

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from Tauck.

Scenic earlybirds

EARLYBIRD discounts for select Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours European river cruises in 2020 are on offer until 31 Aug. Itineraries available include a 15-day cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest from \$6,695 per person twin share, and an 11-day cruise from Lyon, France from \$6,695ppts - call 138 128.

More with Tauck

TAUCK is inviting agents to discover more about its small ship and river cruises. Selling points include unique activities and one up-front price - see back page for more.

Scenic Eclipse officially registered

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has confirmed the 26 Jul delivery of its long-awaited *Scenic Eclipse*, which has now been formally registered in Valletta, Malta.

According to satellite tracking, *Eclipse* is currently in the Atlantic Ocean off the northern coast of Spain, heading northwards to commence its first cruise which is scheduled to depart from Reykjavik, Iceland on 15 Aug.

Scenic founder and Chairman, Glen Moroney, said "I'm very proud to say *Eclipse* has been successfully certified for passenger ship operations, has been officially registered, and we are now in the final stages of preparation for our inaugural voyage".

"These final stages are significant highlights in any ship build, and particularly for a vessel of the technological sophistication of *Scenic Eclipse*,"



Moroney added.

Onboard systems are also being tested and certified, including the two onboard Airbus H130 helicopters, with Scenic releasing a video (preview pictured) of recent proving flights showing the aircraft landing on the ship's deck and being stored in special on-board hangars.

The video, which can be viewed at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos, highlights how the helicopters

give *Scenic Eclipse* passengers the "opportunity to explore beyond the horizon, with unparalleled access to some of nature's most beautiful sights," according to a Scenic statement.

As well as the helicopters, *Scenic Eclipse* features a six-guest submarine, a 240-seat theatre, 114 all-veranda suites, 10 dining options, butler service for all guests and a GPS dynamic positioning system.



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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Wednesday 7th August 2019

New Hurtigruten partner



EXPEDITION cruise operator Hurtigruten is rapidly expanding its trade partnerships in Australia in the lead-up to the opening of its new Melbourne office next month (**CW** 03 May), this week announcing an enhanced relationship with online tour operator Inspiring Vacations.

The pact comes alongside other key Hurtigruten trade partnerships with players including 50 Degrees North, Bentours and Chimu Adventures, with the cruise line's APAC MD, Damian Perry, telling **CW** "the path forward for Hurtigruten in Australia and New Zealand is through dedicated and focused strategic partnerships offering the ultimate solutions, service and security for travellers".

Perry said he had agreed with Inspiring Vacations MD Paul Ryan to work on the joint development of "specific fully inclusive end-to-end product solutions for the market that are easy to sell and customer focused".

The rollout of new packages under the deal will begin next month, with Ryan and Perry both

confirming they will be available for trade sales.

"Inspiring Vacations brings a clearly defined and well executed strategy to the market, and I support their plan of penetrating a new market and audience that is either ignored or untapped at this stage," Perry said.

The new strategic partnership will give Inspiring Vacations access to the full range of Hurtigruten product, including the new Destination Norway range (**CW** 02 Aug) as well as Canada & Alaska, the Arctic and Antarctica.

Ryan hailed the pact, saying "Inspiring Vacations' ability to further enhance the product with an end to end package solution, dedicated staff championing the partnership and employees that have travelled to multiple destinations with Hurtigruten, on multiple ships, will deliver the highest level of customer service and professionalism".

Pictured: Ice encountered by Hurtigruten's *MS Roald Amundsen* en route to Greenland last week.

VICTORY CRUISE LINES

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CruiseCO interim CEO



CRUISECO has named Nic Cola as its interim Chief Executive Officer following the sudden resignation of Amanda McClelland (**CW** 31 Jul).

Cola brings a wealth of strategic, operational and transformational leadership to the organisation, with over 22 years of management and CEO experience across a diverse range of fields, including as a founding executive of Fairfax Digital, which grew to \$250 million revenue in 10 years.

"Nic brings deep experience in building growth within complex organisations and delivering operations," said Kevin Dale, CruiseCO Chairman.

"In an ever-changing travel landscape, strategic thinking and the ability to service the

customer is paramount to success."

Cola said that he was excited to join the organisation and that technology will continue to be a focus under his watch.

