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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Regent Seven Seas Cruises**.

RSSC Down Under

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises will deploy its flagship *Seven Seas Explorer* in Australasian waters in 2020/21.

Itineraries include a 76-night repositioning from Barcelona to Auckland - see the **cover page**.

Not quite yet mate

VIRGIN Voyages has confirmed that at this stage it is only accepting registrations from travel agents in the UK, USA and Canada for its "First Mates" trade portal (**CW** 02 Jan), with Aussie agents being advised to "stay tuned".

Hurtigruten ramps up expeditions

THE highly anticipated debut of Hurtigruten's new *Roald Amundsen* electric hybrid vessel this year (**CW** 20 Feb 2018) has seen the line create a new A\$ Expedition preview brochure for 2020 and 2021.

After experiencing some initial delivery delays, the groundbreaking new vessel will join the Hurtigruten fleet in May 2019, and is being described as the "world's most low impact sustainable expedition ship delivering a genuine expedition program at a premium lux level".

The purpose-built polar expedition vessel combines spacious cabins, three restaurants and comfortable public areas with a dual viewing deck, science centre and state-of-the-art technology to minimise its environmental footprint.

It is a Polar Class 6 (1A+) ice-strengthened expedition ship.



While some of the early sailings are already sold out, there is still some availability for the inaugural Arctic and Antarctic seasons, and offers are now available through wholesalers including Bentours, Chimu and 50 Degrees North, according to Hurtigruten MD Asia-Pacific, Damian Perry.

Savings of up to \$900 per person are on offer for bookings confirmed by 28 Feb 2019 across a range of expedition voyages

including aboard Hurtigruten's *Midnatsol*, *Fram* and the new *Roald Amundsen* for the 2019/20 Antarctic season.

Amundsen is in her final stages of fitout, with the new Hurtigruten expedition preview highlighting itineraries in both polar regions as well as Alaska & Canada, North & Central America and Europe.

The preview brochure can be viewed by **CLICKING HERE**.

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	07 Jan
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	08 Jan
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	08 Jan
<i>Sun Princess</i>	09 Jan
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	09 Jan
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	12 Jan
<i>Viking Orion</i>	12 Jan
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	13 Jan

MELBOURNE

<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	07 Jan
<i>Silver Muse</i>	09 Jan
<i>Golden Princess</i>	10 Jan
<i>Viking Orion</i>	10 Jan
<i>Regatta</i>	11 Jan

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	08 Jan
<i>Sea Princess</i>	10 Jan
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	11 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	12 Jan

CAIRNS

<i>Black Watch</i>	09 Jan
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DARWIN

<i>Black Watch</i>	13 Jan
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FREMANTLE

<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	07 Jan
<i>Astor</i>	11 Jan

ADELAIDE

<i>Golden Princess</i>	07 Jan
<i>Regatta</i>	08 Jan
<i>Noordam</i>	09 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	12 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	13 Jan

HOBART

<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	07 Jan
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	08 Jan
<i>Viking Orion</i>	08 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	09 Jan

AUCKLAND

<i>Majestic Princess</i>	08 Jan
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	10 Jan
<i>Sun Princess</i>	13 Jan

Quest celebrates NYE



AZAMARA Club Cruises recently welcomed some very excited folk on board *Azamara Quest* to enjoy New Year's Eve celebrations and fireworks while docked at White Bay, Sydney.

Around 500 guests were on deck to experience the festivities, with the ship's pool deck converted into an outdoor dining venue equipped with a dance floor and live band.

Azamara Club Cruises handed

out special New Year's Eve hats and tiaras for guests, perfect garments for the festive throng who were able to watch Sydney fireworks live streamed on a jumbo screen.

Capping the night at the stroke of 12am, the "8" in the 2018 ice sculpture was pushed into the pool and replaced with a newly iced "9" to mark the new year.

Pictured above is the NYE 2019 ice sculpture for the NYE party.

Celebrity savings

CELEBRITY Cruises is offering guests up to \$400 in savings as part of its annual Wave sale.

Bookings made before 06 Mar on select sailings will also receive free drinks, up to US\$600 of onboard credit, and free high-speed wi-fi.

Fares start from \$2,799ppts for an Oceanview Stateroom on an 11-Night Western Mediterranean roundtrip.

The offer is only applicable to cruises of four nights or longer which depart between 12 Feb 2019 and 30 Apr 2021.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Drinks price spike

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced the price of its non-alcoholic Bottomless Bubbles package has increased by US\$1 to US\$5.95 daily for kids and US\$8.50 for adults.

The fleet-wide changes came into effect 01 Jan, with guests who purchased tickets before 01 Jan to have the original flat fee price honoured.

The cruise line will also launch an a la carte stateroom service menu from mid-Jan.

The new service will include food options ranging from US\$2 to US\$5 per item.

CLIA appointment

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has appointed Jon Murrie to the role of Communications Director.

Murrie will be charged with managing CLIA's communications & PR strategy across Australasia and will report to CLIA MD Joel Katz.

He has 25 years' experience in the travel industry, most recently as the Managing Editor at Business Publishing Group, publisher of *Travel Daily* and *Cruise Weekly*.

"We're looking forward to working with Jon as we intensify our focus on building cruising's reputation, influence and support," Katz said.



A TRANSPORT Minister from the United Kingdom has awarded a £13.8 million contract to a company to charter extra ferries in Dover to ease congestion, but there's just one small problem with the plan - they have no ships.

British politician Chris Grayling said he didn't see what the big deal was, stating: "It's a new start-up business, government is supporting new British business and there is nothing wrong with that."

Let's hope the company can secure some ships pronto, otherwise it will make for some very long canoe rides.