

# CRUISE

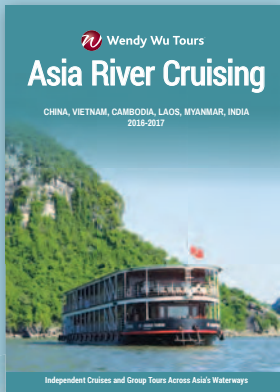
WEEKLY



Thursday 14 Jan 2016

NEW

## ASIA RIVER CRUISING BROCHURE OUT NOW!



### INDEPENDENT CRUISES AND GROUP TOURS ON ASIA'S INCREDIBLE WATERWAYS:

- Yangtze River
- Mekong River
- Irrawaddy River
- Salween River
- Chindwin River
- Red River
- Halong Bay
- Kerala Backwaters

## Kogan launches cruising

**KOGAN**, the Australian online retailer best known for its extensive offering of digital TVs, smartphones and other gadgets, has today announced an expansion of its operations into the cruise sector.

Today the company emailed its more than 2.3 million customers with a range of initial offers, with the portfolio comprising 4,000 cruises on "more than 20 of the world's best cruise lines".

Participating suppliers include P&O, Royal Caribbean, Carnival, Princess, Holland America, MSC, Celebrity, Star Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, North Star Cruises and Lindblad Expeditions among many others.

River cruises are also on offer from APT, Scenic, Uniworld, Viking and Evergreen, while in the upscale segment Kogan is offering Crystal, Azamara, Seabourn, Cunard, Silversea, Regent Seven Seas and Oceania.

Kogan is guaranteeing "best prices" and has a range of "cruise deals of the week" highlighted.

The company is also allowing

customers to hold a cabin without a credit card and also offers a lay-by facility.

Kogan's new cruise venture follows the launch last year of Kogan Travel (**TD** 21 Aug), with spokesman Paul Mercuri telling **CW** it's "growing from strength to strength".

Mercuri also confirmed the launch today of Kogan Hotels and Kogan Activities as part of the growing portfolio.

## RCCL for 2nd Bris port

**ROYAL** Caribbean has revealed to **Cruise Weekly** it is "working with the Port of Brisbane to future proof Brisbane" and supports the development of more berthing options for Qld.

"As the deployment of our own *Legend of the Seas* to Brisbane this year has shown, we are very keen to grow our business in the sunshine state. But to do that beyond our current commitment, we need a terminal that can cater for our bigger ships," a spokesperson told **CW**.

The comment follows reports cabinet will consider a proposal put forward by RCCL and Carnival Cruises for a second Brisbane cruise ship terminal (**CW** Tue).

Carnival Australia said they did not wish to comment.

### Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from: (click)

- AA Appointments jobs

## Ponant to Kimberley

**PONANT** will venture to the Kimberley for the first time in 2017 with *L'Austral*.

*L'Austral* will cruise on three Darwin-Broome itineraries scheduled for 03 Jul, 23 Jul & 12 Aug and a Darwin roundtrip departing 01 Sep.

Guests will witness the Hunter River, King George Falls, Mitchell Falls, Montgomery Reef and Horizontal Falls, with Mick Fogg leading an expedition team of 12.

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# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 14 Jan 2016



## CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Brett Jardine  
CLIA Australasia

### CLIA Membership 2016

2015 was an exciting year for the cruise industry as CLIA reported that we had officially attained the ONE MILLION passenger milestone from the Australian market and experienced continued strong growth from the smaller New Zealand market. 2016 is going to be a year of evolution for both CLIA and our cruise line members.

In recent years we have seen some rapid developments in the delivery of onboard product which has played a significant role in attracting literally thousands of new-comers to cruising. With cruise lines remaining very focused on where sustainable future growth will come, from the emphasis will remain on changing the historical stigma of deck quots, bingo and the elderly to delivering extraordinary experiences many of us never thought possible.

From entertainment and activities to food and wine, it is not easy to keep up with all that is available across a wide range of brands so what is critical is the need to maintain your industry and product knowledge through training.

