**Brittany Ferries Galicia – Press pack**

**High-res images**: [www.brittanyferriesnewsroom.com/image\_category/Galicia/](http://www.brittanyferriesnewsroom.com/image_category/Galicia/)



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# Introduction

Brittany Ferries is committed to a future in which respect for the environment is as important as its drive to enrich the regions in which it operates. All encompassed within its brand mission to reveal beautiful destinations around the coastlines of the European west.

As part of a comprehensive fleet renewal programme, the company will welcome three vessels that combine the best in comfort, technology, safety and respect for the environment. All three will have joined the fleet by 2023. Galicia is the first.

Built at the CMJL (China Merchants Jinling Shipyard) shipyard in Weihai, China, these three E-Flexer class ships will be operated under charter to Swedish group Stena RoRo for a period of five years with an option to buy. Each will proudly fly the French flag and be crewed by French seafarers.

With a length of 215 metres, hosting 3,000 lane metres of garage space, each weighs around 42,200 tonnes, making them among the largest in the Company's fleet. Galicia’s arrival is a fine counterpoint to the Covid crisis. And a good news story for the company, stakeholders and its customers.

"The renewal and modernisation of our fleet is an integral part of our five-year recovery plan,” said Christophe Mathieu, company CEO speaking in late 2020. “Galicia is the result of an order placed in a very different times than we face today.”

Galicia will serve routes connecting the UK with Spain and France. She will offer passengers a truly immersive and relaxing experience prior to their stay in Spain, a voyage presenting discovery and hidden gems, but also the chance to switch off, relax and unwind.

Eco-responsibility has been at the heart of design plans: its sleek hull is the latest in efficient design, while its size allows Brittany Ferries to carry more passengers and freight while consuming less fuel, thereby emitting less CO2 per passenger (see page 12 for more).

"Our customers expect modern, comfortable and environmentally friendly ships,” added Christophe Mathieu. “We can only achieve these goals with new and innovative vessels. The Galicia is a testament to our confidence in the future and our ability to meet the demands of our passenger and freight customers in the decades to come.”

# 1 – How was she named?

In May 2018 the company opened a competition to name its next ship. Nearly 300 members of staff applied, from all sites in which Brittany Ferries operates. As well as on board its ships, of course.

The winner was a member of the bar staff on board Normandie (workhorse of the Portsmouth to Caen route). He won a round trip with his family on the ship's first commercial crossing.

The name he chose, Galicia, comes from the Gallaeci, the Celtic tribe that colonised the area in pre-Roman times, giving it a lasting cultural link with the company's headquarters in Roscoff and its destinations in Ireland.

At the time Christophe Mathieu commented: “I am delighted that this name has been chosen as the name of a fabulous Spanish destination.”

So where is Galicia? Well, it is an autonomous region in north-western Spain, perhaps Spain’s best-kept secret. It plays host to a multitude of fine sandy beaches, coves hidden in the cliffs, but also rolling mountain ranges and is best known for the emblematic city of Santiago de Compostela. It is a region rich in cultural heritage (selection of Galicia images free to download from newsroom).

# 2 - Construction step-by-step

Construction of the ship began on 30 July 2018, as first steel was cut at the shipyard in Weihai. On 16 January 2019, the second major milestone took place: the keel-laying ceremony in the presence of the members of Brittany Ferries management board. The first steel section of the ship was laid in the huge shipyard.

Galicia was floated out on 10 September 2019. Then, from 27 July to 03 August 2020, she undertook sea trials in the Yellow Sea, to assess performance and to ensure everything was working properly.

With all going to plan, Brittany Ferries team members flew from Roscoff to Gothenburg on 3 September 2020 for the virtual delivery of the Galicia. The ceremony was held in Stena's home city and brought together Brittany Ferries management team and the construction project team, Stena Group managers and the teams in China via videoconference.

The delivery ceremony marked a further important milestone. It was the green light for the ship to move from China to Europe, ahead of its first sailing with Brittany Ferries.

Galicia therefore left the shipyard on 12 September 2020. After a long journey, taking in the Suez Canal, she arrived in Cherbourg for the very first time on 12 October 2020. Her arrival was followed by ramp tests in the various ports including Portsmouth and Plymouth, and to a sense of great excitement and anticipation among staff, customers, media, stakeholders – and, of course, the Brittany Ferries Enthusiasts who had tracked every step of her journey en route!

