

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 27 Jul 2017

Cruise Weekly today

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

Sun bookings open

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's cruises to Cuba aboard *Norwegian Sun* from May 2018 are now open for bookings.

The cruise line revealed earlier this month that it would deploy a second ship, *Norwegian Sun* to Cuba (**CW** 11 Jul).

Sun will homeport in Port Canaveral after undergoing a drydock enhancement and will operate four-day cruises calling at Key West and Havana.

Until 31 Aug, NCL is throwing in US\$50 of on board spending money on new bookings on 2017 and 2018 Cuba sailings.

Sun will be NCL's second vessel to sail to Cuba, after *Sky* arrived in Havana for the first time in May (**CW** 04 May).

Top cruise suburbs revealed

FLIGHT Centre's recently released 'Postcodes and Postcards' report features some intriguing insights into the travel patterns of Australian cruisers.

The study collates data from across the various Flight Centre leisure brands also including Cruiseabout and Escape Travel, and indicates that the most popular months to purchase a cruise are Jan, Feb and Oct - good timing given that Oct coincides with CLIA Australasia's annual Plan a Cruise month promotion.

The key months to travel on a cruise are Sep and Dec, and in 2016 the most popular length of cruise for Aussie travellers was 14 days to NZ and seven days in the USA.

The most popular destination was New Caledonia, and the suburb which booked the most cruises was Rouse Hill, NSW, followed by Qld's Hervey Bay.

The western Sydney suburb of Campbelltown was the third biggest source of cruisers, followed by Caloundra, Runaway Bay and Victoria Point in Qld.

NSW suburbs rounded out the top 10 biggest cruise bookers, with Bateau Bay, Wyong and Gosford on the Central Coast coming in seventh, eighth and ninth - followed by Blacktown.

Among Flight Centre's cruising customers the average age of holidaymakers is 53, and they usually travel with a partner.

"More than 1.2 million Australians from all backgrounds had a holiday cruise in 2016, and hundreds of thousands of them booked through Flight Centre," the company said.

More than 50% of people who booked a cruise via Flight Centre this year indicated they intended to book another cruise within the next 12 months.

NTIA video out now

RELIVE the highlights of Sat night's National Travel Industry Awards through *Cruise Weekly's* sister publications, *Travel Daily/ travelBulletin* video which has been released today.

The video is now online on YouTube and also can be seen at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

MEANWHILE there has been a huge response to the special *travelBulletin* feature showcasing the NTIA winners.

The supplement was emailed to *Cruise Weekly*, *TD*

and *Business Events News* subscribers and will form part of the Aug edition of *travelBulletin*.

To view it click on the cover image or see it online at

www.travelbulletin.com.au.



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South Sea appoints

SOUTH Sea Cruises has made a number of appointments to its global sales and customer service teams across its brands.

Loretta St Julian-Ooms (right) has taken on the role of bdm - Fiji for South Sea



Cruises, Blue Lagoon Cruises, Awesome Adventures Fiji, Yasawa Islands Holidays & the Malamala Beach Club in the Fiji market.

The newly created role of gm - customer service and experience has been filled by Lailanie Burnes



(above) and Alyssa Field, currently bdm for New Zealand and North America will add Australia to her scope from 01 Sep (right).



Wayne Deed, director of sales & marketing said the appointments were in line with the business growth the company was looking to achieve.

Ponant Arctic 2019

SALES opened today for Ponant's 2019 Arctic cruises.

The expeditions explore Spitsbergen, Greenland, Baffin Bay, the Aleutian Islands and Alaska and feature cruises in Iceland on the line's newest ship, *Le Champlain*.

For more see au.ponant.com.

Uniworld fly free

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has packed in free Economy airfares with every 2018 European voyage under its Ultimate 2018 Air Offer.

The deal is available until 30 Sep and applies to flights from Australia, with Business class flights available from \$4,599.

"We want to give Australians who love river cruising the opportunity to experience the Uniworld difference by making Uniworld accessible across all cabin categories and all sailing dates on every European itinerary," said Fiona Dalton, md for Uniworld Australia.

