

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 20 Aug 2015

Cruise Weekly today

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

Lindblad Arctic out

LINDBLAD Expeditions - National Geographic has opened bookings for its 2016 Arctic Program, comprising eight "exhilarating expeditions" taking in Norway, Svalbard, Iceland, Baffin Island and Greenland.

This year the program includes the new 'Exploring Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic,' a 13-day trip which includes hikes of the wild islands on the northern shores of Canada.

The cruises utilise the premium *National Geographic Explorer* which is fully equipped with Zodiac landing craft, kayaks and snorkelling equipment.

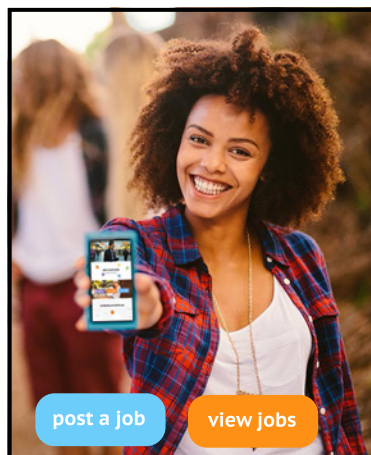
Lindblad is also offering a larger selection of pre and post extensions, with options including an exploration of Iceland.

Prices start at \$6,240 per person twin share, with itineraries ranging from 6-22 days and departures available between May and Sep 2016.

More info on 1300 361 012.

MEANWHILE the launch of the new program has been accompanied with a new video highlighting the features of the Arctic region and commentary by explorer Peter Hillary.

To view click on the logo or see cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.



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Europe water levels rising

RIVER cruise operations in Europe are returning to normal after abnormally low levels on the Danube forced several firms to implement contingency plans earlier in the month.

In recent weeks several operators including Viking, Avalon and Uniworld cancelled some departures, while others have been coaching passengers on some segments or undertaking "ship swaps" to ensure itineraries can continue without disruption.

Scenic today confirmed that the Danube is back to normal, while the new French itineraries in Bordeaux are still slightly affected "requiring some extra coaching for short distances".

Last week there was some consternation due to a cargo ship on the Danube which became stuck near Deggendorf and caused the river to be closed.

APT and Travelmarvel said this affected a small number of sailings, with passengers transferred into the same suites between identical sister ships,

Scenic reminder

SCENIC is reminding agents that all its river cruises along the Rhine-Main-Danube, Rhône and Saône, Seine and Douro rivers, departing May-Sep 2016, are guaranteed.

Scenic's 2016 Earlybird offers are available until 31 Oct 2015.

along with their existing cruise directors to ensure continuity.

"All river ships are currently sailing as scheduled," an APT spokesperson told **CW** today.

Avalon Waterways made some changes earlier in the month, cancelling one departure and compensating passengers for missed sailing days.

Viking has cancelled or changed several Elbe River cruises between Prague and Berlin, including two set to depart this week.

Crystal Esprit debut

THE first vessel in the new Crystal Yacht Cruises fleet, *Crystal Esprit*, will depart 23 Dec 2015 on her maiden voyage.

The 62-guest yacht will explore the Seychelles Islands, followed by an inclusive, post-cruise New Year's Eve celebration at the Taj Dubai Hotel.

Throughout 2016, 2017 and early 2018, *Crystal Esprit* will visit the Seychelles Islands, Dubai and Adriatic Coast.

All-inclusive yacht fares start at \$2,690 pp for a four-day, roundtrip Mahé, Victoria, Seychelles itinerary in 2017.

Windstar benefits

THE owner of Windstar Cruises is using synergies across its portfolio to offer more benefits for loyal Windstar customers which include discounts at operations run by parent company Xanterra Parks & Resorts.

When passengers take their first Windstar sailing they are automatically registered as members of the Windstar Yacht Club, making them eligible for the "partner offers" including discounts and value-adds on Austin Adventures and Country Walkers products as well as stays at Sea Island, Kingsmill Resort and more - for details see www.windstarcruises.com.

Best on board HAL

SYDNEY chef Mark Best, a member of the Holland America Line Culinary Council, will join a seven day roundtrip Vancouver Alaska sailing aboard *ms Noordam* departing on 19 Sep.

During the voyage Best, one of Australia's top chefs, will appear in the ship's Culinary Arts Centre to demonstrate a selection of his favourite dishes.

Passengers dining at the Pinnacle Grill will also enjoy an exclusive dinner featuring some of his signature creations.

Best said seeing Alaska had long been an item on his bucket list.

Staterooms are still available on the sailing next month, with fares starting at A\$1,579 per person for an interior cabin - for more details call 1300 987 321



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RCI revamps shore excursions

ROYAL Caribbean International has enhanced its shore excursion program, with the offerings now grouped into seven “special interest categories”.

RCI is also promoting the benefits of booking its excursions, such as destination expertise, being guaranteed first off the ship & “Easy 24-hour cancellations”.

The seven categories in the revamped program include **Active Adventures**: high energy activities such as zip lines and dune buggy rides; and **Family Connections** which allow shared intergenerational experiences like attending a gladiator school in Rome or a wilderness kayak experience in Alaska.

There’s also the **Royal Tour Challenge** - in-port activities where families and groups can challenge each other, such as a half day laser tag adventure in Cozumel, Mexico.

The **Culture and Sights** category

is for travellers looking to explore history and culture with local experts, while **Culinary Delights** allows guests to discover the flavours of a destination by introducing them to local chefs, specialties and purveyors.

