# CRUISE





Tuesday 10 Feb 2015

#### **Real-life Princesses**

**THE** transformative power of a cruise in generating and building mateship, family and major life events will form the focus of the first Australian-produced online campaign from Princess Cruises.

Launched today, the campaign will feature real Princess guests and is an evolution of its recent "Come Back New" mantra.

Stories include two lifelong friends from Wagga who cruised to NZ to rekindle memories from their youthful backpacking days.

Princess Cruises marketing manager Nick Ferguson said the clips portrayed real-life, positive impacts and aimed to inspire others to take their own journey.

Three videos will be gradually rolled out across social media before 31 Mar but are now able to be viewed - CLICK HERE.

#### Pandaw maps Kerala

**FOUR** departures of a brand new seven-day itinerary in the southern India region of Kerala have been scheduled to operate by Pandaw River Expeditions.

The journey includes three nights onboard MV Vaikundam preceded by three nights at the five-star Heritage Vivanta by Taj.

Priced from US\$1,530ppts, the 'Backwaters of Kerala' explores over 40 waterways, churches and temples and continues Pandaw's expansion into the Indian region.

Departures are slated for 02 Dec 2015 and on 12 Jan, 23 Feb and 22 Mar 2016 - www.pandaw.com.

### Cruise boom to continue

**THERE** appears to be no end in sight to the unabated growth being experienced by the cruise industry, with CLIA forecasting a staggering 23 million pax globally to set sail at some point in 2015.

In its annual State of the Industry Report released today, Cruise Lines International Association forecast an additional 1.3 million people from its 2014 projections would take a cruise this year - a jump of 4% year-on-year.

New, exciting and increasingly exotic destinations would lure more travellers this year, while lines would debut 22 new vessels in 2015, representing an investment of more than US\$4b.

Australia and Asia were singled out as regions earmarked to continue to see strong growth, an endorsement heralded by CLIA Australasia gm Brett Jardine.

"This year is set to be another big step forward for the entire industry as our members continue to strive to make cruising the best overall holiday experience for Australian travellers," he commented.

According to CLIA projections, 52 different cruise ships will offer 1,065 separate departures just in

#### **Cruise Weekly today**

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of the latest cruise news and photos, plus a full page of new industry vacancies from AA Appointments.

the Asian region alone, catering to total capacity of over 2 million.

The Mediterranean was also cited as a region tipped to grow, however the Caribbean was identified as the "queen" for the industry, accounting for more than a third of global capacity.

The CLIA report, compiled using research gathered from around the world, found passengers were more inclined to cruise with a line based on unique designs and amenities over simply being among those to travel on the world's biggest cruise ships.

Further, CLIA forecasts another year of strong growth for smaller specialty lines including yacht operators and river cruise firms.

Importantly, the report also highlighted that travel agents will remain the most popular way for travellers to book a cruise, despite rises in mobile & online channels.

Statistics garnered among travel agents in the United States said 62% of cruisers were repeat guests, while 69% ranked cruising as being better value than a land based holiday.

CLIA chairman and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd president and chief operating officer Adam Goldstein said it was an exciting time for the cruise industry.

"This year will prove to be another step forward for the entire industry as our members continue to strive to make cruising the best overall vacation experience," Goldstein said.

#### Two day mega sale

**ROYAL** Caribbean has just pressed the Go button on a 48hour Mega Sale which kicked off at 10am this morning.

Deals include a 17-night South Coast and New Zealand voyage on Radiance of the Seas departing 14 Mar, priced from \$1,099ppts.



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Ends 11:59pm AEDT 28/2/15. Open to Aust. & NZ residents 18+ who are employed as a travel agent and registered with Princess Academy program. Major prize must be taken by 29/8/15. Click above for Conditions.





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#### **Buhdy top Costa Asia**

**COSTA** Crociere senior vicepresident Asia-Pacific & China Buhdy Bok has been promoted to President of Costa Asia and Costa Cruises Pacific and China.

In his new role, Bok will further spearhead the development of the Costa brand in Asia, with a particular focus on China.

