



Expedition increases

EXPEDITION tour and cruise operator G Adventures is planning a big increase in expedition cruise offerings over the next two years, company founder Bruce Poon Tip has told **TD Cruise Update**.

Poon Tip said its operations on the Amazon in South America, in Antarctica and along the African coast were all selling well, with more capacity being considered.

South-East Asia was the most popular destination being booked by the Australian market, with sales up 50% year-on-year, departures now running daily & in some cases, multiple times daily.

Much more from our conversation with Bruce Poon Tip in today's edition of **Travel Daily**.

Three pages of CU

Today's issue of **TD Cruise Update** features three pages of all the latest cruise information.

New Queen at Mardi Gras

IN A world first, Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth* will celebrate Sydney's Mardi Gras with a drag queen perched on a giant sparkly stiletto as the liner sails into Circular Quay on Sat morning.

A 126-metre long multi-coloured cape will billow behind Mardi Gras performer Vanity Faire, positioned atop the 2.2 metre high heels, which will be studded with 1,000 LED lights.

The "Queen of the Harbour" arrival, organised by Cunard Line,

extends the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras festival to the waterfront for the first time.

Spectators are encouraged to head to the foreshore to watch the event, tipped to be one of Australia's biggest celebrations of diversity, in the lead up to the evening's street parade.

The cape will be unfurled at 7am as the 1,900-pax *Queen Elizabeth* enters Sydney Harbour, with Vanity taking her position on the stiletto before the ship nears the Opera House at around 7.30am.

Best vantage points will be on the southern side of the harbour from Mrs Macquarie's Chair to East Circular Quay.

The ship will remain in port overnight on Sat, with the stiletto and cape in place on the top deck, before departing again on Sun morning.

Last minute icy deal

SAVINGS of up to US\$1,650 are available through Wild Earth Travel on last minute bookings on a 10-day whale watching trip to Antarctica, ex Ushuaia on 15 Mar.

Discounted cabins for the sailing aboard *Ortelius* are priced from \$4,200 - phone 1800 107 715.

Staterooms on *Escape*

NORWEGIAN Cruise Lines has revealed details of the staterooms aboard *Norwegian Escape*, which will make its debut next year.

The 4,200-passenger vessel will feature 1,689 staterooms, 1,168 of which will offer a balcony.

Further, the line's "ship within a ship" concept, known as The Haven, will be offered on Decks 17 & 18 for pax in higher categories.

DTW Traveltek deal

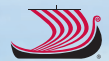
TRAVEL representation group Discover the World has signed a global partnership with online technology firm Traveltek.

The tie-up will see Discover represent Traveltek's technology through its 85 offices worldwide.

Traveltek is a major technology supplier to the cruise industry, with its online booking systems used by Helloworld offshoot The Cruise Team and Cruise1st.

2015 NOW AVAILABLE

SAVE \$600* PER COUPLE ON EUROPE & RUSSIA RIVER CRUISES.



VIKING
RIVER CRUISES
*Exploring the World in Comfort**

Book before 31 March, 2014 and take advantage of our great value cruising.

GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR

AMSTERDAM TO BUDAPEST
15 DAYS / 13 GUIDED TOURS
From \$5,695* per person

RHINE GETAWAY

AMSTERDAM TO BASEL
8 DAYS / 6 GUIDED TOURS
From \$3,195* per person

WATERWAYS OF THE TSARS

MOSCOW TO ST. PETERSBURG
13 DAYS / 11 GUIDED TOURS
From \$7,395* per person

TO MAKE A BOOKING CALL VIKING RIVER CRUISES AT 1800 131 744

*Conditions: Prices are listed in Australian dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, subject to availability. Offer valid for new bookings only, made between 1 Feb and 31 Mar 2014. Valid on 2015 river sailings only. Offer is only combinable with Past Guest Travel Credit and Referral Rewards Credit. Discount listed above is the current booking discount of \$300 per person. Must book by 31 March, 2014. Offer expires 31 March, 2014. Viking River Cruises reserves the right to correct or revise pricing or dates throughout the season. Conditions apply, for details visit www.vikingrivercruises.com.au. ABN 81 131 274 372 Lic. No. 2TA09283

2015 PREVIEW ON SALE
SAVE \$1000 PER COUPLE
 ON SELECT CRUISES AND DEPARTURES
AVALON
 WATERWAYS **MORE INFO**

CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS
 with Brett Jardine
 GM, CLIA Australasia

Norovirus Facts

IN 2013, seven outbreaks of norovirus on CLIA member lines were reported under the proper protocol to the US-based Center for Disease Control (CDC), involving a total of 1,238 passengers out of the 21.3 million passengers cruising globally - equivalent to six one thousandths of 1%, or .006%.

