

Aqua Expeditions adds two vessels

BOUTIQUE cruise line Aqua Expeditions has announced the addition of two ships to its fleet, including its first coastal vessel.

The fully refurbished *Aqua Blu* will be permanently based in the East Indonesian Archipelago servicing year-round departures commencing 16 Nov.

The ship will primarily serve three destinations on seven-night coastal cruise itineraries including Raja Ampat, Bali-Komodo National Park and the Ambon & Spice Islands.

Life on board will see 15 sea-facing suites on offer across three cabin categories, plus amenities such as sun decks, indoor lounge and bar areas, an outdoor Jacuzzi, and water sports equipment such as diving and snorkelling gear, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards.

Blu will also offer a small number of 12-night sailings



per year to less visited islands leading in from US\$16,475ppts (A\$23,626).

New-build river cruise ship *Aqua Nera* will enter service for Aqua on 01 Aug 2020 and specialise in sailings of the Peruvian Amazon.

The ship features a high-concept interior by architect Noor Design, with 20 spacious suites available on board, as well as a restaurant,

lounge area, spa, a river-facing plunge pool and gymnasium.

To make bookings on Aqua Expedition ships, email reservations@aqualexpeditions.com.au.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Alcohol consumption involved in most cruise ship injuries: survey

US LAW firm Farah and Farah has found that the majority of cruise ship injuries involve alcohol consumption.

The study of over 1,100 cruise travellers revealed that 66% of men and 32% of women involved in accidents admitted that drinking was a factor in the cause of the incidents.

Despite the admissions, the majority of those injured

claimed the cruise line was at fault, with 54% placing the blame on the operator.

The most likely place for passengers to injure themselves was found to be the outdoor swimming pool area, accounting for 30.9% of accidents, followed by the cabin/hallway (29.9%), bars and clubs (28.9%), elevators and stairways (26.8%), and gymnasiums (23.7%).

But it's not all bad news for cruise lines, with a healthy 83.2% of respondents saying they would go on another cruise despite being injured.

The same study concluded that seasickness was the leading cause of illness on a cruise, with contracting a virus ranking in second spot and alcohol intoxication coming in third.

Read the full report [HERE](#).

Silversea 2020/21

SILVERSEA Cruises has opened 54 new itineraries for sale for the 2020/2021 season, including 20 maiden calls and cruises covering 190 destinations in 64 countries.

View the itineraries [HERE](#).



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Coral marks global push

CORAL Expeditions has expanded its international distribution team by appointing Amy Sharpe (pictured) as its new UK Sales Manager.

She will head up a new sales office in the United Kingdom and be responsible for helping to grow demand for Coral's expedition cruising product from European source markets.

"We have identified the UK as a key international market for FIT, group and charter expeditions and we are thrilled to have Amy on the ground to lead our sales efforts," said Coral Expeditions International Sales Manager Elizabeth Webb.

"The UK market understands expedition cruising and is well suited to our Australian style of hospitality with the market currently representing a significant proportion of our



overall business," she added.

Sharpe will work closely with Webb in her new role to help lead expansion into global markets via both consumer and trade channels.

Coral Expeditions has received over \$25 million in forward bookings for *Coral Adventurer* over the past 18 months.

PONANT has released its 2020/2021 Antarctica voyages featuring 22 sailings on board its fleet of luxury expedition vessels.

The company's Antarctica cruises include select adventures run in conjunction with National Geographic Expeditions, with destination highlights including Neko Harbour, Port Charcot, Port Lockroy, Petermann Island and Deception Island.

Longer voyages will also offer visits to the Falkland Islands, South Orkney Islands and South Georgia.

"As part of your voyage, you

will need to cross the infamous Drake Passage for the privilege to explore the Antarctic Peninsula in all its grandeur, but that is part of the adventure," said Ponant Asia Pacific VP Monique Ponfoort.

"Our compact expedition ships allow us to navigate narrow waterways such as the Lemaire Channel, or enter the caldera of Deception Island - flexibility is one of the keys to successful expedition cruising," she added.

Antarctica voyages will utilise its *L'Austral*, *Le Boreal*, *Le Soleal* and *Le Lyrial* ships.

