



Watch a ship stretch

AN AMAZING time-lapse video showing a recent 'stretching' of Fred Olsen Cruise Lines' *Balmoral* vessel has become an internet sensation, viewed thousands of times - **CLICK HERE** to check it out.

ANNUAL SALE ON NOW

Save up to
\$1500*
per person

+

123go!SM

BOOK NOW



Celebrity **X** Cruises®

CPC opens Kimberley early

CORAL Princess Cruises has released its 2015 Kimberley program "well ahead of schedule", as the region heats up with extra competition from Silversea and Lindblad Expeditions.

The Australian company, which pioneered cruising along the

Kimberley Coast in 1996, decided to open bookings this week in response to "soaring demand" for next season.

Celebrating its 20th year of business, Coral Princess will operate a record 34 departures between Apr and Oct aboard the 72-pax *Oceanic Discoverer* and the newly refurbished 48-pax catamaran *Coral Princess*.

A spokesperson for the company emphasised that the 100% Australian-owned, flagged and staffed operation avoided the need to transit an international port (such as Bali) as part of its Kimberley itinerary, allowing a minimum of two landings on most days.

Prices for the line's 10-night cruise aboard *Oceanic Discoverer* in 2015 start at \$9,190pp and from \$7,590 pp on *Coral Princess*.

The company also operates year-round small ship cruises on the Great Barrier Reef, Cape York and Arnhem Land, Papua New Guinea, the South Pacific islands, New Zealand and the Raja Ampat & Spice Islands regions of Indonesia.

For more details on the new season, phone 1800 079 545 or visit www.coralprincess.com.au.

Agents at christening

TRAVEL agents in Australia and New Zealand have the chance to win one of two tickets to attend the christening & join the maiden sailing of Avalon Waterways' new vessel *Avalon Illumination*.

Vienna will be the setting for the event, with the inaugural voyage sailing the Danube to Budapest and departing in early Jun.

CLIA Australasia has made the prize available in conjunction with the Globus Family river cruise brand, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2014.

Chances at the major prize are available to agents who earn or upgrade their CLIA Australasia Industry Accreditation by 31 Mar.

Return airfares to Europe are not included as part of the prize.

Aussie TV personality Deborah Hutton will serve as *Illumination's* Godmother and will participate in the christening ceremony.

Illumination will be the third new ship to be introduced by Avalon Waterways this year, with two more coming in 2015.

Hillary guest speaker

LINDBLAD Expeditions has signed Peter Hillary - son of legendary Mt Everest conquerer Sir Edmund Hillary - as a guest mountaineering lecturer on an upcoming expedition.

Like his father, the next Hillary descendant has scaled Everest - along with the highest mountain on every continent - and will host lectures about his mountaineering and philanthropic endeavours.

The voyage will sail aboard the *National Geographic Orion* in the Kimberley, departing on 10 Aug.

Disposal of Discovery

INCREASING pre-tax losses has resulted in a decision being taken by All Leisure Group - co-operator of the 698-pax *MV Discovery* - to remove the ship from its fleet, citing a severe drop in the market value of "mature cruise ships".

The ship is currently operating under the Voyages of Discovery brand - a joint venture between All Leisure Group and Cruise & Maritime Voyages (CMV).

CMV has reassured customers that the vessel will operate all of its currently available departures, with the final cruise set for 21 Oct.

All Leisure has said it expects the disposal of the ship at the end of the summer season to improve its profit margin.

Among the brands operated by All Leisure include Swan Hellenic, Hebridean Island Cruises and a number of land touring firms.

Bumper CU today

Today's issue of **TD Cruise Update** features four pages of all the latest cruise information.

Our chefs' world-class credentials are revealed on every plate.



Holland America Line
A Signature of Excellence

LEARN MORE >

Cruise ship ban delay

VENICE officials have delayed the start of its ban on cruise ships over GRT 96,000 (CW 07 Nov) by two months, with the ban to now take effect from 01 Jan next year, according to *Cruise Industry News*.

