

16 December 2010



Irish rugby fans flood into Swansea / Wales

Irish rugby fans will be arriving in Swansea in full force this weekend on a dedicated service by Fastnet Line, the Swansea to Cork ferry service.

The ferry will be providing a special rugby sailing to carry the Munster rugby supporters to Swansea for the Heineken Cup clash with Ospreys on Saturday 18th December.

The fans will be leaving late on Friday night from Cork and will be arriving in Swansea early morning on Saturday in time for kick off at the Liberty Stadium.

Fastnet Line will also provide coach transfers for supporters taking them from the ferry port to and from the game.

Commenting on the sailings, general manager (UK) of Fastnet Line, Mike Wood, said:
"Putting on an additional sailing for Munster fans is a great way to highlight how close the South Wales coast really is.

"We are expecting hundreds of supporters to travel with us on the weekend and hopefully the experience will prompt fans to take a return trip and explore the area in more detail.

"The match will no doubt be a closely fought battle following Munster's narrow victory over the Ospreys last weekend. It's still all to play for in what is proving to be one of the most competitive pools in the Heineken Cup competition."

This will be the second time that Fastnet Line has put on a dedicated sailing for Munster fans and if it continues to be successful then the idea could be rolled out for the six nations matches next year.

Businesses in south Wales have reported increased tourism activity since the reopening of the route and it is hoped that initiatives like this will continue this upward trend.

The Fastnet Line runs an overnight service from Swansea to Cork eight times a week during the summer and six nights a week in the winter months. The service enables travellers to Cork and its surrounding holiday areas, to avoid an equivalent overland road journey of 370 miles.

Ends

For more information on Fastnet Line please visit www.fastnetline.com

Further media information please contact Katie Brandon at Equinox Communications on 029 20764100 or Katie@equinoxcommunications.co.uk

Ferry Times:

Low Season

High Season

	Depart Swansea	Depart Cork		Depart Swansea	Depart Cork
Monday	- Layover Cork -			20:00	
Tuesday		20:00			20:00
Wednesday	20:00			20:00	
Thursday		20:00			20:00
Friday	20:00			20:00	
Saturday		20:00			20:00
Sunday	20:00			09:00	20:00

FASTNET LINE – BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Fastnet Line is a wholly owned subsidiary of West Cork Tourism Co-op which was set up in April 2009 following a long public campaign to reintroduce this much-missed service to the South West region of Ireland. Funded mainly by private investors from Cork, Kerry and South Wales, the service has been dubbed “The Peoples’ Ferry”. The Co-Op acquired the ship in September 09.

Fastnet Line executives and managers have many years of experience in ferry, hotel and customer-service environments and aim to make the new service the most convenient and comfortable way to cross the Irish Sea. This, coupled with an overwhelming support for the service both in its local area and in Wales, augurs well for the success of this year-round service.

Investors: Fastnet Line is also offering investment opportunities for those interested in becoming members of the Co-Op with Platinum Shareholders entitled to 50% discount on their fares. Information on www.fastnetline.com or from 00 353 21 4378892 weekdays 9am – 5.30pm.

THE SERVICE:

This all year round service, which will carry passengers, cars, commercial freight, campers/caravans, bikes and pets will run 6 nights a week, with additional sailings in high-season, i.e. July and August.

Sailing will be overnight departing at 20.00 hours and arriving 08.00 next day.

THE SHIP:

154 metres long (longer than Croke Park, Ireland's largest football stadium!).

Max passenger capacity: 1,500

Max car capacity: 335

Max Freight capacity: 40 trucks/ trailers.

Cabins: 300.

Public Areas: Extensive deck areas for sightseeing.

Cinema: On board cinema

Shopping: On board retail

Activities on Board: Casino.

Crew: Crew of 80.

Bars: Includes the Cape Clear Bar, named after Ireland's most southerly island and The Island Bar –spacious and comfortable and providing entertainment.

Restaurants: There are four restaurants aboard to cater to all tastes including The Fastnet Restaurant which will offer a grill room style menu and the Mumbles Bistro a self-service style restaurant with children's menu.

Kennels: On board dog kennels - 15 kennels

Versatile ship which is well suited to the route.

THE BENEFITS;

Road trip savings of over 370 miles over alternative sea crossings to Southern Ireland..

Comfort and luxury: Consider the sea crossing as a mini-cruise. With comfortable cabins, extensive public areas and a selection of restaurants and bars passengers can enjoy life on the ocean wave en route to their destination.

ACCESS:

The MV Julia docks at the Ferry Terminal, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork – just 10 miles outside Cork city (20 mins). West Cork and all its glorious beaches, scenery and excellent bars, restaurants, hotels and family attractions is less than an hour's drive from the ferry terminal.

The MV Julia docks in Swansea docks with direct access to the M4, and just one mile from Swansea City Centre, with the beauty of Swansea Bay, Mumbles and Gower within easy reach. Cities on the M4 route include Newport, Bristol, Swindon, Reading and London, offering exciting rendezvous points in the hinterland. The M5 from Swansea takes you into the heart of Devon and Cornwall or visitors can drive north and explore Wales and all it has to offer.

CURRENT OFFERS/SAILING INFORMATION:

For details of current offers log on to www.fastnetline.com or call Fastnet Line

UK Reservations +44 (0) 844 576 8831

Irish Reservations 00 353 21 4378892

Shareholders Reservations 00 353 21 4378892

Group & Freight Reservations 00 353 21 4378892

Or email: info@fastnetline.com

For information on visitor attractions in Ireland please log on to:

www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

For information on visitor attractions in Wales please log on to:

www.visitwales.com