

Cruises diverted after Japan quake

Queen Mary 2 and *Azamara Quest* cancelled visits to Japan following Friday's earthquake and tsunami.

CRUISE WEEKLY WAS SAILING IN THE PACIFIC Ocean aboard P&O's *Pacific Pearl* when it was announced there had been a massive earthquake in Japan and a tsunami was on the way.

But passengers were assured that the wave was "only half a metre" when it hit Taiwan and would be barely noticeable by the time it reached our region in seven hours, at approximately 3am.

Last stellar Star savings

STAR CRUISES HAS EXTENDED THE EXPIRY DATE FOR its earlybird promotion for voyages onboard *SuperStar Virgo* (ex Singapore) and *SuperStar Libra* (ex Penang) until the end of the month.

As such, savings of up to 40% off selected 2011/12 sailings are still available, plus every balcony cabin or suite booking onboard *SuperStar Virgo* receives a free SGD\$500 food and beverage credit.

See your travel agent for details, and for full details on all the sailings and savings see pages 5 and 6 of today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Tunisia travel update

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DOWNGRADED its travel warning for travellers to Tunisia, from "Reconsider your need to travel" to "Exercise a high degree of caution in Tunisia", (due to the risk of civil unrest, kidnapping and terrorist attack).

TODAY'S CRUISE WEEKLY

Welcome to today's consumer issue of **Cruise Weekly**, featuring four pages of cruise news and photos, plus two full pages from Star Cruises (see p.5 and p.6).

Other vessels in the Pacific were forced to change routes after the closure of all Japanese ports.

The nearest cruise ship to the quake's epicentre, *Azamara Quest*, was unaffected while docked at Nagasaki but cancelled its next call in Osaka.

Cunard Line announced on the weekend that the QM2 would skip Nagasaki and continue on to Xingang, China.

Oceania Cruises' *Nautica* is scheduled to visit Japan this week, with the cruise line announcing a revised itinerary which will see *Nautica* skip calls in Hiroshima on 18 March and Kobe on 19 March.

Nautica will however keep her scheduled stop at Naha on the island of Okinawa (to the south of Japan) on 22 March.

Other cruise lines have reported that all ships and passengers are safe.

The earthquake was one of the largest to ever hit Japan and a tsunami warning was extended to the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Hawaii, the Pacific coast of Russia and North and South America.

Japanese TV footage showed a wall of water sweeping away cars, boats and buildings at the ports of Sendai and Kamaishi.

Ports in Hawaii, including Maui, were also closed temporarily.

In Honolulu, all harbours were closed and vessels ordered to leave.

Cruise lines are currently assessing the tourism infrastructure in Japan's ports to make decisions about scheduled calls for the rest of the month.



Port of Sendai post earthquake

Take a friend and save

HURTIGRUTEN IS REACHING OUT TO CRUISERS WHO don't want to sail alone, by offering a new half price partner fare.

Available to book between now and 31 May, the special allows guests who book selected sailings of the cruise line's Classic Round, Northbound and Southbound voyages, to bring a friend for half price, for travel until 06 November 2011.

For details visit your local travel agent.

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CRUISE CALENDAR



SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Sun</i>	Tue 15 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	Sat 19 Mar
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Sun 20 Mar
MELBOURNE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Wed 16 Mar
BRISBANE	
<i>Volendam</i>	Tue 15 Mar
<i>Pacific Sun</i>	Thu 17 Mar
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Sat 19 Mar
BURNIE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Tue 15 Mar
HOBART	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	Tue 15 Mar
PORT ADELAIDE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Fri 18 Mar
WELLINGTON	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	Mon 21 Mar

Europa 2 to spend winter in Asia

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises has released further details about its new ships, *Europa 2* and *Columbus 2*.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE "LIFESTYLE-ORIENTED" small ship *Europa 2* will commence in September in France's STX shipyard, with the naming ceremony planned for early 2013.

In the Northern Hemisphere's spring and summer, it will offer seven-day cruises in the Western Mediterranean, from Barcelona, Monte Carlo and Malta.

In autumn, cruises to the Eastern Mediterranean are included on the itinerary.

The ship will spend the winter in the Arabian Sea and in South-East Asia.

Design highlights include a large "wellness section" with health-related facilities, and three children's sections.

Nannies will offer day care and a dedicated program for children from two years of age – a new feature in the line's

family concept.

