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Wednesday 27th November 2019

Carnival to overhaul agent tool in ANZ

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is gearing up to launch a new agent tool it says will make it “faster than ever to create bookings and find information across the entire Carnival fleet”.

Described by Carnival as a new “one-stop, fun-shop” for the Australian and New Zealand markets, the soon-to-be-launched GoCCL Navigator portal will provide consultants with enhanced features across a range of key transaction areas.

Updates will include a relaunched booking tool which features info on local cruises and American and Europe sailings all in the one place and quoted in Aussie dollars.

Also available will be a new interactive deck plan feature, providing virtual tours and fact sheets across all 28 of Carnival Cruise Line’s ships.

Agents will also benefit from



improved marketing tools and product guides such as personalised flyers, web banners, e-brochures and product info, as well as a section which contains all of the line’s latest deals, last minute deals and exclusive travel agent rates.

On the technology front, Carnival says the new agent tool can be accessed “seamlessly across your devices”, with a modern and easy-to-use design.

Australian agents can expect to

take advantage of the new portal from 04 Dec, with New Zealand-based consultants to migrate across from Goccl.co.nz in early to mid 2020.

Carnival stressed that agents can still access its Polar Online tool, which will be made accessible directly from Goccl.com.au, likewise the line’s Navigator booking system.

For further info regarding the new tool, see the **front page**.

Pictured: *Carnival Splendor*.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Carnival Cruise Line**.

Uniworld ad push

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has introduced its first ever TVC to the Australian market.

The luxury river line’s advertisement features a snapshot of what life is like on board its ships, focusing on the amenities available, land excursions and its wide range of culinary offerings.

To mark the ad launch and parent company TTC’s 100th Anniversary Celebration Event, Uniworld is currently offering savings of up to 30% on select 2020 cruises.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

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* Offer correct as at 25 November 2019 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 13 December 2019 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.



Want to know what a cruise on *Scenic Eclipse* is like? Read more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

SQ signs up with CLIA



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has announced a new partnership with Singapore Airlines (SQ), with the carrier joining the cruise body as an Executive Partner and major sponsor of the next annual Cruise Industry Awards on 15 Feb, 2020.

CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz hailed SQ joining the Executive Partner program, suggesting the airline is a key player in linking Australia and New Zealand with fast-growing Asian cruise markets.

"Singapore Airlines operates at the heart of a region that offers enormous potential for cruising, connecting the rapidly developing destinations of Asia with the thriving cruise markets of Australia and New Zealand," Katz said.

"Singapore Airlines is an exceptional partner for the cruise industry and an important link to cruise destinations across its global network," he added.

Singapore Airlines Regional

Vice President South West Pacific Philip Goh also welcomed the new agreement, highlighting the mutual benefits between the cruise and aviation sectors.

"The cruising and airline industries are intertwined and this newly formed partnership allows us to enhance and further strengthen the close working relationship we've had with the cruising industry," Goh said.

"With more than 160 flights a week from nine cities across Australia and New Zealand, SIA is pleased to have worked alongside the cruise industry... we look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with the industry and providing even more options to sell cruise packages with the option of a journey on SIA," he added.

News of the agreement follows a recent five-year deal between the Singapore Tourism Board, Changi Airport and Royal Caribbean to boost the city's fly-cruise market (**CW** 25 Nov).

Cheap agent cruise

AGENTS currently have the chance to travel on Hapag-Lloyd's latest expedition ship, *HANSEATIC inspiration* for the reduced price of €3,750 (A\$6,092) per person plus a travel partner twin share.

The 15-day Caribbean sailing departs Belem, Brazil for Nassau, Bahamas on 28 Apr 2020, with scheduled stops including Virgin Gorda, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Mayreau, and Ille Royale.

Regular fares for the cruise lead in at \$12,817 per person twin share.

Reykjavik emissions

CRUISE ships visiting Reykjavik harbour released 14,300 tonnes of greenhouse gasses this year, up 50% from 2016.

The figure was cited by the Faxafloi Harbour Administration in a response to Vigdis Hauksdottir, a Reykjavik City councillor for the Centre Party.

Part of the reason for the rise is an increasing number of ships visiting the destination, with 194 ships expected to visit next year compared with 167 in 2018.

By comparison, the emissions of all fishing vessels at the ports of Faxafloi were 10,200 tonnes during the same period.

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Macquarie Park, Sydney

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TALK about cruise ship hype the public is just eating up!

To commemorate the impending arrival of *Mardi Gras* next year, Carnival has baked a gigantic 23-foot-long gingerbread replica of the highly anticipated vessel.

The massive baked good, created by noted baker Karen Portaleo, weighs in at an impressive 1,500 pounds and is currently "docked" at Atlanta's Lenox Square Mall.

"I've created hundreds of cakes during my career but a 680-kilogram gingerbread cruise ship is certainly a first for me," Portaleo said.

"As a baker, I'm always looking for a challenge and creating a gingerbread replica of *Mardi Gras* was an amazing experience as it serves as a fun conversation piece for thousands of holiday shoppers," she added.

For those interested in what goes into a giant culinary feat such as this, well to be precise it took 59 kilograms of flour, 4.5kg of cinnamon, and just over 190 litres of icing.

We just hope that prospective cruise passengers on *Mardi Gras* realise this was a marketing tactic and refrain from eating their cabin walls.



Finland strikes cruises



RECENT strike action in Finland carried out by the country's state-owned postal service has seen the Finnish Seafarers' Union join the industrial dispute, causing major disruptions to cruise ships docked in Helsinki, with some forced to remain in port.

Ferry operator Viking Line - not to be confused with Viking

Cruises - has confirmed that its ships will remain in port during the dispute, however Viking Cruises confirmed to **CW** that none of its ships have been disrupted by the strike action.

The industrial dispute began on 11 Nov, with flight and bus services also affected.

Pictured: Helsinki.



ACA UPDATE
with Jill Abel - CEO

Celebrating Cruise Growth

WHEN the *Vasco da Gama* arrives in Wallaroo next week, she will make history in South Australia and bring new tourism opportunities to regional Australia at a time when the country needs it most.

The CMV vessel, carrying 1,800 passengers and crew, will be the first ever passenger ship to visit the Yorke Peninsula town - also a gateway to the Clare Valley wine region.

The community has responded with enthusiasm, designing shore excursions to showcase the region and running a shuttle between the Copper Coast Triangle townships of Wallaroo, Kadina and Montana.

The *Vasco da Gama* will also be the first ship to visit four South Australian ports in one voyage - Adelaide, Port Lincoln and Penneshaw-KI - showcasing the best of each region.

CMV, which is headquartered in Adelaide, is also committed to supporting local producers and will carry a range of SA wines, Coopers beer and Adelaide gin on board.

ACA congratulates the SA State Government which has worked hard to develop its cruising capacity which will see 80 cruise ships visit the state's ports this season.

Cruising injected more than \$145 million to South Australia last year, up from the figure of \$118 million the year before.

This economic growth has far reaching benefits - from the urban gateway of Adelaide which will welcome a record 20 cruises this year - to the smaller agricultural communities suffering from the ongoing drought - a sign that cruise has become an essential part of our country's future.

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