

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 08 Jun 2017

Cruise Weekly today

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

CCL double drydock

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's Australian-based ships, *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Legend* will both go into drydock next May. *Carnival Spirit's* drydock will be in early May and *Legend* will be later in the month, meaning there will be no CCL ships sailing in or out of Australia for two weeks, CCL has confirmed in the release of its 2018/19 program.

The cruise line promised both ships would "emerge with exciting new features in time for the bumper 2018-19 season".

During *Spirit's* repositioning cruise to Singapore, she will make maiden visits to Koh Samui and Phuket in Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

For more, see **page three**.

Norwegian Asia initiative

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's deployment of *Norwegian Joy* out of Shanghai and Tianjin is evidence of the company's strong commitment to Asia, which has been spearheaded by Steve Odell since he established the company's regional head office in Sydney just two years ago.

Speaking at the inaugural visit of *Joy* to Hong Kong yesterday, NCLH vice president of international business development Harry Sommer recounted the dream he and Odell had to grow in Asia, which has since seen new offices set up in Mumbai, Tokyo, Singapore, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Beijing as well as Sydney.

"That really shows our commitment to the market, and one that is beginning to pay off enormously for us," Sommer said.

He said Asia Pacific was now Norwegian's fastest growing source market, and the strong

interest in the brand was evidenced by huge demand from Hong Kong locals to visit the ship in the city's harbour yesterday.

Norwegian Joy is touted as the first ship to be customised for the Asian market - but many features will appeal to Australian cruisers too with a massive array of activities on board along with innovative restaurants and luxury accommodations.

Sommer said *Joy* aimed to embody Norwegian's principles of freedom and flexibility, offering excellent food and outstanding service to create the best holiday experiences for passengers.

Odell confirmed that while the Chinese market was key, Australian travel agents were also now able to sell berths on *Norwegian Joy* & bookings were already flowing in from some select outlets.

More from *Norwegian Joy* on **page three** of today's **CW**.

HKG cruise push

THE inaugural visit by *Norwegian Joy* to Hong Kong yesterday was welcomed by local officials, with Hong Kong Commissioner for Tourism Cathy Chu hailing the growing contribution of cruise tourism to the city's economy.

Chu said the new Kai Tak cruise terminal had seen growth of 90% in cruise visits over the last three years, highlighting Hong Kong's shopping and dining experiences and their appeal to visitors.

"The Hong Kong government is very committed to developing cruise tourism in Hong Kong; we have invested a lot in our infrastructure as well as providing various incentive programs for the travel agencies as well as for the cruise lines," she said.

This year HKG is putting money into the development of cruise excursion programs so guests find that Hong Kong is a value-for-money destination, Chu added.



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CW partners with Cruise360

CRUISE Weekly and the other publications in the **Travel Daily Group** will be the official media partners for the upcoming Cruise360 conference hosted by Cruise Lines International Association Australasia.

The conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney on 25 Aug 2017, will be CLIA's biggest local event ever, with a strong line-up of international cruise line speakers as well as local trade and industry leaders making a range of keynote addresses.

There will also be interactive discussions and workshops, and this year for the first time ever Cruise360 will also offer the opportunity for participants to undertake a ship inspection.

"We're delighted to have **Travel Daily**, **travelBulletin** and **Cruise Weekly's** support and involvement as our media partner for Australia's only official cruise industry conference," said CLIA

Australasia md Joel Katz.

"Cruise360 is CLIA Australia's biggest professional development event of the year...our partnership with the **Travel Daily Group** will see detailed coverage of the conference and provide exposure for our exhibitors and sponsors," Katz added.

Travel Daily publisher Bruce Piper said he was thrilled to deepen relationships with CLIA, with the conference always generating significant news and commentary around the fast-growing cruise sector - with **Cruise Weekly** and its sister publications ideally placed to get the messages out.

