

Cruise Weekly today

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

Win a trip for two

TO CELEBRATE the launch of its 2020/21 program, Aurora Expeditions has launched a new trade incentive that will see one lucky agent win a trip for two to Antarctica.

To be in the draw, agents must book a 2019, 2020 or 2021 departure before 31 Mar.

Once the deposit has been received, the agent will be automatically entered into the draw for the chance to win.

The winner will head off on Aurora Expeditions' 11-day Spirit of Antarctica expedition, departing 09 Nov on board the *Greg Mortimer*.

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

CLIA announces 2018 award finalists

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has announced the finalists for the 18th annual Cruise Industry Awards, set to take place at Sydney's The Star Event Centre on 23 Feb (**CW** breaking news).

The sold-out evening will see 71 finalists competing from across Australia and New Zealand, with a revamped judging process seeing the top 18 awards handed out at the award ceremony and gala dinner (**CW** 14 Jan).

CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz said the standard of submissions for this year's awards had been "especially high".

"The one thing that has become clear from submissions this year is that travel agents are more engaged and dedicated than ever before," Katz said.

"There's a genuine passion for the industry that shows in the



work they are doing, and that's a big part of the success the cruise sector is experiencing."

This year, more than 500 submissions were received for the awards evening, with 12 categories open for nomination.

New for 2019 is the Cruise Champion Award, which is based on peer or self nomination, as well as a raft of other categories

that aim to celebrate the hard work of the local cruise industry.

Finalists in the Agency Promotion of the Year category for Aus include Cruise Express for its "Rail and Sail" campaign, My Cruises for its "Low Deposit August Earlybird Campaign" and Travel Associates for its "Ocean Cruise Storybook" promotion.

View the finalists [HERE](#).

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Travelmarvel's trio

TRAVELMARVEL has announced an order for three new European river ships (*CW breaking news* 25 Jan).

The first of the trio of new Contemporary Class vessels will set sail on her maiden voyage in Apr 2020, followed by two sister ships in Apr 2021.

"Every aspect of the new ships are designed with the Travelmarvel guest in mind," said Travelmarvel Chief Executive Officer David Cox.

"We have included more social spaces, modern fittings and state-of-the-art designs," he added.

The ships will feature 91 cabins, wider decks, multiple restaurants, rooftop bar, and a heated whirlpool.

The first vessel will sail from Amsterdam to Budapest and vice versa on the cruise line's European Gems itinerary.

Carnival unveil *Mardi Gras* designs

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has revealed the first details for its upcoming *Mardi Gras* ship which is scheduled to debut in 2020 (*TD* 07 Dec 2018).

Accommodation options on board the vessel will include 20 separate stateroom categories, the most expansive open decks in its entire fleet, and an atrium that will serve as the centrepiece of the ship.

Mardi Gras will also feature six areas themed around the following: Grand Central, French Quarter, La Piazza, Summer Landing, Lido and The Ultimate Playground.

Many signature favourites found on other Carnival ships will also be installed on *Mardi Gras* such as the Alchemy Bar, Fahrenheit 555 Steakhouse, and the Serenity adult-only retreat - tickets go on sale today.

Princess takes NZ offshore



PRINCESS Cruises treated *Cruise Weekly* to a sample of the expanded Across the Ditch offering over the weekend, a program which provides guests the chance to be immersed in Maori culture and tradition.

Sailing from Sydney to Auckland (*CW* Fri), a highlight was a Haka lesson from the Maori ambassadors on board.

The experience saw hundreds of passengers line the three levels of the atrium to take in the striking spectacle and learn about the history behind the ceremonial dance (**above**).

For the crafty passengers, the program also offered a traditional poi-making class led



by the Maori ambassadors.

Each participant was shown how to make their own poi and was then invited to take part in a Poi dance class using their tools later that day (**inset**).

The program was enhanced this season and is available on Princess' cruises to New Zealand (*CW* 28 Aug 2018).



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RCL celebrates incentive



ROYAL Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises recently combined to host its first Summer of Rewards party at The Island venue in Sydney Harbour.

More than 100 NSW agents and industry partners were in attendance to celebrate the Summer of Consultant Rewards program, RCL Cruises' biggest incentive to date and running

until 31 Mar 2019.

Points are earned on every booking taken for all three brands and agents also go into the draw to win one of three cruise prizes over the season.

Sign up to the incentive [HERE](#).

Pictured: Madeleine Dann, Louise Dann, Brett Dann and Lisa Tjandi, Hunter Travel; Amy Fonti, Strategic Account Manager, RCL Cruises AUNZ.

Three jets for three P&O ships



THREE jets from RAAF Base Williamtown flew by P&O Cruises' *Pacific Eden* (pictured) on Australia Day as it sailed around Sydney Harbour.

