

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 17 Feb 2015

Cruise features in NZ

A NEW 23-day New Zealand Splendour and Cruise itinerary features in the newly released Scenic Tours 2015/16 brochure for the destination.

The tour incorporates a 14-day Holland America Line cruise from Sydney to Auckland via Milford Sound on the *MS Noordam* before an eight-night land tour to Queenstown and Christchurch.

Cultural experiences added to the guide include wine tasting in Blenheim and dinner cooked by the steam of a thermal geyser.

Priced from \$8,295ppts, two departures of the tour on 30 Jan and 27 Feb 2016 are now on sale.

Lease of Darwin port

NORTHERN Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles has reacted to community pressure not to sell Darwin Port as a public asset.

Giles said that a bill to consider a potential lease of the port is being put to a parliamentary committee to determine the best economic outcome for the NT.

The committee has been tasked with studying the growth of the port along with competitive pricing to encourage greater use & more frequent cruise ship visits.

"Ultimately, we want to maximise the benefit to Territorians from any partnership both in terms of ongoing financial returns and long term expansion of the Port," Giles commented.

A final report from the inquiry is due to be delivered on 20 Mar.

Russia off again for APT

RUSSIA will not feature as an APT river cruise destination for a second straight year in 2016 due to the ongoing political instability, the touring group's managing director Chris Hall has said.

Speaking exclusively to *Cruise Weekly*, Hall said that despite a so-called ceasefire recently being declared, the situation was still too unstable to resume touring.

"It's something we talk about a lot as the 2016 program starts to be released and it's a difficult one. There's ongoing issues in Russia and there's a lot of uncertainty."

Last year, APT followed the lead of its river cruise partner line AmaWaterways by suspending operations in the region for the 2015 season (*CW* 06 Nov).

Construction of a dedicated ship for the region - *MS Anastasia* - was also put on hold.

Nexus goes Quantum

SIX all-inclusive 12-day departures to China incorporating a sailing on Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas* have been released by Nexus Holidays.

Following its currently underway season in New York, *Quantum* will reposition to Shanghai to begin a series of sailings from China.

Nexus Holidays' departures are scheduled from Jun-Oct 2015 and include return China Eastern airfares and land content in China priced from \$2,889ppts.

"We certainly don't want to be investing into an area that doesn't allow us to be there long-term or may not even allow us to start because you just don't know what is going to happen."

"Of course we have our Golden Eagle Luxury Train in full operation but at this point we won't have a [cruising] program in 2016 for Russia," Hall added.

"But I say at this point that anything can change and it's really subject to the conditions and the availability of ships."

Carnival relocations

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines will make room at Miami Port for its new mega-liner *Carnival Vista* by relocating two ships to Texas.

The line announced last week that *Vista* will operate six and eight-day Caribbean cruises from Miami effective Dec next year.

Galveston will be a beneficiary from the arrival, with Carnival to triple its presence by relocating *Carnival Breeze* & *Carnival Liberty* to operate with *Carnival Freedom*.

Two existing Galveston vessels, *Carnival Magic* and *Carnival Triumph* will be moved elsewhere, with year-round departures from San Juan, Puerto Rico tipped to be detailed in coming weeks.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of the latest news & pics from the world of cruise.

White Bay 'an error'

RESIDENTS around the White Bay Cruise Terminal in Sydney have been partly vindicated after a parliamentary inquiry labelled positioning a second cruise port at White Bay as "a serious error".

In its final report, the committee recommended fitting the terminal with a shore-to-ship power source to allow berthed vessels to switch off engines overnight.

A further conclusion called on cruise lines to develop ways to mitigate noise levels, with limits to be imposed and enforced.

Acknowledging the impact of fumes, pollution and noise on local residents, the panel said quality of life on the surrounding community had been impacted.

"The committee considers that the decision of the previous government not to have a cruise terminal at Barangaroo to be a serious error... and notes that the original plans for Barangaroo included just such a facility."

It took aim at the Environmental Protection Authority, saying effort to lobby on these matters could have been taken more proactively during the approvals process.

According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the NSW Government was now considering the report's conclusions.

Carnival Australia said last year it was "stuck with White Bay", with ceo Ann Sherry saying that White Bay was "a piece in a broken puzzle" and that it had not been properly connected to other vital elements such as transport.

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CroisiEurope joins up

EUROPEAN river cruise line CroisiEurope has become the newest global member of Cruise Lines International Association.

The line is the 27th cruise line member of CLIA and will now gain access to trade marketing and promotional activities among CLIA's 15 offices worldwide.

CAU adds Mystery tours

ONE of the most popular stops for cruise passengers in the South Pacific - Mystery Island - now offers shore excursions after Carnival Australia unveiled six new activities at the island.

Launched following five years of community consultation, the activities at the Vanuatu island includes glass bottom boat ridee guided snorkel safari, glass bottom kayaks & paddleboarding.

Two cultural tours of the nearby Anelghowhat village on

Aneityum will soon be added to the range, allowing guests to visit a fish bone hut and the ruins of the former largest presbyterian church in the South Pacific.

Carnival Australia destinations director Michael Mihajlov said the absence of tour management structures, satellite technology, fuel supply and insurance had prevented prior introduction of tours during 30 years of visiting.

Passengers on Carnival Cruise Lines, Princess Cruises, Holland America Line and P&O Cruises will be able to participate in the tours during visits to the island.

