

Cruise Weekly today

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

Largest luxury suite

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has revealed details of its "most luxurious residence at sea", debuting on board *Seven Seas Splendor* when she sets sail in Feb 2020.

At 412m², the Regent Suite is "nearly twice as large as the average Australian home" and is 20 times the size of an average stateroom.

A stay in the suite is all-inclusive and priced from US\$11,000 (A\$15,289) per night based on double occupancy and is already sold-out for nearly all of *Seven Seas Splendor's* 2020 inaugural season sailings.

Aurora's second ship now under way

AURORA Expeditions this week formally confirmed that its second newbuild vessel (*CW* 25 Oct 2018) is now under construction, and is expected to join the fleet for the 2021/22 Antarctic cruise season.

MD Robert Halfpenny said there had been huge demand for the first ship, the *Greg Mortimer*, now tracking ahead of schedule, hinting at the possibility that it may even be able to visit local waters prior to its first Antarctic deployment.

Aurora's 2019/20 *Greg Mortimer* season is already 95% sold, with the first voyage departing Ushuaia on 31 Oct 2019 to be led by the company's eponymous co-founders, exploration pioneers Greg and Margaret Mortimer.

The 2020 Arctic season is also selling well, with two additional voyages circumnavigating Iceland



and visiting Western Greenland added to the program to cater for demand, Halfpenny said.

The purpose-built ships have been part of a major expansion program for Aurora which now has an office in North America, with a London operation set to launch in May this year.

Halfpenny highlighted key features of the Aurora product, including the intimate size of

the 80-cabin ships, balconies, interconnecting rooms, the company's Australian ownership, over 25 years of expedition expertise and unique itineraries.

Pictured at an event in Sydney this week are: Aurora Marketing Manager Martha Behan; Global Director of Marketing Victoria Primrose; MD Robert Halfpenny; and co-founders Margaret and Greg Mortimer.



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Winners score dinners



THE lucky winners of P&O Cruises' 2018 Flagship Achievers program were recently treated to a special dinner at Bentley Restaurant in Sydney.

The cruise line's incentive program rewarded the top 20 agents of the year by taking them on a special group outing

to thank them for their support.

In addition to the dinner, the gun agents were also taken out on *Pacific Explorer* for an Australia Day sailing to enjoy the festivities on Sydney Harbour.

Pictured: The Flagship Achievers group enjoying life on board *Pacific Explorer*.

Silversea's world-first



SILVERSEA Cruises has announced the addition of two new World Cruises, including the world's first Expedition World Cruise which is scheduled to set sail in 2021.

The 2021 Expedition World Cruise will take guests on a 167-day voyage on board *Silver Cloud*, **pictured**, calling in at a mammoth 107 destinations in 30 countries along the way.

Departing on 30 Jan 2021, the ship will sail from Ushuaia in Argentina before visiting destinations such as the Chilean Fjords, Antarctica, Tahiti, Easter Island and Fiji, and exploring a range of remote destinations in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

The ship will then depart for Australia, where guests can

explore Cairns and the Kimberley Coast, before heading to various locations in Indonesia, Singapore, Sumatra, Sri Lanka and India.

Silversea's second world cruise, known as the "Finest World Tour", will set sail on board *Silver Whisper* from Ft Lauderdale in Florida on 07 Jan 2021, taking guests on a 150-day journey visiting 54 ports and 34 countries, including Central America and the South Pacific.

Sales open in Mar - for more information **CLICK HERE**.

HAL Europe comp

HOLLAND America Line is giving agents the chance to win a European cruise when they book a 2019 Europe departure - see more **HERE**.

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Antarctic athlete aboard



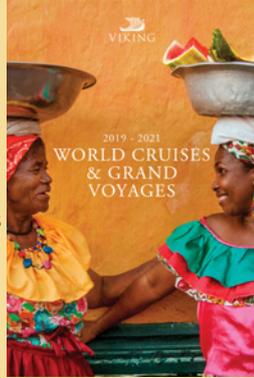
Viking releases new world cruise brochure

VIKING Cruises has released a new brochure showcasing its range of World Cruises and Grand Voyages varying from 37 to 245 days in length between 2019-21.

The latest World Cruises & Grand Voyages circular features fusions of two or more of the cruise line's most popular trips.

"Viking's World Cruises and Grand Voyages are once-in-a-lifetime adventures and they are incredibly good value," said Viking Cruises' Operations & Product Manager Lubica Sibikova.

Call 138 747 for more information.



Get more from Tauck

TAUCK is currently running an incentive that offers agents a free river cruise when six passengers are booked by 31 Mar, or a complimentary land journey when 20 pax or more are booked.

The cruise line is also gearing up to run three free information sessions for agents and clients in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

For more info see **page six**.

Sweetie in Tahiti

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has brought back its "Take Your Sweetie To Tahiti" Valentine's gift package for 2019.

The romantic deal includes \$200 per-stateroom credit at the ship's Deep Nature Spa by Algotharm, chocolates & a bottle of sparkling wine.

The deal expires 16 Feb.

LUXURY cruise line Seabourn has announced the addition of respected Antarctic explorer Colin O'Brady to its Conversations program.

The American professional endurance athlete (**pictured**) will join the passengers and crew on board Seabourn's 21-day Ultimate Antarctica & Patagonia itinerary departing 28 Nov from Santiago, Chile.

O'Brady made headlines on Boxing Day last year when he became the first person to cross

Antarctica solo and unaided.

