

CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 17 July 2012

More cruise access to Garden Island

Celebrity Millennium and *Radiance of the Seas* have been approved to dock at Sydney's naval base this season.

AUSTRALIA'S cruise industry is abuzz with the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday that the Royal Australian Navy base at Garden Island will open to three cruise ships in the 2012/13 and the 2013/14 seasons.

Along with Cunard's *Queen Mary 2*, which has used the island on an ad hoc basis since 2007, *Cruise Weekly* can reveal today that the two superliners newly granted access are Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Millennium* and Royal Caribbean's *Radiance of the Seas*.

Royal Caribbean International, which operates both vessels, said: "We understand that Garden Island will be made available on

the two occasions when our ships would otherwise have needed to spend the second day of their two days in Sydney at anchor at Athol Buoy.

"The two ships, *Celebrity Millennium* and *Radiance of the Seas*, will turn around at Circular Quay before moving to Garden Island because other ships have bookings at the OPT [Overseas Passenger Terminal]."

The company emphasised the need to keep working with state and federal governments on the longer-term needs of the cruise industry in the greater Sydney region.

"While the opportunity to use Garden Island on a guaranteed basis will provide more certainty for our itinerary planning in the short term, the Prime Minister's announcement only underscores the need for a permanent solution in the form of a new berth for larger ships in Sydney," a spokesperson said.

"Such a permanent berthing solution for Sydney, either in the Harbour or within Botany Bay, will ensure that larger, more modern ships like *Voyager of the Seas* and *Celebrity Solstice*, both of which carry over 3,000 passengers, will continue to cruise from Sydney, the home of Australian cruising."

Carnival Australia, the nation's largest operator of cruise ships, also welcomed the news after years of lobbying for a "three-berth solution" for Sydney.

Ann Sherry, CEO of Carnival Australia, said the immediate arrangement was "sufficient" for the industry's current operational needs.

"It is a positive step that will help ensure Sydney continues to fulfil its role as an attractive international cruise destination," Sherry said.

"The alternative, where cruise ships would be forced to moor mid-harbour before ferrying passengers to shore in tender boats, would not only give international visitors a poor introduction to Sydney but also act as a brake on cruise industry growth."

A spokesperson for Carnival Australia also told *Cruise Weekly* that new arrangements for Garden Island would include Customs' facilities for passenger operations.

Jewels of the Pacific value

OCEANIA Cruises is offering a bonus US\$500 per stateroom shipboard credit on a 25 day *Marina* voyage between Sydney and Papeete.

It's priced from \$6130 per passenger for a veranda stateroom on the luxury vessel which offers a variety of premium restaurants, all at no additional charge, along with butler service in suites and an onboard Canyon Ranch Spa.

For details see the **last page** of today's *CW*.

Cruising the Black Sea

GATEWAY Travel is promoting Black Sea cruises aboard the 328-passenger *MV Azur*, which will next year operate 14 departures from Istanbul between April and October.

The 7 night voyages call at Costanta, Odessa, Yalta, Sochi and Trabzon, with inside cabins starting at \$1360 per person twin share including an excursion program.

For more information call 02 9745 3333.

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TODAY'S ISSUE OF CW

Today's issue of *CW* features four pages of all the latest cruise news, plus check out p5 for details of a special Jewels of the Pacific cruise aboard *Oceania Marina*.



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Cruise Calendar

Cruise Weekly's cruise calendar details upcoming port calls of passenger cruise ships at various destinations in Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Fri 20 July
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Mon 23 July
<i>Spirit of Tasmania II</i>	Mon 23 July
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	Tue 24 July
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Sat 21 July
DARWIN	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Thu 19 July
<i>Coral Princess</i>	Thu 19 July
<i>Coral Princess</i>	Fri 20 July
<i>Orion</i>	Sun 22 July

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MSC releases early birds for 2012-13

MSC Cruises is offering new itineraries, \$200 savings and no single supplement on selected departures as part of newly released earlybird specials.

