

Cruise Weekly today

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

Aurora solo deals

AURORA Expeditions has revealed it is offering no single supplement on a select range of 2020 voyages for bookings made by 30 Jun, or until all spots are sold out.

The deal applies to accommodation booked in an Aurora Stateroom or Balcony Category C option, and includes sailings of the Patagonia & Chilean Fjords (departing 02 Apr), Iceland (12 Jun), West Greenland (18 May), and the Arctic (31 Aug).

For further information on the no single supplement offer, call 1800 637 688 or email agents@auroraexpeditions.com.au.

CLIA welcomes Scott Morrison win

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has congratulated Prime Minister Scott Morrison (**inset**) and his Government on winning the Federal Election on the weekend.

The cruise body said in particular it looked forward to working with the Morrison Government on improving Australia's infrastructure to help accelerate growth in the sector.

"Worldwide, cruise lines are investing billions of dollars in new ships and new technology that will allow them to maintain growth while at the same time reducing their impact on the environment," said CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz.

"This investment needs to be backed by further development in port infrastructure and a supportive policy framework...we look forward to working with the



Source: Port Authority of NSW

Government to ensure Australia receives maximum benefit from cruising's continuing worldwide growth," he added.

The latest annual figures from CLIA showed cruising in local waters grew just 0.1% in 2018, with the expectation of a similar growth outcome in 2019 on the back of cruise infrastructure capacity issues (**CW** 03 May).

The local cruise sector



Source: BBC

contributes nearly \$5 billion annually to the Australian economy and supports more than 17,000 full time jobs.

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Cruiseco on the Med

CRUISECO has revealed two new cruise packages sailing the Mediterranean via the MSC Cruises brand.

The first cruise departs Hamburg for Genoa on a 13-day journey aboard the *MSC Grandiosa* departing 10 Nov.

Priced from \$3,977ppts, the trip includes return Economy class airfares from Australia to Germany and all meals.

Also on offer is the 14-night Grand Mediterranean trip from Genoa to Venice.

The cruise starts at \$1,950ppts and departs 02 May 2020.

Quasar tour deals

QUASAR Expeditions is currently offering free land tours in Ecuador when bookings are made on select Galapagos cruises departing between 21 Sep and 14 Dec.

Three land adventures are available and include a three-day Quito Latin American Capital of Culture itinerary staying at the five-star Casa Gangotena and a 4-hour Quito Colonial walking tour valued at \$630 per person.

Another option is the three-day Complete Guayaquil itinerary staying at the 5-star Hotel del Parque and a 4-hour Guayaquil city tour.

The third excursion is a two-day Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate at Hacienda La Danesa' itinerary staying at the boutique Hacienda La Danesa.

Deals are valid for Galapagos cruises start from \$8,860pp.

Azamara savings

GUESTS booking an Azamara Club Cruise with Cruiseco can access a 50% discount on a second guest fare, free wi-fi and US\$500 spending money on bookings made until 31 May - phone 1800 550 320.

Let *Sojourn* entertain you



SEABOURN has announced a new entertainment schedule on board *Seabourn Sojourn's* 146-day World Cruise: Extraordinary Destinations cruise departing from Miami in 2020.

The first world cruise from the cruise line in six years will offer a wide variety of production shows produced by Belinda King Creative Productions, performed by a rotating cast showcasing their talent throughout the voyage.

Acts scheduled for the sailing include *An Evening with Tim Rice*, a concert-style presentation celebrating the acclaimed English musical theatre lyricist, respected African crossover ensemble the

Charl du Plessis Trio, and classical pairing CH2 Guitar Duo.

"As the saying goes, 'all the world's a stage,' and Seabourn is going to be taking the stage to sea with a world-class lineup of musical performances, celebrations, and engaging programming," said Chris Austin, Seabourn's Senior Vice President of Global Marketing & Sales.

The world cruise will also leverage the various regions as inspirations for themed deck parties with local entertainers boarding *Seabourn Sojourn* to Celebrate Africa, Celebrate Asia, and Celebrate Polynesia.

Pictured: *Seabourn Sojourn*.

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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*



Maine to bust through cruise record in 2019

THE US state of Maine is expected to see 658,000 passengers arrive via its 12 cruise ship ports in 2019, representing a 17% increase on the total recorded last year.