Effective 1st January 2016, CLIA training is now all available via our purpose built online learning academy. So no more excuses for those that don't hold CLIA Accreditation – you can access and complete all that is required from your desk or home computer 24/7, all INCLUDED as part of your annual CLIA membership.



### Sirena's new beds

THE staterooms and suites on Oceania Cruises' *Sirena* will feature custom-designed, mattresses - The Ultra Tranquility Bed - when the ship launches in Apr 2016.

## TravelManagers' cruise focus

TRAVELMANAGERS is investing in the cruise market with the appointment of a cruise strategy executive, Lisa Humphries.

Humphries will commence her new role on 18 Jan, with the objective of maximising sales and enhancing the specialist cruise support for the network.

TravelManagers' executive gm Michael Gazal says the newly-created role demonstrates TravelManagers growing commitment to cruise.

"Our recent years' excellent

growth in cruise sales show the significant contribution the personal travel managers make to the cruise sector, however we recognise the importance in taking positive steps to further promote the value of cruising and developing strategies and techniques in converting cruise enquiries," Gazal said.

With over 25 years of travel experience, Humphries spent eight years managing start-up company Best Cruises, helping the company become a top agent for all major cruise lines within a year of opening.

Humphries (pictured) was recently content coordinator at New Horizons Holidays.



### Pacific Eden's maiden trifecta



P&O'S newest ship *Pacific Eden* completed a trifecta of maiden visits this week.

*Pacific Eden* stopped in for the first time at Eden (Sun), Mornington Peninsula (Tue) and Portland (Wed).

The ship's 1,500 guests spent Mon exploring the peninsula, famous for its geothermal hot springs and seaside hamlets.

Yesterday guests explored Portland's attractions, including special markets selling local produce, the Botanic Gardens and the Portland Maritime Discovery Centre.

P&O Cruises Australian president Sture Myrmell said

*Pacific Eden* received a warm welcome from the locals.

"Mornington Peninsula offers a wonderful opportunity for P&O's cruise passengers to explore a whole range of local attractions including waterfront dining at the historic township of Sorrento, a chance to swim with dolphins and a taste of the region's fine wines," Myrmell said.

P&O Cruise ships will make three visits to Mornington Peninsula and Portland this year injecting more than half a million dollars into each local economy.

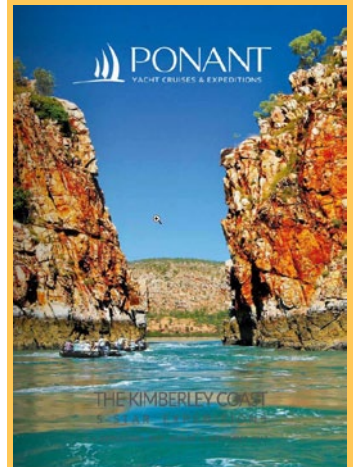
*Pacific Eden* is on an eight-night regional itinerary along the south coast.



### Brochure Spotlight

Ponant

### The Kimberley Coast



THIS new brochure details two 10-day itineraries, with stops including Koolama Bay, Vansittart Bay, Freshwater Cove and The Lacepede Islands.

The Iconic Kimberley also visits Buccaneer archipelago and Jewels of the Kimberley stops in at Swift Bay.

Included and optional activities are detailed, such as a traditional "Welcome to Country" introduction to the area and cultural history of Wijingarra Bard Bard - home to a number of significant rock art galleries.

With 14 Zodiacs on board *L'Austral*, there's the option to discover mangroves, geology, wildlife, waterfalls and swim in crystal clear shallow waters.

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GRAND PACIFIC TOURS



### MSC/Samsung deal

MSC Cruises has entered a partnership with Samsung, who will deck out the line's next generation ships with electronic equipment.

The rollout begins with *MSC Meraviglia* and *MSC Seaside* in Jun and Dec 2017 respectively.

The partnership will see all MSC newbuilds fitted with in-cabin flat screen HDTVs, smartphones, tablets and accessories for virtual reality and 360° digital experience as well as technology for medical centres and office equipment.

MSC ceo Gianni Onorato said the partnership showed commitment to "cutting edge innovation".

