

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 20 Jan 2015

Princess pax spoiled

PASSENGERS celebrating their 50th birthday or 50th wedding anniversary onboard a Princess Cruises ship this year will receive a special congratulatory gift, Princess Cruises has announced.

Guests whose special day occurs during the cruise itself will be rewarded with a \$50 onboard credit, while others celebrating at another point of the year will receive a free bottle of wine.

Travelmarvel preview

TWO new itineraries have been introduced to the market as part of a 2016 preview brochure from Travelmarvel, the guide following its APT parent release last week.

Six departure dates of a new 21-day Norwegian Coastal Cruise with European Gems itinerary has been released, taking in a six-day Hurtigruten before cruising from Amsterdam to Budapest, priced from \$9,895ppts.

Also new are two departures of a 14-day Mediterranean sailing from Istanbul to Venice onboard the *MV Aegean Odyssey* priced from \$5,995ppts.

Signatures Savings

DISCOUNTED staterooms, upgrades to Verandah suites and shipboard credits of up to US\$1,000 are now available as part of the annual Signature Savings sale event from Seabourn.

Deals apply to select voyages of 7-24 nights departing between Apr 2015 and Mar 2016.

Industry clamours for C360

CLIA Australasia has doubled the exhibition space available for the second annual Cruise360 industry expo for 2015, with more than 45 companies booking space to promote their products.

A little over a month remains until the day, with Cruise360 Australasia to open its doors at The Star in Sydney on 27 Feb.

Last year's event at the Four Seasons Hotel saw 27 suppliers exhibiting, but that on the back of its success, airlines, hotels, rail, wholesalers, publishers, suppliers and technology providers have now sought to be involved.

CLIA Australasia general manager Brett Jardine said the event was a "fabulous networking opportunity" and a great place to design deals for mutual benefit.

CS&N aboard Cunard

LEGENDARY trio Crosby, Stills & Nash will bring their style of rock music onboard Cunard's *Queen Mary 2* during its Transatlantic crossing from 04-11 Sep 2015.

The trio, who first performed together in the 1960s, will play three concerts during the crossing from New York to Southampton.

Guests will also get the chance to ask questions of the trio during a Q&A and autograph session.

Cruise Weekly today

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

"Last year's event established Cruise360 as a very dynamic trade show where conference attendees have the opportunity to meet with both cruise line representatives and other significant cruise industry focused suppliers," he added.

In addition to scheduled panel sessions and presentations, extended morning tea and lunch breaks will precede a two-hour networking session, sponsored by eNett, to close the day.

Shore things in Med

SILVERSEA Cruises has bundled all shore excursions and wi-fi into cruise fares as part of a new program for its 52 Mediterranean sailings departing in 2015.

Silver Shore Select excursions can be selected at each cruise port or upgrade to Silver Shore Collection excursions, with wi-fi limited to two hours p.p per day.

New regs on Azamara

DETAILS of a mobile phone contact and a valid email address are now mandatory under new guest contact requirements for Azamara Club Cruises.

The line says documentation for cruises will be withheld until this information is placed on file.

Azamara says the reason for the change is to ensure it is able to contact pax as quickly as possible in the event of a last-minute cancellation - **CLICK HERE** for info.

Book RCI and Fly Free

ROYAL Caribbean International is offering free flights on selected Asia, Australia and Trans-Pacific repositioning sailings as part of a new offer on sale until 31 Jan.

The offer is combinable with the current 'Biggest Sale Ever' deals which include onboard credits depending on the cabin booked.

Fly Free deals are available on sailings of 14-18 nights departing between Mar-Jun 2015 onboard *Radiance of the Seas*, *Legend of the Seas* and *Voyager of the Seas*.

Among the eligible voyages are a 14-night journey from Sydney to Singapore on 11 Jun 2015 which travels along the East Coast, or a 14-night Asia and West Coast Treasures from Perth on 01 Apr.

Happy MSC Birthdays

GUESTS can travel for free on MSC Cruises if celebrating their birthday during the cruise as part of a new promotion from the line valid for bookings before 31 Mar.

Selected voyages are available as part of the sale for each month of 2015, including voyages in the Med, Caribbean & North Europe.

The promotion is valid for one pax per cabin when travelling with a full fare-paying adult in the same cabin - phone 1300 028 502.

MEANWHILE, MSC Cruises has today started the clock on its popular 96-hour sale, with 50% off the second passenger valid on a variety of summer Med cruises.

The booking deadline for the sale finishes at 9am on Sat 24 Jan.

