



Viking ocean boom

VIKING Cruises has almost sold out its 2015 itineraries on the new 930-pax *Viking Star*, including cruises in the Baltic, Med and Norwegian fjords.

Earlier this year, Viking announced the building of two additional ocean-going ships, *Viking Sea* and *Viking Sky*, to meet the "overwhelming demand" for the company's entry into ocean cruising (**CW** 13 May).

"As we usher in a new era in ocean cruising, the launch of *Viking Star* in Bergen, Norway in May next year will represent a distinct change in ocean cruising," said Teresia Fors, Viking River Cruises managing director, Australia and New Zealand.

MEANWHILE, steel has been cut for the construction of *Viking Sea*, the second ship in the Viking Ocean Cruises branch.

Identical to its sister vessels, *Viking Sea* is due to be delivered in mid 2016, a year after *Viking Star*, while building on *Viking Sky* is set to commence shortly.

Geelong berth offer

COSTA Property Group, owners of Cunningham Pier in Geelong, has invited local Mayor Darryn Lyons to reach out about gaining access to the port for cruise ships.

According to the *Geelong Advertiser*, Lyons has been trying to obtain government funding for the development of a terminal, tipped to cost nearly \$37 million.

Chief executive Carl Schokman said that four berthing dolphins could be placed at the end of the pier for the comparatively cheap price of \$2 million to allow ships of all sizes to berth and for passengers to disembark.

Geelong was set to see a series of visits by Portuscale Cruises' vessel *MV Funchal* in the coming cruise season prior to the ship cancelling its Australian season earlier this month (**CW** 04 Sep).

Schokman said the group would be happy to negotiate commercial access rights with Lyons.

Solomons keen on inclusion

THE Solomon Islands Ports Authority has held "positive" talks this week with major cruise lines in Australia, keen to entice more ports-of-call visits to Honiara.

Director of corporate services for the Ports Authority Glyn Joshua joined a Govt and Visitors Bureau delegation in Sydney to discuss the potential of further cruises with locally based companies.

Joshua told **Cruise Weekly** that talks with Carnival Australia, Royal Caribbean and Lindblad Expeditions had gone "better than expected".

"We're actually not promising anything but we are asking 'how can we learn from you, what are your requirements, this is what we have, how can we merge together to make the cruise experience better for people coming to the Solomon Islands?'" Joshua told **CW**.

"It's not us just trying to push the cruise lines but having them tell us what we can do better."

Joshua said recent CLIA Australia data which showed the true volume of passengers cruising in the region had gobsmacked the Ports Authority.

"We've never considered cruise tourism as part of our core business until the last six months

- the statistics actually shocked us," he said, referring to the 330,000+ cruise passengers to ply the waters of the South Pacific last year alone.

"It's a big market out there. The statistics actually tell us that people are coming to our region and we have done nothing.

"So we woke up and said we can't let the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau (SIVB) or the Ministry of Tourism do it alone."

Joshua said the Ports Authority would now act as the interface with cruise lines, and work with the SIVB and tourism authority which will look after the offerings and excursions beyond the wharf.

In a sign of its commitment to tourism, the Ports Authority will next month begin construction on a new interim passenger terminal at Honiara which will be up and running by mid-next year, in time for the arrival of *Pacific Eden* which has already scheduled two voyages to the region in 2015/16.

At around \$4 million to build, the facility will have a capacity of 200-250 pax, suitable for small and medium-sized ships.

The air-conditioned terminal will feature a foreign exchange counter, shore excursion desk, bar, shower and offer free wi-fi.

Today's issue of CW

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise information plus a full page of industry vacancies from **AA Appointments**.

TC's Cruise Month

A RANGE of new marketing tools including a dedicated cruise brochure have been released by Travel Counsellors to its network of home-based agents to coincide with 'Cruise Focus Month'.

Offers from over 20 different lines feature in the guide, which has been mailed to 20,000 of the firm's customers Australia-wide.

Travel Counsellors will also be able to benefit from a series of training webcasts, cruise e-cards, product videos and special offers.



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Heritage Sth Hem revival

FORMER favourite itineraries have been returned to Heritage Expeditions' Southern Hemisphere 2015-2016 program.

