

CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 29 October 2013

New Central to White Bay shuttle

P&O is set to introduce a passenger transfer service from Sydney's Central Station to the White Bay Cruise Terminal.

AFTER months of complaints about the lack of public transportation options to Sydney's new cruise facility, P&O has confirmed that coach transfers will commence 25 November.

The cruise line has emailed upcoming passengers about the new service, which is now available for booking through its call centre and travel agents.

Four departure times for the service are offered: 12pm, 12.30pm, 1pm and 1.30pm.

But not everybody is happy, as some consumers on P&O's Facebook page claim that the cost – \$15 per person one-way – would be more expensive than a taxi for two people.

A spokesperson told *Cruise Weekly*: "P&O Cruises is always on the look-out for ways to make transfers even better.

"As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering a seamless and enjoyable cruise holiday experience, we've introduced coach services from Central Station to White Bay."

"The move recognises that a number of our passengers find trains the easiest way to access the city, with the new coach service providing them with an easy link to White Bay."

Post-cruise, passengers can continue to purchase the existing transfer from White Bay back to Central only when onboard the ship.

A ferry service to and from the line's terminal at White Bay also remains on the radar for cruise companies and the local Leichhardt Council, who have stepped up pressure on the State Government to open a wharf to service the precinct.

According to the spokesperson, P&O "strongly supports Sydney Ports' review of other transport options including ferries from Circular Quay to White Bay."

The new coach transfer was first revealed on the.cruiseylife.com.

No solo fees on Danube cruise

EASTERN European Travel has confirmed it is again working with Luftner Cruises to promote and sell staterooms on its departures to the Australian market in 2014.

In celebration of the contract, the company has negotiated an exclusive deal aimed at solo travellers on a seven-night cruise from Budapest to Passau, departing on 19 Jul 2014.

Travelling aboard *MS Amadeus Brilliant*, outside staterooms for solo travellers on the sailing are priced from \$2,972 single share - a discount of \$1,486.

For more details, phone Eastern European Travel Centre on 1300 668 844.

Gauguin's Aussie cruise promo

PASSENGERS booking one of Paul Gauguin Cruises' 14-night Australia and Southeast Asia voyages before the end of the year can enjoy one free night pre-cruise stay in at the Shangri-La Hotel Singapore.

The line's Australian season will be operated by the *MS Paul Gauguin*, with sailings to depart from Cairns and travel among the many islands along Australia's north-east and far northern coast through Indonesia to Singapore.



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>	Tue 29 Oct
<i>Sun Princess</i>	Tue 29 Oct
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	Sat 2 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Sat 2 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	Mon 4 Nov
<i>Ocean Princess</i>	Mon 4 Nov

MELBOURNE

<i>Oosterdam</i>	Tue 29 Oct
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Sun 3 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Mon 4 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	Mon 4 Nov

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Thu 31 Oct
<i>Ocean Princess</i>	Sat 2 Oct

DARWIN

<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	Thu 31 Oct
<i>Volendam</i>	Thu 31 Oct
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	Fri 1 Nov

ADELAIDE

<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Fri 1 Nov
----------------------	-----------

HOBART

<i>Oosterdam</i>	Thu 31 Oct
------------------	------------

AUCKLAND

<i>Sun Princess</i>	Sat 2 Nov
---------------------	-----------

TAURANGA

<i>Sun Princess</i>	Sun 3 Nov
---------------------	-----------

Scenic launch luxury charters

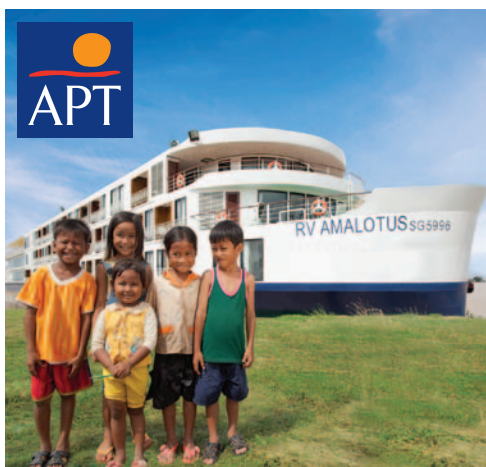
A NEW brochure dedicated to an exclusive range of luxury Asian river cruises has been launched by Scenic Tours.

The tour operator has introduced a pair of river cruise experiences, both of which will offer the company's Scenic Enrich and Scenic FreeChoice tour customised options.

Itineraries will be sailed by the 68-passenger *Mekong Navigator*, moving between the south Vietnamese hub of Ho Chi Minh City and the Cambodian city of Siem Reap.

