

Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruiseabout axed

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has announced that it will scrap its Cruiseabout and Escape brands as part of a company reshuffle.

All Cruiseabout and Escape Travel shops will be rebranded as either FC or Travel Associate stores, with sales staff from both brands to be retained.

Following the change, Travel Associates will immediately double in size, going from 50 to more than 100 sales teams, while special divisions will be created within the Flight Centre brand to capture Cruiseabout's former market.

The rebrand will happen over the next few months.

Scenic acquires Mayflower Tours

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours will gain a new range of land tours after acquiring United States operator Mayflower Tours for an undisclosed sum.

The move will further Scenic's plans to grow its presence in the North American market.

Scenic will gain tours to 52 different countries including Europe, Australia, Cuba, Mexico, Tanzania, Belize, Panama and China that can be linked with the operator's cruise offerings.

As part of the purchase, Mayflower will have greater access to the river & ocean cruise itineraries offered by Scenic & sister brand Emerald Waterways.

Scenic chairman and founder Glen Moroney said the purchase produced many new opportunities for guests.

"We have worked with Mayflower Tours for several years and have always been incredibly



impressed with the level of service and offerings that John and Mary Stachnik (Mayflower Tours founders/owners) have offered their guests," he said.

"So, when the opportunity came about due to their wish to retire, it was an easy decision."

Mayflower Cruises & Tours will continue to be based just outside of Chicago in the US, and be led by current Mayflower president,

Nish Patel.

The US company will continue to operate as a separate entity, named Mayflower Cruise & Tours.

Patel described Scenic and Mayflower as the "perfect match".

"Mayflower's fastest growing product segment is the river cruises and having access to Scenic's excellent quality and vast inventory will offer substantial growth," Patel said.

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Serenity World Cruise revealed



CRYSTAL Cruises has announced details of its 25th World Cruise in 2020, as *Crystal Serenity* makes her way from Miami to Rome via the Southern Hemisphere.

The 105-day cruise will visit 47 countries in 23 countries from 07 Jan 2020 to 21 Apr 2020.

The journey will transit the Panama and Suez Canals, as well as the Pacific and Indian oceans and Andaman, Tasman and the Mediterranean seas.

Additionally, full world cruisers will have the option to embark in Los Angeles for an 89-day voyage

beginning on 22 Jan 2020.

The Epic Empires and Idyllic Isles' World Cruise includes overnight stays in 17 cities such as Sydney, Singapore and Mumbai as well as in Bora Bora & Papeete.

Other program features include a port-intensive tour of NZ, maiden port calls to Airlie Beach and Mooloolaba and exploring over a dozen UNESCO sites.

Other stops include Bali, Penang, Colombo and Crete.

The *Crystal Serenity* 2020 World Cruise will open to the public for bookings on 01 May.

SeaLink buys Queensland hotel business

SEALINK Travel Group confirmed that it has entered into an agreement to acquire the assets and operations of Kingfisher Bay Resort Group on Fraser Island.

The acquisition includes two island resorts, Kingfisher Bay Resort and Eurong Beach Resort, as well as Fraser Explorer Tours and the Fraser Island Ferry business operating from Hervey Bay to the Western side of Fraser Island.

Once completed, SeaLink will establish a new business hub in Brisbane to manage and grow its Queensland operations.



Ever wanted to know what a Crystal river cruise is like? Find out from an agent in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

FACE-2-FACE: Belle Osmic

AZAMARA Business development manager of Australia and NZ.



1. What motivates you in your career?

My love of life at sea and sharing that with our guests. I worked onboard cruise ships for 10 years and loved to see the excitement and awe on the face of a first-time cruiser once they came onboard.

2. Most common assumption people make about your job?

That I am always on a ship! Admittedly we are very fortunate to spend some time onboard when the ships are here locally, but it's not as often as you would think.

3. What is the key to building great relationships with agents?

Knowledge. Knowing your brand and the demographic of guests who suit your cruise line.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Some people still have the perception that ships only take you from point A to B. They are not aware of the amazing entertainment and facilities onboard, and that the journey becomes a part of the holiday.

