



## New look cruise read

**WELCOME** to the inaugural issue of the *Travel Daily Cruise Update* - the newest publication in the *Travel Daily* family.

*Cruise Update* comes as a trade specific industry newsletter and will be delivered to your inbox on Tue and Thu each week.

Each issue will be packed with the latest news and information from the cruise industry - Enjoy!

## No more Steiner spas

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has ended its partnership with cruise ship spa and salon provider Steiner Leisure Ltd, effective 31 Dec 2013.

An announcement on who will provide the onboard services is expected to be made shortly.

## New cruise trends for '14

*TRAVEL Daily Cruise Update* has asked Australia's top 20 cruise consultants to predict the direction of the industry in 2014.

Australia's leading agents (ranked according to the amount of education and practical shipboard experience undertaken with Cruise Lines International Association) see another bright new year ahead for cruising.

Diane Craig, CruiseManagers' representative for Balgowlah in NSW believes Europe will continue to be the "big seller", with more customers booking one-way rather than roundtrip cruises.

"Seasoned cruisers are now looking at longer cruises, sometimes combining three or four cruises into one long cruise," she said.

"They like to arrive in one city, for example, Barcelona, and then depart from Istanbul."

These passengers also prefer the pre-paid convenience of packages.

"Expedition or adventure cruising is becoming very popular too, especially Pandaw Cruises for cruising in Burma, and Cruiseco

have some very good all-inclusive packages for Burma and also on the Mekong," Craig added.

Anne Graham of Just Cruises, in Upper Moutain Gravatt, Qld, agrees that the strong Australian dollar is pushing growth in Europe and river cruising.

"Many of the river cruise operators are releasing new ships and therefore have increased capacity and destination choices," she said.

"Now that there are far more choices within France, Italy Russia, China, Vietnam and Burma, a river cruise is no longer a once in a lifetime experience but now an alternative to ocean cruising, and we are also seeing a lot of repeat river cruisers."

Robyn and Murray Sinfield, Cruise Master agents in Tasmania, predict more growth in short ocean cruises, especially for celebrating special occasions, such as a "0 birthday".

Jeanine French, of MTA Travel in Pakenham, Victoria, said: "We are starting to see a lot of people booking the three and four day cruises as a family get-together or an opportunity for an extended weekend away with friends."

Yvonne Cadd, of MTA Travel in Brighton SA, said: "Increasingly, the one-week cruise length is good for clients, where you don't need a passport to travel and have cheaper insurance costs."

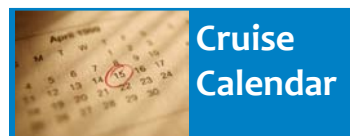
## RCI new year specials

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has kicked off 2014 with a variety of special offers on a number of upcoming 2014 departures.

Deals include a reduced single supplement of 25% on the normal twin cruise fare for 12 sailings in Feb & Mar aboard *Voyager of the Seas* and *Rhapsody of the Seas*.

Additionally, passengers can fly to Sydney for their cruise with return fares of \$49pp from BNE, MEL, ADL and OOL applicable on five departures between Feb-Apr.

**MEANWHILE**, only five days remain for entries in the first-ever Royal Caribbean Instagram film festival, with 15-second entries to be uploaded to #InstaFilmFest by 12 Jan - [www.instafilmfest.com.au](http://www.instafilmfest.com.au).



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Seven Seas Voyager</i>	07 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	09 Jan
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	09 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	10 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	10 Jan
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	11 Jan
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	12 Jan
<i>Sun Princess</i>	12 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	13 Jan

BRISBANE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	08 Jan
<i>Costa Romantica</i>	10 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	11 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	12 Jan
<i>Sun Princess</i>	13 Jan

MELBOURNE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	10 Jan

FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	13 Jan

HOBART	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	08 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	08 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	13 Jan

AUCKLAND	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	07 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	10 Jan
<i>Sea Princess</i>	12 Jan

WELLINGTON	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	07 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	13 Jan



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## Ice rescue bill adds up

**COSTS** associated with the rescue of 52 pax from the stricken *MV Akademik Shokalskiy* have now soared into the millions, a Fairfax report today details.

