

Cruise Weekly today

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

Scenic recognised

THE Scenic Group has received the prestigious National Order of Merit Medal during a special Bastille Day industry celebration in Sydney.

The honour was presented to Scenic's Group GM of Marketing, Australia/APAC Anthony Laver (pictured right) by Regional Manager Atout France Patrick Benhamou (pictured left).



Scenic Eclipse switches out Cuba trips

SCENIC has announced two new itineraries for its upcoming *Scenic Eclipse*, revamping its program in response to the Trump Administration's ban on cruises to Cuba (CW 07 Jun).

The change sees new departures including a 13-day "Taste of Caribbean" cruise from Nassau on 08 Oct this year, and an 11-day "Colombia & Panama" exploration which leaves Miami on 20 Oct 2019, with disembarkation in Cartagena, Colombia.

Previously Scenic had scheduled "Cuba in Depth" and "Taste of Cuba and the Caribbean" itineraries over the same dates, which are now no longer available - although the *Scenic Eclipse* cruise calendar on the company's Australian website continues to list the Cuba-centric voyages.

Scenic said the new Caribbean cruise offered rarely visited ports such as Great Inagua Island,



Guanaja Island in Honduras, and Half Moon Caye which is "home to the red footed booby".

The Colombia & Panama sailing takes in Belize City, Roatan Island, Costa Rica's Puerto Limon (home to a Jaguar Rescue Centre and Sloth Sanctuary), San Blas Islands and Isla de Providencia, the former base of pirate Henry Morgan.

The repeatedly delayed new

ship is currently undergoing sea trials in the Adriatic, and remains on track to launch in exactly one month's time, on 15 Aug 2019, with the first cruises including six weeks sailing on the North American east coast.

The "World's first Discovery Yacht" is Polar Class 6 rated, with 114 all-veranda suites, 10 dining options, two six-passenger helicopters and a submarine.

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Monday 15th July 2019



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Fernie leaves early

CRUISEAWAY by Dreamlines Managing Director Alastair Fernie is understood to have left the company last week.

He was appointed to run the local operations of CruiseAway three years ago, a few months after the firm's acquisition by German OTA cruise giant Dreamlines, which also owns Cruise1st.

China cruise fears

ENVIRONMENTAL groups have flagged concerns over the impact of China's growing cruise sector.

Most of the ire from organisations such as Friends of the Earth US has been for the growth in megaliners in China, with air pollution, waste water, sewage, food waste, and plastics rating high on the list of concerns.

Heightening the Allure



ROYAL Caribbean International has revealed it will upgrade its *Allure of the Seas* Oasis Class ship as part of a 58-day, \$165 million transformation.

New additions set to be added before she sets sail from Barcelona in May 2020 include the Ultimate Abyss, the tallest slide at sea; The Perfect Storm, a trio of waterslides; as well as a completely redesigned range of kids and teens spaces.

The big win for children will be

an overhaul of the Adventure Ocean program, allowing children to choose their own activities across the new areas, including whimsical rooms and climbable creations at Play Place, and hands-on art, science and tech fun at Workshops.

Further enhancements will see the ship debut Giovanni's Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar (pictured), which will offer Italian staples such as gourmet pizza from the new in-house pizza oven.

An Ultramarine look

POLAR cruise specialist Quark Expeditions has released renderings of its new expedition ship *Ultramarine*.

The new vessel is scheduled to set sail in the Antarctic 2020/21 season, with the new visuals showing she will boast spacious suites, a main restaurant, a panorama lounge, lecture theatre, spa, sauna and fitness centre.

Renderings also highlight a new livery featuring the line's distinctive yellow "Q" logo spanning the ship's height.

"[This is] a truly unique ship that presents unprecedented possibilities," said Quark's President Andrew White.



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Discover all RCI's new Spectrum of the Seas has to offer in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*

Endeavor to adopt new sonar tech



CRYSTAL Expedition Cruises has announced that its first luxury expedition vessel *Crystal Endeavor* will be equipped with cutting-edge underwater sonar technology from global 3D technology company FarSounder.

The advanced tech will allow the ship to provide real-time 3D images of the terrain and activity along the ship's route up to 1,000

metres ahead, with a mapping range up to eight times the water's depth.

"It is imperative that every element of *Crystal Endeavor* be designed with precision and careful foresight, always keeping the safety of our guests and the respectful navigation of the

waters we sail as the top priority," said Genting's VP of Newbuilding Peter Andersson.

"The data...will not only inform our captain and officers of important navigational data, but also provide insights that will enrich the journey for our guests," he added.

Australis bargain

AUSTRALIS Patagonia Cruises has announced it is offering US\$400 discounts per person for bookings made before 31 Jul.

Cruises offered includes sailings of the southernmost fjords of Patagonia, exploring both the Chilean and Argentinean Patagonia region.

Trips also include shore excursions via Zodiac rides.

The promotion is valid for departures between Sep and Dec, with prices leading in at \$1,140 per person.

For more information on cruises available, **CLICK HERE**.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	19 Jul
BRISBANE	<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	20 Jul
DARWIN	<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	18 Jul
	<i>Le Laperouse</i>	21 Jul
AUCKLAND	<i>Pacific Aria</i>	16 Jul

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CRUISE ships are typically welcomed warmly by local communities, but not on this occasion.

Chris Wilson, the owner of a cruise ship in California wants to turn his vessel into a wedding venue, but residents in Isleton want no part of it.

The plan was to refurbish and tow *m/v Aurora* up the Sacramento River to the small outpost, but the townsfolk say they don't have the capacity to host such an idea.

Wilson's plan included a theatre and Airbnb rooms, however he was shot down during a town hall meeting, leaving the matter unresolved...

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