She then sailed to Santander for the final touches at the Astander shipyard: hull painting, installation of computer networks, and important things like positioning the artwork. Crew members were trained, ready for the ship’s first commercial crossing, planned for Wednesday 2 December, leaving Santander destined for Portsmouth.

# 3 – Spain in the spotlight

In a first for French-owned Brittany Ferries, Galicia was built from the keel up with the ship’s Iberian destination at heart.

A warm, relaxing and authentic Spanish holiday ambiance fills  the ship’s interiors, with décor, paintings, photography, sculptures and murals inviting passengers to take a journey through the towns, countryside and coastlines of northern Spain, and to delve into the rich artistic and cultural heritage of the region that bears her name.

Galicia is the north-western corner of Spain—a unique place of beauty and culture, imbued with Celtic heritage and blessed with natural wonders, vibrant towns, and welcoming people.

The Spanish theme even extends to the food and drinks served on board, with authentic Spanish dishes and drinks on the menu in bars and restaurants.

“This is the very first time in the history of Brittany Ferries that we have designed, themed and decorated a ship around Spain,” said Christophe Mathieu, CEO ahead of the first crossing.

“Galicia is the first in an entirely new Spanish-themed class of ship for Brittany Ferries, with two sister ships, Salamanca and Santoña coming in 2022 and 2023.   We can’t wait to welcome the first customers onboard, and to give them a true taste of Spain as they sail towards it in comfort and style.”

# 4 – Galicia brings the Brittany Ferries brand to life

Galicia is the first ship to encapsulate Brittany Ferries new brand, and its new promise to passengers.

Four years in the making, she is the first of three innovative new E-flexer ferries which will be sailing the company's routes by 2023. As well as one there-and-back connecting Portsmouth and Cherbourg each week, Galicia will cruise overnight twice a week between Portsmouth and Santander. Passengers will disembark within easy driving distance of this dramatic coastline - and the ancient settlements of the unique Spanish region whose name this beautiful ship wears.

But Galicia the ship says “why wait for arrival?” For on board, Brittany Ferries aims to bring an authentic taste of Galicia to passengers while they're sailing. It’s all part of the company’s focussed mission to reveal the beautiful destinations around the coastline of the European West.

"We don't just want to take you there," says Brittany Ferries' strategy director Catherine Querné, who leads interior design for the entire fleet. "We want to bring your curiosity alive about our destinations before you've arrived. If you just want to relax, we have that covered too. But there's so much there to be discovered aboard Galicia, and aboard all our ships in future."

It all started with a naming competition among staff. Galicia was a perfect choice. The name derives from the Gallaeci, the Celtic tribe who settled the region in pre-Roman times, giving it a lasting cultural link with the company's home in Brittany and its destinations in Ireland.

"We wanted to portray Galicia in an authentic way," says Catherine. "So we reached out to colleagues and friends who are themselves Galician, and asked them what they most loved about their region. Their responses have directly inspired many of the features you'll find aboard the ship."

Although the company’s mission to reveal the destinations of the European West is new, the way in which Catherine and her team are doing it will feel familiar to anyone who has ever sailed with the company: with great food, great art, and great interior design that meets the needs of passengers when they come aboard, based on Catherine’s unrivalled 35-year experience.

The layout of all three new E-Flexer ferries is more-or-less the same, so regular passengers will be able to find their way around easily, but each will host unique interior design. Galicia's was created in collaboration with award-winning architect Richard Nilsson, who even listened to traditional local music while working on the project to immerse himself completely in the Galician theme.

Each of the three main passenger decks has a distinct theme; inspired by the region's coastline, its towns and cities, and its countryside. The Camino de Santiago, the ancient network of pilgrim's ways which converge on Galicia's capital Santiago de Compostela from across Europe provides a subtle and very appropriate design theme across the entire ship.

The numbers on the cabin doors, for example, are displayed on a background shaped like a scallop shell, the centuries-old symbol taken from the coast by those completing the epic on-foot journey to Santiago: just one example of the eye for detail that is integral to delivering the Brittany Ferries brand promise.

