



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Ecruising partnership

ECRUISE has teamed up with Cruise Seminars and is now managing bookings for the company, which facilitates seminars, conferences, training and courses on cruises.

Cruise Seminars hosts events for industries which require continual professional development.

Ecruising chairman Brett Dudley, said the tieup was an ideal match "as we can manage the res for both the cruise and on board events through our dedicated groups department, allowing the client to only have to deal with one channel of communication".

When a passenger books a seminar at sea online, they will be redirected to Ecruising.travel to process the reservation.

HOOT Cruise's Oz debut

A FRESH competitor has today joined Australia's cruise sphere with HOOT Holidays' introducing HOOT Cruise in Australia.

Chairman and director of House of Travel Australia, Barry Mayo told *CW* the launch enabled customers to "take advantage of wonderful cruises in the South Pacific and Asia, destinations they already know and love through Hoot's beach holidays, as well as being able to book amazing Hoot Cruises deals for New Zealand, Europe, Alaska, South America and the Caribbean".

The consumer-facing product is a new category for HOOT Holidays in this market, which has been operating in Australia for 30 years and is part of the Australasian House of Travel Group.

On its website, HOOT Cruises promised to find "the best cruise deals for the best price" & "make sure your trip is safe, stress-free

and totally tailored to you."

The company has been operating Hoot Cruises in the New Zealand market for over a year and has a cruise team of 20.

Hoot Holidays rebanded from Holiday Specialists in 2013.

House of Travel owns TravelManagers in Australia and also a majority stake in Orbit World Travel.

New Coral itinerary

A NEW "hike and cruise" itinerary is on offer from Coral Expeditions in Jan.

The seven-night Coastal Treks of Tasmania roundtrip from Hobart departs on 15 Jan and includes coastal treks which vary in length and difficulty.

Highlights include Mt Beattie, Cape Hauy and the Fluted Cape walk on Bruny Island.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Ponant's new sailings

PONANT has packed in two new itineraries in its Arctic program, which went on sale last week (*CW* 27 Jul).

The new additions are the 13-day Magnificent Volcanoes of the Aleutian Islands from 24 Jun-06 Jul and 15-day Greenland of Great Explorers, from 12-26 Jul.

One of Ponant's newbuilds, *Le Champlain* features in the lineup, offering Iceland cruises.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full program.

A&K Polar brochure

ABERCROMBIE & Kent's Luxury Polar Expeditions 2018/19 brochure has been released, featuring four expeditions to Antarctica and two for the Arctic.

The 2018/19 season will introduce complimentary butler service in all suites.

Earlybird discounts are available until 31 Mar on select departures, [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 01 Aug 2017

Learn what's on the horizon for river cruising in 2018 in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Quest embarks on inaugural



LINDBLAD Expeditions' long-awaited first newbuild, *National Geographic Quest*, commenced its inaugural voyage on Sat, an eight-day expedition exploring Southeast Alaska from Juneau.

The 100-passenger vessel will operate the Exploring Alaska's Coastal Wilderness expedition through to 26 Aug and will finish off the Alaska season with a Treasures of the Inside Passage: Alaska and British Columbia departure on 02 Sep.

It will then sail a series of new voyages between Seattle and Vancouver, with stops in the San Juan Islands, Victoria, Alert Bay, and more far reaching stops in British Columbia.

From Dec *National Geographic Quest* will reposition and operate expeditions in Costa Rica and Panama before kicking off a series of new voyages in Belize and Guatemala from Feb.

Sven Lindblad, ceo and president of Lindblad Expeditions, commended the team on the achievement, saying "You all must feel a deep sense of pride

and accomplishment, you have all worked tirelessly to make this possible, and are a part of history having played an important role in the building and launch of the most sophisticated and beautiful ship built in the US in decades".

National Geographic Quest was initially slated to launch a few weeks earlier but was damaged during the launch operation when it slid from the ramp and was grounded (**CW** 29 Jun).