#### **Bet onboard credits**

**CRYSTAL** Cruises will soon allow passengers to convert onboard credit into special slot vouchers or table gaming chips which can be used in its ships' casinos.

Shipboard credit can be used in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$25 for slots and \$5 or \$25 for table games, with no upper limit.

Credit converted to chips or slot vouchers cannot be redeemed for cash, however winning wagers above the amount originally bet will be paid in chips or tickets which can be converted into cash.

The change is effective from Crystal Symphony's Singapore to Hong Kong sailing on 09 Mar and Crystal Serenity's Perth to Cape Town sailing on 13 Mar.

#### **New Bentours partner**

**SCANDINAVIAN** tour operator Bentours has partnered with cruise operator Hurtigruten to offer a range of bonus inclusions on select 6-12 day voyages.

Bonuses vary depending on the length of cruise booked but range from return hotel-pier transfers, souvenir mug and drink packages, city tours or off-ship excursions including a midnight concert.

### Celebrity ANZAC voyage

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has joined the flotilla of cruise ships aiming to be positioned near Anzac Cove for the upcoming Centenary of the Gallipoli landings, operating a special cruise to the battlefields.

Staterooms for a 12-night sailing on the 2,038-pax Celebrity Consellation are selling fast, with the round-trip cruise to depart from Rome on 22 Apr 2015.

On the big day, Constellation will dock in Canakkale (Kepez) where guests will have two days and one night to wander among the battlefields and memorials.

The official Dawn Service will be televised along with a special service conducted onboard.

Guests will have opportunities

#### Freedom revitalised

**ROYAL** Caribbean has resumed regular service on Freedom of the Seas after a 24-day drydock in which the ship received a major upgrade and overhaul.

Much like its newer fleetmates, the eight-year old ship now offers a FlowRider surfing simulator and nine dining outlets including a new Mexican option Sabor, Chops Grille, Giovanni's Table, The Great American Steakhouse and more.

Passenger capacity was also boosted during the ship's overhaul, with 67 new staterooms added including a new Panoramic Ocean View category offering a full length window over the bow.

Freedom of the Seas is the largest Royal Caribbean vessel homeported at Port Canaveral. in the days either side of Anzac Day to walk the battlefields for a first-hand look.

War historian and author Peter Donovan will be onboard during the cruise, hosting a series of special war history seminars.

Further stops during the voyage will see the ship dock overnight in Istanbul before visiting Athens, Santorini and Naples.

Fares for an inside stateroom start at \$1,899ppts or \$2,329 for an Oceanview stateroom.

Bookings made prior to 28 Feb qualify for Celebrity Cruises' 123Go Europe sale & can choose two offers from a Free Beverage Package, US\$300 onboard credit or prepaid gratuities.

The Anzac Centenary will see a multitude of ships in the Gallipoli area operating Anzac cruises including Azamara Journey, MSC Orchestra, Louis Cristal, Silver Whisper and Silver Cloud.

#### Ten suite categories

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has disclosed the names of ten suite categories to feature on its forthcoming newbuild luxury ship Regent Seven Seas Explorer.

The line's first newly constructed ship in over a decade will offer 140 Concierge Suites, featuring a centrepiece bed that faces a window the length of the suite.

Other categories will include the Superior Concierge, Deluxe Verandah and Verandah Suites, Penthouse, Seven Seas Suite and two-bedroom Master Suite.



IFYOU'RE holidaying in an area known for a competitive sharkdiving industry and you see a sign for "Discount shark dives", here's why they're cheap.

An amazing video has surfaced on Facebook showing a gigantic shark refusing to allow a cage to block its path in its effort to take a bite out of some tourists who considered it a safe barrier.

After devouring a fish without breaking a sweat, the shark continues on toward the cage, initially getting itself stuck in the steel before breaking through.

The camera onboard one of the divers then goes into panic mode as the desperate scramble for survival ensues, with plenty of frantic and uncertain action ending when the passengers then make it back onto the boat. Check out the exciting video of

all the action - CLICK HERE.