Seven restaurants – including Asian, Italian, a brasserie grill, wine bistro, lido, sushi bar and fine dining – will have no surcharges for passengers.

The lower-priced *Columbus 2* is to be aimed at cruise newcomers.

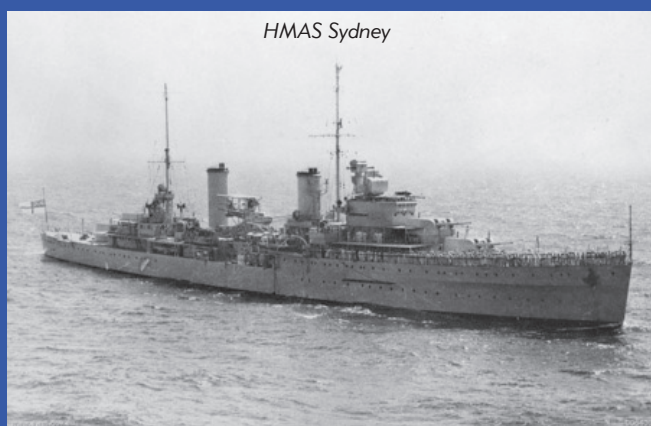
The "Complete Package", which is additionally on offer, will include all drinks and a shore excursion package.

On selected voyages during European school holiday periods, children under 15 can sail free if accommodated in a cabin with two adults.

The 698-passenger premium ship will have a high proportion of balcony cabins, four restaurants, three bars, a spa, gym, an open-air stage on the pool deck and private cabanas on the top deck.



HMAS Sydney: Gone but never forgotten



HMAS Sydney

One hundred nautical miles off the coast of Western Australia, underneath the sapphire surface, resting in the quiet depths of the Indian Ocean, lies the wreck of the *HMAS Sydney* – the final resting place of 645 young Australian sailors whose lives were snatched away on 19 November 1941.

2470 metres above, and seventy years after *Sydney* settled on the seabed,


Classic International Cruises' *Athena* paused to remember what was arguably the greatest Australian naval tragedy.

Led by prominent naval historian Tim Ryan, the memorial service was prefaced by a discussion of *Sydney*'s history, as well as her last stand, against the German WWII raider, *HSK Kormoran*, which, disguised as a Dutch merchant vessel, opened fire on *Sydney* on 19 November 1941 and sank her, killing all onboard, as she moved closer to discover why *Kormoran* was not responding to her signals.

The service included the laying of a wreath, and was part of *Athena*'s 39-night voyage from Perth back to the UK.



Tim Ryan (left) with *Athena*'s Captain Pinto



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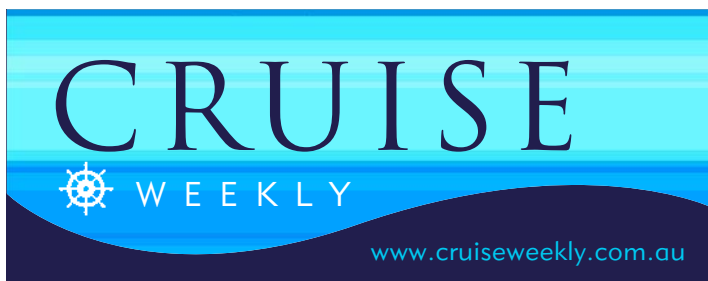
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www.OceaniaCruises.com.au



Victoria relaunch

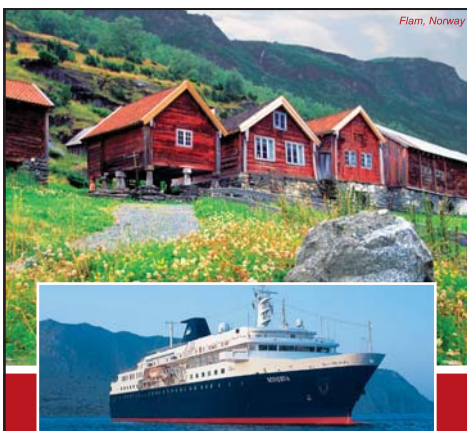
AMERICAN RIVER CRUISE LINE, VICTORIA CRUISES, has completely revamped two of its older dames, *Victoria Star* and *Victoria Queen*, even giving the pair new names, *Victoria Selina* and *Victoria Lianna* respectively.

The planned relaunch has seen both vessels fully overhauled to bring them up to speed with the rest of the cruise lines' newer fleet, including the gutting of several decks to remodel them from scratch.

