

Cruise Weekly today

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

Star Clippers deal

A RANGE of sailings with Star Clippers to either Borneo or Cambodia are currently available for up to 30% less than the regular price.

Discounts on The Exotic Thailand & Borneo and The Wonders of Wild Borneo are on offer, as well as free cabin upgrades and €400 (A\$650) of onboard spending credit.

Passengers on the idyllic Islands of Thailand can also save up to 20% on cruise fares, as well as take advantage of free cabin upgrades and €200 (A\$325) of onboard spending credit, with solo travellers also able to access a no single supplement rate of \$2,740 per person.

The cruise line recently released its new Summer 2021 preview brochure, debuting a range of new routes and port calls (**CW** 26 Nov).

Port Authority of NSW goes on Holliday

THE Port Authority of New South Wales has appointed acting CEO Philip Holliday to the position permanently.

The role will see Holliday take on the formal title of Chief Executive Officer and Director effective immediately, where he will manage the navigation, security and operational safety for a range of ports including Sydney, Botany, Newcastle, Port Kembla, Eden and Yamba on a full-time basis.

Holliday assumes the position following the departure of Grant Gilfillan in Sep, stepping up from his previous position of Chief Operating Officer and Sydney Harbour Master.

The appointment is the culmination of a recruitment process undertaken by the Board of the Port Authority.

SeaDream cancels Innovation build

SEADEAM Yacht Club has confirmed it no longer intends to proceed with the construction of *SeaDream Innovation*, which was to be the first vessel added to its fleet since 2001.

Announced with a fanfare about six months ago (**CW** 22 Mar), *Innovation* had been set to debut in Sep 2021, with plans to cruise to all seven continents during its first year of operation.

However, in a statement issued jointly overnight by SeaDream and Damen, the shipyard where the vessel was to have been constructed, the parties acted "in good faith and with mutual understanding decided not to proceed with the building of a new ship for SeaDream".

SeaDream's owner and Chairman Atle Brynestad said the cruise company was now actively pursuing other newbuild opportunities, with hopes of announcing a new ship in 2020.

"The response from our past guests and the market in general has been overwhelming, despite the ship not being scheduled for delivery for almost two years.



"Since the ship will not be delivered, all booked guests will be contacted and issued full refunds in the coming days," Brynestad said.

He said the existing fleet of two ships, *SeaDream I* and *II*, continued to perform well, with the company posting record revenue numbers.

Current plans for refurbishing the suites on both vessels would proceed as previously announced, starting with *SeaDream II* in the first half of 2020, Brynestad added.

Project details on the Damen Cruise website indicate that *Innovation* was to have featured 110 passenger staterooms across 10 decks, with Polar Code 6 credentials, an extensive waste heat recovery system, large battery packs, extensive emissions mitigation systems and a multi-voltage shore power connection.

Construction of *Innovation* had been set to begin in Oct this year.

SeaDream Innovation sailings are still being offered for sale on the SeaDream website.



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Tuesday 3rd December 2019

The Ponant Way push

INDEPENDENT cruise

wholesaler Creative Cruising has partnered with Ponant to launch a new small-ship promotion called The Ponant Way.

The sales push is offering savings of up to 30% on 2021 Ponant departures exploring the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Iceland and the Atlantic, with the deal also offering a 2% extra bonus commission and €150 in onboard credit per stateroom.

The promotion ends 19 Dec and is valid for all bookings deposited before 19 Dec - call 1300 362 599 for more details.

Lindblad fam offer

LINDBLAD Expeditions has launched a new Alaska family promotion that offers up to 50% off kids fares (aged under 22) on select cruises departing May & Aug next year. Call 1300 361 012 for more.

Crystal Getaways

CRYSTAL Cruises will expand its collection of Crystal Getaways in 2019 and 2020 with 10 new voyages.

The additions, all shorter versions of longer itineraries, range from four to 10 nights and are all-inclusive.

Some of the highlighted voyages include the six-night Beyond the Acropolis & Aqaba; the eight-night Empires of Past and Present; the eight-night Haute Caribbean Holiday; the four-night Icons of the Mediterranean and the eight-night Timeless Treasures & Ancient Culture.

Fares for the newly added trips commence from \$2,935 per person, twin share.

Crystal recently opened *Crystal Endeavour's* 2022 and Jan 2023 sailings, with voyages of nine to 19 days in length now available to book.

P&O reveals 2021 program



P&O Cruises has revealed new details of its 2021 program that is set to offer Aussie cruisers more opportunities to sail with the cruise line over the 2021 season.

