



Princess unveils Americas cruises

Princess Cruises has released its 2014-15 program for the Caribbean, Panama Canal, Canada, New England and the US West Coast.

DETAILS about *Regal Princess'* debut and *Royal Princess'* first cruises roundtrip from New York have been announced.

The new *Regal Princess* will operate seven-day Eastern Caribbean cruises from Fort Lauderdale, while *Royal Princess*, for the first time, will become the largest ship ever to take passengers to Canada and New England.

The ship, which launches next month, is scheduled for four departures from New York in Sep and Oct 2014, sailing via Boston, Bar Harbour, Newport, Halifax and Saint John.

Ruby Princess also sails in the region for the first time on the line's popular 10-day Classic Canada & England itinerary featuring an overnight stay in Quebec City.

Cruise-tour options include Colonial America sites or Canadian cities such as Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa.

Convenient for Australian inbound flights, West Coast cruises will depart from LA, San Francisco and now Vancouver to Hawaii, Mexico, the South Pacific, and along the

California coast.

Crown Princess, the line's newest and most innovative ship based in LA, will also offer the popular 28-day Hawaii, Tahiti and Samoa itinerary.

Golden Princess will do shorter getaway sailings from LA during autumn, and *Star Princess* will be based in San Francisco, sailing to Hawaii, Mexico and the California coast.

In the Caribbean, clients can choose to depart from Houston or Fort Lauderdale, with several ships operating around the islands.

Emerald Princess is set to sail seven-day Western Caribbean voyages from Houston.

Coral Princess and *Island Princess* will continue Panama Canal voyages.

As well as an 11-day roundtrip itinerary from Fort Lauderdale, a longer journey completing a full transit of the canal is available between Fort Lauderdale and LA or Vancouver.

For details, visit www.princess.com.

Star Pride itineraries on sale

WINDSTAR Cruises has released four new itineraries to be operated by the *Star Pride* vessel it will acquire next year from Seabourn.

On sale now, departures are on offer from Istanbul and Athens cruising the Black and Aegean Seas, along with sailings from Rome, Venice and many more - phone 1300 950 622.

No end in sight for river boom

RIVER cruising could be set to continue in its boom period indefinitely, with no signs of a slowdown in sight, according to Scenic Tours managing director Glen Moroney.

Late last week, Scenic Tours announced that due to "overwhelming demand", it would expedite the construction of a ninth 'Space Ship' - to be known as the *Scenic Jade*.

The vessel will offer all of the luxuries offered on the current eight (including the soon-to-launch *Scenic Gem* - the firm's eighth vessel).

Scenic Tours general manager Michelle Black said *Jade* brings the Scenic group's overall investment in new ships for 2014 to \$90m.

"It's a true testament to both the popularity of river cruising and the demand for the ultimate all-inclusive luxury experience that Scenic Tours continues to deliver," Black said.

Jade will take to the Rhine, Main & Danube rivers next year, with *Gem* custom designed for France's Seine river & also to debut next year.

Moroney said river cruise ships look at capacity different to ocean-going vessels, with no foreseeable end in sight for the river cruising boom currently being experienced.

"The product category is still in its infancy," Moroney exclusively told **Cruise Weekly**.

"*Oasis of the Seas* carries more guests in one year than the entire fleet of English speaking Europe River Cruise ships on the Rhine, Maine and Danube Rivers!

"Each new ship added to the river cruise fleet has an annual capacity of approximately 3000 guests - this is similar to one week's capacity on a new build Princess or Celebrity ship".

The Scenic boss said he believed the river cruise market was not becoming too crowded in terms of capacity, despite the flurry of new ships being launched or announced in recent months by Avalon, Viking, Uniworld, Tauck, APT and even sister-company Evergreen Tours.

"Scenic is positioned at the top end and most competition is at the middle or lower end," Moroney mentioned.

With a repeat client base of in excess of 150,000 guests worldwide, Moroney added there was still significant room for growth.

INTRODUCING IN 2014
ALL-INCLUSIVE
Boutique River Cruising
in Europe

UNIWORLD
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION™

SAIL & SAVE

*Select Sailings

Holland America Line
A Signature of Excellence

FIND YOUR CRUISE >

CRUISE

WEEKLY

Thursday 16 May 2013



The Jahan
Saigon - Siem Reap

TRAVEL
INDOCHINA
Share the Experience

Join Travel Indochina on board The Jahan this New Year's Eve.

Call 1300 362 777



Dubai cruise city in planning stage

Dubai has set itself a target of one million cruise visitors to the Gulf by the year 2020.

THE Middle Eastern cruise hub of Dubai is expecting to more than double the number of cruise passengers to its shores by 2020 - the same year the emirate is hoping to host the 2020 World Expo.

Over the past decade, cruising has grown so fast in the Gulf states, officials admit they are struggling to provide world class facilities to keep up with demand.