"Essentially, the *Victoria Lianna* and *Victoria Selina* will have the appearance of entirely new ships with little or no resemblance to their previous incarnations," said the Chairman of Victoria Cruises, James Pi.

Other improvements to both the *Lianna* and *Selina* include a new Executive Lounge offering, a lift and à la carte restaurant for Executive Deck guests, as well as brand new superior staterooms.

The vessels were scheduled to relaunch this week on the Yangtze River, but due to the extended renovations have had their respective debuts delayed by two weeks.



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Wave of Terror?

by Roderick Eime

Why cruise ships are safe from tsunamis.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the doomsday prophets are going to have their day with the recent roll of disasters sweeping our planet.

Japan, a country used to and quite probably the best prepared in the world for such an event, was brought to its knees.

And the story is far from over.

But what for cruising? What if you are caught at sea during a tsunami warning? Will you become an unwilling extra in the next *Poseidon Adventure*?

For film and cruise buffs, the *Poseidon Adventure* (1972) was developed from a 1969 novel and spawned three sequels; 1979, 2005 and 2006.

But the basic premise of the ship (any ship) being capsized by a mid-ocean tsunami is seriously flawed.

In the original movie, it was indeed an earthquake that supposedly sent a 50 metre wave rolling across the ocean casually overturning ocean liners in its way.

Tsunamis don't do that.

Tsunamis travel at high speed, up to 800km/h with a very low wave height, from the undersea quake's epicentre.

Like the ripples created from a stone tossed into a pond, the nasty breaking waves only occur when the energy meets a solid object, like a coastline or shallow water.

Because the 'wavelength' is long, the energy just keeps on coming and drives water way inland as we saw on Japanese TV.

So, as evidenced by the complete lack of damage to cruise ships at sea during the massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake, you can safely ride out a tsunami at sea and probably not even notice it.

A 'rogue wave', however, is a different kettle of fish altogether and still has scientists discussing the origin and cause.

Yes, ships need to worry about rogue waves.

Several cruise ships have encountered them.

In 2001, *Bremen* and *Caledonian Star* were both surprised by a so-called freak wave of 30m in the Drake Passage, perhaps similar to the one that damaged *Clelia II* last December.

QE2 hit one mid-Atlantic in 1995 during a hurricane and the original *Queen Mary* was whacked broadside by one while carrying thousands of troops in 1942.

She listed to 52 degrees, damn near capsized and gave novelist, Paul Gallico, a highly profitable idea.

Some waves can be predicted by currents, sea floor and weather, such as near South Africa's Agulhas Current, but the so-called 'perfect storm' conditions can produce what wave mathematician, Al Osborne, calls 'unstable non-linear monsters'.

These are the real whoppers that feed off adjacent waves and rise up to absurd proportions.

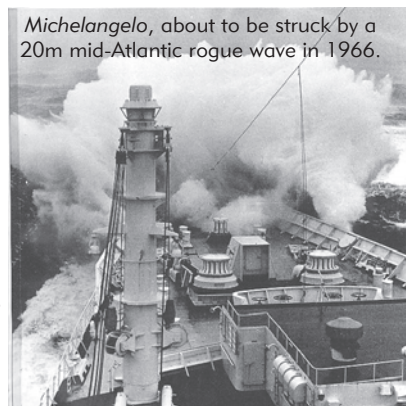


The only passenger ship thought lost due to a rogue wave was the 1909 disappearance of *SS Waratah* off South Africa.

Her wreck was never found.

So unless, you are sailing headfirst into a cyclone, there is little worry you will encounter one of these waves and as for tsunamis, you have more to fear from lightning strike or crossing the road.

Cruising remains one of the safest forms of transport, true.



Michelangelo, about to be struck by a 20m mid-Atlantic rogue wave in 1966.

\$ Last Minute Deals

THIS WEEKLY COLUMN HIGHLIGHTS HOT DEALS ON cruises departing in the next 90 days – ideal for our spontaneous readers.

12 nights – Brisbane roundtrip onboard *Pacific Dawn*

- Departs: 09 Apr 2011
- From: \$859 per person
- Stops at Pentecost Island and Port Vila, Vanuatu; Port Denarau and Suva Fiji; and Isle of Pines, New Caledonia.
- Includes up to \$150 onboard credit, 12 night cruise, port charges and government taxes.
- See www.ecruising.travel

More Mazatlan drops

PRINCESS CRUISES AND HOLLAND AMERICA LINE HAVE added their vessels to the growing number of cruise lines dropping calls into the Mexican port of Mazatlan in March and April due to growing security concerns in the city.

