

Cruise Weekly today

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

Carnival turns up the water play

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) will introduce two new waterslides and two splash parks on *Carnival Splendor* when it begins sailing year-round from Sydney in Dec '19.

Plans for a Green & Gold waterpark include a Green Thrill slide that Carnival says will take its existing Green Thunder concept to a new level.

At the World's Leading Cruise Lines Next Wave Summit on Fri, CCL VP Australia & New Zealand Jennifer Vanderkreeke revealed the slide would be named by Australians in a competition, with details to be announced in coming months.

P&O steps up short-break strategy

P&O Cruises Australia has boosted its short-break offering as part of a strategy to meet rising demand for three- and four-night cruise itineraries.

The local operator has announced two new choices for introduction from late next year, including a Country Music Festival at Sea sailing from Brisbane in Dec 2019 and two 1980s Tribute Cruises departing from Brisbane and Sydney in Feb and Apr 2020.

The itineraries were revealed at the World's Leading Cruise Lines Next Wave Summit on the weekend by Sture Myrmell, President of Carnival Australia & New Zealand and P&O Cruises Australia, who said short-break cruises now represent 40% of the line's offering.

"Among people who are time poor or want a second holiday, that short break market is continuing to grow," he said.

"If you put these theme cruises



together well, it's a lot of fun and people really get engaged.

"The whole festival space in tourism has grown all over the world for many, many years so this is tapping into that."

P&O Vice President of Sales and Marketing Ryan Taibel (pictured left with Myrmell) said the line's short break product had tripled in the past six years, driven by the popularity of Big Laugh Comedy Cruises in particular.

He said the latest short-break expansion came in response to market research by Kantar showing increasing demand.

"From that research we found more than half of Australians looking to holiday are looking for holidays of three days or less," Taibel said.

The Country Music cruise starts from \$424pp quad share, while the 1980s cruise is priced from \$474pp quad share.

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Aranui discounts

TO CELEBRATE the launch of its 2020 program, French Polynesia cruise specialist Aranui Cruises has released a number of discounts across select cruises.

The deals apply to *Aranui 5's* first two voyages of the year which depart on 06 Feb and 22 Feb 2020, with ocean view staterooms starting from \$6,030 per person twin share and representing a saving of \$1,200 per couple.

Royal suites are also available at a special rate of \$8,970, a saving of \$1,900 per couple.



Silversea savings

GUESTS who book select last-minute voyages with Silversea before 26 Nov can save up to \$600 per person.

The Super Sale also offers guests US\$1,000 on board credit per suite, plus a one-category suite upgrade.

Featured itineraries include a pre-Christmas eight-day sailing from Singapore to Bali on 13 Dec, a 16-day voyage from Bali to Sydney on 21 Dec, and more - call 1300 306 872.

Carnival ship a cut above



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced that the first steel has been cut for its new 180,000-tonne XL ship, which when complete will become the first ship operating in North America to use liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The traditional steel-cutting ceremony was held at the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland and marks the official start of the ship's construction, which is slated for delivery in 2020.

The company also revealed a bold new red, white and blue hull design that celebrates Carnival's legacy as "America's cruise line" as well as paying homage to maritime tradition.

"This new ship promises to be truly special, from its groundbreaking technology and one-of-a-kind features to its distinctive livery and hull design that is both

timeless and forward-thinking while paying tribute to our nearly 50-year history of making wonderful vacation memories for our guests," said Christine Duffy, President of Carnival Cruise Line.

Also to be added to the 5,200-plus lower berth ship will be a variety of "never before seen innovations" that "aim to take our cruise offerings to the next level", Duffy added.

The as-yet unnamed ship will operate from Florida's Port Canaveral, with a name to be revealed in early Dec.

Itinerary details of its inaugural season are planned to be announced in Jan, with further info on culinary & entertainment options to be unveiled in 2019

Pictured admiring an artist's conception of the XL ship is Meyer Turku CEO Jan Meyer & Carnival's President Christine Duffy.

Agents on *Splendor*

AROUND 200 travel agents at the World's Leading Cruise Lines Next Wave Summit on board *Majestic Princess* were given a surprise from Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) on Fri, with all attendees invited aboard *Carnival Splendor* when it begins sailing year-round from Sydney in Dec next year.

CCL VP Australia & New Zealand Jennifer Vanderkreeke announced the offer during the summit and said agents could join an overnight sailing from Sydney on Dec 10, 2019.

"We're going to have one big party and then we're going to come back and try to go back to work," Vanderkreeke said.

The agents were part of the first Next Wave Summit held in international waters, sailing from Auckland to Sydney.