OLD favourites have returned and a Red Sea voyage has been added to MSC Cruises' upcoming 2012-13 program.

For bookings between now and 31 August 2012, each passenger will receive \$100 off (\$200 per couple) on voyages longer than six nights in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe (March to November 2013).

This discount brings down the starting price of a seven-night Med cruise to just \$509 per person, or \$72 a night.

Mekong cruise bargain

AIMED at late bookers, Travel Indochina has released a discounted fare on its 12-day Jahan Mekong River Cruise package, offering a saving of up to \$3000 per couple for the 23 August 2012 departure.

The special price starts at just \$3995 per person twin share - inclusive of airfares from Sydney or Melbourne with Vietnam Airlines as well as the seven night voyage in a Superior private cabin with balcony, all meals whilst onboard the *Jahan* and two nights at each end of the cruise in five star accommodation in Saigon, Vietnam and Siem Reap in Cambodia.

Arrival and departure transfers, sightseeing, tips and portage are also included.

But you have to be quick - it's only on sale until 17 August, so see travelindochina.com.au.

Holland America deals on sale

HOLLAND America has released an Early Advantage promotion for its range of 2013 sail itineraries, which includes a selection of special offers aimed for cruisers looking to plan ahead for their voyages.

Free cabin upgrades, savings of up to 50% when combining selected 'Collectors Voyages' on European itineraries and other offers are available, with popular seven-night journeys cruising the Alaskan Inside Passage from Seattle or Vancouver starting from \$1249.

Offers are available on sailings covering more than 400 ports of call across the globe.

Fares for a 14-day Collectors Voyage start at \$1899 per person twin share.

Solo travellers can also save on one-week cruises from Venice and Genoa, which have "zero single surcharge" - but the deal is limited to the first three bookings on selected departures between March and November 2013.

MSC has also revived its 14-night Grand Mediterranean voyages, which depart Venice every Friday, Saturday and Sunday between March and October 2013.

Saturday departures include seven nights on the new *MSC Divina*, while Sunday departures will be aboard the yet-to-launch *MSC Preziosa*, due to be christened next year.

Fares start at \$1,088 per person twin-share, including a \$200 per person early bird discount (\$100 per cruise) and free land transfers.

New 'Signature Series' fly/tour/cruise packages include the 22-night 'Bucket List' from Egypt to Venice via the Suez Canal, visiting the Pyramids, Petra, Turkey and Cyprus, priced from \$4,987 ppts.

The 24-night 'To Russia with Love' from Germany via the Baltic Sea also calls at ports in Scotland and Ireland, plus two nights in St Petersburg, priced from \$5,792 ppts.

For families, MSC also continues to offer a 'kids cruise free' special for all under-18s sharing a cabin with two paying adults.

To request a brochure or view other itineraries, see your travel agent or go to www.msccruisesau.com.au.

Last Minute Deals

This weekly column highlights hot deals on cruises departing soon - ideal for our spontaneous readers.

Check out this week's cruise bargain:

15-day Southampton roundtrip cruise onboard *Arcadia*

- **From:** \$6,159pp
- **Departs:** 16 August 2012
- **Visits:** Gothenburg, Warnemunde (Germany); Tallinn (Estonia); St Petersburg (Russia); Helsinki (Finland); Stockholm (Sweden); Copenhagen (Denmark); and Oslo (Norway).
- **Includes:** Return airfares, 14-night cruise, 2-night accom in Dubai, and 2-nights accom in London
- **Contact:** www.ecruising.travel

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Recipe of the Month

Sea Scallops (serves eight)

