



MAIDEN CALLS & FIRST CALLS IN JANUARY TO APRIL 2001

From January to April this year, three cruise ships made their maiden/first calls to Singapore. They were the Renaissance One (R One), Aurora and Royal Princess.

Renaissance One

The R One made her maiden call very timely on 1 Jan 2001, New Year's Day. She arrived from Malacca and sailed from Singapore to Ho Chi Minh City the next day. The R One is part of a new series of eight luxurious Renaissance cruise ships, replacing the original series of eight smaller Renaissance vessels. She is owned by Renaissance Cruises (USA), which is headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

A plaque presentation ceremony was organised by the local port agents, BarWil Agencies on board the vessel on Jan 2. Capt Derrick Kemp, the Master of the R One, is no newcomer to Singapore, having skippered the former cruise ship Pearl of Scandinavia (Ocean Pearl) to Singapore many years ago. Ms Kathleen Gan, Singapore Cruise Centre Manager, presented a pewter plaque to Capt Kemp to commemorate the Maiden Voyage of the R One to Singapore.

The R One was built in Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in France in 1998, and has a gross tonnage of 30,300. Unlike the old series of Renaissance ships, the new R One can take up to 684 passengers and LOA is 181 metres. Her sister ship, the R TWO, made her Maiden Voyage to Singapore earlier in December 2000.

Aurora

The 76,000 gross-ton Aurora made her Maiden Voyage to Singapore on March. P & O Princess Cruises is the world's third largest cruise line. Her predecessor, the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company was one of the pioneer shipping companies to make their presence in Singapore and the Far East as early as the 19th Century.

The Aurora was commissioned in April 2000 and carries up to 1,874 passengers. She is part of the P & O (UK) fleet of four ships comprising the Oriana, Arcadia and Victoria, which call at Singapore once a year on their Round-The-World cruises. The local port agents are Steamers Feedership (99) Pte Ltd and the GSA is P & O Travel (Singapore) Pte Ltd. Mr Kelvin Latta, Vice President (Logistics Business Division), presented a pewter plaque to Capt Stephen Burgdine, Master of the Aurora.

Royal Princess

P & O Princess Cruises are renowned for their series of Princess cruise ships, otherwise known as the Love Boat, which made their debut in the TV Series of the same name in 1976. On April 6, the 44,588 gross-ton Royal Princess made her First Call to Singapore. She was built in Finland in 1984 but was refurbished in 1995. She arrived from Ho Chi Minh City and left for Port Klang the same day. The local port agents are C F Sharp Agencies and the GSA is P & O Travel (Singapore) Pte Ltd. Ms Kathleen Gan and Capt Bob Oliver exchanged plaques at a presentation ceremony on board the ship.