

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Thursday 21 Jul 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

Legend 2018 open

RESERVATIONS are open for Carnival Cruise Line's 2018 Alaska and Hawaii season.

Carnival Legend will operate a series of 16 seven-day cruises operating round-trip from Seattle from 08 May 8-21 Aug, along with a special seven-day Alaska cruise departing Vancouver 01 May and an eight-day Alaska cruise round-trip from Seattle 28 Aug.

She will conclude her 2018 Alaska program with an eight-day cruise departing Seattle 05 Sep.

Two Hawaii cruises are in the program, one departing Honolulu 20 Apr and the other departing Vancouver 13 Sep and arriving in Honolulu 24 Sep.

See www.carnival.com for more.

Lindblad's Aussie push

IN A move to expand its reach in the Australian market, Lindblad Expeditions has appointed Adventure World as its General Sales Agent (GSA) in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Jeremy Lindblad, Lindblad's global business development director said the partnership will allow the brand to extend reservations opening hours, including Sat, and use Adventure World's office in Auckland to specifically service and develop business across the ditch.

"Building upon our success in the Australasian market, Adventure World gives us immediate scope to rapidly expand our business by accessing their extensive preferred consortia agreements, diverse aligned land product portfolios, wholesale airfare agreements, and expert sales, marketing & reservations teams," he added.

From 08 Aug, all Lindblad Expeditions reservations and operations will be conducted through Adventure World.

All contact details remain unchanged and existing and quoted travel bookings will continue as normal.

RCI events overhaul

ROYAL Caribbean International has redesigned its website for meeting and event professionals, RoyalCaribbeanIncentives.com.

The new portal has an easy-to-navigate layout and allows planners to explore the cruise line's offering by destinations, ships and event venues and search by group size.

Responsive functionality has been included and a request for a proposal based on specific group criteria can be requested using the platform.

Aqua Amazon update

FIVE crew members and two external suppliers went missing following the accident on board *Aqua Amazon* which caused the vessel to sink on Sat (**CW** Tue).

Two of the victims have been identified and recovered but five more remain to be found.

An additional eight crew members are recovering in hospital, three of which are in intensive care.

In a statement, Aqua Expeditions founder and ceo, Francesco Galli Zugaro said the company is overwhelmed with the show of support "that is continuing to pour in from all over the world and we continue to be eternally thankful."

"Many of the crew have been with me from 2007 when we started. I considered them dear friends, not just employees."

The source of the fire is yet to be determined as investigations are still underway.

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Bicton named best agency



WHAT a year it's been for Western Australia's Bicton Travel, which took home the coveted Best Retail Travel Agency award at last Sat's National Travel Industry Awards in Sydney.

The Bicton "pool room" must be getting very crowded, with the NTIA trophy added to a host of other gongs including being named Gold Agency of the Year at the Cruise Lines Industry Association Australasia awards in Feb (*CW* 23 Feb 2016).

Helloworld associate member Bicton Travel is a Cruiseco member as well as being part of the luxury Virtuoso travel group, and also operates an online business under the cruisefinder.com.au brand.

Pictured above from left are: Phil Smethurst, Carole Smethurst, Michael Middleton and Hollie McCann from Bicton Travel with Greg McJarow from category sponsor Singapore Airlines.

MSC boosts family offerings

MSC Cruises has introduced a new kids' sports program, among a range of family-friendly activities launching for the European summer season.

The DOREBRO sports program will be available to kids aged 3-17, with "active games for specific age groups" in two daily sessions.

It's been designed by UK-based King's Active and will be available on most MSC ships sailing in the Mediterranean and Caribbean.

Also new for MSC is an interactive cooking class created in partnership with Michelin-starred chef Carlo Cracco, teaching kids aged 3-11 how to make pasta from scratch.

MSC Cruises will also feature a LEGO model of its new *MSC Meraviglia* which is available for purchase on board fleetwide.

Costa training school

COSTA Cruises will shortly open a new land-based hotel school in Italy which will provide training for on-board cooks, bakers, pastry chefs, entertainers, technicians and customer service representatives.

The school, set for an Oct debut, will be managed by the Italian Merchant Marine Academy Foundation in partnership with Costa, and will be located in Villa Figoli in Arenzano near Genoa.

European party cruise

A GROUP called Forever Cruises has partnered with Royal Caribbean and "some of Europe's leading party brands" to launch 'Anchored,' a new festive voyage which will cruise the Mediterranean aboard *Jewel of the Seas* in Jun 2017.

The voyage sails from Italy to Santorini, Mykonos and the south of France, and will feature a "soundtrack provided by the best DJs in the world".

Breakaway rescue boat breakaway

A CREW member has died and a number of others have been injured aboard NCL's *Norwegian Breakaway* during an incident involving one of the ship's rescue boats undertaking a routine drill.

