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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from RCL.

Cruise votes open

AZAMARA Club Cruises, Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises have been nominated at this year's National Travel Industry Awards - for info on how to vote, see the cover page.

Seabourn sale

SEABOURN has launched a two-week sale including deals on select 2019/20 voyages. Running until 08 Apr, the sale includes offers such as complimentary suite category upgrades, shipboard credit, 15% off, and more. For info, [CLICK HERE](#).

Princess crowns biggest Aussie program

THE 2020/21 Australian summer program for Princess Cruises will see the debut of the 3,560 guest *Regal Princess* to local waters in addition to the return of *Sapphire Princess*, culminating in the biggest ever summer program to date.

Announced yesterday aboard *Majestic Princess* in Sydney, the forthcoming season is marked with a number of firsts for the cruise line.

Appearing via a video recording from Los Angeles, Stuart Allison, Senior Vice President Asia Pacific for Princess Cruises said "this will be the biggest deployment we've ever had in Sydney".

"Not only will this be the first time in history that Princess Cruises has deployed two Royal-Class ships from the same home port outside Florida, but we will also have a record number of premium balcony and mini-suite



staterooms available," he said.

Other firsts will see the arrival of the Ocean Medallion Class technology on board *Regal Princess*, while *Sapphire Princess* will mark an inaugural season in Melbourne.

Further details were announced by Nick Ferguson, Sales & Marketing Director for Princess Cruises who said the local fleet is set to visit close to 80 destinations spanning

19 countries bringing the total number of cruise days on offer to a new record.

The youngest and largest ship, *Majestic Princess* will headline the 2020/21 season with a group of 200 travel agents staying on board the ship yesterday to cruise up the coast to Brisbane.

Pictured: Captain Dino Sagani with Princess Cruises' Michael Mihajlov, Meg Koffel and Nick Ferguson.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Wednesday 27th March 2019

Celebrity reaches *Summit*

A&K's Japan 2020

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has released the 2020 departure dates for its Wonders of Japan small ship cruise on board the 199-passenger *Le Soled*.

The two-week voyage departs 13 Jun 2020 & returns 26 Jun, with the ship visiting "rarely visited ports and wilderness areas" including the village of Karatsu, and the rice paddies of Sado Island.

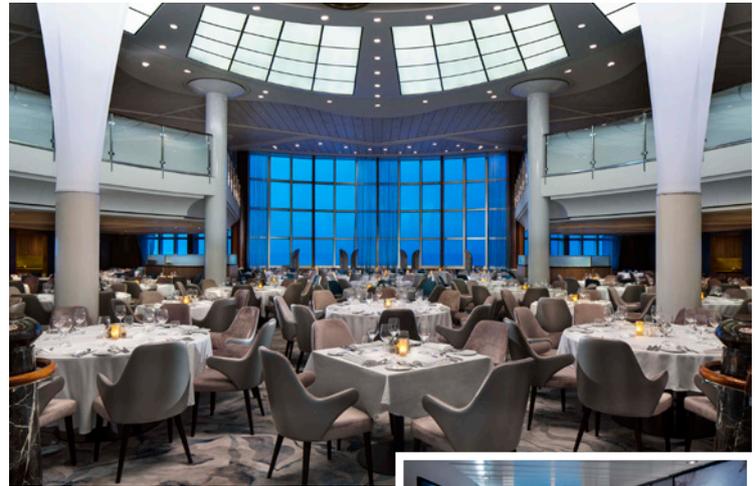
For info, [CLICK HERE](#).

P&O ups comedy

TOM Gleeson, Dave Hughes, Dave Thornton and Mel Buttle are set to headline P&O Cruises' "Big Laugh" comedy cruise, departing Sydney on 08 Jun on board *Pacific Explorer*.

The announcement comes as the cruise line prepares to deliver its "biggest ever season of comedy", with 38 dedicated comedy cruises sailing in 2019.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the cruise.



CELEBRITY Cruises has completed its second ship transformation as part of its \$500 million fleet-wide modernisation program, unveiling major upgrades on board its 2,158-passenger *Celebrity Summit* vessel.

