

Cruise Weekly today

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

Espresso update

TRAVEL agents booking groups with Royal Caribbean Cruises' have access to a new feature on the company's agent res system, Espresso.

One or more individual client bookings can now be transferred into an agent's group reservations with Royal Caribbean's three brands, in an effort to make group travel reservations simpler.

The update follows a number of features introduced to Espresso recently, with RCL saying more changes are set to be introduced this year.

A webinar will be released on Royal's trade training channel by the end of the week.

Crystal's fifth river ship delivered

CRYSTAL River Cruises has taken delivery of its fifth vessel, with Crystal president and ceo Tom Wolber last week taking the "keys" to *Crystal Ravel*.

The handover ceremony took place at MV Werften shipyard, ahead of *Crystal Ravel's* maiden voyage next month.

"We are thrilled to welcome *Crystal Ravel* to the fleet, which will further expand the many choices our guests have for experiencing luxury on the rivers of Europe," Wolber said.

Crystal Ravel is the fourth river ship in eight months to be delivered to Crystal Cruises by MV Werften.

The vessel is set to embark on 10 May from Basel to Vienna, and will sail itineraries along the Rhine, Danube, Main and Moselle rivers stopping by medieval towns and cosmopolitan hubs in Austria, Hungary, Germany, Switzerland



and Slovakia.

In keeping with her sister ships *Crystal Bach*, *Crystal Mahler* and *Crystal Debussy*, the 106-guest *Crystal Ravel* will offer butler service in every room category, king-sized beds, balcony-windows, walk in closets and dual vanities in the bathrooms in most room categories.

Its multiple, open-seating eateries include Waterside Restaurant, Bistro Cafe and

Vintage Room, along with the Palm Court for entertainment and enrichment presentations.

Pictured are: Tom Wolber, president & ceo Crystal; Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay, chairman & ceo Genting Hong Kong; Sarah Nava Rani Al Bakri Devadason, ambassador of Malaysia; Jarmo Laakso, managing director MV Werften and Gustaf Gronberg, svp marine operations & newbuilding Genting Cruise Lines.

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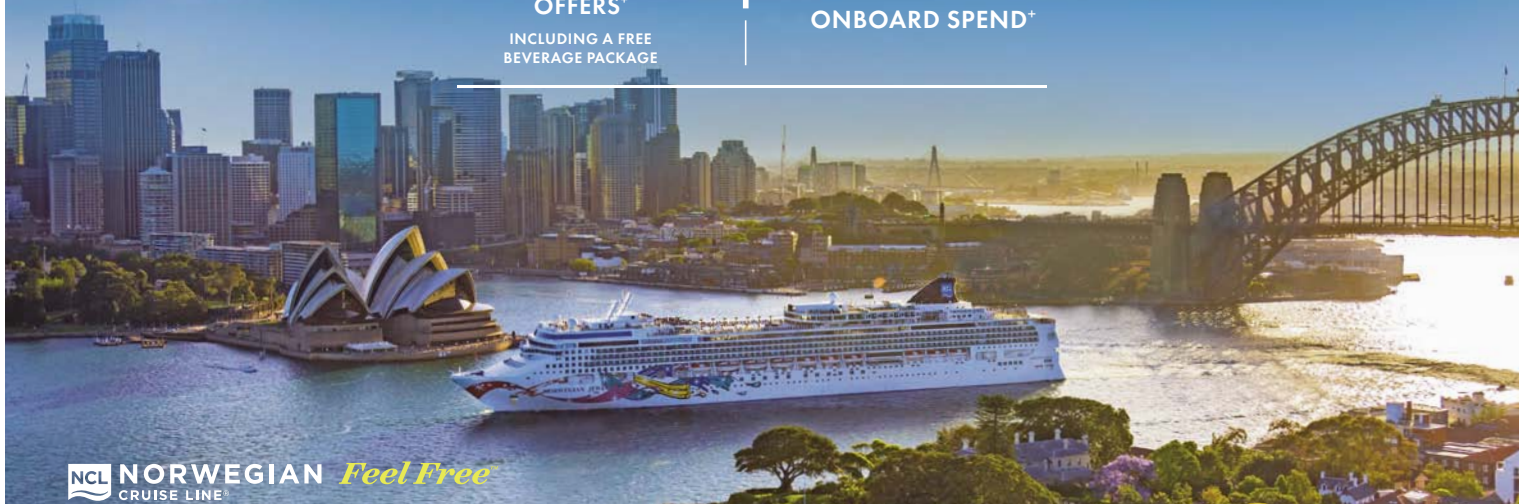
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Tuesday 17th April 2018



