

Cruise Weekly today

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

Seabourn speakers

SEABOURN has revealed the details of expert speakers it will have aboard its 146-day World Cruise departing in Jan 2020 as part of its Seabourn Conversations program.

The line up includes research biologist Brian Ford, astronaut John O Creighton, hotelier Adama Bah, historian Robin Binckes, and former private secretary to Nelson Mandela, Zelda La Grange.

The World Cruise leaves Miami on 04 Jan and concludes in San Francisco on 28 May, taking in 62 ports of call in 36 countries across five continents along the way.

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

Helloworld streamlines for cruise sales

HELLOWORLD Travel revealed that cruise sales are now a "significant driver" of Total Transaction Value (TTV) for its wholesale division in both Australia and New Zealand, according to details contained within the company's latest Investor Presentation report.

In line with this growth trajectory, Helloworld also reported that in Australia it has folded The Cruise Team brand into its Seven Oceans Cruising team, a move that has made the company one of the largest cruise wholesalers in local market.

Helloworld's General Manager Sales, Reporting, & Pricing for Wholesale Steve Brady said the reason for consolidating the brands was to streamline its cruise business division and give agents one point of contact.

"Merging the brands was a logical step when we went



Cunard's Queen Elizabeth in Sydney.

to one system across all our cruise bookings, previously the two brands were operating on different systems and therefore handled by separate teams," Brady said.

"The unification of the systems has provided the opportunity to consolidate not just the brands, but also our operations centre, we now have one team of cruise experts who are knowledgeable across the full range of cruise offerings we have," he added.

Brady also believes the value

and flexibility of Helloworld's new agent cruise portal Neptune (CW 03 Jul) will provide the business with a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

"Neptune is making it possible for us to deliver exclusive cruise content with value added inclusions combined with an air and hotel booking engine - all in one platform," he said.

"Other advantages include live booking on 19 cruise lines, and access to up to 1,000 of our own group departures," Brady added.

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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



CMV adds to sales

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages (CMV) has bolstered its sales team by announcing the appointment of Bronwen Milson (**pictured**) as its new Business Development Manager for Western Australia.

Milson brings with her 30 years of experience across retail and wholesale, including stints at Royal Caribbean, Back-Roads Touring and Thai Airways.

She joins the CMV team in time for the arrival of the cruise line's *Vasco da Gama* vessel in Dec, which features an extensive deployment in Fremantle over the next two seasons.



P&O goes Maroon

AN ARMY of Maroons fans out for revenge will be on board a special P&O Cruises State of Origin sailing in 2020.

Departing Brisbane on 19 Jun, the cruise will arrive in Sydney on the day of Game Two of the series next year, with the trip to include transfers and game tickets.

Queenslanders are staring down the barrel of their third straight defeat if they are unable to beat Brad Fittler's mighty New South Wales Blues side next year.

Fares start from \$619 per person quadshare for the four-night itinerary which departs Brisbane on 19 Jun.

MSC South Africa

MSC Cruises is upping the stakes in South Africa, revealing it will be deploying two ships to the market for the 2020/21 season.

Opera will sail from Cape Town, while *Musica* will be based out of Durban, with the move motivated by a strong upswing in demand over the last 12 months.

"Our most recent season saw a 25% increase in guests compared to the same period in 2017-2018," said MSC Cruises South Africa Managing Director Ross Volk.

Highlights include a NYE cruise leaving Durban 26 Dec.

Oceania unveils 2021



OCEANIA Cruises has launched its new 2021 Europe & North America Collection of voyages, with highlights including 97 new itineraries, 70 overnight stays, and 15 new ports.

Notable itineraries available in the latest program include 13 voyages to Turkey that begin or end in Istanbul, featuring calls on the cities of Antalya, Bodrum, Ephesus, Pergamum and the new port of Bozcaada.

Also on offer are a range of Alaskan cruises featuring trips along a glacier-dotted bay in Kenai Fjords National Park, as well as fishing and culinary expeditions from Ketchikan, and an exploration of glaciers via a helicopter ride from Juneau.

Oceania's new sailings are now on sale and aim to create "the

widest and most immersive range of touring options" the cruise line has offered in the region to date.