The ban - which aims to curb ongoing damage to the lagoon and city landmarks by cruise liners - was due to kick into effect from Nov 2014.

Seabourn adventures

LUXURY cruise vessel *Seabourn Sojourn* is continuing its journey around the south of Australia, last weekend making an inaugural visit to Kangaroo Island before arriving in Adelaide yesterday.

Sojourn made its maiden visit to Geelong on Valentine's Day last week, celebrated with each female guest receiving a rose at dinner.

More than \$100,000 in tourism revenue for the local economies of both states was expected to be generated as a result of the visits.

Voyager revamp revealed

VOYAGER of the Seas is set to receive two of Royal Caribbean's fanciest features – a FlowRider surfing simulator and “virtual balconies” that provides ocean views in interior cabins.

Although the company is yet to officially disclose details of the Sydney-based ship's Oct makeover, the new style of cabin is already available for sale on www.royalcaribbean.com.au.

The industry-first virtual balcony is described as “a high-definition screen that spans nearly floor to ceiling, providing real-time views of the ocean and destinations”.

Meanwhile, Finnish boatyard company Mobimar has divulged that a contract was signed with RCCL for three Flowrider retrofits.

“The refurbishments will be made to *Navigator of the Seas*, *Voyager of the Seas* and *Explorer of the Seas*,” Mobimar states on its website.

Adam Armstrong, commercial director, RCC Australia, last week hinted, but did not quite confirm, that *Voyager* would receive the same enhancements as its Texas-based sister *Navigator of the Seas*.

“We're super excited that Australia's own *Voyager of the Seas* is next in line for a vast rejuvenation and while we can't yet reveal details of her new features, *Navigator of the Seas* gives a good hint of what's to come,” he said.

Other additions made to *Navigator of the Seas* (CU 06 Feb) include newly designed “panoramic” oceanview staterooms featuring full-length, floor-to-ceiling windows, more speciality restaurants including the all-new Sabor (Mexican), Izumi (Japanese) and Giovanni's Table (Italian).

Official word from RCI on the *Voyager* revamp is expected soon.

Celebrity suite class

A RANGE of exclusive inclusions and benefits will be introduced on Celebrity Cruises as part of a new premium “Suite Class” to be made available fleet-wide.

Starting from 2015, passengers booking a suite cabin category or higher will have access to a dedicated private restaurant, VIP lounge, premium drinks, free use of onboard speciality restaurants and unlimited internet access.

MEANWHILE, Celebrity Cruises will host a series of special events aboard *Celebrity Century* in 2014 as it prepares to phase out the vessel from its fleet next year.

The “Celebration of the Century” will be led personally by the line's ceo Michael Bayley & will include new ports for the ship including Boracay and Manila, among a total of 77 ports in 32 countries.

The 19-year old ship will move out of the line's fleet, but a decision on its post-2015 future has not yet been made.

A NEW ERA IN CRUISING

Join us as we usher in a new era of ocean cruising by taking the innovative thinking behind our award-winning river cruises and bring it to the epic setting of the sea. In 2015, we will take destination cruising from the rivers to the ocean with the maiden season of the beautiful *Viking Star*.

Learn more by joining our webinar on **THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY AT 8:30AM.**

[CLICK HERE](#)


VIKING
 CRUISES
Exploring the World in Comfort™



Cruise Calendar

Travel Daily Cruise Update's calendar details upcoming port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	18 Feb
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	19 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	20 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	21 Feb
<i>Sun Princess</i>	21 Feb
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	22 Feb
<i>Marina</i>	22 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	23 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	24 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Aurora</i>	18 Feb
<i>Oceania Marina</i>	20 Feb
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	21 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	22 Feb
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	22 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	18 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	19 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	23 Feb
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	24 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	24 Feb
FREMANTLE	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	21 Feb
<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	23 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	23 Feb
<i>Costa Deliziosa</i>	23 Feb
CAIRNS	
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	19 Feb
YORKEYS KNOB	
<i>Arcadia</i>	21 Feb
DARWIN	
<i>Astor</i>	21 Feb
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	23 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	20 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	21 Feb
<i>Amadea</i>	24 Feb
NEWCASTLE	
<i>MS Artania</i>	18 Feb
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	19 Feb
<i>Arcadia</i>	21 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	23 Feb
<i>Costa Deliziosa</i>	23 Feb