Airlifted to the *Aurora Australis* by emergency helicopter late last week, the multiple ship diversions and assistance calls has sent fuel and unplanned port visit costs sky high for governments & insurers.

## Short cruises here to stay

**WEEKEND** getaways at sea are booming in popularity and attracting younger first-time pax.

Australia-based ships are increasing the number of "sampler" or "taster" cruises to meet the demand from locals looking for a quick & easy holiday.

According to the latest figures from CLIA, cruises lasting one, two or three nights saw a 38% rise in Australian passenger numbers – from 55,489 in 2011 up to 76,719 in 2012 – which was the greatest growth out of all cruise durations.

But not everyone in the industry is a fan - Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises have stopped one-night sailings out of Sydney.

In January, *Voyager of the Seas* will instead offer a three-night option, while *Rhapsody of the Seas* has a two-night trip in Oct.

CLIA-accredited travel agent John Gercken of Northside Business Travel laments the recent trend for shorter cruises.

"It's sad, because unlike the US where they actually have ports they can visit in that short time, our cruises are mostly to nowhere, which turns them into booze and gambling cruises," he told *Travel Daily Cruise Update*.

However, Gercken believes

## Pandaw in app store

**PANDAW** River Expeditions has launched an "all-in-one" app for the iPhone and iPod, featuring detailed itineraries, menus, crew and port details and more.

The free app is now available to download from the App Store.

there is some hope if cruise lines can "get a bit more adventurous" than cruising aimlessly.

"At least P&O has found Moreton Island in an attempt to improve this," he said.

The four-night cruise to Moreton Bay is operated by *Pacific Jewel*.

*Pacific Jewel* also has two three-night weekend getaways in Feb, incorporating comedy, food and wine themes.

*Pacific Pearl* departs Sydney on 20 Jan to arrive in time for the singles quarterfinal matches of the Australian Open at Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne.

Returning from Melbourne, the ship offers a one-way two-night trip to Sydney.

From Brisbane, *Pacific Dawn* heads for the Whitsundays for four nights on 28 Jan, 29 Mar, 06 Sep & 01 Nov, and offers a three-night comedy cruise on 26 Jul.

Carnival Cruise Lines' *Carnival Spirit* is undertaking two three-night coastal cruises from Sydney in Mar and Sep, while Celebrity Cruises' elegant *Celebrity Solstice* will operate one in Oct.

## Tahiti yacht regatta

**BUDDING** yacht racers and anybody wishing to experience fast paced sailing can participate in an upcoming rally in Tahiti's Society Islands from 13-23 Apr.

Places on the 11-day Sail Tahiti Yacht Rally start from \$3,550ppts (based on an eight person crew in four cabins) and will travel the same course as the annual Pearl Regatta, visiting Raiatea, Bora Bora and more - **CLICK HERE** for details.

## Splendor out of NYC

**CRUISE** passengers departing from New York City will no longer have a winter season ship option from Carnival after the line opted to remove *Carnival Splendor* from the north-east US market.

The 3,006-pax vessel will return to Miami as the brand's seventh ship based in South Florida, with Carnival advising the decision was based purely on guest demand.

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**PORTHOLE**

**CAN** you spot it?  
 Viewers are divided on social media channels over whether a photo captured by a California mother shows a large shark or a dolphin swimming near her kids on Manhattan Beach.

Describing the outline which appeared in the image as a shock, the mother posted the image on her Facebook page, with thousands of comments coming in for both animals.

Sharks are quite common in the area, however apparently managed to evade the radar, if it was a shark at all.

The kids in the image continued their day playing at the beach, blissfully unaware of their near encounter, with their mother choosing to tell them it was a harmless dolphin.

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**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)

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**Advertising and Marketing:** Christie-Lee Lachance, Lisa Martin and Magda Herdzik  
 Email: [advertising@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au)  
**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper  
 Email: [accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

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**Publisher/Managing Editor:** Bruce Piper  
**Editor:** Louise Goldsbury  
**Production Editor:** Matt Lennon  
**Contributors:** Guy Dundas and Olivia Archbold  
 Email: [info@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:info@traveldaily.com.au)