



The Premiership has arrived in Sydney



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

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Antarctic voyages stalled by strike

A national strike in Argentina has left passengers stranded and delayed departures for ships in Ushuaia.

THE start of the Antarctica cruise season was frozen for 24 hours on Tuesday when a nationwide strike affected operations at the major turnaround port of Ushuaia.

Cruise Weekly was aboard the *Akademik Ioffe* sailing on One Ocean Expeditions' first Antarctic voyage for 2012-13 when details of the action unfolded.

According to expedition leader Aaron Lawton, there was talk of closing the port, which would have forced the disembarkation process to be conducted by zodiacs at a nearby yacht club.

But the *Ioffe* was able to dock in the early hours of the morning, despite a lack of workers on the pier.

In an inventive move, the crew resorted to dressing casually to look like passengers when offloading luggage from the ship.

One Ocean Expeditions also provided its 50 departing guests with a take-away lunch to help ease the pain of potentially long delays at the airport.

A small number of Australian, Canadian and European passengers were unable to fly home due to cancelled flights, while others stayed in hotels in Ushuaia for the night.

All but one of the 175 arriving passengers, for both the *Ioffe* and its sister ship *Akademik Sergey Vavilov*, managed to make it into the country in time for the scheduled 20 Nov departure, mainly due to arriving a day early, but had to wait until after midnight for the

strike to finish for the ships to depart.

In Buenos Aires, most flights were grounded, along with some trains and buses.

Although it was reported that LAN and Aerolineas Argentinas pilots were prepared to work, airport ground staff (in departments such as catering and aircraft maintenance) were on strike.

The action was called as a political show of force by truckers union boss Pablo Moyano, the longtime leader of Argentina's General Workers Federation.

Moyano said their demands included "the total elimination of income taxes", as well as salary hikes and other benefits.

Royal Princess gets cabanas

ROYAL Princess is set to debut a series of private cabanas when she launches in Jun next year.

The cabanas will be located near the forward end of the top deck in both The Sanctuary and the line's popular adults-only pool areas.

Meanwhile *Royal Princess* will also sport enhanced 'Signature' features, such as a larger new-look Sanctuary area, with 20% more room than on other Princess vessels, four Private cabanas, and two Lotus Spa cabanas, as well as strategically placed rock gardens and special topiary planting with atmospheric lighting that leads to a new central pavilion.

Space in The Sanctuary can be reserved for \$15 for a half day/\$25 for a full day, per person.

ALL THE CRUISE NEWS

Today's trade issue of *CW* features four pages jam packed with all the latest cruise news.

Today in Cruise Weekly

TODAY'S *Cruise Weekly* features four pages of the latest news and photos, PLUS a full page wrap from Royal Caribbean on the arrival of *Voyager of the Seas*.



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Cruise News & Views



Brett Jardine - General Manager, ICCA

Feeding 2,600 passengers

It's now been a few weeks since my last cruise (QM2 New England) and the waist line is back to normal thanks to a diet of lettuce leaves and more time than usual on the treadmill!

We are all guilty of eating more than normal when we cruise but heck, why not - the nightly ritual of dressing up to enjoy a quality dining experience is all part of the cruise experience.

Deciding what to choose from an extensive menu can be challenging but what goes on behind the scenes prior to your indulgence?

Every day there is an incredible amount of preparation and whilst on board QM2 a very educational galley tour gave us some insight to what goes on behind the scenes.

There are 10 galleys on QM2 (including one for the crew) and leading the way is a brigade of 150 Chefs under the supervision of one Executive Chef.

The Chefs are supported by a team of 85 Utility Hands ranging from dish washers, pot washers and galley cleaners all working around the clock.

Supporting the galley operations is a provisions team of 13, responsible for ordering all food and beverage items and loading stores when the ship is in major ports of call.

Every seven days on QM2, passengers will consume 50 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables, 12 tons of meat, 8 tons of poultry, 13 tons of seafood, 2 tons of cheese and other dairy products, 2 tons of sugar, 20,000 litres of milk, 4 tons of flour, 2 tons of rice and over 32,000 eggs!

If that is not enough let your belt out a notch, 700 scones are served each afternoon and these are washed down with more than 6,000 cups of tea!

Voyager of the Seas arrives today

Australia's largest megaliner is due to dock at Sydney tonight, bringing features never before seen in local waters.

ROYAL Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* is carrying 3,046 passengers to its new homeport in Sydney after sailing an 18-night Australia and New Zealand cruise.

At approximately 7pm tonight (Thursday 22 Nov) the 137,270-tonne megaliner will cross paths in the harbour with *Celebrity Millennium*, from sister cruise line Celebrity Cruises, before arriving at the Overseas Passenger Terminal half an hour later.

Staying for two nights, Sydneysiders will have the opportunity to see the 15-decker vessel and meet its cast of DreamWorks Experience characters on Saturday (24 Nov, 12pm-3pm).

