

Cruise Weekly today

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

Princess cocktails

PRINCESS Cruises has revealed a new beverage menu offering which will be available on board all ships from Sep this year.

The list features cocktails created by mixologist Rob Floyd, who has used fresh ingredients and destination inspiration to develop a portfolio of new drinks for the cruise brand.

When in Italy, guests can enjoy an Italian Sunset with Aperol, Bombay Sapphire gin, lemon juice, simple syrup, and Angostura bitters.

The line has also added 20 spirits, 39 wines, and 17 int'l craft beers to the new menu.

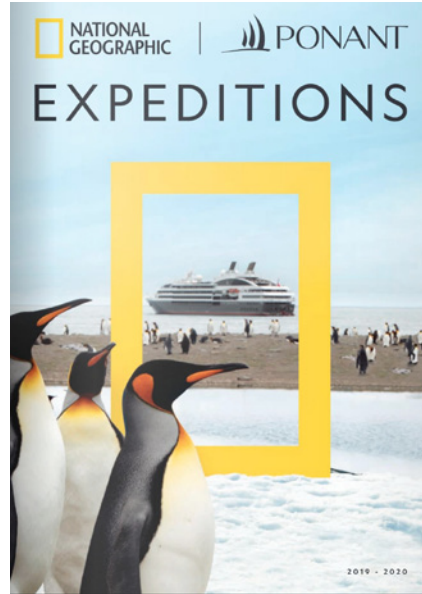
Ponant seals Nat Geographic deal

NATIONAL Geographic and Ponant have confirmed a new strategic partnership which includes a co-branded program of 130 special voyages through to 2022 (**CW** breaking news).

National Geographic Partners vice president of travel for Asia-Pacific, Tim Jones, said the deal "marks a milestone in growing our National Geographic Expeditions business in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region."

"In Ponant, we have a luxury & ethically minded partner with European flair, experience in travelling to ambitious locations, along with an expansive travel agent network."

Jones said National Geographic and Ponant would work together to offer premium expedition experiences "creating unique itineraries that speak to the explorer in all of us".



Ponant chairman Asia Pacific, Sarina Bratton AM, said the pact "brings together two highly respected global organisations with shared values and a common goal to inspire guests to live

curiously, explore our planet and become ambassadors for sustainability".

On the joint itineraries, which can be booked effective immediately, National Geographic will provide a range of expedition resources on board including experts and photographers to create an "immersive and quality experience".

Ponant currently operates seven small ships, increasing to 12 by 2021 including the delivery of its new Expedition class vessels with the unique "Blue Eye" underwater lounge.

Adventure World, which represents Lindblad Expeditions in the Australasian market, said the Lindblad-National Geographic relationship "remains unaffected by the announcement of National Geographic adding to their cruise portfolio in Australia and NZ".

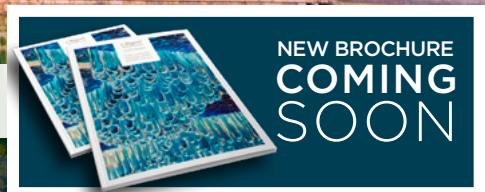
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Find out what it's like to cruise Alaska with Oceania in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

Cruise360 sold out

TICKETS to this year's Cruise360 conference and trade show have now sold out, Cruise Lines Int'l Association (CLIA) Australasia says.

The southern hemisphere's largest cruise show is now in its fifth year and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sydney at Darling Harbour, 30-31 Aug.

Day one will offer a *Carnival Spirit* inspection and Cruise Destination Showcase, while day two features industry leaders, panel discussions and the trade show.

Royal's smart DJ

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has launched a new smart tool that creates soundtracks for photos taken on its ships.

Using machine learning technology, SoundSeeker allows passengers to upload photos and receive matching audio based on the image's colour, landscape, backdrop, and the emotional facial expression of the subjects.

For further information on the new SoundSeeker tool, **CLICK HERE**.

Dream Palace wows guests



DREAM Cruises' luxurious Dream Palace concept provides its suite guests with a private sanctuary and access to luxury facilities away from the lively bustle of ship life.

Cruise Weekly last week experienced the Palace on board *World Dream*, with the Palace pool deck (pictured above) a highlight, featuring a hot tub looking forward over the ship and comfortable sun beds (inset right).

A Palace Suite is **below**.

Palace guests also have access to The Palace restaurant, a private gymnasium and spa and butler service.



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Dreaming of the US

ONLINE cruise agent Dreamlines plans to significantly invest in its US operations and target the growing US cruise market following a recent investment of US\$55 million.

“We’re excited about the very promising market entry in the last months and are looking forward to further developing our presence in the USA,” said Steven Hattem, managing director of Dreamlines USA.

Travelmarvel comp

TRAVEL agents can win a place on Travelmarvel’s Small Ship cruise along Iceland’s coastline next year, as part of its latest sales incentive.

All Travelmarvel Iceland bookings made during Aug and Sep 2018 will place agents in the draw to win a window suite on the 10-day Icelander Explorer – Fire & Ice journey, aboard the *Ocean Diamond*.

