



RCI Return Richer sale

ONBOARD credits of up to US\$200 and 50% deposits will be available for six days from this Sun 06 Jul in Royal Caribbean International's Return Richer sale. On sale until 12 Jul, deals are valid for sailings in Australia, NZ, Trans-Pacific & Asia repositioning cruises of five nights or more from 16 Sep 2014 to 28 Apr 2016.

Viking Europe air deal

AIRFARES to Europe are again priced at \$995pp with bookings of any Viking River Cruise voyage in Europe departing from Feb to Nov 2015, the line has announced. The return Economy class deal is valid ex major Australian airports and includes all taxes. Stopovers in Dubai, Bangkok or Singapore can also be added for an additional \$200pp with the choice of flying on either Qantas, Emirates or Singapore Airlines. For full details, [CLICK HERE](#).

NZ pax growth soars 23%

NEW Zealand cruise passenger numbers surged to an all-time high of 59,316 last year, placing its growth rate at the top of the world's major markets.

Surpassing Australia's previously world-leading growth of 20%, NZ's figure is more than double that of Germany and France (both 9%) and North America (3%).

The 2013 Cruise Industry Source Market Report, released in Auckland today, also revealed an increase in NZ's market penetration rate to 1.3%, up from 0.2% from 2012.

River cruising numbers also leapt 19% to break through the 4,000 mark for the first time.

While still a small source market, the country's record result is the second largest hike since the statistics were first compiled in 2006.

Cruise Lines International Association Australasia gm Brett

Jardine said the results showed that New Zealanders had an increasing penchant for cruising.

"New Zealand is a young cruise market and this impressive growth shows that cruising is very much on the horizon for a lot of Kiwi travellers," Jardine said.

"We've now seen the number of New Zealand cruisers double over the past seven years with the market experiencing an enviable annual average increase of 14%."

Jardine said further growth is expected as more ships are deployed in the region in the coming years, after numbers fell in 2012 due to a temporary reduction in local cruise capacity.

Local cruising in the South Pacific, Australia & New Zealand collectively accounted for slightly more than half of all passengers, with the South Pacific continuing to be the standout destination luring 31% of cruisers in 2013.

Estimated days at sea was 656,000 – a jump of 26% on 2012.

Busy time in cruise

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

Silversea World Cruise

FIFTY-ONE destinations on six continents will be visited as part of a newly launched 115-day world cruise by Silversea Cruises.

Departing from Fort Lauderdale in Florida on 05 Jan 2016 aboard *Silver Whisper*, the cruise will first head south through the Panama Canal to South America on its way to New Zealand and Australia.

Asia will be next with Singapore, Phuket and Myanmar on the port list before venturing to India and the Arabian Peninsula before wrapping up with calls in the Med prior to ending in Venice, Italy.

Fares for the circumnavigation start at \$59,750 in a Vista Suite, inclusive of a range of extras such as pre-cruise reception, US\$4,000 onboard credit and much more.

Guests sailing all 115 days will also enjoy FOC exclusive events.

Danube back to norm

RAIN in Europe last weekend has enabled river cruising in a small section of the Danube river affected by low water levels to return to normal operations.

The low levels experienced last week (**CU** 26 Jun) affected some lines in different ways, with ship swaps, extended hotel stays and coach transport required on a small number of departures.

Flow-on delays as operations return to normal may still occur, with agents advised to keep an eye on cruise lines' social media and websites for updates.

Tempo push up comm

COMMISSION of 15% is now available on all 2014 and 2015 Tempo European river cruises booked in Jul, the wholesaler has this week announced.

The offer on all new bookings is valid on Luftner Cruises sailings on the fleet of Amadeus ships if deposited before 31 Jul.

For last minute travellers, select departures in 2014 are eligible also for a '2-for-1' offer allowing a second passenger for free.

For more details, phone Tempo Holidays on 1300 362 844.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

MSC Cruises is looking for a Business Development Executive. The successful candidate will develop a strong sales strategy for New South Wales & Queensland. Promoting and managing specific sales and marketing avenues, providing representation at consumer and trade events and creating a solid network to increase sales.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of achieving sales targets, demonstrate professional sales skills to consumers and trade markets and have a strong analytical approach. Salary on application.

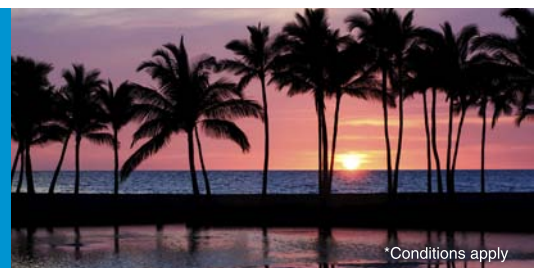
Send written CV with covering letter to hr@msccruises.com.au by 14 July 2014.