"We would also like to thank CLIA for this recognition that **Cruise Weekly** is the only trade publication dedicated to cruising - and the only cruising publication dedicated to the trade," he said.

Earlybird tickets for Cruise360 2017 are now available for purchase at cruising.org.au.

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Cuba downsized

CELESTYAL Cruises has scaled back its Cuba operations from year-round to "a seasonal Winter operation with Spring touches" in 2017/18.

Celestyal Crystal will be in Cuba until Mar 2018, after which it will replace *Celestyal Majesty* on the three- and four-day Iconic Aegean Operation as of 30 Mar.

On 31 Apr *Celestyal Crystal* will begin operating the seven-day New Aegean itinerary.

Passengers with confirmed bookings on the cancelled sailings can receive a full refund or transfer their booking to another departure until 05 Mar 2018.

The 2018/19 Cuba deployment will be announced shortly but will be a seasonal winter operation.

Last year the company celebrated its fourth year of operation in Cuba (**CW** 08 Dec).

CMV renames Pearl

TODAY the former P&O Cruises' *Pacific Pearl* will be officially welcomed as *Columbus* under Cruise & Maritime Voyages' fleet.

Columbus will be named in a ceremony in Tilbury, London, ahead of a three-night maiden cruise on 11 Jun.

The vessel has undergone an extensive refit, converting the existing child and teenage areas to spaces including a maritime-themed Columbus Observation Lounge, a Card & Bridge room, a Ship's Library & a Crafter's studio.

The casino has also been scaled down and renamed Captain's Club and Casino.

Townsville port exp

THE Queensland Government's Budget, released earlier this week, has dedicated a down payment of up to \$75m for the expansion of Townsville port.

The Townsville Channel Capacity Upgrade (TCCU) project would allow the port to accommodate ships up to 300m in length.

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Norwegian Joy in Hong Kong



KARAOKE booths, restaurants galore, artworks, upmarket shopping and unique on board activities were showcased yesterday in Hong Kong, where *Norwegian Joy's* first visit to the city was celebrated by Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings.

Joy (pictured) is described as the "optimum holiday choice for the premium contemporary vacationer," and it certainly offers an array of choice and innovation.

New for Norwegian on this ship is the 'Concierge Class' cabins along with a spacious Concierge lounge - for those who don't quite stretch to the top level Haven accommodations.

The Haven is really exclusive, with its own pool, bar and restaurant as well as butler services in a private enclave ideal for those who crave the separation of the classes.

The 3,900 passenger ship offers

more basic staterooms too, right down to inside 'virtual balcony' cabins which sleep up to four and offer a view of the world outside on a large screen complete with a ship's railing.

One of the big drawcards is the two-level go-kart track which sits at the rear of the ship, while an outdoor laser-tag arena will also appeal to adventurers.

There's a peaceful Serenity Garden overlooked by a massive screen - ideal for a movie-watching picnic in the park, and of course a theatre presenting world class performances.

Food choices on board are sublime, with a huge array of eateries offering a variety of cuisine - even Japanese-Peruvian fusion - along with fine wines, cocktails and teas.

For a full gallery of pictures showcasing *Norwegian Joy* see facebook.com/cruiseweekly.

Carnival's record prog

CARNIVAL Cruise Line will once again sail out of Sydney in Nov 2019, after swapping out the destination for Melbourne in the same period in 2018 due to congestion at the OPT.

Confirming the return in the release of its 2018/19 season, the line unveiled more than 70 sailings from Sydney & Melbourne, including a record 19 short cruises.

A spokesperson for the line said Carnival had scheduled as many sailings from Melbourne in Feb/Mar of 2019 as in 2018, noting "the response in the Victorian market for Carnival has been beyond our expectations".

CCL is offering roundtrip sailings from Melbourne to New Zealand

over 13 nights, the South Pacific over 10 and 11 nights as well as a four-night hop south to Tasmania.

The program is the line's biggest Australian program to date and packs in 43 cruises to the South Pacific and New Zealand, representing a 13% increase in sailings to the destinations on the 2018 season.

