



### Live from Cruise3sixty

THIS special edition of *Cruise Weekly* has been produced at Sydney's Star Events Centre, where hundreds of Australian cruise specialists and industry suppliers have gathered for the second annual CLIA Cruise3sixty conference.

As well as all the latest updates there are some happy snaps of attendees on **page four**, with lots more on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/cruiseweekly](http://facebook.com/cruiseweekly).



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## Cruise infrastructure alert

AUSTRALIA'S current growth in the cruise industry could find itself grinding to a screeching halt if requirements on infrastructure are not met by government, CLIA chairman Adam Goldstein has warned.

Goldstein told *Cruise Weekly* it was clear many cities in Australia did not have the infrastructure to allow the same growth seen in the last ten years over the next ten.

"I cannot sit here today and say that I find that we're very much closer to the solutions that we need," he lamented.

The CLIA chairman has this week led a mission of local cruise heavyweights to Canberra, where he discussed the issue with both sides of politics.

"I think that most of the people we talked to are pretty informed, they understand that the equation makes sense, that the growth rate has been robust and



the opportunity is there," he said.

Exacerbating the issue was the fact shipbuilders are no longer designing or constructing vessels capable of fitting under the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

"I've been very vocal over several visits here that we need to make something happen and that continues to be my position and I think the urgency has clearly increased," Goldstein said.

"It's probably inevitable with the passage of time but what was less inevitable was the continued robust growth of the market."

Speaking at Cruise3sixty this morning Goldstein praised the local trade and the growth seen in recent years - something nobody predicted in the 1990s.

"This is a fantastic country - sophisticated, wealthy and [with] people [that] love to travel.

"The future is bright though we need more infrastructure in order to realise the full benefits of what the future can do," Goldstein said.

### Ponant expeditions

FRENCH luxury and expedition cruise company Ponant is increasing its emphasis on expedition cruising in the Asia-Pacific Region, with the operator promoting a Nov 2015 departure from Manado in Indonesia aboard the *Le Soleal*.

The inaugural 14-night voyage takes in the Moluccas and Raja Ampat in the "bio-epicentre" of the Coral Triangle.

Pricing from \$8,692ppts in a balcony cabin includes flights from Singapore to Manado.

### CLIA trade boss hired

CHARLES Sylvia has been recruited as vice-president of trade relations for CLIA, working at its head office in the US.

Commencing 02 Mar, Sylvia will report to Cindy D'Aoust, tasked with ensuring travel agents get the most from CLIA membership.

He will also act as the liaison between CLIA and its Diamond & Gold agencies as well as the main link to the trade for member lines.

### Norwegian eyes Oz

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings is considering opening its own office in Australia, rather than working through GSA arrangements at present.

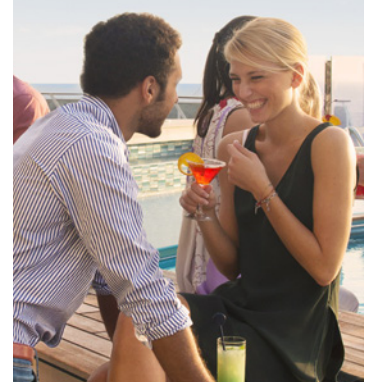
Speaking at an investor update this week ceo Frank Del Rio said the recent addition of Prestige Holdings - including Oceania and Regent Seven Seas as well as Norwegian Cruise Line - meant the group could have enough critical mass to justify the move.



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## Celebrity Europe sun

**CELEBRITY** Cruises says it is seeing record numbers of Aussie travellers escaping the winter by booking its northern summer range of European sailings.

The line's commercial director Sean Treacy said the number of Aussies sailing mid-year in Europe has ballooned 240% since 2011.

Strongest growth is being witnessed on cruises in the Aegean Sea, Baltic region and the Mediterranean, the line added.

Five Celebrity Cruises ships will be sailing in Europe during the 2015 northern summer season, offering chances to visit over 100 different European destinations.

## Sail on Brahmaputra

**PANDAW** River Expeditions has announced a brand new 14-night land and sea itinerary exploring the kingdom of Bhutan & sailing along the Brahmaputra River.

The tour includes seven nights on land prior to a seven-night cruise on the *MV Mahabaahu*.

## Russia cruising strong

**RUSSIAN** Travel Centre said last week was the best week of bookings it has enjoyed in a year and that instability in the region is clearly not deterring travellers.

"Yes the situation is tricky but Russia is open for business and nothing has changed there for tourists," Russian Travel Centre director of sales and marketing Michael Tonkin told *CW*.

While APT has opted not to run river cruises in Russia until 2017 at the earliest, other companies are continuing to operate there.

Rodney Russ - founder & owner of Heritage Expeditions - which operates in the far east of Russia, said the region is still very much open to tourists.

"This part of Russia is at least nine time zones away from any unrest in the Ukraine," Russ said.

"The people there are largely divorced from these events and they are constantly telling us how much they are looking forward to our visits this year. There is no reason to stay away," Russ said.