New Egypt dates

VIKING Cruises has released a number of new departure dates for its 12-day Pharaohs & Pyramids Egypt river cruise.

The new trips sail between Aug and Dec 2020 on board *MS Antares*, with prices starting from \$7,595 per person for a French Balcony stateroom category.

Spots for the same package departing 2018 and 2019 have already sold out.

For more info call 138 747.

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Refurb puts wind in the sails



Talking common Pence



CARNIVAL Australia Chairman Ann Sherry met with US Vice President Mike Pence on the weekend to talk up the cruise line's role in supporting the APEC Summit hosted in PNG.

The meeting took place on board *Pacific Explorer*, one of three Carnival ships stationed in Port Moresby to house attendees at the conference.

Speaking at a panel discussion at the event, Sherry also put the case forward to open up more job opportunities for young people in the region.

"Young people represent the future in developing countries in the region and are the ones who stand to benefit most from innovative and disruptive business ideas," she said.

WINDSTAR Cruises has announced a major \$250 million refurbishment program across all three of its Star Class vessels.

The Star Plus Initiative will aim to enhance facilities on board its Star Class ships and also increase guest capacity from 212 to 312 guests per vessel via a ship lengthening project.

The renovation work will be carried out on *Star Breeze*, *Star Legend*, and *Star Pride* between Oct 2019 and Nov 2020, taking place at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Palermo, Italy.

Each vessel will be cut to allow the installation of a new section that will add a further 25.6 metres in length - representing an overall capacity increase of 24% for the

small ship cruise line.

Select improvements on each ship will include 50 new suites featuring open floor plan configurations, new Owner's Suites categories, two new dining experiences, and a larger spa and fitness centre.

"The initiative not only creates beautiful new suites and public spaces, but we will also take the opportunity to re-engine the ships with a more fuel efficient... propulsion system," said Windstar President John Delaney.

A dedicated microsite will launch in 2019 to keep agents updated on the progress of the new refurbishment program.

Pictured: Windstar crew farewell a recent European sailing.

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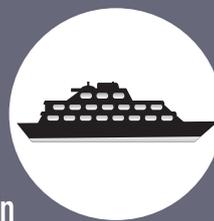
WEEKLY

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Need help wading through the huge variety of cruise options out there?

Check out the 2019 Cruise Guide for a comprehensive tool.

CRUISE WEEKLY Travel Daily travelBulletin



Spit plan response

MORE than 10,000 resident responses have been received for the proposed development of the The Spit on the Gold Coast, which includes a possible new cruise terminal (CW 01 Nov) - a third planning session will be held in Dec.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	19 Nov
<i>Sun Princess</i>	20 Nov
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	21 Nov
<i>Noordam</i>	22 Nov
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	23 Nov
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	23 Nov
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	24 Nov
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	24 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	25 Nov

MELBOURNE	
<i>Noordam</i>	20 Nov
<i>Golden Princess</i>	21 Nov
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	23 Nov

BRISBANE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	22 Nov
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	23 Nov
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	24 Nov
<i>Sea Princess</i>	25 Nov

CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	19 Nov
<i>Amsterdam</i>	22 Nov

DARWIN	
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	20 Nov

HOBART	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	20 Nov
<i>Noordam</i>	24 Nov
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	25 Nov

An American Symphony



ROYAL Caribbean International's *Symphony of the Seas* (pictured) made her American debut this week after she sailed into Miami to dock at her new home at the newly constructed Terminal A at PortMiami.

"With her US homecoming, *Symphony* is changing the game for how travellers of all ages holiday on our biggest and boldest vessel yet," said Royal Caribbean International Chief Executive Michael Bayley.

"(The ship) takes family holidaying to an all new level with energy and options never before found in one place," he added.

Symphony of the Seas is scheduled to sail year-round seven-night Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries from Miami which kicked off last Fri.

Highlights of her new program include visits to the cruise line's new private island in The Bahamas, Perfect Day at CocoCay, which opens in May 2019.

Princess goes local

PRINCESS Cruises has launched its Local Connections program in Australia which will see up to 20 new shore excursions introduced across Broome, Perth, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide & Brisbane.

Excursions are led by local experts from each city, with examples including a full day behind-the-scenes tour of a coffee roaster in Melbourne.



CRUISING has really come a long way in the last 30 years, and just as well too judging from some very odd retro photos we stumbled upon online.

Below is a very "impressed" man boarding a Dolphin Cruise Line cruise in the early gos.



From one very unimpressed face to no face at all, we suspect the man below envisaged slightly warmer weather on board his cruise.



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