Executive Director Business Tourism for Dubai's Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing Hamad Mohammed Bin Mejren says "temporary facilities" have been filling a void to accommodate the accelerated growth.

Dubai opened its first cruise terminal in 2001, the same year it welcomed around 7,000 cruise passengers.

Fast forward to 2012 and that number has surpassed 407,000, with Bin Mejren saying DTCM expects that number to swell by over 20,000 in 2013.

Two temporary cruise terminals are currently being used as new infrastructure is completed and prepares for opening.

Dubai's ruler Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum this month gave a green light for the Dubai Tourism Vision, which sets the ambitious target of doubling visitor numbers from 10 million last year to 20 million by 2020.

Bin Mejren told *Cruise Weekly* that DTCM would need to aspire to welcome one million cruise passengers by that time to fulfil cruise expectations.

"The priority is to accommodate the cruise business," Bin Mejren said.

"There's a new building under construction right now that's four times the size of the original terminal, and an additional cruise terminal will follow that," Bin Mejren said in Dubai last week at Arabian Travel Market.

A third cruise terminal will open within four years.

The Middle East cruise season operates from late Oct to May when the weather is "very pleasant", with ships sailing from Dubai's Port Rashid.

Costa Cruises, AIDA Cruises, Royal Caribbean, TUI Cruises and MSC Cruises operate voyages from Dubai, the latter home-porting the *MSC Lirica* in the region (*CW* 21 Feb).

Costa christened the *Costa Deliziosa* in the UAE in 2010.

Most voyages are 8-day/7-night, mixed with longer 10 to 15 day itineraries.

Last cruise season, there were four ships in port every weekend, handling around 15,000 passenger movements.

So why cruise in the Gulf States? Bin Mejren says the region is easily accessible, with Emirates operating 84 weekly from Australian ports, and Qantas 14 weekly from Sydney and Melbourne to Dubai.

Guests can visit multiple countries and emirates, but just unpacking once, with other drawcards to Arabia including the culture, fantastic weather, lengthy cruise season and unique destinations offering deserts, shopping, stunning scenery and beautiful beaches.

Guests can also experience the Arabic heritage and hospitality, while a seven-night all-inclusive price starts from \$1,000, he told *Cruise Weekly*.

Bin Mejren said the UAE works together to promote cruising and that Dubai's infrastructure made it the obvious choice as the hub.

In the next 10 years, Port Rashid will become a dedicated tourism destination in its own right, complete with hotels and restaurants, and with the cruise industry at the core.

Ocean going ship for Viking

VIKING River Cruises has confirmed it will enter the ocean cruising market in 2015, with two new 47,000-tonne, 900-passenger vessels set to launch in 2015, *CruiseCritic* is reporting.

The names of the new ships and intended itineraries will be revealed later this week.

Italian shipyard Fincantieri will construct the ships at a cost of between \$450m-\$500m, with the company reportedly saying it will deploy the ships on premium cruising voyages similar to Azamara, Oceania and Windstar.



Brett Jardine - General Manager



Cruise News
& Views...

Sales Growth Guaranteed

IF YOU are an expert in your field, it certainly adds to your credibility when you can show your potential clients how you have achieved your status!

The CLIA Cruise Accreditation Program (formerly ICCA) has been established since 1996 and is a way to recognise dedicated consultants who develop extensive cruise industry knowledge and superior selling skills.

Once you have achieved 'Accredited' status with CLIA you have something significant to crow about and should be driving this message as much as possible in all your marketing activity.

The CLIA Accreditation is issued on behalf of the very cruise lines that you are selling every day, therefore it is not surprising that their goal is to see as many travel agents as possible earn the recognition they deserve.

A CLIA Accreditation Certificate is achieved by accumulating 100 credit points through successful completion of our cruise training programs and shipboard experience (family and personal cruises) on CLIA Member Line vessels.

Further points may be earned by completing nominated cruise line member on-line product training.

The more you educate yourself about all aspects of cruising (not just product knowledge), the more you will meet your client's needs.

As you realise the satisfaction that you are delivering your clients, your confidence grows and a funny thing happens - your cruise sales start to grow.

Education delivers motivation and motivated sales people are very noticeable.

Join CLIA, commit some time to training, complete the necessary requirements and results will start to show - GUARANTEED!

Want to find out more - head online and visit www.cruising.org.au/accreditation.



inPlace
RECRUITMENT

Call 02 9278 5100

Cruise into your next job!

Are you a passionate cruise enthusiast with the drive to provide first class service?

- ▶ High end product with up-market clientele
- ▶ Sell cruise pkgs & escorted group cruise tours
- ▶ Must have strong international cruise exp.
- ▶ Sydney Inner West location, Salary neg.

email: sandra@inplacerecruitment.com.au

[click here for details](#)

CRUISE WEEKLY

Thursday 16 May 2013

TRADE UPDATE

Legendary river cruises. Inspired design.