Additionally, Scenic Tours has secured charter rights to the 56-passenger *Irrawaddy Explorer* and will offer a range of departures between Mandalay and Prome, both in Burma.

Both of the high-end luxury boutique voyages will be led by English-speaking guides.



APT

Vietnam & CAMBODIA

LUXURY MEKONG RIVER CRUISING & LAND JOURNEYS

2014-15 OUT NOW

FLY FREE*

Book by 31 January 2014

CALL 1300 278 278

or visit www.aptouring.com.au

*Conditions apply. Contact APT for full terms & conditions. Australian Pacific Touring Pty Ltd ABN 44 004 684 619 Lic. No. 30112 MKT12376_CW

CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 29 October 2013



Discover the World Cruising

Book now & SAVE 20% OFF the cruise fare

2014 Cruising Europe & Exotic Corners brochure OUT NOW!

European river cruise fares slashed

Tempo Holidays has launched a two-for-one deal on its first offering of river cruises to Australians.

BARGAIN-HUNTERS should be quick to snap up these newly released cruises in Europe for little more than \$1,000 per person.

Fares have been slashed to \$2,033 per couple for a seven-night Classical Rhine sailing from Amsterdam to Basel, via Germany and France,

aboard *Amadeus Princess*, a vessel operated by family-run line Luftner Cruises, who have been sailing in Europe for more than 30 years.

Aussie touring firm Tempo Holidays is offering this unprecedented two-for-one deal on the 12 April and 16 October 2014 departures when booked by 15 November 2013.

Pricing includes all meals, complimentary wines with dinner, shore excursions and onboard entertainment.

Other discounted cruises are featured in the company's 2014 Italy, Central Europe & River Cruising; and France & Spain brochures.

"Tempo Holidays is proud to be associated with Luftner Cruises, a family-run company established in the European cruise market for over 30 years and now offering this outstanding product to the Australian market," Tempo Holidays river cruising product manager Santiago Ramos said.

"Our selection of French, German and 'across Europe' cruises offer outstanding comfort and quality, accompanied by perfect service in an atmosphere of classic elegance at an affordable price."

A deluxe cruising package on the 10-day Portraits of the Rhone features two nights' four-star accommodation in Paris and rail transfers to Lyon to embark a seven-night cruise aboard the *Amadeus Symphony*.

A \$100 per person discount applies until 28 February 2014.

"All the cabins on these floating hotels are outside facing, offering clients spectacular views of stunning landscapes, charming towns and cultural sites," Ramos said.

"They feature spacious cabins and suites fitted with every conceivable comfort as well as facilities such as sundecks, pools and restaurants.

"River cruising is the ideal way to travel for those who want to experience the tranquil scenic side of Europe, with carefully crafted, extensive itineraries offering plenty of inclusions, and you unpack your luggage just once," Tempo said of the new range.

For details, see www.tempoholidays.com or contact your travel agent.

Globus put brands in a blender

COACH touring & river cruising in Europe through the Globus Family of Brands are now intrinsically linked after the company launched a new European brochure marrying several departures into a new seamless holiday range.

The newly-released Europe Connections 2014 brochure features nine combined Globus and Avalon Waterways coach/cruise itineraries, with the initial range featuring options in Italy, France, Spain, Britain, Ireland, Switzerland and Eastern Europe, with cruising on major rivers including the Rhine, Rhône, Main & Danube.

Special launch discounts of up to \$750 per couple are available on itineraries in the new brochure if booked by the end of this year.

Highlighted itineraries include a 23-day Magnificent Italy, Burgundy & Provence trip which takes in many of Italy's landmarks such as Pompeii and Capri before transferring to Paris for an Avalon Waterways cruise, priced from \$7,709pp twin share - see your agent.

RCI to boost Voyager capacity

APPROXIMATELY 75 new staterooms will be added to Royal Caribbean International's fleet of five Voyager-class vessels as part of a reworking of the ship's interiors.

The capacity increase was unveiled by ceo Adam Goldstein during a third-quarter conference call with investors late last week.

No set schedule of when the ships will enter drydock for the interior updates has been announced, as the first ship in the class - *Voyager of the Seas* - is set to arrive in Australia for its latest season of sailings next week.

Each ship in the line's Voyager class currently caters to 3,114 passengers twin share.

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean has released a range of new specials valid over the upcoming Christmas holidays.

Voyager of the Seas will be sailing a nine-night cruise to Fiji from Sydney on 18 Dec, with interior cabins priced at \$1,599pp twin share.

