

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 14 Apr 2016

## Disney's new destinations

**DISNEY** Cruise Line has unveiled its new itineraries for summer 2017 featuring inaugural visits to new destinations in Alaska and Europe.

For the first time the line will sail to Alaska's Icy Strait Point and Hubbard Glacier in a new nine-night itinerary on the *Disney Wonder* ex Vancouver 24 Jul.

Calls to Amsterdam and Stonehenge are also new for the line's European offering.

*Disney Magic's* 15-night Florida, to Copenhagen departing 13 May will now stop in at Amsterdam and Portland in England.

Sailings in the Caribbean have been extended on board *Disney Fantasy* with new 10- and 11-night programs now available

To learn more about the new offerings or to make a booking see [disneycruise.com](http://disneycruise.com).

## ACA & Princess partner

**PRINCESS** Cruises' guests will have access to more in-depth destination information as part of a program created in collaboration with the Australian Cruise Association (ACA).

The program, announced this week consists of ten touchpoints, the first being a series of welcome videos featuring the local ports and tour operators.

These videos will be shown on the lines' website and on board and will be followed by more detailed videos with information on the ports and the surrounding destinations delivered by local experts.

The program will also include an on board speaker series, and exclusive experiences in port.

These will be supported by small group, special interest tours led by local experts and materials, maps and images will also be

provided to passengers.

Developed by Bruce Krumrine, vp, Shore Excursions of Holland America Group (Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, P&O Australia and Seabourn) and ACA, the program aims to enhance the cruising experience in Australia and increase demand.

"With the rapid growth of cruising in Australia, we believe this initiative is coming at an important time for the region. It meets the desire from cruise passengers to learn more about, and engage more deeply with, the destinations they visit" Krumrine said.

The program will begin to roll out in mid 2016 with 12 pilot ports in the cities of: Sydney; Airlie Beach, Cairns, Port Douglas, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Darwin, Perth, Broome, Geraldton and Albany.

## Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos plus a full page of jobs from **AA Appointments**.

## Meth dealing at sea

**THE** part-owner and skipper of *Kimberley Quest II* Jeff Ralston has been charged with intending to deal methylamphetamine on board the vessel, according to reports by *ABC News*.

Police raided the luxury ship in Wyndham on Mon, alleging that 23 grams of the drug and five smoking implements were found.

Kimberley Quest Cruises has put out a formal written statement saying they have a perfect safety record and are confident that at no time the safety of their guests has been compromised.

Ralston is set to face Broome Magistrates Court next week.

## New 2017/2018 ITINERARIES

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## Ponant newbuild for Australia

**THE** first of Ponant's four new 'Explorer Class' luxury expedition cruise ships (**CW 17 Mar**) will be first deployed to Australia when it's delivered in 2018, according to the cruise line's Asia Pacific chairman, Sarina Bratton.

Speaking at an event earlier this week Bratton gave an outline of the huge expansion which will almost double the Ponant fleet.

To be constructed in Europe by Norwegian firm VARD, an offshoot of Fincantineri, the new Ponant vessels buck the global trend of larger and larger ships.

"The fleet is designed for a specific type of traveller in mind," Bratton said, with just 92 oceanview staterooms and suite all with private balconies.

Each ship will have a maximum of 180 guests cared for by 110 crew, "created to appeal to inquisitive travellers eager to explore some of the extraordinary, lesser visited parts of the globe, in luxury".

The four sister ships, which are smaller and updated versions of Ponant's current four-strong expedition fleet, will have a draught of 4.4m and feature two low emission "near silent and vibration free" electric engines.

After her Australian debut the first new ship will then remain in the Australasian and South East Asian region, Bratton confirmed.

The luxuriously equipped vessels will feature a spa, gym, observation lounge and a choice of both casual and formal dining options as well as interior and exterior bars.

A "touch of luxury" will be added by an infinity glass-ended swimming pool, while the underwater environment can be explored via Scuba facilities as well as a "unique underwater observation lounge".

For a video showcasing the features of the new ships see [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](http://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).



## Princess price match

**PRINCESS** Cruises has launched a pilot program which promises to match the prices of on-board shore excursions with those offered by third parties in each destination.

To debut on selected 2016 Europe and Alaska itineraries, the initiative will see passengers on the applicable departures receive pre-cruise emails indicating they are eligible for the offer.

Shore excursions must be purchased at least seven days before the sailing date, and if an equivalent excursion is found for a lower price a claim can be submitted by email.

Passengers will be notified within two days if the claim meets the necessary criteria, and if so will receive 110% of the difference in the form of a non-refundable credit voucher.

Qualifying excursions must match exactly including duration, date and time availability, meals and admission fees.

## Crystal announces Passage escort

**CRYSTAL** Cruises has announced a new "charter party agreement" with UK-based Tactical Marine Solutions which will see the *RRS Ernest Shackleton* escort *Crystal Serenity* through the famed Northwest Passage later this year.