Oceania is offering 50% off deposits until 22 Sep on voyages that are not within final payment.

For more information on the itineraries available in the latest program, **CLICK HERE**.

Pictured: Istanbul, Turkey.

Cruise closure pain

THE closure of Cruiseabout last year had an impact on sales for "higher margin products that these two brands specialised in," Flight Centre revealed yesterday.

This week FCTG confirmed the launch of the Travel Associates Cruise Boutique (*CW* 21 Aug).

RSSC launch dates

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has announced the dates for its latest series of Season Launch events, a forum to showcase its 2020/22 itineraries to agents in Australia and NZ.

Sessions kick off in Canberra on 05 Sep and end 15 Oct in Perth.

Agents interested in attending can register **HERE**.



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Arctic earlybirds

PONANT is currently offering up to 30% off the prices for its Arctic voyages for 2021.

Cruises include a 14-night Greenland of Great Explorers sailing departing 03 Jul 2021, as well as a seven-night Best of Spitsbergen cruise that sails roundtrip from the Norwegian town of Longyearbyen.

More info on sailings [HERE](#).

Freedom amps things up



AN INJECTION of US\$116 million into Royal Caribbean's *Freedom of the Seas* will see the ship pack in plenty of new features in time for her Southern Caribbean island hopping season commencing in Mar next year.

Two three-storey water racing slides have been added in addition to enhancements to the pool scape, aqua park and adults-only solarium.

A new signature pool side bar has been added dubbed The Lime & Coconut, which spans three levels and includes areas

for music and entertainment, cocktails and a viewing platform.

New dining venues have also been added catering for Italian, Asian and Mexican cuisines.

The ship will also debut new activity areas for toddlers through to teens including glow-in-the-dark laser tag, workshops and games rooms.

Freedom of the Seas will sail year round seven-night, roundtrip cruises from San Juan commencing 08 Mar, 2020.

Pictured: Rendering of the *Freedom of the Seas* refurb.

Double fun in sun

ROYAL Caribbean International has celebrated 100 days since the launch of its private island CocoCay by doubling the time its guests can spend at the attraction.

Starting 30 Sep, the cruise line will introduce new four-night itineraries that boast two visits to the island instead of the usual one.

"We're building on an incredible adventure that's already winning the hearts of many," said Royal's Int'l CEO & Pres Michael Bayley.

Attractions at the Bahamas island include a large freshwater pool, 13 waterslides & an Oasis Lagoon.



ARGUABLY the most famous cruise ship of them all may not be long for this world.

The first divers to visit the sunken wreck of the *RMS Titanic* in 15 years had the sad duty of reporting that the ship is deteriorating rapidly.

Over the course of five submersible dives, an international team of deep-sea explorers surveyed the sunken ship, which lies 3,800 metres below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, describing what they saw as "shocking".

"That whole deck house on that side is collapsing, taking with it the state rooms, and that deterioration is going to continue advancing," one of the divers lamented.



Take some cruise photos, it will last longer

NATIONAL Geographic photographer Harry Skeggs (**pictured**) will accompany a Quasar Expeditions sailing in Jan 2020, where passengers will have the option of taking up a lesson with the maestro to work on their wildlife photo skills at no extra cost.

Departing 18 Jan 2020, the eight-day cruise aboard *M/V Evolution* explores the Galapagos archipelago including the islands of Fernandina and Isabela.



Prices for the cruise with the optional photography classes on board start from \$9,545 per person, twin share.

For more information on the cruise, [CLICK HERE](#).

The ship that rocked

PRINCESS Cruises has revealed the details of a new themed opera that will be available to guests from Dec.

Debuting on board *Sky Princess* in Dec and rolling out to *Enchanted Princess* in Jun 2020, *Rock Opera* was created exclusively for Princess Cruises and takes people on a musical journey, featuring an eight-piece live orchestra playing iconic rock songs.

"*Sky Princess* and *Enchanted Princess* guests should anticipate an unforgettable evening of music that transcends language and celebrates the diversity of our crew and guests from around the world," said Princess Cruises Vice President of Entertainment Experience Denise Saviss.

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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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