This week's recipe brought to you by



Ingredients

- 8 pieces jumbo-size sea scallops
 - 200gm dry chickpeas
- 1 small onion, 1 carrot and 2 celery sticks
 - 1 piece bouquet garni
- 4 tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil
 - 40g shallots, chopped
 - 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 8 fine slices real Spanish chorizo
 - 50g chorizo in fine cube
 - 3fl oz white wine
- 8fl oz fresh tomato fondue
 - 4fl oz vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons flat parsley, chopped
 - Salt & Pepper

Preparation

Soak the chickpeas in cold water for at least 12 hours, changing the water several times. Drain them and place it in a pan with the whole carrot, onion, the celery sticks & bouquet garni. Cover with water, bring to the boil, skim and simmer gently for 2 hours. Remove the bouquet garni, strain the chickpeas and keep the carrot. Cut the carrot into small diced pieces. In a pan, cook slowly the shallots and the garlic with 2 tablespoons olive oil, add the chorizo and cook 2 minutes, add the wine and let it reduce. Add the diced carrot cubes. Stir in the tomato fondue, the chickpeas and the vegetables broth, season to taste and let it reduce. Toast the slice of chorizo and drain on absorbent paper. Season the sea scallops, and sauté the two sides. Finish the sauce by adding the chopped parsley and the olive oil. In each soup plate, put some chickpea sauce, add one scallop and garnish with the fried chorizo.

ENJOY!

Ponant goes to Bridgepoint

FRENCH luxury cruise company Compagnie du Ponant is set to be sold to a European private equity firm, Bridgepoint.

The sale, between Ponant's parent company CMA CGM, the world's third largest container shipping company, and Bridgepoint will take until the end of August to finalise.

"The agreement will offer La Compagnie du Ponant the resources it needs to fulfil its ambitions, maintain its growth momentum and take its international expansion to a new level," a statement from CMA CGM said.

According to CMA CGM, Bridgepoint focusses on the acquisition of companies valued up to €1 billion.

Compagnie du Ponant was founded in 1988 and operates four luxury ships ranging in size from 32 to 132 cabins.

Last year the company hosted 20,000 passengers and had a turnover of €80 million.

Saga Ruby to be polished off

SAGA Cruises has announced the end of an era, with plans to retire *Saga Ruby* next year.

The last cruise vessel to have been built in Britain, *Ruby* has delighted passengers for 39 years, starting off life as Norwegian America Line's *Vistafjord*, then moving to Cunard Line where she sailed under the name *Caronia*, before joining the Saga fleet in 2004.

Discussing the company's decision, Saga Shipping CEO Robin Shaw said "operating a ship of this age to meet the exacting standards we and others set is becoming an increasing challenge.

"We have therefore decided that she should be gracefully retired in 18 months.

"*Saga Ruby* will in her ruby anniversary year visit many of the ports where she has been warmly welcomed over the years," he added.

Next year *Ruby* will sail an around-the-world itinerary, with her final voyage being a 31-night Caribbean cruise which will depart 07 December from Southampton.



A DECOMMISSIONED submarine was briefly put back into action in New York's Hudson River recently when the wake from the docking 2,348-pax *Norwegian Star* caused its supporting wharf to topple into the water.

The sub, which now serves as a floating museum, was closed to tourists at the time and wasn't overly damaged, reopening later that day following quick repairs.

Norwegian Cruise Line said that strong currents during the docking process forced the awkward maneuvering which caused the abnormal wake.

ROYAL Caribbean's latest cruise innovation is specially designed all-you-can-drink Coca-Cola dispensers.

The so-called *Freestyle Machines* don't just offer standard flavours - they use "medical micro dosing technology" with cartridges like those used in inkjet printers to create a "world of flavours never available before".

Bob Midyette, director of Fleet Beverage Operations, suggested such possibilities as Orange Coke or Peach Fanta Zero.

The machines use radio frequency ID technology to identify holders of souvenir onboard soda cups, meaning guests can serve themselves as much fizzy stuff as they like throughout their voyage.