Discover Silversea's splitting of *Silver Spirit* in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

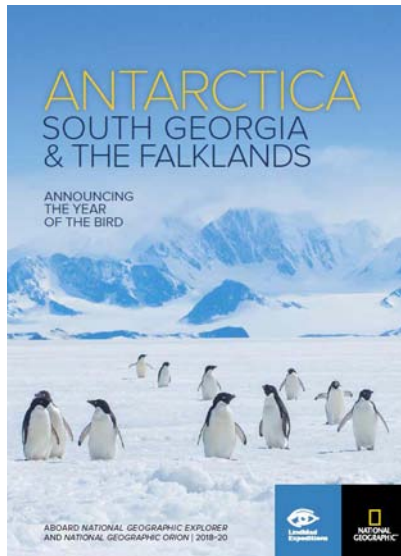
Lindblad Antarctica 18-20

LINDBLAD Expeditions has launched its 2018-20 brochure detailing three in-depth itineraries which venture to the regions of Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands.

The company has enriched a number of itineraries to celebrate the year of the bird, with bird expert, David Sibley to join the 23 Oct 2018 South Georgia and the Falklands expedition.

Other departures will also mark the occasion with Year of the Bird Ambassadors, veteran naturalists from the Lindblad staff who will be on board to answer questions and provide guidance.

Also in the program is the 22-day Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands, which will aim to visit the king penguin colonies of South Georgia, the



Falkland's bird colonies and the Antarctic peninsula, and the 12-day Journey to Antarctica: The White Continent itinerary, which explores the Antarctic peninsula.

CLICK HERE for the online brox.

Flight Centre showcases cruise

FLIGHT Centre has launched a television advertisement on Network Ten showcasing its cruise prowess.

For the first time, the advert emphasises the "and everywhere" in Flight Centre's tag line "best in the air and everywhere" and highlights the company is more than just flights.

The company's television advertisements previously often focused on its air element.

A spokesperson for Flight Centre told *Cruise Weekly* "cruise is a really important market sector for us and this new ad showcases Flight Centre brand's cruise credentials and expertise".

The move follows the company announcing in Feb it would axe its Cruiseabout and Escape Travel brands as part of a reshuffle, with all of its shops under the retail banners to be rebranded as either Flight Centre or Travel Associates stores (*CW* 22 Feb).

MTA heads to Vietnam



A TEAM of 10 MTA - Mobile Travel Agents headed to Vietnam for the inaugural Cruise Lines International Association Australasia Asia River Cruise Conference & Destination Forum last week.

As part of the event, the group attended a CLIA reception hosted by APT at Vietnam House, the restaurant by APT Travel Group brand

ambassador, Luke Nyugen.

The team also experienced a Mekong River cruise with small ship river specialist Pandaw.

Pictured at Vietnam House are: Jodie Everett, Amanda Erwin, Debbie Andrews, Penny Sinclair, Carine Griffiths, Rhona Rodgers, Michelle Connolly, Kirsty Thomas-Thoeun, Luke Nyugen, Linda Kiernander and Nerida O'Brien.

Viking Cruises system upgrade

VIKING Cruises' booking system will undergo a major global upgrade tomorrow (18 Apr) between 12:30pm and 7pm.

For servicing of new reservations during the period, Viking will take the booking details and send confirmation on Thu morning.

The company said the changes would enhance its capability to better service agents and advised the trade to check its website for current pricing and availability.

PONANT

SALES OPENING:
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Uniworld brochure

THE 2019 Uniworld Boutique River Cruise brochure is out, offering three new European river cruises and a new ship in China - [CLICK HERE](#).



IT'S NOT often that passengers are encouraged to board a ship "before it sinks".

But that's what the Qld Government is suggesting, with only a matter of months before *ex-HMAS Tobruk* will sleep with the fishes.

The vessel will be scuttled mid this year and turned into a dive site and artificial habitat for marine life.

More than 2,000 tickets will be available for a community open weekend on 05-07 May, catering to visitors who want to see the ship, but don't want to get their hair wet.

The viewing will include the ship's galley, engine room, troop's quarters and a walk-through of the tank deck.

Ex-HMAS Tobruk (pictured in Sydney) will be scuttled in Queensland's Wide Bay.



Golden refit done

PRINCESS Cruises' *Golden Princess* has emerged from drydock and embarked on the cruise line's first Singapore to Alaska cruise.

During the drydock, The Sabatini's specialty restaurant has been renamed Sabatini's Italian Trattoria and transformed with a fresh design and menu.