5. What was your best fam?

Azamara Quest in Jun, where we sailed from Rome

to Barcelona. Some of the highlights were St Tropez, Marseilles and the AzAmazing Evening in Barcelona.

7. My next cruise will be...

Azamara Journey in Asia this coming Jan; we'll be visiting Semarang, Surabaya & Celukan Bawang in Indonesia & finishing with an overnight in Bali.

8. Favourite cruise destination?

In Asia it's Singapore, in Europe it's St Tropez, in Northern America, it's Juno in Alaska, but nothing beats getting up for the sunrise sail into Sydney Harbour.

9. Celebrity you'd like to cruise with?

Jennifer Lopez. I think she looks like she would love to relax around the pool, and also loves my favourite thing to do in port (see below).

10. Favourite thing to do in port?

Stupid amounts of shopping.

11. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

At the beach – where there's sun, sand and sea, there's me.

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Aurora adults only

FROM 08 Apr 2019, P&O Cruises UK's *Aurora* will sail only for adults after it emerges from a refit in Mar next year.

The current 1,878 pax ship will join *Arcadia* and *Oriana* as adult-only vessels after guest feedback & extensive research.

P&O svp Paul Ludlow said, "With *Aurora* becoming a ship exclusively for adults, we are offering our guests even more choice which means they can choose the holiday experience that is the right one for them."

NCLH meets in Sydney



SOMETHING special happened on Sydney Harbour on Tue, as two of the three Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' brands crossed paths for the first time in Australia's largest city.

Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Jewel* and Regent Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Voyager* were both in port.

NCLH snr vp and md Asia Pacific Steve Odell said having two ships in the harbour on the same day was a major milestone & showed its commitment to the region.

"Since entering the market in

2015 we have worked closely with our valued trade partners to help connect cruisers with all three NCLH brands," he said.

Voyager was in Sydney to commence her 14-day Paradise Down Under sailing to Melbourne, Dunedin, Wellington, Napier and Auckland, while *Jewel* was in port to kick start her final Australian itinerary for the season as she repositions to Asia.

Pictured is *Norwegian Jewel* in the background with *Seven Seas Voyager* in the foreground of Sydney Harbour.

P&O honours Australia submarine wreck

DURING her New Guinea Island Encounter cruise, *Pacific Aria* sailed near the submerged wreckage of *AE1* – the Royal Australian Navy's first submarine - which was recently discovered near Rabaul, ending a 103-year-old mystery.

Becoming the first P&O cruise ship to do so, *Pacific Aria* sailed within seven nautical miles of *AE1*'s last known position when it disappeared with its crew of 35 Australian, British and New Zealand sailors on Sep 1914, during World War I.

During the sail by, *Aria*'s captain gave a special address and asked passengers to take the time reflect on the bravery of the young men and the relief of their descendants more than a century on.



A GROUP of disgruntled vegans were left "starving" on a special vegan cruise around Sydney Harbour on Sat night, leaving one iron-depleted passenger to comment it was more like a "cruise for the Hunger Games".

More than 400 members of the Sydney Vegan Club paid \$60 per head to jump aboard the ship around the harbour, only to find the supposed seven courses of vegan delights consisted of a sparse selection of canapes, *Yahoo 7* reports.

"People talked about jumping overboard or eating each other," claimed another guest.



CLIA
UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

CLIA Cruise Line Policies

AS THE Cruise Industry's global trade association, CLIA is dedicated to the promotion of a safe and secure cruise ship environment, and CLIA Members have no higher priority than the safety of guests and crew.

CLIA Cruise Line Members advance policies intended to enhance shipboard safety, security, and environmental stewardship, in some cases calling for best practices in excess of existing legal requirements.

These policies include amongst others, operational safety, fire protection, shipboard security, environmental protection, onboard health and guest care.

CLIA holds consultative status for non-governmental organisations at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and CLIA oceangoing Member lines are required to comply with or exceed all applicable IMO regulations focused on improving the safety of life at sea, enhancing maritime security and preventing pollution into the sea by ships

As an industry that is deeply committed to the care of its guests and crew, and the environment in which we operate, the head of every CLIA oceangoing Cruise Line Member must each year specifically verify their line's implementation of CLIA policies.



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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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