

# Press release

March 4, 2014

## **The M/S Viking XPRS breaks an all-time record: 10,000,000 passengers have travelled on the vessel**

Since it went into service on April 28, 2008, the Viking Line vessel M/S Viking XPRS has transported 10 million passengers. No other vessel in Viking Line's service area has ever recorded such a large passenger volume within the same time period. The Finnish-built vessel operates twice daily between Helsinki (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia). Even during the first summer, its popularity surpassed all expectations as 567,000 passengers chose to travel on the Viking XPRS during June-August. The Viking XPRS reached five million passengers after a bit more than three years – even then a record for a single Viking Line vessel.



### **Popular concept**

The vessel's most popular travel product is its day cruise, leaving Helsinki at 11.30 a.m. and arriving in Tallinn at 2.00 p.m. The cruise gives passengers four hours to spend in the Estonian capital. The return voyage departs at 6.00 p.m. (Sundays: 4.30 p.m.), and passengers are back in Helsinki at 8.30 p.m. These day cruises attract families, passengers with cars on board as well as conference guests. The evening departure from Helsinki at 9.30 p.m. can be combined with an overnight stay on board until 7 a.m. the next morning. For passengers with cars setting

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off on long trips in the Baltic countries, this is a popular alternative since they can continue by car early in the morning and avoid the worst rush-hour traffic.

## New! Increased number of summer sailings to Tallinn, June 12–August 31, 2014

This summer the morning departure of the M/S Viking XPRS from Tallinn will occur one hour earlier than usual, while its evening departure will remain the same. The M/S Gabriella and the M/S Mariella, which provide cruise service between Helsinki and Stockholm (Sweden), ordinarily spend seven hours in Helsinki harbour during the daytime. This summer, these two vessels will take turns making one daily trip to Tallinn and back, which will mean more departures between Helsinki and Tallinn. The new return departure at 2.25 p.m. will be welcomed by returning hotel guests, among others.

### Timetable: M/S Mariella, M/S Gabriella, M/S Viking XPRS

(24-hour clock)

#### June 12 – August 31, 2014

Sto		Mar		Hel	Hel		Tal	Vessel
					09.15 am	<-	7.00 am	XPRS
					10.00 am	->	12.25 pm	XPRS
4.30 pm	->	11.45 pm	->	09.50 am	11.00 am	->	1.40 pm	MA/GA
10.00 am	<-	04.25 am	<-	6.15 pm	5.05 pm	<-	2.25 pm	MA/GA
					8.30 pm	<-	6.00 pm	XPRS
					9.30 pm	->	12.00 am	XPRS

## Ten millionth passenger honoured in style

On March 4, 2014, the ten millionth passenger on the Viking XPRS was warmly received right at the departing terminal, where he/she was surprised with flowers and a prize. This milestone in the history of the vessel was also the theme of the entire departure, and during the voyage across the Gulf of Finland the winner toasted the occasion along with Hanna Alajärvi from Keminmaa, and received a prize of a new voyage in a luxury cabin, including meals and champagne.



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“Since late February, we have been excitedly waiting for the number of passengers to reach ten million. Now that this has become a reality, we wanted everyone on board to enjoy an unforgettable cruise and we wanted to specially honour our ten millionth passenger,” explains Jaakko Ahti, Product Manager.

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