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CRUISE



WEEKLY



Thursday 18 Aug 2016

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front full page wrap from **Uniworld**.

More Scenic sessions

EIGHT additional Scenic Ever Wondered sessions have been announced, bringing the total to 21 events across Australia.

The new sessions will be held on the Sunshine Coast (31 Aug), Gladstone (05 Sep), Rockhampton (07 Sep), Toowoomba (15 Sep), Perth (11 Oct), Parramatta (19 Oct), Hobart (25 Oct) and Canberra (26 Oct).

The free events will detail the new *Scenic Eclipse* program launching in Aug 2018; and the programs for 2017 Europe River Cruising; Canada, Alaska & USA; South America: Africa and South East Asia River Cruising.

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

Cruise Republic going well

ONLINE travel company Webjet today announced its New Zealand based B2C cruise operation Online Republic recorded \$22 million in Total Transaction Value in the last financial year, including a profit of \$800,000.

Announcing its 2016 results, Webjet Limited said the business performance at Online Republic, (including Cruise Republic), which it acquired in Jun (**CW** 07 Jun), "remains strong", with its integration "underway and progressing well".

Pre-tax profit for Cruise Republic had jumped from \$24.0 million in FY15 to \$33.2 million this year (which includes the \$200,000 acquisition costs of Online Republic), up 38.6%.

MD John Guscic said all business in Webjet's digital retail and digital wholesale divisions "experienced strong organic bookings growth and market

share growth during the year".

Webjet highlighted to investors that it has successfully executed its first TV campaign for the brand and it was a finalist in the Kenexa 'Best Place to Work' survey.

Further, Cruise Republic was also awarded Cruise Lines Int'l Association's 'Online Cruise Agency of the Year'.

Bentours Canada deal

BENTOURS has extended its Canadian High Arctic offer on a select range of tours departing in 2017 when booked by 30 Sep.

Travellers will receive a flight rebate of \$1,300 per person.

Options include a 12-day Baffin Island High Arctic Jewel expedition cruise discovering fjords, mountains and glaciers. Prices from \$10,990pp twin share, for more details, email res@bentours.com.au.

RCI \$75 a day promo

UNTIL the 27th of Aug, pax can book a cruise aboard *Explorer of the Seas* from Seattle to Sydney from \$75pp per day plus receive US\$200 on board credit free.

The 24-night Royal Caribbean cruise departs Seattle on 08 Oct and stops in Hawaii, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

Australis ship named

THE new ship being built for Patagonian cruise line, Australis will be named *Ventus Australis*.

Latin for southern wind, the 210 passenger vessel will launch for the 2017/18 season, replacing the 136-passenger *Via Australis*, which was recently sold to Lindblad Expeditions.

Ventus Australis will be a twin sister to the 210-passenger *Stella Australis* and will operate four-night cruises from Ushuaia in Argentina to Punta Arenas in Chile or return.

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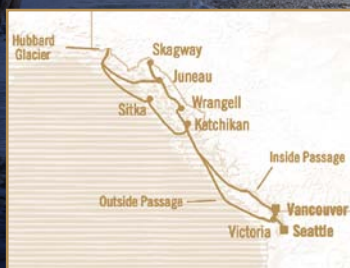
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TUI Group Q3 results

TUI Group have reported 14.1% growth in earnings for Q3 and are planning to deliver planning at least 10% more earnings for FY15/16.

Following the group's transition to a hotel and cruises group, Fritz Jousen, ceo TUI Group said the company is in a better position to cushion geopolitical challenges.

"No one is immune to external impacts. However, it has been demonstrated that we have launched the right strategy, engage in active management and control, and have developed a sophisticated risk management system," he said.

Serenity Northwest

CRYSTAL Cruises is set to become the first cruise line to make the journey through the Northwest passage.

On Tue, *Crystal Serenity* departed on a 32-day journey to New York from Alaska with nearly one thousand guests on board.

"Every aspect of this voyage is literally unparalleled in the luxury cruise industry, and nearly the entire travel industry as well," says Crystal's ceo and president, Edie Rodriguez.

"It is a tremendous undertaking to embark on such a historic journey, but also an honour for us to be able to offer the world's most discerning travellers the opportunity to experience a region of the world that so few others have or ever will."

Lindblad newbies in 2017

DETAILS have been released by Lindblad Expeditions on the transformation of *Via Australis* into the *National Geographic Endeavour II*.

When she makes her debut in Galapagos in Jan 2017, the vessel will accommodate 96 passengers in 52 outside cabins.

Lindblad has claimed the vessel will be the most family friendly ship in the Galapagos, as she will feature seven sets of cabins with a connecting door, and six triples, with nine solo cabins for singles.

Her cabins, forward lounge and bar, restaurant, library with Mac kiosks, open-air observation deck, underwater gear area and dual Zodiac boarding platform will all be new and redesigned.

