



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	17 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	17 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	18 Jan
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	18 Jan
<i>Oosterdam</i>	19 Jan
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	19 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	20 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	20 Jan
BRISBANE	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	14 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	18 Jan
MELBOURNE	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	16 Jan
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	19 Jan
<i>Volendam</i>	20 Jan
FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	18 Jan
<i>Astor</i>	20 Jan
CAIRNS	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	18 Jan
YORKEYS KNOB	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	17 Jan
ADELAIDE	
<i>Silver Shadow</i>	16 Jan
<i>Silver Shadow</i>	17 Jan
<i>True North</i>	19 Jan
HOBART	
<i>Silver Shadow</i>	14 Jan

Pandaw ship sunk or stolen?

FOR the past month, rumours of piracy and theft have surrounded the sinking of Pandaw River Expeditions' *RV Pandaw Saigon*, which was due to be renamed and chartered by Viking River Cruises in Myanmar.

The three-year-old 30-cabin ship was under tow from Vietnam to Singapore, on its way to Yangon, when it was reported lost at sea near Malaysia.

Viking River Cruises had planned to rename it the *Viking Sagaing* for the line's first season on the Irrawaddy River this year.

But within days of the report

that the unmanned vessel had capsized on 21 Dec, **Travel Daily Cruise Update** was among many in the industry to hear whispers of a deliberate sinking or theft, with the boat allegedly to be stripped of its fittings and sold for scrap metal in Asia.

Pandaw River Expeditions' Scottish founder Paul Strachan has now offered a US\$25,000 reward for information.

In an appeal to the travel industry, issued through the *Herald Scotland*, Strachan wrote: "I expect you will have heard rumours that the *Saigon* was stolen in an act of piracy rather than sunk. I cannot comment. But we have offered a reward for any information that might lead to its recovery. Please pass the reward notice to any contacts you might have, particularly in Indonesia."

The company has also launched an official investigation "on the ground".

Meanwhile, Viking River Cruises, which partnered with Pandaw to charter three ships in Southeast Asia this year, has stated that passengers booked on the *Sagaing* will be moved to other vessels or they can choose to receive a full refund.

"Pandaw has assured Viking that no 2014 sailings will need to be cancelled as a result of this incident," said Teresia Fors, Viking's managing director Australia & New Zealand.

New Euro river dates

RESPONDING to "phenomenal demand", Travelmarvel has been able to secure additional capacity for European river cruising in the upcoming 2014 summer season.

The company has chartered the *Travelmarvel Sapphire*, a ship that was originally set to join its fleet from next year but which has now been brought forward.

Additional operations of the 15-day European Gems itinerary from Amsterdam to Budapest will now take place on 21 Jul, 04 Aug, 18 Aug and 01 Sep.

Guests who extend their holiday with a land add-on to make an itinerary of 21 days or longer will qualify for Travelmarvel's Fly Free earlybird special, with deposits required on bookings by 28 Feb.

Princess "3 for Free"

THREE onboard bonus offers are available to Princess Cruises passengers as part of a new triple bonus wave sale launched by the line for bookings made by 28 Feb.

The "3 for free" deal applies to selected Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Alaska, South Pacific and Asia cruises departing in 2014.

In addition to a reduced deposit of \$100, passengers will receive up to \$400 per person to spend on shore excursions as well as a free souvenir photo and a choice of a speciality dining experience or a free bottle of wine.

For more info, phone 132 488.

SeaLink Sydney fleet

A NEW 24-metre long vessel, entitled *Freedom Sovereign*, has been acquired by the SeaLink Travel Group to help facilitate operational requirements in Sydney Harbour.

Currently with capacity for 200 passengers, the \$3.06m vessel will operate transport services for convention attendees at Glebe Island and the Biennale of Sydney art festival as well as Sydney Harbour hop-on-hop-off services.

The new cruiser will officially join the fleet at the end of this week after undergoing work to expand capacity to 250 people.

SeaLink Travel Group managing director Jeff Ellison welcomed the new addition following delivery of the *Elizabeth Cook* catamaran late last year (**CW** 21 Nov).

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Delivery of Getaway

NORWEGIAN Cruise Lines has taken delivery of its newest liner *Getaway* from the Meyer-Werft shipyard in Germany, with formal ceremonies occurring overnight.

