

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 16 Aug 2016

## Int'l Rail adds cruising

**TRAIN** booking specialist International Rail has expanded its operations into cruise, with the addition of a new International Cruise brand. MD Jonathan Hume said cruise often complements rail travel "so we decided to become experts in both fields".

International Cruise offers a selection of rail and cruise combination packages, with "a choice of more than 300 ships and 2000 ports of call".

See [internationalcruise.com.au](http://internationalcruise.com.au).

## Evergreen suite deal

**FOR** \$95pp guests can upgrade from an Emerald Stateroom (Category E) to a Emerald Balcony Suite (Category C) on Evergreen Tours' 15-day Splendours of Europe River Cruise.

The offer represents a saving of up to \$3,200 per couple, & is available until 30 Sep, or sold out.

## CLIA sales MasterClass

**US-BASED** sales guru and motivational speaker Scott Koepf will hold a CLIA Cruise MasterClass in Sydney on 13 Oct.

Hosted by World's Leading Cruise Lines, the two-hour event will feature a 45 minute key-note presentation combining practical and usable content with the latest developments in sales techniques, aimed specifically at cruise specialist agents.

Following the address, a Q&A session will enable agents to pick Koepf's brain.

CLIA agent members can earn 20 CLIA accreditation points by attending the event.

Koepf will be down under to oversee his 18th CLIA Australasia Masters Conference.

He has more than 35 years in retail travel and is vice president of sales for Avoya Travel/America's Vacation Center, one of the largest travel & most awarded

companies in North America.

Attendance is free for current CLIA Master Accredited agents while the cost for all other CLIA members is \$55 per person.

Non-members can buy tickets for \$95 per person.

For more details and to book visit [www.cruising.org.au](http://www.cruising.org.au).

## French America Line

**NEW** US cruise firm, French America Line has released its 2017 program and opened itineraries for booking.

Between 04 Mar 2017-06 Jan 2018, 48 five- to 14-day cruises are on offer, sailing the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland, Red, Illinois and Arkansas rivers.

In 2017, the line will call into Chattanooga, Louisville and Pittsburgh for the first time.

See [frenchamericalline.com](http://frenchamericalline.com).

## Silversea Asia-Pac gm

**AMBER** Wilson has left Cruisecco and yesterday took to the helm of Silversea as gm for Asia Pacific.

Replacing Karen Christensen, who is now heading up Crystal Cruises' new office in Sydney, Wilson brings with her over 17 years' experience in the travel and cruise industries.

She was most recently gm, sales and marketing at Cruisecco for 12 years and has previously worked for Star Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line.

Wilson will be based in Sydney and look after the Asia Pacific markets, revenue, the direction of sales and marketing management and be responsible for the Sydney and Singapore teams.

## Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos.

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## Asia tops cruise growth

**CRUISE** passengers numbers from Asia jumped 24% year-on-year, making the region the world's fastest growing source of cruise pax, according to a new Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) report.

Australia came in second place with 14.6% growth, beaten by China's 40% increase for the period, CLIA's "Asia Cruise Trends" study shows.

In 2016, an additional 43% of sailings are scheduled for the region, making up a total of 1,560 departures.

"The cruise industry has been nimble and responded quickly to the demand for cruise travel in Asia by delivering cruise ships with amenities and experiences tailored to Asian travellers," CLIA president and chief executive Cindy D'Aoust said.

The study also found between 2012 and 2015, Chinese passengers grew at an annual compounded rate of 66% and 38% of all cruisers in the region are aged below 40 years.

Furthermore, it was noted

### Island Escape special

**SAVINGS** of NZ\$1,000 are available on Island Escape Cruises' Tahitian Affair 2017 departures, when booked and paid in full within seven days of confirmation.

The deal is valid for new bookings confirmed by 31 Oct.

Japan is the biggest destination country with 1,526 port calls in 2016, followed by China (850), South Korea (745), Vietnam (466) Malaysia (422) & Singapore (391).

Commenting on the study, CLIA Australasia md Neil Linwood said the strong growth in the Asian region was good news for the local cruise industry.

"The growing number of people in Asia discovering the joys of a cruise holiday, means more potential customers for cruise ships sailing in our waters.

"It also opens the way for more ships, including newer and larger ships, to be deployed in Australia seasonally, complementing their Asian deployments," he added.

To view the report, **CLICK HERE**.

