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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, a front cover wrap from NCL and a full page from AA Appointments.

Ponant launches sustainability foundation

FRENCH cruise operator, Ponant, has continued its work towards sustainable tourism with the launch of the Ponant Foundation, a program designed to support the research and conservation of oceans, polar regions and indigenous populations.

The company, which took home the award for "Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – Ocean or ocean-based cruise operator" at the inaugural *Travel Daily* Travel & Tourism Sustainability Awards last month, has pledged its ongoing support for sustainable tourism initiatives, with the program receiving an annual budget to achieve its ongoing goals.

"Well aware of the challenges and the scale of the task, we remain true to our belief as sailors eager to share our passion for the oceans," said



Jean Emmanuel Sauvée, CEO of Ponant and member of the Board of Directors of the Ponant Foundation.

"Thirty years after the company was created, that same philosophy still drives each and every one of us today: we protect best what we know best."

One of the first projects taken

on by the program is the Aladabra Clean Up, which works to preserve the Aladabra Atoll in the Seychelles.

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

Pictured: Ponant's Monique Ponfoort and Sarina Bratton accepting their trophy at *Travel Daily's* Sustainability Awards.

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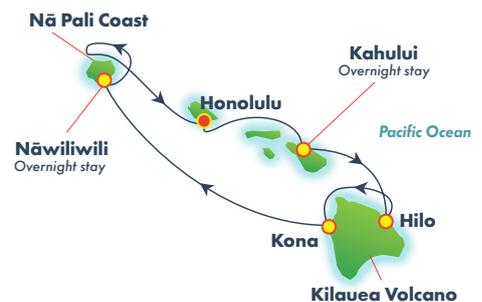
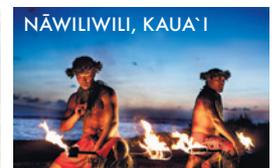
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First Getaway sailing

FOLLOWING its “Norwegian Edge” refurbishment, *Norwegian Getaway* has completed her first post-makeover sailing, from her dry dock in Brest to Copenhagen.

New venues, artworks, updated social spaces, refreshed accommodation and decor and nearly 800 new artworks feature in the makeover, completed just in time for its European summer program of Scandinavia, Russia and the Baltics.

When the European summer concludes in Oct, she will return to homeport in New Orleans for the first time, where she will embark on a winter and spring program in the Western Caribbean.



Virgin to Mexico

VIRGIN Voyages has announced it will add a five-night sailing to the Riviera Maya in Mexico as part of the itineraries offered by its upcoming ship, *Scarlet Lady*.

The move follows the announcement by the Trump administration calling for an immediate ban on all US-registered cruise lines stopping at Cuba (**CW 07 Jun**).

The cruise operator will instead sail to Cozumel and Playa del Carmen.

Starboard CEO

STARBOARD Cruise Services has appointed Lisa Bauer as its new Chief Executive Officer.

A travel industry veteran, in her new role Bauer will oversee all operations for Starboard and sister company Onboard Media.

Venture cuts to the chase



SEABOURN has commemorated the cutting of the first steel of its new ship, *Seabourn Venture*, **pictured**.

Scheduled to launch in Jun 2021, she will feature 132 veranda suites, with its second yet-to-be-named sister ship following in May 2022.

The ships are being designed from conception to blend luxury and personalised service with PC6 Polar Class standards, including an array of modern hardware intended to extend the ship's global deployment capabilities.

Alongside its slated 24 Zodiacs, *Venture* will also include two custom-built submarines.

“It’s an exciting time at

Seabourn, and the cutting of the first steel means we are officially underway in making our first expedition ship come together,” said President Richard Meadows.

“We’re looking forward to watching raw steel transformed into a beautiful vessel with Adam Tihany’s extraordinary design vision and T. Mariotti’s excellent and meticulous craftsmanship.

“We are very excited about this new endeavour which will result in Seabourn’s first expedition ship...this project marks another milestone in our longstanding relationship with Seabourn,” said Marco Ghiglione, Managing Director of *Venture*’s shipbuilder T. Mariotti.

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See why NCL's new Joy is perfect for Aussies heading to Alaska in June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



UnCruise adds Latin America



UNCruise Adventures has added a selection of new Latin America destinations to its 2020 portfolio, including Belize, Guatemala and Colombia.

The line's 2020 schedule of small ship cruises is now open for booking with nine ships sailing in Alaska, Columbia and Snake Rivers, Coastal Washington, Mexico, Hawaii, Galápagos, Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, Belize and Guatemala.

The cruise operator's small ships, which carry between

22 to 90 passengers offer the opportunity to experience each destination more closely, with a range of activities available such as kayaking, paddle boarding and snorkelling.

Highlights include the 10-night Costa Rica & Panama journey, the week-long Belize & Guatemala sailing and the seven-day Mexico's Sea of Cortes trip.

To find out more information on the new itineraries, **CLICK HERE**.

Pictured: Beach activities and snorkelling at Granito de Oro.

NCL's Legends

AGENTS have until 30 Jun to qualify for the chance to win a spot on Norwegian Cruise Lines' *Pride of America* Hawaiian cruise, departing Honolulu on 07 Dec.