Carnival Cruise Lines
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*Conditions apply



Would you like fries with that?

WHETHER it's on the oceans or along our rivers, it has been well documented that cruise lines have spent the last 5 years investing in new hardware and technology across their fleets, coupled with strong partnerships with existing land-based brands to create a newly fashioned cruise holiday.

While there has been much focus on these features with a view to appealing to the 'new to cruise' market, it's important to understand that this is only part of the cruise evolution.

There have also been big changes in the experience of the excursion programmes towards the bespoke traveller.

New offerings may range from the opportunity to work on a volunteer project in a nearby village to a chef's tour of the local market where passengers can select ingredients before cooking up a storm.

So what's the next evolutionary step in the cruise holiday world? I believe it's the opportunity to "package up" your clients' onboard extras.

In much the same way as we can select dishes off a menu to suit our tastes, cruise lines soon will offer your clients options to tailor-make their holiday experience, paying for what they are going to use and leaving out what they will not. The combinations are mystifying!

When this time comes, take note of what appeals to your client.

Their preferences can be used as a guide to tailor your own pre and post cruise offerings to them.



Return to Canadian Arctic

POLAR cruise operator One Ocean Expeditions has released its 2015 Canadian Arctic cruise program with four themed small-ship voyages in the northern summer of 2015 and an Earlybird travel credit of \$US1,000pp for bookings made before 30 Sep.

The cruises exploring Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, aboard expedition ship *Akademik Ioffe*, will focus on photography and active excursions on shore.

Clients can choose from an expanded range of off-ship activities on the 'Off the Beaten Track' voyage, or join five professional photographers on the 'Photography Symposium' cruise.

Akademik Ioffe then spends the remainder of the season above the Arctic Circle for two themed voyages starting in Iqaluit in Canada's Nunavut province.

Richard Cunningham, Australian manager for One Ocean, said "Our themed voyages have proven to be very popular in Antarctica

Viking out of Ukraine

ONGOING tensions & conflict in Ukraine has forced Viking River Cruises to cancel its remaining departures in the country for the rest of the year.

As an alternative, the company will reposition its 196-pax small ship *Viking Sineus* on two 12-day sailings between Bucharest in Romania and the Black Sea.

Guests booked on Ukraine sailings for the rest of the year are being contacted to discuss alternatives or to offer a refund.

"With tension on the ground continuing, combined with questions about Russian visa requirements for Crimea...we were not confident we could deliver our standard high-quality experience in the near future," Viking senior vice president of marketing Richard Marnell said.

The line added that any return to Ukraine in 2015 will depend on the situation in the region.

so we're offering the same concepts in the Arctic in 2015".

Both journeys include scenic cruising of the west coast of Greenland, home to icebergs, Inuit culture and polar bears.

Rounding out the offering in Canada's far north, will be a 12-night journey through the Northwest Passage starting in Kangerlussuaq (Greenland) and ending in Cambridge Bay, Canada.

Andrew Prossin, ceo of One Ocean Expeditions, said "We're a proudly Canadian company, showcasing some of the most spectacular regions of our beautiful country, and we are excited to be returning to the beautiful Maritime provinces".

See oneoceanexpedition.com.

NCL balcony upgrade

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has launched a short promotion for Bahamas and Caribbean cruises, with discounted rates and a free balcony upgrade now available.

Offers in the 'Free for All' promo include a Kids Sail Free deal, with onboard credits of up to US\$100 also available on selected sailings to the Bahamas and Caribbean.

The sale is open until Sat 05 Jul.

Westerdam fire delay

HOLLAND America Line set sail on a scheduled Alaska itinerary one day late due to a small fire which flared in the boiler room.

The *MS Westerdam*, which had 3,000 pax onboard at the time, returned to its point of departure in Seattle, where the fire was brought under control by crew.

After being cleared by the US Coast Guard, the ship departed one day late and was forced to miss a port call in Sitka as a result.

Passengers were provided with a US\$250 credit per room as compensation for the alteration.

All hotel and safety systems remained operational throughout the incident, the line confirmed.

Tauck product launch

TRAVEL agents in Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane are invited to attend the launch event for Tauck's 2015 Luxury Worldwide Journeys and Cruises brochure.

The events will be hosted in conjunction with the line's Aussie partner Travel the World.

Luxury river cruises and tours across the world feature in the new brochure along with a range of new destinations being visited.

Each event will see guests treated to a VIP Tauck experience, with travel prizes also up for grabs to be won at each event.

