

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 20 Jun 2017

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a full page from CruiseAgents.

Not a word on cruise

ANYONE in the cruise industry hoping for some investment from the NSW Government in the fast growing sector will be disappointed by the state budget today, which fails to even mention the word cruise.

Despite a strong surplus and a range of highly publicised investments in infrastructure, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey didn't mention cruising at all.

And Minister for Tourism and Major Events Adam Marshall highlighted \$193 million to support events, tourism marketing and more - but again without saying anything about the importance of cruise.

Croatia - so hot right now

TEMPO Holidays has become the latest supplier to focus on the fast-growing cruise market to Croatia, with the launch of a dedicated new venture in partnership with Katarina Line.

The new product range, dubbed "Tempo Holidays Cruise Croatia," will "take Croatia cruising to another level," according to Tempo, which has a well-established team on the ground in the destination with over 20 year's experience.

The launch follows the debut earlier this year of Cruise Croatia, a new business formed by Beyond Travel Group (CW 23 Mar 2017).

At the time Beyond Travel's gm of business growth, Peter Smith, said the company had seen a huge growth in demand for Croatia over the last four years, prompting the creation of the unique and separate brand.



Tempo's new venture builds on the company's long experience with Croatia, with the company promising a larger and more comprehensive range including classic cruises, Young & Fun voyages and even naturist cruises.

Spokesperson Sarah Clayton told CW Tempo's cruise team was already offering market leading solutions under the Bentours partnership with Hurtigruten.

"With exceptional service, hands-on expertise and best available rates we believe our cruise team can deliver a new fresh competitive solution to the market," she said.

The expanded range includes additional departure points such as Zadar, Porec and Opatija as well as the standard Split to Dubrovnik itinerary.

CLICK HERE for more.

C360 masterclass

CRUISE Lines International Association Aus has announced a variety of masterclasses as part of its upcoming Cruise360 conference in Aug this year.

CLIA Australasia md Joel Katz said the event focuses on giving travel agents practical advice and support to grow cruise sales.

"The Cruise360 masterclasses, as well as the keynotes, will provide insights, tips and techniques for agents to enhance their cruise sales skills," he said.

Masterclasses will cover topics such as "River cruising", "Driving Loyalty", "Selling Up" (about luxury and expedition) and "Plan a Cruise Month," giving hints and tips on how to maximise sales during the key promotion.

Cruise360 will also include an inspection of P&O's new *Pacific Explorer* on 26 Aug, and agents attending the conference will accrue 30 points towards accreditation - cruising.org.au.

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Cuba cruises win reprieve

TOURISM leaders have condemned new restrictions on travel to Cuba announced by US President Donald Trump, though cruise lines appear to have escaped tightened laws.

In a speech delivered Fri, Trump confirmed the US would wind back the easing of restrictions made under the previous Obama Administration (**CW** 15 Jun), reintroducing a ban on Americans making solo visits to Cuba.

The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) expressed its "firm resentment" over the restrictions.

"This represents a step backwards and a strong attack on the freedom of travel," said UNWTO sec general Taleb Rifai.

The World Travel & Tourism

Council (WTTC) also criticised the new restrictions.

"Airlines, cruise lines and hotel groups have all made significant investments and plans to create jobs and to grow the industry in Cuba, based on clear direction from the previous administration.

"Our sector needs consistency from governments and stability of policy," said WTTC president and ceo David Scowsill.

Carnival Corporation said despite the policy changes, its ships would still visit Cuba.

"Carnival Corporation is pleased that the policy changes announced by the Trump administration will allow our ships to continue to sail to Cuba," the company said in a statement.

"We will review the extent of the tightening of the travel rules, but our guests have already been travelling under the 12 approved forms of travel to Cuba since we undertook our historic first cruise to Cuba more than a year ago."

London new port?

LONDON'S major port, The Port of Tilbury, has begun consultation to seek views from local communities on its proposal to build a new port terminal.

Known as TILBURY2, the new terminal would be built near the existing facility.

The new terminal will be built on a 152 acre site which was part of a former power station.

There is also plans to construct a new deep water jetty.

TILBURY2 will also act as a satellite of the main port.

The formal statutory consultation exercise runs through until 28 Jul.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Cunard crossword

CUNARD and *The New York Times* have come together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the newspaper's crossword by holding a Crossword Crossing.

Departing from Southampton on 08 Dec, the *Queen Mary 2* will sail to New York and will feature crossword experts, daily game sessions, lectures and on board activities for crossword lovers.

CLICK HERE for more.

Pacific Explorer arrives in town



AFTER a 12-day refurb from its past as *Dawn Princess*, the newly named *Pacific Explorer* entered Sydney Harbour as dawn broke yesterday to mark a new era in P&O Cruises history.

