

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 03 Feb 2015

## Biggest EVER ongoing

**POPULAR** demand has seen Royal Caribbean respond by extending the booking window of its 'Biggest Sale EVER' until 14 Feb. The promotion enables pax to secure 50% off companion fares, up to US\$400 onboard credit per stateroom and half price deposits. Bonuses apply to local sailings of five nights or more departing between now and Apr 2016, with first pax fares starting at \$1,299.

## Selfies at Sea app

**MINI** movies made of selfies taken onboard Carnival ships can now be made by Aussie travellers after the line introduced its new 'Selfies at Sea' smartphone app. Selfies taken using the app after linking to the camera are automatically collated into a short film to be shared on social media. The app is now available to download free of charge from the iTunes and Google Play stores.

## Three free excursions

**SCANDINAVIA** tour operator Bentours is offering three free shore excursions valued at \$600 per person on select Hurtigruten Classic Round Voyages this year. Travellers will receive a free visit to the largest salt-water aquarium in Europe in Alesund, a Husky Sled adventure in Kirkenes and a Sea Eagle Safari in Svolvær. The bonus inclusions are valid on departures of the 12-day roundtrip ex Bergen from 01 Apr to 30 May - phone 1800 221 712.

## Crystal two-year window

**FULL** global itineraries complete with fares through to the end of 2017 are now available to book through Crystal Cruises, with the release allowing bookings nearly three years in advance. The season for both of the line's two ships - *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity* - feature on its website [www.crystalcruises.com](http://www.crystalcruises.com).

Announced earlier than ever before, the complete roster for the line in 2017 also features in the line's first ever two-year 236-page Worldwide Cruise Atlas.

Highlights of the year include 32 maiden calls to ports including Calvi, Corsica; Sète, France and Santa Margherita, Italy.

A "history-making" transit of the

Northwest Passage will also be undertaken as well as a 102-day World Cruise of the Pacific Rim and visits to all seven continents.

"We continue to offer intrepid luxury travellers new ways to explore and experience the world, whether with a new destination or simply a new perspective on a favourite one," Crystal Cruises president and coo Edie Rodriguez commented.

All-inclusive fares start from US\$1,995ppts as part of promo fares on sale until 02 Mar.

## Celestyal Poppy Post

**GREEK** line Celestyal Cruises has partnered with Discover the World in Australia to launch a 'Poppy Post' social media promo ahead of the line's Gallipoli cruise for the Anzac Day Centenary.

Users who 'like' Discover the World's Facebook page can share Poppy Posts to win a 7-nt cruise.

## Hawaii cruising down

**VISITORS** to Hawaii arriving by cruise ship plummeted 28% in 2014, according to new figures for the full year published by the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

The islands saw 123,071 visitors from 69 cruise vessels based in other states compared to 170,987 visitors from 84 ships a year prior.

Embarking pax arriving in Hawaii by air or other cruise ships over the year totalled 242,057, down 15.8% compared against 2013.

Results were not all bad though, with the destination seeing a 2.1% increase in visitors arriving by air to join a cruise ship home-ported in Hawaii, such as Norwegian Cruise Lines' *Pride of America*.

## New SeaLink vessels

**TWO** new high-speed ferries have been purchased by SeaLink Travel Group to expand its Sydney Harbour charter ferry and tourist hop-on-hop-off cruise operations, taking its total fleet to nine.

The 300-pax un-named vessels were bought for \$6 million and will be used to design new routes & win new contracts surrounding the booming Barangaroo district.

## US merger completed

**AMERICAN** host agency parent Cruise Holidays has completed its merger into Vacation.com, retaining its brand and removing license fees for franchisees.

US-based members will now gain access to Vacation.com marketing programs & online booking tools.

## Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of the latest news and photos from the industry.

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO**

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**PRINCESS** Cruises is celebrating all year in 2015 for its 50th anniversary but will now have a bit of cheering up to do for fans in its role as the official cruise line of the Seattle Seahawks NFL franchise.

The Hawks could have won yesterday's Super Bowl, which would have seen a scheduled fan cruise turn into the wildest party to sail into Alaska waters - however it will now be a case of fans drowning their sorrows.

Departing on 20 Jun, the seven-day cruise sets sail from Seattle aboard *Crown Princess*.

Pax onboard will still enjoy meet and greet chances with current and former players, on-deck tailgate parties, football movie nights, chances to win merchandise and much more.

## APAC in focus at CSM 2015

**AUSTRALIAN** cruise industry executives will share their expertise in prominent roles at the upcoming annual Cruise Shipping Miami 2015 conference. A series of panel discussions

### Come Back to the Sea

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Lines appeared on hundreds of millions of American TV screens yesterday, running its first commercial to air during the NFL Super Bowl.

Entitled 'Come Back to the Sea,' the commercial features emotive footage of Carnival ships around the world, played to a soundtrack of a speech made by former US President John F Kennedy to open the 1962 America's Cup.

The advert was filmed over nine days in Barcelona, including five days onboard the newest Princess Cruises vessel *Regal Princess*, and is aimed at new-to-cruise pax.

**CLICK HERE** to check it out.

grouped under industry trends will take place, looking at the major issues affecting the industry on a worldwide scale.