By contrast, the CDC reports up to 21 million land-based norovirus cases in any typical year in the United States alone!

Despite the small rate of incidents, cruise lines take a number of key steps designed to prevent sick passengers from bringing norovirus on board and follow strict sanitation and health regulations established and inspected by the CDC.

In the uncommon occurrence of an outbreak, CLIA member lines have shown they are able to immediately employ a variety of best practices to mitigate its spread and treat ill pax and crew.

Additionally, CLIA member lines continually review sanitation practices and procedures to provide an environment that supports passenger well-being.

Passenger health screening implemented by CLIA member lines assists in identifying ill passengers prior to boarding.

CLIA member lines also excel in educating their crew and passengers on proper hand hygiene practices.

No other segment of the travel industry undertakes the level of commitment nor collaborates with public health authorities to the extent the cruise industry does to safeguard passenger health.



Barge excursions extended

EUROPE'S largest luxury hotel barge cruising company, European Waterways, has added new shore tours to its itineraries in Scotland and France designed to appeal to the peaking numbers of Australian passengers.

One in five passengers on European Waterways barges is Australian, according to managing director Derek Banks.

"The feedback we are getting is that they love the immersion in local culture and gastronomy and we know that they'll love the new onshore excursions this year which will give them a real taste of every region we visit," he said.

As part of Scotland's 'Year of the Homecoming' celebrations, the company has added several excursions to the itinerary of hotel barge *Scottish Highlander*, which cruises the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness.

Tours include visits to Clava Cairns, a clan chieftain prehistoric burial site, and the Glen Ord whisky distillery.

Among the French offerings, on the Canal du Midi, *Enchanté* will now take a longer route between

Narbonne and Carcassonne, stopping at L'Oulibo olive press and Château Ollieux Romanis for a private tasting of Corbières wines.

European Waterways has also introduced a Bordeaux itinerary on Rosa with Grand Cru wine-tasting at Château Beau-Sejour-Becot and Saint Émilion.

In Burgundy, sailing aboard the *L'Impressionniste* barge, guests will visit Dijon and enjoy tastings at Château André Ziltener and Bouchard Pere et Fils.

Prices start at €2,690 (\$4,100 AUD) per person with special offers on selected spring and summer 2014 cruises.

Details at www.gobarging.com.

HAL Syd appointment

HOLLAND America Line has recruited Ali McEvoy to the role of community relations rep for the Sydney, Australia market.

In her new role, McEvoy will handle corporate giving initiatives such as coordination of shipboard events as well as partnership and sponsorship opportunities for non-profit organisations and charities on ships sailing locally.

McEvoy will report to the line's Seattle HQ, working closely with the local sales office in Sydney.

Still availability for '14

LINDBLAD Expeditions is down to its last available cabins on expeditions to the Pacific Islands & Kimberley departing in 2014 aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, the line has said.

Five itineraries departing in Aug, Oct, Nov and Dec can still be booked for a departure this year visiting such destinations as the Spice Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tahiti and Easter Island.

Cabins are priced from \$11,155pp for a 14-day expedition from Broome to Bali, through to \$18,420ppts from Lautoka, Fiji to Papeete, Tahiti - ph 1300 361 012.

NT buoyed by Queen

NORTHERN Territory Tourism Minister Matt Conlan has praised the impending economic impact to Darwin through the visit of the *Queen Mary 2* today.

"More than 700 passengers have already pre-booked tours to local attractions [while] local businesses will also benefit with more than half of passengers expected to explore the city independently," Conlan said.

Steel cutting on Vista

INITIAL construction has begun on Carnival Cruise Lines' new ship *Carnival Vista*, due to take to the seas in the 2016 northern winter.

The 4,000-passenger vessel, the 25th in the line's fleet, is being built by Italy's Fincantieri shipyard.

State of the industry

BOSSES from the four biggest cruise lines will host a "State of the Global Cruise Industry" panel at the upcoming Cruise Shipping Miami conference in Florida, on from 10-13 Mar.

Participating in the discussion will be Carnival Corporation ceo Arnold Donald, Royal Caribbean Cruises chairman Richard Fain, Norwegian Cruise Lines ceo Kevin Sheehan and MSC Cruises exec chairman Pierfrancesco Vago.

One of the key topics of discussion will be trends & major issues in place for development of the world's three biggest cruise markets in Europe, the Americas and Asia/Australasia.

P&O Cruises Australia Senior vice-president Tammy Marshall will also participate in a special plenary discussion focused on the Asia and Australasian region.

Brochure Spotlight

Cruise & Maritime Voyages has recently released a special guide previewing the second season of *Astor* cruises from Fremantle.