Events will take place on 22 Jul at Sydney's Ivy Penthouse; on 23 Jul at Mon Bijou in Melbourne & on 29 Jul at Blackbird Brisbane in the Queensland capital city.

Places to each are limited, with interest able to be registered by email by **CLICKING HERE**.



HOW long could you go without your smartphone or tablet, or with no wi-fi internet access to keep you connected?

Applications are now being accepted for self-confessed tech addicts to take part in a "Tech Time Out" experiment on the Isle of Arran at Lochranza, a small island off Scotland's coast.

Conducted by Scotland Youth Hostelling Association, six applicants who have proved the depths of their tech obsessions will spend three days on the island with no access to their devices or any wi-fi connection.

The "prize" also includes two nights at Lochranza Youth Hostel, return transport and an array of social activities including sailing, hiking & more.

Although this particular comp is only open to UK residents, the idea holds universal merit.

Meet the man behind P&OEdge



MEET John Sharpe from Pacific Adventures.

Sharpe is the designer behind the popular P&OEdge activities range which is lighting up the faces of crowds cruising on P&O Cruises' *Pacific Jewel* vessel.

Such is their popularity that P&O recently announced the line will be rolled out to its two other ships *Pacific Pearl* & *Pacific Dawn* before the end of the year.

P&OEdge is the name given to the range of onboard games and physical challenges, which utilise the ship's existing facilities with only a few minor accessories added to enable some activities.

Cuba reposition cruise

BURGEONING cruise line Cuba Cruises is now selling cabins for a repositioning sailing from Pireaus, Greece to Havana, Cuba ahead of the line's sophomore season.

The 25-day voyage departs from the Greek capital on 28 Nov and will visit France, Spain, Morocco and Portugal on the way to Cuba.

The range includes activities such as Funnel Climb, Laser Tag, Segway Challenge, Bungy Tramp and the Flying Fox and more.

The first six months of P&OEdge saw over 25,000 activities on the world's largest adventure park at sea enjoyed by P&O passengers.

On a recent visit to *Pacific Jewel*, Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry bumped into Sharpe, who was checking out the equipment onboard the ship at the time, with the two **pictured** above.

VOD brochure release

VOYAGES of Discovery has released its 2014/15 brochure, with copies now available from Aussie rep Discover the World.

The line's 540-passenger vessel Voyager will operate in Europe, SE Asia, Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Orient during the season, with the guide covering sailings from Sep 2014 to Oct 2015.

Highlights include a short series of departures in southern Africa and the rarely-visited White Sea.

Themes on American

AMERICAN Cruise Lines has released its lineup of themed departures for the 2015 season.

A series of Southern-themed sailings will take place on the Mississippi River including a Western Theatre Civil War cruise, taking place on 07 Mar 2015.

In the Pacific north-west, a wine themed sailing will depart 28 Mar, while a cruise dedicated to lobster connoisseurs will cruise the New England coast on 31 May.

Grand European deals

MSC Cruises is offering a range of deals on its Grand European voyages departing in 2015 with fares starting at \$128pp per night for bookings made by 31 Aug.

Eligible cruises include a 30-night cruise from Genoa to Scandinavia aboard *MSC Orchestra*, priced from \$3,840pp - ph 1300 028 502.

Taronga whale watch

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises and Taronga Zoo have joined forces to enhance the afternoon whale watching departure by adding live commentary from a whale expert.

The partnership will see one of Taronga Zoo's marine mammal keepers join the cruise to provide information on whales, assist in spotting and answer questions.

Customers on the north side of Sydney Harbour can be picked up at Taronga Zoo's wharf, meaning both attractions can be combined with a specially priced dual-ticket starting from \$99 per adult and \$59 for a child aged 5-14yrs - info at www.captaincook.com.au.

Tauk clarification

THE size range of cabins aboard Tauk's newly launched river cruise ship *MS Savor* (CU 26 Jun) is 150-300 square feet.

SILVERSEA®

Silversea owns and operates a fleet of eight 'boutique' cruise ships and is recognised as the market leader in the ultra-luxury sector.

SALES PRESENTER

Travelling nationwide and delivering an events focused sales and marketing plan, you'll be responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with key partners, negotiating event activities, producing and delivering emotive presentations and managing an assigned budget to deliver revenue targets.

To apply for this role you will be required to demonstrate exceptional public speaking skills plus previous travel industry (preferably within expedition, cruise and/or luxury), business development, sales, events and presenting experience. Strong relationship, negotiation and communication skills are also essential along with intermediate PowerPoint and the flexibility to travel nationwide on a regular basis.

Confidential applications to Philippa Baker on 0404 842384 or email Philippa@alexander-associates.com.au

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