Explorer will be P&O's largest Australian based ship with a total capacity of 1,998 passengers over 11 decks.

During drydock, she was repainted to sport P&O's new Southern Cross livery across the

bow of the ship.

The first cruise for *Pacific Explorer* departs Sydney on Thu for a 10-night Discover Vanuatu itinerary with stops in Noumea, Port Villa and more.

Pictured above: *Pacific Explorer* sails into Sydney - photo courtesy Tim Faircloth, I Love Cruising.

Ahoy Buccaneers 2019

KIMBERLEY coast cruise operator, Ahoy Buccaneers has released its 2019 sailings

The company will expand its popular 13-day Buccaneer and Bonaparte cruises from Broome to offer seven trips, instead of the current four.

Ahoy has also put a fare freeze in price on all itineraries.

Seabourn Alaska

SEABOURN has dropped its partnership with Ventures by Seabourn Zodiac excursions in Alaska after questions were raised by US regulators.

Instead the company will replace them with alternate tours for cruises this season.

The change will see all Zodiac-only tours being replaced by catamaran tours.

Ventures by Seabourn program will continue to operate in British Columbia as currently planned.

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Fred. Olsen deal

FRED. Olsen has launched a new, 'Free On Shore Spending Money & Added Benefits', for new bookings made by 30 Jun.

The offer applies to all 2018/19 cruises of seven nights or more, which depart after 03 Apr 2018.

Guests will be given €200 per room in spending money and will be entitled to shore packages including a free tour, trip to a spa and photography session.

Uniworld bike tour

UNIWORLD will partner with Butterfield and Robinson to expand its river cruise offerings.

In the wake of the partnership, the pair will conduct a Rhine River Cruise Biking tour in May 2018.

The tour will depart from Basel, Switzerland with port stops through France and Germany.

Prices for the eight-day tour start from US\$6,995pp, operating in May, June and Sep.

CLICK HERE for more details.

P&O Love Riot

P&O Cruises confirmed it has put a cover charge on its main show aboard *Pacific Explorer*, Love Riot.

For \$15, pax will receive a free cocktail and souvenir glass in addition to the show, or for \$29 the VIP package includes a cocktail, souvenir glass and a degustation dinner.

In a statement, the cruise line likened the levy to those applied to signature restaurants, emphasising "in the same theme, Love Riot is a signature entertainment experience with a reasonable cover charge".

First preview for Joy

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's latest ship *Norwegian Joy* has completed her first preview cruise from her new home port of Shanghai, having made maiden calls to Singapore, Qingdao, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

The ship carried 1,700 guests from the Alibaba Group on a four-day itinerary.

Cruise rapidly changing in NZ



NEW Zealand's cruise industry is showing no signs of slowing down, Tourism New Zealand's new chief executive Stephen England-Hall told *Cruise Weekly* at the NZ All Stars event held last night in Brisbane in partnership with Air NZ and Virgin Australia.

"It's a rapidly changing and evolving part of our offering, but it doesn't seem to be showing any signs of slowing down so I think you're going to see a lot more in that space," he said.

England-Hall confirmed there was "a bunch of conversations" going on between parts of NZ where cruising is really big, including Auckland, Christchurch,

Dunedin and Wellington.

England-Hall is pictured centre with Tony Saunders, general manager Australia for Tourism New Zealand and René de Monchy, director trade, PR and major events, TNZ.

Celeb Solstice sale

CELEBRITY Cruises is holding a one week Winter Solstice Sale for trips aboard *Celebrity Solstice*.

The deal includes a free upgrade to guests who book an Oceanview stateroom or above on select trips or a free beverage package as well as half price deposits on select bookings.

The special ends on 23 Jun.

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RCI Snapchat cruise

ROYAL Caribbean will take users on an underwater adventure through the lens of Snapchat.

From 21 to 25 Jun, RCI's Snapchat will take viewers on an underwater adventure thanks to a custom-designed scuba mask.

The mask was designed for Snapchat and allows the wearer to take photos beneath the sea, while users watch on first hand.



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

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| SYDNEY | |
| <i>Pacific Explorer</i> | 21 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Aria</i> | 21 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Explorer</i> | 22 Jun |
| <i>Carnival Spirit</i> | 23 Jun |
| BRISBANE | |
| <i>Pacific Dawn</i> | 24 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Aria</i> | 25 Jun |
| DARWIN | |
| <i>Coral Expeditions 1</i> | 22 Jun |
| FREMANTLE | |
| <i>Pacific Eden</i> | 22 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Eden</i> | 26 Jun |

Disney Cruise going strong



WITH Australian's love affair for cruise at an all time high, David Clark, head of travel, Aus & NZ at Disney, said Disney Cruise Lines was reaping the benefits despite not sailing from the country.