As you'd expect of a Brittany Ferries' ship, the walls of public areas and the well-appointed cabins are adorned with original art - and in Galicia's case, even poetry - which reflects the landscapes and culture of the region.

As does the food. One dinner at the Tabernas de Tapas restaurant is included in the price of a voyage to Spain. It aims to bolster the company’s reputation for fine dining on the high seas, but this time with an authentic northern Spanish twist.

"It's very important that we bring an economic benefit to the regions we serve," notes Catherine, "and of course food has always been central to Brittany Ferries' offering. So, we've worked with organic farmers and small local producers to source what we'll serve aboard Galicia. You'll be able to enjoy cheese from the Picos de Europa mountains, for example, and if you enjoy it, you’ll be able to find the name of the individual farmer who made it."

Treating customers like individual travellers, and revealing details that would otherwise remain hidden, is what makes sailing with Brittany Ferries Galicia such a mouth-watering prospect. And it’s something which helps deliver another important pillar of Brittany Ferries' brand promise.

"We know that a voyage by sea is simply the richest way to travel," concludes Catherine. "When you're in that restaurant, you'll feel like you're already eating out on a terrace on the Galician coastline. You just can't get that with any other form of travel. We believe your holiday should start when you embark, not when you disembark."

# 5 – An art gallery on sea

Restaurants, bars, cinemas and sun-decks provide the more obvious ways to pass the time aboard a ferry. But Brittany Ferries has always hosted another, more subtle attraction in its cabins, lounges and restaurants: a carefully curated selection of original, commissioned artwork, often with a specific relevance to the vessel, or the route being sailed.

Galicia is no exception. And just like interior design and food, her art draws inspiration chiefly from the region of Spain from which she takes her name.

"Galicia is quite distinctive from the rest of Spain, in its climate, its culture and its coastline," says Kimberly Poppe, the artist who worked alongside Brittany Ferries' strategy director Catherine Querné to commission the ship's art collection.

"It's greener, and it has these wild, rocky shores, and weather that's a little more like the British Isles. It has its own language, and wonderful music that has a direct Celtic connection to Brittany and Ireland especially. We wanted to capture that in an authentic way, and reveal something fascinating about Galicia before you've disembarked."

"So we collaborated with different artists, designers and writers to evoke Galicia and to bring its culture alive. And it was also very important to us that we used artists and even poets who are themselves Galician, who know this place better than anyone else."

The artwork aboard Galicia encompasses a wide range of media including photography, paintings and sculptures. The 'Klunderbie' duo of Nienke Klunder & Wiglius de Bie are Dutch artists, photographers and art directors who now live in Spain. Their extensive portfolio includes commissions for Christian Dior, Swarovski and Elle. Playful still life work, in landscape and portrait, will adorn the walls of the Azul restaurant and Taberna de Tapas.

Galician photographer Xan Padron lives mainly in Manhattan, but a two-week stay at his eighteenth-century stone cottage back home turned into six months over lockdown. He used the time to shoot the work passengers will come to love in the travel lounge, bar and in the reading lounges. The post-lunch round of 'brisca', a Spanish card game is just one part of his focus on “castros”, Galician fortified villages, to be found in one of the ship’s lounges

There’s artist Kimberly's own photography too, shot during a trip around the region's often-deserted coastline and cities, and along the Camino to Santiago de Compostela. Her eye reveals details that visitors may otherwise overlook.

Artistic styles combine in a cocktail of harmony: there are playful paintings by Galician artist Javier Ortas and unique compositions in sand by New Yorker Mark Van Wagner. Look out too for graphic designs by artist Noemi Biro revealing something of the uniqueness of Galicia and for walls adorned with quotations from great Galician writers of the past.

Galicia has a distinct language and long tradition of story-telling and the work of six Galician female poets will be hosted in the information lounge. "It's important, but it's not the kind of information you'd expect to find at the information desk," Kimberly notes.

The ship's second artistic theme is 'Las Meninas', or the ladies-in-waiting. The original painting by the Spanish master Velázquez from 1656 is, in Kimberly's words, 'among the most studied and reproduced works in the history of art', and the distinctive figures of the young princess and her two attendants with their broad hooped skirts have been endlessly reprised.