National Geographic Endeavour II will offer nine Zodiacs, one of them with a glass-bottom, kayaks

and paddle boards, snorkel gear and wet suits.

MEANWHILE, Lindblad has revealed three new Iceland cruises for 2017.

The new additions are the seven-day Hot Springs and Icebergs: Iceland to West Greenland; 14-day Nordic Passages: Shetlands, Orkney, Faroes, and Iceland and 10-day Iceland's Wild West Coast to East Greenland.

Lindblad Expeditions has also announced a new nine-day tour for 2018.

The Belize to Tikal: Reefs, Rivers and Ruins of the Maya World will sail on the newly refurbished National Geographic Quest and depart 01 Mar, rates begin at \$6,860ppts - [CLICK HERE](#).

Fiji Traveltek pact

LIVE inventory for Fiji's Blue Lagoon Cruises is now accessible through Traveltek's iSell platform.

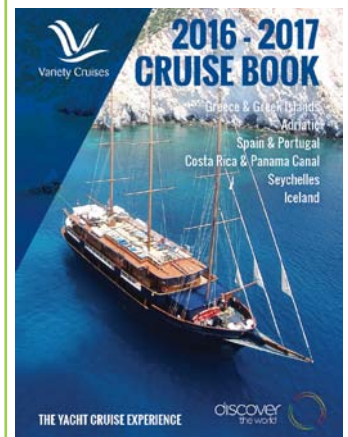
"For two years our team has been working on this software and it is exciting to finally launch it," Blue Lagoon Cruises bdm Wendy Fisher said.

"The partnership means that you can access live inventory anytime, access special trade-only deals, and provide instant confirmation to your clients."

To enable Blue Lagoon Cruises product via Traveltek, simply request account credentials from wendy@bluelagooncruises.com.

Brochure Spotlight

Variety Cruises - 2016/17



Variety Cruises has released its new 2016/17 cruise book, showcasing voyages to Greece and the Greek Islands, the Adriatic, Costa Rica and the Seychelles and new for 2017, Spain, Portugal and Iceland. Available through Discover the World, the brochure details Variety Cruises' inaugural Icelandic season, to be operated on the new Mega-Yacht, *Callisto*. The eight-day Reykjavik to Akureyri or v.v. stops in at Heimaey Islands, the picturesque town of Borgarnes, Bildudalur, Isafjordur, Siglufjordur and more.

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Carnival Corp agreement

CARNIVAL Corporation has extended its contract with Fort Lauderdale-based Port Everglades by five years, through to 2030.

Under the agreement, Carnival receives preferential use of five terminals, including Cruise Terminal 4, which reopened last year after \$24m worth of renovations and upgrades.

The port is currently undergoing a \$13.6m extension to lengthen the slip of Terminal 4, expected to be completed by mid-2017.

Carnival also has preferential use of Cruise Terminals 2, 21 and 26, along with one more terminal.

The addendum builds on the 15-year agreement reached in 2010 with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

"Carnival Corporation has a strong, long-standing presence in the Broward County community, and the additional five years included in the agreement reinforces that commitment," said Steve Cernak, ceo and port

director of Port Everglades.

The newest member of Holland America Line's fleet, *ms Koningsdam* is scheduled to call into the Port in Nov and Carnival Cruise Line has added a second ship, *Carnival Splendor* to the port for the 2017 season.

Overall the seven Carnival Corporation brands and 28 different ships account for a combined average of more than 300 calls at the port each year.

As part of the original agreement, Port Everglades undertook a \$54m reno project to improve four existing cruise terminals to accommodate ships from Carnival Corporation's fleet.

Enhancements included features to enable simultaneous embarkation and disembarkation.

As part of the extension, Carnival Corporation and Port Everglades will discuss improving Cruise Terminal 21 to accommodate Carnival Corp's newest class of ships.

UnCruise rebrand

UNCruise Adventures has ditched the dash in its name and revealed a new logo (**pictured**) in its 2017/18 brochure.

"Our new logo is a fresh take on the whale tail bringing together the three elements that make our trips memorable," said Richard Edwards, vice president.

The company is owned by InnerSea Discoveries Alaska and operates yachts and small ships which carry 22-88 guests.



Carnival Vista green

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's newest ship, *Carnival Vista* has been recognised by Lloyd's Register for achieving a coveted 'ECO Notation' status for exceeding the current maritime environmental regulatory standards.

Carnival Vista has an advanced wastewater treatment system, LED lighting and was engineered to reduce fuel emissions.

It is the first Carnival ship to achieve the accolade.

Wild Earth brochure

WILD Earth Travel's small ship cruise brochure is hot off the press featuring sailings through Europe, Alaska and North America, The Galapagos, Central and South America, Asia and the Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

To view it online, **CLICK HERE**.

