

Tourism Fiji keen for cruise growth

AN INCREASING number of cruise ships are visiting Fiji, with local tourism authorities hoping the arrivals will give passengers a taste of the destination which makes them return for a longer stay in the future.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* in Denarau this week at the 2019 Fijian Tourism Exchange (FTE), Tourism Fiji CEO Matt Stoeckel said the cruising sector was an important contributor to the industry, with both large and small ships welcome.

Cruises out of Australia and New Zealand generally only include visits to Fiji on itineraries of seven nights or more, often visiting Suva and Lautoka, where there are deep water ports.

Denarau, with a wide variety of activities available, is also popular, but requires tendering.

Stoeckel was particularly enthusiastic about the small ship cruising sector, with local operators including Blue Lagoon



Source: Captain Cook Cruises Fiji.

Cruises, Captain Cook Cruises, Liveboard Cruises and Tui Tai Adventure Cruises, among others.

"Small ships allow travellers to see some of the untouched, pristine parts of Fiji," he said, highlighting voyages to the country's Lau archipelago as "something that should be on everyone's bucket list".

Flexible three- and four-night itineraries were also an ideal complement to resort stays, Stoeckel added.

Tourism operators in other

parts of Fiji are also gearing up to offer product for cruise visitors, including the Koro Sun Resort on the island of Vanua Levu, near Savusavu Bay which also regularly welcomes vessels.

Pictured: Captain Cook Cruises Fiji's *Reef Endeavor* sailing the country's pristine waters.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Teach a ship to be fuelled by fish and it will cruise for a lifetime

EXPEDITION cruise line Hurtigruten has announced a new partnership with Norway-based Biokraft to supply the cruise line with liquefied biogas (LBG) made from dead fish and other organic waste.

In what Hurtigruten is describing as "the largest ever global contract for supply of (LBG) to a shipping operator,"

the deal will include daily deliveries of the climate-neutral fuel to its vessels.

"This is a large and significant move for Hurtigruten, for Biokraft, for green solutions in the global shipping industry, and most importantly, for the environment," said Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam.

"What others see as a problem,

we see as a resource and a solution...while other operators are running on cheap, polluting heavy fuel oil, our ships will literally be powered by nature," he added.

Hurtigruten had previously revealed plans to replace the engines of six of its ships with LBG and battery-powered alternatives by 2021.

Evergreen 2020 EU

EVERGREEN Cruises and Tours has launched its 2020 European cruises, with highlights including a 15-day Splendors of Europe cruise.

For more information on the program, call 1300 383 747.

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Short dreams added

DREAM Cruises has announced new cruise options for Australia's east coast, including a series of short sector itineraries and a new embarkation point in Newcastle.

In addition to seven-night coastal cruises to Queensland and Tasmania, Dream has six new short cruise options to choose from, including one-way between Brisbane and Sydney, with two, three-, four-, and five-night itineraries available.

Two departure dates are also now available from Newcastle - a four-night cruise leaving 04 Nov to Brisbane, stopping at Gladstone and the Sunshine Coast, and a seven-night round-trip from Newcastle on 25 Nov, visiting Gladstone, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Sydney.

The cruise line's *Explorer Dream* vessel will be its first to homeport in Australia, based out of Sydney's White Bay Cruise Terminal (**CW** 13 Sep 2018).

Viking has visions

ROLAND Kautzky from Travel Associates Toorak and Carissa Johnson from Spencer Travel Southside are the winners of Viking Cruises' "Dare to Dream" Eurovision guessing competition.

The two agents both guessed the Netherlands and UK would finish first and last respectively, scoring 150,000 Rewards by Vikings points.

Jamie's all at sea

NEWS that celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's restaurant chain Jamie's Italian has filed for bankruptcy will not affect the locations operating on board Royal Caribbean ships.

A spokesperson for Royal told **CW** the restaurants would continue to operate and that Jamie's Italian UK bankruptcy will not affect its partnership.