Released today, the new voyage calendar for the line's 50-pax *The Spirit of Enderby* expedition vessel includes "encore appearances with a few tweaks".

First introduced in 2013, the 'Melanesia Discoverer' trip travels from Madang in Papua New Guinea to Honiara in the Solomon Islands, and 'Secrets of Melanesia' from Honiara to Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Berths start from US\$5,995pp for an 11-day expedition focusing on remote destinations and accompanied by a team of naturalists, biologists and human history experts.

The shortest voyage is the 8-day 'Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific', which offers an introduction to Subantarctic life and visits the Snares, Auckland and Campbell Islands, roundtrip from Invercargill, New Zealand – priced from US\$4,300pp with sea kayaking at US\$550.

The longest voyage is the 30-day Antarctica Ross Sea expedition 'In the Wake of Scott & Shackleton' from Invercargill in Jan and Feb.

The full voyage calendar is available by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Oceania venture wide

TWELVE new destinations will be visited by Oceania Cruises for the first time as part of the line's 2015/16 northern winter season, now available for sale.

Among the list is Cooktown in North Qld (CW 22 Jul), which will feature as part of a 180-night world cruise aboard *Insignia*.

Two of the line's ships - *Regatta* and *Marina* - will sail in South America, with the latter then crossing the Pacific to operate in French Polynesia, Fiji, Samoa, Australia and New Zealand.

Other new ports to debut on the Oceania Cruises global map include Jeju, Korea; Luderitz, Namibia and Boracay Island.

MEANWHILE, free internet access to guests in selected room categories will be provided by Oceania Cruises under new changes to its onboard connectivity policy.

Beginning from late next year, pax in Owner's, Vista and Oceania suite categories will receive free onboard internet on an unlimited basis for the duration of a voyage.

Penthouse and Concierge cabin occupants will receive internet packages based on the length of their cruises, from 200-500 mins.

The move sees Oceania align its policy with sister line Regent Seven Seas Cruises, which last month imposed a similar internet policy (CW 26 Aug).



DEVELOPING your own unique beer is becoming a bit of a trend among cruise lines these days.

Princess Cruises has become the latest to launch its own suds in honour of its 50th anniversary year, which formally gets going from 05 Nov in Fort Lauderdale.

The "Seawitch West Coast IPA" is the name given to Princess' own brew, which will be kept stocked by the Strike Brewing Company near San Francisco.

Seawitch will offer a crisp yet dry flavour made up of lightly roasted malt, barley and a "unique blend of hops" and will be available onboard across the Princess fleet by early next year.

Debuting on *Regal Princess* by the end of 2014, variations of Seawitch will be rolled out through deals with breweries specialising in local flavours.

Big year for Silversea

RESERVATIONS have opened for Silversea Cruises' 2016 year of luxury cruises and expeditions.

Over the year, eight ships will visit 845 ports, of which 107 are to be visited for the first time, across 272 voyages worldwide.

The line will make its debut calls at Prince Edward Island, Shimizu, Martinique, Bremerhaven, Lizard Island, Le Marin and many more.

One 115-day world cruise will be operated, visiting 51 ports in 31 countries, departing from Fort Lauderdale, USA on 05 Jan 2016.

Other highlights of the season will include a series of 10-day voyages in South Africa and four ships working the Mediterranean.

USA cruise statistics

CRUISING in the United States contributed a record US\$44.1 billion to the US economy in 2013 according to new figures released this week by the CLIA head office.

The sector recorded nearly 10 million passengers boarding at a US port, which represented 57% of the total embarkations by the US cruising industry.

Florida remained the dominant cruising state, with its five ports making up 62% of embarkations.



CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Brett Jardine
GM, CLIA Australasia

Cruise Week Survey

TRAVEL agent feedback is essential to us to ensure that Cruise Week continues to expand and evolve.

Retailers that did participate in Cruise Week are invited to take part in a short survey that will contribute to an immediate review & planning for Cruise Week 2015.

The survey is anonymous and we welcome all constructive comments – please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Cruise Week Survey.

Impressive numbers

CLIA Global released the inaugural "Global Economic Impact Study" this week confirming some impressive numbers being delivered by the cruise industry worldwide.