RCI adjusts online fee

INTERNET access on Royal Caribbean vessels fleet-wide has moved from a per-minute basis to an unlimited per-day charge after the line signed a new partnership with a US wireless internet firm.

Installation of software has been completed on the line's 22 ships, with pricing to be set around the US\$10 to \$15 range per day.

Passengers will be able to select their desired bandwidth when purchasing access plans.

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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.

'Seas the Day' sale

INCENTIVES on Exotic Voyages around the world have been released by Holland America Line in a new 'Seas the Day' promo.

Guests can take advantage of reduced cruise fares and up to US\$400 in onboard credit (depending on voyage length) if booked before 31 Mar.

Eligible destinations include the Mediterranean, South America, Asia, Hawaii/Tahiti and more.

MEANWHILE, HAL has released its 2016 guide to its Grand World Voyages, offering early booking discounts of up to US\$20,500pp.

Grand World Voyages are the longest departures offered by HAL and vary from 55-115 days in length, sailing on *MS Amsterdam* or the *MS Prinsendam*.

Bookings made before 01 Jun 2015 can see guests eligible for an onboard credit of \$2,200, a complimentary shore excursion, welcome aboard champagne, laundry service and more.

Uniworld recruitment

BIANCA Robertson has joined the team at Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection in the role of sales manager for Vic/Tas/SA.

She joins the TTC brand after six years with Flight Centre Travel Group, most recently as assistant team leader at ET Malvern.

Next names for Tauck

FAMILY-OWNED American river cruise company Tauck has selected *MS Grace* and *MS Joy* as the names of its two upcoming Inspiration-Class vessels, which will take its global fleet to nine.

The names were chosen from suggestions by staff during an internal company competition.

Both river vessels will debut next year and will offer capacity for 130 passengers over 75 suites including eight "loft" suites.

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Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the *Cruise Weekly* breaking news as it comes to hand



PRINCESS Cruises celebrated Valentine's Day in style, with the bow of its *Pacific Princess* adorned with a throbbing heart as it entered Sydney Harbour on Sat morning.

The arrival of the modern-day "Love Boat," complete with the gigantic beating LED illuminated organ on the front, was accompanied by a remix of the classic *Love Boat* TV theme by Australian electronic dance duo Yolanda Be Cool.

Princess vice-president Australia Stuart Allison said the "exciting and new" remix aims to "capture the hearts of a whole new generation".

Residents on either side of the harbour near the Opera House were woken with a special rendition of the song on the ship's horn.

Princess also produced a special video of the arrival complete with the groovy backing track - see www.traveldaily.com.au/videos.



Ever the romantic, Princess vice-president Australia and NZ Stuart Allison rose bright & early on Valentine's Day, welcoming the ship, complete with beating heart, to Sydney. Allison is **pictured** below.



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TC's feel at home on Voyager



THREE nights of fun onboard Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* were enjoyed by this group of Travel Counsellors recently.

The group were winners of an internal incentive dubbed the Travel Counsellors Cruise Challenge Competition.

On the short cruise, the agents took part in a variety of activities, attended plenty of shows and enjoyed the wide dining variety.

Pictured above preparing to

depart Sydney is the group, made up of Matt Cox, Tara Morgan, Susan Bradford, Heidi Smithers, Sandra Botella, Carla Conroy, Natalie Freeman & Suzie Griffiths.

Cunard counts down

LESS than 100 days remain before Cunard lines up its three Queens in its spiritual home of Liverpool to celebrate 175 years.

Merseytravel chairman Liam Robertson unveiled a countdown clock over the weekend.

Over a million people will pack the shore for the 25 May event.

Black Sea blue route

THE Eastern Black Sea Development Agency is seeking investment for a project to create new cruising attractions and facilities in the Black Sea.

Ideas from the organisation include a new cruise port in the Turkish city of Trabzon, a yacht marina, rafting areas on creeks and facilities to support sailing.

Dubbed the "Blue Route", the organisation is seeking 200 million Turkish Lira (A\$103.5m).

Ultimate Vivid cruise

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises is inviting guests to experience Vivid Sydney 2015 via a Gold Dinner Cruise onboard *Sydney 2000*, which will itself be illuminated.

Gold Dinner Cruise ticketholders will receive priority boarding from 7pm for the three-hour sailing, which also includes a six-course degustation with Australian wine.

Cruises depart 7:30pm nightly during the 22 May-08 Jun festival and return at 10pm except for Sat, when it returns at 11pm.

Tickets are priced from \$199pp - phone (02) 9206 1111 to book.



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	17 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	18 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	19 Feb
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	19 Feb
<i>Sun Princess</i>	20 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	20 Feb
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	21 Feb
<i>Arcadia</i>	21 Feb
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	22 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	23 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	23 Feb

MELBOURNE	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	18 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	28 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	20 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	21 Feb
<i>Silver Spirit</i>	22 Feb

BRISBANE	
<i>Albatros</i>	19 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	21 Feb
<i>Austral</i>	21 Feb

FREMANTLE	
<i>Amsterdam</i>	21 Feb

GERALDTON	
<i>Astor</i>	23 Feb

CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	19 Feb
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	21 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	22 Feb

HOBART	
<i>Marina</i>	17 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	23 Feb

DARWIN	
<i>Astor</i>	19 Feb
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	23 Feb

ADELAIDE	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	20 Feb

NEWCASTLE	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	18 Feb

ALBANY	
<i>Amsterdam</i>	19 Feb