Billed as the biggest cruise ship based in Australia, the *Voyager* is almost 311 metres long with a maximum capacity of 3,838 passengers and more than 1,200 crew.

Its other special features include an ice-skating rink, the Royal Promenade and a three-deck dining room, regarded as the largest restaurant in Australia, as well as three pools, six whirlpools, an Adventure Beach water park, mini-golf course, full-sized sports court, two-

deck nightclub, a 1,350-seat theatre, in-line skating track and outdoor rock-climbing wall.

For information about good vantage points for tonight's arrival of *Voyager* and its historic crossing with *Celebrity Millennium*, see www.royalcaribbean.com.au/voyagerarrival.

Royal Caribbean flagship sale

ROYAL Caribbean's Flagship sale starts this weekend, and offers cruisers a range of savings including reduced deposits and onboard credit deals.

The sale encompasses all Australian, New Zealand and South Pacific cruises departing between Jan and Apr 2013 onboard *Voyager of the Seas*, *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *Radiance of the Seas*, and offers savings of up to \$1,700, bonus onboard credit of up to \$US200 and 50% reduced deposits.

As an added carrot, Royal Caribbean is also offering 50% off for second passengers in each booking for selected sailings.

The Flagship sale will kick-off on between Sunday 25 Nov and run until Saturday 1 Dec 2012.

Fares start from \$1,395pp/ts for a 14-night NZ cruise on *Voyager of the Seas* departing 27 Jan 2013 (with an extra US\$200 onboard credit), see www.royalcaribbean.com.au.

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Silversea prepares for the Galapagos

THIS week Silversea gathered industry members and media together to formally introduce Australia to the latest installment in its expedition sector, *Silver Galapagos*.

The event was hosted by Silversea president of Europe and Asia Pacific, Steve Odell, who told attendees that the region is "thriving".

Discussing the company's expedition sector, Odell revealed that Australia is the second largest market for Silversea's luxury adventure cruises, with around 20% of guests for its *Silver Explorer* product being Australian.

Addressing its Galapagos foray, which will kick off in late Sep 2013, Odell said "The Galapagos Islands is a part of the world where there wasn't a luxury product".

"*Silver Galapagos* will bring a whole different dimension to travel in the Galapagos," he added.

Silver Galapagos was acquired by the company around six months ago and after a major refit to bring it up to Silversea standards, she will launch next Sep as a "fully fledged Silversea ship".

Boasting capacity for 100 passengers and all the Silversea trimmings such as wetsuits for guests (the water temp in the Galapagos tends to err on the cold side) and kayaks, *Silver Galapagos* will run two seven-day itineraries around the Islands year round.

The voyages include a Western Itinerary: sailing roundtrip from Baltra Island and taking in Santiago, Bartolomé, Isabela, Fernandina, Floreana, San Cristóbal, and Santa Cruz; as well as a North Central Itinerary: which departs roundtrip from Baltra Island, and travels to Santa Cruz, Genovesa, Seymour Norte, San Cristóbal, Española, and Plazas Sur.

As for the adventures to be had, Odell said, "As much of the expedition will be underneath the water as it will be on land".

"We try to cover everything and there's really

an incredible experience waiting for people who want this type of adventure," he added.

Fares for the sailings start at \$6,050pp/ts.

MEANWHILE this week, the company released its 2014 brochure which features voyages up until the end of 2014.

"We plan a long way ahead, and that is very important in this market, because Australians are the earliest bookers of our business," Odell said.

The brochure features over 200 sailings, visiting more than 500 destinations on seven continents (covering the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Baltics, Asia, Africa, India, Alaska, Australia, NZ, South Pacific, South America, the Caribbean and the Panama Canal, Canada, New England, Antarctica, Galapagos, and Russia) and includes highlights such as the debut of Myanmar as a port of call.

"Myanmar is an area which we've identified that in the next 3-5 years will be a big destination for luxury cruising" said Odell.

"The challenge for Myanmar at the moment is that there is a lot of interest but not a lot of infrastructure such as hotels, so getting around is not that simple, so we believe Myanmar is a big opportunity for our business," he added.

The brochure also features a Fare Guarantee Program which rewards guests for early bookings; and offers 10% savings on extended voyages where guests combine two or more consecutive voyages.

Pictured *right* at the Galapagos event is Steve Odell with Karen Christensen, gm and director sales/marketing Australasia.



Meet Voyager's characters

VOYAGER of the Seas' team of DreamWorks characters, from movies such as Shrek and Madagascar, will take a wander around Sydney's Circular Quay this Saturday (24 Nov) to meet locals and have a chat.

As such, Royal Caribbean is inviting kids of all ages to First Fleet Park near the Overseas Passenger Terminal at Circular Quay to meet the characters and have their photos taken with them (taking the pics home in a souvenir fridge magnet).

The event will take place from 12 noon to 3pm and is free to participate in.