Special need offering

SPECIAL Needs Group is now providing its equipment and services to disabled travellers at cruise port and land-based venues in Paris, France; Berlin, Germany, Edinburgh, Scotland and Monte Carlo.

For further information see www.specialneedsgroup.com.

UnCruise Galapagos

UNCruise Adventures has refreshed its Galapagos Cruise Itinerary for 2017.

The company's revamped nine-day trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands now spends two days exploring colonial Quito and seven-days cruising the islands on La Pinta.

The 10 departure dates in 2017 include 22 Feb, 22 Mar, 19 Apr, 03 & 17 May, 28 Jun, 12 & 26 Jul, 09 Aug and 04 Oct; for more drop a line to sales@uncruise.com.



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Bike 'n' barge deals

LAST minute offers are being offered on Outdoor Travel's Bike & Barge tours departing in Oct and Sep.

Savings of up to \$1,500 are available on the canals and rivers of Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria or Croatia.

For a full list of departures, **CLICK HERE.**

Vikings' Trifecta

VIKING Cruises is offering \$499 Economy class return airfares to Europe when booked before 31 Aug and in conjunction with an ocean or river cruise dep in 2017.

There's also free cabin upgrades available on Russian river cruises for departures Mar through Oct 2017, along with limited two-for-one deals on select European river cruises in 2016.

Call 1800 131 744.

Film Festival At Sea

PRINCESS Cruises will host its second Travelling Film Festival at Sea on *Dawn Princess* in partnership with the Sydney Film Festival later this year.

Guests can expect special film screenings curated by Sydney Film Festival director Nashen Moodley throughout the ship's five-night roundtrip cruise from Sydney to Tas dep on 01 Nov.

Also included are Q&A opportunities with guest speakers as well as cocktail parties and other movie-related activities.

Prices start from \$749ppts.

Le Boat new cruisers

THREE new Horizon model luxury cruisers will join the Le Boat fleet for 2017.

The *Horizon 2-S* will be the same size as the original *Horizon* model, but sleep up to five guests with a smaller front cabin, making room for a second bathroom.

The *Horizon 3* will be a larger vessel with three en suite cabins, for up to seven guests and the *Horizon 4* will be the same size as *Horizon 3* but configured to sleep up to nine guests with four en suite cabins.

Bookings will open for the new ships on 01 Sep.

ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO



Tasmania Team Cruise to Workshops

The Australia Cruise Association team continued our successful cruise workshop series in Hobart yesterday.

Around 40 operators, representing a cross section of the industry in Tas, had the opportunity to showcase new destination experiences to the cruise lines and ground handlers including Carnival, RCCL and Ponant, Abercrombie and Kent, Intercoast, and Bob Wood Cruise Group.

In return, the event also provided opportunities for the industry to enhance their cruise knowledge. Staged in partnership with Tourism Tasmania, the workshops form part of an overarching Destination Development Plan by ACA to broaden the cruising experience into exciting and authentic land-based activities that tell the story of Australia.

Hans Van Pelt, director of Aviation and Access Development for Tourism Tasmania said "The state is looking forward to a block-buster cruise season which will see our port calls increase by almost 60% from 59 in 2015-16 to 94 in 2016-17 & deliver around \$32m expenditure into the state's economy."

"This represents around 114,000 cruise passengers who will experience all this great state has to offer as they visit city and regional centres including Hobart, Burnie, Port Arthur, Coles Bay and Wineglass Bay," Pelt continued. These workshops will ultimately benefit those cruise passengers who will be able to immerse themselves fully in the destinations and take home a greater understanding of all there is to see and do on a visit to Tasmania.



A NARROW boat cruising the River Kennet in England wasn't quite small enough with the vessel (pictured below) becoming jammed during a tight manoeuvre.

The long house boat was reportedly trying to turn around when it found itself lodged across the river.

A photo of the boat in a pickle was snapped by a passer-by and sent to getreading.co.uk along with the cheeky caption: "Please check out these hapless 'barge folk' who have managed to wedge their barge across the Kennet!"

No doubt the locals found the whole ordeal rather entertaining.

Let's hope those behind the wheel were newbies on the narrow boat scene.



Genting float out

TOMORROW *Genting Dream* will reach a milestone in her construction and float out of Meyer Werft's building dock.

Following the initial launch and more tests to be carried out in the harbour, the *Genting Dream* will be berthed alongside the yard's outfitting pier.

The remaining work, as well as tests and trials, will be carried out in the next few days.

She is scheduled to sail down the river Ems towards the North Sea to prove her seaworthiness in mid next month.

The 151,300 gross tonne cruise ship has a length of 335m and is 40m wide.

Avid cruisers can watch the milestone on meyerwerft.com.

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