



BIENVENIDOS A CUBA!

It's been more than 30 years since a Holland America Line ship last sailed into Havana Harbor, but this December we're returning to Cuba — and you're invited to join us! Choose from a number of Fort Lauderdale roundtrip sailings aboard ms Veendam, from December 2017 - April 2018, with many departures featuring an extended stay in Havana.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 01 Jun 2017

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover page from HAL and a full page from CruiseAgents.

Oceania agent portal

OCEANIA Cruises has launched a portal in its Travel Agent Centre designed to make it simpler for agents to explore and promote the line's products.

The Oceania Cruises Marketing Portal features customisable brand-approved marketing materials, such as print-ready flyers, ads, web banners, emails and more which can be personalised with an agency's company logo and contact details.

Tools on offer include the ability to measure performance for email campaigns in the "My Projects" section and the ability to select and send brochures from the online collection.

NZ cruising's big splash

MORE Kiwis cruised in 2016 than any other year, the latest Cruise Lines Int'l Association (CLIA) Australasia statistics show.

The Cruise Industry Source Market Report New Zealand 2016 released yesterday (CW breaking news) saw ocean cruise passengers grow by 36% to 90,184, compared to Australia's 21% growth in 2016 to 1,281,159 passengers (CW 16 May).

CLIA managing director Australasia Joel Katz told Cruise Weekly "as a relatively small and emerging market, NZ is certainly punching above its weight".

Katz said the increase in home port options and short close-to-home cruises was reflected in the source market pax growth.

"As cruise lines continue to deploy and homeport new ships in this region, we can expect to see the NZ numbers continue to grow and we are well on track to

achieve the goal of 100,000 NZ ocean cruise pax by 2020," he said.

Similar to Australian figures, the most popular cruise duration was 8-14 days, with more than half of New Zealanders opting for this length, while voyages of 1-4 days surged 142% to become the second most popular duration.

In 2016, New Zealand cruise passengers spent 871,952 days at sea, up 29% from 2015 and a 187% increase in five years.

The average length of a cruise holiday in 2016 was 9.7 days, down from 10.2 days in 2015.

HAL's Cuba return

HOLLAND America Line has returned to Havana Harbour for the first time in over 30 years.

The line is promoting its Fort Lauderdale roundtrip sailings to Cuba in today's edition, see the cover page for more.

Silversea targets business events



SILVERSEA Cruises yesterday hosted key meeting, conference and incentive organisers at an event to showcase a new brochure (pictured) dedicated to "the motivating power of events at sea".

MD Amber Wilson told attendees the cruise line was seeing strong demand for groups business from travel agents, and urged the MICE sector to also present luxury cruise to clients as an option for a successful event.

More details in today's issue of BUSINESS EVENTS NEWS.

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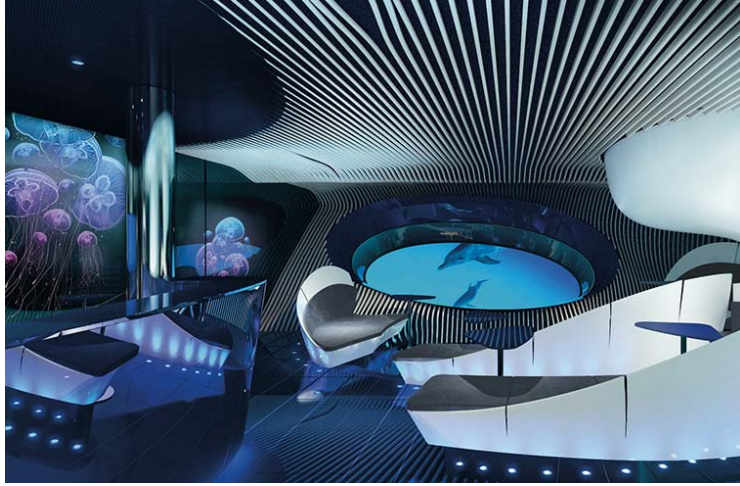
*Combination of offers valid on Oceanview Staterooms and above. Offers correct as at 1 May 2017 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Offers end 5 May 2017 unless extended. For full terms & conditions, visit ncl.com.au.



Compare the range of onboard thrills available in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

Ponant's new 'Blue Eye'



PONANT'S new *Le Laperouse* will be the world's first cruise ship to boast a "multi-sensory underwater area".

Titled the Blue Eye - and perhaps reminiscent of a Bond villain's sub-sea lair - it provides an incredible vantage point for passengers to experience the surrounding marine life.

The Blue Eye lounge space has been designed to evoke the shapes of shells and jellyfish, focusing the attention of passengers on the two portholes (**pictured**) which showcase the ocean around the ship.