Mazatlan calls are being replaced by both cruise lines with calls into Cabo San Lucas, with Holland America Line also adding Puerto Vallarta calls.✴

Fred Olsen's Vistas

FRED OLSEN CRUISES HAS JUST LAUNCHED ITS Vistas program, as a replacement for its former incarnation, The ArtsClub.

With the tag line 'Rewarding Curiosity' the program offers guests a series of special interest talks, lectures and entertainment, as well as shore programs.

Themes featured in the new Vistas line up include: 'The History of Weather', 'Photography', 'Ballroom Dancing', 'Antiques', 'Classical Music', 'The Archers', 'Agatha Christie', 'Sporting Personalities', 'Gardens and Gardening', 'Wine', 'History of the Royal Family' and 'Comedy'.

See your travel agent for details, or visit www.fredolsencruises-vistas.com.✴

Emerging Crystal artists

CRYSTAL CRUISES HAS ENLISTED A SWAG OF YOUNG emerging artists, to perform onboard its vessels during the 2011 Alaska season.

In partnership with The Music Centre, the cruise line will feature 22 17-25 year old artists, including members of the San Francisco Ballet, and musicians from the prestigious Juilliard School, onboard its Experiences of Discovery themed voyages.✴

Goodbye to a legend

FORMER SOVIET (KAPITAN SOROKIN CLASS) icebreaker and (now) refitted cruise ship, the *Kapitan Khlebnikov*, is slated to make her very last circumnavigation of the Arctic in July this year, following her reassignment to escort duties in the Russian Arctic from March next year.

Khlebnikov was launched in 1981 as a polar-class icebreaker designed for work in Siberia, and then remodelled for tourist cruising in 1990 with 54 cabins and suites, two dining rooms, a lounge room, bar, heated swimming pool, exercise room, sauna, theatre-style auditorium, shop and library.

She was also the first ever vessel to circumnavigate Antarctica with passengers, and to mark her retirement from the leisure sector Quark Expeditions has announced it will host a 66 day full circumnavigation of the Arctic from 10 July 2011 to 13 September 2011.

Accompanying the voyage will be Canadian adventurer Laurie Dexter, and the voyage can be purchased as a whole, or broken up into segments.

See your travel agent for details.✴



New Uniworld vessel

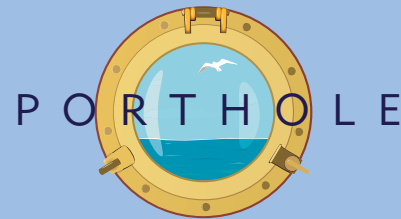
UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES WILL SOON offer a selection of Mekong River voyages via a new partnership arrangement with Pandaw Cruises.

As part of the arrangement, Uniworld will exclusively charter Pandaw's brand new (currently under construction) 60-passenger river cruiser, the *River Saigon*, for a period of three years.

Whilst flying the Uniworld flag, *River Saigon* will feature 21 Vietnam, Cambodia Mekong River voyages commencing in January 2012, with 31 departures planned for 2013.

Saigon will feature 30 168sq.ft deluxe river view staterooms each with an outside sitting area, as well as public areas including a spacious sun deck, a full service bar, lounge and meeting areas, and a restaurant.

Complimentary bottled water, robes and slippers will also be available to all guests, as will wine with dinner and free coffee, tea, soft drinks and cocktails throughout the day.✴



ATLANTIS AT LAST!

Researchers from the University of Hartford are claiming to have located the legendary city of Atlantis, thought to have been completely swallowed by the ocean following a massive seismic happening many millennia ago.

The story of the idyllic city lost to the sea, was first penned by the Greek philosopher Plato around 2,500 years ago, and has captured the imagination of millions ever since.

In his stories, Plato told of the city's destruction saying "in a single day and night... [Atlantis] disappeared into the depths of the sea."

It has long been debated whether Atlantis is fact or fiction, and it is this argument that the researchers are aiming to put to bed once and for all.

According to the scientists, the fated city is located under the vast marshlands of the Dona Ana Park, just north of Europe's oldest city, Cadiz in Spain.

The team first became suspicious about the site after they discovered a series of "Atlantis memorial cities" in Spain, which they believe were built by the survivors of the city's destruction.

