



Titanic II delayed

CLIVE Palmer's much publicised replica cruise ship *Titanic II* will now not sail until 2018, two years behind its original schedule.

Blue Star Line, the cruise line formed by the Australian politician and mining billionaire last year to oversee construction and launch of the ship, has signed Chinese firm AVIC as project partner to source sponsors.

The ship will provide a sailing experience as close as possible to the original *Titanic*, albeit with a few modern technology upgrades.

Once complete, *Titanic II* will retrace the maiden voyage of its famous predecessor, travelling from Southampton to New York.

CCC whale guarantee

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has launched its 2014 whale-watching season, guaranteeing passengers will spot a whale or be given the chance to cruise again for free.

The season officially commences from 17 May and runs through to mid-Nov, with pods of Humpback and Southern Right whales a frequent sight migrating north.

Passengers will cruise past the highlights of Sydney Harbour on their way out of the heads, with tickets priced at \$90 per adult and \$57 for a child aged 5-14yrs.

A combo ticket permitting entry to Taronga Zoo is available for an additional \$9 per adult.

The line said it boasts a 99% success rate of spotting whales.

Avalon adds Asian ships

AVALON Waterways is set to sail in Myanmar for the first time, starting next year, with a new river vessel simply named *Avalon Myanmar*.

But first, the line will launch the *Avalon Siem Reap* in Jan, operating a 13-day itinerary on the Mekong River.

Avalon Myanmar will debut in Sep to undertake a series of 14-day itineraries roundtrip from Yangon, starting with two nights in the city before flying to Bagan to join the ship for a 10-day cruise.

Both small ships offer 18 suites with wall-to-wall sliding windows, as well as an air-conditioned lounge with floor-to-ceiling windows, a shaded open-air observation lounge on the forward deck and a dining room serving a mix of western and Asian cuisine.

Other features include a bar, spa treatment room, fitness centre and library.

The ships are profiled in Avalon's newly released 2015 Asia brochure, its first to be dedicated

Grand onboard credit

CELEBRITY Cruises is offering up to US\$1,000 onboard credit for passengers making a booking prior to 31 May 2014.

Credit awarded depends on the stateroom category booked, with any sailing worldwide from 01 Jul 2014 to 31 Mar 2015 applicable.

to operations on the Mekong, Yangtze and Irrawaddy rivers.

Savings of up to \$758 per couple on its 2015 World Collection cruises are available through the line, with a 5% discount on all Asia bookings until 24 Jun 2014.

'Golden Myanmar & the Alluring Irrawaddy' is priced from \$7,691ppts (including discount), and 'Fascinating Vietnam, Cambodia & the Mekong River' starts at \$4,326ppts.

Also in the 2015 program are an 11-day Magical China & the Yangtze River (from \$4,229) and a 15-day Cultural China & Tibet with Yangtze River Cruise (from \$5,719) - for more details, see www.avalonwaterways.com.au.

Three pages today

Today's issue of *TD Cruise*

Update features three pages of all the latest cruise information.

Explorations launched

EIGHT new itineraries in the Polar regions, Europe, Africa and the Indian Ocean have been introduced as part of the newly launched Explorations brochure from Lindblad Expeditions.

Four of the new itineraries will be operated by the line's newest vessel, *National Geographic Orion*.

The new departures range in duration from 8-22 days.

The guide features details on the line's entire range of expeditions in the 2014-15 season, taking place aboard six branded National Geographic ships & four charters. Phone 1300 361 012 for details.

Breakaway birthday

NORWEGIAN Cruise Lines has celebrated the first anniversary of cruises on *Norwegian Breakaway*.

Since debuting on 13 May 2013, Breakaway has carried nearly 250,000 guests on its week-long Florida and Caribbean sailings.

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Cruise Week 2014 September 01-08

THIS is our chance to get the nation talking about cruise... and we can all come together as one cruise community & play our part!

We are asking all our CLIA Australasia member travel agents to hold an event or promotion during our annual Cruise Week and help get the nation cruising.

In fact, this year's theme is "New to Cruise", aimed at newcomers to the world of an entertaining, economical, and quality way to holiday, be it across our oceans or along the beautiful inland waterways of the world. This is a unique opportunity for travel agents up and down the country to create a buzz in their own neighbourhoods.

We will showcase all your efforts to the public via our dedicated website to be launched soon.