Guests will see glaciers, lava fields, waterfalls & hot springs. Call 1300 205 408 for more.

Port of Brisbane road upgrade completed

THE \$110 million Port Drive Upgrade has been completed, providing improved access to the Port of Brisbane.

The project was undertaken to ensure infrastructure around the port keeps pace with capacity as the facility expands (**CW** 07 Jun).

“The Port Drive Upgrade is the biggest road project ever undertaken by the Port of Brisbane...and is crucial because the Port of Brisbane is the ‘beating heart’ of Queensland’s economy,” said Port of Brisbane chief executive officer Roy Cummins.

Sisters meet in Norway



AZAMARA Club Cruises this week celebrated the rare meeting of two of its ships in Haugesund, Norway.

Currently undertaking its maiden voyage, *Azamara Pursuit* docked alongside sister ship *Azamara Journey* in the Nordic port, with the cruise line marking the occasion with a festive on-shore gathering for both ships’ passengers, featuring Norwegian cuisine, cocktails and entertainment.

“To celebrate the special meeting of the two ships, we could not think of a better way to welcome the new ship and team members than with a celebration



that brings together our crew and guests,” said Azamara Club Cruises president and chief executive Larry Pimentel.

“We are thrilled to do this in Norway – one of Azamara’s most popular destinations,” he added.

The event was rounded out with a white night-inspired sail away party with a Scandinavian twist.

Pictured top: *Pursuit* and *Journey* exchange salutations and (**inset**) the arrival party.



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Silversea savings

SILVERSEA Cruises is offering a 10% special single supplement on select cruises in Asia, Antarctica and the Galapagos when bookings are made by 31 Aug.

Guests can also receive an additional 20% off second suite bookings on voyages to Asia, Antarctica and the Galapagos.

Suites are limited and terms and conditions apply, visit www.silversea.com for more information.

NCL announces winner



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has announced Chris Constantinou of Flight Centre Plumpton NSW as the winner of its Alaska Cruising Guide comp.

Constantinou was judged to have submitted the best answers to five questions based on NCL's new Alaska Cruising Guide brochure, beating a national pool of entrants and scoring a \$2,000 luxury overnight experience at Jamala Wildlife Lodge for two in a Jungle Bungalow.

"I still can't believe that I won,

my partner and I had planned to head to Jamala, but now thanks to NCL, we will get to experience this once in a lifetime adventure," Constantinou said.

Ten entrants were also rewarded \$50 gift card as part of the competition.

Pictured: Toni Francis, area manager, Western Sydney Flight Centre; the lucky winner Chris Constantinou, Flight Centre Plumpton; & Aaron Christian, NCL business development manager NSW and ACT.

Lindblad posts solid gains in revenue

LINDBLAD Expeditions has posted a revenue of US\$69.5 million for the second quarter of 2018, a 25% increase on the previous corresponding period.

A significant source of the boost was attributed to a spike in tour revenues which was up US\$12.3 million for the quarter, driven primarily by the launch of the *National Geographic Quest* in Jul last year and fewer days for its ships in dry dock.

"Lindblad delivered another strong quarter... as the strategic investments we have made to expand capacity and develop our sales and marketing infrastructure continue to deliver significant returns," said Lindblad president and ceo Sven-Olof Lindblad.

The cruise line also recorded a strong upturn in EBITDA for the period, posting a 117% increase to US\$11.5 million.



A DRUNK man on board a cruise ship in Finland who felt he was wrongly detained for disorderly conduct found a rather extreme way to plead his innocence.

When the crew of Viking Line's *Cinderella* (pictured) vessel locked the 50-year-old away in isolation to sober up, he protested by setting his underpants on fire, according to a local media report.

Thankfully, nobody was seriously injured in the incident, however it has prompted a police investigation.

It might be tough to get the truth out of this particular passenger though, we hear he may be a liar, liar, pants on fire.



CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

NSW CRUISE PLAN

LAST week saw the long-awaited release of the NSW Cruise Development Plan.

CLIA has been advocating for a number of years for the NSW State Government to recognise the growth and importance of the cruise industry to both the state and national economies, and to address the Sydney infrastructure constraints to future-proof the growth of cruising across this region.

Following the Federal Govt ruling out shared use of Garden Island, the NSW Govt will now focus on the feasibility studies required for the development of an additional cruise facility at Port Botany.

Under the plan, the much-needed facility would ease port congestion which currently constrains industry growth, and together with the existing terminals at Circular Quay and White Bay would mean that Sydney Harbour remains a major cruise hub.

Having a clear plan of action is a step forward to achieve greater certainty and a platform for the continued growth of our industry.

The government's commitment to support regional ports to improve as cruise destinations, and their commitment to work with State and Federal Governments to remove regulatory barriers to allow more domestic cruising is welcomed and will ensure that the economic benefits from cruise flow far beyond the ports that cruise ships visit.

Full report - www.cruising.org.au



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