## McLachlan taps cruising

**FIVE** river cruising itineraries sold by Amras Cruises and sailing on the Luftner Cruises fleet of Amadeus vessels will make up a new offering on sale locally via McLachlan Tours (*CW* yesterday).

The company which operates Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours,

McLachlan Experiences and Discover Asia, has expanded its range, named as the exclusive Australian GSA for the product.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly*, McLachlan Tours general manager Peter Smith said both companies saw "a mutual opportunity" to launch into the Australian market.

"We've been talking about it for a number of months and they're keen to open up into new English speaking markets, so Australia makes an obvious choice for them," Smith commented.

Each of the five itineraries are one week in duration and can be

bolted together to make a unique holiday of up to four weeks.

"Whilst we know Aussies go for the main Amsterdam to Budapest route, we're also seeing demand for shorter cruises. This program

gives the flexibility of both," he said.

The GSA deal is an ongoing arrangement and has no set term.

All-inclusive itineraries are commissionable at 10% and priced in Australian dollars.



## APT Companion Deal

**COMPANION** travellers will fly free to Europe, including taxes, on new bookings of APT's small-ship cruise itineraries from Istanbul to Venice or vice-versa.

The 15-day itinerary on the *MS Island Sky* visits Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece & Turkey and is priced at \$13,795pp twin share - book by 30 Apr.

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## CLIA chairman in town for C360



IF YOU spot CLIA chairman and Royal Caribbean president and coo Adam Goldstein wandering the floor at Cruise3sixty, we're sure he will be glad to chat and share his industry thoughts over a Snickers - his favourite chocolate.

Goldstein became CLIA's spokesperson earlier this year (CW 20 Jan) upon the departure of Christine Duffy, who has replaced Gerry Cahill as the new president of Carnival Cruise Lines.

Full of praise about the Australia cruise market, Goldstein says the numbers seen in this region are turning heads around the world.

"The growth in this region and up through China, Korea and Japan is certainly one of, if not the most exciting thing happening today in the world of cruising".

He is pictured above left with CLIA Australasia general manager and surely fellow confectionery enthusiast Brett Jardine.

## Princess Euro season

FIVE Princess Cruises ships will be deployed in Europe for the 2016 season, with *Regal Princess* & *Royal Princess* to headline the season which is on sale 19 Mar.

Maiden calls will take place in Croatia, Norway, Ireland and Scotland, while the line will also return to the Canary Islands.

## Europa 2 butts in line

PERMITTED areas for smoking on Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' *Europa 2* have been adjusted, with the habit now banned in The Jazz Club, the Sansibar and around the pool deck.

Lighting up is still allowed in a small area at the pool bar, on outside decks, on cabin verandahs and in the vessel's dedicated smokers lounge.

MEANWHILE, the German line says it has seen soaring interest from English-speaking markets, with numbers across its fleet up 52% and on *Europa 2* up 230% last year compared against 2013.

## Voyage to Nagaland

PANDAW River Expeditions has announced three departures of a seven-night itinerary to Nagaland along the Chindwin River in Burma, close to the Indian border.

The cruise is possible only in the high-water season from mid-Sep to mid-Oct using the ultra-low draught *Kalay Pandaw* vessel.

Three departures have been scheduled on 12, 19 and 26 Sep, MEANWHILE, Pandaw has added several bicycles and helmets to some vessels for pax to use for independent shore exploration.

Bikes are now available on the *Kindat Pandaw*, *Zawgyi Pandaw* and *Kalay Pandaw*.

## Classic movies cruise

DISNEY Magic will once again host stars and fans of old-time movies as the fifth Turner Classic Movies cruises returns to the line.

The five-day sailing leaves Miami on 01 Nov, with general bookings open on 24 Mar, while details on guest stars are to be announced.

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## Trade out in full force for Cruise3sixty

**HUNDREDS** of travel agents, cruise industry suppliers and other stakeholders have gathered today in Sydney for the second Cruise3sixty Australasia.

A full program of panel sessions examining key industry issues is being complemented by a trade show, with *Cruise Weekly* on the spot to snap all of the action.

More at [facebook.com/cruiseweekly](https://facebook.com/cruiseweekly).



**ABOVE:** Ryan Taibel, P&O Cruises; Gil McLachlan, McLachlan Tours; Peter Douglas, Avalon Cruises; Peter Smith, McLachlan Tours; and Ken Triffitt, Cunard.



**ABOVE:** The first panel session examined the state of the domestic cruise industry, and featured Tammy Marshall, P&O; Sean Treacy, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines; Stuart Allison, Princess; and Jennifer Vandekreeke, Carnival Cruise Lines.



**LEFT:** Julie Woodall, My Travel Expert; Liz Krstevski, The Cruise Team; Alastair Fernie, eCruising; Leonie Clay, My Travel Expert; and Lisa Wilkinson, The Cruise Team.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia  
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia  
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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**Editors:** Bruce Piper and Matt Lennon [info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

**Contributors:** Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Louise Wallace

**Advertising and Marketing:** Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik [ads@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:ads@cruiseweekly.com.au)

**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper [accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

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