

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 27 Jan 2015

APT river cruise expo

APT will kick off its 2015 series of consumer expo events in Brisbane from 10 Feb, followed by Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Hobart and Canberra.

Bookings made at each event will be directed back to agents.

CLICK HERE to register to attend.

Carnival looking to China

CARNIVAL Corporation today announced plans for two joint ventures with Chinese businesses aimed at "launching China's first world-class domestic cruise brand" in coming years.

Two Memorandums of Understanding have been signed outlining port and destination development & vessel ownership.

Carnival and China Merchants Group (CMG) are together looking to own and operate a fleet of cruise ships specifically targeted to the Chinese market.

CMG is the country's oldest state enterprise founded over 140 years ago, with its specialisations being transportation and finance.

Under the MoU, new vessels would be designed and built in China, while the joint venture would also look at the possibility of acquiring existing cruise ships.

Carnival and CMG will also look to collaborate on the

development of turnaround and transit ports for cruise ships within and around China.

This JV would initially focus on a flagship port called Prince Bay Cruise Terminal being developed in Shekou, Shenzhen province.

The partners would work to have cruise ships sail from Shekou while also developing other cruise destinations across China and northern Asia.

Carnival Corporation chief operating officer Alan Buckelew said the MoU "signifies a great opportunity to take the next step in the future of Chinese cruising, while addressing some key needs for both the cruise industry and its passengers in China".

The race for market share in China is currently at fever pitch, with Carnival's major rival Royal Caribbean also carving its niche by positioning ships & launching a new brand in SkySea Cruises.

Carnival Corporation is aiming to welcome onboard 500,000 pax embarking from Chinese ports over the course of this year.

Virtual exploration

PLACES are still available for agents to tune in to a Virtual Exploration training webinar about Alaska to be hosted by Lindblad Expeditions tomorrow.

The webinar will take place at 11am AEST but will be recorded for viewing later - **CLICK HERE**.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Revolutions on Vista

FEATURES including the first IMAX theatre at sea & suspended open-air cycling experience will make its debut as part of Carnival Corp's new ship *Carnival Vista*.

The line's new vessel will be launched in May next year and will also mark Carnival's return to Europe, with *Vista* to sail its debut itineraries in the Mediterranean.

Dubbed SkyRide, the flagship activity will be a pedal-powered "aerial attraction" with guests able to ride suspended bikes to cycle around an elevated track.

A partnership with IMAX will also see blockbuster films and documentaries available to view on a screen three decks in height.

Vista will also offer new dining and accom categories including tropical "Havana Cabanas".

Azamara trade promo

TRAVEL agents can earn a free sailing for themselves and a travel companion onboard an Azamara Club Cruises vessel as part of a new 'Ultimate Freedom Promotion' launched by the line.

The reward can be earned by making five Oceanview stateroom bookings or more on Azamara Ultimate Freedom itineraries and deposit before 31 Mar.

Each agency can earn up to five free staterooms in the incentive, with free voyages to depart before the end of the year.

To enter, send confirmation numbers of qualifying bookings to insidesales@rcclapac.com.

CLICK HERE for more details.

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MSC upgrade deal

MSC Cruises has released an "Experience Upgrade" offer, giving cruisers who book its Bella Experience the benefits of Fantastica at no additional cost.

Fantastica offers pax greater booking flexibility, a priority choice of dining times and 24 hour room service - plus dedicated kids activities such as MasterChef cooking sessions and language classes.

The deal is valid for bookings from 27 Jan-15 Feb.

NCL at the Olympics

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line will provide a further 2,000 rooms in Rio de Janeiro during the 2016 Olympic Games, advising it will position its ship *Norwegian Getaway* in Rio during the event.

The ship will be berthed near the Maracana Stadium, which will host events such as the archery.

Getaway has previously served as a floating hotel last year at the Super Bowl in New Orleans.

Uniworld sustainable tact

THE head of the Australian arm of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection says the company will continue to look at new markets, but is cautious to surge ahead with more developments.

Speaking with *Cruise Weekly* at the launch of its new Asia 2016 brochure last week, gm Australia John Molinaro revealed India had been on Uniworld's "blackboard" for around four of five years.

"We have a lot of things on the blackboard," he added, but was unable to disclose further details.

"We take a look at what makes sense, what our pax are telling us.

"There are several different parts of the world they have told us they wanted to look into and India is one we have acted on."

In India, Uniworld has chartered the 56-pax *Ganges Voyager II* for 19 departures in 2016.

Molinaro told *CW* that Uniworld weighs up various aspects before making a move into a new region, such as the longevity of interest,

through to financial investments, political concerns and whether it is more appropriate to own versus a joint venture or charter.

"There is a lot that has to go into sustainability, infrastructure and what the client wants.

"I always say we operate on a very different agenda to other cruise lines," he added.

Molinaro criticised operators who enter a destination hastily.

"There are a lot of companies that just jump in and do this and jump in and do that. We look at things very, very closely and carefully before we do anything.

He stated that Uniworld doesn't act "irresponsibly" and that it "has to be the right time with the right product".

