

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 24 Mar 2015

## Global WOW back on

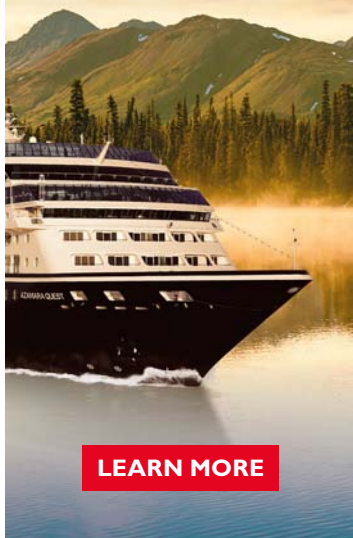
**ROYAL** Caribbean International has relaunched its Global WOW Sale, valid for bookings by 02 Apr.

On the table are fare discounts of up to \$1,000pp, up to US\$400 onboard credit and 50% reduced deposits, all eligible on global sailings departing after 15 May.



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## Celebrities push cruising

**FIRST-TIME** cruise passengers will be directly targeted via a one-hour special presentation set to go to air on Channel 7 next week.

Royal Caribbean International and Channel Seven have joined forces to produce the "first-of-its-kind" show starring well-known personalities Tom Williams, Tim "Rosso" Ross and Rachael Finch.

Filmed onboard *Voyager of the Seas* during the 10-day Fijian Delights, the program will cover activities, entertainment, staterooms and onboard dining.

The program sees Williams, Finch and Rosso - themselves experiencing cruising for the first time - debunk common myths associated with the sector, mixed with plenty of humour and style.

The stars try out many of the

ship's features including the spa, FlowRider, rock climbing & more.

Rosso said *Voyager of the Seas* offered plenty of things to do and opened his eyes to cruising.

"I have never cruised before and definitely felt it was not for me - boring and full of old people! But boy was I wrong."

RCI commercial director Sean Treacy said the line was thrilled to have had the opportunity to create the program with Ch 7.

"Cruising is absolutely booming in the Australian market and we have found that those who haven't cruised before have difficulty differentiating between us and the competition and we really do have some very unique, only-on Royal Caribbean features on our local ships.

"This program really helps show what cruising with Royal Caribbean is like and I think everyone will love it," he added.

The program comes as part of an expanded tie-up between the line and Ch 7, which will also see RCI onboard food offerings promoted through cooking show *My Kitchen Rules* (CW 24 Feb).

Dubbed "*Tom, Rachael and Rosso Go Cruising*," the one-hour special will air during primetime next Tue night, 31 Mar from 8pm.

### Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features two pages of the latest news from the cruising industry.

## SafeMate for cruise

**CRUCIAL** health and contact information for cruise passengers can be accessed by authorised people as part of an enhancement to SafeMate by its developers.

Unveiled at Cruise3sixty late last month, the device requires a pax to have a linked keycard on their person or wearing a wristband.

Approved users of the SafeMate app can then access vital details from onboard or off the ship in the event of an emergency.

It is designed for information to be available to first responders to increase accuracy of diagnosis and improve rescue responses times.

## Croatia cruise tasters

**AUSSIE** wholesaler Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre has released a new range of mini cruise options for guests keen for a taste of the region's islands.

Three and six-day options are available departing from Split and Dubrovnik respectively, with prices starting at \$340ppts - more at [www.greecemedtravel.com.au](http://www.greecemedtravel.com.au).

## Latest aid for Vanuatu

**P&O CRUISES'** *Pacific Pearl* has become the next ship to set sail for Vanuatu loaded with supplies & equipment to assist in recovery.

The 10-night voyage is doubling as a humanitarian mission & will deliver two shipping containers full of essential supplies during a brief stop in Port Vila on Sat.

Items to be offloaded include long-life milk, rice, sugar & flour, thousands of bottles of water, clothing, children's toys, hygiene products, sheets of corrugated iron, batteries and chainsaws.

*Pacific Dawn* will arrive in Vila tomorrow with the first load of supplies which left Sydney on Sun.

## Clicking on Lindblad

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions has signed a photographic partnership with Ted's Cameras, offering discounted photography products to Australian and NZ passengers.

The tie-up will offer access to expert guidance on the right products to purchase, as well as a 5% discount on camera hardware and 10% discount on accessories.

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## Lines substitute Tunisia

**MORE** cruise lines have joined MSC Cruises and Costa Cruises in replacing scheduled visit to Tunis with alternative ports nearby.

