

Cruise Weekly today

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

Ponant/Nat Geo

PONANT and National Geographic have jointly released a collection of 18 expeditions as part of their 2019/20 Expeditions to Inspire brochure.

The 48-page collection boasts remote "destinations that are among the most remote and wildest on the planet", including a 10-night Antarctica cruise departing in 2020 on board *Le Boreal*.

The co-branded program forms part of a new strategic partnership struck between the two brands two months ago (CW 09 Aug).

View the brochure [HERE](#).

Azamara makes it three of a kind

AZAMARA Club Cruises has announced that *Azamara Pursuit* will service the Australia and New Zealand markets in 2021.

The luxury cruise brand made the announcement this week in Sydney as part of a celebration to mark the upcoming Australian cruise season.

"We know that our guests tend to build strong relationships with our crew and so by bringing *Pursuit* here, Australians now get the opportunity to have a completely new experience," said Azamara Chief Operating Officer Carol Cabezas.

When she arrives in 2021, *Pursuit* will be the third vessel in Azamara's three-ship fleet to visit Australia, with *Journey* and *Quest* already enjoying successful seasons locally.

The decision to bring *Pursuit* to Aussie shores follows a strong



period of growth in Australia for the luxury cruise brand.

"Australia is currently our third largest sourcing market behind the United States and the United Kingdom," Cabezas said.

"Australia has doubled its share over the last four years so that's why we decided to deliver *Pursuit* because we know our product really resonates here."

The luxury cruise line also revealed that its 2021 winter collection will launch on 07 Nov, with itineraries to Japan returning off the back of strong sales in the 2019 deployment.

More details regarding *Pursuit*'s Australia program will be revealed over the coming weeks.

Pictured: Carol Cabezas at Sydney's Shangri-La Hotel on Tue.

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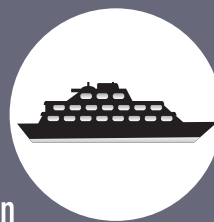
*Offers correct as at 23 October 2018 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Offer end 31 October 2018 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.



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



Collette is cooler

TRAVELLERS can now experience the culture and landscapes of Greenland and Iceland as part of a new 2019 itinerary released by Collette. For more information on the new trips, **CLICK HERE**.



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Aurora to double fleet



AURORA Expeditions yesterday confirmed an order for a second newbuild, with the additional vessel expected to join the new *Greg Mortimer* in time for the 2020/21 cruise season.

The expansion was revealed at the Travel IQ conference in Sydney by Aurora CEO Rob Halfpenny, who noted the new Aurora ship would be one of 28 new expedition vessels currently on order for delivery to global cruise lines by 2022.

He said there had been such strong interest in the *Greg Mortimer* that the season for next

year was close to selling out.

Aurora's current *Polar Pioneer* is ageing and will be phased out after the 2018/19 season.

Halfpenny said the yet-to-be-named additional ship would have a similar configuration to the 160-passenger *Greg Mortimer* which has been purpose designed for polar expedition cruising.

He outlined ambitious growth plans for Aurora, with the second ship seeing planned annual TTV of \$75 million over the next few years - a roughly seven-fold increase from the company's current revenue levels.

Scenic dismissed

THE NSW Court of Appeal has dismissed efforts by Scenic to overturn a ruling on a class action brought by past passengers affected by floods.

High water on the Rhine, Danube, Saone and Rhone rivers in 2013 led to the modification of itineraries for 1,200 of Scenic's guests, with the class action successfully arguing the cruise line should have forewarned pax about the weather conditions and cancelled and refunded cruises (**CW** 05 Sep 17).

The NSW Court of Appeal this week upheld the original decision that Scenic's actions had breached Australian Consumer Law and passengers were entitled to the luxury cruise that was advertised.

Scenic has released a statement in response to the latest judgement, saying its legal team is reviewing the findings and is currently unable to comment any further at this time.

CLIA applauds Tasmanian cruise growth

THE Tasmanian Government has released its 2017-18 Cruise Market Update and Regional Ports Review, outlining the importance of "quality shore excursions" that support an increase in visitation.

CLIA Australasia has welcomed the report, stating it looked forward to working with the Government to focus on the "sustainable growth of cruise tourism" - see **page three** for more details.

MEANWHILE, CLIA is offering travel agencies the chance to receive two months' free membership when joining for 2019.

For more information on membership benefits, **CLICK HERE**.

No Hope for CMV

CRUISE and Maritime Voyages has announced the departure of Ann Hope, who is stepping down as National Accounts Manager Australia/NZ after four years in the role.

Managing Director Dean Brazier hailed her contribution, with a search for a replacement now under way.

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NRMA's Sydney Fantasea



SIGNIFICANT opportunities for Sydney Harbour-based tourism activities have been cited as one of the drivers of today's announcement that motoring organisation NRMA is purchasing Fantasea Cruises.

The deal includes 10 ferries and 10 water-taxis, with the deal leaked at yesterday's Travel IQ conference in Sydney by NRMA Chief Investment Officer Rachel Wiseman.

NRMA also owns Manly Fast

Ferry, with Wiseman hinting that the addition of the Fantasea fleet could see the overall operation rebranded with a focus on domestic and international tourists.

