

CRUISE



WEEKLY

TUESDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2010

www.cruiseweekly.com.au

Ph: 1300 799 220 Fax: 1300 799 221

Email: info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Editors: Louise Goldsbury & Amanda Collins

An animated launch for *Allure*

Allure of the Seas was named on Sunday by 3-D animated character, Princess Fiona from 'Shrek'.

NAMING CEREMONIES JUST GOT WEIRDER, WITH the godmother for the world's largest cruise ship revealed to be a fictional character from a children's movie series, Shrek.

Shrek's wife, Princess Fiona, presided over the ceremony, which was held in the *Allure of the Seas*' main theatre.

Princess Fiona – or the person dressed as the character, who will sail and perform on all of *Allure*'s Caribbean cruises, also had a modern way to perform the traditional breaking of a Champagne bottle on the ship's hull – electronically activated by a karate-chop.

This is the first time that a 3-D animated character has been the godmother of a cruise ship, but is a fitting reflection of Royal Caribbean's reference to *Allure* as the "Entertainment Ship".

The cruise line has a new partnership with the DreamWorks Animation film studio, and characters such as Shrek and Puss In Boots join passengers for breakfast and other meet-and-greet events.

"It's never easy choosing the right godmother, but we realised we had the perfect candidate right in front of us," said the company's chairman and ceo, Richard Fain.

"Princess Fiona is not only a Royal, but we felt such a unique ship deserved a unique godmother, and Princess Fiona symbolises the fun and entertainment that is so extraordinary on *Allure of the Seas*."

Attended by approximately 3,500 people,

the naming ceremony was part of a one-night inaugural celebration-fundraiser, benefiting United Way of Miami-Dade and Broward counties, Haitian relief efforts and other charities.

The event was broadcast live throughout the ship, as well as via streaming video on the internet, which can be viewed at www.AllureOfTheSeas.com.

For a full review of the ship, see next week's *Cruise Weekly*.

Pictured below from left is Adam Goldstein, president and ceo of Royal Caribbean International; Richard D. Fain, chairman and ceo of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd; Princess Fiona; and Captain Hernan Zini, master of *Allure of the Seas*.



P&O Pacific Island deal

P&O CRUISES IS GIVING AUSSIES THE CHANCE TO island hop through the Pacific Islands onboard *Pacific Dawn* for just \$1,109 per person, travelling in a quad-share cabin.

The 11-night voyage departs from Brisbane on 21 May 2011, and calls into Noumea, Isle of Pines, Mystery Island, Wala, Champagne Bay and Vila.

The price includes all meals and entertainment onboard.

See your travel agent, or call 13 24 94.

TODAY'S CRUISE WEEKLY

Today's *Cruise Weekly* issue features five pages of cruise news and photos.

Avalon cuts supplements

AVALON WATERWAYS HAS WAIVED ITS SINGLE supplements for single travellers on a number of its 2011 European river cruises.

Under the deal, guests can save up to \$2,500 off single voyages, for booking until 04 January 2011, or until sold out.

See your travel agent for details, or visit www.avalonwaterways.com.au.

CRUISE CALENDAR



Each week *Cruise Weekly* summarises which ships are in town.

SYDNEY

Rhapsody of the Seas	Sat 04 Dec
Sun Princess	Sat 04 Dec

FREMANTLE

Dawn Princess	Wed 01 Dec
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ADELAIDE

Dawn Princess	Mon 06 Dec
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HOBART

Orion	Wed 01 Dec
Orion	Sat 04 Dec
Orion	Sun 05 Dec

AUCKLAND

Pacific Dawn	Wed 01 Dec
Seven Seas Navigator	Wed 01 Dec
Volendam	Fri 03 Dec
Pacific Jewel	Mon 06 Dec

WELLINGTON

Pacific Jewel	Fri 03 Dec
Pacific Dawn	Sat 04 Dec

CHRISTCHURCH

Pacific Jewel	Thu 02 Dec
Pacific Dawn	Sun 05 Dec



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THIS WEEK AT SEA...

This fortnight at sea has been incredible!

It started with a 10-day cruise of the Bahamas, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal; then on the day I disembarked, about half an hour later, I boarded another ship for a four-day cruise.

Both cruises departed from Fort Lauderdale, but the port is so massive that I had to hitch a ride on the crew's shuttle bus to get to the next pier.