Our supporting cruise lines will aid by providing exclusive deals and value adds to the campaign, while we at CLIA will work with various media to promote our message to the public.

Ultimately, Cruise Week success for your business comes down to how you plan your campaign.

Look out in the coming months for our new Cruise Week 2014 logo, a downloadable tool kit to help you prepare, and our newsletter for tips as we get closer. For now, ask yourself one question; what can I do to approach and generate interest to 'new to cruise' customers?

Tip: 'New to Cruise' may be outside your regular box of tricks!



New Uniworld shore tours

A RANGE of new and exclusive shore excursions has been added by Uniworld Boutique River Cruising as part of its 2015 Asia River Cruise and Tour program.

Five voyages varying in length from 11-18 days in China, Vietnam and Cambodia make up the season's collection of itineraries, along with a selection of multiple day extensions to other cities.

Shoreside experiences available to pax as part of the new program include a Kung Fu show in Beijing, Shennv Stream exploration at the Three Gorges in Suzhou and a water puppet show in Hanoi.

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises general manager Australia John Molinaro said the line's incredibly high standards were in place to

ensure the best experience both onboard and in Asia's cities.

"We're delighted with the success of our Asia programme and its continued popularity with Australians.

"Many of our guests have discovered the delights of travelling by luxury river cruise ship with us in Europe and are returning to see Asia by way of its majestic rivers," Molinaro added.

Itineraries start from \$4,999ppts for the 11-day 'Highlights of China & the Yangtze' holiday, which travels from Beijing to Shanghai.

All itineraries in China spend a maximum of four days cruising on the Yangtze River, with guests to travel aboard small ships *Century Paragon* and *Century Legend*.

Early booking savings of \$1,500 per couple are available on the entire program for bookings paid in full before 31 Oct.

The Love Boat winners

CONGRATS to Gayle Dawson from TravelManagers, Lisa Garrett of Flight Centre Archer Street and Kylie Fidler from Trans World Travel, who have each won a Julie McCoy costume in last week's Celebrity Interview competition.

The three agents answered the **TD Cruise Update** question asking who Gavin MacLeod played in the *Mary Tyler Moore Show*, with "Murray Slaughter" as the answer.

Inclusions on Aurora

A NUMBER of new inclusions have been added for all guests travelling in Aurora Expeditions' inaugural Antarctic season from its new Puerto Williams gateway.

To celebrate the upcoming launch of expeditions from the new Chilean launch port, guests will receive a new polar jacket and hard-cover photo journal to take home after their adventure.

In addition, a guided tour of the town and scenic flight over the Beagle Channel is included FOC.

Fares for a 10-day Antarctic expedition from Puerto Williams in the the 2014/15 season start from US\$7,100pp triple share.

Adriatic Classic deals

EASTERN Europe wholesaler Beyond Travel has taken \$1,000 off the price of its eight-day Adriatic Classic river cruise, sailing round-trip from Dubrovnik in Jul and Aug this year.

Sailing aboard the *MS Princess Aloha* or *MS Vita*, the price cut is valid if booked before 20 May.

The seven-night itinerary is now priced from \$1,580 for a sea-view cabin - ph 1300 363 554 for info.

Epic A&K charter

COMPAGNIE du Ponant vessel *MV Le Boreal* has been chartered by Abercrombie & Kent to operate a 23-day expedition through the remote Northwest Passage from Greenland to the Canadian Arctic.

Departing 20 Aug 2015, places on the expedition are priced from US\$24,995ppts, with a \$3,000 earlybird discount on bookings in Categories 1-3 before 31 Oct.

The journey will also visit Alaska before concluding in the Russian far east - phone 1300 590 317.

Dorchester boycott

BRITISH online cruise retailer www.cruise.co.uk has joined the growing number of travel and tourism businesses to boycott the Brunei-owned Dorchester Collection hotel chain over newly passed anti-homosexuality laws.

Virgin Group founder Sir Richard Branson has led the chorus of condemnation, with many famous celebrities also voicing criticism.

Mahalo on Norwegian

SPECIAL "Down Under" rates have been released by Norwegian Cruise Lines for departures on its *Pride of America* vessel for Hawaii circumnavigations from Jun-Dec.

The deals are in celebration of May being Mahalo Month and are valid for bookings to 31 May.