P&O secures island shopping



CRUISE passengers visiting the South Pacific islands can now help local communities by purchasing handicrafts pre-approved to pass Australian quarantine laws in a new initiative by P&O Cruises.

A special cabinet has been set up aboard *Pacific Dawn* containing items recognised as safe to bring back to Australia & New Zealand.

Additional cabinets will be added to *Pacific Jewel* and *Pacific Pearl* from next month.

The initiative is in partnership with Pacific Horticultural and Agriculture and Access Programs (PHAMA) scheme, which works to help Pacific island communities by informing about regulatory hurdles required to export their wares internationally.

Carnival Australia destination manager Michael Mihajlov said the aim of the handicraft cabinets was part of P&O's commitment to improve opportunities for Pacific island nations.

"The aim is to improve education about locally produced handicrafts which are vital revenue streams for small producers.

"This is combined with ongoing efforts to better educate the producers themselves about regulations and demand for their products, while improving marketing techniques and small business management skills," Mihajlov added.

Pictured above at the first new item cabinet from left is Simon Troman, *Pacific Dawn* hotel director; Sam Maidment, destinations manager; Deborah Bates, Australian Department of Agriculture; Joanne Beath, Australian Department of Environment and Zoe Gaunt, *Pacific Dawn* administration and revenue director.

Freak wave kills pax

ADVERSE weather conditions in the English Channel which kicked up a severe swell has killed an 85-year old passenger aboard Cruise & Maritime Voyages' *Marco Polo*.

Wind gusts of 80mph caused the severe waves, with one wave breaking five windows and swamping one of its restaurants.

Fourteen others were injured, with one airlifted to shore.

Demand for scrubbers

SHIPYARDS around the world are expecting demand for carbon emission-reducing "scrubbers" pre-fitted on new cruise ships to rise in coming years, according to a UK shipping consultancy report.

The paper revealed also that tightening regulations being set by coastal authorities and by governments are seeing a growing requirement to retrofit scrubbers to existing cruise ships.

This is expected to translate to an increased workload for shipyards who will now be asked to fit the systems in newbuild orders.

Carnival Cruise Lines announced last year it would fit scrubbers to its 32 ships as part of a major environmental overhaul to its worldwide fleet (**CW** 17 Sep).

Forum on ship safety

A PUBLIC forum to encourage open communication between cruise lines and the US travelling public will be held next month, hosted by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The forum has been set up by the NTSB to allow consumers to ask questions regarding recent incidents involving the sector.

Topics of discussion will include recent incidents of passengers overboard, norovirus outbreaks, pool safety, ship design, regulatory framework and responsibility.

Tourism leaders are expected to attend the forum, taking place in Washington DC from 25-26 Mar.

Cruise Consultant Wanted

Cruise Holidays is looking for a full time cruise consultant to join our Brisbane based team. In return for your expertise we offer a casual yet professional workplace paying above average salary plus commissions. You will book cruise packages to worldwide destinations whilst delivering the high standards of customer service we pride ourselves on. The successful applicant will be an experienced travel consultant with a passion for cruising, have excellent communication skills and the ability to convert enquiries to sales, along with a mature and positive workplace attitude.



Please apply to:
admin@cruiseholidays.com.au

More info:
3861 9667



Paddlewheeler launch

EUROPEAN line CroisiEurope has announced it will introduce a paddlewheeler vessel on the Loire River in France from Apr 2015.

