

# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 06 November 2012

## Silversea releases 2014 schedule

The luxury line is planning 95 maiden calls, plus several new expeditions, and is also introducing a fare guarantee program.

**NOW** open for reservations, Silversea's 2014 program includes first-ever cruises through the South Pacific, French Polynesia, Northwest Passage, Russian Far East and Japan, aboard the *Silver Explorer*.

Among the other highlights are *Silver Whisper's* 113-day world voyage, via Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, Australia, New Zealand and Asia, including three days in Myanmar, before ending in Barcelona.

The ship will also make four sailings to French Polynesia, with calls to Hawaii, Kiribati and Easter Island.

New ports of call include 83 to be made by *Silver Explorer* and 12 new destinations by the rest of the fleet: Melilla and Almeria, Spain; Haugesund, Norway; Eskifjordur and Djupivogur, Iceland; Koror, Palau; Ponce, Puerto Rico; Sept-Îles and Trois-Rivières (Québec), Canada; Alotau, Papua New Guinea; Kavala, Greece; and Trujillo (Banana Coast), Honduras.

**MEANWHILE**, Silversea is rolling out Silver Privilege guaranteed fares on all voyages, effective immediately, for all voyages departing on or after 1 June 2013.

These fares are structured to make the cruise buying decision easier by offering the best possible fare for an available suite.

With this new Fare Guarantee Program, Silversea guests can book early, but will also benefit from any future reduction in the Silver Privilege fares for their voyage.

The adjustment will be in the form of a shipboard credit, suite upgrade, future cruise credit or fare reduction.

Other 2014 destinations include Mediterranean, Northern Europe and the Baltic, Africa, Alaska, South America, Caribbean and Panama Canal, Canada and New England, a 15-day transatlantic crossing from Barcelona to Fort Lauderdale, and a 13-day sailing across the Pacific from Tokyo to Seward.

A 10% extended voyage discount is available for a limited time on most 2014 voyages for passengers combining two or more consecutive voyages.

For details, see [www.silversea.com](http://www.silversea.com).

## Bill Peach Journeys turns 30

**LUXURY** operator Bill Peach Journeys is celebrating the big 3-0 by offering a spate of 30th birthday celebration deals.

Included in the selection is an 18-day Australia Aircruise circumnavigation hosted by Bill Peach himself, which takes guests to locations such as Monkey Mia, Esperance, Wilsons Promontory, Groote Eylandt, Kununurra and Steep Point, and includes accommodation at Hayman Island, Cape Lodge, Cable Beach Club Resort and Walkabout Lodge.

Fares are priced from \$19,595pp if booked and paid in full by 30 November 2012.

See your travel agent for details.

## TODAY'S ISSUE OF CW

Today's issue of **CW** features four pages of all the latest cruise news and photos.

## Voyager stops in Port Hedland

**FORGET** the Melbourne Cup, last Friday *Voyager of the Seas*' arrival was the event that stopped the West Australian town of Port Hedland.

Sailing in on Friday at 6am, *Voyager* captured the heart of the town, with many residents, encouraged by Port Hedland's Mayor, taking the day off work to welcome the ship and play consummate host to the vessel's 3,200 passengers.

The townspeople were in turn rewarded for their supreme efforts working with the arrival of the 137,000 ton, 15-passenger deck megaliner (which is almost double the size of any cruise ship currently based in Australian waters), by way of the short, sharp influx of highly coveted tourist dollars into the region's restaurants, shops and attractions.

The call was part of *Voyager's* 14-night repositioning cruise from Singapore to Fremantle via Thailand and Vietnam.



## Myanmar to get cruise boost

**MYANMAR** (Burma) in Southeast Asia is set to get a cruise tourism boost thanks to Orient Express Hotel's announcement that it will introduce a second river cruise operation in the region.

Growing in popularity for both land and cruise tourism, Myanmar will receive its newest vessel, *Orcaella*, in July next year.

The ship, named after the famed inland water dwelling dolphins of Myanmar, is currently under construction in Yangon, and when finished will boast four decks and 25 river-facing cabins with floor to ceiling sliding glass doors and Juliette balconies.

In her first year of operation, *Orcaella* will debut a series of itineraries between Yangon and Bhamo, which, with the vessel's shallow draft, will take guests down the remote Chindwin River, passing extensive mountain ranges towards western Myanmar and as far north as Homalin (48kms from the Indian boarder).

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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>Carnival Spirit</i>	Thu 08 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Fri 09 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	Fri 09 Nov
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	Sun 11 Nov
<i>Amsterdam</i>	Sun 11 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	Mon 12 Nov

### BRISBANE

<i>Sun Princess</i>	Wed 07 Nov
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Thu 08 Nov
<i>Amsterdam</i>	Fri 09 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	Fri 09 Nov
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Sat 10 Nov

### MELBOURNE

<i>Sea Princess</i>	Thu 08 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	Sun 11 Nov

### FREMANTLE

<i>Volendam</i>	Fri 09 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	Sat 10 Nov

### HOBART

<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	Tue 06 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	Tue 13 Nov

## 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:

### Three-night Christmas Food and Wine cruise onboard *Pacific Pearl*

- **From:** \$429pp (Inside Cabin)
- **Departs:** 14 Dec 2012
- **Includes:** three-nights cruising and onboard meals and entertainment.
- **Contact:** [ecruising.travel](http://ecruising.travel)

## Gold Coast cruising one step closer

The private sector has been invited to submit designs for the city's proposed marine facility on the Spit or the Broadwater.