I could see *Allure of the Seas* from my cabin on the *Zuiderdam* – it was docked directly opposite – but was too far to walk with all my luggage in the Florida heat.

The night before changing ships, I asked *Zuiderdam*'s captain if he could please get as close as possible to *Allure* so that I could just leap across!

It's a shame I couldn't get *Allure*'s zip line to stretch over – that'd be a novel way to embark (an idea for the future, perhaps).

Being on two cruises in a row, it was easy to compare these very different vessels.

The facilities, entertainment, dining options and onboard atmosphere were absolutely nothing like each other.

One had a much older demographic, while the other is designed for families, especially younger children.

One was traditional, the other was very modern.

It's strange to compare them at all, or to group them under the same term, "cruising".

I feel like we need to invent new words to describe the variety of cruises out there.

When someone says "cruise", most people have their own stereotype of what it's like.

But how can you generalise?

If just two ships offered two completely different experiences, then there must be hundreds of different ways to cruise.

A lot of people wouldn't enjoy the classic style of cruising on Holland America's ships, but thousands of travellers sign up every week and have wonderful holidays.

A lot of people would hate to be on *Allure* with 6000 other passengers; others would love it.

I'll let you know next week what I really thought...

Louise Goldsbury
Editor, *Cruise Weekly*

Last-minute sale on Asia cruises

Fares start at only \$825 for *Princess Daphne*'s first-ever cruises from Singapore.

CLASSIC INTERNATIONAL CRUISES IS OFFERING UP to 30% discount on its new Asia cruises aboard the classic liner, *Princess Daphne*, this summer.

A nine-night Christmas cruise to Thailand and Malaysia, departing from Singapore on 19 December 2010, is now priced from \$1095 per person, twin-share, down from \$1455.

The ship will visit Penang, Phuket, Langkawi, Kuala Lumpur and Malacca.

A seven-night cruise to the same ports (except Malacca), departing on 6 January 2011, is available from \$825 per person, down from \$1135.

A nine-night New Year's cruise, also sailing roundtrip from Singapore on 28 December 2010, to Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Bander Seri Begawan (Brunei) and Kuching (Malaysia) has been reduced from \$1580 to \$1095 per person, twin-share.

Other special deals in January include an 11-night cruise that visits ports in Vietnam

and Thailand, including Bangkok and Ko Samui, priced from \$1325 per person; and a 13-night cruise to the Andaman Islands in India, Yangon in Myanmar (Burma), Phuket, Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur, priced from \$1575 per person.

Extra discounts are also offered for pension card holders.

All cruises are roundtrip from Singapore, and the onboard currency is Australian dollars.

Refurbished in 2008, the *Princess Daphne* has five lounges and bars, a restaurant, gym/spa, library, casino, show lounge, spacious decks and 240 cabins, including 73 suites – six of which offer private balconies.

Most other cabins offer ocean views through traditional portholes.

The sale fares are available only through travel agents.

For further info, see www.classicintcruises.com.



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Voyages of Discovery

Offers expire on Feb 28, 2011. All fares listed are in AUD per person twin share based on lead in category as at 10 November 2010 & include non-commissionable port taxes, government fees & gratuities. Fares displayed reflect all promotional savings. Valid for new bookings only. Subject to availability. May not be combinable with other offers, are capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. London accommodation where applicable is at the discretion of Voyages of Discovery. Cancellation penalties & conditions apply. Voyages of Discovery reserve the right to correct errors or omissions. Complete terms & conditions may be found www.voyagesofdiscovery.net.au



Adventure *and* Expedition Cruises

Written by Roderick Eime.

Slowly in the Solomons

Location: Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands 8 deg 26.3'S, 157 deg 56.9'E

Vessel: True North, 50m, 36 pax

Here at anchor in one of the world's largest saltwater lagoons, the Solomon Islands offers one of the few remaining unexploited adventure cruise locations on the planet.

Luxury expedition ship, *True North*, rocks gently in the middle of this vast body of water, ringed by mysterious, mist-enshrouded mountains and low, densely wooded islands.

A couple of yachts snoozing nearby and some canoes beached on a tiny strip of sand are the only reminder of human habitation in this remote archipelago.

Just this morning dozens of local artisans set-up an ad-hoc market for us on nearby Uepi Island, lining the ground with an array of intricately carved bowls, ornaments and totems representing both the real and mystical life abundant in this area.

