

Packed issue today

Today's edition of *TD Cruise Update* features three pages of all the latest cruise information and a Face to Face chat with Princess Cruises - [CLICK HERE](#).

Hurtigruten brochure

SCANDINAVIAN expedition line Hurtigruten has released a 'new look' brochure, copies of which are now available from the line's Australian rep Discover the World.

The guide features the entire range of Norway Coastal Voyages, all expedition options to both polar regions, Spitsbergen, Iceland, Greenland and more and details on the line's eleven ships.

Early booking fares of 25% off are available if booked by 30 Sep.

Lyttelton port in doubt

THE Lyttelton Port of Christchurch (LPC) has released its "long-term vision" for the earthquake-damaged facility, which does not include a commitment to the rebuilding of a cruise terminal unless it is externally funded.

Estimated to cost NZ\$1billion, the Port Lyttelton Plan acknowledges the positive impact of cruising on the local economy but includes no investment in a dedicated cruise berth.

"On current financial returns it does not work," LPC chief executive Peter Davie told *TD Cruise Update* this morning.

But he said a final decision had not been made, and the company had a "place holder" for a berth.

"We will engage with the industry to see how it could be funded," Davie said.

Now available online, the plan states: "We are considering how to cater for cruise ships in a commercially sustainable way that does not significantly impact on the port's core services."

RCI launches TourTrek

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises Ltd has started its own land tours operation known as TourTrek.

Initially operating in the US at the moment, the new wholly owned operation will eventually be expanded to 90 countries, however Australia has not been confirmed as an expansion target.

According to a statement issued to *TD Cruise Update*, TourTrek is a "newly created technology Company...focused on developing, marketing and selling land tour experiences".

Tasked with leading TourTrek is former RCCL vice president of global tour operations John Weis, who has left his role to become TourTrek's first managing director.

The line said more information will be released in coming months.

Part of the proposal involves "looking at Inner and Outer Harbour development options" as Cashin Quay is no longer an option due to its full-time use for container ships since the 2011 earthquake.

Expected to take up to 30 years to complete, the proposed project would see the port reclaim land to the east for a larger container terminal, while the western side could provide a marina and commercial development open to the public.

"To simply repair or rebuild what was there would be a failure on our part - we must ensure that we are able to continue to meet the needs of the region now and in the future," Davie said.

LPC is actively seeking feedback from the public and key stakeholders, with concerns already raised by local tourism bodies such as Cruise New Zealand and Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism.

The NZ tourism industry is expected to present an economic report to the port & Christchurch City Council in coming weeks.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

CMV leases new ship

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages has signed a long-term lease on Portuscale Cruises' vessel *Azores*, with the 550-pax cruise ship to replace *MV Discovery* next year.

Azores will operate from the UK on a year-round basis alongside fellow CMV ships *Marco Polo* and *Astor*, the latter of which is based in Fremantle during summer.

The new addition will operate from Bristol Avonmouth from 26 Jan 2015, beginning with a 30-night sailing to the West Indies.

MV Discovery was removed from the All Leisure Group fleet earlier this year (*CU* 18 Feb), will be retained until it completes its final scheduled sailing on 21 Oct.

2015 Jelly Bean Cruise

BOOKINGS are now open for the 2015 edition of the Danii Meads-Barlow Jelly Bean Cruise, next year taking place from 22-25 Jan on Royal Caribbean's newly refurbished *Voyager of the Seas*.

Earlybird deals for the departure have been extended to 15 Jul, with staterooms available priced from \$677pts.

The price includes accom and all meals onboard as well as lectures and functions of interest to kids with Type 1 Diabetes and families.

Workshops and foundation initiatives will also be detailed along with technology updates and management developments.

Bookings are available through Cruisescene - call 1800 678 555.

P&O "inundated" with ship name ideas

NEARLY 20,000 suggestions for the names of P&O Cruises' two new vessels (*CU* 24 Jun) have been received in one week from across Australia and NZ, the line said.

Opal and *Diamond* are proving to be popular, with the names being 'liked' more than 500 times.

Other names suggested include *Dream*, *Moonlight* and *Twilight*, which have been submitted alone and also coupled with *Pacific*.

