



Captain's Q&A with Captain Inger

Background

1) Has growing up in the Faroe Islands influenced your career path and your drive to become a Captain?

I'm from a little-known place called Vestmanna, a small fishing town of about 1,500 people, and I grew up next to the water. Throughout my childhood I was always fascinated by the water, so I suppose you could say that my upbringing in the Faroe Islands did influence my future, but I always knew that I wanted to travel and explore the rest of the world. I dreamed of visiting far flung destinations like Australia and Japan, and fortunately for me, my career has allowed me to fulfil that dream I had as a young girl.

2) Were members of your family in the maritime industry?

My dad was a chief engineer on a fishing trawler and my grandfather worked in the fishing trade too. My family has always been very supportive of my career in the maritime industry and my grandparents were especially proud. My grandfather often spent time teaching me about the laws of the water, so to speak, and many of those lessons I still hold dear to this day – such as making sure to respect nature and to never work against it.

3) What's your standout moment from your career with Cunard?

When I was appointed Captain of a Cunard ship for the first time, that was really special as it had always been my dream. I've worked for Cunard for more than 25 years, so I feel a real affinity with the brand, and the cruise industry has grown beyond my wildest expectations over the past few decades.

Life as a Captain

4) What do you love most about being a Captain?

Delivering a voyage that guests enjoy and will remember for the rest of their lives always gives me an immense sense of satisfaction. I love being able to walk around the ship on a daily basis spending time with guests. Captaining a voyage with a happy crew and happy guests is what my job is all about and the interactions I have with travellers is an incredible part of the job that means a lot to me.

5) What's your favourite port?

There are so many incredible ports that we sail to with Cunard, so it is very difficult to pick just one, especially as they are all so unique in their own ways. But there is definitely something magical about visiting Alaska, it is such a stunning landscape. Sydney Harbour is also a really beautiful port to sail into and of course the Transatlantic crossing from Southampton to New York is iconic for a very good reason. I also love visiting places in the Mediterranean, Asia, and the Fjords so I'm afraid when you love travelling as much as me it's impossible to choose a favourite destination!



6) How excited are you to be visiting Liverpool with Queen Anne?

Liverpool will forever be regarded as Cunard's spiritual home, and I am incredibly excited to sail to the city next year during Queen Anne's maiden British Isles voyage. I remember seeing the pictures of more than a million people lining the river Mersey to see Queen Mary 2, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth salute the city during our 175th anniversary celebrations and I am hugely passionate about maintaining the very special connection between Liverpool and Cunard. When we return with Queen Anne, I'm sure it will be a momentous occasion for the city, and it is something that I am really looking forward to.

7) What do people mostly get wrong about your job and the industry as a whole?

I think most people have this impression of me standing on the bridge 24/7 steering the ship, which is a big misconception. Our officers do the watches and sail the ship, and in fact my job is to oversee and manage the overall voyage – ensuring that everything is running as it should, and guests are enjoying themselves.

In terms of the industry as a whole, I think a lot of people believe cruising is for more mature travellers, which just isn't the case. Of course, we embrace the fact that many experienced travellers have established themselves as loyal Cunarders, but the reality is that our brand appeals to a wide range of guests, from families with children to solo travellers and couples of all ages. The onboard experience is sophisticated and elegant, but it's also relaxed and welcoming. At Cunard, we are committed to providing a sense of occasion, but we are equally focused on ensuring that our guests feel at home and comfortable, especially for new-to-cruisers.

8) What is the most important element of your role as Captain?

I truly believe that I must lead by example as a Captain and for me that is the most important aspect of my job. I want to create an environment where crewmembers thrive at work and provide a great experience for our guests. We are very privileged to do what we do, and I never take it for granted.

Queen Anne

9) What are you most looking forward to about your new role as Captain of Queen Anne?

Taking the helm of a new Cunard ship and steering the company into a new era is an amazing honour for me; it really will be the pinnacle of my career and I am hugely proud to be playing a part in the Cunard legacy. The Cunard name is steeped in heritage, something that no other cruise brand in the world can compete with, so to be so heavily involved in such a momentous chapter of the Cunard story is what I'm most looking forward to. Sailing Queen Anne on her maiden voyage will be a career defining moment for me that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

10) Will there be new technology on board that you're excited about using?

Certainly – Queen Anne will boast all the modern technology that you would expect of a ship launching in 2024. For example, there will be a brand-new system in the bridge that will be a first for the Cunard fleet, as well as countless state-of-the-art features across the ship's public spaces. I don't want to reveal too much as I want our guests to experience a certain element of surprise when they embark for the first time, but I am sure they will be impressed with what they see.



CUNARD

11) Which route are you most looking forward to?

It is impossible for me to choose a single sailing. I am honestly looking forward to every single route that I will sail with the Queen Anne itinerary, and I am hugely excited to visit each and every port. We will be travelling across Europe for the first year or so, which will be a fantastic experience, but it will be really interesting to take Queen Anne on her maiden World Voyage in 2025 to show her off to the entire globe. I never lose sight of how fortunate I am to visit so many breath-taking destinations in so many beautiful countries across the world and it will be the privilege of a lifetime to do so as Captain of Queen Anne.

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