The escort vessel is an ICE 05 classed icebreaker which will provide operational support to *Serenity* including icebreaking if required, as well as carrying additional safety and adventure equipment.

The *Shackleton* will also carry two helicopters for flightseeing activities as well as emergency support plus survival rations.

Prior to the departure *Serenity* will be outfitted with new forward-looking sonar, ice detection radar, ice searchlights and thermal imaging as well as a navigation system displaying near real-time satellite ice imagery and ice forecasts, Crystal said.



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\*Price is per person, twin share, cruise only, for an Inside Stateroom. Price is based on the 7 day Western Mediterranean from Barcelona, departing 24 April 2016, onboard Norwegian Epic.



### Active's \$1000 credit

ACTIVE Travel, is offering international flight savings of \$AU1000 on all Antarctica sailings with One Ocean Expeditions booked before 31 May.

The credit can be used for international flights to South America booked by Active Travel.

There are 24 sailings available between Oct 2016 & Mar 2017 on board *Akademik Ioffe* and *Akademik Sergey Vavilov*.

Prices for the operator's 11-day cruise start from \$US10,095 ppts. Call 1300 783 188 for more.

### Seabourn's mixologist

SEABOURN is partnering with renowned mixologist Brian Van Flandern who will create a special cocktail menu for the fleet.

Van Flandern will use fresh produce from the ports Seabourn visits to create the cocktails.

He will also educate the line's bar team on new and classic mixology techniques.

Seabourn said guests should expect an expanded spirits list including more premium and ultra-premium whiskeys, tequilas, and other spirits.

### Ovation's Godmother revealed



CHINESE actress, Fan Bingbing will be the Godmother for Asia Pacific's first new-build, *Ovation of the Seas*.

She will be the first Chinese celebrity selected to be the Godmother of an international cruise line and will name the vessel in Tianjin, China on 24 Jun.

"Bingbing is number one on the Forbes China 'Celebrity 100' list and has held that top position for three years making her one of the most influential Chinese stars in the world," said Michael Bayley, president and ceo, Royal Caribbean International.

Bingbing said she was honoured to be the first Godmother of Chinese nationality for such a prestigious international cruise line as RCI.

"And I like the name *Ovation of the Seas* which in Chinese is interpreted as 'praising the world and welcoming guests from

everywhere,'" she said.

The \$1 billion *Ovation of the Seas* will be the biggest, newest and most technologically advanced cruise ship to sail in Australia when she arrives in Dec.

Last week RCI revealed *Ovation* would spend an extra month in Aussie waters & will return for a second season in the summer of 2017/18 (CW 05 Apr).

Bingbing is pictured above with Dr. Zinan Liu, president, Royal Caribbean International - China and North Asia Pacific.

### Antarctica for kids

HURTIGRUTEN has launched family-friendly Antarctica cruises with a Young Explorers Program aboard *Midnatsol* between Nov and Mar.

The free program suited for children aged 7-13 is designed to give kids hand-on experience in field research, games, reenactments and lectures.

Call 1800 623 267.

### Princess time-lapse

TO MARK the launch of its new cruise program (CW 12 Apr), Princess Cruises has released a time-lapse clip following *Golden Princess* on her 13-night trip around New Zealand.

CLICK HERE to view the video by Filippo Rivetti who set up five cameras onboard the ship including one with a 360-degree lens to capture the scenes.

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Contact your preferred wholesaler for further information or visit [www.starcruiases.com](http://www.starcruiases.com)

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## Plans to axe gambling restrictions at sea

**WESTERN** Australia's Premier and new Tourism Minister Colin Barnett is looking to cut restrictions which stop cruise ships from operating their casinos within 12 nautical miles off the Western Australian coast.

*The West Australian* released a report this morning which said Barnett had been lobbied by cruise operators to make the change, a change which he supports.

"I think if people go on a cruise, they expect there to be a casino, they expect it to be open, and why not," he told the publication.

For the plan to become legal it would have to be given the green light by James Packer's Crown which has an exclusive right to operate casinos 200km off Perth.

Shadow Tourism Minister Paul Papalia is reportedly in agreement with Barnett, saying Labor supported anything to help grow the cruising industry in WA.

## Ovation art collection

**ROYAL** Caribbean International's (RCI) newbuild *Ovation of the Seas* will feature an 11,000-piece, \$US4.5 million dollar art collection.

The works, inspired by the ship's "exotic destinations" was curated by London's Peter Millard and Partners.

"*Ovation* features unexpected and destination-inspired artwork, custom pieces and interactive art that will surprise guests at every corner," RCI's president and ceo Michael Bayley said.



Artworks include a 10 metre panda and cub (pictured above) with the animal considered good luck in Chinese culture.