Carnival vice president Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke said of the record number of options, "there will be something for every fun seeker in this program".

Prices for a four-night Sydney to Moreton Island cruise sailing on 21 Nov leads in at \$699ppts.

The program will go on sale on 15 Jun.

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PORTHOLE



NORWEGIAN Cruise Lines' new *Norwegian Joy* is packed with technology, such as touch screens, high speed wi-fi and amazing virtual reality games.

But along with all the tech innovations there's a common sense addition which very simply helps passengers orient themselves during a cruise.

It's a very big ship, with kilometres of corridors and often it's easy to become confused about which way the vessel is pointing.

Norwegian has come up with a simple solution, and it's right at your feet.

Yes - it's the carpet in the corridors which features an intricate aquatic pattern including schools of little fish.

The fish (**pictured**) always swim towards the front of the ship so all you need to do is look down to figure out which way you're going.



Quest faces delay

LINDBLAD Expeditions is warning the launch of its new *National Geographic Quest* might be delayed and that its inaugural cruise to Alaska and British Columbia could be cancelled.

Passengers on the 26 Jun cruise have been alerted, with a decision to be made 12 Jun on whether the sailing will proceed.

Company ceo Sven Lindblad said cancellation "would be a great disappointment" and said ship builders at Whidbey Island in Washington state were doing all possible to avoid disruption.

Sealink in govt talks

KANGAROO Island ferry operator Sealink has confirmed it is in discussions with the South Australian Government over extending its berthing licence.

"The discussions are centred around new vessel construction, fares, a longer-term leasing arrangement and infrastructure maintenance," Sealink said.

Uniworld food app

THE Travel Corporation has signed a deal with meal-sharing app VizEat to offer its culinary experiences to guests of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection and its sister travel brands.

The app allows guests to be welcomed into hosts' homes to sample regional specialties and traditional cuisine.

Bris Port progress

THE Port of Brisbane has appointed a series of technical advisors to contribute to the development of the Brisbane Int'l Cruise Terminal proposal.

The plan is now in the early design and engineering phase.

Azamara sisters meet

AZAMARA Club Cruises' two ships, *Azamara Journey* and *Azamara Quest* both met in Barcelona overnight.

The cruise line celebrated the occasion to much fanfare from the guests and crew on board.

The vessels are **pictured** sailing side by side.



Scenic Euro fly free

SCENIC is offering free return flights with its 16-day Danube Delta Discovery cruise in 2018, for a limited time.

The cruise visits destinations including Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and Bucharest and is priced from \$8,165pts.

Uncruise 2018 release

A NEW itinerary on the Columbia and Snake Rivers has been introduced in the just-released Uncruise Adventures 2018 small ship schedule.

The *S.S. Legacy* will sail eight departures between Portland, Oregon, and Lewiston, Idaho, on a week-long Rivers of Adventure itinerary from mid-Aug to Oct, priced from US\$3,745pts.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

World Environment Day

WORLD Environment Day was celebrated this week, so it's worth highlighting some of our industry's best eco-friendly practices. The cruise industry takes proactive measures to preserve the environment, such as: **Green Policies** including recycling initiatives, and waste treatment programs.

Dedicated Environmental Officers on many ships to oversee and ensure compliance with environmental programs. **Sustainable Practices** including partnerships with eco-friendly vendors to minimising carbon footprint. Many lines have policies to purchase from sustainable sources.

Smart Technology on newer ships enhance savings of energy, water, and fuel.

Waste Minimisation and disposal policies to reduce packaging and encourage proper disposal of waste, including recycling programs. For sewage and water waste disposal, many lines utilise innovative technologies to minimize waste.

Wildlife Conservation and special itineraries which include participation in conservation projects, charity funds and partnership donations to earth-friendly causes.

For more info about cruise industry eco-friendly initiatives visit www.cruising.org.au.



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