Suggestions have also been downright quirky, with names such as *Abracadabra*, *Pizzazz*, *Skippy* and even *Hakuna Matata*.

Entries for the comp, being run on P&O's social media channels, closes this Friday 04 Jul before the line sorts through the ideas to narrow down an eventual winner.

Up for grabs to whomever submits the chosen name idea is a cruise on the inaugural voyage of the winner's named ship.

"We're looking for names that are different and that have never been used before - plus we're very keen to see ideas that reflect contemporary Australia and New Zealand," P&O Cruises senior vice president Tammy Marshall said.

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Scenic deploys steam power

A SEVEN-NIGHT steamboat sailing along the Columbia and Snake Rivers in north-west USA highlights one of two brand new itineraries featured in the latest USA brochure from Scenic Tours.

The week-long sailing aboard the *American Empress* takes passengers on a journey through Washington State and Oregon as part of a 17-day tour from Seattle to San Francisco.

Beginning in the Washington state capital, Day 4 sees guests transferred to Spokane to board the steam-powered paddlewheel vessel, travelling in Deluxe Verandah Staterooms for the trip.

Highlights include a visit to the Naz Perce National Historical Park, Sacajawea State Park and more, disembarking the ship in Portland, Oregon.

Departures for the itinerary are limited, with only four available in the 2015 season, taking place on 09 Apr, 04 Jun, 30 Jul and 27 Aug.

American Queen Steamboat Company confirmed the purchase of the vessel at the beginning of the year (**CU** 23 Jan), taking delivery in early Apr.

Other itineraries featured in the new guide include the 14-day

'Southern Belles and Mississippi Cruise' itinerary, taking guests from Atlanta to New Orleans and including a week-long voyage on the Mississippi River aboard the *American Queen* paddlewheeler.

A 10-night Canada and New England cruise aboard Holland America Line's *MS Eurodam* is also on offer as part of a 25-day 'Fall Colours of Eastern Canada' tour from Montreal to Quebec, priced from \$11,860ppts and scheduled to depart on 10 Sep.

"Our USA program is only in its third year but our wide range of itineraries, which appeal to history, nature, culture and food lovers alike, are proving extremely popular," Scenic Tours gm product Aleisha Fittler said.

MEANWHILE, Scenic Tours will soon launch its first Small Ship Cruising brochure, featuring details on all-inclusive luxury voyages around the world.

The line said more details are expected in coming weeks, with pre-orders now being accepted.

New sailing sold by G

SAILING itineraries in Turkey, Cuba and the British Virgin Islands have been added to the 2014/15 range from adventure touring firm G Adventures.

The new destinations bolster the range which already boasts the Greek Islands, Thailand and Croatia, the latter launching last year & already listed as sold out.

Sailing itineraries range in length from 4-15 days, with catamarans and yachts offering maximum capacity of either 8 or 14 guests.

The British Virgin Islands trips also marks the first ventures into the Caribbean for G Adventures.

"Adding new destinations to our programs offers travellers even more places to see and explore from the comfort and convenience of our yachts and catamarans," G Adventures 'Duchess of Delegation' Belinda Ward said of the new additions.

Pearl Seas sets sail

BRAND new small-ship cruise line Pearl Seas Cruises has sailed from Baltimore on its maiden voyage - an 11-night departure to New England and Canada.

The new line currently operates with just the one ship, the 210-passenger *Pearl Mist*, which offers 108 balcony cabins.

Pearl Seas Cruises is a sister to American Cruise Lines, who operates six vessels including the *Queen of the Mississippi*.

The inaugural season of the new line will be spent operating 10-14 day itineraries in the northern Canadian Great Lakes region, with Caribbean itineraries of 7-11 nights also in its maiden season.

No smoking onboard

AUTHORITIES in Russia have banned smoking in all public places including planes and cruise ships, with the new law already in effect.

The move has been welcomed by Russian Travel Centre director of sales and marketing Michael Tonkin, who labelled the move as a "huge breakthrough".

"We will have one of our senior staff in Russia next week conducting hotel inspections, and on her return we will be able to advise agents and travellers of the results of such a radical but welcome move," Tonkin said.