The "Movie Under the Stars" outdoor cinema has been fitted with a new screen & The Shops have been upgraded.

Golden Princess will homeport in Alaska until Sep, after which she will reposition to Australia.

ACL green light

AMERICAN Cruise Lines has confirmed its new ship, *American Constitution*, passed sea trials "with flying colours" last week in Chesapeake Bay.

Constitution underwent speed trials, an endurance run, & thorough testing in all areas of safety and manoeuvrability.

"The ship performed exceptionally well and has a number of enhancements that further American's tradition of innovation in small ship cruising," said Paul Taiclet, vp hotel operations.

The vessel will set sail on its inaugural cruise from Baltimore tomorrow and stay on the east coast for 2018.

Tauck rejigs two ships



TAUCK'S *ms Treasures* and *ms Esprit* have a fresh new look following a massive reconfiguration of the vessels' interior spaces.

The works saw each ship's 59 cabins reduced to 49, resulting in 17% less capacity, to make way for larger rooms.

On the middle deck, the ships' 14m² cabins were replaced by new 21m² accommodation.



On each ship the second dining venue, The Bistro, has been upgraded with its own kitchen & chef and renamed Arthur's in tribute to Tauck chairman, Arthur Tauck Jr.

The *ms Esprit* lounge is pictured above and its reception inset, while *ms Treasures'* Compass Rose Dining Room is below and its lounge is left.



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Aqua Exp saving

AQUA Expeditions Australia is offering a saving of 30% on eight-night fly-cruise-stay departures leaving Sydney 20 Jun and 01 Aug.

The departures will be joined by chef David Thompson who is hosting two cruises aboard *Aqua Mekong*, and are priced from \$7,091 per person twin share in a First Deck Suite.

The price includes Economy airfares with Cathay Pacific from Sydney to Ho Chi Minh City and returning from Phnom Penh, two nights pre- and post-cruise accom, a four-night cruise on *Aqua Mekong*, transfers and more.

For more, call 1300 124 204.

Silversea 10 years

SILVERSEA has marked 10 years of expedition cruising by releasing a collection of Expedition voyages for 2018 and 2019.

The brochure showcases departures across the cruise line's four expedition vessels, venturing to destinations from Asia and the Pacific to The Galapagos, Africa, Antarctica & The Kimberley.

Hurtigruten appointment

HURTIGRUTEN has named Wendy Man as its Asia-Pacific regional sales & marketing manager for Hong Kong, South China & South East Asia.

Man will lead sales and marketing activities in key emerging markets across Asia-Pacific and will report directly to md of Hurtigruten APAC Damian Perry.

She joins from Royal Caribbean Cruises where she was sales manager for Hong Kong and was also a member of the start-up team for Costa Cruises APAC in 2006.

Meanwhile, Hurtigruten's first hybrid powered expedition ship, *MS Roald Amundsen*, will feature almost 600 works of art by young Norwegian artists under a new pact with the Queen Sonja Print Award.

The tie-up will see art chosen by Queen Sonja of Norway's art foundation - the Queen Sonja Print Award and also includes the possibility for joint merchandise, resident artists, art talks, exhibitions and more.

St Maarten's eco-park

THERE'S a new shore excursion at St Maarten, with the opening of the Rockland Estate eco-park.

The attraction has funding from Carnival Corporation and features the world's steepest zip line, a mountain chair lift, a racing tube ride, and a museum that showcases the history and culture of St Maarten and its people.

The "Flying Dutchman" zip line drops guests 320m in elevation from the top of Sentry Hill down the mountain over a 852m span.



Guests from across the eight Carnival Corporation brands which visit the island will be offered the new shore excursion.

Carnival Sunshine hotel director, Freddy Esquivel is **pictured** gearing up to ride the "Flying Dutchman" attraction.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	17 Apr
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	21 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	21 Apr
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	22 Apr

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	17 Apr
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	18 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	19 Apr
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	20 Apr
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	21 Apr

DARWIN

<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	19 Apr
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AUCKLAND

<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	17 Apr
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Travel Consultant

Specialist cruise agency, Cruise Express, is opening a new office at Gordon on Sydney's north shore and seeks an enthusiastic travel specialist to join the team.

With clients across Australia, the Cruise Express team is known for their in-depth cruise knowledge, professionalism and high service standards.

The role offered focuses on selling international fly/cruise and domestic cruise packages and the company's hugely successful exclusive fully escorted cruise/tours.

Ideally you will have:

- An enthusiastic 'can do' attitude and great attention to detail
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