In the wake of last week's museum shooting, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, Star Clippers, AIDA Cruises and Holland America Line have all opted to cancel their own calls in Tunisia for the time being.

P&O Cruises World Cruising, Cunard and Celebrity Cruises said they were taking advice from security services on the matter.

CLIA UK & Ireland says none of its members had planned to visit Tunis "for the foreseeable future".

However, not all cruise lines have opted to follow the same path, with Oceania Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Princess Cruises saying they were in the process of monitoring and reviewing the situation but had not yet changed its schedules.

The two lines directly impacted by the terrorist act - MSC Cruises and Costa Cruises - have both announced alternative ports to take the place of Tunis.

For Costa, the change will affect voyages on three ships for at least the remainder of this year - *Costa Fortuna*, *Costa Favolosa* and *Costa neoRiviera*.

Different voyages will now call at Barcelona (*Fortuna & Favolosa*), Tarragona (*Favolosa*), Trapani (*neoRiviera*) or Malta (*neoRiviera*) instead of Tunis.

MSC has axed Tunis for the rest of the 2015 northern summer.

Instead of Tunis, *MSC Splendida* will now call at Valletta; *MSC Fantasia* at Palma de Mallorca; *MSC Preziosa* at Cagliari and *MSC Divina* shifting Valletta a day early and heading then to Corfu.

Pierfrancesco Vago, MSC Cruises executive chairman said he hoped Tunis could return to the line's schedules at a point in the future.

Crisis teams for both lines have reached the ships which suffered passenger losses, offering assistance to all onboard as well as facilitating contact with family.

Holland America Line has added ports in Sardinia in place of Tunis for *MS Eurodam* & *MS Zuiderdam*.

## Cunard Insights boost

**FOREIGN** correspondents and expert New York Times journalists will take part in Cunard's Insights program of guest speakers as part of a new partnership with the line.

Speakers will be available on all east-bound transatlantics in 2016.

**MSC GRAND VOYAGES SALE**

**GET 50% OFF THE SECOND PASSENGER & MORE!\***



**MANY** Fiji island resorts offer guests access to non-motorised water craft to enjoy during their stay, but one has taken it up a notch by offering the chance to go under the water while visiting.

Exclusive resort Laucala Island is now inviting guests to explore the underwater world around the island via its own DeepFlight Super Falcon Submersible.

One of only three available in the world, the underwater craft is available as part of the resort's all-inclusive rates for one 45-min adventure for two pax per stay.

Guests will travel with a trained pilot onboard within the resort's inner reef, viewing the aquatic surrounds through 360° clear acrylic windows.

But before you get too excited, note the price tag of staying at Laucala - a cool US\$4,600 per night for two in a one-bedroom villa, including all meals & wines.

## UK numbers decrease

**BRITISH** holidaymakers appear to be steering away from cruising as a holiday option, with the number of pax sailing falling for the first time in a decade.

According to new industry stats released last week, the full year in 2014 saw overall numbers drop from 1.72m in 2013 to 1.64m, a fall of 4.8% year-on-year.

The result sees Germany pass England as the leading European nation to take a holiday at sea.

Tourism officials have cited worries such as the Ebola crisis, the declining British pound and one-off events such as the *Costa Concordia* capsizing as events impacting momentum in Britain.

Cruise Calendar	
This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.	
SYDNEY	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	24 Mar
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	25 Mar
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	26 Mar
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	27 Mar
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	29 Mar
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	30 Mar
MELBOURNE	
<i>Oosterdam</i>	24 Mar
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	26 Mar
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	27 Mar
BRISBANE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	25 Mar
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	26 Mar
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	28 Mar
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	30 Mar
ADELAIDE	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	28 Mar
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	29 Mar
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	29 Mar
HOBART	
<i>Oosterdam</i>	26 Mar
FREMANTLE	
<i>MSC Orchestra</i>	26 Mar
ALBANY	
<i>MSC Orchestra</i>	27 Mar
AUCKLAND	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	28 Mar
WELLINGTON	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	25 Mar
<i>Sun Princess</i>	25 Mar
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	27 Mar
AKAROA	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	24 Mar
<i>Sea Princess</i>	26 Mar
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	26 Mar
FIORDLAND	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	24 Mar
<i>Sea Princess</i>	28 Mar
<i>Oosterdam</i>	29 Mar

**Cruise Weekly** is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of Cruise Weekly is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at [www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).

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