



■ SA Hexrivier, one of the Safmarine cargo-passenger vessels for which Union-Castle is now acting as UK passenger agent. The vessels have varying passenger accommodation: for instance, SA Hexrivier has a suite with private facilities for a family of four. Picture: Skyfotos.

marine flag are now to be made to the passenger office of Union-Castle at Rotherwick House, 19/21 Old Bond Street, London, W1X 4AN.

Rapid handling job for Southampton

After a successful cruising season out of Southampton, the *Reina del Mar* sailed on November 23 for Cape Town where she is scheduled for three cruises to South America. She is due to return to Southampton on April 1 1974.

The ship was given a rousing send-off: when the ropes were cast off, there appeared to be enough streamers between the ship and the quay to keep her alongside.

With the *Edinburgh Castle* sailing the same afternoon, Union-Castle staff handled 1,140 passengers within three hours, reports Norman Hodson.

New migrant fares

From February 9 1974 immigrants approved by the Government of South Africa will be able to book sea passages by Union-Castle/Safmarine in tourist class and in grades H5/H9 in *SA Vaal* at a reduction of 20 per cent off the tariff rates. Children will be allowed the usual reductions off these special fares.

This means that for those who travel in the thrift season (mid-February to mid-June) a minimum rate of £109 will be available. The South African Government pays to each approved immigrant a travel allowance of R155, which at the present time is worth about £93.

AFRICAN HOLIDAYS: Union-Castle brochure offers wide choice

Union-Castle's African Holidays brochure for 1973/74 (issued in October) follows the now well-established pattern of sea safaris, air/sea holidays and main centre holidays, giving the holidaymaker the opportunity to choose the type of holiday best suited to his particular requirements.

Sea safaris—sea voyages in both directions with an inland tour in South Africa—are either 39 or 46 days. The cost varies according to the ship and the type of accommodation reserved. Prices range from £443 with tourist class travel on a 39 day safari up to £1156 for first class travel in *Windsor Castle*, also on a 39 day safari.

Main centre holidays are for those who like staying in one centre and prefer to make their own arrangements for sightseeing. These can be at Durban or Cape Town (with sea travel in both directions) or at Johannesburg (sea travel one way and air the other). At Cape Town the holidays are for 39 days and include a stay of two weeks in South Africa. Costs range from £778 with first class travel in *Edinburgh Castle* or *SA Orange* and staying at Arthur's Seat Hotel, to £933 with travel in *Windsor Castle* and staying at the Mount Nelson Hotel.

At Durban the holidays last 53 days and allow 17 nights at the hotel. The price ranges from £954 staying at the Park View Hotel to £1010 with a stay at the Edward.

There are substantial price reductions for the above holidays if taken by certain sailings.

The Johannesburg holidays last 27 days and the cost range is from £604 with first class sea travel in *Edinburgh Castle* or *SA Orange* and staying at the Moulin Rouge to £689 with first class travel in *Windsor Castle* and staying at Tollman Towers.

There are in all nine air/sea holidays from which to choose, ranging from 22 to 41 days, with a price range equally wide. A 22 day holiday with tourist class travel is available from £345 and the range is up to £1018 for a 39 day holiday with first class travel in *Windsor Castle*.

TALKS AFLOAT: ASATA chooses coastwise congress

DURBAN—*SA Vaal* sailed out of Durban harbour en fete on September 12 this year—host de luxe to some 150 VIP passengers. After 15 years' land-based meetings the Association of South African Travel Agents were holding their first-ever congress afloat, and a great success it was too.

Held in the ship's cinema during the coastal voyage from Durban to Cape Town, the 1973 ASATA Congress took as its theme "The Role of The Travel Agent in the 70's". Although the cinema was filled for all sessions, there was plenty of time for relaxation, and the ship's company excelled themselves with the magnificent fare provided at the many cocktail and after-dinner parties held over the four days.

Delegates included travel agents, tour operators, top airline executives, hotel and tourism personalities from all parts of Southern Africa. Guest speakers were