Viking steps closer to the ocean

VIKING Ocean Cruises got one step closer to its vision of sailing ocean vessels this month, when it signed the official contract for the construction of two luxury liners with shipmaking giant, Fincantieri.

Earlier in the year the duo had entered into a memorandum of understanding for the ships' construction (**CW** 24 April), after Viking pulled out of negotiations with another shipyard, STX France.

According to the newly signed agreement, both vessels will weigh in at 47,000 tonnes, feature capacity for 944 guests and boast 472 cabins.

The first vessel is scheduled for delivery in the first half of 2015, whilst the second is expected early 2016.

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How to avoid seasickness

by: Louise Goldsbury

A FEAR of seasickness is one of the main reasons that people are turned off cruising – but most of the time, cruises are smooth sailing, and those nauseous feelings are easily preventable.

Seasickness is simply motion sickness that occurs on watercraft, so it may be more likely to afflict people who feel ill in cars, planes or rollercoasters. It is the reaction of your inner ear equilibrium system to the unfamiliar motion of the ship, which causes stress on the balancing portion of the brain. Sometimes, it can take a while to “find your sea legs”.

While there is some disagreement about whether to lie down, the consensus seems to be to steer clear of your bed, unless it's at the very first sign of queasiness.

Over-the-counter medications (available from pharmacies) are extremely effective, but the tablets must be taken before boarding the ship, not when you are already on the ocean.

Don't wait until you are feeling unwell and hope it will pass. If you are very concerned, see your doctor for a prescription for a stronger medicine.

Below are some experts' tips on how to avoid and alleviate the dreaded *mal de mer*.

Brett Jardine, general manager, International Cruise Council Australasia:

“One thing I do know is that every individual is different. Of all the possible remedies, the best I have used are the patches you stick behind your ear. Unfortunately, you can't buy them in Australia but if you have a good friend in New Zealand, they can be purchased over the counter there. I did hear recently that champagne works well – which could explain why my wife doesn't suffer from it at all!”

Bruce Poon Tip, founder, Gap Adventures:

“Close your eyes and lie down and take it easy for a bit. This must be done from the minute you're feeling a bit queasy, and not after you are sick. If you manage things before you actually get sick, you can avoid it.”

Samantha Griffiths, cruise consultant, Champagne Travel Halls Head:

“Sit up on deck or on your balcony and watch the horizon in the fresh air. Always works for me.”

Sandy Greenwood, general manager, Adventure Associates:

“Get it before it gets you. If you suffer from seasickness generally, take medication before you leave port. If you are heading into rough seas, go to your cabin early and stay in your bed or bunk before it gets too rough.”

Dick West, founder, Explor Tours:

“Green apples and ginger ale.”

Leighton Schembri, Cruise Guru:

“Green apples, and filling up on a lot of food, or if possible, lay down on a deck chair on the promenade deck and avoid higher decks of the ship.”

Noree Kahika, Queensland state manager, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises:

“The great thing about river cruising – no seasickness. The boat travels an average speed of four knots, so it really is hard to believe that it's moving at all.”

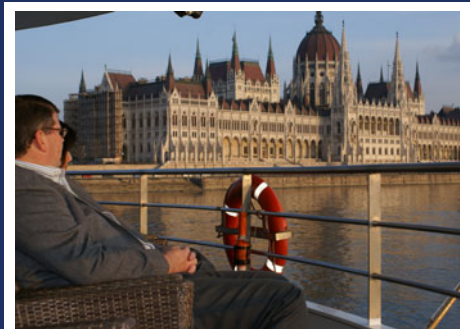
If all else fails, ask the crew for assistance or see the ship doctor.



Focus on the horizon



A green apple a day...



Play it safe on a river

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Jewels of the Pacific

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MAR 16 - CRUISING THE TASMAN SEA

MAR 17 - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Head into the scenic Dandenong Mountains and ride the Puffing Billy steam train through the forest. Meet the koalas, wallabies and more at a wildlife park or explore local wineries.