The vessel was docked in Bermuda when the rescue boat broke from its tethering and fell into the water, according to the local *BER* News website.

Four crew members were on the boat at the time and were hurt during the fall, with a 41-year-old Filipino man succumbing to his injuries after being admitted to hospital.



Norwegian Cruise Line said it was "profoundly saddened by this loss and we share our deepest sympathies with the crew member's family and loved ones during this difficult time".


The company is working closely with authorities to investigate the incident, which was not expected to delay *Breakaway's* departure.





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Ponant fire probe

FRENCH investigators have concluded that an engine room fire aboard Ponant's *Le Boreal* last year (**CW** 19 Nov 2015) was caused by human error during the replacement of a fuel filter. The blaze broke out shortly after midnight, and while an automatic misting system was triggered, it unfortunately failed to prevent the fire spreading along some bunched cables.

Le Boreal lost propulsion power, and while firefighting teams contained the blaze at 4.30am the engines were unable to be restarted.

The French Marine Casualties Investigation Report found an officer had accidentally unscrewed a filter cover which was under pressure, causing fuel to splatter and ignite.

No passengers were injured in the incident, with those on board transferred to the nearby *L'Austral* and repatriated from Port Stanley.

Celebrity Caribbean

CELEBRITY Cruises yesterday announced its *Celebrity Equinox* will sail year-round in the Caribbean from next year.

To be homeported in Miami, the Solstice Class vessel will offer 24 new sailings, alternating between the eastern and western Caribbean.

There will also be a number of other special itineraries including an 11-night Signature Event sailing which features a two-night stay in New Orleans coinciding with the city's famous jazz festival.

The move means *Equinox* will not sail in Europe during the northern summer of 2017 - but *Celebrity Eclipse*, *Celebrity Silhouette*, *Celebrity Reflection* and *Celebrity Constellation* will remain in the region.

All Australian guests impacted by the change will be contacted and provided with details about compensation and re-booking on any of Celebrity's 60 European sailings in 2017.

US Senate hails cruise agents

A RESOLUTION which has been unanimously approved by the US Senate has declared that October will become 'Cruise Travel Professional Month'.

The resolution was introduced by Senator Marco Rubio from Florida (**pictured**) and co-sponsored by members of both major parties, and acknowledges the "creativity and professionalism of the men and women of the cruise travel professional community".

The document formally highlights the 375,000 jobs generated by the cruise industry in the US, as well as US\$21 billion in direct spending and the value added by agents who "take the worry out of vacation planning".

October is also CLIA's Plan a Cruise Month, with CLIA ceo Cindy d'Aoust thanking the senators for recognising the important contributions of travel agents and cruising to the US economy.

"More than half of all cruisers embark from US ports, and whether sailing from North America or the hundreds of other

cruise ports around the world, 70% of cruise travellers book through a travel agent because they recognise the value that an experienced cruise professional offers in finding the right cruise to fit travellers' interests and budgets," d'Aoust said.

The Senate resolution encourages the people of the United States to observe Cruise Travel Professional Month with "appropriate ceremonies and activities".



TIME for lunch?

THE next meeting of the Travel Industry Mentor Experience will take place aboard Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Spirit* on 11 Aug.

Carnival Cruise Line vice president Australia, Jennifer Vandekreeke will be the guest speaker, with prospective guests urged to RSVP as soon as possible due to security clearance requirements.

As well as the formal presentation and lunch, the event will include a tour of the vessel - travelindustrymentor.com.au.

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CCC Fiji new master



CAPTAIN Ian Davison (pictured) has been named the Senior Master on board Captain Cook Cruises Fiji's *MV Reef Endeavour*.

Formerly an employee of CCC between 1999-2008, Davison has since worked with various companies including Coral Princess Cruises, International Maritime Services and Samson Express Offshore.

"It is great to be working with CCC and being on board the *MV Reef Endeavour*," Davidson said.

"I am very lucky to have such an amazing Fijian crew to work with and the beautiful Fijian Islands as my office."

One Ocean joins CSE

CANADIAN cruise specialist, One Ocean Expeditions (OOE) has joined Destination Canada's Canadian Signature Experience (CSE) program.

OOE's Fins and Fiddles expedition cruise to Canada's East Coast has been added to DC's collection, curated to encourage visitors to further explore Canada by introducing them to memorable and authentic experiences.

Andrew Prossin, md of OOE said the company is "honoured to join the other exceptional members of the Canadian Signature collection".

The 11-day Fins and Fiddles itinerary departs from Louisbourg, Nova Scotia and visits Sable Island's wild horses, the world's largest gannet colonies on Bonaventure Island, Gaspé in Quebec and sets foot on Canada's birth place, Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

New Seabourn journeys

SEABOURN is launching new pre-cruise experiences which will take guests on an exploration of the South Pole on select Antarctica and Patagonia itineraries during the 2016-17 season.