Following inauguration festivities in Rotterdam, the ship will head to New York where it will serve as a floating hotel for the upcoming NFL Super Bowl before officially being christened in Miami, from where it will sail year-round.

MEANWHILE, high performance iDirect X7 wi-fi internet satellite systems will be installed on the *Norwegian Breakaway*, offering speeds of up to 100Mbps at sea.

APT hover over court

ACTION replays of the Australian Open Grand Slam from above the court will be seen on Channel Seven's coverage courtesy of the APT Spidercam - one of the features sponsored by the luxury tour firm during the tournament.

It marks the beginning of a year-long series of initiatives being rolled out by APT to support the trade, general manager marketing Debra Fox said.

"The next twelve months will see APT unveiling a number of exciting new products and destinations," Fox hinted.

Lindblad clarification

A STORY which featured last week about a competition being run through Facebook by Lindblad Expeditions was incorrect and inadvertently referred to a comp for *Cruise Passenger Magazine*.

TD Cruise Update apologises for any misleading information the story may have provided.

CLIA welcomes GAO report

THE Government Accountability Office report on implementation of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act (CVSSA) of 2010 has concluded that cruise lines are complying with requirements and its enactment into law is progressing as intended.

Cruise Lines International Association president and ceo Christine Duffy said the report highlights the proactive efforts of the cruise industry to continuously improve shipboard operations and safety.

"Although allegations of serious crime on cruise ships are a small fraction of corresponding rates on land, the cruise industry

voluntarily discloses allegations of serious crime to the public so consumers can see for themselves that alleged crimes on cruise ships are uncommon," Duffy said.

"To our knowledge, no other industry provides this level of transparency."

The GAO report also notes that the comparatively low rate of alleged crime on cruise ships "can be explained in part by the fact that passengers are in a set environment, all persons and items brought on board are screened, camera surveillance is ubiquitous, and security personnel are present," Duffy said.

In 2012, the cruise industry adopted 10 new safety policies which are mandatory for CLIA membership.

Concordia moving day

SALVAGE officials overseeing preparations for the refloating of the *Costa Concordia* from its watery grave have confirmed the ship's hull will be towed in Jun.

Exact details of where it will go upon its removal will be announced in Mar, with the ship then likely to be scrapped.

P&O FirstMate launch

TRAVEL agents can now create their own online advertising campaigns with P&O First Mate, which was officially released for use this week (**CW** 22 Aug).

Among the tools available online at firstmate.pocruses.com.au is a wizard to help design branded flyers, trackable EDM developer and financial reporting tools to help agents develop their share of the cruise market in their areas.

More at www.myccs.com.au.

Un-Cruises schedule

SMALL ship cruising operator Un-Cruise Adventures has unveiled its 2015 Alaska schedule, with seven vessels set to operate 115 departures from Apr to Sep.

Itineraries will range in duration from 1-3 weeks and will offer culture, wildlife and wilderness experiences, with more visits to Glacier Bay National Park offered.

Hurtigruten savings

DISCOVER The World Cruising has released a deal offering 50% off the second pax on Hurtigruten Classic Norway voyages from Oct-Dec 2014, if booked by 31 Mar.

Selected voyages will also be eligible for No Single Supplement. For details, phone 1800 623 267.

New look Arcadia out

P&O CRUISES World Cruising has unveiled its new-look *Arcadia* following a multi-million dollar renovation and refurbishment.

Sun deck 10 has seen 24 new cabins added including two single balcony cabins - a fleet-wide first.

The Freedom Dining concept has also been rolled out to the upper tier in Meridien Restaurant, while the Crow's Nest lounge now boasts new flooring and seating.

Highlights of all major changes to *Arcadia* can be seen via a short YouTube video - **CLICK HERE**.



FOR the crafty consumer with too much money and nothing to do with it, consider the following bargain - a floating palace shaped like Monte Carlo.

The idea, fantastic on paper, is proving difficult to sell and has not made it off the design pages at its UK studio three years after being proposed.

Currently priced at \$400m, the bargain-basement price is a patch on the original \$1.3b tag.

Onboard though is everything a Monaco enthusiast could want, including a go-kart track in the shape of the Formula 1 circuit, a mini submarine, jet skis, helipad, a speedboat, plus staples such as pools, tennis courts and a home cinema.

Designers are hopeful that somebody, somewhere, does one day progress the creation into a physical construction.

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.

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Part of the **Travel Daily** group of publications.

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