According to NRMA CEO Rohan Lund, the organisation "wants the city to again realise the potential of the world's greatest harbour" with the deal complementing NRMA's other travel businesses including car rental, holiday parks and hotels.

Beauty of Tassie untapped



THE Tasmanian Government is investigating the prospect of building a new port at Beauty Point on the Tamar River as one of many potential growth opportunities for the state's cruise sector.

The suggestion for a fourth cruise ship port is part of the Government's Tasmanian Cruise Market Update and Regional Ports Review 2017-18, which outlines growth opportunities and the impact of the cruise industry in Tasmania.

"Beauty Point has been identified as one place where we can invest more and bring more visitors in," said Tasmania Premier Will Hodgman.

Expedition cruising was also identified in the report as "the best fit" for Tasmania in terms of shore excursions and branding,

with the appetite for growth at the state's ports strongest in the small luxury segment of ships up to 1,000 passengers.

The review suggests the biggest opportunities for growth are: developing partial turnarounds of cruise ships at Hobart so that visitors could spend time in Tasmania before or after their cruise, increasing time spent in port to boost pax spend, longer shore tours to attract more boutique int'l vessels, and increasing the number of regional ports included on itineraries to drive visitor dispersal.

Large cruise ship visits to Wineglass Bay were labelled "unsuitable" due to the impact on Freycinet National Park, with the report recommending a restriction on ships carrying more than 100 pax in the future.



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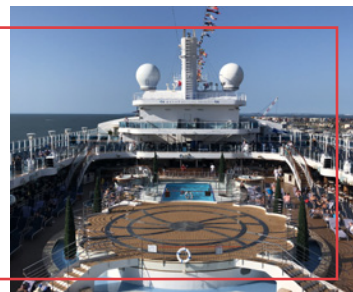
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Discover the best of *Majestic Princess* as she sails into Sydney in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Avalon and Scenic make river changes

AVALON Waterways and Scenic Tours have modified a number of cruise itineraries on the Danube and Rhine rivers due to low water levels.

Affected Avalon cruises are scheduled to depart over the next two weeks, with alterations including changes in ships, itineraries and embarkation and disembarkation locations.

Scenic says it will modify itineraries or conduct ship swaps in areas affected by the low water.

Princess SHARE's Stone



PRINCESS Cruises' fine-dining experience SHARE has been refreshed, offering a new range of menu items set to tempt the taste buds of travellers from Nov.

Designed by award-winning chef Curtis Stone, the six-course dining option, which is available to guests travelling on board *Emerald Princess* and *Ruby Princess*, includes dishes such as butter-poached chunks of king Alaska crab and hard-roasted, double-boned brown butter ducro port chop.

In addition to Princess' SHARE

update, the exclusive Crafted by Curtis dishes featured on the main dining room menu are also set to be rolled out fleetwide in the coming months.

"Throughout my partnership with Princess Cruises, we've always worked together to create inspired dishes using a fresh approach to fine dining," Curtis Stone said.

Australian cruisers will have the chance to sample the new menu when *Ruby Princess* makes her debut in Australia in 2019.

View SHARE's full menu [HERE](#).

PortMiami posts strongest year on record

PORTMIAMI has experienced a record fiscal year for visitation in 2018 with a total of 5.6m cruise pax passing through the port, representing a 4.7% rise for the 12-month period ending 30 Sep.

Cruise ship growth was attributed to "expanded business opportunities", including additional sailings of Royal Caribbean's *Empress of the Seas* and newly renovated *Mariner of the Seas*, plus the arrival of Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Magic*.

The Port also welcomed Viking Ocean Cruises, Victory Cruise Lines and Seabourn for the first time in 2018, adding to its burgeoning cruise ship passenger growth.



THE greatest treasure of the sea may have only just been discovered, and for once it wasn't during an amazing expedition cruise adventure.

The remains of what is believed to be an ancient Greek merchant ship dating back more than 2,400 years has been identified lying on its side off Bulgaria in the Black Sea.

The discovery team used two robotic explorers to map out a 3D image of the ship (pictured) - do we smell a new type of ocean exploration activity for cruise passengers? Mmmmm....



Small Island, Big Opportunities

YESTERDAY I was fortunate to spend time in Burnie supporting the Tasmanian Cruise Review launch.

This important document analyses the global cruise market and how Tasmania can optimise its position.

It also looks at the impact of cruise tourism on the state's ports.

The bottom line is cruising continues to make an important economic contribution to the State with 125 visits recorded last financial year resulting in \$34.5 million in crew and pax spend.

The market is predicted to grow in the future, but not at the current rate given a balanced outlook.

Tasmania provides a good snapshot of cruise in Australia.

It is a mix of major ports and a champion for regional dispersal.

The ports of Hobart, Burnie and the anchorage at Port Arthur are well placed to cater to the new generation of larger ships, in line with industry and consumer trends.

At the other end of the scale, expedition vessels and boutique cruise ships are also an ideal fit for Tasmania's array of small group experiences showcasing its landscapes, culture, and history.

This style of ship makes up around 30% of the total 109 ships on the order books through to 2027.

Further opportunities exist to grow the benefits from cruise including discussion of a fourth port, additional port visits on itineraries, developing higher value shore tours to increase dispersal and yield and utilising more Tasmanian produce on board the ships.

For a small state, cruise is certainly big news!

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www.cruiseweekly.com.au

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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