Picasso and Dali both reinterpreted the Meninas (Picasso fifty-eight times) and it has even inspired a major public-art festival in Madrid, in which around twenty life-size Meninas statues, often in bold colours, created by artists or other personalities, are displayed in the city's streets each Autumn. These are then sold at auction, with the proceeds going to charity.

Brittany Ferries acquired two statues (one for display in the ship’s C-Club VIP lounge – the other waiting for passenger selfies), along with modern interpretation of Las Meninas by contemporary Spanish artist Alfredo Palmero and UK artist Nicholas de Lacy Brown. A canvas of the original Velázquez painting hangs too, alongside prints of some of Picasso's work and twenty smaller Meninas statuettes by different artists.

It all adds up to an impressively broad and revealing collection: there to discover - if you choose. A beautiful backdrop if you don’t. It’s a project that artists seemed to love too.

"This was absolutely my most unusual commission, and my most exciting," says photographer Xan Padron. "In Galicia, our language and culture is very clearly defined, and quite different to other parts of Spain. When people in New York ask me about flamenco, I tell them that I don't relate to it at all. We relate more to northern Portugal, and of course to the Celtic nations, with whom we've always connected by sea. So when Kimberly told me that the commission was for a ship, and what its name would be, I was engaged from that very moment. This is a land I really love, and it's an honour to represent it like this."

The Klunderbies agree. "The presence of the Atlantic, the granite rocks, the green and fertile land, the wind and the traces of the Celts, together make Galicia a very intriguing place," they say. "The inhabitants we met are strong characters, brave and, just like the region, a bit mysterious. We wanted to give Galicia's passengers a peek into what we believe Galicia stands for: its people and traditions, the traditional clothing, the landscapes. We wanted to show more than just a pretty image."

"Our jobs are never the same, but this is definitely the first time that we've made art to travel continuously between two countries. That's new to us, and its very romantic."

# 6 – A “journey in taste**”**

In a first for Brittany Ferries, one dinner and one continental breakfast are included in the ticket price of a voyage through the Bay of Biscay. It’s the opportunity to taste delicious specialities, such as an enticing selection of tapas. Inspired by the best of Spain, the dishes have been created by Brittany Ferries' Chefs de Cuisine and continue a long tradition of fine dining on board.

“Locally sourced food has always been central to Brittany Ferries' offering,” said Catherine Querné. “So we have worked with organic farmers and small local producers to discover what we should serve on board Galicia.”

The 352-seat Azul restaurant offers a wide range of hot dishes and cold buffets. Gazpacho, paella or Catalan cream are on the menu and the Azul will be open for lunch and dinner. "When you are in this restaurant you will feel as if you are already eating on a terrace on the Galician coast. This is simply impossible to achieve with any other means of transport. We believe that your holiday should start when you embark, not when you disembark,” added Catherine Querné.

The Tapas Tavern is the perfect place to eat the dishes served in Iberian bars. It comes with a warm atmosphere and the promise of a wide range of tapas.

With its huge glass roof, The Plaza Mayor bar goes big on atmosphere. It draws inspiration from the city of Santiago de Compostela, the arrival point of pilgrims walking the famous Camino de Santiago. Bathed in natural light, the bar hosts a large screen for sports events and music, and is the perfect place to relax with a glass of wine or Spanish beer.

Wherever passengers choose to eat, the menus have been specially created by Patrice Pantalini, Brittany Ferries head chef, and his team for this service. Patrice Pantalini and Galicia’s head chef Michel Taloc explain more.

“We’re passionate about offering customers a unique dining experience as they sail aboard Galicia. We want them to begin and end their holiday by discovering the flavours of the regions we serve.

When we started to compose the menus for the Azur restaurant, the Taberna de Tapas, the Plaza Mayor bar, and the C-Club lounge, we set off to explore the gastronomy of our regions, with several key aims in mind:

* To offer our passengers a high-quality dining experience
* To make the most of the skills and creativity of our chefs
* To source the best products from our regions – from Brittany to Galicia, passing via the sea – to create a journey in taste.
* To showcase Spain’s speciality dishes, with an emphasis on the tapas typical of each region.
* To contribute to the life of our regions we serve, inspiring people to visit them.

