

Hurtigruten's *Roald Amundsen* debuts

HURTIGRUTEN Cruises has marked a milestone in sustainable cruising, with the new *MS Roald Amundsen* undertaking her maiden season in the northern Arctic Ocean this month.

The ship features 264 outside cabins and suites, 50% of which have private balconies, with a fully ice-strengthened hull and a comprehensive expedition crew.

The first of a new class of vessels for Hurtigruten, *Roald Amundsen's* debut coincides with a concerted push by the company into the Australian market, including the establishment of a new Melbourne office.

"We believe the Hurtigruten expedition product resonates strongly with the Australian and New Zealand market," according to Hurtigruten's regional MD, Damian Perry.

He told **CW** the company believes setting up its own office



will make it easier for industry partners to engage with the brand, simplifying the former GSA model which had been in place for some years.

"We wanted to be the master of our own destiny," Perry said, flagging opportunities for travel agents - small or large - to work with Hurtigruten to capitalise on the opportunity afforded by the company's fleet transformation.

As well as newbuild expedition ships, Hurtigruten is also

revamping its existing fleet to expand expedition capacity and install new, environmentally friendly propulsion systems.

The *MS Roald Amundsen* is pictured - in the 3am "midnight sun" from the air - as she waited to pick up passengers in Svalbard early last Sat morning.

Cruise Weekly today

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

CRUISE

WEEKLY

on location in
The Arctic

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you courtesy of Hurtigruten, aboard the brand new *Roald Amundsen*.

HURTIGRUTEN'S MS Roald Amundsen pioneering expedition ship is currently en route from Svalbard to eastern Greenland, taking just over two days at sea to make the Arctic ocean transit.

Relatively calm waters have allowed the captain to put the pedal to the metal, with Hurtigruten's world-leading hybrid technology using "peak shaving" to boost the engine's power - see Wed's issue of **CW** for all the action once we arrive in Greenland.

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Paul's Tahiti special

PAUL Gauguin Cruises is offering discounted rates on its seven-night Tahiti & the Society Islands itinerary which sets sail in Jan 2020.

The cruise takes place aboard *ms Gauguin* (pictured) and sails from Papeete, Tahiti to Huahine, Taha'a, Bora Bora, Moorea, before making her way back to Papeete.

For a limited time, prices for the voyage lead in at US\$2,659 per person (A\$3,848) and includes 24-hour room service, all beverages, a day's stay at Paul Gauguin Cruises' private islet Motu Mahana, access to a private beach in Bora Bora, and water sports equipment.

For more info, contact Wiltrans International on 1800 251 174.



Viking new sessions

VIKING Cruises has announced a range of new destinations for its second round of free information sessions for 2019.

The workshops, called Think Viking Information Sessions, are set to be held in the Sutherland Shire and Manly in NSW, the Mornington Peninsula and Ballarat in Victoria, and Toowoomba and the Gold Coast in Qld.

Sessions will take place between 27 Aug and 16 Oct and cover off on the cruise line's offerings from pre-departure product, on board amenities, and its shore excursion program.

Incentives to attend include a chance to win a \$1,000 Viking travel voucher, as well as special booking offers.

RSVPs are essential to attend and can be made **HERE**.



GENTING Hong Kong has announced the appointment of Michael Goh as the new President of Dream Cruises and Head of International Sales for Genting Cruise Lines.

In his newly promoted role, Goh will continue to be based in Singapore and report directly to President of Genting Cruise Lines, Kent Zhu, where he will be charged with guiding the company through "its next chapter of growth".

"Michael's long experience developing the Asian cruise industry with Genting HK and as a key member in the start-up of Dream Cruises will further strengthen the brand with his

appointment as President of Dream Cruises," said Genting Hong Kong Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Tan Sri KT Lim.

"With his strong relationships in the travel industry, he will lay the sales and marketing strategies for the successful arrival of the first of two...Global Class ships in 2021," he added.

Goh joined Genting Hong Kong 20 years ago and was previously the Senior Vice President Int'l, Sales Genting Cruise Lines.

He was revealed as a speaker the Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Conference taking place on Sep this year in Geelong, Victoria (**CW** 24 Jul 2019).

Pictured: Michael Goh.

HURRY, OFFER ENDS WEDNESDAY

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

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We were on hand at *AmaMagna's* christening – check it out in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



NZ entry documents

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia is reminding agents that cruise passengers entering New Zealand who aren't Australian citizens will need to have NZeTA (New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority) certification before entering the country from 01 Oct.

The new travel rules were recently introduced by the NZ Government, with approvals for applications estimated to take up to 72 hours to process.

For more information about the NZeTA, [CLICK HERE](#).

Royal bucks China

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises Chairman and CEO Richard Fain said the cruise line continues to show growth in China despite a slowdown of the country's economy.

Speaking to CNBC late last week, Fain boasted Royal's business in China was currently "working beautifully" during a second quarter period that included the country's lowest gross domestic product output in nearly 30 years.

"Even though the China economy is obviously faltering, we're not," Fain declared.

"We're having a record year there, it's much better than last year and it continues to improve," he added.

Part of Royal Caribbean's strong growth plan includes the recent launch of *Spectrum of the Seas* in Shanghai this year (*CW* 05 Jun 2019), which Fain said continues to receive strong demand from the Chinese market.

"We brought out more capacity, we're filling the extra capacity and we're filling it all at better pricing - that feels pretty good to me," he said.

Royal saw sales grow by 20% in Q2 to US\$2.81 billion.

A lot farther than 50° North...



JILL Blunsom from Fifty Degrees North is one of the Aussies experiencing Hurtigruten's new *MS Roald Amundsen* this week as the ship cruises in the frozen north.