Hammerhead sharks, angel fish, turtles and warrior faces superbly inlaid with mother-of-pearl shell are just a few of the subjects elegantly depicted in local rosewood and ebony.

Scuba divers arrive from their morning foray into the brilliant submarine world of vivid hard and soft corals, fans, anemones and their brightly coloured resident fish of all shapes.

At the jetty, a dozen or more reef sharks form greedy scrums as chunks of fish scraps are dropped into the water.

This perfect vista is a world away from the hectic scenes of 1942 and '43 when Japanese destroyers ran nightly fast convoys from Rabaul to Guadalcanal in a desperate attempt to resupply their struggling campaign against the entrenched US Marines.

One of these destroyers collided with the future US President, John F Kennedy, aboard the famous PT-109 in the straits just to the north.

Many of these islands bore witness to some of the bloodiest fighting in the Pacific theatre of WWII and the waters around the islands are littered with the wrecks of both Japanese and US warships and aircraft.

Small ship cruising, broader eco-tourism and battlefield tours are injecting valuable funds into the tiny Solomon Islands economy, hopefully reducing the reliance on unsustainable logging and fishing that is currently damaging the environmental balance in some areas.

Secluded island resorts like Uepi, Tetepare and Tavanipupu, dot the region but offer less sophisticated amenities than similar resorts in, say, Fiji and Vanuatu, instead relying on their undeveloped "back to nature" appeal.

These factors and a more involved land title system, means the Solomon Islands will develop more slowly and resist the wholesale tourism development that can sometimes tarnish an otherwise authentic tropical island experience.

For now at least, exclusive, well-managed adventure cruise itineraries like that offered by North Star Cruises can cover a dozen or more locations throughout the archipelago in a self-contained, low impact style that perfectly suits this delicate cultural and ecological environment.

At time of writing, a repeat of the seven-night Solomons Sojourn for 2011 is unconfirmed, but stay tuned to www.northstarcruises.com.au for updates.



True North passengers embark tenders for an excursion



Tetepare Islanders welcome *True North* guests

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Offers expire on 31 December 2010. All fares listed are in AUD per person twin share based on lead in category & include non-commissionable port taxes, government fees & gratuities. Europe fares are based on Athens to Rome 14/11/2011 sailing & at 25 November 2010 20% discount is based on published fare & does not apply to non-commissionable items. Fares displayed reflect all promotional savings. Valid for new bookings only. Subject to availability. Not combinable with other offers, are capacity controlled & may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Cruise ship fuel surcharges may apply. The cruise ship fuel surcharge, if applicable is additional revenue to Oceania Cruises. Cancellation penalties & conditions apply. Oceania Cruises reserve the right to correct errors or omissions. Complete terms & conditions may be found in the Oceania Cruises 2011 European Collection Australian Brochure. Ships Registry: Marshall Islands.



OCEANIA CRUISES®



Food in Amsterdam

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE'S *MS Nieuw Amsterdam* is set to play host to US celebrity chef, Keegan Gerhard.

Accompanying the seven-day 20 February Eastern Caribbean voyage as part of its guest-enrichment program, Gerhard will perform baking demonstrations in *Nieuw Amsterdam*'s show kitchen, and will also conduct dessert tastings, and participate in guest question and answer sessions.

Gerhard is currently listed as one of America's top ten pastry chefs, and his list of achievements includes serving as the technical advisor to the gold-medal winning Team USA in the Pastry World Cup 2001, as well as hosting the US Food Network Challenge Series, and has featured on many pay T.V lifestyle programs (including Great Chefs of America and the Travel Channel).

See your travel agent for details, or visit www.hollandamerica.com.

The Allure of Rockets

NOSTALGIC AMERICAN BURGER CHAIN JOHNNY Rockets will open its 11th Royal Caribbean vessel location onboard *Allure of the Seas* when she launches next month.

Joining 25 other dining options available, Johnny Rockets will feature in the Boardwalk section of *Allure*, offer traditional 'Americana' ambience and burger joint food, and will be open from 11.30am till 1am daily.

Captain's Christmas lunch

CAPTAIN COOK CRUISES IS OFFERING SYDNEY-SIDERS the chance to avoid washing up on Christmas day with two Christmas lunch cruises around the harbour, onboard *MV Sydney 2000*.

