

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 05 Jan 2016

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

P&O double trouble

A **GASTRO** outbreak has affected passengers on P&O's new cruise ship *Pacific Eden*.

A P&O spokeswoman confirmed 60 of the 1500 passengers that boarded the ship in Sydney on 16 Dec were reported sick over a 12 day period.

"It takes only a small number of cases of the common stomach bug, Norovirus, for sanitation levels to be increased on board," she said.

MEANWHILE a video has emerged of water pouring down a staircase on P&O's *Pacific Aria* on 30 Dec as it travelled between Cairns and Brisbane.

P&O said the flooding was due to a tropical storm and there was no danger to passengers.

P&O's Aussie newbuild

P&O Cruises Australia is set to make history by becoming the first cruise line to tailor make a brand new cruise ship specifically for the Australian market.

In another first, the 135,500 tonne vessel will be the biggest cruise ship to ever be based full-time in Australian waters.

At 323 metres in length, with 2,100 guest rooms, the ship will have the capacity to carry 4,200 passengers - nearly double the line's next largest ship, *Pacific Explorer*, which will be joining the fleet next year.

Plans are underway for the new, yet-to-be-named ship, to be launched in 2019.

P&O says the newbuild which will be the line's seventh Australian vessel will be a 'game changer' for the Australian cruise industry.

Carnival Australia executive chairman Ann Sherry said the

"much anticipated" first new build cruise ship was a "huge vote of confidence in the Australian cruise market."

President of P&O Cruises Australia, Sture Myrmell said with P&O the "modern face of Australian cruising with its proud heritage of leadership", the announcement that the line will take delivery of its first newbuild ship was simply one of "natural progression."

The new order is one of four newbuilds for Carnival Corporation's global fleet under an agreement with Italian shipbuilder, Fincantieri.

The four vessels are set to be constructed at Fincantieri's shipyards in Monfalcone and Marghera.

Two of the ships are set to be deployed in China with *Cotsa Asia* while another *Royal Princess* will join the Princess Cruises fleet.

Genting to own Lloyd

HONG Kong based cruise group Genting Hong Kong is acquiring full ownership of German shipbuilding and refit group Lloyd Werft.

Originally the group owned 70% of shares in Lloyd Werft before paying €16.5m for the final 30%.

They have awarded Lloyd Werft contracts to build vessels for its subsidiary Crystal Cruises.

Royal Caribbean deals

ROYAL Caribbean International is promoting buy-one-get-one-up-to-50%-off deals and up-to-25%-off-for-a-third-guest and above on all sailings, effective immediately.

They are offering half price deposits on all sailings and up to US\$500 on board credit.

Free upgrades are available for those booking a Balcony stateroom (Category X) from now until 23 Apr.

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+

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Cruise Calendar

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

| SYDNEY | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| <i>Celebrity Solstice</i> | 05 Jan |
| <i>Explorer of the Seas</i> | 06 Jan |
| <i>Radiance of the Seas</i> | 07 Jan |
| <i>Pacific Pearl</i> | 08 Jan |
| <i>Voyager of the Seas</i> | 08 Jan |
| <i>Pacific Eden</i> | 09 Jan |
| <i>Carnival Legend</i> | 09 Jan |
| <i>Pacific Pearl</i> | 11 Jan |
| <i>Diamond Princess</i> | 11 Jan |

| MELBOURNE | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| <i>Diamond Princess</i> | 05 Jan |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i> | 07 Jan |
| <i>Celebrity Solstice</i> | 07 Jan |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i> | 08 Jan |
| <i>Golden Princess</i> | 10 Jan |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i> | 11 Jan |

| BRISBANE | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| <i>Pacific Dawn</i> | 06 Jan |
| <i>Pacific Dawn</i> | 09 Jan |
| <i>Legend of the Seas</i> | 10 Jan |
| <i>Azamara Quest</i> | 11 Jan |

| ADELAIDE | |
|------------------------|--------|
| <i>Golden Princess</i> | 08 Jan |

| HOBART | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| <i>Golden Princess</i> | 05 Jan |
| <i>Diamond Princess</i> | 07 Jan |
| <i>Akademik Shokalskiy</i> | 07 Jan |
| <i>Diamond Princess</i> | 08 Jan |

Azamara has arrived



AZAMARA Quest arrived Down Under for the first time last week with more than 600 passengers.

As the ship docked in Darwin last Mon, Captain Carl Smith told *NT News Australia* had proven to be a popular destination for cruise guests.

"We were full almost immediately for the entire season, so we've put our sister ship on the sailing next year and the following year we come back again and 2018 is also packed."

Quest docked in Cairns last night and will depart this evening at 18:00 to travel to Townsville.

New trips for singles

SINGLESCRUISE.COM has announced its lineup of trips for solo travellers this year.

Destinations include the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Dominican Republic.

Lindblad's new \$18m ship

LINDBLAD Expeditions has confirmed it will be spending \$28 million to purchase and revamp the *Via Australis* expedition ship.

The company plans to use the vessel for trips to the Galapagos Islands in place of *National Geographic Endeavour*.

They expect to take possession of *Via Australis* in the second quarter of the year, deploying it during the third quarter after a \$10 million refurbish and outfit.

CEO of Lindblad Sven Lindblad said opportunities to acquire high quality expedition ships on "attractive terms" are infrequent, so they seized this one.

He expects the revamped *Via Australis* will increase profitability on the same route through "more operating days, revenue enhancement opportunities, operating efficiencies and cost savings compared to the *National Geographic Endeavour*."

After her refurbishment there will be 50 cabins - 46 double and four single, for a maximum of 96

guests.

Via Australis will be equipped with zodiacs and sea kayaks and will feature a fitness room and wellness spa.

Built in 2005, it is currently sailing Patagonia operated by the cruise line Australis.

After her refit *Via Australis* will be renamed bearing the *National Geographic* title.



HAVE you ever seen a war waged through beach towels on a cruise holiday?

Getting the pick of the banana lounges by 'reserving' it with a beach towel is a known tactic used by holiday makers but here's something you might not know - British tourists are statistically more likely to try this move than Germans, 11% more likely in fact.

The new insights are a result of a survey of 2,000 British and German adults by Travel Supermarket.

Brits are also three times more likely than their German counterparts to return home from a holiday with a hangover.

The survey also revealed German tourists are 34% more likely to enjoy their holidays than British holidaymakers.

The moral of the story? Well, it seems reserving a sun lounge won't improve your holiday!

Hurtigruten initiative

TRAVEL agents will go in the draw to win a Samsung tablet for every Hurtigruten cruise or expedition booked through travel specialists, Bentours.

Bentours will announce a winner per month from Jan until Mar.

The company is expanding its product range to include additional regional highlights of Scandinavia, Greenland, Russia and Antarctica.



The Auckland Hop On Hop Off Explorer bus stop is directly at front of the new Queens Wharf cruise ship terminal

[Click here for more details](#)

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.

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