Underwater cameras also display the sea life on large screens, while the Blue Eye features scientifically designed acoustics and a sound system enabling guests to tune into the life of the sea such as frolicking dolphins, whale song and the myriad noises of a coral reef within a 5km radius.

The experience is made even deeper through special "Body Listening sofas" which "discreetly vibrate in unison while offering unique sensory listening through corporal resonance".

Up to 40 pax can enjoy the

ambience of the Blue Eye at once, with the lounge featuring on all four of Ponant's new 'Explorer' ships which are being built.

The vessels were showcased earlier this week at an event in Sydney, where Ponant Asia-Pacific chairman Sarina Bratton described the new vessels.

Two of the new ships will launch in 2018 and the others in 2019, each with 92 cabins and fully equipped for adventurous explorations across the globe.

Bratton said the strength of the Asia-Pacific market had been a key factor in convincing the cruise line's owners to make the major investment in the ships.

Ponant kicks off its inaugural Australian season early next month, with *L'Austral* conducting a series of cruises in the stunning Kimberley region.

CLICK HERE for more.

Horizon's new rooms

A NEW category of aft-view extended balcony cabins staterooms and an additional 18 tropics-inspired room will be introduced on Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Horizon*.

Durban terminal bidder

KWAZULU Cruise Terminal (KCT), a joint venture between MSC Cruises and African Armada Consortium has been selected as the preferred bidder for the development of South Africa's Durban Cruise Terminal.

The agreement for the R215m (AU\$22m) project is for a 25-year concession period and KCT will be responsible for the design, financing, construction, operation, maintenance and transfer of a cruise terminal facility in the Port of Durban.

Making the announcement, Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) chief executive, Richard Vallihu said KCT put together an exciting concept and had the experience to deliver a facility that would be "the jewel in the crown" of the Port of Durban.

"Despite the pressures of the global economic climate on disposable incomes, the global luxury cruise sector remains one of the fastest growing segments in the tourism industry & has the potential to grow the economy and create jobs," he said.

Scenic France brox

SCENIC has packed five new itineraries into its The Captivating Wonders of France River Cruising 2018 brochure.

The program will introduce an upgraded *Scenic Diamond* and *Scenic Sapphire* to the fleet, featuring larger suites.

Fresh itineraries include the 23-day Icons of France and 16-day South of France Indulgence.

Early payment discount prices are available for Bordeaux and the South of France.

To see an online version of the brochure, **CLICK HERE**.



Times Live are reporting the facility is expected to be operational in Oct 2019 & will be able to accommodate two ships.

An artist's impression of the project is **pictured**.

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CRUISE WEEKLY



Revamped website

CRUISEAGENTS has revamped its website, and is touting the new portal as a “one-stop shop for travel agents looking to increase their cruise selling skills”.

The new site has a clearer design for easy viewing on all PCs, smartphones and tablets and newly added filters to its search function.

See www.cruiseagents.travel.



MINIONS Kevin and Stuart (pictured) climbed aboard Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Spirit* in Sydney ahead of the release of *Despicable Me 3* (in cinemas on 15 Jun).

CCL vp Jennifer Vandekreeke said the minions swiftly took control of the ship and went totally bananas.

“We had no idea that these little yellow characters could get up to so much mischief on our ship,” Vandekreeke said.

“They went nuts over the fruit carving, couldn't get enough of the Waterpark, where they soaked up some sun and playfully tried to shuffle one another down the Twister waterslide.”

To watch a clip, [CLICK HERE](#).



Meraviglia's keys handed over



MSC Cruises officially took delivery of the 5,714-passenger *MSC Meraviglia* from STX France builders yesterday, marking the occasion with a flag ceremony in St Nazaire, France.

The vessel is the first of six new MSC ships to come into service between 2017 and 2020, four of which will be built by STX France.

During the event, the shipyard's pennant and the French flag were lowered, accompanied by the French national anthem, before Laurent Castaing, ceo of STX France, handed the ship over to MSC Cruises.

Godmother of the ceremony, Zoe Africa Vago, cut the ribbon, followed by the traditional breaking of the bottle of



champagne and three blasts from the ship's siren, signalling the end of the ceremony.

MSC Meraviglia today set sail for Le Havre, where she will be christened on 03 Jun by her godmother Sophia Loren.

Pictured are: Gianluigi Aponte, executive chairman MSC Group; Pierfrancesco Vago, executive chairman MSC Cruises and Emmanuel Macron, the President of the French Republic.

AIDA new ship details

AIDA Cruises revealed it will name the first ship in its next generation *AIDAnova*.

The series will be able to run on liquefied natural gas and from Dec 2018 *AIDAnova* will sail seven-day cruises to Madeira and the Canary Islands.