To be known as the *Loire Princess*, the 96-passenger vessel will feature three decks with 48 outward-facing cabins, lounge bar and restaurant, operating cruises ranging in length from 5-7 days.

Treasure preservation

A CORPORATE donation of US\$5 per booking will be made by the American Queen Steamboat Company to the US National Trust to assist in the preservation of American historic sites.

Known as National Treasures, the cause aims to preserve iconic sites pertinent to important moments in American history.

Star fleet expansion

GENTING Hong Kong has signed an agreement for a second cruise ship to be constructed by German shipyard Meyer Werft, on behalf of its Star Cruises brand.

Exact specifications of the new ship have not been confirmed, with the order following a similar deal signed between the line and the yard last year (**CW** 08 Oct).

The line said the new ship will help strengthen the Group's Asia-Pacific market penetration.

Diadema to sail Med

COSTA Crociere has announced its new 1,862-cabin flagship *Costa Diadema* - due to be delivered on 30 Oct this year - will operate its maiden seven-night voyage from Trieste, Italy in the West Mediterranean, departing 08 Nov.

Cruise3sixty swathed by PTMs



FIFTY members of home-based TravelManagers network from across Australia turned out to the recent Cruise3sixty trade show in Sydney, many flying in from home cities specifically for the event.

Cruise sales continue to grow at an unrestrained rate, with attendees gladly making the most of opportunities to meet with cruise line reps to support their individual sales targets.

Across the group, cruise sales make up 10% of total leisure bookings made by the group, with the sector seeing a 32% year-on-year increase in bookings for the

full year.

The group's specialist cruising division CruiseManagers is seeing rapid growth in its ranks, with an increasing percentage of its ranks qualifying for inclusion via strong cruise sales or CLIA accreditation.

This has been helped by the recent creation of "Cruise Fusion", a personal development program devised in conjunction with Cruise1st (**TD** 12 Nov) to assist PTMs qualify as CruiseManagers.

The attending Personal Travel Managers and National Partnership Office staff are **pictured** above at Cruise3sixty.

RCI discount brand?

OLDER Royal Caribbean ships could be operated under a new discount-price brand, according to a veteran cruise industry analyst.

UBS investment research analyst Robin Farley said the line is considering launching a new brand in order to protect pricing power of its newer ships such as Oasis and Quantum class vessels.

Farley said any discount brand created could operate ships in the Asian & Latin American markets.

Marketing by video

A NEW online cruise marketing tool - dubbed Cruising TV - has been launched in collaboration with data firm Cruise Factory to capitalise on the increasing power of marketing through video.

The new venture will produce professional standard marketing videos of cruise itineraries, ports and ships for distribution to travel agents for display on websites.

Cruising TV managing director Sam Lindner says the videos will be entertaining and informative, with content tailored to suit different passenger markets.



TALK about bad timing.

Royal Caribbean has offered a UK family a full credit on a future booking as a goodwill gesture after they were booked on a cruise dominated by bikies.

According to *Mail Online*, more than 2,500 hairy, tattooed men and women were enjoying their annual "High Seas Rally" on the *Freedom of the Seas*, but Mrs Empson and her family couldn't believe what they had booked.

Empson says she wasn't warned beforehand of the large contingent, who proceeded to effectively take over the ship with impromptu bellyflop competitions, heavy drinking on a daily basis and much more.

Other passengers reportedly complained of the bikers having sex in the hot tubs, getting into fights and even turning up to dinner on formal night clad in normal jeans and leathers.

Royal Caribbean said it felt for Mrs Empson's plight but that the line was not prejudiced against any group of people and that the majority of pax enjoyed their Caribbean cruise.

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at www.traveldaily.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) **F:** 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of **Travel Daily** 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.

Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Lisa Martin and Magda Herdzik
 Email: advertising@traveldaily.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: Guy Dundas and Olivia Archbold
 Email: info@traveldaily.com.au

