

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 21 Apr 2015

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Salary survey

CRUISE Weekly and sister publications *Travel Daily*, *Business Events News* and *travelBulletin* have this week launched a travel industry salary and employment survey.

Participants in the completely confidential survey can win one of three Samsung Galaxy Tablets or one of 100 HOYTS movie vouchers.

Since launching in **TD** and **BEN** yesterday more than 600 people have already completed the survey, which is likely to make it Australia's most comprehensive and authoritative study of employment in the Australian travel industry study.

To participate in the survey and be in the running for the prizes click on the button below.

[Click for salary survey](#)

Hotel barge specials

EUROPEAN Waterways is offering \$1,380 per cabin off prices of selected departures on some of its most popular routes for bookings made by 22 May.

The deals include cruises aboard *La Belle Epoque* and *L'Art de Vivre* cruising France's Burgundy region from Jun-Aug plus cruises in Alsace & Champagne - 1800 828 050.

End of an era for Rhapsody

ROYAL Caribbean's popular *Rhapsody of the Seas* departed Australian shores for the last time on Fri, with the vessel's first down under deployment eight years ago helping launch the Australasian cruise boom.

There was a tear in many an eye when the ship left Sydney Harbour, with the annual deployment generating such a huge following that when news broke that she would be leaving Australia a petition was started to keep her here.

Royal Caribbean commercial director Sean Treacy said some locals had sailed aboard *Rhapsody* every season since she first arrived in Oct 2007.

"She was our first ship to be based in the region...she has brought more than 272,000 guests to Sydney over 136 visits, many of whom were international tourists," he said.

Next year *Rhapsody's* "big sister" *Explorer of the Seas* will take her place, more than doubling the number of guests on every sailing.

Passengers embarking and disembarking last Fri were each given a souvenir edition of the *Daily Telegraph* with a cover wrap (pictured) which is sure to go straight to the pool room.



Norwegian Canada up

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has boosted its sales force in Canada which will be led by industry veteran Dana Gain (ex Carnival Cruise Line director of international sales).

Gain will lead a team of six BDMs dedicated to "aggressively growing the number of guests sourced from the Canadian market and expanding the agency base partnering with Norwegian Cruise Line".

APT Kimberley soars

APT will operate full charters of the *MS Caledonian Sky* and *Oceanic Discoverer* on the Kimberley coastline between Broome and Darwin in 2016, with itineraries featured in the group's new Kimberley Coast Cruising brochure released last Fri.

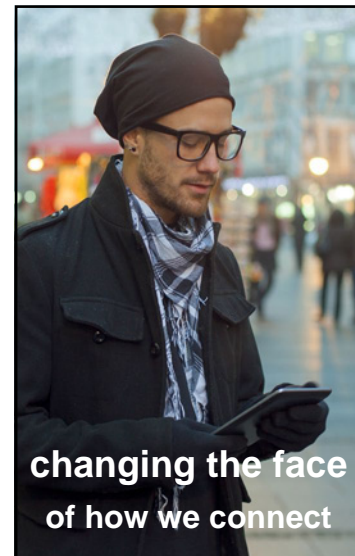
APT is offering a 'Fly Free' SuperDeal on all cruise and land tour combinations, with spokesman Rob Tandy saying land inventory has also been boosted by 30% because many clients opt to combine their cruises with APT's Kimberley land tours.

See kimberleywilderness.com.au

Legend bids farewell

CARNIVAL *Legend* finished her inaugural Australian season yesterday, with the crew joking that heavy rain in Sydney was the city "crying" about the departure.

She will return to Sydney for her second summer down under on 15 Oct 2015.



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Carnival 25c dividend

CARNIVAL Corporation is sharing the love with shareholders, declaring a 25c per share dividend payable on 12 Jun.

Fire on board Oriana

P&O Cruises World Cruising has slightly rejigged the current itinerary being undertaken by *Oriana* following a "minor, localised fire" on board.

The engine room blaze was "swiftly extinguished and at no time affected the safety of passengers or crew," according to a spokesperson for the line.

However a mandatory inspection by the US Coast Guard meant that the ship's departure from Miami was delayed, meaning rather than visiting Key West she will sail to New Orleans.

MSC's new marvel

MSC Cruises has announced that the name of its newest ship will be *MSC Meraviglia*, with executive chairman Pierfrancesco Vago revealing the details at the steel cutting ceremony for the vessel in Saint-Nazaire.