Guests journeying to the Great White Continent aboard *Seabourn Quest* can extend their sailings with either the 15-day Polar Quest & Patagonia excursion or the 17-day Polar Quest, Tierra del Fuego & Iguazu Falls trip.

The pre-cruise itineraries will see pax enjoy breath-taking UNESCO World Heritage sites, explore vivid blue ice pools and discover abundant wildlife.

Seabourn senior manager expedition planning and operations, Robin West, promises the new additions will be "the icing on the cake" for those cruising the season ahead.

Syd Tall Ships offer

TWO-FOR-ONE tickets are available from Sydney Harbour Tall Ships for the 27 Jul welcoming of *Tenacious* into Sydney Harbour.

Tickets entitle guests to board *Southern Swan* and the event will mark the first time the two ships have met - book **HERE**.

"There are few travel opportunities less-expected or out of the ordinary than a visit to the South Pole," he said.

Pricing for Polar Quest & Patagonia begins at AU\$66,000ppts and AU\$70,000ppts for the Polar Quest, Tierra del Fuego and Iguazu Falls packages.

Visit www.seabourn.com.

Adventure World sale

A GALAPAGOS cruise and Antarctica expedition are among the holidays currently on sale at Adventure World.

A saving of 10% on the Antarctica Classic - *m/s Expedition* is available until 31 Jul, valid for travel 30 Jan-13 Mar 2018.

The roundtrip departs from Ushuaia and explores the Drake Passage, the Antarctica Peninsula and South Shetland Islands.

Also available on the *m/v Santa Cruz II* is a free night in a luxury hotel in Quito, if booked by 31 Aug for travel 14 Jun-30 Nov 2016.

Prices for the cruise lead in at \$4,695ppts and include a visit to Santiago Island, Rabida Island, Tower & Genovesa Island and Puerto Baquerizo Moreno & San Cristobal Island.

Visit adventureworld.com.au.



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A **PLAYFUL** manatee took a particular liking to a woman paddle boarding in Jupiter, Florida (scene **pictured** below).

The marine mammal wanted to make its presence known, repeatedly rolling onto its belly in front of her before propping its flippers up on her board to say Howdy.

The encounter only lasted about half a minute but the lovable manatee has left a lasting impression on paddle boarder, Celine Chasteen.

Her friend was able to capture some incredible footage of the surreal experience which has wracked up over 5 million hits since it was posted last week.

You can check it out **HERE**.



IF YOU lose your camera at sea, you can say goodbye to it for life - that's unless it washes up on a remote Swedish island three years later!

That's what happened to an Englishwoman whose Fuji camera housed in a waterproof case went missing off the English east coast.

Now, thanks to a social media campaign where the photos were posted of the missing memory chip and onto Facebook, the camera has been returned to its owner.

APT: Best River Cruise operator



APT'S director Rob McGeary was all smiles over the weekend, with the group coming out on top in two categories at the NTIA's over the weekend: Best River Cruise Operator and Best Tour Operator Domestic.

"We're elated," he said.

"Both categories are very hotly contested, there are a lot of very credible operators there that have a lot of presence and experience, and it's a great honour to be chosen and to be voted by our travel agents."

McGeary is **pictured** above with the APT team.

RCI agt appreciation

ROYAL Caribbean is showing its appreciation for agents by offering 20% off travel agent personal bookings on select Celebrity Cruises', Azamara Club Cruises' and Royal Caribbean 2016/17 voyages.

Peter McCormack, head of Sales for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Australia has thanked agents for voting for their votes in the 2016 AFTA National Travel Industry Awards and for the "incredible contribution to the success of our three cruise brands."

The offer ends 31 Jul.

ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO



Workshops mean business

Following on from the first cruise industry workshop in Brisbane, the Australian Cruise Association team has headed to Victoria to continue the success there.

Working with the newly formed Visit Victoria, the purpose of the workshops is twofold. They will provide opportunities for the industry to enhance their cruise knowledge and will also showcase the wide range of new destination experiences on offer to the cruise lines and ground handlers.

Association members and partners including Carnival, Abercrombie and Kent, InterCruises, Bob Wood Cruise Group and the local tourism organisations are attending the workshops.

Chris White, Acting GM, Regional, Visit Victoria said "Cruising is a critical and fast-growing segment of the Victorian tourism industry. We are delighted that this group of cruise experts has taken the time to travel to new regional cruise destinations such as Portland and Phillip Island as well as Melbourne, to experience the destinations and exchange information with our businesses."

Over 30 operators representing a cross section of the industry will attend the workshops which 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. This will ultimately benefit 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.

The workshops will roll out next to Western Australia and Tasmania.

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