Cruise officials are anticipating the year to end with a total of 430 ship visits, with more than half of all passengers arriving in the popular cruise port of Bar Harbor - the gateway to Acadia National Park.

The state's city of Portland is also experiencing strong demand

said the city's Port Manager Kathy Alves.

"The demand for Portland is still strong, we are not seeing it level off," she said.

However she cautioned that numbers might be curtailed by infrastructure constraints.

"The only limiting factor will be capacity - it can't handle vessels larger than the *Anthem of the Seas*, a nearly 5,000-passenger ship due to visit the city five times in Sep and Oct," Alves added.

Portland is booked out to 2022.

Mekong Princess push



Boracay limits capacity



THE Philippine Government has imposed limits on the size and number of ships allowed to disembark at the country's popular island of Boracay.

Speaking at the PATA Annual Summit in Cebu City, Undersecretary at Philippine Department of Tourism Art Boncato said the reason for imposing the limits was related to ongoing rehabilitation efforts of the destination.

"We're doing this because we always have the carrying capacity in mind," he said.

"No more than 19,215 tourists are allowed in all major tourism sites in Boracay at any given time...we don't want to breach that," Boncato added.

The decision has seen the Boracay inter-agency task force divert cruise ships to other Philippine destinations, with Subic receiving the most visitors.

TWEET World Travel has been appointed as the General Sales Agent (GSA) for the Viet Princess Cruises-owned *RV Mekong Princess* (pictured) for the Australia and NZ market.

The river ship offers five-star luxury cruises in Vietnam and Cambodia along the Mekong River from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Riep and vice versa.

Mekong Princess boasts 14 spacious suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, as well as amenities such as a lounge area, spa, library and fitness centre.

"This boutique vessel brings a truly five-star luxury with only 14 suites...by partnering with Viet Princess Cruises, we aim to bring a wider range of options for discerning Australian travellers for their next cruise holiday," said



Tweet World Travel Director Tweek Carroll.

Viet Princess Cruises' Managing Partner said the company was "proud" to partner with Tweet World Cruises and said it was a good opportunity to increase the company's exposure in Australia and New Zealand.

Interiors of the vessel are inspired by French-style luxury, Departure dates for 2020 and 2021 are now available to book. Inset a *Mekong Princess* suite.

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SeaDream battery

SEADREAM Yacht Club will use a \$1.8 million-grant to equip its newbuild *SeaDream Innovation* with a large battery pack that will enable emissions-free sailing for up to three hours.

The funds from Norwegian Government-owned Enova will help create hybrid propulsion system on board *Innovation*, also creating silent running that causes little to no disturbance to marine life.

An entree to *Encore*



IMAGES of NCL's upcoming *Norwegian Encore* have been released by the cruise line, previewing the colourful hull artwork designed by Spanish artist Eduardo Arranz-Bravo (CW 13 Sep 2018).

Arranz-Bravo's work has been showcased across the globe, and he was also one of three artists chosen to represent the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The reason for selecting such a colourful design was to reflect the "vibrant guest experience for which the Norwegian brand is recognised," the cruise line said.



The vessel is scheduled to debut in Miami in Oct and will be the fourth ship in Norwegian's Breakaway-Plus class.

Encore will then relocate to Seattle in 2021, servicing seven-day cruises to Alaska.

Murray River deal

MURRAY River

Paddlesteamers is currently offering 35% discounts on winter cruises departing between 13 Jun to 26 Aug.

Winter packages include two bottles of wine and two \$20 Echuca Distillery Gin Experience vouchers.

Agents earn 15% commission on all sales.

Call 1800 896 884 for further information.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

Pacific Explorer 20 May
Carnival Spirit 23 May

BRISBANE

Pacific Dawn 25 May

DARWIN

Le Laperouse 23 May
Coral Adventurer 23 May

AUCKLAND

Pacific Aria 23 May



CRUISE ship doctor Ben McFarlane has revealed one of the most cunning ways that passengers attempt to score cabin upgrade - pretend to have claustrophobia.

In his latest book *Cruise Ship SOS*, McFarlane recalled a ship patient who complained of claustrophobia and was asking for an upgrade from his small windowless cabin, only for the ship's hotel manager to call the passenger out on his suspected fabrication.

"Tell him to come back when he's had a more interesting idea," McFarlane was told.

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