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Duffy transition plan

GLOBAL CLIA chairman Adam Goldstein will take over as spokesperson of CLIA in an acting capacity until a successor for Christine Duffy is recruited.

Duffy will call time on her career with CLIA on 31 Jan, when she moves to Carnival Cruise Lines as its new president (**CW** 18 Dec).

CLIA executive vice-president of membership Cindy D'Aoust will take over management of the organisation's US operations for both the Washington and Fort Lauderdale in the interim.

Solo traveller savings

COMPANION Cruising is offering discounts of up to \$9,000 on the single cabin rate for its music themed cruises this year.

Three voyages are scheduled for Oct 2015, sailing aboard *Radiance of the Seas* - phone 0468 964 996.

Irrawaddy ship for Scenic

CONSTRUCTION has begun on the first Scenic Tours custom-built small ship for Myanmar, with a delivery date set for Sep 2016.

Investing approximately \$7.5m into the 22 suite *Scenic Aura*, Scenic Tours has contracted the Upland Shipyard Rangoon to bring its latest project to life.

Scenic Tours founder Glen Moroney told **Cruise Weekly** the Australian owned cruise operator inked the deal for *Scenic Aura* six months ago with "the best shipyard" in the region, in order to secure its building slot.

Late last year, Scenic revealed its first ship for SE Asia, *Scenic Spirit*, was under development for Vietnam (**CW** 20 Nov).

The 34-suite *Scenic Spirit* will ply the waters of the Mekong from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap, launching in Jan next year.

Moroney said *Aura* will be "very similar to *Scenic Spirit*, with the same amenities and public spaces but less cabins".

Aura's cabins will be very similar in size and configuration to those offered aboard *Spirit*, he said.

The vessel will operate on the Irrawaddy, however specific cruise itinerary details were not yet ready to be disclosed.

Moroney confirmed there was a potential of more than one vessel on the Irrawaddy when quizzed by **CW** about growth aspirations.

Scenic began operating a series of private charters in the region last year using the 56-pax

Irrawaddy Explorer and 68-pax *Mekong Navigator* in partnership with Asian specialist, Haimark.

Scenic Tours gm of sales and marketing Michelle Black told **CW** at its 'Night of Stars' travel agent recognition event that demand for the company's Mekong ship was already exceeding expectations.

MEANWHILE, Scenic Tours will beef up its European river cruise capacity in 2016 with a 13th ship to join its 'Space Ship' fleet.

Scenic Amber will be built at the Den Breejen Shipyard in the Netherlands.

When five-star *Scenic Amber* debuts in Mar 2016, it will feature the same product as the soon-to-launch *Scenic Opal* and *Scenic Jasper*, and operate on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers.

Amber features in Scenic Tours' 2016 Europe River Cruise pre-release program launched on Mon which also provides details of the new itineraries offered on *Scenic Azure* in Portugal.

Clients booking early can enjoy 2016 departures at 2015 prices and fly free on select itineraries.

Pitcairn calls to cruise

REMOTE Pacific nation Pitcairn Islands is hoping more cruise ships visit its shores following the completion of a new sheltered harbour, due for later this year.

A new landing area on the western side of the island is close to being finished, allowing more passengers to be tendered to shore to explore the island.

"Around 12 cruise ships per year call past Pitcairn. With the development of the new harbour many more passengers will be able to come ashore and enjoy the treasures our special island has to offer. We are hoping this will encourage more cruise companies to call at Pitcairn," Pitcairn Island travel coordinator Heather Menzies said.

For more info on travelling to Pitcairn, email Tropics Marketing on in Australia on 1300 713 132.

Everglades terminal

FORT Lauderdale has opened its renovated cruise ship terminal after a US\$24 million project which began in Mar last year.

Already the world's second busiest cruise ship terminal behind its close neighbour Miami, the Port Everglades upgrade work will enable it to cater to the world's largest passenger vessels.

The expanded operation now includes 50 new check-in desks, new light & nautical decorations.