NCL brings Joy to the table



EARLIER this month, Norwegian Cruise Lines hosted 10 travel partners from around Australia on the recently refurbished *Norwegian Joy* for a seven-day Alaska Cruise from Seattle.

Norwegian Joy is the latest addition to the newest fleet sailing Alaska, and the trip treated its special guests to glacial views, as well as the ship's many amenities and entertainment offerings.

While ashore, the group undertook a wildlife tour of Icy Strait Point's Spasski River, and took in the sights of Juneau on the Cycle Alaska Bike and Brew Tour, such as Mendenhall Glacier.

Pictured back row: Hayley-Jayne Heperi, Travel Associates; Allira Bishop, Flight Centre; Inga Rebrikova, Infinity Cruise; Mel

Sievers, Infinity Cruise; Madeline Dunton, Travel Associates; and Craig McLaurin, NCL.

Front row: Fiona Boileau, Travel Associates; Kate Cosgriff, Flight Centre; Adam Dallmann, Flight Centre; Amy Wilson, Flight Centre; and Wade Owen, FC.

Scenic's passion

SCENIC is offering its passengers the chance to see the famed *Passion Play* in the German town of Oberammergau as part of its two 21-day Jewels of Europe cruises in 2020.

The production about the life of Jesus Christ is performed by 2,000 local residents, with Scenic cruises visiting between 20 May and 21 Sep.

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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*



Enderby's refresh

HERITAGE Expeditions' former polar research vessel, *Spirit of Enderby*, is sporting a fresh new look ahead of its 2019 Russian season.

The iconic ship enjoyed a two-week makeover in the Philippines, where it received a paint job, new wallpaper and refreshed bathrooms.

The update comes after the recent installation of wi-fi, as well as the refurbishment of the bar, library, lounge, dining room and lecture hall.

Lindblad-Nat Geo Galapagos



LINDBLAD Expeditions-National Geographic has launched its 2019/20 Galapagos brochure, offering explorers itineraries through the Galapagos, as well as explorations to Peru, Tropical Andes, and Colonial Quito aboard the *National Geographic Endeavour II*.

Travellers departing on 04 & 11 Oct will have the opportunity to travel with guest expert Dr Donald Johnson, best known for his 1974 ground breaking discovery of the 3.2 million-year-old skeleton known as "Lucy".

Sailings will also give passengers the chance to experience the full fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards available.



The latest expeditions coincide with the 60th anniversary of Galapagos National Park and Charles Darwin Foundation, established on the centenary of Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, with cruises designed to promote the importance of the conservation with regard to wildlife and flora in the region.

Oceanwide ready

OCEANWIDE'S newest ship, *m/v Hondius*, is gearing up to embark on its first arctic expedition cruise after successfully completing a series of sea trials.

Beginning its Arctic program on 03 Jun, the ship will sail from Vlissingen, Netherlands, making stops in Aberdeen, Fair Isle and Jan Mayen, before reaching Spitsbergen in Norway's archipelago Svalbard.

Passengers will be able to spot polar bears, Arctic foxes, and walrus as well as whales, seals, and seabirds.

Hondius will also undertake an Antarctic cruise program beginning in the 2019 austral summer, visiting the Antarctic Peninsula, the South Shetland Islands, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands.



MOVE over Vivid Sydney - Lake Macquarie is set to put on its very own light show, with dozens of boats illuminating the night skies and waters of the Hunter during Float Your Boat.

On 28 and 29 Jun, boat owners in the Lake Macquarie and Hunter region are encouraged to decorate their vessels in lights and take part in a parade around the Lake.

With \$4,000 cash prizes on offer, the event will feature two luminous flotilla parades.

Suburbs getting involved include Marmong Point, Toronto, Coal Point, Fishing Point, and Wangi Wangi.



Adventure Canada

CRUISE Weekly incorrectly reported last Wed that passengers booked with Adventure Canada (AC) were directly affected by the Russian Government's decision to cancel the lease of two of its ships (**CW 22 May**).

Rather, AC is offering agents an opportunity to re-book their affected One Ocean Expeditions clients on an alternative AC polar cruise.

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