So, we started our exploration by approaching local producers and cooperatives for ingredients and wines. We uncovered some of our regions’ finest produce: from anchovies and tuna from Santoña, to the prized olive oils of Xeres, to the organic rice demanded by the best paellas, to local cheeses made by shepherds, and to fruits ripened by the Spanish sun. When it came to vegetables, of course we made Brittany our priority, sourcing produce form our farmer-shareholders under the umbrella of the *Prince de Bretagne* brand.

We were struck by just how close these regions were in terms of culture and food, and by their deep respect for tradition – particularly in Brittany and Galicia. But one difference became clear. In the north of Spain, cuisine remains very much centred around the home and the family, with an emphasis on quality local produce and local recipes. In France meanwhile over the last 30 years or so the nouvelle cuisine movement has placed an emphasis on presentation, as well as flavour.

This realisation gave us an idea. Why note combine the two approaches? So, guests dining in the Azul restaurant will enjoy a truly bespoke, original experience – an adventure in food and wine, borne of our creativity. We’re delighted to offer this experience to every one of Galicia’s passengers as they sail to and from Spain. When they sit down to eat, they’ll become a part of our Brittany Ferries family as they take a culinary adventure, all included in the price of the cruise.”

# 7 – Discover, explore - then sleep well

Style, comfort and attention to detail come as standard on Galicia. A tour around her decks takes passengers on a journey of discovery inspired by the region. Bright and spacious passenger areas await, hosting shops, lounges and cabins to support every need, with each deck themed on a different aspect of the region: beach, countryside and town.

There’s a huge outside terrace on deck ten, three playrooms for children, numerous lounges, restaurants and bars and two large shops located in the heart of the ship. These cater for everything from perfume and souvenirs to wine and newspapers.

Inspired by elegant club-lounges of leading hotels, Galicia also hosts a private C-Club lounge. This is an exclusive and peaceful space, offering an assortment of snacks and drinks. Open during the day, the lounge is free of charge for those with a cabin in Commodore class. However a limited number of additional tickets are available when booked at the information desk - or in advance online.

Of course, many passengers choose to spend the majority of their time in their own cabin. The good news is that Galicia boasts some of the widest berths in the fleet. Furthermore, each cabin is equipped with a TV, as well as free video on demand (VOD), and the most comfortable of mattresses.

In total there are 343 cabins, all with en-suite bathrooms - and 37 cabins for lorry drivers. Some cabins have been adapted for passengers with reduced mobility and 22 are pet-friendly cabins reserved for passengers travelling with their dog or cat. Brittany Ferries carries around 100,000 four-legged friends per year. Galicia also hosts 21 Commodore Club cabins and three Commodores Suite cabins.

The following is a break-down of each cabin type:

**Commodore luxury suite:**  double beds (160 cm), free access to the C-Club lounge, direct access to the outside deck, TV + VOD and mini-bar (free soft drinks), breakfast option served in the cabin, sea view, large flat screen TV, free VOD on TV and personal devices (valid for everyone), tea and coffee maker, superior mattress, high quality bed linen and towels provided, free toiletries, hairdryer, UK/European and USB sockets.

**2-berth Commodore Club**: twin beds (two lower berths), free access to the Commodore C-Club lounge, water, tea/coffee making facilities, kettle/tea tray and sea view, large flat screen TV + VOD (for personal devices too), complimentary toiletries, hairdryer, UK/ European and USB sockets.

**4-berth Club cabins with porthole**: air-conditioned, equipped with twin bunk beds, window and en-suite bathroom, sea view, bunk beds, flat screen TV, VOD on TV and personal devices (valid for all passengers), hairdryer, UK/ European and USB sockets.

**2 to 4 berth interior cabins:** twin and bunk beds, air conditioning, flat screen TV + VOD on TV and personal devices, UK/European and USB sockets.

**Wheelchair accessible cabins**: 2-bunk bed cabin with porthole reserved for wheelchair users. These Premium Plus outdoor cabins are specially adapted for wheelchair users and have an alarm and telephone. Their availability is limited and early booking is essential. Twin beds, flat-screen TV + VOD on TV and personal devices, wheelchair access to the bathroom, UK/European and USB sockets. Ambient floor lighting wishing occupants “Bon voyage ˮ.