SAVE UP TO \$1000

per couple on 2014 European river cruises

AVALON WATERWAYS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

[CLICK HERE to find out more](#)

avalonwaterways.com.au

Lights on aboard Captain Cook

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has launched a series of Sydney Harbour sailings designed to take in the visual light masterpieces surrounding the harbour during the 2013 Vivid Festival.

Over 60 light installations will be on show around the harbour from Sydney Cove, through The Rocks and around to Walsh Bay during the festival, on from 24 May to 10 Jun.

A Sunset Dinner Cruise departs at 5pm and will witness the lights coming on each night, priced from \$85pp.

CCC will also offer a Starlight Dinner sailing, departing at 7pm and priced from \$109pp.

Both cruises include a three-course contemporary Australian menu, with tickets on sale now by phoning (02) 9206 1111.

Voyages cancels Asian winter

POOR weather conditions experienced during the 2012-13 Asian season operated by Voyages to Antiquity have forced the company to cancel its upcoming 2013-14 season.

"After much deliberation, and consideration of feedback from our guests and ship operations team, these factors have persuaded us to postpone our upcoming winter 2013-2014 program," the company website stated.

While operating in the region between December to February, the company added its ships were being rocked by ocean swells between five to ten metres in height.

New website from True North

ADVENTURE cruise firm True North has launched a newly designed website, boasting improved technology and interactive displays.

The site also offers panoramic photography and video content aimed at conveying the True North sense of adventure and bringing the cruise experience to life, with the platform also optimised for viewing on mobiles and tablets.

See the site at www.northstarcruises.com.au.

RCI opens 2014-15 Aus season

EARLYBIRD savings of up to \$1000 per person highlight the 2014-15 cruise season, with sales for the season launched this week with Earlybirds to be booked by 31 Dec 2013.

Voyager of the Seas, the largest ship to sail in Australian waters during the season, will also undergo a significant overhaul prior to the season, with features available on Oasis-class ships to be installed for local cruisers to enjoy.

Four new itineraries will be offered by *Voyager*, which will operate departures from Sydney & Perth including a new 13-night Singapore-Sydney cruise priced from \$1,549pp.

Radiance of the Seas and *Rhapsody of the Seas* will also operate down under during the 2014-15 seasons, with both ships also seeing \$80m worth of refurbishments in recent years.

Both ships will arrive for their down under seasons off trans-Pacific voyages from Hawaii.

More details at www.royalcaribbean.com.au.



NOT exactly the greatest award to win.

North Tarawa beach in the small Pacific island nation of Kiribati has been declared the Pacific's first ODF - which stands for Open Defecation-Free island.

The "recognition" was bestowed by UNICEF on the island's Northern beach, however only about 5000 of the country's 101,000 people live there.

Open Defecation has been a long-term problem on Kiribati, with the unsanitary practice resulting in high levels of illness.

A spokesman for UNICEF said the title should serve as a goal for the entire nation to become "ODF" entirely, while the country's president has set a target date of Dec 2015 for the whole country to be ODF.

Russian Earlybird Cruise fares

RUSSIAN Travel Centre has released a range of earlybird cruise savings on selected departures of the *MS Pushkin* in Jun or Jul.

Seven night voyages between St Petersburg and Moscow are discounted by 10%, with standard twin cabins on sale from \$1,436ppts.

Bookings must be made by 30 Jun, and for more information, phone 1300 668 844.

Europe & Exotic corners flyer

DISCOVER the World Cruising has launched its 2014 Europe and Exotic Corners Cruise Preview Flyer, with discounts of up to 30% available on selected European cruise fares.

Deals apply to Variety Cruises yachts on the most popular destinations including Greece, Turkey, Malta, Italy, Croatia and the Seychelles.

The guide also features information on the new cruises in Costa Rica & the Panama Canal, to be booked by 31 Jan 2014 for eligible savings - download at www.bit.ly/varietyflyer.

Our home based **Personal Cruise Experts** enjoy the best support in the business, including...

- ▶ **Personalised Website**
Your own stand alone website with live booking and thousands of cruises updated for you
- ▶ **'On Your Behalf' Marketing**
A regular e-newsletter and direct mail pieces delivered to your clients, with your contact details

Find out MORE:
Take our online video tour at JOINCRUISEHOLIDAYS.COM.AU

CRUISE HOLIDAYS 07 3861 9667

Cruise Weekly is Australia's favourite online cruising publication. In production since 2007, **Cruise Weekly** is published each Tuesday, with a further travel industry update each Thursday.

Cruise Weekly is free and is sent to subscribers via email as an Adobe Acrobat PDF document.

Sign up for a free subscription at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710

Phone: 1300 799 220 Fax: 1300 799 221

Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Magda Herdzik and Lisa Martin
Email: advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper
Email: accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper
Editor: Louise Goldsbury

Production Editor: Matt Lennon
Contributors: Roderick Eime and Chantel Housler

Email: info@cruiseweekly.com.au



Cruise Weekly is a publication of **Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd**. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of **Cruise Weekly** no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.