

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Viking orders two

VIKING Ocean Cruises has ordered its ninth and tenth ocean vessels from Fincantieri, which will be sister ships to those already ordered from the shipbuilder.

The move follows a deal inked in Apr for construction of Viking Ocean Cruises' seventh and eighth ocean ships coming into effect.

All the new units will be 47,800 gross tonnes and able to accommodate 930 guests in 465 all-veranda cabins.

The first four have already been delivered and the remaining six will be delivered in 2018, 2019, 2021, two in 2022 and 2023.

Ponant orders \$421m icebreaker

PONANT has revealed an order for "the first electric hybrid cruise icebreaker with LNG propulsion", set for delivery in Q2 2021.

The Polar Class two vessel is specifically designed to take passengers to "never explored polar destinations", such as the true geographic North Pole (90 degrees North Latitude), the Weddell Sea, the Ross Sea and Peter I Island.

Vard said the Ponant icebreaker would be the "very first electric hybrid cruise icebreaker with dual fuel propulsion, featuring high-capacity batteries and LNG storage on board".

It will have capacity for 270 passengers in 135 staterooms, in addition to 187 crew members, and will be equipped with two helicopters housed in hangars.

The ship (render pictured) will be built by Fincantieri's subsidiary, Vard, with the hull constructed at



Vard Tulcea in Romania and the vessel to be delivered from Vard Soviknes in Norway.

The Ponant icebreaker will be approx 30,000 gross tonnes and be designed to fulfil the highest standards for environmentally friendly and safe operations.

It will feature two panoramic restaurants, a grill restaurant, spa and wellness facilities and 16 on board Zodiac dinghies.

The ship design was created in co-operation between icebreaking vessel developer and designer Aker Arctic and naval design and architect firm Stirling Design International.

The contract value is approx NOK2.7 billion (AU\$421 million).

In addition to the polar cruise expedition vessel, Ponant also has four luxury expedition cruise ships under construction by Vard.



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Celebrity Flora keel



CELEBRITY Cruises recently marked the ceremonial keel laying for *Celebrity Flora* in Tolkamer, Netherlands.

A 49.2 tonne block was lifted and a lucky coin was placed in the dock before the block was lowered into position, laying the foundation of the ship.

Leaders from Celebrity Cruises, parent company Royal Caribbean Cruises and BG Studios are **pictured**.

Celebrity Flora is Celebrity Cruises' new ship for the Galapagos Islands (**CW** 29 Nov) and will sail year-round from Baltra from 26 May 2019.

GLOBAL cruise travel is predicted to continue its upward trend, with 27.2 million pax expected to set sail in 2018, according to the latest statistics from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

The association's 2018 *State of the Cruise Industry Outlook* report is estimating CLIA Global ocean cruise passengers will reach 27.2m in 2018, up from a predicted 25.8m in 2017.

It reveals CLIA's member lines are scheduled to debut 27 new ocean, river and specialty ships this coming year and that eight out of 10 travel agents say they are expecting an increase in sales in 2018 over the last year.

The report also forecasts the nine top cruise travel trends for the following year, with the number one prediction that all budgets will cruise - based on findings from the soon to

be released 2018 Cruise Travel Report, which found almost all income brackets are cruising.

"Transformational" experiences were also highlighted, described as ranging from voluntourism to extreme adventures, while sustainability at sea was next.

CLIA emphasised river & small ship cruising would continue to gain traction with millennials and multi-generational cruising is predicted to increase in popularity.

Next year is projected to see an increase in cruise travellers opting for colder climate destinations including the Baltics, Canada, Alaska, and Antarctica, while health and wellness trips are also highlighted in the report.

In the eighth spot, CLIA tipped a rise in traveller-friendly on board technologies and in ninth, emphasised travel agents continue to see a steady demand from consumers - **CLICK HERE**.



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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 19th December 2017



Catch up with Jennifer Vanderkreeke as Carnival celebrates 5 years in Australia in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	19 Dec
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	20 Dec
<i>Regatta</i>	20 Dec
<i>AIDAcara</i>	20 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	21 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	21 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	22 Dec
<i>Sun Princess</i>	22 Dec
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	23 Dec
<i>Maasdam</i>	23 Dec
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	24 Dec

MELBOURNE	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	19 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	20 Dec
<i>Golden Princess</i>	21 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	23 Dec
<i>Maasdam</i>	25 Dec

BRISBANE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	21 Dec
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	21 Dec
<i>Regatta</i>	22 Dec

ADELAIDE	
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	20 Dec

HOBART	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	21 Dec

AUCKLAND	
<i>Maasdam</i>	19 Dec
<i>Silver Shadow</i>	19 Dec
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	20 Dec
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	21 Dec
<i>Golden Princess</i>	25 Dec

Princess programs out



PRINCESS Cruises has released its 2019 Canada and New England season as well as its Japan 2019 season as well as its Canada and New England 2019 northern autumn itineraries.

It will be *Diamond Princess*' sixth season of cruising to Japan and the vessel will stop by a record 41 destinations across seven countries during the period.

Diamond Princess will sail roundtrip from Tokyo (Yokohama) and Kobe and make maiden calls to Gamagori, Himeji, Matsuyama, Niigata, Miyako and Takamatsu.

The 2019 Canada and New England season will see three ships offer 16 departures and seven itineraries.

New additions include the 16-day Greenland and Canada roundtrip from New York on *Caribbean Princess* (pictured) and 24-day Canada & New England voyage roundtrip from London on *Sapphire Princess*.

The Mar-Nov Japan 2019 and 2019 Canada & New England cruises are on sale now.

Windstar Signature Expeditions 2018

WINDSTAR has launched a new Signature Expeditions program for Alaska, kicking off in May 2018 and offering "intimate adventures and active enrichment" with "high touch experiences".

The itineraries will be operated on the newly refreshed *Star Legend*, and include classes, one-to-one discussions, presentations and optional small group excursions on the ship's fleet of kayaks and Zodiacs or small group hikes.

Call Windstar Australia to book on 1300 749 875.

Aurora ups team

AURORA Expeditions has continued to expand its Sydney-based team, announcing the addition of two trade-focussed roles.

Alexandra Fayan has stepped into the position of bdm, responsible for developing and managing relationships with trade distribution partners throughout Asia Pacific.

Jennifer Perrotin has been appointed trade marketing exec, bringing over five years' industry experience to the role.



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has helped children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, celebrate the festive season with a twist.

The company hosted its first "Grinchmas" festivities at the hospital, bringing The Grinch (pictured) and a Good Deed Tracker to the children.



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