**Pet friendly 2 to 4 berth exterior cabins**: 4-berth pet-friendly cabins are air-conditioned, have a porthole, laminate flooring with space for standard size pet bed. Sea view, bunk beds, flat-screen TV + free VOD on the TV and personal devices (valid for everyone). Hairdryer, UK/European and USB sockets.

**Pet friendly 2 to 4 berth interior cabins**: 4-berth Standard Plus cabins have laminate flooring with space for a standard-sized pet bed and private bathrooms. Bunk beds, flat-screen TV + free VOD on TV and personal devices, UK/ European and USB sockets.

**Lounge seating:** Enjoy the comfort of a premium reserved seat offering you a dedicated place to relax (43 seats).

Baby cots are available, suitable for infants under 24 months.

# 8 – Pet friendly travel

Brittany Ferries loves pets and carries nearly 100,000 (in a non-Covid year). On Galicia, pets can travel in one of two ways, either in a pet-friendly cabin or in the kennel. The ship is equipped with 22 pet-friendly cabins and 12 kennel spaces. As on other ships, dogs must be muzzled as soon as they leave their owner’s car and pets are not allowed to stay in vehicles, due to the length of a crossing to Spain. Before booking, pet owners must also ensure that their pet complies with all requirements of the PETS Travel Scheme and/or any new requirements following the end of the Brexit transition period. The Brittany Ferries website has latest information about documents necessary for travel.

A member of the crew welcomes each pet owner and explains the procedure for taking the pet to the cabin or kennel. One hour before arrival at destination, an announcement is made asking pet owners to return to their pet-friendly cabin. A member of the crew then accompanies them to their car, where pets will remain until arrival. Owners are not allowed to stay in the car. After arrival, an announcement will invite passengers to return to their vehicle.

# 9 – More capacity for freight

Brittany Ferries was born of freight transport. The first Brittany Ferries (or BAI) ship was called Kerisnel. A converted Israeli tank-carrier, she delivered a cargo of Breton artichokes and cauliflowers to Plymouth from Roscoff, arriving the day after the UK had joined the EEC (forerunner to the EU). That was 2 January 1973.

The rest is history.

Today freight is still an important part of the product mix, accounting for around a quarter of the company’s revenue. And Brittany Ferries continues to look at new routes and to improve services based on the requirements of customers. For example in 2018, the company launched a Cork to Santander route with the objective of developing the freight market between Ireland and Spain. The service was subsequently moved from Rosslare to Bilbao, as hauliers and logistics businesses made clear their preference for these transport hubs.

Today, the route has become a success and is expected to do more business as more customers look for a Brexit by-pass and the end of the UK land-bridge.

The arrival of Galicia is good news for the freight sector too. She will add capacity to routes connecting the UK with Spain, capable of accommodating 155 trailers to meet the growing demand for freight transport. While the Portsmouth to Caen line remains the company's busiest, with 50% of Brittany Ferries' freight traffic, Galicia adds another string to the bow.

It serves as interesting alternative for road hauliers, looking to reduce fuel costs, tolls and environmental impact resulting from long distances covered by road through France. Given the market's reaction and the support of loyal road haulage customers, the company is positive about 2021. Freight director Simon Wagstaff explains:

“Several of our freight customers have told us that they want to increase their level of activity next year. This could result in a 15% increase in truck transport on our UK-Spain routes and a 15% increase on Ireland-Spain.ˮ

# 10 – Journey in space

When travelling, luxury means space, light and room to breathe. Recent studies have also shown the health benefits of travelling on water (<https://www.discoverferries.com/news/wellness-by-the-water>) and being around it at your destination. Here Galicia ticks all the boxes.

To start with there is a huge terrace on deck ten, the perfect spot for sunbathing and whale and dolphin spotting through the Bay of Biscay, one of the best places in the world for observing these beautiful marine mammals. But if the weather is not so good, travellers may prefer to take up position among the portholes that allow natural light to bathe lounges, presenting a beautiful oceanic vista.

Wide corridors, large staircases and airy facilities make it easy for travellers to find their way around inside the ship. The scale of every area on board makes social distancing (if necessary) straightforward.