Nine-night South Pacific departures aboard sister-ships *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *Radiance of the Seas* on 19 & 20 December and are priced from \$1,579pp twin share and \$1,839pp twin share respectively.



PRINCESS CRUISES
escape completely®

Discover Europe
in 2014 with
Princess Cruises®



- 120 European destinations
- 48 unique itineraries
- Over 90 departures
- 5 unique ships

[Click here to learn more!](#)

2014 MEDITERRANEAN OUT NOW!
DISCOVERY CRUISING ON VOYAGER

550 Like-minded passengers • Renowned Guest Speaker Programme
More time in port to see more and explore

[Click to view a selection of unique experiences](#)

Voyages
of Discovery



CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 29 October 2013



Townsville welcomes first ship

MORE than 2000 passengers and crew alighted from Holland America Line's *Volendam* late last week as the vessel became the first to dock at the new \$85 million Quayside cruise terminal in Townsville, North Queensland.

Welcoming the vessel was live music from the local Kirwan High School band, food stalls, volunteer tour guides and an official visit from the city's Mayor Cr Jenny Hill, who presented *Volendam* Captain Jeroen Baijens with a plaque commemorating the inaugural visit.

"We hope the positive feedback from these experiences will encourage more cruise shipping companies to include Townsville," Townsville Enterprise's Patricia O'Callaghan said.

Over the next year, ten more cruise ships are scheduled to call in to visit Townsville - for photos of the new terminal, [CLICK HERE](#).

Princess celebrates Love Boat star birthday



LAUREN Tewes, who played Julie McCoy, the original Cruise Director aboard hit 1970s US television show *The Love Boat*, celebrated her 60th birthday in Brisbane yesterday.

Tewes boarded Princess Cruises' *Sea Princess*

in Brisbane for a special birthday party attended by long-time fans of the hit program and Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry.

Together, Sherry and *The Love Boat* fans unveiled a gigantic 60 for Lauren along with an equally large birthday cake shaped like the *Sea Princess* itself.

Birthday girl Lauren Tewes is **pictured** above with Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry.



Did You Know?

Celebrity Cruises - *Celebrity Solstice*

- ◆ 13,000 meals a day are prepared onboard *Celebrity Solstice*.
- ◆ Her spectacular main restaurant has a two-storey, floor-to-ceiling glass wine tower that holds 2,800 bottles of wine.
- ◆ The 1,255 staff onboard *Celebrity Solstice* will represent 70 different countries this season - including an Australian Executive Chef.
- ◆ 85% of her staterooms have their own private balcony - the highest ratio of any ship based in Australia.
- ◆ Standing upright on her bow, *Celebrity Solstice* would be 8 metres taller than Sydney's Centrepoint tower (309 metres) or 74 metres taller than Brisbane's Soleil building (243 metres).
- ◆ *Celebrity Solstice* features a living 7.6 metre tall Ficus Benjamina 'wintergreen' tree, suspended in the middle of the ship's 13-deck high Atrium.
- ◆ 240 dozen eggs, 8,814 kilograms of meat and 750 kilograms of fresh vegetables are consumed daily onboard *Celebrity Solstice*.
- ◆ The Hot Glass Show glassblowers, or "gaffers", from The Corning Museum of Glass work the glass at temperatures of up to 1,150° Celsius.
- ◆ *Celebrity Solstice* is the industry's first ship to use solar energy and is fitted with 277 solar panels - enough to power all of the ship's guest elevators or more than 7,000 LED lights.

Asian makeover for Costa ship

NEW balconies, terraces and windows will be installed on the *Costa Victoria* as part of an US\$18m refurbishment, the line has advised.

Work on the vessel, which was deployed to the China market last year, will be carried out at Singapore's Sembawang shipyard and will be back in service on 11 Nov.

The line said the ship's interior will be redesigned with a "contemporary European flair", with retail areas expanded.

Updates to dining offerings will also be carried out, including a new "midnight buffet", pizza and noodle bar and buffet terraces with large numbers of outdoor seating.

More sailings for American

THIRTY-FIVE unique itineraries form part of the newly-released 2014 cruise schedule from American Cruise Lines, one of which is a brand new Mississippi River voyage which passes through six US states in eight days, sailing aboard the *Queen of the Mississippi*.

The new season also includes an expanded operation in the Puget Sound and San Juan Islands in the country's far northwest, with eight new departures added from Seattle.

MEANWHILE, the line's Mississippi season will kick off with a specially themed Mardi Gras cruise departing New Orleans on 01 Mar 2014.

The seven-night sailing can also be extended into a nine-night experience with a pre-cruise package in New Orleans able to be added on.