"Perhaps the health-conscious Mr Putin had a hand in this."

CRUISE CONSULTANT PRINCESS CRUISES® (MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES)

Princess Cruises is the third largest cruise ship operator in the world and part of the world's leading cruise holiday company, Carnival Corporation (represented in the Asia Pacific region by Carnival Australia). Known as the Destination Experts, Princess Cruises visits over 350 ports around the world. Locally, Princess Cruises has operated cruises for more than 10 years and has five ships departing from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Fremantle and Auckland. Princess Cruises is a multi-award winning cruise line having won AFTA's Best Cruise Operator for four years running from 2009 to 2012.

Our Cruise Consultants are the voice of Princess Cruises, taking inbound calls from direct customers and travel agents wishing to book a cruise holiday or with questions regarding an existing booking. Our cruise consultants are responsible for driving cruise sales, encouraging customer loyalty and ensuring all pre-cruise booking enquiries are answered in an efficient and courteous manner.

We seek applications from people who demonstrate a strong desire to work within the travel and tourism industry who demonstrate:

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MILLIONS of baby spiders have emerged from flooded farmland on the Hikurangi Swamp, near Whangarei in New Zealand, spinning an epic 75m web for protection, but creating an amazing sight.

Freshly hatched, the spiders have formed the web across the pond to prevent the winds from blowing them away.

Biosecurity officers at the local council say the silk strands are designed for "ballooning" around the swamp, but would disintegrate in a few days.



25 years of Crystal

AT LEAST two separate overnight stays in port, deeper exploration and visits to more remote regions feature in the 2015 Asia cruise season from Crystal Cruises.

The line is marking 25 years of sailing in the region, with a range of new ports on the schedule including Belawan, Indonesia; Sanya, China; Kochi and Aomori, both in Japan.

Voyages of 10, 12 and 13-nights make up the season along with a range of short sailings of between six and seven nights.

Crystal will return to Yantai, China for the first time since 1996 as part of visits to lesser frequented ports, which also includes Kota Kinabalu and Taipei.

Cultural immersion and "region intensive" itineraries will also be a feature, with two "all China" cruises with multiple overnights in major ports on offer.

Hong Kong, Shanghai, Ho Chi Minh City and Yangon will be visited for two consecutive nights.

Cruise lines host training in Perth



NINE different cruise lines took part last week in a cruise industry training day at Edith Cowan University in Perth, hosted by Asia Escape Holidays.

Among the exhibitor list was Royal Caribbean Int'l, Azamara & Celebrity Cruises, Star Cruises, American Queen Steamboat Company, Princess Cruises, Voyages to Antiquity and more.

Attendance was strong, with 65 consultants from across the state converging on the event, some coming from as far away as Port Hedland and Karratha.

Agents learned more about their favourite cruise lines and plenty of new details on the wide variety in the market overall, both departing from Australia as well

Scenic redesign pools

NEW concepts in onboard pool design will be rolled out by Scenic Tours to feature on its two newest ships *Scenic Opal* & *Scenic Jasper*.

Pools will adopt a split design featuring warm water on one side for relaxation, with a jet stream pool on the other intended for guests keen to swim laps.

The ships will also feature a moving glass window wall which can open up or enclose the dining area of the Portobello restaurant.

Both are scheduled to launch next year and will operate on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers.

as popular regions overseas.

Pictured above at the event from left is Fleur, Asia Escape Holidays; Craig Owens, Oceania Cruises; Sally Edwards, Asia Escape Holidays; John Elderfield, Cruise & Maritime Voyages and Stephanie, Asia Escape Holidays.

Princess shop and spa

PRINCESS Cruises has added a five-night round-trip cruise from Sydney to Melbourne designed for travellers eager to shop up a storm in the Vic capital without worrying about excess baggage.

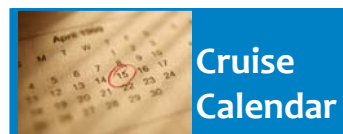
Departing Sydney on 14 Dec aboard *Diamond Princess*, priced from \$599ppts, the ship also now offers a new sushi restaurant and 817sqm Japanese bathhouse following a \$30m refurbishment.