The striking photo was taken by *Pacific Explorer's* Photo Manager Abhi Nair while enjoying the festivities on board the ship.

"It was really a great experience to see these man-made wonders of technology fly past us during the Australia Day celebrations," Nair said.

This year Australia Day saw the Sydney-based *Pacific Explorer* and *Pacific Eden* moored in the harbour, as well as the Brisbane-

based *Pacific Aria* berthed at White Bay Cruise Terminal.

"Our ships have participated in Sydney Harbour's Australia Day celebrations for the past seven years and Abhi's iconic shot of the RAAF flypast shows just how spectacular the day can be for our guests," said P&O Cruises President Sture Myrmell.

"(The day) provides a great opportunity for anyone who wants to see the harbour come alive on Australia's national day of celebration," he added.

Australia Day cruises for 2020 are on sale now - call 1300 159 454 for more information.



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Hurtigruten makes tall order



U redeploys *The B* to central Europe

U BY Uniworld's river cruise brand U has announced it will be relocating its 120-passenger *The B* vessel from the Seine river in 2020 to instead service itineraries in central Europe.

"The demand is overwhelmingly pointing towards central Europe, where guests can experience a new city, and sometimes a different country, each day, which simply isn't feasible on the Seine," said U Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge.

"Being the first means that we're not only inventing an entirely new sector of the industry, but we're quite literally in uncharted waters," she added.

In 2020, *The B* will sail from Brussels to Amsterdam and Amsterdam to Frankfurt, while *The A* will sail from Nuremberg to Vienna and Vienna to Belgrade.

Details for the new 2020 itineraries will be revealed soon.

Evergreen Tassie deal

EVERGREEN Cruises and Tours has marked the introduction of its new 2019/2020 Tasmania brochure by offering a special Australia Day deal.

Savings of up to \$1,500 per couple are available on either the 10-day Tasmanian Spectacular or 12-day Tasmanian Explorer tours. Offer expires 08 Feb.

Windstar Monaco

WINDSTAR Cruises is today promoting its Fly, Cruise and Stay deal for the Monaco Grand Prix.

Guests can save up to \$6,306 per person with the package, with pricing starting from \$8,609 per person.

More on the **back page**.

EXPEDITION cruise line Hurtigruten has announced the "tallest and most spectacular LED screen at sea" will be available on board its upcoming hybrid powered *MS Roald Amundsen*.

The giant screen will be used to broadcast live lectures and showcase the passing scenery.

"With stunning image quality, the technology offers endless possibilities," said Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam.

"We can use it to stream live lectures and presentations, to set the theme for the

voyage, or just create a special atmosphere...most importantly it will be utilised to broadcast the spectacular nature to our guests on board in a format never seen before," he added.

The 17.5-metre tall screen will be located in *MS Roald Amundsen's* atrium and provide a resolution beyond 4K Ultra-HD.

Hurtigruten currently has two next-generation expedition ships under construction at Norway's Kleven yard due to launch in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Pictured: The giant LED screen.



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Sky's the limit with Princess



PRINCESS Cruises is gearing up for the debut of its much anticipated Sky Suites, which will be available on board the brand's newest ship, *Sky Princess* in Oct (**CW** 31 Jul 2018).

Two new Sky Suites accommodation are available to book on board, along with the cruise line's next ship *Enchanted Princess*, with the new rooms centrally located on the top decks of each vessel.

Each features two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a dining area with a skylight.

Sky Suite guests will also have the chance to enjoy a pre-cruise, shoreside concierge, as well as access to a private experience manager once on board.

Sky Princess will make her maiden voyage in the Mediterranean in Oct, for more info on the suites **CLICK HERE**.

Captain Cook V-Day

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has released its Valentine's Day Dinner cruise onboard *MV Sydney 2000*.

The cruise features three dining decks each with their own bar and dance floor and an open top deck offering views of Sydney Harbour.

The Captain Cook Cruises Gold Penfolds Dinner cruise includes a six-course degustation menu, an open bar of Gold Penfolds bin and vintage wines, beer and spirits, priority boarding and lounge entertainment.

The dinner is priced at \$259 per person.

A Valentines Long Lunch cruise is also available.

To find out more **CLICK HERE**.

New for Viking

VIKING Cruises has announced the addition of two new itineraries plus a range of new pre- and post-cruise extensions to its river cruise offerings in 2019.

From Mar, guests will have the chance to sail the 10-day Holland & Belgium itinerary, journeying between Amsterdam and Antwerp and allowing passengers to explore the inland waterways of Rotterdam, Maastricht and Nijmegen for the first time.

Also new is the 11-day Paris & D-Day 75th Anniversary cruise, which departs from Paris and sails through Normandy visiting D-Day sites.

For more information on the new voyages, **CLICK HERE**.

Royal Caribbean Cruises' diversity win

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises (RCL) has been named as one of "America's Best Employers for Diversity 2019" by Forbes.