**PLANS** continue for the development of a multi-purpose Gold Coast cruise terminal, with the City Council and Queensland State Government teaming up to call for expressions of interest.

To be built on Government-owned land, the ambitious facility is expected to comprise a cruise ship terminal, hotels, shops, restaurants, entertainment venues, residences and community recreation space.

National and international firms have been encouraged to present "one of a kind" ideas that will transform the region into a "truly global destination", Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate said.

Carnival Australia welcomed the call as "a step in the right direction" to enable the Gold Coast to share in the economic benefits of cruising.

"Cruising's growth in Queensland has played a significant part in our industry becoming the standout success of Australian tourism in recent years delivering widespread economic opportunities," Carnival Australia CEO Ann Sherry said.

"Cruise ship visits and the Gold Coast, as a

major tourist destination for local and international travellers, represent a natural combination that could give local tourism activity a much needed boost."

According to research prepared by consultancy firm EC3 Global, such a world-class integrated tourism development would have the potential to contribute \$750 million in additional annual revenue into the Gold Coast economy and create more than 10,000 local jobs by 2020.

Sherry said Carnival looked forward to working with the Government and Council in the development of the terminal.

"We have always said that if the facilities are there, the cruise ships will come," she said.

The proposal has seen strong opposition from community, environmental and surfing groups, but Mayor Tate said Council would continue to meet with stakeholders to provide detailed information.

## Orion guarantees 25% off

**ORION** Expedition Cruises is guaranteeing discounts of 25% off its famed *Orion* Kimberley cruises between Darwin and Broome for all 2013 bookings made before 30 November 2012.

Guests will also score a free scenic flight over the Bungle Bungle Ranges.

After the end of the month, the company's earlybird Kimberley cruise discounts will reduce by a minimum of 5%.

Fares for the voyages are priced from \$7,030pp.

See your travel agent for details, or visit [orionexpeditions.com](http://orionexpeditions.com).

**MEANWHILE** the company has also announced that it will be hosting a Kimberley Information Event in Sydney on 28 November at the National Maritime Museum.

To register your attendance for the event, visit [www.orionexpeditions.com/events](http://www.orionexpeditions.com/events).

## The Premiership has arrived in Perth



Royal Caribbean has raised the curtain on Australia's Premiership Voyager of the Seas®

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## Recipe of the Month

### Crepe Suzette with Orange Sauce

(serves two)

This week's recipe comes from Avalon Waterways and is served on the company's French river cruises.



### Ingredients

- 100g flour
- Four eggs
- 90g Melted Butter
- One Pinch Salt
- One Tablespoon Icing Sugar
- 60ml Milk
- One Tablespoon Rum
- Some oil
- Two oranges
- 12 Sugar Cubes
- Juice of One Lemon
- 40g Flaked Almonds
- A little Grand Marnier

### Preparation

Beat together the flour with the eggs, and add about one-third of the melted butter, along with the salt, icing sugar, rum and milk. Mix well to make a smooth and fairly runny pancake mixture. Leave to stand for at least 30 minutes, and then stir thoroughly again. If the mixture seems a little too thick, add one-two tbsps water. Heat a little oil in a non-stick frying pan, and ladle in small amounts of the mixture to make very thin and pale crepes. When each is cooked, remove from the pan, fold over twice, and keep warm. Warm the remaining butter. Use the sugar cubes to rub off the zest of the orange peel before halving the oranges and squeezing out the juice. Bring to the boil, and simmer for 1-2 minutes. Arrange the folded crepes together on a warm plate, sprinkle them with a little warm sauce. Leave to stand for a few minutes, so that the crepes can soak up the sauce. Finally, sprinkle with flaked almonds. Warm the Grand Marnier, pour it over the crepes and flambe.

## Central American boom

**RESPONDING** to increasing demand, Sea Cloud Cruises has released a brochure solely dedicated to its range of Caribbean and Central American voyages aboard its windjammers, *Sea Cloud* and *Sea Cloud II*.

"We are seeing a growing interest in the Caribbean and Central America amongst Australian travellers looking for that elusive combination of spectacular rainforest and beach scenery, abundant wildlife and vibrant culture," said Jackie Foggitt of Sales Activation Marketing who represents Sea Cloud Cruises.

The brochure features a total of 15 cruises measuring seven to 14-nights and which sail the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea between December 2012 and April 2013, taking in the natural parks of Costa Rica and Panama, as well as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Cuba, the world's second largest coral reef in Belize, ancient Mayan treasures in Mexico and much more.

See your local travel agent for a copy.

## Disney to sail to Jamaica in 2013

**MICKY** Mouse and co are set to take on Jamaica next year for the first time ever, with the latest announcement from Disney Cruise Line that it will host a spate of brand new seven-night West Caribbean voyages departing from Galveston, Texas.

