

Cruise Weekly today

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

Bonner at Travel IQ

ROYAL Caribbean Cruise Lines Vice President for Australasia, Susan Bonner, has been confirmed as one of the speakers at the upcoming Travel IQ conference.

Taking place in Sydney on 24 Oct, the one-day event will include a panel session on The Next Big Thing convened by Tammy Marshall of The B Hive.

Bonner will appear alongside Aurora Expeditions Managing Director Robert Halfpenny and many more industry leaders.

Tickets for the conference are available for \$360+GST, with the intimate 135-attendee format to also allow for lots of networking - traveltrends.biz.

MSC gears up for Grandiosa welcome

MSC Cruises has announced the maiden voyage for *MSC Grandiosa* will go on sale to the public from 22 Oct.

The cruise line's newest flagship is scheduled to depart on her first adventure from Hamburg, Germany on 10 Nov next year, before cruising through the Mediterranean to Genoa, Italy and Marseille, France.

Following her inaugural sailing, *Grandiosa* will be based in Genoa where she will offer seven-night cruises of the Mediterranean from 23 Nov, making overnight stops at ports in Rome, Palermo, Valletta, Barcelona and Marseille.

Attractions available on board will include a choice of 12 different dining venues, an authentic Balinese Spa, the DOREMI Studio Lounge offering family activities, a pool deck, and 24-hour butler service.

Outside of facilities, the ship will



also be home to two new shows from Cirque du Soleil at Sea which were created exclusively for MSC Cruises passengers.

The vessel is currently under construction at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France, and when completed she will be the first of two Meraviglia-Plus class ships to

come into service in Nov 2019, boasting the largest size and most features in the fleet.

Prior to going on sale to the public, an exclusive two-week pre-sale period is now available to MSC Voyagers Club members through to 21 Oct.

Pictured: A rendering of the anticipated *MSC Grandiosa*.

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Oceania flags major revamp



OCEANIA Cruises has announced it will be rolling out a raft of enhancements to the Owner's Suites on board its *Marina* and *Riviera* ships.

The makeover will see the accommodation fitted with Ralph Lauren Home signature elements such as redesigned upholstery, new wood panelling on the walls, and floor-to-ceiling windows dressed with Grimaldi-weave sail fabric.

"As we are always looking for ways to elevate the guest experience we took the opportunity to completely re-master these suites and provide our guests with an entirely new experience," said Oceania Cruises



Chief Executive Bob Binder.

Further luxury touches include a self-playing ebony piano that provides guests with the opportunity to carry out some in-suite entertaining.

The renovated Owner's Suites will debut on *Riviera* in Apr 2019 and *Marina* in May 2020.

Pictured: renderings of re-designed Owner's Suite living room and, **inset**, the refreshed master bedroom.

Royal sets sail for 50

ROYAL Caribbean International is counting down the days until it celebrates its 50th birthday on board its giant *Symphony of the Seas* in Miami next year.

A special one-week voyage is planned to depart 02 Nov 2019, tagged the "biggest, boldest birthday party ever".

The jubilant jaunt will visit San Juan, Puerto Rico, & Philipsburg, St Maarten, with surprise guest performances also flagged.

NCL launches guide

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has launched its latest Worldwide Cruising Guide, containing information on 2019/2020 itineraries and important ship facility updates.

The guide includes details on *Norwegian Jewel's* return for a third season in Australia, as well as cruises through Hawaii and Papeete.

Access the full guide [HERE](#).

Personal touch for *Majestic Princess* in NZ

TO MARK the first visit to Auckland for *Majestic Princess*, the ship's skipper Dino Sagan exchanged plaques with the Cruise Operations Manager at Ports of Auckland, Laura Hinsching, on board the vessel (**pictured**).

This type of exchange is customary when a ship makes her maiden call to a new port.



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Resolute hailed with party



Ponant pushes back

PONANT has defended the actions taken by the Captain of its *L'Austral* ship which became grounded on uncharted rocks in the Snares Islands last year.

The French operator told **CW** the incident "did not present any risk for the environment nor for the safety of passengers" despite a Wellington District Court in New Zealand finding the cruise line had breached the NZ Maritime Transport Act 1994 last week (**CW** 04 Oct).

Ponant said an independent expert report examining the stability of the ship after the collision found "it could continue to sail in all security" and that Captain Regis Daumesni was justified in continuing to sail to the port of Bluff.

The cruise line also said the *L'Austral* avoided the exclusion zone set at 300 metres around the Snares Islands, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

Dreamy summers

DREAM Cruises has announced special discounted rates over summer for Australian and New Zealand passengers, with prices for select sailings starting from \$656 per person.

