

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Voyages to Antiquity**.

CLIA agent toolkit

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has launched its digital Travel Agent ToolKit for its agent members ahead of Plan A Cruise Month next month.

The toolkit includes marketing paraphernalia which can be used to develop material targeting local media, a client email database (and prospective clients) and social media followers.

Resources include adaptable media releases, social media posts, email headers and messaging for e-newsletters, logos and more.

For more info about Plan A Cruise Month, [CLICK HERE](#).

Peregrine Adv Cruising Asia charter

EXCLUSIVE

INTREPID Group has chartered the *MS Panorama II* motor sailer from Variety Cruises to operate a season of voyages in Southeast Asia for its Peregrine Adventure Cruising brand, **CW** can reveal.

The new Asia program, hinted at earlier this year by Intrepid Group ceo James Thornton (**CW** 07 Mar), will be unveiled in Nov and will tap into the burgeoning market after a successful launch season in Croatia this year.

The seven charters operated at 95% occupancy & gave Thornton the confidence to broaden the scope of next year's adventure cruising range, increasing to nine Croatia departures and adding Greece, Spain & Portugal, Iceland & Costa Rica/Panama to the mix.

Each of the sailings is based on a charter of a Variety Cruises boat with a capacity of around 50 pax. Peregrine Adventures Cruising



Photo credit: Ben McNamara/Peregrine Adventures

is pitched as a "disruptor" to the market, focussed on value and "destination immersion" rather than on a ship's facilities.

Thornton said Variety Cruises' four-star yachts and boats, with a capacity of 31-49 guests, were the ideal product for Peregrine.

"For us it's about the immersive experience of getting off & seeing the sights, having a BBQ on the beach, sampling the local cuisine, drinking by the harbour."

Thornton told **Cruise Weekly** the PAC program was closely aligned with Intrepid's sustainability

ethos, with pax spending their money ashore, instead of aboard a "mammoth" cruise ship.

He explained Peregrine Adv Cruising's operational "sweet spot" was for a maximum of 50 pax, pricing at \$500 per day.

The 2018/19 Asia program will incorporate cruises to Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, Singapore, Vietnam & Cambodia, Thornton told **Cruise Weekly** yesterday.

"Variety Cruises are going to relocate a ship for us to charter throughout the season, which will be around four to five months".

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CRUISE

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travelBulletin

Learn why Cuba is so hot right now and who's sailing there in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

Island Escape's new ship



ISLAND Escape Cruises has sold its only ship, *Island Passage*, and will replace it with an all-suite motor yacht *Windward Passage* for New Zealand.

Scheduled for delivery in late 2018, the coastal cruising catamaran will accom 28 guests.

Founder and ceo Peter Bissett said the new ship would respect the original values of the *Island Passage* but the company had "made huge improvements to the suite arrangements".

It will still have just two Bridge suites (render **pictured**) with panoramic windows, doors directly onto the deck and an extended shaded 'Lanai' with teak lounging and seating.

On the Promenade deck, capacity will be doubled to six Promenade Suites and an additional two fold-away teak seats will be outside each suite.

There will also be five Ocean category suites with a twin/double configuration and two Solo Suites.

Bissett said the lounge/dining/aft deck "will define this ship" and have the addition of bi-fold doors that allow the dining/saloon area to be integrated into the aft-deck to create an entertaining area.

Windward Passage is scheduled to be delivered in mid Nov 2018 to begin service on Sun 02 Dec on a seven-night Bays and Beyond NZ cruise from Auckland.

CLIA unsatisfied

CLIA Australasia md Joel Katz has criticised the proposed amendments to the Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012 (**CW** Thu).

Katz told **Cruise Weekly** "it is disappointing that the Bill being presented to Parliament does not make any particular reference to cruise ships or take into account the submissions by CLIA or its cruise line members to make the cruise ship exemption permanent and extend the exemption to expedition vessels under 5,000GRT".