Kicking off in late 2013, the seven-night itineraries onboard *Disney Wonder* will include calls in Falmouth, Jamaica; as well as three days at sea; a call in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; and a stop in Cozumel, Mexico.

Departure dates for the new itinerary include 05 and 19 October; 02, 16 and 30 November 2013.

Meanwhile Disney Cruise Line will also offer new 2013 seven-night Bahamas voyages from Galveston to Key West, Castaway Cay and Nassau.



## FISHY tales?

A Golf Club in Southern California is claiming to have rescued a 1kg leopard shark after it reportedly dropped from the sky onto the 12th tee.

Puncture wounds on the hapless shark indicated that it was scooped up by a bird but was dropped soon after, mid-flight.

Shortly after arriving at the 12th tee, the shark was returned to the ocean, and took to the water "at speed".

## The Getaway begins...

**WORK** on Norwegian Cruise Line's newest vessel *Norwegian Getaway* (sistership to *Norwegian Breakaway*) has begun in earnest with the laying of its keel at the Meyer Werft Shipyard in Papenburg, Germany this month.

*Getaway* is scheduled to debut mid January 2014, with NCL CEO Kevin Sheehan telling media that the company is "beyond excited to start construction"

"The start of the block assembly is an extremely significant milestone and we eagerly anticipate the delivery of *Norwegian Getaway*" he added.

## Want to see your food options?

**ROYAL** Caribbean is inviting cruisers to watch a new video it produced detailing eating options for guests with special dietary concerns.

The video is titled 'Royal Caribbean's Special Dietary Options: Lactose and Gluten-free Dishes Offer More Choices' and is available to view by **CLICKING HERE**.



### YANGTZE WONDERS



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## Amazing Amazon onboard the divine *Delfin I*

by: Louise Goldsbury

It had long been a dream to explore one of the world's most remote and exotic cruising rivers, abundant in wildlife and cloaked in mystery. Better still, on a luxurious vessel with only four suites, and an itinerary that is more safari than cruise.

**Day 1:** We boarded at Delfin Amazon Cruises' custom-built dock, complete with palm leaf roof, at Nauta, two hours drive from Iquitos, Peru. Glowing in the darkness, the *Delfin I* seemed a decadent home for only three couples - Germans, Canadians and Americans - and myself. Welcomed with Pisco Sours, we were shown to our oversized suites (about 32 square metres, plus a balcony as big as a bus). Reuniting for a delicious seafood meal, the lucky seven guests ended the night at the open bar on the top deck as we sailed down the Marañon River.

**Day 2:** After a breakfast fit for kings, the group was led onto a skiff to spot birds and animals along the Ucayali River. We saw iguanas, toucans, macaws, hawks, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, kingfishers and a three-toed sloth very slowly descending a tree. In the distance, the laughter of ant birds and the distinctive call of oropendolas rang through the jungle. Then, a pod of dolphins appeared. Magical!

In the afternoon, our guide Renny took us on an easy hike through a forest, where we learned about a fraction of the Amazon's 65,000 species of trees and plants. The evening was spent sampling more Peruvian cuisine and cocktails in the warm October breeze.

**Day 3:** Today we woke at 6am to catch the sunrise fauna of the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve. Dozens of squirrel monkeys leapt through trees; a black vulture caught a catfish; and we also had the chance to go fishing. Within five minutes, everyone had pulled in a piranha each! After lunch, some gentle kayaking and a three-course dinner, we relaxed and watched a storm roll in.

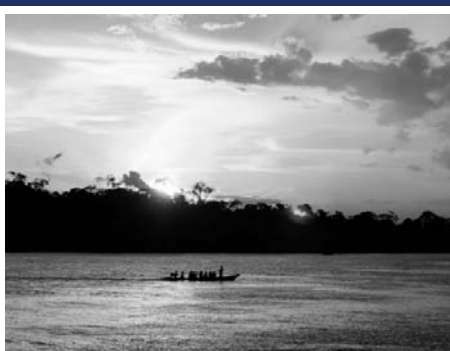
**Day 4:** Time to visit a village and meet the locals, where children happily posed for photos. Then, two of us accepted the opportunity to jump in for a swim.

On our last night, we were treated to a beautiful sunset, when suddenly a rare pink dolphin popped up and played nearby for half an hour. A five-course feast was followed by Chilean and Argentinean wines with bartender Denis up on deck.

**Day 5:** Stopping at a market before the journey back home, we also went to the Manatee Rescue Centre. Passengers then carried on to other adventures, such as Machu Picchu, a short flight away.

Fares start at US\$4,200 per person twin-share for a four-night cruise, drinks, meals, activities and transfers. The vessel's engine is loud, but otherwise *Delfin I* is modern and deluxe. See [www.delfinamazoncruises.com](http://www.delfinamazoncruises.com).

LAN offers six one-stop flights per week from Sydney to Santiago, via Auckland (and three non-stop flights in a code share service operated by Qantas), with connections to Lima and Iquitos. See [www.lan.com](http://www.lan.com).



Sunset view from the balcony



Delfin I



Check-in Amazon style

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