

Sporting the new livery of Liberty Lines, Admiral 250 *Ammari* is to work a new cross-Adriatic service to Greece from June to September
/ LIBERTY LINES photo



LIBERTY LINES ADDS GREEK ROUTE

LIBERTY LINES, based in Sicily, is to introduce one of its hydrofoils on a new international route between Otranto, on Italy's Adriatic coast, and the Greek island of Corfu in June. Reportedly, the vessel to be allocated to the route is the 250-seat Admiral 250 *Ammari*, delivered to the operator in 2015.

A seasonal service, the route will operate from late June to early September. Until July 27 the hydrofoil leaves Otranto at 0900 on Wednesday and 1545 on Thursday–Sunday. The reverse journey departs Corfu at 1830 on Wednesday and 0945 on Monday and Friday–Sunday. Certain services will continue on to the small island of Paxi.

In August a return service is being added on Tuesday, identical to that on Wednesday. Scheduled journey time is 2 hours 30 minutes for Otranto–Corfu.

A one way adult is €75 during the shoulder period from June 29, increasing to €90 during the peak season July 27 to September 3.

This is not the first time a passenger-only fast ferry will enter service in the south Adriatic between Italy and Greece. A number of companies have operated across the Straits of Otranto over the years, including Italian, Greek and Croatian operators using vessels as diverse as a Rodriguez RHS 160, a Kolkhida, a Marinteknik Verkstads 41m monohull and an Ulstein UT 904 air cushion catamaran.

In addition several operators run conventional ferries between various Adriatic ports in Italy and Greece. Some of these services operate year-round while others are summer only routes. Most operate from/to the Italian ports of Brindisi and Bari.

It is also expected that Liberty Lines' affiliate company Trieste Lines, formed in 2001, will resume its summer only hydrofoil operation in the north Adriatic between Trieste and ports on the Istrian coast. Last year these were Piran in Slovenia and Rovinj, Porec and Pula in Croatia. **CFF**

One of the fast ferries previously operated between Italy and Greece was a UT 904 air cushion catamaran, *Santa Eleonora*, in 1992
/ TIM TIMOLEON photo