### Ponant/Vard contract

**SHIPBUILDER** Vard has confirmed contracts for the construction of four new vessels for Ponant have been finalised and become effective.

The ice-class expedition ships will be approx 10,000 tonnes, about 131m long and 18m wide.

Hulls will be built at Vard Tulcea in Romania, with delivery scheduled from Vard Søviknes in Norway in 2018-19.

Developed by Vard, Ponant and Vard's parent company, Fincantieri, the new ships will be based on a four vessels delivered by Fincantieri to Ponant between 2010 and 2015.

## RCI hang with the frontliners



**ABOVE:** The RCI team, Peter McCormack, Rob Shaw, Steve Garside, Tony Soden and (front) Fiona Daven, Nicole Stojic and Wendy Anderson out in force at the Helloworld Frontliners Forum in Brisbane last week.

### Dreamlines grows

**BOOKING** portal Dreamlines, which employs more than 350 people in several countries including Australia, has announced 14 million euro in funding from investors.

The new investment will allow the company to "secure continued global growth".

Dreamlines, which launched in 2012 purports to be Europe's biggest online booking portal for cruises with a portfolio consisting of over 30,000 cruises.

### Azamara free flights

**FREE** Business class flights with Emirates are being thrown in for trans-Tasman cruise bookings on *Azamara Journey*.

They are available between Auckland & Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane for bookings made in Verandah Staterooms or above.

Free Economy flights will be issued to those in Interior and Oceanview Staterooms.

The offer is for reservations made this month on *Azamara Journey's* 15-night Sydney to Auckland cruise leaving 19 Feb, and a 16-night Auckland to Sydney trip leaving 06 Mar.

### Oceania accolade

**LUXURY** travel network Virtuoso named Oceania Cruises as the Best Premium Cruise Line at the Virtuoso Travel Week Awards Ceremony in Las Vegas.

The winners were selected by its 390 member agencies and 11,400 travel advisors.

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Get updated on all Crystal's news in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read

## Agents sail waterways of Tsars



**VIKING** Cruises' top agents ventured into the heart of Russia on a 13-day river cruise recently.

Starting in Moscow, the group toured the Kremlin and Red Square before experiencing the other side of Russia - quaint towns like Yaroslavl and Uglich.

Whilst cruising the Volga the group were hosted by a local in their home where they partook in homemade vodka tasting.

The last days of the trip were spent in St. Petersburg, where participants marvelled at the Catherine Palace & the Hermitage.

**Pictured** from left in the front row are: Gideon Cheilyk, Sally Curtis, Leanne McGovern, Tracey Williams, Sandra Rasmussen, Carly Cunningham, Wendy Jack and Georgia Carlino.

In the back row are: Alison Hollingworth, Rob Crimmins and Michael O'Leary.

## Aurora early bird

**POLAR** cruise specialists, Aurora Expeditions are offering a 15% early bird discount until 31 Aug on select expeditions on their 2017/18 Antarctica program.

Two itineraries have been introduced to the new program, with a total of 10 departures between Nov 2017 & Mar 2018.

The new 11-day Fly & Sail Antarctic Explorer has just one open sea crossing and is designed to maximise the time in waters of the frozen continent.

Up-close encounters with elephant seals, fur seals and various birdlife are a highlight of the 15-day Sub-Antarctic Safari while a photography masterclass is presented on the 20-day Photographer's Antarctica and South Georgia.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## RCI big Singapore push

**ROYAL** Caribbean International will operate its longest ever Singapore season on *Ovation of the Seas*, *Mariner of the Seas* and *Voyager of the Seas* from Oct.

Stretching across eight months, the season will see an expected 200,000 guests depart on a total of 55 sailings, marking a 30% increase in RCI's capacity in Southeast Asia in 2017.

Operating the majority of sailings in the region, *Mariner of the Seas* will kick off the season in Oct, offering 39 sailings through to Mar next year.

The vessel will include a three-night Penang Weekend Cruise which will feature night touring and a four-night Phuket journey and operate cruises up to seven-nights in length.

Following her maiden Aussie season, *Ovation of the Seas* will return to Singapore from Mar-Apr for 10 new sailings, comprising of three- to five-night itineraries to Penang, Phuket, Bangkok and a 12-night cruise to Tianjin.

*Voyager of the Seas* will visit the

region in May 2017 to offer six Southeast Asian sailings, ranging from three- to five-nights to Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang), Penang, Phuket and an eight-night one-way journey to Hong Kong.

