will be the fourth cruise operator to offer such services in the Gulf that is gradually becoming a new cruise destination in the global cruise tourism map.

Starting in November 2012 the cruise line TUI Cruises will for the first time use Dubai as its home port and offer cruises to Abu Dhabi, Muscat and to Bahrain. TUI Cruises will be operating the *Mein Schiff 2 (My Ship 2)* cruise liner in the Gulf.

TUI Cruises will offer its services through Dubai Cruise Terminal, operated by the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM).

Welcoming the move, Hamad Bin Mejren, DTCM Executive Director for Business Tourism, said, “It will be the fourth cruise operator to use Dubai as a regional hub for cruise tourism in the Gulf which is becoming a popular destination for international cruise tourists.”

Bin Mejren thanked the CEO of TUI Cruises for choosing Dubai for cruise operations.

“I would like to also extend my sincerest thanks to DP World, Dubai Customs, Dubai Police, Department of Residency and Foreigners Affairs, Emirates Airline and the private sector organisations,” he added.

The press conference was also attended by Jamal Humaid, Director of Cruise Terminal and other senior officials.

From 4 November 2012 to 24 March 2013 TUI Cruises has a total of 20 one-week cruises on its programme. Two Trans-Arabian cruises, one that takes the feel-good ship from the Mediterranean to Dubai in October/November 2012 and one that retraces the same route back to the Mediterranean in March/April 2013 round off the new timetable.

The Dubai & Orient cruises start and finish in Dubai, the city of superlatives in which cruise passengers can experience some of the most impressive architecture of the 21 century. A beach day on Jumeirah Beach with a view of the World, the artificial archipelago of dredged sand in the form of a world map, or a 4×4 desert excursion, are but a few of the unforgettable experiences that make Dubai such an attractive home port.

The ship already pulls into Dubai on the sixth morning of the seven-day cruise so that guests still have a whole day at their disposal to discover Dubai.

“With these cruises running out of Dubai we are quite proud that we can for the first time offer our passengers such an attractive routing,” declares Richard J. Vogel, CEO at TUI Cruises. “Dubai is a fascinating city and as a cruise home port delivers the benefits of experience and top-notch service quality. Modern terminals in the port, many direct flights from Germany and a strategic, favourable location in the Persian Gulf add up to make Dubai the perfect hub for TUI Cruises,” concludes Vogel.

The Trans-Arabian Cruise from 20 October to 4 November 2012 takes Mein Schiff 2 from Antalya in Turkey via Port Said in Egypt through the Suez Canal to Aqaba in Jordan. The cruise ship then makes a port of call in Safaga, Egypt before beginning a four-day passage to Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman. After two more days at sea the ship reaches Dubai. Mein Schiff 2 retraces the same route

from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean, calling in on the same destinations in reverse order, from 24 March to 7 April 2013.

Editor's Note

TUI Cruises is a joint venture of TUI AG and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., the cruise-ship company which operates all over the world. The company was set up in April 2008 with its registered office in Hamburg, and since May 2009 has been offering holidays on the high seas for the German-speaking market. Mein Schiff 1 is the first ship in the fleet and is equipped from bow to stern with facilities to ensure relaxation and the feel-good factor for its guests. With its Premium All-Inclusive concept, TUI Cruises is targeting couples and families for whom space, generously-dimensioned facilities, quality and individual service are the primary considerations.

May 2011 will see Mein Schiff 2 coming into service as its sister ship. The fleet will then offer more a total of 3836 berths.