Departing 12 noon on Christmas Day from No 6 Jetty at Circular Quay, *MV Sydney* offers two separate lunch options, including a Sky Deck lunch located on the first class upper deck level, and featuring an open bar stocked with premium wines, beers, spirits and soft drinks, as well as a five course menu, and entertainment from a live band.

The second lunch option takes place on the restaurant deck of *MV Sydney*, and includes a Christmas buffet (with Virginia baked leg ham, roast turkey, Sydney rock oysters, king prawns, smoked salmon, salads, plum pudding and mince pies) as well as house wines, beers and soft drinks.

The Christmas luncheon cruise returns to Circular Quay at 2.45pm, and the Sky Deck lunch is priced at \$259 (adult) and \$179 (child 5-14yrs); whilst the Club Deck lunch is priced at \$199 (adult) and \$129 (child).

For info, or to book call 1800 804 843, or visit www.captaincook.com.au.



\$ Last Minute Deals

THIS WEEKLY COLUMN HIGHLIGHTS HOT DEALS ON cruises departing in the next 90 days – ideal for our spontaneous readers.

Check out this week's cruise bargains!

21 nights – New York to Los Angeles onboard *Queen Victoria*

- Departs: 13 January 2011
- From: \$5,519 per person
- Stops at Fort Lauderdale, USA; Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; Cristobol Colon, Panama; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; Huatulco, Acapulco and Manzanillo, Mexico
- Includes return economy airfares; 17 night cruise, two nights accom at The Beverley Hilton, LA and The Hotel Plaza, NYC
- See www.ecruising.travel

10 nights – Sydney return onboard *Pacific Jewel*

- Departs: 14 February 2011
- From: \$1,079 per person
- Stops at Noumea and Ouvea, New Caledonia; Vila and Champagne Bay, Vanuatu
- Includes up to \$150 per cabin onboard credit, all meals onboard, use of shipboard facilities
- See www.esecruising.com.au

WIN A 5-DAY LUXURY CRUISE HOLIDAY IN NZ



Cruise Weekly is giving readers the chance to win a fabulous small ship cruising experience for two people in the stunning Hauraki Gulf in New Zealand, courtesy of **Island Escape Cruises** and **Pacific Blue**.

This wonderful small ship adventure cruise includes return airfares on Pacific Blue from either Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane; round trip private vehicle transfers from Auckland International airport; luxury ensuite accommodation; all chef prepared meals; complimentary bottled water, fruit juice, soft drinks and espresso coffee; onboard expedition leaders; small boat excursions with guides; small boat sport fishing trips with guides; use of all fishing equipment including lures & bait and use of snorkelling equipment and sea kayaks.

Island Escape Cruises offers luxurious small ship cruising with accommodation onboard for only 22 passengers. The spacious and individually designed cabins all feature large en-suites, timber panelling and handmade furniture. All cabins are fitted with DVD, flat screen TVs and are all separately air-conditioned. Most have doors that open directly onto the outer teak deck.

To be in the running to win, you must read **Cruise Weekly** over the next 12 weeks and correctly answer each of the questions featured, plus send in a response to a final question which will be published in the last week of the competition.

Question 9

What services does Pacific Blue include on board?

Hint! Most of the answers can be found at www.islandescape.co.nz and www.pacificblue.com.au

Email your answers each week to islandescapecomp@cruiseweekly.com.au

Click here for full terms and conditions.

ISLAND ESCAPE
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CRUISE
WEEKLY

Pearl's pamper promise

P&O CRUISES HAS RELEASED SPECIAL DETAILS regarding the construction of *Pacific Pearl's* Aqua HealthSpaFitness retreat, saying that the health and beauty zone will provide a little bit of luxury indulgence for passengers at sea.

The Aqua HealthSpaFitness retreat will include 10 treatment rooms (including a couples' room with fully equipped whirlpool and steam-sauna), and will feature dark wood accents with splashes of aqua.

The facility will also include a relaxation section, complete with a wet area with steam and sauna facilities, and muscle-soothing health lounges.

The spa will offer a series of treatments, ranging from the usual facials and mani-pedi's, to massage, anti-ageing treatments, and for the more adventurous passengers, bamboo massages, acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine treatments.

The area will also feature a fully equipped gymnasium, which will be run by a team of fitness experts, and feature gym equipment including treadmills and cycles, group classes, personal training sessions and Body Sculpt Boot Camp.