"There has been some times where we have gone into a new market and haven't provided the service we wanted, so we got out.

"We need to ensure that we can provide the product we stake our reputation on," Molinaro told *CW*.

Injury on Seven Seas

THE Australian Transport Safety Bureau has issued management of Regent Seven Seas Cruises with a recommendation to address safety concerns after an incident involving a crew member onboard *Seven Seas Voyager* last year.

On 01 Feb 2014, a crew member replacing the incinerator's ash grates was taken to hospital after a pneumatically operated valve closed against his body.

After being taken to a local hospital for initial treatment, the crew member was eventually discharged to recover at home.

The ATSB found engineering staff "did not have an adequate understanding of the incinerator's control systems and that the task of replacing the ash grates had not been properly planned.

Further findings included that neither the planned maintenance system nor the incinerator's instruction manual contained any information detailing the replacement of the ash grates.

The full report can be read [HERE](#).



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P&O front row for Australia Day



AROUND 6,000 passengers onboard three P&O Cruises ships yesterday were witness to a special moment, with the entire fleet gathering together in Sydney Harbour for the first time in the line's storied history.

Activities on the harbour were again a major focus for Australia's birthday, with ferry races, tall ship regattas, RAAF flyovers and a tugboat "nautical ballet" among the attractions.

The three sister fleet mates sailed into the harbour early in the morning, with *Pacific Dawn* anchoring off Kurraba Point, *Pacific Jewel* at Athol Bay and *Pacific Pearl* also sitting nearby.

Showing their Aussie spirit, two ships were draped with decals displaying "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie" with another in Australian flags.

"We're as Australian as meat pies and kangaroos so we're thrilled to bring our entire fleet into Sydney's iconic harbour for the first time on our national day," P&O senior vice president Tammy Marshall commented.

On a busy day in the harbour, the ship trio are **pictured** above.

Veendam plucks pilot

A PILOT who ditched his single-engine Cirrus aircraft into the ocean off the coast of Lahaina in Hawaii was rescued by Holland America Line vessel *MS Veendam*.

The ship was responding to a distress call circulated by the US Coast Guard, managing to locate and bring the pilot onboard, providing food and lodgings.

Veendam was in the middle of an 18-day Circle Hawaii cruise when the rescue activity occurred.



RIVER cruising giant APT last week generously invited *Cruise Weekly* to attend a session of fast-paced tennis action at the Australian Open Grand Slam in Melbourne involving Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova.

Each year, the event clearly takes over the city of Melbourne, with locals and hoteliers all well into the swing of things.

One particular example was the Mercure Melbourne Treasury Gardens, whose team of super-talented bakers prepared this batch of tennis-themed cookies awaiting us in our hotel room.

Resting on a chocolate base designed like a tennis racquet were five tennis ball cookies

(pictured right), which we can attest went quickly and were delicious.



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Zuckerberg Celebrity

CELEBRITY Cruises has launched a year-long "Take Care of YourSelfie" campaign which encourages guests to find a "tech-life" balance while on holiday.

The initiative is in partnership with Randi Zuckerberg, the "digital trailblazer" sister of Facebook brain Mark Zuckerberg.

Kicking off next month, the first initiative will see a new lineup of spa treatments and services at Canyon Ranch SpaClub on board *Celebrity's* vessels fleetwide.

Future collaborations will include facials to treat skin care needs related to staring at tablet and computer screens and the creatively named "Control ALT Delight", a yoga workout using T-Spheres to stretch and flex the slumps caused by workstations.

FCCA new members

FOUR new member lines have been admitted to the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association, an organisation now headed by new chairman and former Carnival Corp ceo Micky Arison.

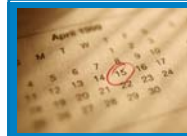
Following its acquisition by Norwegian Cruise Line, the three Prestige Cruises Int'l brands, Oceania Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises have been admitted.

Additional new members include Royal Caribbean's Spanish and French offshoots Pullmantur & Croisieres de France, taking the group's member base to 19 lines.

A&K Haimark tie-up

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has signed a deal with Haimark Ltd to utilise its fleet to operate new Luxury Small Group Journeys on the Ganges, Amazon & Mekong.

Itineraries combine land touring with six or seven nights onboard.



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	27 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	27 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	28 Jan
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	28 Jan
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	29 Jan
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	29 Jan
<i>Oosterdam</i>	30 Jan
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	31 Jan
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	01 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	29 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	30 Jan
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	01 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	28 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	01 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	02 Feb
FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	27 Jan
ADELAIDE	
<i>Astor</i>	01 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	29 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	01 Feb
<i>L'Austral</i>	01 Feb
THURSDAY ISLAND	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	29 Jan
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	31 Jan
AUCKLAND	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	29 Jan
<i>Sea Princess</i>	31 Jan
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	02 Feb
FIORDLAND	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	27 Jan
<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	27 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	29 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	01 Feb
<i>Oosterdam</i>	02 Feb
DUNEDIN	
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	27 Jan
<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	30 Jan