As for the huge garage, it offers parking for more than three kilometres of vehicles and features an intuitive colour system that allows passengers to find their way around (and their car) easily. Of course travelling with a car means freeing yourself from the constraints of suitcase size; it is the opportunity to take everything that helps enrich a holiday: from bicycles and surfboards to golf bags and your family pet.

# 11 – Stay connected

Being at sea doesn’t necessarily mean losing your connection with the 21st century, albeit for many passengers a digital detox across the Bay of Biscay is a very attractive prospect.

But those who prefer to turn on and tune in, Galicia presents free Video on Demand (VOD). Free of charge on TVs in all cabins, a wide selection of films can also be viewed on passengers' personal devices in public areas of the ship thanks to the onboard Wi-Fi network.

For a more interactive experience, there are kiosks and self-service screens ready to reveal more about Brittany Ferries’ destinations, their many well-known attractions – and their hidden treasures. Services on board are also part of the mix, guiding passengers on their journey throughout the ship as well as onto their destination.

There’s also an interactive exhibition gallery, hosting touch screens and a giant TV screen that allows passengers to learn more about the historical, cultural and environmental angles of a journey from Portsmouth to Santander. For more fun, passengers can head for the Travel & Sea exhibition area, where a selection of interactive games awaits.

There are lots of games and information on themes such as the ocean, the environment and holidays for young and old. Plus, there’s the House of Las Meninas: where else can you take a selfie with a life-size statue that serves as a physical embodiment of the most enigmatic Diego Velasquez painting?

When screen time is over, there are indoor and outdoor playgrounds to keep children occupied and exercised.

# 12 – Technically, Galicia is a more efficient ship

Smoother, quieter, less vibration and fewer emissions, these are just some of the benefits that passengers - and those living and working around ports - will notice when Galicia sets sail. A voyage on Galicia promises a pleasurable experience for all and it’s what goes on beneath decks that will make it all happen.

Arnaud le Poulichet is technical director for Brittany Ferries. He has followed the development of this E-Flexer class vessel since Galicia’s first steel was cut, back in 2018. “This ship has really exceeded our expectations in so many technical areas,” he said. “The captain, crew and – of course – passengers and freight drivers will be delighted by this leap forward in efficiency and comfort.”

**Fleet renewal**

In ship design, safety comes first. But a modern vessel should also be more efficient and more sustainable than those it replaces. It’s one of the reasons why fleet renewal is so important for Brittany Ferries as it plots a recovery path from the Covid-19 crisis.

Passengers rightly expect lower emissions, society demands sustainability and companies that fail to improve are destined to fail. Galicia and two future sister ships, Salamanca and Santoña, arriving in 2021 and 2023 respectively, are leading the company’s charge.

**Design for efficiency**

Particular attention has been given to Galicia’s fuel-efficient propulsion plant and its long, slender hull and bow. These fine lines make for excellent seakeeping in all weathers. And the friction-reducing silicon paint that coats the underwater hull makes for smoother sailing, reducing fuel consumption. Manoeuvrability is first class, partly thanks to her ability to feather propeller blades at low speeds working in combination with agile, efficient rudders.

Like a modern airliner, Galicia has no need for four engines. Two MaK 12 M 43C units each generate up to 12,600 kW of power, while variable-speed shaft generators supply the means to recover energy even at low speeds. Arnaud le Poulichet summarises the benefits succinctly: “By using a variable speed shaft generator we save fuel and we cut CO2.”

The ship has no need for stern thrusters. Bow thrusters work in harmony with flap rudders, of high lift type with twisted leading edges, making light work of the tightest turns in port. And, when it comes to vibration, passengers will notice just how little there is. Her fin stabilisers have proved effective during initial voyages through the Bay of Biscay, minimising roll, promising to smooth even the choppiest of seas.

**Funnel emissions**

Galicia targets an improvement in both air quality emissions like soot and climate change emissions like carbon dioxide.

Her funnel is fitted with the latest closed-loop, exhaust-emission-scrubbers. These are like giant catalytic convertors, stripping particulate matter and harmful sulphur oxides (SOx) from airborne emissions. All residue collected is dried, stored on board and taken ashore for processing.

CO2 output per passenger is also much lower. Aside from her suite of technical innovations, Galicia and sister-ship Salamanca will replace Baie de Seine and Cap Finistère, less efficient vessels with much smaller passenger and freight capacities. The consequence is a significant reduction in carbon footprint on Brittany Ferries’ long-haul services between the UK and Spain.