Speaking to *CW* at last night's Disney Days Roadshow in Sydney, Clark said out of organic growth alone, the Australian market was performing incredibly well.

With two new ships coming online in 2021 and 2023, Clark hopes to use them as a tool to drive growth and increase brand awareness for Disney.

For Australians, Clark said there had been an increase in demand to tack on a cruise from Florida after visiting Walt Disney World.

Pictured above: David Clark,

Tory Martin and Michael Cassis from Disney at last night's event.

Silversea enrichment

SILVERSEA Cruises has revealed details of its enrichment offering on board its 2017 voyages.

Under the program, soloists from La Scala Theatre Academy will join three Med sailings and two departures will feature ballet from the State Academic Bolshoi Theater of Russia.

Culinary arts and wine voyages, wellness expeditions and Silver Perspectives - a series which invites destination experts and distinguished guest speakers on board - is also included in this year's program.



COPENHAGEN'S iconic Little Mermaid statue - a must see for any cruise visitor to the Danish capital - has been covered in blue and white paint, with the famous sea creature once again a magnet for dissent.

Authorities are working hard to rectify the ugly blemish (below) which has happened just a few weeks after the mermaid was splattered in red paint in a previous protest against whaling in the Faroe Islands.

This time the blue and white paint was accompanied by a cryptic message "Befri Abdulle" or "Free Abdulle" - believed to refer to an inmate of a Danish psychiatric hospital.

Other previous attacks on the statue have seen it decapitated and also limbs removed, with local mayor suggesting he may install a new CCTV system to catch future perpetrators.



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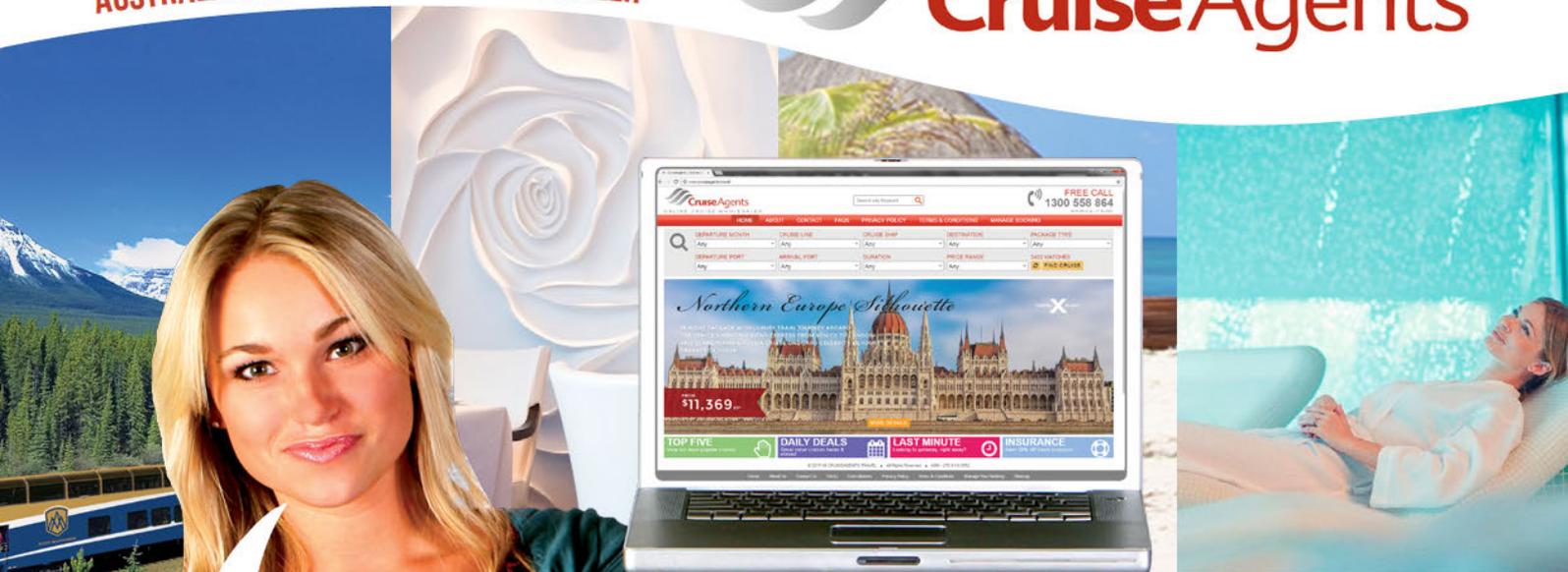




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