Rynd will take the NZ helm

CUNARD celebrated the 100-day countdown to the Australian arrival of *QM2* this week, by announcing that its New Zealand-born Commodore Christopher Rynd will be at the helm for the liner's 12-night circumnavigation of New Zealand, departing 07 Mar 2013.

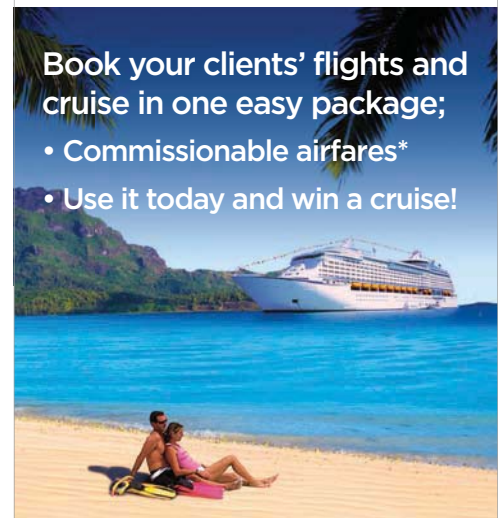


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APT agents awe in Amsterdam



APT has treated an assemblage of West Australian agents to an eight-night adventure departing from Amsterdam onboard *AmaVerde*.

Onboard, the hard working group enjoyed gourmet meals (APT is the only river cruise line inducted into the exclusive La Chaine des Rôtisseurs), as well as wine with lunch and dinner.

Onshore the agents partook in highlights such a glass of sekt at Wertheim Castle, beer tasting in Bamberg, and a WW2 sightseeing tour in Nuremberg.

The group is pictured boarding *AmaVerde*, (from left): Jacinta Gresham, Flight Centre Livingston; Bianca Zurzolo, Travel Key Leederville; Samantha Swinbourne, Singapore Airlines; Raelene Caltsounis, Travel Focus International; Julie Barns, Travelworks Cruise and Travel; Maria Faria, Motive Travel; Kate Bellies, RAC Joondalup; Kristen Jarrard, APT Marketing; Brooke Reynolds, Jetset Midland; Hannah Flaherty, City Beach Travel and Cruise.

The Dawn of new cruises

NEXT year *Dawn Princess* will boast three new voyages, as part of her 2013 Grand Europe World Cruise.

Ranging in length from 21- to 37-days, the trio includes a 21-day Mediterranean cruise sailing roundtrip from Rome on 14 Aug 2013, which will take in 14 ports covering Greece, Croatia, Slovenia and Turkey; as well as a 32-day adventure from Sydney to Rome departing on 13 Jul which visits Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Maldives and Egypt before transiting the Suez Canal enroute to Italy.

The trifecta is rounded out with a 37-day Rome to Sydney sailing through the Western Mediterranean and Asia with highlights including visits to Petra and Malta, and an option for cruisers to participate in an overland shore excursion to the Taj Mahal.

Prices for the sectors start from \$3,999pp/ts for the 21-day and 32-day cruises, and \$5,999pp/ts for the 37-day adventure.

See www.princess.com.

Fresh from the oven

ROYAL Caribbean's latest online video *Fresh from the Oven*, takes viewers on an excursion behind the scenes of its baking operation.

Viewers can watch as breads and pastries are baked, and also enjoy interviews with key players in the process.

CLICK HERE to watch.



VISITBRITAIN brings the UK to Sydney.

Luring Australian cruisers to Britain just got easier with the release of the latest installment in the Bond saga, *Skyfall*.

Tasked with the mission to draw Australian holidaymakers to Britain, VisitBritain painted Sydney Red, White and Blue and handed her a Martini shaken not stirred, this week, at an industry preview screening of Bond's latest adventures.

Chatting to **CW** VisitBritain's marketing manager Australia, Mark Haynes, said that Bond represents the "English experience" being iconic, rugged, exciting, breathtaking, inspiring, adventurous, and timeless.

To this end VisitBritain's new *Skyfall* tourism

campaign pulls no punches simply saying 'Bond is Great Britain'.

Haynes is pictured (right) at the preview with Bond and

Kristen Angus, communications manager Australia, VisitBritain.



November price increase

CRUISERS who are considering an Orion Expeditions 2013/14 voyage only have until 30 Nov 2012 before guaranteed fares increase by a minimum of 5%.

Reservations made by 30 Nov 2012 for sailing dates between 24 Feb 2013 and 28 Feb 2014 will secure the lower prices.

Fares start from \$7,035pp/ts for a 10-night Kimberley Expedition.

See www.orioncruises.com.au.

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PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710

Phone: 1300 799 220 Fax: 1300 799 221

Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper
Editor: Louise Goldsbury

Assistant Editor: Amanda Collins

Contributors: Roderick Eime, Chantel Long and Guy Dundas

Email: info@cruiseweekly.com.au

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