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	20 Jan
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	20 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	22 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	22 Jan
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	23 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	24 Jan
<i>Sun Princess</i>	24 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	25 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	25 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	26 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	26 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	26 Jan
MELBOURNE	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	20 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	21 Jan
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	24 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	24 Jan
BRISBANE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	22 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	25 Jan
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	25 Jan
FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	24 Jan
HOBART	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	26 Jan
BURNIE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	25 Jan
WELLINGTON	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	20 Jan
<i>L'Austral</i>	25 Jan
FIORDLAND	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	23 Jan
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	23 Jan
<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	26 Jan
AUCKLAND	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	20 Jan
<i>L'Austral</i>	22 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	22 Jan
TAURANGA	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	21 Jan
<i>L'Austral</i>	21 Jan
AKAROA	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	21 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	25 Jan
PICTON	
<i>L'Austral</i>	26 Jan



CRUISING is used to claiming records, and will do so again as a shipload of tennis fans will be one of the largest groups to visit the Australian Open Grand Slam now underway in Melbourne.

P&O Cruises has set sail on its annual Australian Open tennis cruise, with 1,800 pax to arrive tomorrow morning and spend two days attending the matches.

The visit is expected to inject \$1 million into the Vic economy.

Transfers using fleets of buses between the ship and Melbourne Park are offered to all pax for both days and are included in the cruise fare.

General admission is also included, however more than 2,000 upgrade tickets to Rod Laver Arena and Margaret Court Arena have also been purchased.

Fares are now on sale for next year's Australian Open cruise onboard *Pacific Pearl*, with the five-night trip from Sydney priced from \$699pp quad share.

Bicton takes Christmas on Astor



PERTH cruise agency giant Bicton Travel wrapped up what was an award-winning year by celebrating with friends and loyal clients with a party onboard *Astor*.

Docked in Fremantle Harbour, Bicton chartered the ship for one night to show off its delights to party attendees.

Guests were greeted on arrival by a singing children's choir, elves, Santa Claus himself and even a human Christmas tree.

Entertainment and activities for the night included cruise trivia, dance classes and a "Ship Shape" treasure hunt around the ship, culminating in a gala dinner in the Waldorf Restaurant.

After-dinner festivities saw an Abba tribute show performing, before attendees danced the night away up on the Aft deck to the tunes of a DJ.

Guests had such a good time that many enquired how they could buy their tickets for the 2015 party as they disembarked.

The Bicton Travel Group team & elves on staff are pictured above enjoying the spirit of the season.

Kimberley cruise taste

KIMBERLEY cruise operator Kimberley Quest has scheduled a series of open days in Perth and southern Western Australia for travel agents and the public to inspect its 25-metre vessel.

The company operates voyages of 8-14 days aboard its ship, the *Kimberley Quest II*, between Broome and Wyndham, with a maximum of 18 guests per sailing.

Scheduled open days will take place on 31 Jan-01 Feb at Hillary's Boat Harbour; 06-07 Feb at Port Geographe Marina; 08-09 Feb at Bunbury Waterfront and 14-15 Feb at Fremantle Harbour.

For more details, phone Kristy Bailey on 0408 020 886.

US turning to rivers

AMERICAN cruise travellers are tipped to turn their patronage towards river cruising this year, according to a survey conducted by American Express on its travel counsellors in the United States.

According to the AMEX Travel survey completed by 213 of the firm's counsellors in the US, Canada and Mexico, more than half of respondents predict strong growth in river bookings in 2015.

Small ship cruising and sailings in Eastern Europe also performed well, while ocean cruising scored an 18% improvement forecast.

Cruising in Asia and Antarctica rounded out the top trends AMEX counsellors predicted for the year, with 14% and 7% growth tipped.

Just over half of agents polled expected an increase in overall cruise bookings this year, while 33% expected little to no change.

The result follows a similar survey report conducted recently (*CW* 06 Jan) by Cruise Holidays International which also found American cruise pax would be booking voyages in Europe and Asia in larger numbers in 2015.

NY Times rates P&O

VISITING Papua New Guinea aboard a P&O Cruises Australia ship has been identified by the *New York Times* as one of its annual Top 52 'Must See' places in the world to experience in 2015.

The Pacific nation appeared at Number 29 in the list, with a sailing on P&O mentioned as an ideal way for readers to get there.

Papua New Guinea is still a relatively new destination for P&O Cruises, with the line docking its first ship there in late 2013.

However the cruises' success has seen the line add several more ports in PNG including Madang.

Celebrity City Stays

CELEBRITY Cruises has expanded its range of pre-cruise City Stays holiday extensions, which offer hotel accom, land touring and excursions in a wide variety of embarkation ports.

City Stays are available in Abu Dhabi, Athens, Barcelona, Hong Kong, London, Singapore and Sydney and also include transfers to and from airport, hotel & port.

Packages can be tailored to offer full day city highlights tours, stays in luxury hotels, farewell dinners, beverage packages and use of a dedicated hotel Hospitality Desk.

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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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