The annual ranking, created by Forbes and research firm Statista, examined C-suite and board diversity as well as employer diversity policies across 50,000 US employees in companies that have at least 1,000 staff members.

The survey questions focused on diversity with respect to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age and ability.

Other components of the ranking included gender diversity among top executives and the board of directors, and the company's communication about diversity.



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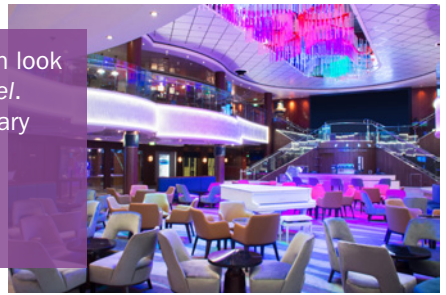
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Take a peek at the fresh look onboard *Norwegian Jewel*. Read more in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



Disney expands 2020 river cruises

ADVENTURES by Disney has expanded its European river cruise offerings, with the new collection including a new eight-day journey through southern France along the Rhone River on board the *AmaCello*.

Bookings for the 2020 river cruise season go on sale from 31 Jan, with six Rhone River cruises available to book.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Carnival refutes "dangerous air" claims

CARNIVAL Corp has fought back against claims that cruise ships contain dangerous levels of air quality after a new report published by John Hopkins University hit the media.

The damning report claims the air quality on board cruise ships "is as bad as the most smog-choked cities around the world".

"Concentrations of particulate matter on the decks of these ships are comparable to concentrations measured in polluted cities, including Beijing and Santiago," the report stated.

Carnival has rejected the claims, suggesting the findings, which were collected by a member of the Bloomberg School of Health at the University over a period of two years, were "misleading".

"We have installed advanced air quality systems on nearly 80% of our global fleet in close coordination with the EPA, so these systems are environmentally friendly," said Carnival spokesperson Roger Frizzell.

"We test the air quality of our ships and they meet or exceed every requirement," he added.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Get ready to celebrate!

This year's Cruise Industry Awards night is gearing up to be one of the biggest ever held, with a record number of submissions proving that support for cruising has never been stronger.

More than 500 submissions have been considered for the 18th annual CLIAs and the task of narrowing them down to the 71 finalists announced today has been very difficult.

We've been delighted with the quality and professionalism of entries, many of which reveal an especially high level of engagement with the industry. It's clear from many of the submissions that today's most successful travel agents are not just dedicated and hard-working individuals, they're also passionate advocates for our industry and are actively championing its success.

Our judging panels will select the 18 winners, who will be revealed at the sold-out awards night at the Star Sydney on 23 Feb.

It's a difficult process given the standard of submissions we've received, but the result will be a fitting recognition for those who have helped make cruising the success that it is.

Best of all, we'll have a chance to celebrate in style with our friends and colleagues across the industry. It's going to be a big night - we wish everyone the best of luck.

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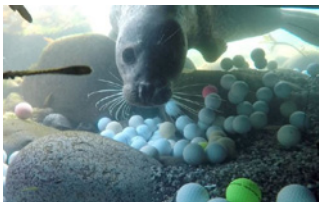


IN AN era where cruise lines are becoming more aware of the importance of keeping our oceans clean, it appears the message still needs to be driven home for some businesses.

A diver in California recently stumbled on a plethora of plastic waste off the state's coast in the form of thousands of golf balls.

Free diving close by to several golf courses, Alex Weber said "You couldn't see the sand...It was completely white".

As the golf balls degrade, they can emit toxic chemicals - that kind of willingness to pollute should be out of bounds.



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Viking is set to become the world's largest small-ship cruise company this year, so now is the perfect time to join our fun, supportive and rapidly expanding team! To apply, please send a cover letter and your resume to jobsau@vikingcruises.com

Applications close 15 February 2019. Only successful candidates will be contacted. No agencies.

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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.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Contributors – Adam Bishop,
Sarah Fairburn, Jasmine O'Donoghue,
Anastasia Prikhodko
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi and
Melanie Tchakmadjian
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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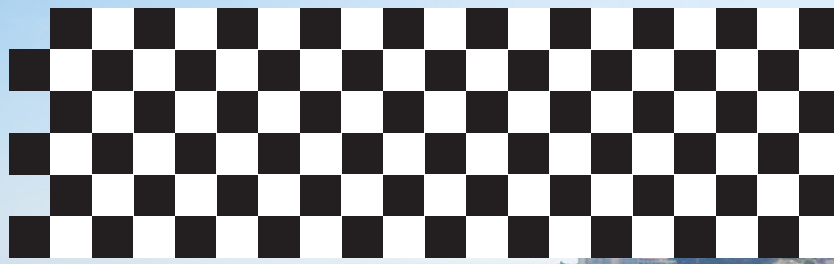


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