MAR 18 - CRUISING THE TASMAN SEA

MAR 19 - HOBART (TASMANIA), AUSTRALIA

Explore quaint, historic towns; see the exquisite countryside of apple orchards and wineries. Enjoy spectacular views from mountaintop aeries.

MAR 20/21 - CRUISING THE TASMAN SEA

MAR 22 - CRUISING THE FJORDS OF MILFORD SOUND

MAR 23 - DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND

Discover the rugged, beautiful Otago Peninsula, filled with geological wonders, and gaze in awe at the great albatross with its 10-foot wingspan. Keep an eye out for fur seals on the rocks and perhaps some yellow-eyed penguins.

MAR 24 - AKAROA, NEW ZEALAND

Take your time to soak in the magic of this little piece of paradise. Nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano, you will find the largest little penguin colonies on mainland New Zealand. Sea kayak amidst the scenic surroundings and keep your eyes open for the rarest and smallest variety of marine dolphins.

MAR 25 - WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Stroll past Victorian Gothic buildings, visit the exquisite botanic gardens, take the cable car up the mountain for a fantastic view, or head for the city beach. Journey around the spectacular harbor with its amazing views and visit a sheep or cattle station.

MAR 26 - CRUISING THE TASMAN SEA

MAR 27 - TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

Discover Tauranga's lovely parks and history or head to Rotorua with its fabulous geysers, hot springs and Maori culture. Explore the Rangitaiki River and its amazing scenery.

MAR 28 - AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Enjoy this beautiful city, its enormous parks and spectacular views from Mount Eden. Learn about Maori culture; visit the famed Waitomo Glowworm Caves and their fantastic formations.

MAR 29 - BAY OF ISLANDS, NEW ZEALAND

Relish the opportunities in this natural playground as you observe flying dolphins, gannets and blue penguins. The diving is renowned as some of the best in the world. Visit the historic Waitangi Treaty House, where the founding document of New Zealand was signed.

MAR 30/31 - CRUISING THE SOUTH PACIFIC

APR 01 - NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA

Meander through this Victorian-inspired city, the last monarchy in the Pacific, easily accomplished in a day. The surrounding coral reefs provide spectacular snorkeling opportunities.

APR 02 - INT'L DATE LINE EAST

APR 03 - RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS

Heavenly paradise awaits you on this idyllic island, with its craggy volcanic peak rising above all else. Enjoy a beach day at Black Rock, sample the snorkeling in the southern lagoon or rent a bicycle for the day to go exploring.

APR 04 - CRUISING THE SOUTH PACIFIC

APR 05 - BORA BORA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Known as "the most romantic island in the world," the dramatic Mount Otumanu stands watch over sparkling turquoise waters and sugary sands.

APR 06 - MOOREA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Breathtakingly beautiful, stunning landscapes await, from the verdant mountains to the azure seas and white sand beaches. Take a canoe ride through the lagoon; snorkel, scuba or helmet-dive the reefs, or hike up to the Afareaitu Waterfalls.

APR 06/07 - PAPEETE (TAHITI), FRENCH POLYNESIA

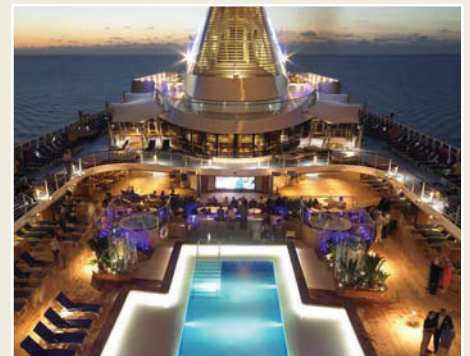
The island of Tahiti's urban center has much to offer visitors. Take a stroll through the new Jardins Paofai, watch the surfers on their longboards, marvel at Faarumai Waterfalls, The Blowhole, Fern Grottos.

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