The report reveals for the first time that cruise industry expenditure worldwide generated \$117 billion in total economic contributions, supporting the employment of more than 890,000 full-time employees with total wages of more than USD\$38 billion.

Cruise3sixty Australasia tickets

TICKETS for the 2nd annual Cruise3sixty Australasia are now on sale. With limited space available CLIA Members are encouraged to get in early to avoid missing out on what promises to be another excellent event.



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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 18 Sept 2014

Ice bucket challenge on the seas



P&O CRUISES has added its name to the list of industry firms to undertake the ubiquitous ice bucket challenge to contribute to Motor Neurone Disease research.

The line's effort however was a little different to most, with passengers bidding to be the ones to dump buckets of the icy cold water on several crew heads.

Taking place aboard *Pacific Pearl* somewhere between Papua New Guinea and Sydney, six members of the crew took their medicine and collectively contributed to more than \$500 being raised.

Social media has played its part in the virality of the ice-bucket challenge, with more than \$2

million dollars being raised for the cause across the globe.

Pictured above from left taking part in the ice-bucket challenge is cruise director Gemma Gregory-Jones, chief engineer Gaetano Festa, Captain Tony Herriott, hotel director Roland Ringwald, executive chef Patrice Mick and people & performance manager Simon Belmar Clark.

Earlybirds get extras

P&O CRUISES is reporting a strong uptake to its maiden entry into the earlybird market, with a range of VIP value-add extras proving popular with travellers.

Earlybird deals are on sale until 30 Apr for departures from Australia in the 2015/16 season.

In addition to VIP check-in and stateroom pre-selection, guests booking a cruise of seven nights or more will receive a free cruise photo and USB stick for images, \$20 cocktail voucher, \$50 shore tour voucher and more.

Longer cruise bookings will be rewarded with a free bottle of wine when dining at Salt Grill.

SeaLink appointment

SEALINK Travel Group has hired Michael Hughes as its new commercial director, tasked with identifying new investment and acquisition opportunities.

Hughes will join the firm's senior management team from next week and brings experience in a variety of corporate finance and banking roles to his new position.

APT Europe incentive

AGENTS can enjoy a self-famil APT European river cruise as a reward or win a famil spot under two new incentives launched by the tour operator for Sep & Oct.

The 'Book Five and Cruise Free' promotion will see agents who book and deposit five APT Royal Collection river cruises departing in 2014 or 2015 before 31 Oct earn a self-famil European cruise.

Further, any APT or Travelmarvel Europe river cruise booking made with Singapore Airlines flights before 12 Oct will see the agent entered into a draw to win a spot on a seven-night famil to Europe.

Scenic agent promos


SCENIC Tours has launched a new agent incentive for agents who are members of the Scenic Rewards agent loyalty program.

Agents who book and deposit five cabins on any Scenic Europe river cruise before 31 Oct will earn a 14-night Scenic river cruise for themselves and a companion, valid for travel from 01 Mar - 30 Apr 2015 or 16 Oct - 31 Dec 2015.

The offer has been backdated to 05 Sep to include recent bookings.

National sales manager Emma Davie said the company was always looking to reward agents for their loyalty to the company.

Win with Carnival Cruise Lines

Over the next few weeks *Cruise Weekly* and *Carnival Cruise Lines* are giving away a seven-night roundtrip  cruise from Sydney to Melbourne for this year's **Emirates Melbourne Cup**. Departing Sydney on 2 Nov, the cruise includes accommodation for two people in a balcony stateroom, general admission and transfers to Flemington Racecourse, plus onboard meals, entertainment and activities.

During *Carnival Spirit's* inaugural **Melbourne Cup** cruise, guests can get into the racing spirit with sweepstakes, virtual betting and high tea on every sea day. Racing identity Richard Callander and stylists Campitelli Clarke will also be on hand to share race and style tips ahead of the event. *Carnival Spirit* will return to the Emirates Melbourne Cup next year on an eight-night cruise departing Sydney on 30 Oct, 2015.

The subscriber with the most correct answers to all of the questions and the most creative answer to the final question will win.

Send your entries to: carnivalcomp@criseweekly.com.au



Q2: What colour are *Carnival Spirit's* two slides?



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