

A DREAM of a CRUISE to Scandinavia and the Baltic

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Dover has become one of the most popular ports for passengers who are choosing to cruise to Scandinavia and the Baltic. Just one of the ships making this trip in 1998 was a newcomer to Dover's Cruise Terminal.

The *Norwegian Dream* was the first cruise ship to leave Dover for the Baltic this year. It was also the first cruise the ship made under her new name. Previously called the *Dreamward*, the ship had been to Bremmerhaven for a refit, where she had been "stretched" to increase her passenger capacity from 1400 to 1800 and her tonnage to 45,000 GRT. She stayed in Dover for two days before departing on the first of her nine twelve-day cruises out of Dover this summer. On a cruise entitled "Scandinavian and Baltic Capitals", she sailed through the Kiel Canal to her first stop, Muuga, for an afternoon in Tallinn, Estonia. Thereafter she visited St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Oslo, allowing its passengers two days in St. Petersburg, an evening and one day in Copenhagen and one day in each of the other ports.

The choice of this type of cruise was, apparently, a popular one. In a short time the passenger is able to visit many different countries and bring away a flavour and a feeling of each. Cruising, it seems to me, is all a matter of choices. When on the ship, one has to choose from a wide variety of activities and as soon as the ship ties up in port, one is faced

with even more bewildering and difficult options. One has to accept, from the outset, that it is impossible to see everything in a short visit and the most one can hope for is to get, at least, the feel of a place, perhaps just enough to know whether one would like to return at a future date. Whatever the reason, this was the choice of thousands of passengers this summer.

In 1998, from the beginning of May to the end of August, of 87 cruise ship departures from Dover, 53 were for various destinations in Scandinavia or the Baltic. The ships making the most trips to these destinations were as follows:

- 9 trips *Norwegian Dream* (Norwegian Cruise Lines)
- 7 trips *Royal Princess* (Princess Cruises)
- 5 trips *Pacific Princess* (Princess Cruises)
- 6 trips *Black Watch* (Fred Olsen Cruises)
- 5 trips *Black Prince* (Fred Olsen Cruises)
- 6 trips *Saga Rose* (Saga Holidays)

The peak month for visiting Scandinavia and the Baltic was July.

Out of 16 cruise ship movements from Dover in May, six were to the Baltic. In June out of 21 cruises from Dover, seven were to the Baltic and seven to the Norwegian Fjords. In July 25 cruises left from

Dover, with eleven to the Baltic, eight to the Norwegian Fjords and two to Iceland. By August the number of cruises to the Baltic and Scandinavia decreased. Out of 25 cruises leaving Dover in August, only twelve were to the Baltic or the fjords. Ships which had cruised the northern waters all summer were making for the Mediterranean.

On the 31st August, the *Dream* visited Dover for the last time this season. Having completed nine Baltic cruises, she was bound for St. Peter Port, and then the Mediterranean, where she would make several cruises before leaving Europe to winter in the Caribbean.



The *Norwegian Dream* passing through the Kiel Canal