The feat was accomplished in 54 days, covering more than 1,488 km, including a 32-hour window without sleep.

"His stories and firsthand descriptions will be a remarkably colourful addition to an already exciting experience for guests who will be on board this sailing," said Seabourn Vice President of Expedition Operations Robin West.

View the full list of Seabourn's expert speakers **HERE**.

POST CARD FROM PORT LOCKROY

From on board Le Soleal embarking on voyage *Emblematic Antarctica*

Wild Earth's, Sarah Porter (BDM), and Tomasa Demarchi (Res consultant) are on board a Ponant Luxury expedition cruise to Antarctica for 11 Days- read on to find out more!



After a calm crossing over the Drake Passage, we are on expedition!

We have ticked off many sites including the South Shetland Isl and sailing past ice floes in the Weddell Sea- and have had many wildlife sightings including Gentoo, Chinstrap and Emperor penguins plus, Orca and Fin whales...!

Not to mention, we have toasted French champagne on a ice shelf and have completely indulged in Le Soleal's 5 star menu...

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The Spit to double?

A **BRIEFING** document has been distributed among councillors on the Gold Coast to investigate whether the proposed cruise ship terminal at The Spit could be doubled.

A *Gold Coast Bulletin* report suggested a draft proposal was presented to the Gold Coast Council last week, tabling the idea of expanding its size.

A finalised draft master plan will be released in Apr.

Cruise with Flannery

HERITAGE Expeditions has teamed up with author and scientist Professor Tim Flannery on its inaugural cruise through the tropical islands of Indonesia.

Taking place 30 Sep, the 14-day journey will feature a visit to Kofiau Island where the famous scientist will provide expert commentary on each destination.

Scenic e-training

SCENIC has launched a new global e-learning platform called Agent Academy which provides product training courses for travel agents across its group of brands.

The platform offers four courses, with new courses released periodically throughout the year to align with product launches across the Scenic Group brand.

Emma Davie, Director Trade Sales & Commercial Partnerships Scenic, said the e-learning portal "is a valuable new industry tool, offering quick, easy to complete courses on a continuing basis to assist agents better understand and sell our product portfolio".

"The portal will provide unlimited 24-hour access on any digital device," she added.

Access the platform **HERE**.

La Mer serves up French delights



PRINCESS Cruises' La Mer restaurant is a highlight of the dining options on board flagship *Majestic Princess*.

The French bistro is one of the vessel's specialty restaurants and was created in consultation with Chef Emmanuel Renaut, whose Flocons de Sel restaurant has received three Michelin stars.

La Mer is located on the top floor of the lively three-storey atrium and is positioned to provide amazing ocean views.

The restaurant is designed around a traditional Parisian bistro, serving French baguette sandwiches and tartines, as well as classic dishes including escargots, tourtes and French patisserie items.

La Mer is also tipped as the best place on board to pick up a



coffee, with baristas on hand to serve up fresh coffee from breakfast.

The dining area of La Mer is **top** and a selection of dinner menu items are **inset**.

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Take a peek at the fresh look onboard *Norwegian Jewel*. Read more in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



Princess resort fire

PRINCESS Cruises' private Bahamian resort, Princess Cays was badly damaged by fire last week, according to a report by local media.

The blaze encompassed several buildings on the south side of the island and was fought by local firefighters and island staff for approx one hour before it was put out.

At the time of the incident there were no cruise passengers at the resort, with Princess Cruises stating that no injuries had been reported.

Pitcairn welcomes Aranui



ARANUI Cruises has made its inaugural visit to the Pacific island of Pitcairn, 229 years after the *Bounty* laid anchor in the area.

The historic visit to one of the most remote destinations in the world formed part of the cruise line's new 13-day itinerary across Tahiti's southern archipelagoes, which also included calls to the clear lagoons of Amanu and

Mangareva in the Gambiers.

"To be here on the exact day that the *Bounty* arrived 229 years ago is a very special moment for all of us as we forge a new seafaring link between Polynesia and Pitcairn," said Laurent Wong, Aranui's Regional Representative for Australia and New Zealand.

Pictured: Guests docked at Pitcairn to mark the sailing.

Murray 2020 promo

DISCOUNTS of up to 20% are currently available with Murray River Paddlesteamers to mark the company's 2020 season.

Next year will see the refurbished *PS Emmylou* offer a total of 71 cruises including 17 four-night, 21 three-night, 14 two-night, and 15 one-night sailings.

For further info on the deals, email info@mrps.com.au.



WHEN spending time on a cruise, generally speaking it's the passengers who are putting their hands in their pockets to fund their dream holiday.

However, one lucky player from Holland Casinos recently walked away with US\$100,000 after winning the grand prize in Carnival Corporation and Princess Cruises' MONOPOLY Cruise for Cash promotion.

The cashed-up winner was one of 400 players in the promotion's grand finale slot tournament, which took place on board *Regal Princess* in Dec.

The comp, held in conjunction with the Scientific Games Corporation, was such a success that the cruise brands are already planning a 2019 event - and we're sure it will be ace.



SENIOR CRUISE CONSULTANT

Due to further expansion MSC Cruises Australia is looking for a Senior Cruise Consultant, located at King St Wharf, Sydney.

The successful candidate must have a minimum four years experience in the retail or wholesale travel sector, exceptional cruise and sales knowledge, strong airfare and ticketing skills with GDS and system knowledge, excellent attention to detail and a good work ethic.

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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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