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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from RCI, **Celebrity** and **Azamara**.

Webinar reminder

THE third Crystal Cruises webinar in a series hosted by **Travel Daily** editor Jasmine O'Donoghue will screen tomorrow, discussing the growth of expedition cruising.

Agents who register to watch are eligible to enter a comp to win a cruise for two, **CLICK HERE** to enter.

The "suite life"

ROYAL Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises are celebrating their all inclusive luxury suite offerings.

See the **front page** to access agent suite selling kits.

Carnival plans record Aussie season

CARNIVAL Australia is gearing up for a record season, revealing it will generate an estimated \$500 million in economic activity and make 696 calls across 38 Australian ports.

Carnival's peak cruise season officially kicks off 15 Sep when Princess Cruises' flagship *Majestic Princess* arrives in Sydney for her maiden Australian season.

"In 2008-09, our ships made fewer than 200 calls to local ports over the cruise season...that number has more than tripled over the past decade," said Carnival Australia president Sture Myrmell.

"We're very excited to be adding even more Australian destinations to the cruise map this summer," he added.

The Queensland market will see the biggest upswing, attracting 247 calls to 11 different state ports – a 30% bump on last year.



Other notable milestones for Carnival this season include P&O Cruises' first three-ship deployment in Brisbane, Cunard's maiden call to Burnie, Tasmania, in Feb, P&O's biggest ever Adelaide program, and a record nine cruises from Melbourne.

MEANWHILE travel agents

from all over Australia recently took part in a three-day roundtrip cruise from Sydney to experience what life was like on board *Carnival Spirit*.

The group of agents, nicknamed the "Fun Squad" (pictured), took to the sea last weekend for the fun-filled adventure.

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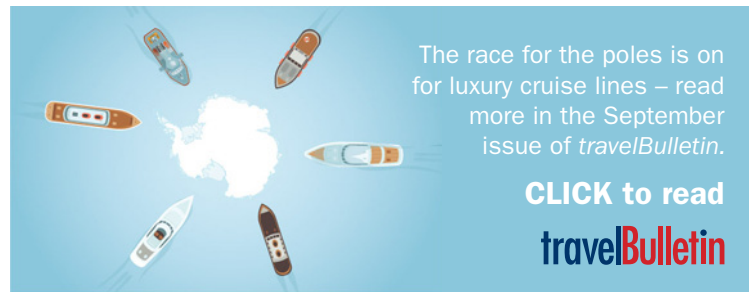
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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 11th September 2018



The race for the poles is on for luxury cruise lines – read more in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

SeaLink appoints

SEALINK Travel Group has announced the appointment of Danae Schmid to the position of national sales and key account manager.

The newly created role will see Schmid charged with developing SeaLink's global and domestic sales footprint.

"I'm looking forward to working with all of the SeaLink sales team and using my current background and strengths to provide leadership to ensure we successfully deliver and exceed our sales targets," Schmid said.

P&O drought relief

P&O Cruises Australia has partnered with charity Rural Aid to offer drought-affected farmers and their families free cruise trips.

The cruise line has set aside 85 cabins across two separate four-night sailings for select NSW & Qld farmers who P&O Cruises Australia president Sture Myrmell said "have not had a break in years".

The nomination process is currently being worked on, with the cruises to take place on board *Pacific Explorer* and *Pacific Dawn* in Dec.

Lindblad bouncing back



LINDBLAD Expeditions' Australian sales have stabilised and the business is now in the process of "building them back up again," the company's president & ceo Sven-Olof Lindblad told **CW**.

Since making its push on the Aussie market in 2013, Lindblad suffered a downward trend in sales for "a period of time", driven largely by a fall in the Aussie dollar which affected price.

More recently however, the expedition cruise line has made positive gains in the local market.

"In the beginning we had more activity in Australia for destinations like the Kimberley, however we are no longer there and harvesting that unfortunately but we'll be back there at some point," Lindblad said.

"We are now in a position where we really have to make people understand our value proposition...if we do a good job at that I think Australia can

grow further because it has a disproportionately high per capita interest in the kind of thing we do," he added.

Consolidating its market appeal is a raft of new ships set to be launched over the next three years including *National Geographic Venture* in Dec 2018 and *National Geographic Endurance* in Q1 2020, as well as the prospect of opening up new remote cruise destinations.

"We're going to head to the Northeast Passage which we've never done before...Northern Greenland and parts of the Canadian Arctic are also areas we are looking at," Lindblad said.

"If you look at places like the Arctic and the Antarctic and how little of it is accessible, you go 100 miles in any direction it's like unknown territory," he added.

Pictured: Lindblad's president and chief executive officer Sven-Olof Lindblad.

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Oceania Cruises is renewing their fleet – learn more about the project in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

Viking bingo comp

VIKING has announced a new trade incentive running until 30 Nov where agents need to sell a variety of cruises and cross them off a bingo card to win a cruise for two. More comp details **HERE**.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	11 Sep
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	14 Sep
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	15 Sep
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	11 Sep
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	13 Sep
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	13 Sep
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	15 Sep
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	16 Sep
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	13 Sep
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	16 Sep
AUCKLAND	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	16 Sep

Delving deeper in Alaska



CUNARD has unveiled its new Insights Program, featuring a range of experts who will deliver educational programs on the cruise line's *Queen Elizabeth* Alaskan itineraries in May 2019.

Queen Elizabeth will sail four 10-night roundtrip Alaska voyages out of Vancouver with port calls in Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, Icy Strait Point and Victoria.

Highlights include scenic cruising through the Inside Passage, Tracy Arm Fjord, and Hubbard Glacier.

The specialists include author Dr Rachel Cartwright, who will

provide live commentary during scenic cruising; Glacier Bay and Icy Strait indigenous group Alaska Native Voices (**pictured**) who will offer lectures and workshops; and cookbook author and fisherwoman LaDonna Rose Gundersen.

"Our guests will have the opportunity to gain a deep understanding about Alaska and its breathtaking landscape, rich cultural heritage and local cuisine," said Cunard North America svp, Josh Leibowitz.

For further info, **CLICK HERE**.



WHEN travelling, it pays to be prepared for all seasons - you just never know when the weather might turn on you.

Passengers on board *Norwegian Dawn*, which whisked holiday-makers away from the chilly city of Boston, USA last week on a scheduled cruise to the tropical oasis of Bermuda, had their island dreams dashed when the path of Hurricane Florence forced the ship to take evasive action and reroute.

More than 2,300 passengers were instead delivered to the Canadian city of Halifax, where they were greeted by less-than-balmy 11 degree weather.

For some, the itinerary change was a welcome one - "New England is on my bucket list!" said one thrilled guest.

However, for others, it was a case of Groundhog Day. "I'm not happy, I've been here multiple times," said another disgruntled passenger.

We just hope local stores were well-stocked with winter wardrobe woollies.



CUNARD

With the ever growing homeport seasons, and new build on the horizon, we are delighted to share with you that the Australian Cunard Team is expanding.

Sally Gorringe is Queensland-based and a wonderful compliment to our Victorian-based National Account Manager Andrew Perry.

trade.cunard.com/au



Andrew Perry
National Account Manager VIC/SA/WA/ACT



Sally Gorringe,
National Account Manager QLD/NSW/NZ

CRUISE

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