The latest refurbishment has seen *Summit* receive completely redesigned staterooms and suites, the addition of The Retreat for suite guests equipped with new sundecks and redesigned lounges, updated bars and restaurants, as well as refreshed spa and casino areas.

"*Celebrity Summit* is better than she's ever been with



modernised spaces and exciting new experiences, and she's the first of our ships to feature our partnerships with American Ballet Theatre and Chef Daniel Boulud," said Celebrity Cruises President and Chief Executive Officer, Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

Pictured: the main dining room on board *Celebrity Summit* and inset a stateroom.

Ovation of the Seas arrives in Port Vila

ROYAL Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas* made its maiden call at Port Vila on Mon, the arrival of the ship marking the cruise line's commitment to Vanuatu after 12 years of sailing to the region.

"We're thrilled to be able to bring the region's most extraordinary ship to your capital for the very first time, and allow our guests to explore your shores," said Royal Caribbean International Australia MD Susan Bonner at the ship's official welcome ceremony.

During the upcoming 2019/20 cruise season, Royal Caribbean will bring three ships and more than 110,000 tourists to Vanuatu with over 40 calls to Mystery Island and Port Vila.

 **PRINCESS CRUISES**
come back new*

2020-2021 australia & new zealand ON SALE NOW!



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CRUISE

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Europa 2's silver service

THIS lucky group of travel agents enjoyed the white-gloved ministrations of the high-class crew aboard Hapag-Lloyd's *MS Europa 2* earlier this week, when she was docked at Sydney's White Bay Cruise terminal.

A celebratory luncheon at Restaurant Tarragon, one of the many on-board eateries, featured a range of delicacies including a delicious lobster main course, naturally complemented by specially selected wines.

The delightful degustation followed a tour of the ship conducted by Gerd Wilmer of Landmark Travel, who represents Hapag-Lloyd Cruises in the Australian market.

The 500-passenger vessel is consistently rated as the "best ship in the world" by the respected Berlitz Cruise Guide, and a walk-through confirmed the next-level appointments of *Europa 2*, down to the finest detail including tasteful decor, furnishings and artworks throughout the ship.

As well as gorgeously appointed staterooms and suites, *Europa 2* features seven restaurants with a wide variety of cuisine, alongside five different bars.

A large spa and fitness centre is

complemented by an on-board golf simulator - with a pro on hand to assist guests refine their game - while the whole family is looked after with extensive kids and teenage facilities.

Wilmer also highlighted the burgeoning Hapag-Lloyd expedition cruise fleet, which will see the addition of its new purpose-built *HANSEATIC inspiration* vessel which is set to debut late in 2019.

The new 230-passenger ship will offer a range of Antarctic, South American, Western European, Baltic and Arctic itineraries, and will offer similar levels of comfort and luxury to the five-star *MS Europa 2*.

HANSEATIC inspiration has been designed to the highest of sustainability standards, with even its Zodiac expedition craft fitted with electric motors to minimise the impact of excursions on the fragile icy environment.

He highlighted a price comparison of the Hapag-Lloyd voyages to Antarctica, noting that the daily rates were surprisingly cheaper than the brochured offerings of many competitors.

Lots of pics from *CW's* tour of *Europa 2* earlier this week at facebook.com/cruiseweekly.

Highlights from the 18th annual CLIA cruise industry awards in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



RSSC's new BDMs

TWO new faces have been appointed to the Business Development teams at Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC).

Rebecca Scaffidi has taken on the role of Business Development Manager for WA and NT, with Carlos Rodrigues acting as temporary Business Development Executive for NSW and ACT.

The pair bring more than 10 years' experience to the roles.

EW waives singles

EUROPEAN Waterways has announced it is waiving the single supplement fee on more than 40 departures in 2019.

Eligible cruises include *La Belle Epoque* and *L'Impressioniste* in Burgundy; *Enchante* on the Canal du Midi; *Rosa* in Gascony; and *Panache* in Champagne and Alsace and Lorraine.

For more information, see europeanwaterways.com.