The 3,000-passenger *Pacific Encounter* will homeport out of Brisbane from Nov 2021, offering Queenslanders a range of itineraries including a seven-night Pacific Island Hopper Tour, seven-night Barrier Reef Discovery cruises, a three-night comedy short-break cruise and two four-night cruises to the Whitsunday Islands stopping at Airlie Beach.

The cruise line will also be sending its 2,500-passenger *Pacific Explorer* to Cairns for a

summer season of four cruises, including a 10-day round trip itinerary to the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

A further exciting development for the operator will see the return of *Pacific Adventure* in 2021, which will ramp its appeal to families with its P&O Edge Adventure Park offering a flying fox and rock climbing facilities.

The park will also offer a dual-racing waterslide called The Twin Racer, as well as two-bedroom Family Suites that sleep up to eight guests.

For more info on the 2021 program, call P&O on 13 24 94.

Pictured: *Pacific Adventure*.


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Jamaica's Dec dip



Pictured: Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

JAMAICA is forecasting more than 66 cruise ship visits for the month of Dec, a drop on the 75 port calls registered during the same period last year.

Despite the dip in visitation, the country's Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett told local media outlets that he expected the number of cruise ship visits to rise "as the season gathered momentum".

"The numbers that are coming out of Ocho Rios are very encouraging and we are

expecting to see more of that as we get into the heart of the cruise shipping season from Dec to Apr," he said.

"Jamaica has the most diverse tourism product in the entire region...I really expect a cruise shipping explosion over the next few years where all our ports of call will be well represented," he added.

Of the scheduled Dec cruises, 25 will visit Ocho Rios, 19 in Montego Bay, 18 in Falmouth, & four will dock in Port Antonio.

Virtuosa takes to the water



MSC Cruises is celebrating yet another major milestone at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France, with the float-out of the *MSC Virtuosa* taking place overnight.

The momentous occasion followed the 31 Oct delivery of *MSC Grandiosa*, which coincided with the steel cutting ceremony of *MSC Europa* (**CW** 05 Nov) which will be the first of five LNG-powered vessels for the line.

MSC Virtuosa (**pictured**) will be MSC's second Meraviglia-Plus class ship, and will now move to a wet dock for further construction and fitout in the lead-up to her delivery in Oct 2020.

The ship will feature a range

of cutting-edge technologies including a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system and next-generation advanced wastewater treatment systems to minimise her environmental footprint.

The SCR platform helps reduce nitrogen oxide by 80%, while other sustainability initiatives include a shore-to-ship power system which has been standard across all of MSC's new ships since 2017.

Virtuosa will debut with a seven-night Western Mediterranean itinerary in Nov 2020 from Genoa, Italy, with entertainment including two original Cirque du Soleil productions.

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Sigyn charges laid

THE 64-year-old captain of the *Viking Sigyn* has been formally charged in relation to a collision between the river cruise ship and a sightseeing vessel in Budapest earlier this year (*CW* 31 May).

The incident saw the other ship sink, killing 28 people, most of them tourists from South Korea.

Prosecutors in Hungary have charged the captain with "negligent endangerment of water traffic leading to a fatal mass catastrophe" as well as 35 counts of failing to give assistance.



THE ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine have bubbled into the maritime arena, over allegations of tampering with Ukrainian navy vessels seized in the Black Sea.

Diplomatic negotiations led to the ships being returned by Russians - but apparently they are now missing some important pieces of equipment including the toilet bowls.

The boats were seized last Nov and returned last week, following a prisoner swap in Sep involving 24 Ukrainian sailors.

Russia's Federal Security Service has denied the allegations of toilet tampering, insisting the ships were returned in "normal condition and with good plumbing".

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Check out everything Norwegian Encore has to offer in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.



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Industry remembers Jo



JO GOSTIN, known by many in the industry as "The Queen of Cruising", is being mourned today after passing away following a 53-year career in travel.

Gostin was a pioneer of luxury cruising, having escorted her first group on a Crystal Cruises voyage as far back as 2001 - the same year her agency "Jo Travel" merged with FBI Travel.

That initial trip became an annual institution which sold-out year after year.

In 2012, Gostin was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia for her long-standing service to the Jewish community, including as President of the Women's International Zionist Organisation.

"Jo was a special person who

was respected by all who met her...her charm and demeanour as well as her positive attitude and sense of humour will always be remembered," said FBI Travel's Danny Englman.

Princess apology

PRINCESS Cruises has issued an "unreserved apology" for any offence caused when its staff recently dressed up in inaccurate Maori costumes to perform a powhiri welcome.

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