Call 1300 780 231 for more.

Costa battles waste

COSTA Cruises has partnered with not-for-profit organisation, Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus, to allow food which has been prepared but not served to be retrieved and distributed to local organisations.

The project launched over the weekend on board *Costa Diadema* during its call at Savona.

It follows a law in Italy which came into force in Sep which facilitates donation of food waste.

"We worked with Costa Cruises for eight months to organise a food surplus management procedure that would allow us to salvage high-quality and high-nutritional value food," Andrea Giussani, president of the Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus said.

Victory Cruise's 2nd ship

MIAMI-BASED Victory Cruise Lines has acquired a second ship, *Victory II* which will be upgraded to the standards of its first ship, the 202-passenger *Victory I*.

The ex-Clipper Group vessel's inaugural voyage will be from Boston on 20 May, 2018 and it will operate a series of seven-night Canada and New England cruises and 10-night voyages on the St Lawrence Seaway and Canadian Maritimes.

Victory II will sail from Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Halifax, Nova Scotia, and during its first season will operate the cruise line's maiden calls to major ports on Lake Superior.

Bruce Nierenberg, pres and ceo of Victory Cruise Lines said the company's goal was to "be the first choice in cruising the Great Lakes, Canada, the St Lawrence Seaway & New England markets by offering the finest cuisine and

hotel product on board, along with memorable and unique destination experiences that stand above & beyond the rest".

Victory Cruise Lines launched in Jul last year when *Victory I* began sailing the Great Lakes (CW 09 Jun 16).



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P&O State of Origin

P&O Cruises will sail to Melbourne for the Rugby League State of Origin opening game, which will be played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Jun.

The cruise line will operate a four-night roundtrip cruise from Sydney which includes tickets and transfers to the game and footy-themed entertainment on board *Pacific Explorer*.

The 2018 State of Origin cruise departs 04 Jun and is priced from \$624 quad share.

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Thursday 27 Jul 2017



AQSC Duchess arrives

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company's (AQSC) newest addition to the fleet, *American Duchess*, has arrived in New Orleans for final preparations ahead of her inaugural sailing.

American Duchess will be christened on 14 Aug, after which it will embark on a 23-day New Orleans to Red Wing (Minneapolis) itinerary.

The all-suite, 166-guest vessel will become the third ship in AQSC's fleet and will sail the Mississippi, offering overnight stays in Nashville, as well as the cruise line's first itineraries departing from Chicago.

"The American Duchess performed beautifully as she made her way to New Orleans, undergoing sea and river trials supervised by the US Coast Guard and company technicians, including exercises in the Gulf of Mexico," said AQSC's chairman John Waggoner.

CLICK HERE for more.

Azamara new coo

AZAMARA Club Cruises has announced the appointment of Carol Cabezas to the position of chief operation officer.

Cabezas has been a part of the Royal Caribbean team for 17 years.

She has held a variety of leadership roles at the parent company across sales, finance and revenue management.

Creative packages

TRAFALGAR and Creative Cruising have joined forces to introduce their Land and Sea Explorer Holiday packages, which are designed for first time and returning travellers.

The 33 packages on offer combine some of Trafalgar's popular guided tours, with Creative Cruising's partner cruise lines such as RCI, Cunard, Norwegian, Celebrity and Princess.

Itineraries include Trafalgar's Spanish Wonder tour and a Med cruise on *Symphony of the Seas*.

NTIA celebrations continue!

THE cruise sector's presence at last weekend's National Travel Industry Awards wasn't just among the winner's circle, with several generous cruise lines also among the key NTIA category sponsors.

World's Leading Cruise Lines kicked it off with Carnival Cruise Line director of sales Anton Loeb presenting the



award for Best Travel Agency Manager - Retail Multi Location to Stuart Ingram of Destination HQ (above).

WLCL also sponsored the Best Travel Writer category, presented (left) by P&O Cruises director of sales Ryan Taibel to Julie Miller.



Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines was part of the action, sponsoring the Best Travel Consultant - Retail category as well as the Best Sales Executive - Industry Supplier award won by Air NZ's Elizabeth Huchison and presented by RCI's Peter McCormack (right).



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Creative special

CREATIVE Cruising are offering a reduced cruise fare on its 18-night Wine on Waiheke & Cruise to Perth package, when it is booked before 02 Aug.

The cruise departs 17 Feb and is priced from \$3,289 per person - **CLICK HERE** for more.



ACA UPDATE

with Jill Abel - CEO

New Members

TWO new members – the Quicksilver Group and Mirvac Real Estate - have joined the Australian Cruise Association ahead of our annual conference in Sep.

The Quicksilver group is one of Australia's leading Great Barrier Reef cruise companies and one of North Old's largest private employers.

Founded in 1979, the company now offers many opportunities for visiting cruise pax to find their way out the Great Barrier Reef from Cairns and Port Douglas. Half day through to multi day trips are available providing some of the best snorkel and dive sites for visitors wanting to find their own nemo!

Taking care of land based activities, Mirvac Real Estate is joining to showcase their retail centres in Sydney and Mooloolaba. Recognising that local shopping opportunities are high on the activities list for cruise passengers, Mirvac is looking forward to working with our ground handler members to incorporate some retail therapy into their itineraries.

In Sydney Mirvac owns and operates high traffic shopping centres such as Birkenhead Point Outlet Centre, Harbourside Shopping Centre at Darling Harbour and Broadway Sydney. They have also recently opened the Tramsheds in Glebe – a wonderful array of restaurants and provedores located in one of the city's historic buildings and easily accessed from the city by light rail.

Their Kawana Shoppingworld centre on the Sunshine Coast is a short ten minute commute from the port at Mooloolaba.

We are excited to welcome these new members who are continuing to expand the destination experiences available to cruise passengers arriving into Australia.

UK relaxes Tunisia

THE British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has relaxed its travel advice for Tunisia following a terrorist attack that killed 31 Brits in 2015.

Australia's level of advice for Tunisia remains at "reconsider your need to travel".

PORTHOLE



HOLD your horses and get on board for the 2017 Gothic Cruise.

If you're a goth or keen to be one for a week, the cruise departs Los Angeles for a seven-day sailing on board the 2,100 passenger *Carnival Miracle*.

Excessive eye makeup, vampire costumes and live musical performances can be expected on the 23 Sep sailing.

Organisers of the Gothic Cruise have been running yearly cruises since 1989, with hundreds of goths turning out each year.

Many goth bands will be on the cruise ship including Covenant, Haujobb and Lights of Euphoria.

The seven-day sailing includes two nights at Cabo San Lucas and a stop at Puerto Vallarta.

Couples can also get married on board, if a goth wedding is your thing.

Prices start from US\$952ppts.

Carnival YMCA donation



CARNIVAL Cruise Line celebrated its partnership with the Port of Mobile and greater Mobile, Alabama, by hosting a Seuss-a-Palooza event for kids attending the YMCA of South Alabama Summer Camp program.

The event was held on board *Carnival Fantasy* and featured a green eggs and ham brunch,

a parade and other Dr Seuss inspired activities.

During the event, Carnival made a US\$20,000 donation to the YMCA of South Alabama.

The event was also part of Carnival's "Seuss at Sea" program.

Turnaround day video

PORSCHE Consulting has released a video giving a behind-the-scenes look at what happens on turnaround day on Royal Caribbean International's *Anthem of the Seas*.

The subsidiary of the sports car manufacturer works with RCI to streamline its processes.

CLICK HERE to watch the video.

Andre Rieu cruise

SAGA Travel is holding a music-themed cruise along the Rhine, from Arnhem to Cologne, featuring Andre Rieu.

Pax will also visit Beethoven's house in Bonn, Germany, and watch a performance by Dutch mistero Andre Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra.

The six-day itinerary includes calls at Nijmegen and Dusseldorf.

The tour includes return transfers from the UK.

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