Crystal 2017 getaways

CRYSTAL Cruises has released a collection of shortened segments of longer voyages in 2017, called Crystal Getaways.

A total of 17 Crystal Getaways have been added across Crystal's ocean and river cruises and range from four to 13 days in length from Aug through to Dec.

The sailings are in addition to four shorter itineraries revealed for *Crystal Mahler* in 2018 earlier this month (**CW** 20 Jul).

Fares lead in at \$940ppts, for the full list **CLICK HERE**.

Riviera Travel Aus push

EUROPEAN river cruise line Riviera Travel is targeting Australians with its newly launched local website & brochure - both in Aussie dollars.

The UK-based company has appointed an Australian sales manager and is offering commission, a no-direct-booking policy and a new distribution channel through Cruiseeco and Cruise Traveller.

The company is promoting itself as "offering inclusive, five-star cruises at fares up to 50% lower than river companies more established in Australia".

Riviera Travel does not include automatic gratuities in fares and promises "a simple, transparent and affordable fare structure, with no hidden costs, and a no-discounting policy".

Meals, afternoon teas, late-night snacks, tours and excursions with guides and wi-fi are included in the fare and coffee and tea facilities are in every cabin.

In 2018 Riviera Travel will introduce an optional drinks package for A\$99pp for four nights, A\$169 for seven nights

or A\$329 for 14 nights, covering beverages with lunch and dinner.

It will also launch a Budapest to the Black Sea and a Dutch Bulbfields itinerary in 2018.

Riviera Travel offers single travellers a selection of solo-use cabins with no single supplements on every cruise and features two restaurants on most of its ships.

Instead of an Amsterdam-Budapest itinerary, it starts in Cologne, which it says is to eliminate less scenic landscapes and allow more time in towns.

Riviera Travel's sales manager for Australia, Shelley Davey, said "We know we're the new kid on the block in Australia amongst some very strongly branded competitors but we're confident Australians will love the way we do things differently".

Riviera Travel offers 12 different itineraries in Europe - the Rhine, Moselle, Danube, Main and Danube Canal, Douro, Rhone and Saone and the Dutch waterways.

Fares lead in at \$2,099ppts for a seven-night Blue Danube cruise - see www.rivieratravel.com.au.

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Beds on Board Oz launch

BOAT accom platform Beds on Board has been introduced to Australia, offering overnight stays at privately-owned luxury boats berthed at marinas.

Experiences will range from budget breaks, luxury coastal to city "boatroom" stays.

Beds on Board co-founder Jason Ludlow said Australia was a natural next step for the service.

"Australia and the South Pacific, with its ideal climate and wonderful waterways & marinas, will provide the opportunity for local and international tourists alike to enjoy this great lifestyle."

The sharing economy platform is being introduced to the market by players in the boating industry, Nicky and Darren Vaux.

Darren Vaux said the introduction of a sharing

economy platform like Beds on Board was inevitable.

"We also see it as a way to introduce a whole generation of non-boaters to the luxury boating and marina lifestyle in an easily accessible and low cost way, as well as helping boat owners to offset the cost of boat ownership," he said.

Nicky Vaux, who also owns Beaches and Mountains Girls Getaways, said "staying on a luxury boat is something most people think is outside their budget but bedsonboard.com brings this within reach".

"There are boats listed in Spain that range from \$74 to \$821 a night, differing in style, size and capacity," she added.

The online booking service is available in over 60 countries and features a boat owner and guest review system.

For more information, head to www.bedsonboard.com.

Bonus 5% commission

A BONUS 5% commission is up for grabs for Australian retail travel agents who book select *Norwegian Jewel* sailings.

Norwegian Cruise Line launched the offer yesterday "as a thank you to travel agents for their continued support" and to mark 100 days until *Jewel's* arrival in Sydney Harbour this Nov.

The offer applies to bookings made 31 Jul-14 Aug on *Norwegian Jewel's* Australia/ New Zealand season for cruises departing between Nov 2017 and Feb 2018.