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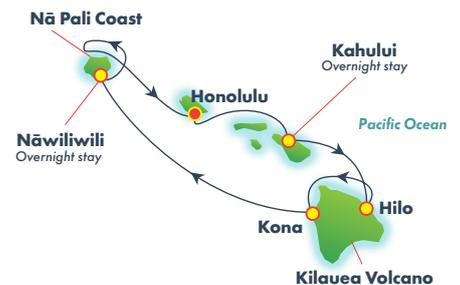
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WEEKLY

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Find out all that's new on board Uniworld's S.S. *Bon Voyage* in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



Seabourn Alaska

SEABOURN is preparing to embark on its 2019 season in Alaska & British Columbia aboard *Seabourn Sojourn*, with only limited spots left on the 10 departures scheduled.

The cruise line has 11-, 12- and 14-day voyages available, with key attractions on the voyages including Harriman and College Fjords, Ketchikan, Juneau, and rarely visited villages of Alert Bay.

Viking's Turkish delight



Pictured: Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

VIKING Cruises has launched six new ocean cruise itineraries sailing the Mediterranean, including a brand new port of call in Istanbul, Turkey.

The new product includes a 15-day Adriatic Treasures package sailing from Venice to Istanbul starting at \$9,295pp.

Another new package available is the 29-day Mediterranean's Iconic Shores cruise from Barcelona to Istanbul, with prices leading in at \$18,295 per person for a Veranda stateroom.

Departing in 2021, the new adventures are combinations

of two or more of the cruise line's most popular existing Mediterranean itineraries.

"The Mediterranean is one of our most popular cruise destinations and these new combination itineraries are the perfect way to explore this region in even more depth," said Viking's MD Michelle Black.

"This is an exciting time for our ocean cruise sector - we have just introduced our sixth ocean ship *Viking Jupiter*, and we have more new itineraries and announcements in store so stay tuned," she added.

Micro-Cruising tool

MICRO-CRUIISING has announced the launch of its new online booking tool that allows agents to click-to-book small ship cruising products.

The new tool also provides the ability to view up-to-date rates and discounts in AUD and NZD currencies.

"There is no search/filter function like it that I've seen in the industry," said Micro-Cruising MD Nicola Caygill.

"At launch, we have 32 itineraries and hundreds of departures for 2019 and 2020," she added.

The site offers only deluxe level and above ships with applicable solo rates, triple rates, quad rates and children rates on multiple cabin types.

Once an order is placed, Micro-Cruising will send an invoice within one business day with optional hold confirmation.

For more info regarding the booking tool, **CLICK HERE**.



EVIDENTLY there are more transport choices than just cruises to the beautiful waters of the Caribbean, just ask Frenchman Jean-Jacques Savin who recently sailed to the destination inside a giant barrel.

Savin spent four months at sea aboard the bizarre vessel, setting off from the Canary Islands on Boxing Day last year.

"Everything has an end... finally, here I am at the end of this adventure," Savin wrote on Facebook upon making landfall.

The barrel contained a small kitchen and bed, with most food derived from his fishing acumen along the way.

We are yet to be convinced travelling inside would have been a barrel of laughs though.



Carnival commits to Cuba despite suit

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has issued a statement saying its cruises to Cuba "are continuing as part of our scheduled itineraries" despite two law suits filed against the company for allegedly using docks in Havana without permission.

The suit claims Carnival is liable to pay compensation to two plaintiffs under the Helms Burton Act, after their property was seized by Cuba in 1960, according to documents filed in the Federal Court in Miami.

The cruise line also shared a CLIA statement which reads: "Cruising to Cuba falls under the 'lawful travel exemption' under Title III of the Helms Burton Act...our member cruise lines have been and are now engaged in lawful travel to Cuba as expressly authorised by the United States Federal Government".

Tapping the tapas

MSC Cruises has extended its partnership with Spanish chef Ramon Freixa by signing on to open two more of his HOLA! Tapas Bar restaurants on board *MSC Meraviglia* and *MSC Grandiosa*.

"Ramon not only embodies excellence in Spanish gastronomy with an innovative and modern style, but he also shares with us a passion for Mediterranean cuisine," said MSC Cruises Chief Executive Officer Gianni Onorato.

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