Meraviglia, which translates as 'Marvel' will be "the biggest and most innovative cruise ship ever built by a global European-based cruise line," he said.

It's the first of MSC's Vista generation of megaships, with 4,500 lower berths.

"We chose a name that denotes the sense of awe and wonderment felt when you experience the ship's stunning features," he said, with *Meraviglia* due for delivery in May 2017.

New walkway for Darwin cruise pax

THE Northern Territory government is continuing to invest in the Darwin waterfront precinct, with chief minister Adam Giles confirming the construction of a new shaded walkway along the sea wall.

The \$1.2 million 350m structure will "give cruise passengers a cool stroll into Darwin," while other works include additional pontoons to support harbour cruise boats and charter vessels.

"Waterfront businesses asked us to consider building a shade sail to help cruise passengers beat the heat as they leave their ships - and we have listened," he said.

The construction is part of \$8 million to be spent on the precinct, which will include \$100,000 to be spent on "beautifying vacant land opposite the cruise ship terminal".

Cruising injected \$54 million into the Darwin economy last year, with NT treasurer David Tollner saying "tourism is at the heart of plans to grow a stronger economy in the Territory".

Music festival at sea

CONCERT promoter The Livescape Group has announced the return of "Asia's largest music festival at sea," with a three night celebration taking on board *Mariner of the Seas* departing Singapore on 20 Nov.

Dubbed 'IT'S THE SHIP' the voyage will visit Langkawi for a beach party with a "host of international dance music headline acts" on board.

HAL land app launch

HOLLAND America Line has debuted a new tablet app which showcases its Alaska cruise offerings as well as Land+Sea Journeys to give pax a "thorough understanding of the travel experience before they book".

Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	21 Apr
DARWIN	<i>Coral Princess</i>	23 Apr
FREMANTLE	<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	22 Apr
	<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	25 Apr
CAIRNS	<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	22 Apr
BUSSELTON	<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	24 Apr
PICTON	<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	22 Apr
WELLINGTON	<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	23 Apr

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Crystal expands “give-back” options

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced more of its popular “You Care, We Care” voluntourism shore excursions as part of its 2015 itineraries.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Crystal will this year offer 16 complimentary Crystal Adventures ashore which allow participants - who can be both guests & crew - to “engage in the humanitarian and conservational activities of organisations throughout the world”.

Options include working at the Mustard Seed Food Bank in Victoria, British Columbia; spending time at the Guernsey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the Channel Islands; and helping at a marine rehabilitation centre in Barcelona.



ABOVE: This lucky group of Western Australian travel agents from Flight Centre recently experienced Royal Caribbean’s

Mariner of the Seas during a five night Southeast Asia cruise.

The trip called at Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Phuket meaning there was plenty of spicy shoreside action - along with the awesome array of activities aboard the Voyager-class ship which included ice skating, rock climbing, mini golf and more.

That’s not to mention world-class dining on board at Giovanni’s Table, Chops Grille and Jade Sushi.

Mariner of the Seas sails year-round from Singapore.

Pictured in their glad rags clearly ready for a big night are, front row from left: Gordon Costello, Brownwen Milsom (Royal Caribbean fam host), Rachel Mackie, Jemma Rosen and Rhys Martin.

Middle row: Hayley Parkin, Sarah Connor, Tahnee Inverno, Casey Edmonds, April Brandis and Kaylie Bradford.

Back row: Kirsty Dunkling, Rosalind Plummer, Emily Scott, Valetta Hansen, Ian Cross and Lauren Hattie.



GERMAN cruise line Hapag-Lloyd has a surprise in store for passengers aboard its five-star *Europa 2*.

The vessel’s newly released itineraries include a true reflection of democracy - a mystery voyage where the route taken is decided by the captain and those on board at the time.

The ten-night May 2016 cruise will depart from Istanbul and finish in Piraeus - but where the *Europa 2* goes in between is anyone’s guess.

According to the blurb on the Hapag-Lloyd website, “after the captain presents the possible routes and ports, all of the guests on board can come together to define the route around Greece and Turkey.

“The captain will also inform you as to where best to catch the sun in the coming days,” while a lecturer will be on hand to describe the features and highlights of each potential destination.

THIS is a pretty cool cruise ship feature - literally.

Viking Ocean Cruises new *Viking Star* features yet another first at sea - an on-board “Snow Grotto” (**pictured**) which forms part of the vessel’s spa facilities.

The sub-zero room, complete with snow flurries dropping from the ceiling, is apparently supposed to help the circulation.



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