"The *Meraviglia* and *Seaside* generation ships mark a leap forward in terms of cruise ship technology. Equipped throughout with Samsung's latest-technology products and solutions, they will make available to our guests the best of the next generation in smart ships at sea," Onorato said.

## Carnival's 2020 goals

**CARNIVAL** Corporation plans to reduce its carbon footprint 25% by 2020, the cruise line's 2014 Sustainability Report reveals.

The report details the company's 2020 sustainability goals and highlights 10 goals for reducing the line's carbon footprint over the next five years.

Several of these focus on improving the quality of the Carnival's air emissions.

The business has made a US\$400 million investment to develop, deploy and operate exhaust gas cleaning systems that reduce sulfur compounds from the ships' engine exhaust.

Carnival Corporation will also continue to improve water use efficiency on its vessels by 5% by 2020, relative to its 2010 baseline, as measured by litres per person per day.

Recently the cruise line announced its four next-generation vessels to be built for

Costa Cruises and AIDA Cruises will be the first in the industry to be powered at sea by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the cleanest burning fossil fuel.

The newbuilds will use LNG to generate 100% of the ship's power both in port and on the open sea.

Chief maritime officer for Carnival Corporation Bill Burke, said caring for the environment was key to their business.

"As the largest cruise company in the world, with healthy oceans and seas core to our operations and with most of our employees living and working at sea, the very essence of our business is built on sustainable and transparent practices," he said.

"Our goal is to make sure our 11 million annual guests have a great vacation experience and to maintain a positive and thriving workplace for our employees," Burke continued.

### Aqua educationals

**AQUA** Expeditions has released its trade rates for select Amazon & Mekong River cruises in 2016.

Accredited IATA agents can book on the cruises for US\$350pp pn or US\$400pp pn for single occupancy and companions will receive 50% off gross rates.

The rates apply to *Aqua Mekong* 4-Night Explorer departures on 01 Jul, 05 Aug and 02 Sep, *Aqua Amazon* 7-Night Expedition Cruises departures 02 Apr and 23 Apr and the *Aqua Mekong* 7-Night Expedition Cruise departing 06 May.

For more, call 1800 243 152.

### Beyond discount

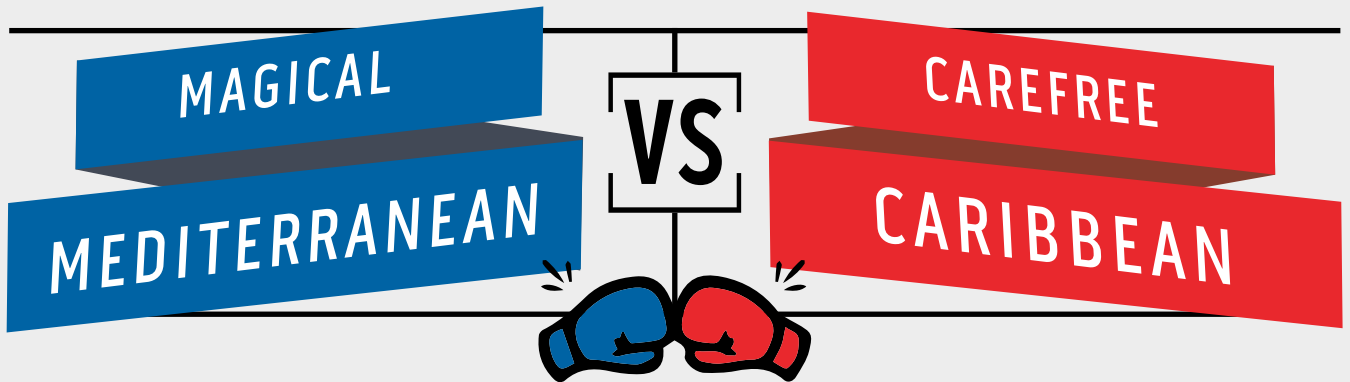
**BEYOND** Travel is offering a \$1,000 discount per couple on six itineraries around the Dalmatia Islands of Croatia departing in May and Jun.

