

Cruise Weekly today

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

Early Edge launch

CONSTRUCTION of Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Edge* is ahead of schedule and the line has released five new departures prior to its previously announced inaugural sailing on 16 Dec.

The additions include three-night roundtrip sailings from Fort Lauderdale to the Bahamas on 21 Nov, 24 Nov, 03 Dec and 06 Dec.

The short preview departures will be followed by a second maiden voyage operating a seven-night western Caribbean itinerary from Fort Lauderdale on 09 Dec.

Bookings are now open - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Perry heads up Hurtigruten in APAC

DAMIAN Perry, former Cox & Kings ceo, has stepped into the role of managing director of Hurtigruten in the APAC region.

He takes over from William Harber, who has been promoted to president of the Americas.

Perry told *Cruise Weekly* Hurtigruten aimed to "build on the APAC structure and carefully consider the best model taking into consideration major matters such as the rapidly growing market in China and how we best support that key source market".

"We could possibly consider further strategic changes once we complete our planning and review processes as we are committed to delivering the best possible structure and support across all of Asia and therefore not close the door on opportunities in mainland China or fast growing South East Asia countries," he explained.



Perry was appointed to the Cox & Kings ceo role in Apr 2015 and left last year, with the company confirming in Sep that he had decided to "move on to pursue other business endeavours".

In his new role he will work closely with Hurtigruten's management in Norway and directly with vice president global sales, Geir Kronbaeck.

"Damian is incredibly well respected across the industry & he brings significant experience

and knowledge in experiential travel in addition to his local market expertise," said Kronbaeck.

"He played the pivotal role in driving Hurtigruten growth in Australia and New Zealand, securing the Hurtigruten partnership and driving real growth for their business and region; and more broadly we feel he will be a great addition to our entire business," he said.

Cox & Kings remains the GSA for Hurtigruten in Australia.

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CRUISE

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Minor Hotels river push



CLIA training mgr

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has named Troy Ashman as its training & development mgr.

He will be tasked with continuing the development of the new eLearning features released last year by CLIA, as well as the expansion of more training resources and guides for travel agent members.

Ashman brings eight years' experience in the travel and hospitality industry to the role and joins from Scenic, where he was most recently responsible for the development of the company's global staff training program.

He will report to CLIA's head of international training & development, Peter Kollar, who will concentrate on CLIA's global education projects and the development of new international training markets.

Viking Jupiter name

VIKING Cruises' sixth ocean ship will be named *Viking Jupiter*, the line's chairman Torstein Hagen has revealed.

The 930-guest ship, due to launch in Feb 2019, will sail itineraries in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, as well as two new itineraries in South America – a 22-day Southern Atlantic Crossing and 18-day South America & the Chilean Fjords.

Hagen made the announcement at a press conference over the weekend marking *Viking Sun's* first visit to Los Angeles.

RCL appointment

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has appointed Laura Miller as its svp and chief human resources officer, reporting to chairman and ceo Richard D. Fain.

MINOR Hotels has launched a new river cruise line called Mekong Kingdoms, to offer cruises along the Mekong River across five vessels.

The largest vessel, a 42m, 13-cabin luxury barge named *Boheme* (pictured) will start as a floating hotel offering one-night river cruises from 10 Mar.

It will then begin sailing two-night Chiang Rai/Chiang Khong to Luang Prabang cruises and a three-night upstream return trip from 05 Jul onwards due to low water levels.

Itineraries include guided jungle treks, a visit to the Pak Ou caves and traditional weaving at Ban Baw, while on board activities such as sunrise yoga, Buddhist meditation and jewellery making classes will be available.

A two-cabin cruiser, *Gypsy*, will offer private cruises along the Mekong of one or more nights and bookings for the vessel will open in mid-Feb.

Three smaller day boats, *Nomad*, *Play* and *Monsoon* are now operational.

Nomad is designed to cater to couples, providing sunset cruises in Luang Prabang while *Play* is a floating lounge ideal for private events or family adventures with a sundeck, private room, and a sound system, and is suitable for up to 15 passengers.

Monsoon is a scheduled touring shuttle to the Pak Ou caves.

The offering joins Minor Hotels' existing cruising options of Manohra Dining Cruises in Bangkok and its Anantara Overnight Cruises.



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Kimberley deal

LOW-COST Kimberley cruise operator Ahoy Buccaneers is offering a last minute, 20% discount on two 13-day departures in Feb and Mar.

Prices including the discount start at \$4,000pp.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	09 Jan
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	10 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	11 Jan
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	12 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	13 Jan
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	13 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	14 Jan
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	15 Jan
MELBOURNE	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	10 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	12 Jan
BRISBANE	
<i>Seven Seas Voyager</i>	09 Jan
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	11 Jan
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	12 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	14 Jan
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	15 Jan
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	15 Jan
FREMANTLE	
<i>Regatta</i>	11 Jan
<i>Astor</i>	12 Jan
<i>Silver Shadow</i>	12 Jan
<i>Astor</i>	15 Jan
HOBART	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	09 Jan
AUCKLAND	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	13 Jan
<i>Golden Princess</i>	14 Jan
<i>Sea Princess</i>	14 Jan
<i>Noordam</i>	15 Jan

A Golden Adelaide first



PRINCESS Cruises' *Golden Princess* yesterday became the first cruise ship to sail out of South Australia on a roundtrip international itinerary.

Departing from Adelaide on a 17-night New Zealand cruise, the vessel will call into Melbourne, Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington, Gisborne, Tauranga & Auckland and operate scenic cruising in Fiordland National Park.

The sailing comes on the back of an almost 20% rise year-on-year in SA cruise ship guests.

"Cruising has never been more

popular with South Australians," said svp Princess Cruises Asia Pacific, Stuart Allison.

"Over 75,000 South Australians took a cruise last year, a number which would almost fill the Adelaide Oval one and a half times over and represents 4.4% of the state's population - that's a higher penetration rate than the cruise markets in North America and Europe," he added.

Pictured are: Aldo Traverso, *Golden Princess* Captain, and Stuart Allison, svp Asia Pacific for Princess Cruises.

Riviera plans more Christmas cruises

RIVER cruise line RIVIERA Travel will up its Christmas market departures by 167% in 2018 and expand its festive season.

The company operated its first Christmas market cruises in Dec 2017 and will have a total of 16 sailings across four of its ships in Dec 2018.

Riviera will offer 12 four-night sailings on the Rhine from Cologne and debut a five-night yuletide markets cruise on the Danube River from Budapest, with four round-trip departures planned.



Sanctuary cruise

SANCTUARY Retreats has unveiled a new two-night river cruise option from Bagan to Mandalay in Myanmar this year in Mar and Apr.

The sailing will travel upstream on Irrawaddy River on the all-suite *Sanctuary Ananda* ship.

Guests will visit a number of monasteries, temples, pagodas and palaces on the itinerary.

The cruise will be offered on 08, 15, 22 and 29 Mar, plus 12, 19 and 26 Apr.

Prices for the sailings start at US\$643ppts.

CLICK HERE for more.



PASSENGERS will be getting their kit off next month when *Carnival Pride* transforms into "The Big Nude Boat" for a four-night cruise from Miami, departing 02 Feb.

Nudists will visit Key West, Half Moon Cay, Grand Turk, and Amber Cove.

Passengers on board are free to be in their birthday suit at all times except when in port or in the main dining room.

Those who can't bear the thought of having to eat with clothes on can hang out in the self-serve buffet, which will be the only dining venue where nudity is allowed.

Prices for the nude cruise start at US\$1,099 per person for an interior cabin.