HE CERTAINLY doesn't look anything like Arnold Schwarzenegger but that isn't going to stop eccentric mining magnate/politician/cruise ship builder Clive Palmer following in The Governor's rather large footsteps and make a foray into the movies.

In Palmer's latest brainwave, he has registered the company name of Palmer Pictures - you read that right, he now wants to be a movie star.

Plans are now in the works for a feature film to be made about *Titanic II*, which is on track to make its Atlantic re-tracing voyage from Southampton to New York in 2016.

Palmer told the AAP news agency that the movie will be a love story, will be filmed aboard the liner and will see a special cameo appearance from Palmer himself.

No word has emerged on whether Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet or director James Cameron have been approached to reprise their roles or contribute to what will undoubtedly be an epic production.

CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 29 October 2013

Advertise with us

• Cost Effective • Targeted • Easy

For details call us today:
1300 799 220

CRUISE
WEEKLY



Mekong Cruising - For how much longer?

by: Roderick Eime

JUST as cruising along the famous Mekong River in Vietnam and Cambodia is hitting its straps, news is that dams being built further up the river in Laos in a joint project with Thailand seem likely to change the nature of the Mekong forever.

Anyone who has cruised the Yangtze in recent years will know firsthand how comprehensively dams can alter the character of a river. Instead of little traditional villages and subsistence farming and fishing, we have concrete and steel replacing authentic materials as the water rises and the population is relocated to high-rise developments.

Will this happen to the Mekong? The truth is no-one knows. But what is fairly certain is that the river dependent communities in Cambodia and Vietnam who the river cruising tourists visit on a daily basis will face food security threats. Fish migration patterns and the life-giving flood cycles will be seriously impacted.

Worldwide, the Mekong River ranks second in fish diversity after the Amazon, with more than 1000 new plant and fish species discovered in the past decade, according to the World Fish Center. About 60 million people in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia are dependent on the Mekong for their livelihoods, according to the [World Wildlife Fund](#).

"**The Don Sahong**... will block migratory fish, which is 70 percent of Mekong fish, from swimming upstream and down on the only channel that allows the fish to reach the upper part of the Mekong," said Ame Trandem, the Southeast Asia programme director at advocacy group [International Rivers](#).

She said the (Don Sahong) dam, which will require 95,000 truckloads of riverbed to be removed, will devastate the region's fish and dolphins, the tourism industry, and the hundreds of thousands of

fishermen whose livelihoods depend on the Mekong.

Further north in Laos, the Xayaburi Dam is creating equal if not greater concern. The Mekong Basin Community Council Network (MBCC) has called on the Thai Government to step in and help block the construction of both dams on the mainstream Mekong River.

Critics and environmentalists are angry with Laos and Thailand for failing to uphold their pledge to consult neighbouring countries under the 1995 Mekong Agreement, which requires thorough consultation on every project proposed for the mainstream Mekong River. Others are less coy in their objections, accusing stakeholders in both Laos and Thailand of putting massive profits before the livelihood and security of the residents all along the Mekong.

One cruise operator spoke to *Cruise Weekly* on condition of anonymity.

"We just don't know what will happen. All around the world the effects of dams on rivers can be seen and Mekong cruise lines have made massive investments in ships, staff and infrastructure. This uncertainty is not good for anyone's business and clearly the people who stand to suffer the most are those who live along the river. Our guests develop an emotional bond with the families and townsfolk who welcome and host us. Many are distressed that the river communities who have already suffered so much face new and completely avoidable threats."

British-born journalist and filmmaker, **Tom Fawthrop**, has worked in Southeast Asia for more than 25 years and studied the dam project. "Yes, of course the rural people in Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand have the right to electricity, but they also have the right to fish. You can't eat electricity."



Mekong fisherman throws his net



Floating traders in the delta



Threatened: traditional Mekong fish harvesting

Cruise Weekly is Australia's favourite online cruising publication. In production since 2007, *Cruise Weekly* is published each Tuesday, with a further travel industry update each Thursday.

Cruise Weekly is free and is sent to subscribers via email as an Adobe Acrobat PDF document.

Sign up for a free subscription at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710

Phone: 1300 799 220 Fax: 1300 799 221

Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Magda Herdzik and Lisa Martin
Email: advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper

Email: accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper
Editor: Louise Goldsbury

Production Editor: Matt Lennon

Contributors: Roderick Eime, Guy Dundas and Olivia Archbold

Email: info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Travel Daily

CRUISE
WEEKLY

Pharmacy
DAILY

Travel
DailyTV

business events news

Cruise Weekly is a publication of *Cruise Weekly* Pty Ltd. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Cruise Weekly* no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.