INSIDE SALES & OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

MSC Cruises Australia is looking for an Inside Sales & Operations Executive based at the Sydney CBD head office.

The ideal candidate will:

- Coordinate and develop product, pricing and offers to proactively drive marketing and sales
- Coordinate and develop groups to proactively drive marketing and sales
- Implement, load and analyse product in line with company and ROI requirements
- Work with the sales and marketing teams and exhibit solid reporting skills

The successful candidate must have a minimum of four years experience in the travel industry, exceptional attention to detail, sales knowledge and the ability to work effectively as part of a team as well as independently in a fast paced environment.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

MSC Cruises Australia is looking for a Marketing Assistant based at the Sydney CBD head office.

The ideal candidate will:

- Inside Sales and trade collateral to market
- Assistance with flyer creatives
- Control of Internal & head office databases
- Assistance with PR content
- Reporting of product and campaigns

The successful candidate must have completed a course degree and have attention to detail and the ability to work effectively as part of a team as well as independently in a fast paced environment.

For further information and to submit your resume
hr@msccruises.com.au



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THE global cruising community has come out strongly in support of Viking Cruises following the incident earlier this week when all passengers and crew were kept safe despite *Viking Sky's* engine failure off the coast of Norway.

One of the most touching gestures came from the crew of sister ship *Viking Sea*, who assembled on the prow of the ship with red umbrellas to form this heart-shaped "we care" tribute.



Passengers who went through the rescue have also been fulsome in their praise for the captain and crew, with a number of blog posts highlighting their professionalism and also praising Viking CEO Torstein Hagen for his instant response, flying into Kristiansund where the evacuees were first landed.

One passenger noted that prior to being flown back to Gatwick he was treated to a special three-course dinner in the Chef's Table restaurant.

"I even got my laundry back before I packed," he enthused.

Silversea's sub-Antarctic



SILVERSEA Cruises has released four new sub-Antarctic voyages, departing Dunedin, NZ between Dec 2020 and Feb 2021.

The itineraries, ranging from 14 to 22 days on board the 144-passenger *Silver Explorer*, will take guests to a number of locations including Milford and Dusky Sounds, Macquarie Island, East Antarctica and Hobart.

Cruises also feature Zodiac excursions and interactive walks ashore led by a range of experts including marine biologists, ornithologists, geologists,

botanists, and historians.

Guests can choose from two 14-day Dunedin Roundtrip cruises departing on 21 Dec 2020 or 04 Jan 2021, as well as the 22-day Dunedin Roundtrip - Antarctica departing on 18 Jan 2021.

A Dunedin to Melbourne cruise is also on offer, taking guests on a 15-day adventure around the sub-Antarctic islands of Australia and NZ from 09 Feb 2021.

Book before 30 Apr 2019 to receive 10% off - call Silversea Cruises on 1300 306 872.

Pictured: Emperor Penguins.

Travel Daily

Sustainability AWARDS

If your business is leading the way when it comes to sustainability, be recognised!

Eight different categories open now.

Entries close 12/04/2019.

Click to enter



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Cruising in safe hands

IN A week when the image of cruising has taken a blow in the media, it's important for those of us in the travel industry to maintain our focus on the bigger picture and provide reassurance to our customers.

A cruise holiday remains one of the safest forms of travel, and the safety of passengers and crew is always the top concern.

Cruise ships today are the safest that have ever sailed, thanks to the stringent rules and regulations that govern their design and operations.

With each new ship comes new technology and other innovations that help boost safety, while multiple levels of international regulation and oversight ensure procedures and standards are maintained.

A recent study found that although cruise capacity rose 48% from 2009 to 2017, the number of operational incidents in that time fell 38%. Other studies point to the low level of incidents in cruising compared to other forms of travel, something the industry works hard to maintain.

CLIA can provide resources to help travel agents address any concerns from their customers, including a useful infographic: **CLICK HERE** to download.

With the help of agents, we can reinforce that safety is the most important priority in our industry.



CRUISE
WEEKLY

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Senior Journalist – Nicholas O'Donoghue
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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