In addition, bonus \$100 onboard credits are available for all stateroom categories booked.

Cabins are now available to book through wholesalers.



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Clippers new in Cuba

MASTED sailing ship operator Star Clippers has introduced two new itineraries in Cuba, taking in the music & culture of the island on a seven or 18-night voyage.

The roundtrip departures aboard *Star Flyer* begin in Cienfuegos, with the longer sailing concluding on the island of St Maarten.

Cabins are priced from \$2,425 or \$7,165ppts respectively, which is 25% off if booked by 30 Jun - to book, phone (02) 8913 0797.



A NEW shore excursion on sale through Crystal Cruises is aimed at those who want to see as much as possible as quickly as possible.

From this month, Crystal voyages in Europe are offering "Site Running Crystal Adventures" shore programs, with guests escorted on a jogging tour of a 5-10km range of sights & attractions in a city.

The line says the excursions are aimed at pax "who want to maintain their commitment to exercise and relish unique and intimate ways to explore destinations", without stopping.

Jogging adventures are currently available in Dubrovnik, Greenock, St Petersburg, Cork, Monte Carlo, Amsterdam and through Bordeaux, with many more expected to be added.

The excursions will be pitched as a Health and Fitness option.

Kuttabul memorial

FANTASEA Adventure Cruising will operate its annual sailing to commemorate the anniversary of the sinking of the *Kuttabul*, which was sunk by Japanese midget submarines on 31 May 1942.

The cruise will depart at 9am from King St Wharf 9 at Darling Harbour and will include entry to the Naval Base at Garden Island.

Weather permitting, the sailing will also venture out of Sydney Heads to the location from where the Japanese fleet launched its wartime attack on the *USS Chicago* and Sydney during WWII.

Floral tributes will be laid at the site following a ceremony accompanied by a lone bugler.

Expert historians will provide commentary and details on how the *Kuttabul* became the victim of the attack, with 19 Australian and two British soldiers lost.

Tickets for the 3 1/2 hour cruise are priced from \$79, with morning tea and refreshments onboard.

Book at www.fantasea.com.au.

Free Mekong upgrade

AUSTRALIAN tour operator Active Travel is offering free cabin upgrades on seven-night cruises between Saigon and Siem Reap on the new *Mekong Prestige II* vessel if booked by 31 May.

A 10% discount on the fare is also available as a substitute to the cabin upgrade if preferred, with the offer valid on departures between Oct 2014 and Apr 2015.

The 64-passenger small cruiser was launched late last year and offers French balconies on all cabins, sundeck and whirlpool.

Phone 1300 783 188 for details.

Sherry makes good on rugby bet



CARNIVAL Australia ceo Ann Sherry kept her end of a bargain, hosting the Australian Women's Sevens rugby team to a lunch onboard *Pacific Jewel* recently.

Sherry, who also sits on the Australian Rugby Union Board of Directors - the first female rep on the Board - promised the team that if they returned from their trip to play Brazil in the IRB Women's World Series with a win, the lunch event would take place.

With an incentive like that, the team played their hearts out and came out winners in their match and are soon to head to the Netherlands for their next match.

Along with Australian Rugby Union ceo Bill Pulver, the ladies boarded *Pacific Jewel* for lunch at

Luke Mangan's Salt Grill while the ship was in turnaround in Sydney at the White Bay Cruise Terminal.

In addition, *Jewel* Captain Stefano Ravera escorted the group on a tour of the bridge and presented team captain Sharni Williams with a P&O Cruises flag.

Wishing the team every success for their next game, Sherry said she couldn't have been happier to honour her promise.

Sherry is pictured above centre with Pulver and the team aboard *Jewel* following their visit.

Majestic Scot deals

SCOTTISH small-ship operator The Majestic Line is offering 10% off its six-night Hebridean and Highland cruises departing on 11 and 18 Oct 2014, now priced from £1692ppts - for details, see www.themajesticline.co.uk.

Leith sings for Mums

AUSTRALIAN Idol 2006 winner Damien Leith recently performed onboard P&O Cruises vessel *Pacific Jewel* as part of the line's three-night Mother's Day cruise.

The artist performed a selection of classic hits as well as a range of new numbers from his latest album in two shows inside the ship's Marquee theatre.

Guests in each cabin also received a copy of Leith's album to take home after the sailing.

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