AIDAnova will offer 17 dining options, a 3,545m² wellness centre, three water slides & more.



Membership Growth

WE ARE delighted to welcome 3 new members to our Association.

As the regional economic development body, Townsville Enterprise is rejoining the Association at a time when the region is seeing huge cruise sector growth.

Seventeen ships from cruise lines including Silversea, Seabourn, Oceania and Azamara are due to arrive next year bringing around 22,000 passengers and crew. P&O is planning partial ship turnarounds there for the first time meaning that North Queenslanders can now board their ship in Townsville.

Townsville Enterprise works closely with the Port of Townsville and other local businesses to ensure they capitalise on the growth of the cruise sector and provide a fantastic experience for passengers. Free shuttle tours are provided to and around the city. Passengers can also enjoy opportunities to get out further to explore Magnetic Island, the rainforest area, Reef HQ (the largest underwater aquarium in the Southern Hemisphere) and also indigenous tours.

Also joining is NSW Ports which represents Port Kembla and Port Botany. Having received their first calls last year from RCCL, the organisation is looking at the future potential for growth in the thriving Wollongong region.

Third member, innovation and change management consultancy, the B Hive Experience, is run by the highly experienced Tammy Marshall who has driven change in Australia for major organisations such as Carnival. Tammy will be a keynote speaker at our conference this year delivering a Demand Study which addresses trends and future projections for the industry.

Seabourn production

SEABOURN has introduced the production “An Evening with Tim Rice” to its evening entertainment repertoire across its entire fleet.

The show first launched in Jan in partnership with English musical theatre lyricist of Broadway, Sir Tim Rice.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of *Cruise Weekly* is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

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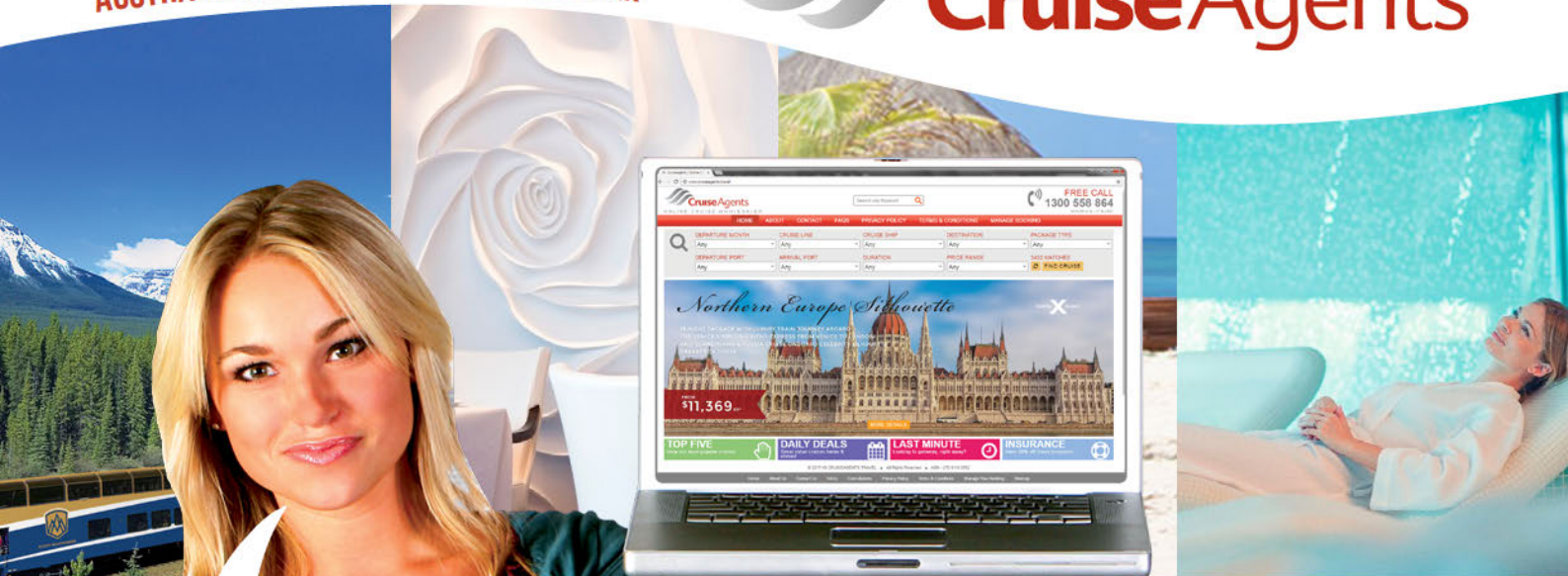
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