"CruiseCO is a team of great people who are passionate about cruise and serving their network of over 250 members," he said.

"They are guided by a solid strategy to package interesting product whilst exciting and delighting members...the adoption and development of CruisePRO remains a priority with its advanced technology enabling the business to capitalise on opportunities benefiting members and cruise line partners alike," Cola added.

Pictured: Nic Cola.


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We were on hand at *AmaMagna's* christening – check it out in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Blue Lagoon deal

BLUE Lagoon Cruises has launched its Ready Set Sale, featuring 25% discounts on all Fiji sailings taking place between 04 Oct 2019 and 30 Mar 2020.

The promotion also includes a FJ\$100 (A\$68) Bar & Spa credit per cabin and expires 30 Sep or until sold out.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

NCL delivers SIX of the best



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has announced that it will debut the critically-acclaimed British pop musical about Henry VIII's six wives on board *Norwegian Bliss*, *Breakaway* and *Getaway* starting from next month.

The musical *SIX* is an historical retelling of Henry VIII's marriages, with each of the former king's wives sharing their personal story about the at-times bloody era of English history.

"Guests will be mesmerised by the comical and powerful leading ladies who will have them

laughing, singing and dancing their way out of the theatre," said Andy Stuart, President and Chief Executive Officer of NCL.

"*SIX* is an excellent example of the exceptional entertainment we feature across our innovative fleet - we are really proud to add this amazing musical to our lineup," he added.

The new musical will appear first on *Bliss* from 01 Sep, followed by *Breakaway* on 10 Nov, and finally on *Norwegian Getaway* from 23 Apr.

Pictured: *SIX* in full swing.

Victory Cruise Lines on the Great Lakes

VICTORY Cruise Lines is offering savings of up to US\$1,600 per couple for cruises of America's Great Lakes when bookings are made via Cruise Traveller before 30 Sep.

The cruise line has 11 discounted North America Coastal Connection cruises on offer from Niagara Falls to Chicago between May and Aug 2020, which include drinks, shore excursions, shipboard wi-fi, all onboard meals, gratuities and port taxes.

Highlights include an eight-night cruise sailing aboard *Victory II* from Niagara Falls, tracking through Lake Erie and visiting Cleveland and Detroit, before visiting places like Lake Huron & Mackinac Island.

For more details, call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.



AFICIONADOS of the heavier metals will be itching to get their collective head thump on after music cruise promotor On The Blue recently announced an entire cruise dedicated to heavy metal - headlined by thrash band Megadeth.

Taking place aboard *Norwegian Jewel* between 13-18 Oct and departing from Los Angeles, the line up includes the musical stylings of family favourites such as Anthrax, Overkill, Toothgrinder, Bastard Sons, Doro, Armored Saint, Beasto Blanco and Death Angel.

Prices lead in at US\$1,349 per person twin share.

Don't expect a relaxing sunbake near the pool this time.



AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION
ACA UPDATE
with Jill Abel - CEO

Member milestones

A **BIG** shout out to two exciting events held recently by our ACA members. The WA Cruise Exchange was held in late Jul, and such events are an opportunity for cruise line execs and ground handlers to meet with destination reps, enabling a better understanding of all that is on offer in a state - essential for future itinerary planning.

I was delighted to see nearly 20 of the country's key cruise lines in attendance including Crystal Cruises, Silversea, Carnival, Royal Caribbean, CMV, MSC and Ponant.

During two B2B sessions, they held valuable discussions with numerous RTOs, tourism attractions and tour operators. Following the event, a family was planned to Albany showcasing the fascinating history, indigenous culture and local produce. They even turned on whales for us! Congrats to our hosts Tourism WA - Chris Cole and Renata Lowe - for delivering an outstanding program.

Back on the east coast, it was exciting to see the new \$44m wharf open in Eden a few days back heralding a new era in cruising for the region. The major port extension means no more tendering for passengers and will minimise the cancellations in bad weather. Most importantly it means a huge boost to the local economy in addition to job creation and cements Eden's position as a go-to destination on cruise itineraries.

The Pacific Explorer will be the first ship to pull up to the new wharf in mid-Sep, with 21 more ships due this season. Congrats to the Port Authority of NSW and all who supported this project in the local community.

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