

**Press Release**

**Date: 14-03-2020**

**Brittany Ferries confirms immediate changes to ferry schedules**

Brittany Ferries has outlined a series of changes to its schedules, in response to the on-going Coronavirus crisis.

On 12 March, the French government announced steps to protect its citizens. As a company employing all-French crew, Brittany Ferries must also respond quickly. It must prepare for the possibility that many crew may not be available to work, either through self-isolation or because they are caring for family members at home.

In addition the Spanish government has announced a state of alert, applicable from 14 March. This follows a significant increase in Coronavirus cases and advice from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office guidance advising citizens to avoid travel to certain regions of Spain.

The measures are therefore designed to ensure sufficient crew are available to operate as many services as possible, while responding to the dynamic political situation in Spain.

The following changes will apply until at least 9 April 2020:

1. Brittany Ferries will withdraw **Étretat** from service, following its arrival into Le Havre on Tuesday 17th March. This ship currently operates the following schedule:

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| **Day** |  |  |  |
| **Monday** | Arrive Le Havre 0830  Depart Le Havre 1500 | Arrive Portsmouth 1930  Depart Portsmouth 2130 |  |
| **Tuesday** | Arrive Le Havre 0830  Depart Le Havre 1700 | Arrive Portsmouth 2130  Depart Portsmouth 2330 |  |
| **Wednesday** | Arrive Le Havre 0830  Depart Le Havre 1700 | Arrive Portsmouth 2130  Depart Portsmouth 2330 |  |
| **Thursday** | Arrive Le Havre 0830  Depart Le Havre 1430 | Arrive Portsmouth 1900 |  |
| **Friday** | Depart Portsmouth 0800 | Arrive Le Havre 1430  Depart Le Havre 1700 | Arrive Portsmouth 2130  Depart Portsmouth 2330 |
| **Saturday** | Arrive Le Havre 0830  Depart Le Havre 1700 | Arrive Portsmouth 2130  Depart Portsmouth 2330 |  |
| **Sunday** | Arrive Le Havre 0830  Depart Le Havre 1415 | Arrive Portsmouth 1845  Depart Portsmouth 2045 |  |

1. Following her dry-dock in Poland, **Pont-Aven** will not return to service on Tuesday as planned on 17 March until at least 9 April 2020. Pont-Aven was scheduled to serve the following destinations: Portsmouth-Santander-Plymouth-Roscoff-Cork.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** |  |  |
| **Monday** | Arrive Santander 1215  Depart Santander 1515 |  |
| **Tuesday** | Arrive Portsmouth 1415  Depart Portsmouth 1715 |  |
| **Wednesday** | Arrive Santander 1815  Depart Santander 2115 |  |
| **Thursday** | Arrive Plymouth 1630  Depart Plymouth 2045 |  |
| **Friday** | Arrive Roscoff 0800  Depart Roscoff 2030 |  |
| **Saturday** | Arrive Cork  0930  Depart Cork 1600 |  |
| **Sunday** | Arrive Roscoff 0700  Depart Roscoff 0930 | Arrive Plymouth 1345  Depart Plymouth 1615 |

1. Brittany Ferries’ **Kerry** service operating between Rosslare and Bilbao will take only freight. The last passenger service will leave Bilbao at 12:00 Sunday 15 March bound for Rosslare. This change applies until at least 9 April 2020.

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| --- | --- |
| **Day** |  |
| **Monday** | Arrive Rosslare 1600  Depart Rosslare 2330 |
| **Tuesday** | Arrive Roscoff 1530  Depart Roscoff 1900 |
| **Wednesday** | Arrive Rosslare 0800  Depart Rosslare 1100 |
| **Thursday** | Arrive Bilbao 1600  Depart Bilbao  1845 |
| **Friday** | Arrive Rosslare 2130  Depart Rosslare 2330 |
| **Saturday** | At Sea |
| **Sunday** | Arrive Bilbao 0800  Depart Bilbao 1200 |

1. Brittany Ferries’ freight-only service **Pelican,** linking Bilbao in Spain with Poole in the UK will take only unaccompanied trailers (as opposed to trailer+driver) with immediate effect.