To arrive at their location conclusion, the researchers used satellite imaging, deep-ground radar, digital mapping and underwater technology which revealed similarities between descriptions of Atlantis by Plato and the buried city.

NOT SO BURIED TREASURE.

If you think antiquing is only achieved on land, think again!

US celebrity antiques appraiser and historian, Dr Lori, is set to turn old notions of long winding country driving antiquing upside down, with cruise guests invited to bring along their heirlooms for appraisal onboard.

No candlestick is too crusty for Dr Lori to decipher its true value, and guests who don't wish to transport their vintage grandfather clock to the dock, can also choose to bring a photograph.

Set against the backdrop of a 14-night Canada and New England voyage onboard *Celebrity Summit*, the cruise departs 25 September 2011.

SuperStar Libra

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SALE

3 NIGHT CRUISES from **\$552*** per person

Penang, Phuket, Krabi *Sunday Departure*

Cruises include all meals⁴ and entertainment onboard plus port and fuel charges.



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*CONDITIONS APPLY: All prices are cruise only, AUD, per person twin share and subject to change and availability. Prices based on Inside Cabin DB. Prices include port charges and fuel surcharge. ⁴Meals included in selected restaurants. 2011 departure dates 3 NIGHT CRUISE ex Penang Feb 20 & 27, Mar 06, 13, 20, & 27, Apr 03, 10, 17 & 24, May 01, 08, 15, 22 & 29, Jun 05, 12, 19 & 26, Jul 03, 10, 17, 24 & 31, Aug 07, 14, 21 & 28, Sept 04, 11, 18 & 25, Oct 02, 09, 16, 23 & 30, Nov 06, 13, 20 & 27, Dec 04, 11, 18 & 25. Holiday surcharge imposed on peak sailings. Strict cancellation fees apply. Please note that a surcharge may be imposed on credit card transactions. A service fee will be charged. Rates are valid until 31 March 2011. SCS 24574

SuperStar Virgo's Earlybird Savings



Cruise Asia in Style **Hurry book now**

7 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Penang, Phuket,
Malacca, Kuala Lumpur (Port
Klang), Pulau Redang
Selected departures from
3 April – 18 Sept 2011

Singapore, Phuket, Langkawi, Pulau
Redang & Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang)
Selected departures from
10 April – 25 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$1292* per person
Window Cabin \$1597* per person
Balcony Cabin \$2132* per person

5 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Penang,
Phuket, Malacca,
Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang)
Selected departures from
3 April – 25 March 2012

Singapore, Phuket, Langkawi,
Pulau Redang
Selected departures from
10 April – 25 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$930* per person
Window Cabin \$1175* per person
Balcony Cabin \$1540* per person

3 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Penang, Phuket
Selected departures from
3 April – 25 March 2012

Singapore, Phuket, Langkawi
Selected departures from
10 April – 25 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$588* per person
Window Cabin \$728* per person
Balcony Cabin \$958* per person

2 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Wednesdays

Singapore, Malacca,
Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang)
Selected departures from
6 April – 28 March 2012

Singapore, Pulau Redang
Selected departures from
13 April – 28 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$387* per person
Window Cabin \$482* per person
Balcony Cabin \$632* per person

7 NIGHT SPECIAL CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City,
Pulau Redang, Kuala Lumpur
(Port Klang)
Departing 5 & 12 June, 3 July,
11 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$1377* per person
Window Cabin \$1707* per person
Balcony Cabin \$2292* per person

5 NIGHT SPECIAL CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City,
Pulau Redang
Departing 5 & 12 June, 3 July, 11
Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$990* per person
Window Cabin \$1235* per person
Balcony Cabin \$1600* per person



Cruises include all meals and entertainment onboard plus port and fuel charges.



*CONDITIONS APPLY: All prices are cruise only, AUD, per person twins share and subject to change and availability. Offer is valid until 31 March 2011. Prices based on following cabin categories: Inside Cabin DC, Window Cabin CB, Balcony Cabin BB. Price includes port charges and fuel surcharge. Holiday surcharge imposed on Peak Sailings Dates: 24 April 2011; 23 Dec 2011; 01 Jan 2012. Vietnam Visa surcharge applicable to Ho Chi Minh sailings of \$30 per person. *Meals included in selected restaurants. Strict cancellation fees apply. Please note that a surcharge may be imposed on credit card transactions. A service fee will be charged. SCS 24148