To avail the offer, cruises must be booked by the end of Jan.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.



# CRUISE SHOWDOWN



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AU/NZ 18+ only. Must be registered travel agent in AU/NZ & registered with Princess Academy. Ends 11:59pm AEDST 28/2/16. Click here for entry instructions and T&Cs. Permits: NSW LTPS/15/08652, ACT TP15/08055, SAT15/1983

## Un-cruise savings

**UN-CRUISE** Adventures is offering a \$400 per couple discount for select week-long Alaska cruises on *Wilderness Explorer* and *Safari Endeavour*. Offer applies to departures 16 Apr-18 Sep, booked by 01 Mar.

## Cunard's barrel of fun

**CUNARD**, The Savoy Hotel and Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey have partnered to bring a 300-litre barrel filled with a specially created cocktail on board the *Queen Mary 2* Age of Discovery World Voyage.

The cocktail will be aged on board on open decks and unloaded at the end of the cruise and join The Savoy Collection.

It will have its own logbook and will be chartered on social media.

Guests will be able to sample a non-aged version of the cocktail.



The Savoy's Beaufort Bartender Neil Donachie and *Queen Mary 2* Captain Wells are pictured above inspecting the latest cargo.

## Harmony's shows

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has unveiled the entertainment lineup for its highly-anticipated newbuild *Harmony of the Seas*, set to debut May 2016.

'Columbus, The Musical!' and a newly adapted production of 'Grease' will headline at the 1,380 Royal Theater while high diving, acrobatic performance space AquaTheater will show 'The Fine Line' and 'Hideaway Heist'.

Ice skaters will perform '1887' and 'iSkate Showcase'.

RCCL regulars Puzzle Break: Escape the Rubicon, Red Party, Stowaway Piano will make an appearance, along with theme nights on the Royal Promenade, Totally Awesome 90s and Let's Celebrate!

## European barge deals

**EUROPEAN** Waterways is offering savings for cabins and full boat charters on selected 2016 cruises & hotel barges in France, Italy, Scotland until 15 Feb.

Specials include a \$1,565 discount per cabin on hotel barges *L'Impressionniste* in Burgundy, *Rosa* in Gascony, *La Bella Vita* in Italy, and the *Scottish Highlander* in Scotland.

For details, **CLICK HERE**.

## Azamara's three gun welcome



**AZAMARA** *Quest* was welcomed into the port of Newcastle yesterday with a three-gun salute from the city's former coastal defence base Fort Scratchley.

The ship, which is the first of the Azamara line to visit Australian waters is on a 10 night trip from Cairns to Sydney.

The 600 guests come from 20 different countries.

Passengers were welcomed with a guard of honour from hot air balloon burners, jazz music, Hunter Valley food and wine and fireworks.

Port of Newcastle ceo Geoff Crowe said he was pleased to welcome *Azamara Quest*, one of five maiden cruise ship visits to the harbour during 2015-16 cruise season.

"It is great to see quality local events being aligned to cruise ship visits," he said.

*Quest* arrived in Sydney today.

**Pictured:** A reader sent in this snap from Stockton as the ship cruised into Newcastle.

## Holland newbies

**HOLLAND** America Line has revealed its newbuild, *ms Koningsdam* will serve up microgreens which have been grown on board.

The ingredients will be on display in a glass-enclosed growing area in the Culinary Arts Center, which also will serve as a dinner venue.

**MEANWHILE**, the cruise line has released its third 'Countdown to *Koningsdam*' video, detailing the ship's The World Stage main theatre and featuring the line's director of Entertainment, Bill Prince - watch it **HERE**.



**FANCY** yourself a LEGO pro?

P&O has called in LEGO certified professional, Ryan McNaught to build a model of the line's new ship, *Pacific Eden*, entirely from LEGO bricks.

McNaught will be hard at work on Australia Day assembling the model from over 100,000 bricks at the Museum of Sydney.

Families are invited to join in the fun and help McNaught out, with promise of fun, games and of course, lots of LEGO.

Participants will go into the draw to win a family cruise to Qld and the Great Barrier Reef on board P&O cruise ship.



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