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| --- | --- |
| **Day** |  |
| **Monday** | Arrive Bilbao 0800  Depart Bilbao 1400 |
| **Tuesday** | Arrive Poole 2000  Depart Poole 2359 |
| **Wednesday** | At Sea |
| **Thursday** | Arrive Bilbao 1400  Depart Bilbao 2000 |
| **Friday** | At Sea |
| **Saturday** | Arrive Poole 1000  Depart Poole 1600 |
| **Sunday** | At Sea |

These changes will be reviewed by directors in the days and weeks to come. All passengers with existing reservations will be offered a full refund. Where possible - and acceptable to the traveller - alternative arrangements will be made on other Brittany Ferries services.

“On behalf of everyone in the company, I would like to apologise for the significant disruption this will cause to many customers,” said Christophe Mathieu, CEO Brittany Ferries. “However, under the extraordinary circumstances of the current crisis, we have no option but to take decisive action now to respond to the challenges we face. We thank everyone for their understanding at this difficult time.”

It is likely that customer relations teams in all markets will be extremely busy in the days to come. In addition, normal two-way interaction via social media may not be possible due to the volume of enquiries and availability of staff.

Brittany Ferries apologises in advance for delays in usual response times.

Ends.

***About Brittany Ferries***

In 1967 a farmer from Finistère in Brittany, Alexis Gourvennec, succeeded in bringing together a variety of organisations from the region to embark on an ambitious project: the aim was to open up the region, to improve its infrastructure and to enrich its people by turning to traditional partners such as Ireland and the UK.

In 1972 BAI (Brittany-England-Ireland) was born. The first cross-Channel link was inaugurated in January 1973, when a converted Israeli tank-carrier called Kerisnel left the port of Roscoff for Plymouth carrying trucks loaded with Breton vegetables such as cauliflowers and artichokes. The story therefore begins on 2 January 1973, 24 hours after Great Britain's entry into the Common Market (EEC). From these humble beginnings however Brittany Ferries as the company was re-named quickly opened up to passenger transport, then became a tour operator.

Today, Brittany Ferries has established itself as the national leader in French maritime transport: an atypical leader, under private ownership, still owned by a Breton agricultural cooperative. Eighty five percent of the company’s passengers are British. Around 210,000 freight units are carried each year.

**Key figures:**

* Turnover: Approximately €444.2m per year
* €550m investment in fleet renewal, including three new ships powered by cleaner LNG (liquefied natural gas)
* Employment - Between 2400 and 3100 employees (including 1,700 seafarers), depending on the season. 360 in the UK.
* Passengers: Between 2.5 and 2.7 million each year travelling in approximately 900,000 cars
* Freight: 205,400 units transported annually, and one freight-only route linking Bilbao and Poole
* Twelve ships operating services that connect France, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Spain
* Twelve ports in total: Bilbao, Santander, Portsmouth, Poole, Plymouth, Cork, Rosslare, Caen, Cherbourg, Le Havre, Saint-Malo, Roscoff
* Tourism in Europe: There were 854,000 unique visitors, staying 9.2 million bed-nights in France.

[www.brittanyferriesnewsroom.com](http://www.brittanyferriesnewsroom.com).

**Contact:**

Ellis Malcolm on 02392 892 221 or 07464 980 594 or [ellis.malcolm@brittanyferries.com](mailto:ellis.malcolm@brittanyferries.com)

Christopher Jones on 02392 152 291 or 07917 540 878 or [Christopher.jones@brittanyferries.com](mailto:Christopher.jones@brittanyferries.com)

Nigel Wonnacott on 02392 152 273 or 07833 446 729 or [Nigel.wonnacott@brittanyferries.com](mailto:Nigel.wonnacott@brittanyferries.com)