To be in the running, agents must book \$10,000 or more of Norwegian product worldwide, either directly with the cruise line or via a wholesale partner, with the top 15 agencies scoring a Single Balcony Stateroom for two people.

The prize includes a seven-day cruise, with return flights on Hawaiian Airlines from the winners' nearest capital city.

Also included is one night's accommodation in Honolulu pre-cruise, and two nights post-cruise, with one activity on Maui, Kaua'i and the Island of Hawaii during the cruise.

Roundtrip airport transfers to the hotel pre- and post-cruise are also part of the prize, as well as a welcome and farewell function at each end.

For more information on NCL's current deals and promos, **CLICK HERE**.

Scottish land tours

G ADVENTURES has introduced a new range of Scottish land-based tours as optional additions to three of its Norwegian expeditions in 2020.

The new three-day itineraries, which are now on sale, include two days in Edinburgh and one in the Scottish Highlands, offering travellers a taste of Scotland in addition to their Norway Expedition.

The three new adventures include the 16-day Explore the Norwegian Fjords and Scottish Highlands tour, taking in sights such as the mystical Ring of Brodgar, before heading to the Norwegian Sea.

Also new is the 16-day Cruise the Norwegian Fjords with Scottish Highlands journey, and the 18-day Norwegian Arctic and Scottish Highlands Encompassed itinerary.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.



Lindblad-Nat Geo Wild Escapes collection

LINDBLAD Expeditions-National Geographic has introduced a new range of Wild Escapes journeys, offering cruisers the chance to choose from 11 "action-packed" shorter voyages.

The Wild Escapes adventures range from five to nine days and explore a range of regions, including Costa Rica & Monterey Bay.

"These programs have allowed us to introduce the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic experience to new travellers and have also been popular with our existing guests who have wanted to travel with us more frequently during the year, but haven't had the time for multiple, longer trips," said Phil Auerbach, Lindblad CCO.

For more information on the new collection, call 1300 363 055.



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Carnival's beers

CARNIVAL has become the first cruise line to can and keg its own private label beers, crafted by brewmaster Colin Presby, alongside the in-house brewery teams on *Carnival Horizon* and *Vista*.

Parched Pig Toasted Amber Ale, West Coast IPA and ThirstyFrog Caribbean Wheat will feature aboard Australian-based ships.

Since 2016, Carnival has served nearly 300,000 pints of craft beer.

Lindblad carbon neutral



TO CELEBRATE World Oceans Day last Sat, Lindblad Expeditions committed to becoming a carbon-neutral company, offsetting 100% of its sea and land-based emissions, employee travel, and other contributors.

This commitment joins a range of efforts made by Lindblad to reduce its ecological footprint, including a successful fleet-wide ban on single-use plastics, a sustainable seafood program, reforestation, a focus on renewable energy, and various community-based projects in six countries, including Mexico, Peru

and Vietnam.

The initiatives fall in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

"As a company, recognising global climate change is arguably the greatest threat humanity has ever faced, we all need to urgently step up our efforts whether they're big or small," said Sven Lindblad, Lindblad CEO.

"Our goal is to reduce and offset our carbon footprint, and to commit to carbon neutrality throughout the many layers of our business...we must rebalance, and rebalance urgently."

Virgin Voyages announces first Captain

CAPTAIN Wendy Williams, pictured, has been announced as the first person to take the helm of Virgin Voyages' *Scarlet Lady*.

Williams brings a wealth of experience to the role, including commercial fishing and deckhand, before becoming "enamoured" with sailing the ships themselves.



Sweet dreams

FURTHER to the exciting news that Genting Cruise Lines will be sending *Explorer Dream* to Australia this coming cruise season, we are excited that Michael Goh, SVP International Sales for the cruise line will be a keynote speaker at ACA's conference in Sep.

The ship enters Australian waters in Oct for the first time, travelling from Shanghai on a 21-day cruise which sees it stopping in Darwin, Cairns and Gladstone before arriving in Sydney.

Previously known as *Superstar Virgo*, it has now undergone a \$30M upgrade and will be the first ship predominantly designed for the Asian market complete with The Palace – luxury staterooms – and dining courtesy of Australia's Mark Best.

I am excited for our conference attendees to hear Michael's presentation as he will not only be able to share details about the ship but will also be able to provide valuable information on the passenger mix and how we need to think about tailoring land-based product to their guests.

Explorer Dream will homeport in Sydney at White Bay and offer seven-night cruises to Queensland and Tasmania.

She will also offer four- and seven-night itineraries between Newcastle and Brisbane.

Asia has been a strong market for Australia for many years – the fact that we are now going to capture some of this market for cruising is very exciting. We look forward to welcoming these new passengers to Australia and showcasing our country's iconic landscapes, wildlife and culture.



HAVEN'T yet had the honour of sighting Scotland's infamous Loch Ness Monster?

Never fear, fossil hunters in Antarctica claim to have found the remains of an "enormous sea creature" which bares a resemblance to the bonny country's fabled sea creature.

The remains of the 40-foot long animal, which is said to be around 70 million years old, is the largest and most complete fossil of its kind ever found, and is said to be part of the plesiosaur family.

Sounds rather "petrifying" if you ask us.



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