Caring Discoveries allows passengers to select tours committed to wildlife, the environment and local communities, and finally RCI’s **Private Destinations** in Labadee, Haiti and CocoCay, Bahamas offer a range of activities from high energy zip lines through to tranquil beachside escapes.

Scenic appointment

SCENIC has named Connie Stickforth as its new South America Operations manager.

Buenos Aires-based Stickforth will manage ground operations and relationships with suppliers for Scenic’s South American and Antarctic operations.

Grand Circle boosts single cabin inventory

GRAND Circle Cruise Line has announced the addition of more than 600 single cabins to its 2016 inventory, with ceo Mike Dowd saying the move would help “meet increasing demand from American boomers and seniors”.

The 21% increase reflects the fact that more travellers - particularly women - are cruising solo, regardless of marital status.

“While most want their own cabins, they still want excellent value...by increasing our solo cabin inventory and offering a range of other solo-friendly options we are committed to making river and small ship cruising an affordable, easy and highly enjoyable way for solo travellers to see the world,” Dowd said.

Grand Circle Cruise Line targets US consumers, and recently announced the purchase of *Tere Moana* to spearhead its new South East Asian/Australian operations (**CW** 05 May).

Intercruises changes

SHORE excursion specialist Intercruises has announced the appointment of Carmen Morosan as worldwide product development manager.

Morosan, who takes on the role effective from Oct, will be based in Barcelona, while her current Singapore-based role as regional product manager Asia will be taken over by Errol James Chicano.

Star Clippers voyage

STAR Clippers’ *Star Flyer* will operate a twelve night Grand Voyage from Lisbon to Barcelona, departing 25 Apr 2016.

The 170 passengers on board will experience eleven ports across the Mediterranean.

The cruise is available for booking now from \$3,659 per person including taxes, gratuities and a 35% early booking discount.

For more information see www.starclippers.com.

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Meet the "Orcadeans"



P&O'S Pacific Jewel hosted this group of passengers who celebrated a "golden anniversary of friendship" after meeting 50 years ago sailing to England on the liner *SS Orcades*.

One of the group, Canberra's Robbie Horn, had written to Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry to let her know that the 'Orcadeans' would be sailing together again on *Jewel's* 09 Aug departure from Brisbane to the South Pacific.

That was 50 years to the day that the *SS Orcades* sailed out of Sydney bound for Tilbury, England with the 17 original Orcadeans on board.

After becoming firm friends during the *Orcades* journey they have kept in regular contact over the last half century.

Participants joined the *Jewel* voyage travelling from as far afield as Edinburgh, Perth,



Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Newcastle and Blackheath.

They're pictured above on the *Pacific Jewel* bridge with Captain Roger Bilton and Staff Captain Nick Carter.

And inset is the Orcadeans at Pompeii Railway Station in Italy during their first journey in 1965.

Disney plonk policy

DISNEY Cruise Line has tightened its rules on how much alcohol passengers can bring with them on their cruises.

The new policy restricts carry-ons to a maximum of two unopened 750ml bottles of wine, or a six-pack of beer.

The restrictions apply both at the start of each voyage and when boarding at each port of call, and passengers must consume any alcohol brought with them in the privacy of their cabin or pay a fee to drink in the ship's dining room, according to the *Orlando Sentinel*.

A&K Arctic earlybirds

ABERCROMBIE & Kent is offering a discount up to \$4081 per cabin for its 2016 Arctic trips.

The offer applies to cruises booked by 31 Oct - for details visit www.abercrombiekent.com.au.



CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Brett Jardine
GM, CLIA Australasia

Cruise Week 2015

SEPTEMBER 7-14 will see the delivery of CLIA's fourth annual Cruise Week promotion.

At CLIA, we're very proud to have our Member Cruise Lines pulling together to raise the profile of cruising at this special time and deliver a call to action focused on CLIA Accredited Cruise Specialist Agents.

Cruise Week is celebrated around the globe by CLIA offices and aims to deliver on two primary objectives.

ONE - to spread the word about cruising to a "new to cruise" audience that is yet to be convinced about the great value a cruise holiday delivers.

TWO - to create Cruise Week Deals which are primarily aimed at the "already committed" cruiser. For this audience, our goal in creating a buzz and generating a high level of anticipation (without eroding other ongoing campaigns) will be achieved by releasing 'the deals' at the last moment.

Cruise Line deals that are available to CLIA Members during Cruise Week are an important tool to hook new customers, however the critical ingredient for any agent is proactive participation - this means co-ordinating your own local Cruise Week promotions and activity in conjunction with the wider national promotion.



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AN amphibious vehicle which made history in 2009 when it crossed the Cook Strait between New Zealand's North and South Islands has been rescued from destruction.

"Roofliss" (pictured below) is a converted 1990 Toyota Tarago van which was constructed by two aeronautical technicians while they were stationed near the NZ town of Blenheim.



The pair achieved worldwide fame when they made their channel-crossing journey in just over ten hours - apparently eating hot pies all the way.

The creators, Adam Turnbull and Dan Mellijng, were "bored watching Top Gear and thought they could do a better job".

After the feat they auctioned the vehicle, with a Blenheim local snapping it up and then donating it to the Edwin Fox museum.

However the museum now has no space for Roofliss, with the owner, Mark Stevenson, deciding to give it to Turnbull's mother who wants to preserve it for posterity.

"Roofliss is typical of Kiwi ingenuity...it's a serious piece of maritime history," he said.

Despite naysayers predicting the van would sink, apparently just ten litres of water seeped in during the Cook Strait voyage.