"We intend to keep working with government to ensure that the benefits of continuing with and potentially extending the current exemption are understood," he said.

Katz said it was unclear whether the changes proposed would make it easier for cruise ships to drydock in Australia.

Sunlover appoints

SUNLOVER Reef Cruises has appointed Brian Hennessy to lead its sales and marketing team and to continue growth for the Cairns-based company.

Hennessy brings 25 years of experience to the role of group sales & marketing manager.

Croisi introduction

CROISI Europe has added the *RV Indochine 11* to its fleet to sail on the Mekong between Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and Siem Reap in Cambodia.

RV Indochine 11 features a swimming pool and 31 cabins with full sized balconies.

Cruises start from US\$2,800 per person for eight nights.



Edie Rodriguez steps down from Crystal

CRYSTAL Cruises' president and ceo Edie Rodriguez has made a shock exit, resigning from the company to pursue "a new endeavour" which will be revealed soon.

Parent company Genting Hong Kong made the announcement by appointing ex-Walt Disney Company executive of 28 years Tom Wolber as president and ceo, effective last Fri.

Rodriguez said she was happy to turn over the reins, knowing Crystal was well served by "incredibly talented & hard-working people".

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Intrepid cruise head

ADVENTURE travel specialist Intrepid Group has appointed the son of the owner of Variety Cruises, Lakis Venetopoulos, to head its local cruising arm.

Filippos Venetopoulos joined the Melbourne-based travel company as Adventure Cruising brand and marketing manager this month.

He has an intimate knowledge of the Variety Cruises product with which Intrepid has a jv.

Pandaw's third Laos ship



PANDAW will add a third ship to its Laos fleet on the Mekong River in Sep 2019 to meet demand on the Laos to China route across Yunnan.

The *RV Sabei Pandaw* will be a 45m-long double decker vessel and have a shallow draft and powerful engines to allow it to navigate the rapids in the Laos gorges year-round.

It will have 12 staterooms, eight of which are on the main deck and four on the upper deck, along with an open plan saloon with indoor or outdoor dining.

The *Sabei* will sail between Vientiane, the Laos capital, and Jinghong in China, visiting Laos, Thailand, Burma and China.

Highlights include the ancient

Laos capital of Luang Prabang, tribal villages and national parks.

Onboard cuisine will be a blend of Laos and Thai cuisine, but chefs will offer international dishes on request.

Pandaw founder, Paul Strachan said "there can be no waterborne experience to match sailing through Laos.

"The fast river with its continual spate of white water, the jungle clad peaks, the gorges; then there is the friendly welcome in every village, the ethnic diversity and the cultural riches."

Bookings are now open for the first sailings on the 14-night The Mekong: From Laos to China itinerary - **CLICK HERE** for more.

A render of the ship is **pictured**.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	21 Sep
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	21 Sep
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	22 Sep
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	24 Sep
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	25 Sep

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	19 Sep
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	19 Sep
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	22 Sep
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	23 Sep
<i>Sun Princess</i>	24 Sep

CAIRNS	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	20 Sep
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	23 Sep
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	25 Sep

DARWIN	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	21 Sep

FREMANTLE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	19 Sep

AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	19 Sep

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Aza, Celeb earlybirds

AZAMARA Club Cruises and Celebrity Cruises have both released their 2018 European earlybird deals.

Specials with Celebrity Cruises include a US\$300 cruise credit and two free beverage packages per stateroom to guests who book an Oceanview or above on selected 2018 Europe sailings by 01 Nov.

Clients sailing with Azamara Club Cruises can book a Verandah stateroom for the price of an Interior Stateroom, when booked by 30 Nov.



FANTASEA Cruising got into the swing of International Talk Like a Pirate Day this morning by decking out its crew with eye patches, gold hoop earrings and a fake parrot.

There is a serious side to the initiative, with the company using the occasion to raise funds for the Childhood Cancer Support charity.

It will take donations on board and at its service points across Sydney Harbour.



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