Special quad share prices are available on applicable seven-night itineraries on board *Genting Dream* departing Singapore.

Three packages are on offer to destinations including Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, with all itineraries including a visit to the popular tourist island port of Indonesia's Bintan Island, allowing for 12 hours of port time between 8am and 8pm.

The offer is valid now until 18 Nov, or until sold out.

Call the Dream Cruises Sydney office on 1300 658 666 for further information.

EXPEDITION cruise line One Ocean Expeditions (OOE) is gearing up to officially welcome the 184-passenger *RCGS Resolute* to its fleet via a special recommissioning event in Canada next week.

She will sail into her new homeport of Sydney, Nova Scotia on 16 Oct, formally joining the OOE family after previously operating under the *Hanseatic* name with the Hapag-Lloyd Cruises brand.

The welcome party will be attended by several Canadian politicians, as well as OOE's Chief Executive Officer John Geiger.

"This day represents a great moment in the history of the

Royal Canadian Geographical Society...*RCGS Resolute* is a platform not only for expeditionary travel but for science & education," Geiger said.

Other notable events on the day will include a performance by the Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and an on-board VIP celebration that will conclude with an exclusive performance by local band Barra MacNeils.

RCGS Resolute's inaugural voyage for OOE will depart from Ushuaia, Argentina, on 16 Nov for an "Antarctica - Off the Beaten Track" voyage, before operating cruises of the Chilean Fjords.

Pictured: *Resolute* exploring Paradise Bay, Antarctica.



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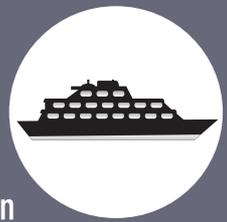
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Need help wading through the huge variety of cruise options out there?

Check out the 2019 Cruise Guide for a comprehensive tool.

CRUISE WEEKLY Travel Daily travelBulletin



Costa cruise push

COSTA Cruises has entered into a new partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board and Changi Airport Group to boost the number of fly-cruise visitors to Singapore.

The deal will see marketing initiatives rolled out across a host of countries in a bid to bring in more than 100,000 cruise pax to the country over the next three years.

Singapore saw 421 cruise ship calls & 1.4m pax in 2017.

A dream trip for partners



DREAM Cruises recently hosted a selection of its top performing partners across Australia and New Zealand on a cruise sailing from Singapore to Penang and Langkawi.

The lucky group was treated to all of the very best the 3,352-passenger *Genting Dream* vessel had to offer, including dining at Bistro by Mark Best, enjoying a few drinks at the pool bar, and relaxing in the Palace

suite accommodation.

The pampered posse are **pictured** mingling with the crew: Derek Morris, ETG; Carina Mullen, Creative Cruising; Bronwyn Towersey, Travel Marketing NZ; Samantha Riches, MyCruise; Jeff Leckey, House of Travel NZ; Captain Magnus Gottberg; Brigita Devries, Dream Cruises; Aaron Eilers, Dream Cruises; Kym Lewis, Where2Travel; and Carl Frier, Cruise1st.



IT ISN'T too often that one can credit climate change with anything beneficial, but perhaps river cruise lines in the United Kingdom can add beluga whale watching tours to its list of attractions on the River Thames?

The mammal's typical home is in the freezing cold waters of the Arctic or Greenland, however this roaming chap - nicknamed "Benny" by fascinated English onlookers - is now calling Britain home in his far-reaching quest to find more fish.

Marine biologists are monitoring Benny's health to make sure he is okay, while politicians are looking into his visa situation to determine if he can stay or should be deported.



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A Majestic welcome

I WAS honoured to have been invited by the New Zealand Cruise Association to attend the welcome ceremony for the *Majestic Princess* into the Bay of Islands last week.

This melding of present and past cultures was significant for the region as it was also the location for the signing of the Waitangi treaty in 1840, between representatives of the British Crown and Maori Chiefs, which recognised the Maori ownership of their lands.

We were humbled by the warmth and generosity of the local Maori people who greeted the cruise passengers and invited them to participate in cultural activities including rowing the waka (traditional canoes) and visiting their markets.

In a private ceremony in their beautiful communal grounds, several of us including senior reps from Princess Cruises, were treated to further entertainment.

This great experience reminded me of the importance of providing opportunities for our cruise passengers to engage with local Indigenous communities so they can share their stories and traditions. It also provides important economic benefits.

We also saw this in Broome when our conference attendees enjoyed a tour with Bart Pigram, a Yawuru man from the Kimberley region who runs Narlijia tours, a must-do on many cruise itineraries.

Soon I will speak at the Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference where I will be humbled to share these experiences which illustrate how cruise travel can forge an important bond and understanding between communities.

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