The season includes 15 sailings around the South Pacific, New Zealand and Australia and includes seven round-trip departures from Sydney.

Wendy Wu joins CLIA

WENDY Wu Tours has become a global executive partner of Cruise Lines International Association.

The company offers a range of cruise extension products in China which are typically not included on a coastal itinerary.

Explorer turns one

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has launched a 360-degree Virtual Tour of *Seven Seas Explorer* to mark the vessel's first anniversary.

The experience walks guests through decks four and five of the ship - [CLICK HERE](#) to view.

One Ocean's new vessel



ONE Ocean Expeditions has expanded its fleet with the addition of the 146-passenger *RCGS Resolute* (pictured above).

The ice class vessel will arrive in Canada in Nov 2018 for its inaugural OOE polar voyage.

It is named after *HMS Resolute*, a British Royal Navy Arctic exploration vessel and the Inuit town of Resolute in Canada.

It also carries the name of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) in recognition of OOE's tieup with the society.



RCGS Resolute has large indoor and outdoor viewing platforms, luxury amenities, a presentation room, wellness centre & more.

The ship's main dining room is **below** & a superior cabin is **inset**. More photos on **FACEBOOK**.

To accommodate for the expansion, the company has also grown its operations in Squamish, British Columbia, and has upped its staff by 25% in recent months.



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Death on Emerald

A MAN has been charged with the murder of his wife following an FBI investigation into the death of a passenger on Princess Cruises' *Emerald Princess*.

The domestic dispute occurred at approximately 9pm on 25 Jul and resulted in the death of a 39-year-old woman from Utah.

Princess cancelled scenic cruising of Tracy Arm Fjord for 26 Jul and sailed directly to Juneau.

Due to the delays, each guest received \$150 in on board credit.

Follow the Lights

DATES for Bentours' Follow the Lights itinerary from Oct 2018 to Mar 2019 have been released.

The tour includes a stay in an igloo, visits to husky and reindeer farms and a Hurtigruten cruise, from \$5,995ppts - more [HERE](#).



Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	02 Aug
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	03 Aug
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	04 Aug
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	06 Aug
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	07 Aug
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	01 Aug
<i>Golden Princess</i>	04 Aug
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	05 Aug
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	07 Aug
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	03 Aug

Carnival Horizon on schedule



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has released images of its newest ship, *Carnival Horizon*, taking shape at the Financieri shipyard in Marghera, Italy (pictured).

Construction of the vessel is progressing on schedule for its maiden voyage on 02 Apr 2018, a 13-day Mediterranean cruise from Barcelona.

RCI's Majesty to Cuba

ROYAL Caribbean International will introduce *Majesty of the Seas* to Cuba in 2019.

The cruise line has scheduled a four-night sailing from Port Canaveral on board the vessel, departing on 25 Mar and including a full day in Havana.

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Lindblad wellness

LINDBLAD Expeditions-National Geographic have partnered with lifestyle brand exhale for a series of three- and four-day wellness cruises in Mexico's sea of Cortez.

The Base Camp Baja cruises will use *National Geographic Sea Bird* as a "floating base camp" and will visit Espiritu Santo & Isla Partida.

Passengers will be able to participate in fitness classes, pre-cocktail hour neck and shoulder massages on deck and water activities such as snorkelling.

Rates begin at US\$1,990ppts in a category one cabin for the three-night voyage.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.



DISNEY Cruise Line is definitely getting into the Halloween Spirit, with cruisers promised a "wickedly good time" on sailings in Sep and Oct this year.

Disney Dream, Disney Fantasy, Disney Wonder and Disney Magic will all feature 'Halloween on the High Seas' with a range of spooky movies, creepy cabaret and of course 'Mikey's Mouse-quarade Party'.

During the period, ship announcements will be delivered by ghosts and the on-board cuisine will undergo a creepy makeover with fairly disgusting offerings including chocolate cake with pumpkin filling and "spider cakes".

Let's hope there isn't too much rough weather, or the delightful dishes might end up making an unwanted reappearance.