Sail Ecuador Amazon

POPULAR demand for the first Ecuador in Depth itinerary to be operated by Aurora Expeditions has seen the company release a second departure for 2015.

The 24-day roundtrip itinerary is scheduled to depart 22 Oct 2015 from Quito and includes an eight-day sailing along the Napo River, which feeds from the Amazon and a nine-day land component through the Andes & Galapagos.

Sailing aboard the 40-passenger *MV Anakonda*, prices for the trip start from US\$13,990ppts.



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

SYDNEY	<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	03 Jul
BRISBANE	<i>Pacific Dawn</i> <i>Pacific Jewel</i>	05 Jul 06 Jul
DARWIN	<i>Sea Princess</i> <i>Coral Princess</i>	01 Jul 03 Jul
GERALDTON	<i>Sea Princess</i>	07 Jul
FREMANTLE	<i>Sea Princess</i>	08 Jul

RCI invests in Taiwan

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises Ltd has confirmed it will construct a cruise terminal on Penghu Island in Taiwan as part of an investment plan in cruising for the region.

The cruise giant will jointly spend US\$33m in partnership with Taiwan International Ports Partner and private investors.

Once complete, the facility will offer capacity for Oasis-class ships and other vessels up to 225,000 gross tonnes, with construction due to commence from Oct.

Gauguin Food & Wine

FOOD and wine themed shore excursions will be offered by Paul Gauguin Cruises as part of its European summer season.

Options will include wine and olive oil tastings at a variety of vineyards across Europe including Porto Venere, Montpellier, Zadar, Palma de Mallorca and more.

Excursion prices range from \$109 to \$489 per person.

MEANWHILE, the line has also introduced a 10-night Tahiti hotel and cruise package, combining a week-long sail with three nights at the InterContinental Tahiti Resort and Spa in Papeete, available in the 2014/15 season.



Face to Face: Emma Pequin WA BDM - Princess Cruises, part of World's Leading Cruise Lines

Welcome to Face to Face, where we chat to cruise industry leaders.

How did you get into the cruise industry?

My first job in the travel industry was with P&O Cruises as part of their reservations team. From there I've had various roles in wholesale and the retail side of the industry but always wanted to come back to cruising.

What is the key to your success?

Working hard, time-management and most of all, being passionate about cruising.

How many cruises have you been on in the past five years?

Eleven cruises. Five with Princess Cruises, three with P&O Cruises, two with Cunard and one with Carnival Cruise Lines.

What is your favourite cruise destination, and why?

I'm torn between South Pacific and the California Coast. Although, that said, we live in an amazing part of the world and I'm looking forward to exploring it further by sea when Princess Cruises begins sailing year round from Fremantle in 2015-16. There are some great itineraries on offer including a 46-night cruise to India and South Africa and, closer to home, scenic cruising in the Kimberley region!

What was your most memorable moment on a cruise?

Sailing on *Coral Princess* under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

How do you spend days at sea?

I'll spend mornings laying by the pool with a good book and then the afternoons playing trivia, watching a movie or treating myself to a massage or facial at the Lotus Spa. I also make sure I get to the Sanctuary at least once on my cruise for a complete 'zone-out'.

What is something you wish more agents / consumers knew about cruising?

Cruising can be such a diverse holiday. Sea days let you relax and rejuvenate and port days let you experience different destinations and cultures. On top of this, it is a great value, convenient and stress-free way to travel.

What is your best tip for sea-sickness?

Fresh air. You may feel like staying in your stateroom but being up on deck in the fresh air can make a world of difference.

What advice would you give to other people who want a job like yours?

Learn about the product and take advantage of the free online courses such as The Academy. Having experience in various roles has really helped me. Work hard, stay focused and enjoy all the challenges along the way.



Emma's Cruise Favourites!

Ship: *Sun Princess* - soon to be based in Fremantle!

Ship Activity: Movies under the stars.

Favourite shore excursion: Long hikes of any form.

Favourite port: San Francisco.

Favourite onboard food/drink: Sterling Steakhouse: Fillet Mignon with Loaded Baked Idaho Potato, then for dessert, Seven Layer S'Mores Stack. Yum!

Favourite perk of the job: Cruising!

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