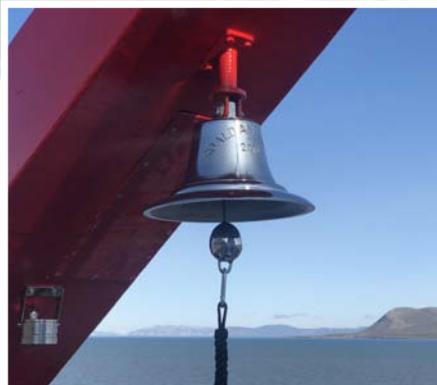
The pioneering vessel, which features the absolute latest in environmental features, is today only about 500km from the North Pole as it voyages between the remote Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard en route to Greenland.

The Australian contingent will be on board for the next 10 days or so, exploring the world's largest national park and the fjords of eastern Greenland.

Roald Amundsen carries 530 passengers, who will take part in daily Zodiac expeditions, shore landings, wildlife encounters, small boat iceberg cruising, kayaks and more.

Guests on board hail from across the globe, with the multilingual staff catering for passengers from Germany, France and China as well as English-speaking markets such as the USA, the UK and Australia.

As well as a host of creature comforts such as a spa, gym, three restaurants, bars, lounges and even a rooftop infinity pool, the ship features a full science centre and Expedition Launch Pad with a fleet of 14 Zodiacs.



Passengers are each given a special Hurtigruten expedition jacket made by Helly Hansen to take home, and are also provided with special boots to wear when going ashore to protect the fragile Arctic environment.

Mod cons on board also include free wi-fi, an interactive in-cabin entertainment system complete with movies, box set television series and live TV.

Roald Amundsen's current itinerary takes her from Svalbard to Reykjavik, with the next voyage taking cruisers through the North West Passage to Alaska.

Fifty Degrees North is one of Hurtigruten's key partners in the Australasian market, with Blunsom particularly interested in experiencing the product in the lead-up to its Antarctic season.

Blunsom is **pictured** ready for action as *Roald Amundsen* cruised out of Svalbard on Sat morning with Damian Perry, Hurtigruten MD Asia-Pacific, while **inset** is the shiny new ship's bell.

Ha Long port boost

HA LONG Int'l Cruise Port in Vietnam has welcomed an estimated 56,000 visitors in its first four months of operation.

The facility's Managing Director Phạm Van Hiep said Vietnam now ranks as the fourth most popular cruise destination in Asia following Japan, China, and Thailand, with the new port allowing access to major drawcard destinations such as the cities of Da Nang and Hue.

He added that Ha Long Bay has now become the fastest developing tourism destination in Vietnam, a trend Pham attributes primarily to a major infrastructure drive over the last couple of years.

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Clowning around

A VIOLENT brawl that erupted on P&O Cruises' *MV Britannia* vessel last Thu has resulted in several injuries to passengers aboard the sailing, according to a *CNN* report.

The voyage was cruising its final leg of an England to Norway sailing when the incident occurred, reportedly sparked by a passenger who dressed as a clown which one witness claimed "upset" a number of guests who specifically booked a cruise free of fancy dress.

P&O Cruises has released a statement following the fracas, confirming that all guests had since disembarked the cruise and the matter was now in the hands of the local police.

Heavy alcohol consumption was also a contributing factor.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	01 Aug
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	02 Aug
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	30 Jul
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	01 Aug
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	02 Aug

FACE-2-FACE: Linda Hussey

Sales Manager WA/NT -
Uniworld Boutique River Cruise
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1. What is the favourite part of your job?

The travel - we are so lucky that we get to directly experience our beautiful Uniworld products. I have fallen in love with river cruising and can't see myself working anywhere else.

2. What is the key to success in the cruise industry?

The success of cruising is the flexibility - there is a cruise product and itinerary out there that suits every single guest and we rely on our agents to ensure they are putting the right client on the right cruise. At Uniworld we have a 40% return rate, so once guests cruise with us they keep coming back, and that is key to the overall success.

3. What is the biggest challenge facing the industry?

The environmental impact of our industry. I am proud

of Uniworld's approach to sustainability - we have been free of single-use plastics for five years and we are unapologetic about it - but there is always more to do.

4. Advice for up-and-comers?

Keep on learning as much as you can and remember relationships are everything.

5. What was your best fam?

I have had some great fam trips over the years but last year I took a great group on a U River Cruise. It was fabulous to have options for all ages. Why should river cruising only be for the 50 plus market?

6. How do you wind down after a busy week?

Can't beat a large glass of Margaret River Red in front of a roaring fire at this time of year.

7. The celebrity you would most like to cruise with?

Would have to be Rod Stewart - I am a fan from way back!

Pandaw discounts Irrawaddy sailings

PANDAW is currently waving the single supplement charge for select seven-night The Great Irrawaddy Delta sailings departing in 2020.

Cruising roundtrip from Rangoon in Myanmar, the river voyage visits the towns of Maubin, Wakema, and Bogale,

with passengers under the age of 18 also sailing for free on select trips.

Prices start from US\$1,905 (A\$2,754) per person and will take place aboard Pandaw's new *RV Kane Pandaw*.

For more information on the deal, [CLICK HERE](#).



CRUISERS are generally familiar with the on-board safety briefing, with details of muster stations and how to put on a life jacket.

However those on board Hurtigruten's new *Roald Amundsen* in the Arctic Circle this week were treated to a "next level" update in keeping with the extreme conditions where the Polar Class Six vessel is cruising.

In the extremely unlikely event of an emergency, passengers are provided with a full survival suit - which one of the erstwhile crew members demonstrated (**below**).

The comprehensive outfit is like a gigantic onesie, with velcro anklets, heavy gloves and a neoprene hood - and to top it off you also get to wear a life jacket over it all as well.