## Voyages to Antiquity 2017 out

**VOYAGES** to Antiquity has released its 2017 program which features its first ever dedicated European collection.

There are 30 new ports of call and 17 new itineraries including maiden visits to Reykjavik Iceland, Corke Ireland, Olbia Sardinia and the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

Continuing the line's tradition of in-depth immersive cruising the programs include two night hotel stays in London and Edinburgh along with overnights on board *Aegean Odyssey* in Liverpool, Dublin, Edinburgh and Olbia.

Voyages to Antiquity will make the most of the size of its



boutique 350-passenger *Aegean Odyssey* (pictured) to offer scenic coastal cruising around many of the most remote destinations in and around the UK and Iceland.

Savings of up to 25% are on offer for bookings made by 31 Jul as well as an additional 10% off for repeat guests - more details at [voyagestoantiquity.com](http://voyagestoantiquity.com).

## Record WA season

**WA PREMIER** and newly self-appointed tourism minister Colin Barnett says the state is on track for its biggest ever cruise season.

He was speaking at the launch of P&O's *Pacific Eden's* inaugural WA season which will see her spend four months in the West during which she will carry over 20,000 passengers to destinations including Busselton, Esperance, Broome, Exmouth and Geraldton.

## New Fremantle hotel

**A NEWBUILD** Adina Apartment Hotel in Fremantle, WA will be ideal for pre and post cruise accommodation.

Announced today by TFE Hotels ceo Rachel Argaman, the \$120m property on the Woolstores Shopping Centre site is scheduled for completion by 2018.

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WE ARE delighted to welcome two new members to the Australian Cruise Association – Fantasea Cruising Sydney and City of Port Phillip in Victoria – expanding the Association's ever growing numbers.

Fantasea Cruising Sydney operates eight boats offering various harbour cruises on the spectacular city waterways. They also offer Water Taxi services. Perfect for cruise passengers wanting to see a little more of Sydney, Fantasea offers a range of experiences from a Hop On, Hop Off Harbour cruise taking in the icons through to a more extensive journey beyond the city called the Seven Wonders Coastal.

Fantasea also allows visitors to experience Sydney's fabulous events calendar with special cruises for the Vivid light festival, New Year's Eve fireworks and the Whale Watching season.

Heritage-listed Station Pier is Victoria's cruise shipping gateway and located in the City of Port Phillip (CoPP). Sheri Peters, Tourism Industry Development Officer, CoPP is driving the cruise strategy for the municipality which has seen exciting year on year growth.

"Our goal is to provide the most welcoming visitor experience possible to cruise passengers into Melbourne," Peters commented. This includes a co-ordinated effort with the Port of Melbourne and business and neighbourhood groups to create a volunteer greeting program (Waterfront Welcomers) to answer questions, provide local information and free rickshaw rides to Port Melbourne. "As the cruise industry expands, it was a natural next step to join ACA and we look forward to all the benefits that will afford us."

## Ponant lines up for Australia



PONANT hosted a function earlier this week in Sydney to showcase its latest developments including a major expansion which will see it add four newbuild vessels (see page 2).

Signalling the importance of Australia to the line, the first new vessel will be deployed directly down under.

**Pictured** at the event from left are: Eva Robert, Ponant; Peita Davis and Mladen Vukic of APT; Ponant's Monique Ponfoort, Sarina Bratton and Steve McLaughlin; Aaron Christian from APT; and Julie Rogers & Elena Prena of Ponant.

## Fathom Cuba dramas

CARNIVAL Corporation's new experiential 'Fathom' brand is being sued by two Cuban Americans who are claiming their civil rights have been violated by being barred from booking a voyage on the *Adonia* to Cuba.

Cuba has a travel boycott for people who were born there so the cruise line is not taking reservations from those who originally came from the island.

The complaint by the Florida-based keen cruisers cites the US Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits "discrimination in places of accommodation".

## Norwegian appoints

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has appointed Jeremy McKenna as head of sales in the UK, having recruited him from his former role as Carnival UK sales head.

Norwegian also named Jacqueline van de Stadt as its new marketing and PR manager for Northern Europe and MEA.

The company said the moves show its commitment to the UK market which will see Norwegian return to offer regular cruises ex Britain next year for the first time since 2017.



CRUISERS interested in denizens of the deep are sure to be excited to learn about a new attempt to verify the existence of Scotland's famed Loch Ness Monster.

Dubbed "Operation Groundtruth," it involves the deployment of an underwater robot to search for the creature, after a retired fisherman claimed to have found a crevice large enough to house the beast.

Using sonar imaging the device can map depths of up to 1.5km but has so far failed to find a so-called "Nessie trench".

Loch Ness is actually only about 230m deep but has exceptionally difficult visibility due to high levels of peat in the surrounding soil.



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