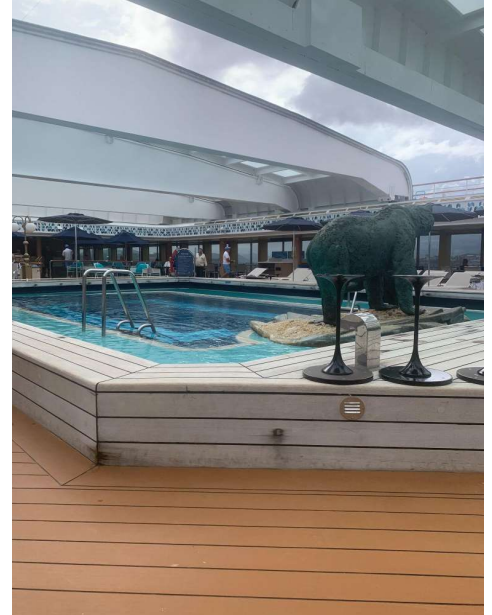


## Fred Olsen Cruise - Bank Holiday Break to Spain

August 2023 *By Fleur Lawrie*



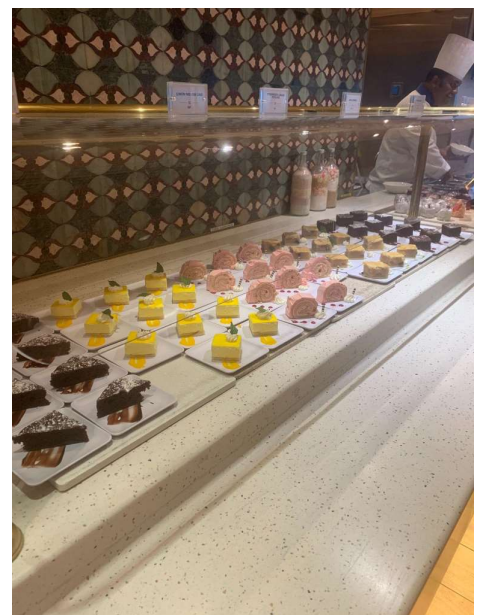
Over the August bank holiday, I enjoyed my first ever cruise with my Dad, on the beautiful Bolette with Fred Olsen. I embarked at Southampton and sailed to Getxo for Bilbao and La Coruna. As a first time cruiser I was not sure what to expect, but I found the experience very enjoyable. Fred Olsen is known for having smaller ships and I found the Bolette had a warm intimate atmosphere, very relaxed and friendly too. All staff on board were amazing, they worked so hard and they could not do enough for you. Nothing was too much trouble for them and their service was outstanding!



I had an outside cabin with a large picture window, which I found to be very comfy and spacious and was made up twice a day, both morning and evening. Once I returned to my cabin in the evening, there would be a daily Fred Olsen newspaper to read with all the events coming up for the following day, in addition you also received a small chocolate on your pillow, which was a lovely touch!

My favourite spots on the ship were the bookmark cafe, where I could read my book whilst the waves went by! Also, the lovely warm jacuzzi and the outdoor swimming pool. I enjoyed a Swedish Massage in the Atlantis Spa onboard, and it was one of the best massages I have ever experienced! There is entertainment each night, and my favourite was the Comedian and the live shows, which were very professional. They also have live music in the bars most evenings and they even had a silent disco one evening in the observatory, which was great fun.

Another one of my other favourite moments on the cruise was traditional afternoon tea (which was delicious!) where I enjoyed panoramic views and there was also a pianist. There is an



additional charge for afternoon tea which you can book online beforehand or when you get onboard, which costs £13 per person.

We were not worried about doing any of the ship excursions, as we were happy to do our own thing. It was nice to have breakfast in the morning then disembark and explore the different ports. For Bilbao, Fred Olsen offered a free shuttle bus to the metro station in Getxo, where you could then catch the metro into Bilbao. This took around 30 minutes and only cost a few Euros. For La Coruna, the port is right there so you are able to disembark from the ship and have a wander around the town without the need of getting transport.

Included in the cost of your cruise, is a variety of different restaurants for you to choose from and for any appetite from a full A la carte service in the dining room, grabbing a bite in the buffet that offers various different options or for something special in one of the speciality restaurants. With so much to choose from, you will be spoilt for choice!

Fred Olsen is aimed at a more mature age group compared to me, but this experience has given me a taste for cruising and I look forward to exploring different ships in the future.

