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Glimpse a princess

THE Princess Cruises Superliner Star Princess will be back at Outer Harbor for another visit on Tuesday. Although it's difficult to get a look at the luxury cruise ship when she's moored at the terminal, there are points close by which give good views of her arrival and departure.

Graeme Wilson, general manager of marine operations for Flinders Ports, says the public is not permitted to enter the berth area to view any cruise vessels.

He says the best vantage points for views to gauge the size of the Star Princess are from along the coast between Largs Bay and Outer Harbor.

There is land at North Haven beside the Outer Harbor breakwaters which the public can access to view the ship.

The Star Princess is midway through her 10 booked-out weeks in Australasian waters.

Huge though she is, Star Princess will be dwarfed by Cunard's new Queen Mary 2, which was officially named on Thursday by Queen Elizabeth.

The QM2 is the new flagship of the British merchant fleet and is the largest passenger liner ever built, with a gross registered tonnage of 150,000 tons.

Her top speed will be approximately 30 knots.

On Monday she will begin her 14-day maiden voyage, from Southampton to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The QM2 will replace Queen Elizabeth 2 in Cunard's traditional transatlantic service between Southampton and New York.

In conjunction with Qantas, a round-world ticket is available to include a six-night Atlantic crossing on Queen Mary 2 with connecting flights via New York and Southampton, priced from \$3889 a person twin-share. In April the QE2 will move to a Southampton base for cruising, including her round-world voyages with visits to ports in Australia and New Zealand.