## India ups ship access

**INDIA'S** government has extended cabotage laws permitting foreign flagged passenger cruise lines to operate along the country's coast by five years, until 2024.

The move is part of the government sending a "good signal to the cruise community", according to report from a local task force.

The announcement comes ahead of Costa Cruises' *Costa NeoClassica* homeporting in Mumbai from Dec (**CW** 19 Jul).

## Mariner overboard

**ROYAL** Caribbean International said it is "grateful" to learn a female guest who went missing from *Mariner of the Seas* last week is safe.

Chinese media are reporting the woman accidentally fell overboard on 10 Aug and she was found by a fishing boat 38 hours later adrift at sea.

The cruise line said safety procedures were strictly followed during the incident and many RCI crew members assisted in searching for the passenger.

## NCL Extend Offer

**NCL** has extended its 'free at sea offer' enabling guests booking now until 18 Sep the chance to receive up to five free offerings to the value of \$2,800.

There's also a holiday bonus of \$100 on board credit for pax sailings over Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's periods.

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## Belmond barges

**TWO** luxury barges will join Belmond Afloat in France in summer 2017.

*Belmond Lilas* (Lilac) and *Belmond Pivoine* (Peony) will operate six-night itineraries throughout Alsace & Champagne.

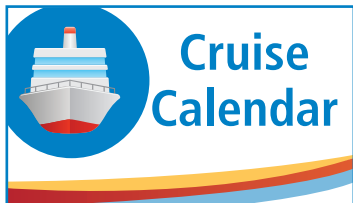
Both offer open decks with handmade furniture and a swimming pool surrounded by potted plants and will accommodate eight guests in four en-suite cabins.

*Belmond Pivoine* will cruise between Meaux and Châlons-en-Champagne along the River Marne & Canal Lateral de Marne while *Belmond Lilas* will sail the Canal de la Marne au Rhin.

## Greenland ship sinks

**A LOCALLY** hired excursion vessel with 23 passengers from L'Austral sank in Greenland over the weekend, *The Arctic Journal* is reporting.

Everyone on board was rescued by nearby boats.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	18 Aug
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	19 Aug
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	22 Aug
DARWIN	
<i>Reef Prince</i>	16 Aug
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	18 Aug
<i>Eco Abrolhos</i>	19 Aug
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	16 Aug
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	17 Aug

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## Nat Geo get on board



**THE** team from National Geographic Travel joined a *Pacific Aria* voyage to Papua New Guinea earlier this month.

It was the first time National Geographic Travel has worked with a cruise line in Australia.

During their trip, the duo produced daily Snapchat pieces and posted images on the NatGeoTravel Instagram & Twitter accounts and a story will appear on the National Geographic Travel website next month.

The pair visited sites such as the skull caves of Alotau and Rabaul's live volcano and enjoyed

snorkelling in the waters off Kitava and Kiriwina.

**Pictured** are: Jess Mandia, associate photo producer; Anthony Herriott, *Pacific Aria* captain and Becky Davis, associate producer.

## MSC last chance sale

MSC Cruises are offering savings of up to 50% across a range of European and Caribbean itineraries departing Sep 16-Mar 17 when booked by 27 Aug.

A 7-night Caribbean cruise starts from AUD\$730pp, **CLICK HERE**.



## Scot to Athens

**TRAVELLERS** embarking on a Mediterranean cruise or Greek Island hopping next year can now snap up some exceptionally low airfares with budget carrier Scoot announcing today that it will commence flights between Singapore and Athens from Jun next year.

Flying on 787 *Dreamliner* aircraft, prices from PER to ATH, via SIN start from just \$369 one way inc taxes while SYD, MEL and OOL fares start from just \$419.



**AND** in Snooze News...

We've all heard about the problem of being Sleepless in Seattle, but sleep disruption may be a little more wide spread across the United States according to a study revealed by Princess Cruises.

The cruise line's Seventh Annual Relaxation Report of over 1,000 participants found that over half of those surveyed use their holiday time just to catch up on lost sleep.

And when they're not hitting the Zzzz's, Americans are getting their teeth fixed (36%) or spending time running chores (23%).

There's little wonder that the survey also found that from coast to coast, folks from the North East stress the most.

The results are ironic given the US has gifted us every day phrases such as 'chill out', 'chillax' and take a 'chill pill'.

Perhaps it's time to take a dose of their own medicine?