

08 March 2011



Swansea to Cork ferry service resumes in time for St Patrick's Day

Fastnet Line, who operate the Swansea to Cork ferry service, will resume its sailings on Wednesday 9th March after an extended period in dry dock in time for the Wales Ireland Six Nations clash and St Patrick's Day celebrations on March 17th.

Fastnet Line's ship, the MV Julia, will leave Swansea at 20:30 on Wednesday evening on route to Cork for the first time since it entered dry dock on the 19 January 2011, resuming its low season sailing schedule.

The company decided to leave the vessel in dry dock for an extended period for a routine annual overhaul and to look into the prospect of adding an additional three new superior cabins, which will be ready in time for the summer season.

The company will be celebrating a successful first operational year later this month after exceeding all projected expectations. In its first year the ship carried more than 78,000 passengers 3,000 more than expected and in its second year it is hoping to increase passenger numbers to more than 100,000.

Mike Wood, general manager (UK) for Fastnet Line, said: "We are really looking forward to resuming our spring sailings.

"We are expecting a large number of bookings in readiness for the Wales v. Ireland Six Nations clash on March 12 in the Millennium Stadium and in return we are offering our rugby customers a special return price of £69

We hope that it will highlight to Irish fans how close the south Wales coast really is and that the experience will prompt fans to take a return trip and explore the area in more detail."

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 saves travellers to Cork and its surrounding holiday areas, the 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 -			20.30	
Tuesday		20.30			20.30
Wednesday	20.30			20.30	
Thursday		20:30			20.30
Friday	20:30			20.30	
Saturday		20:30			20.30
Sunday	20:30			09:00	20.30

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 or through investment in secured bonds. 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 21.00 hours and arriving 07.00 a.m. next day.

THE SHIP:

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

Max passenger capacity: 1,860

Max car capacity: 440

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 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 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.

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 (23 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, 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