Pearl is set to launch in Auckland on 21 December- see www.pocruses.com.au.

Stella Australis launch

CRUCEROS AUSTRALIS IS GETTING SET TO LAUNCH its newest 100-passenger vessel, *Stella Australis* on 18 December 2010.

Destined to offer voyages through the Chilean-Argentine Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn, *Stella Australis* measures 89 metres and when she launches will feature 100 cabins of which 96 measure 16.5 m² with the remaining four measuring in at 20.5 m².

Each cabin will offer its occupants panoramic windows, an independent heating system, a private bathroom and a satellite telephone.

Other onboard facilities include three saloons, a dining room, an exercise room and an "ample outdoor terrace".

Stella Australis will depart on her maiden three-night voyage on 18 December from Punta Arenas in Chile to Ushuaia in Argentina and is priced from US\$840 (about AU\$868) per person, twin share.

For info see your local travel agent, or visit www.australis.com.

Sleepy Sydney sunrise



The spectacular sunrise, pictured above, was snapped by **CW** reader, Rhondda Tissington, whilst onboard a *Sun Princess* South Pacific voyage.

Rhondda's husband Colin told **CW** that the couple had gotten up early to see the sunrise over Sydney Harbour as *Sun Princess* sailed silently into the still sleeping city, the picture above being the result of their early morning adventure.

For sending in the photo, Rhondda and Colin are now in the running to win a compact size EEE PC computer courtesy of **CW** and Esecruising.com.

For your chance to have your cruise photo featured in **CW**, and to go into the running to win the computer, simply send your best cruise photos in digital form along with a description to comp@cruiseweekly.com.au.

There's only a few days left to enter the competition, with entries closing on 03 December and the winner to be announced on 07 December.

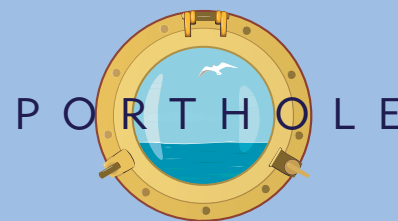
P&Os \$80k Lifeline

THIS YEAR, P&O CRUISES HAS RAISED NEARLY \$80,000 for the mental health charity Lifeline.

P&O Cruises partnered with Lifeline in May this year, kicking-off the relationship with a generous donation of 1000 chairs, sofas and tables from onboard *Pacific Dawn*, as well as luxury duvets and boxes of crew clothing, to be sold in Lifeline's charity stores.

According to Lifeline the funds have been put toward training 32 new telephone crisis volunteers, answering 2000 calls to its crisis line and training 300 people with the skills to intervene to save a suicidal person's life.

"Lifeline's retail outlets rely on donations of quality goods to generate this income and this is why P&O Cruises' support is so important," said Lifeline's General Manager for Fundraising, Marketing and Media, Brendan Maher.



WATER-LOGGED BRIDE!

The Glenelg Jetty in Adelaide was more than just a spot to put into port last week, after a wedding party which was having photos taken on its boards jumped into the water to aid a woman who was seen floating face down in the ocean.

According to reports, both the bride and groom, as well as several groomsmen and bridesmaids all dived off the wharf and pulled the woman out of the water.

Dripping expensive make-up and toting water logged wedding gear, the group performed CPR on the unconscious woman, bringing her back to life before the arrival of ambulance officers.

THEATRE OF A DIFFERENT KIND.

Cruisers who enjoy their theatre performances without the chatter of other audience members may be thankful that they have so far avoided the sounds of a fellow theatre patron in labour.

Not so lucky however, were the audience members attending the world famous Burgtheatre performance of the classic tale of *Phaedra*, in Vienna.

According to recent reports, a heavily pregnant woman attending a session of the sold-out play, went into labour just after returning to her seat following the mid-play interval.

Fellow theatre goers alerted theatre staff members to the bizarre turn of events, and the woman was soon led by concerned ushers into the theatre's foyer.

From here, the staffers called ambulance officers and the woman was led by theatre staff to the Burgtheatre's staff doctor to the woman's side.

The baby however, was not willing to wait until ambulance officers arrived, and was delivered in the theatre, with the assistance of the staff doctor.

The play's director, Matthias Hartmann told reporters that the birth was "an historic event", and that the male baby should be named "Hippolytus or Theseus after the two leading male characters".

As a result of the birth, the revered theatre has granted the baby boy a lifetime membership.