Altogether four round trips from the UK to Spain are planned each week, instead of five. This promises a significant fuel saving, and emissions per passenger, while still presenting a 10% improvement in passenger capacity and 28% more freight space.

**Quieter and brighter**

Thanks to excellent insulation and silencing, noise will be kept to a minimum. “When you are on shore, you cannot hear Galicia’s generators as you can with other ships,” Le Poulichet explained. “It’s really surprising and of course a welcome benefit for everyone living near a port. Of course there are regulations that concern noise, but Galicia far exceeds those – and our initial expectations.”

And what about within the passenger decks themselves? Here too, there are a host of hidden innovations. When you look up you will notice just one. Every light on board is LED. That’s a first for Brittany Ferries. Just another small win, in Galicia’s illuminating approach to sustainability.

**Green Marine - Eco-label**

Brittany Ferries is proud to be one of the first companies accredited by the Green Marine eco-label, which is driving best practice in maritime sustainability. The company was audited in August and awarded its first accreditation certificate at a ceremony in Paris on 8 October 2020.

It’s a powerful tool that scores sustainability on seven criteria, such as funnel emissions and underwater noise. It’s also Independently audited and progress can be tracked year-on-year pushing the company to achieve higher standards more quickly. Two further e-Flexer ships will join Galicia in the years to come, both powered by cleaner LNG (liquefied natural gas), all helping Brittany Ferries achieve the best possible performance for customers and the environment.

# 13 - Slow travel is so in vogue

Slow travel is better for passengers and better for the environment, allowing time to relax, to take in the health benefits of travel by sea and to lower carbon footprint. With this in mind, timetables have been planned to offer the greatest flexibility and most convenient travel times.

Galicia will therefore make two return voyages each week connecting Portsmouth and Santander: departing Portsmouth on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and departing from Santander on Wednesdays and Saturdays (crossing duration between 28 and 33 hours). She will also serve a weekly return crossing connecting Portsmouth with Cherbourg, with crossings of approximately nine hours from Portsmouth on Sunday evening and from Cherbourg on Monday evening.

**Galicia’s schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Departure  | Time | Arrival | Time | Journey Time (Hrs) |
| Cherbourg | Monday 21 : 00  | Portsmouth | Tuesday 06 : 00 | 10  |
| Portsmouth | Tuesday 9 : 00  | Santander | Wednesday 14 : 30 | 28.5 |
| Santander | Wednesday 17 : 30 | Portsmouth | Thursday 19 : 15 | 26.8 |
| Portsmouth | Thursday 22 :15 | Santander | Saturday 08 : 00 | 32.8 |
| Santander  | Saturday 15 : 00  | Portsmouth | Sunday 20 : 00 | 30 |
| Portsmouth | Sunday 23 : 00  | Cherbourg | Monday 08 : 00 | 8 |



# 14 – Galicia in numbers

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Length | 214, 5 m  |
| Height | 27, 8 m  |
| Draught | 6, 4 m  |
| Weight | 40 500 |
| Decks | 10 |
| Passenger decks | 3 |
| Speed | 22 knots |
| Passenger capacity | 1 015 |
| Crew | 85  |
| Cabins | 343  |
| Pet friendly cabins | 22 |
| Garage capacity | 3 100 metres or 155 trucks |
| Engines | 2 X 12,600 kW |

# 15 - Sail away …

A holiday in one of the greenest regions of Spain begins the moment you step aboard. The latest ship in the Brittany fleet is ready to reveal more about Galicia to every passenger, a region ripe for discovery and one of the best kept secrets of the Iberian peninsular.

The company believes that more travellers are also seeking a stress-free, safer means of transport. Ferry travel lends itself to this new way of holidaying, with fresh sea air and plenty of space everywhere.

Taking your own car with no luggage limit, sleeping in a spacious and comfortable cabin with your family or pet, moving around in a spacious and relaxing environment, breathing in fresh, sea air on outside decks (and in cabins too), watching the sun set over the ocean: these are just some of the things that continue to make a voyage by sea the richest way to travel.

Ends 27 November 2020