The 'State of the Cruise Industry - Asia/Australasia,' panel will star Carnival Corp coo Alan Buckelew, who recently relocated to China to drive the line's China program; RCCL Int'l svp Dominic Paul; RCCL Asia-Pacific vice-president Gavin Smith; Carnival Australia chief executive Ann Sherry & Princess Cruises president Jan Swartz.

The discussion will look at the momentum of the industry in this part of the world and whether China will "transform cruising".

In the upscale cruise sector, Ponant Asia-Pacific chairman Sarina Bratton will feature on a panel looking at next-generation innovations in cruise ship design.

Cruise Shipping Miami 2015 will take place at the Miami Beach Convention Centre in Florida from 16-19 Mar.

## A&K river connection

**BESPOKE** tour operator Abercrombie & Kent has released its 2015 Connections European River Cruising journeys brochure featuring intimate itineraries of no more than 24 per departure.

City sightseeing bookmarks cruising itineraries operated by the Amadeus fleet of river vessels.

Classical music, World War I and Christmas markets themed voyages all feature in the guide.

## Atlantic Gay Cruise

**VOYAGES** of Discovery will operate a special "All-Gay" small-ship cruise in Apr 2016 travelling from Barbados to Gran Canaria.

Sailing aboard the line's small ship *Voyager*, the cruise will arrive in the Canary Islands Las Palmas port during the traditional period for the Maspalomas Pride event.

Fares for the 15-night departure start from \$1,499pp twin share - phone Discover the World on 1800 623 267 for more details.

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### Search for Loch Ness

**FAMILIES** of 2A2C can enjoy 10% off in a new promotion to sail the Scottish Highlands with Le Boat on its Grand Highland Flying Cruise - see [www.leboat.com.au](http://www.leboat.com.au).

### DTW offer extended

**HURTIGRUTEN** & Discover the World have extended the 'Can I Have Some More Please' special offer of \$1,000 bonus inclusions for sale to 28 Feb - 1800 623 267.

## Carnival colours up for rapid ride



**ALL** is fair in love and war on the white water rapids, as found by Carnival Cruise Lines' sales team which joined with members of the industry for some friendly yet intense competition recently.

The second annual Agent Adrenalin Challenge held at Penrith Whitewater Stadium was every bit that and more, with attendees divided into five teams.

Up for grabs were a swag of prizes including cabins on *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Legend* as

well as a GoPro camera, not to mention plenty of bragging rights.

Teams were named after ship features and each had 90 minutes practice on the rapids before the race to crown a winner, which on this day was Team Orange.

**Pictured** above from left are the team captains Anton Loeb (orange), Lance Dye (blue), Shane Gibbons (yellow), Mark Richards (red) and Sissel Way (green).

The competing teams at the event are also **pictured** below.



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### Maiden Eagle voyage

**AMERICAN** Cruise Lines will set sail for the first time with its new paddlewheeler *American Eagle* on 11 Apr from New Orleans.

The 150-passenger vessel will offer 84 staterooms, of which 78 feature sliding glass doors to access a private balcony.

A variety of celebrations will take place on the voyage along the Lower Mississippi to Memphis including a Champagne Reception, multiple musical performances, an exclusive concert, an engraved picture frame with photo & more.

*American Eagle* will operate primarily on the route, operating occasional sailings further upriver.

### No delays from fire

**BOSSES** from Fred Olsen Cruise Lines have personally met with pax in Tenerife after the line's vessel *Boudicca* was damaged by an engine room fire recently.

The company has been forced to cut short its current 18-day cruise to undertake repairs, with pax affected receiving a 100% refund, 50% future cruise credit and flights back to Southampton.

### Feel Frozen on Disney

**A RAFT** of new onboard experiences themed around the Disney animated hit film *Frozen* will debut on Disney Cruise Lines sailings in Europe and Alaska.

Selected voyages aboard *Disney Magic* and *Disney Wonder* will feature themed deck parties, a three-song stage show production, character meet and greets, storybook adventures and more.

Other celebrations will see the central atrium redecorated as Queen Elsa's mountain ice palace, a chocolate scavenger hunt, snowman building, dancing and specially themed *Frozen* menus.



### Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	03 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	04 Feb
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	05 Feb
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	06 Feb
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	07 Feb
<i>Sun Princess</i>	07 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	08 Feb
<i>Astor</i>	09 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>L'Austral</i>	03 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	05 Feb
<i>Astor</i>	05 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	06 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	07 Feb
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	08 Feb
<i>Oceania Marina</i>	09 Feb
FREMANTLE	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	07 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	03 Feb
<i>L'Austral</i>	05 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	07 Feb
BURNIE	
<i>Astor</i>	04 Feb
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	09 Feb
ADELAIDE	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	03 Feb
AUCKLAND	
<i>Amsterdam</i>	03 Feb
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	08 Feb
<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	08 Feb
<i>Oosterdam</i>	09 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	09 Feb
PICTON	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	04 Feb
<i>Oosterdam</i>	05 Feb
AKAROA	
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	03 Feb
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	03 Feb
<i>Oosterdam</i>	04 Feb

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