

UK woman rescued 10 hours after falling from cruise ship in Adriatic

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A British woman has been rescued after spending 10 hours in the Adriatic Sea at night, having fallen from a cruise ship, according to Croatia's coastguard.

The 46-year-old, who gave her name as Kay to local media and was later named Kay Longstaff in UK reports, was taken to hospital in Pula, [Croatia](#), and is understood to be out of danger.

It is understood she fell from the Norwegian Star cruise ship about 60 miles (100km) off Croatia's coast shortly before midnight on Saturday as the vessel was making its way from the port of Vergarola to Venice in Italy.

The liner raised the alarm and was joined by coastguard and civilian vessels, plus a PC-9 aircraft, at about 6.30am on Sunday. The woman was spotted at 9.40am and reached by a rescue swimmer from a patrol boat minutes later, Croatian media reported, saying she was about 1.3km away from the spot where she fell in.

The rescued passenger told the Croatian news channel HRT: "I am very lucky to be alive. ... I fell off the back of the Norwegian Star and I was in the water for 10 hours, so these wonderful guys rescued me."

"I was sitting at the back of the deck and, yeah ... it was bad," she said before being taken into an ambulance.

An unnamed rescuer told the Sun: "She said the fact that she practises yoga helped her as she was fit. And she said she was singing to not feel cold in the sea overnight."

David Radas, a spokesman for the Croatian ministry of maritime affairs, said that by checking CCTV rescuers knew the exact moment Longstaff fell in the water. "Because they knew the time, they were able to know the exact position of the ship," he told the Sun.

The rescue ship's captain, Lovro Oreškovi?, said the woman was exhausted, adding: "We were extremely happy for saving a human life."

A Norwegian Cruise Line spokesperson said: "On the morning of 19 August a guest went overboard as Norwegian Star made her way to Venice. The coastguard was notified and a search and rescue operation ensued.

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