#### Cropp joins Lindblad

AUSTRALIAN film-maker and explorer Ben Cropp has been signed by Lindblad Expeditions to join an upcoming voyage from Palau to the Solomon Islands.

Cropp has made over 150 documentaries and discovered over 100 shipwrecks in his career.

He will take part in Lindblad's **Global Perspectives Speakers** Program on the Pacific Equator voyage on National Geographic Orion, departing Koror on 01 Oct.



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

SYDNEY	
Amsterdam	10 Feb
Pacific Pearl	10 Feb
Pacific Jewel	11 Feb
Marina	11 Feb
Radiance of the Seas	12 Feb
Carnival Legend	13 Feb
Oosterdam	13 Feb
Pacific Princess	14 Feb
Asuka II	14 Feb
Pacific Jewel	15 Feb
Celebrity Soltstice	16 Feb
Albatros	16 Feb
MELBOURNE	
Rhapsody of the Seas	10 Feb
Dawn Princess	11 Feb

BRISBANE Sea Princess Astor Pacific Pearl Pacific Dawn	10 Feb 11 Feb 12 Feb 14 Feb
ADELAIDE Rhapsody of the Seas Amsterdam	12 Feb 15 Feb
HOBART  Rhapsody of the Seas	14 Feb

Amsterdam

Marina

Rhapsody of the Seas	14 Feb
Oosterdam	15 Feb
Carnival Legend	15 Feb
Carnival Legend	16 Feb
CAIRNS Asuka II Astor	10 Feb 14 Feb

#### **CSM** heading north

**FLAGSHIP** US cruise industry conference Cruise Shipping Miami will relocate to Fort Lauderdale for three years starting next year.

The event is being moved to allow the Miami Beach Convention Centre to receive a major renovation and upgrade.

The trade show, which for 2015 is due to take place in mid-Mar, will be held at the slightly smaller **Broward County Convention** Centre for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Organisers say the venue within Port Everglades terminal will be sufficient for the conference over the three year period.

#### Godmother to Jasper

**AUSTRALIAN** author Kathy Lette, known for penning the classic novel Puberty Blues. has been chosen as the role of Godmother to Scenic Tours' new 'Space-Ship' Scenic Jasper.

Lette will be on hand in Vienna in Apr to christen the new vessel prior to the start of its inaugural season sailing European rivers.

"We are so delighted to have Kathy as Godmother to Scenic Jasper because she really is a perfect match for our brand both iconic Australians that are proud of their Australian heritage but are now renowned and loved globally," said Scenic Tours gm sales & marketing Michelle Black.

The 169-passenger Scenic Jasper will join the fleet alongside sister ship Scenic Opal this season.

### Cruise bosses revel in the sails



AFTER a visit to oversee joint venture progress in China, USbased Carnival Corp chief exec Arnold Donald took the scenic route home with a visit to Sydney.

During his whirlwind trip, which coincided with a visit by Holland America Group ceo Stein Kruse, Donald conducted a briefing with Carnival Australia team members at the North Sydney office, praising the trade for the rapid growth of cruising in Australia.

Donald is pictured above left on the deck of Pacific Pearl with

#### executive appointments. Bob Binder has been named as

new president of int'l operations. Elsewhere, Howard Sherman, Robin Lindsay & Victor Gonzales are the new respective executive vice-presidents of revenue management, vessel operations and supply chain and logistics.

Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry

and Holland America Group ceo

Stein Kruse, where both soaked

in the scenery by snapping a few

photos to show family at home.

NCL executive shuffle

**NEW** Norwegian Cruise Line

Holdings president Frank Del Rio

has announced new direct-report

The respective roles of Drew Madsen and Jason Montegue as president and chief operating officer of Norwegian and Oceania Cruises / Regent Seven Seas

#### Koningsdam on sale

**STATEROOMS** for its inaugural summer season are now open for sale on Holland America Line's newest ship MS Koningsdam.

The ship's maiden voyage from Rome on 09 May 2016 can also be reserved along with roundtrip Baltic itineraries from Amsterdam.

Cruises are unchanged.





13 Feb

14 Feb



LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION EVENT

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