After a successful first summer season based in the WA port, the new brochure covers the period of Nov 2014 - Apr 2015 along with the ship's southbound repositioning from London.

The luxury liner's second year down under will again feature cruises ranging from a one-night Sampler through to a 33-night Australia circumnavigation.

Further, special Food & Wine & Rock 'N' Roll theme voyages will take place on in addition to Christmas and New Year cruises.

Download the new brochure from www.cmvaustralia.com or phone 1300 307 934 for details.

Agents explore Asian high seas



ABOVE: This group of Aussie travel agents were recently hosted on a six-night family cruise to a number of glamorous Asian ports aboard Royal Caribbean Int'l vessel *Mariner of the Seas*.

The round-trip journey departed from Singapore and visited Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi, Penang and Phuket, enjoying onboard features such as rock-climbing wall, mini-golf course, ice-skating rink and sports facilities including basketball and tennis court.

Mariner of the Seas is also one of the line's ships featuring the DreamWorks experience, seeing passengers mingling with famous characters from popular movies including *Shrek*, *Kung Fu Panda* and *Madagascar*.

The ship also boasts a Royal Promenade which runs nearly its entire length offering a variety of restaurants, lounges & boutiques.

Pictured above aboard the ship in the back row from left is Nicola Wilson, Flight Centre Southlands; Bronwen Milsom, Royal Caribbean International; Deborah

Baptista, Flight Centre Joondalup; Stephen Gwilliam, Infinity Cruise; Ben Flick, Infinity Cruise; Scott Cattach, Escape Travel Karrinyup and Natalia Curtis from Flight Centre Rockingham.

Front row: Rebecca Tubey, Flight Centre Garden City; Marla Brown, Escape Travel Rockingham; Kimberley Green, Infinity Cruise and Chantal Radei from Escape Travel Karrinyup.

MEANWHILE, travel agents only have until COB tomorrow to get their entries in to win a Caribbean cruise aboard *Allure of the Seas*.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Second Cuba season

LOUIS Cruises affiliate line Cuba Cruise has released its 2014/15 season of sailings, with popular demand seeing the continuation of seven-night circumnavigations of the Caribbean island nation.

The week-long voyages depart from Havana each Mon and from Montego Bay, Jamaica each Fri, sailing from Dec 2014 - Mar 2015.

River Cloud II farewell

SEA Cloud Cruises has released a "Farewell promotion" for its 88-passenger *River Cloud II* vessel for sailings between Apr and Aug 2014, when the ship will be phased out from the line's fleet.

Deals include a 30% discount on selected seven-night Budapest to Passau, Basel to Amsterdam and Amsterdam round-trip sailings, for bookings made by 31 Mar.

Phone 1300 583 572 for details.

NZ small ship guide

ISLAND Escape has released its 2014/15 Luxury Small Ship Cruising brochure to the trade.

The new guide details the line's range of one-week sailings in New Zealand, which take place in parts of the country including the Bay of Islands, Fiordland National Park and Abel Tasman National Park.

Earlybird savings up to NZ\$1,000 are on sale for a limited time.

Brittania floated out

P&O CRUISES World Cruising has floated its newest mega-liner *Brittania* - the largest passenger ship to be based permanently in the UK - out for the first time.

Traditional maritime ceremonies including the good-luck charm of welding of a coin into the deck, along with customary blessings by the "Madrina" all took part.

A number of celebrity chefs have been selected by the line to take part in *Brittania's* onboard cooking school, The Cookery Club.

"We are incredibly honoured to have secured the services of the best chefs at sea," P&O Cruises World Cruising marketing director Christopher Edgington said.

Customised HL guide

LUXURY European line Hapag-Lloyd Cruises has rolled out a new customisable brochure generator on its website, allowing users to design a brochure for their needs.

Up to 20 voyages can be added to one user-generated guide, with details on ports-of-call, ship deck plans, features as well as pre- and post-cruise programs.

In addition, users can create an online "Favourites" cruise list, which can then be turned into a downloadable PDF catalogue.



DO NOT adjust your screens, as the photo below is correct, and no, Royal Caribbean Int'l has not acquired the Seabourn brand from Carnival Australia.

The photo below was sent to us by a keen-eyed passenger travelling aboard *Seabourn Sojourn* on its recent journey around the south-west tip of Australia from Adelaide to WA.

Innocent enough oversight it is to a sure-fire friendly small-town cafe owner, but still mildly amusing to those of us in the industry.



Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at www.traveldaily.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) **F:** 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of *Travel Daily* 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.

Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Lisa Martin and Magda Herdzik
 Email: advertising@traveldaily.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: Guy Dundas and Olivia Archbold
 Email: info@traveldaily.com.au