

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Thursday 23 Jun 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

Europe river levels

ONGOING high water levels due to a considerable amount of rain in Europe are affecting river cruises, with many operators modifying itineraries.

Avalon Waterways' cruises on the Seine have been embarking and disembarking from Conflans on the outskirts of Paris, rather than from the city centre, with similar adjustments being made on the Rhine, Moselle, Danube and Rhône.

A spokesperson said normal departures from central Paris are expected to resume this week.

Scenic said cruises are operating as scheduled, some with minor variations - see updates **HERE**.

Viking River Cruises are providing updates **HERE**.

P&O suspends operator

P&O Cruises has suspended the operator of the tour involved in the bus crash on Mon afternoon in Port Vila which saw 10 *Pacific Dawn* guests seriously injured (**CW** Tue).

On the tour bus were twelve P&O passengers, of which 10 sustained injuries including an 11-year old boy who suffered a serious head injury.

The boy's condition has since improved and he is no longer listed as critical.

He was flown to Noumea on the first air ambulance flight, later joined by his Mum and brother and is being cared for in the same hospital room as his mother.

A P&O Care team member is with the family and Sture Myrmell, the president of P&O Cruises Australia, visited them in hospital yesterday.

Executive chairman of Carnival Australia Ann Sherry said Myrmell is part of a team which she

describes as being sent to "wrap our arms around everyone".

Myrmell will head to Port Vila and Brisbane next.

The last of the guests who were airlifted from Port Vila arrived in Brisbane yesterday afternoon.

Sherry said the cruise line would undertake a full review of the event.

In a statement on Facebook, P&O acknowledged the efforts of local health services in Port Vila and thanked the first responders and medical teams.

"We will continue to keep in close contact with the families of our hospitalised guests who will also continue to be supported by our Care team," the cruise line said, adding "We cannot speak highly enough of our *Pacific Dawn* guests as they have waited for positive news about the progress of the airlift and the condition of their fellow guests".

Panama Canal to open

PANAMA Canal's \$5.25 billion expansion is set to be unveiled this weekend.

The additional lane which has been added will allow larger cruise ships to navigate the canal.

This will see Princess Cruises sail its 3,080-passenger *Caribbean Princess* on the canal in addition to its smaller ships *Coral Princess* and *Island Princess*.

Caribbean Princess will sail through the new lock in Panama canal on 10-night trips in 2017.

ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO



Membership Growth

Four new members have joined the Association, bringing the total to 87 as we near the new Financial Year. The first airport - Hobart Int'l - has joined ahead of the rollout of its redevelopment which is scheduled to start mid-year. \$100m will be spent on upgrades over the next few years which will support future homeporting opportunities. Eventz in Paradise has also come on board. This is a wonderful company that places lecturers and speakers on cruise ships in the region. From destination speakers who can discuss culture, history and points of interest, through to special interest lecturers on art, music, nature & even Bridge tutors, they are well versed in finding people who can inform & entertain guests. We are also delighted to welcome Swire Shipping Agencies from Port Moresby and the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau. Swire operates a comprehensive range of services which support the cruise industry between Australia, the Solomons and PNG. With the Solomon Islands increasingly appearing on cruise itineraries, the Visitors Bureau is looking forward to networking with, and learning from existing members as they develop their experiences. We look forward to continuing to expand the membership of the Association with similar professional and diverse organisations which reflect the growth of the cruise industry.

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QM2 refit unveiled

CUNARD'S *Queen Mary 2* is on her way to Southampton today to unveil her 25-day, \$177 million refurbishment.

Accompanied by *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Victoria*, she will be greeted by high-profile guests before setting sail for New York for a schedule of Transatlantic crossings.

Queens Grill and Princess Grill suites and restaurants have been redesigned and refurbished, along with key public areas.

The former Winter Garden has been swapped out for the Carinthia Lounge, a new specialty restaurant, The Verandah has been introduced and the Kings Court has been restructured.

Ten kennels have been added to the vessel's kennel service, which comes complete with Liverpool lamp post and New York fire hydrants.

The vessel will visit Australian waters in Feb during her 2017 World Voyage.

Uniworld Rhine deal

SAVINGS of 50% off children's fares are being offered on Uniworld's eight-day Castles along the Rhine river cruise departure on 12 Jul 2017.

Included in the package is a seven-night cruise in a riverview stateroom on the *River Empress*, meals and unlimited beverages on board, six days of excursions hosted by local experts, free internet and wi-fi access and the services of a cruise manager.

The offer applies to children aged four to 17 years and is priced from \$14,999 for a family of four.

Stella the star of Ch 7

TONIGHT Australis' 210-passenger *Stella Australis* will feature on Channel Seven's one-hour *Mighty Cruise Ships TV* show at 8pm.

The vessel offers three- to seven-night cruises between Punta Arenas in Chile and Ushuaia in Argentina.

Cruising in Europe stats

THE cruise industry in Europe had a solid year in 2015, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Europe's annual European Economic Contribution Report has confirmed.

The industry's economic output in the region reached a record breaking €40.95 billion in 2015, a 2% increase on 2014.

"The cruise industry continues to make significant contributions to Europe's economic recovery," said Pierfrancesco Vago, chairman of CLIA Europe and exec chairman of MSC Cruises.

Figures show the industry recruited an additional 10,000 people, with a total of 360,571 employed in cruise and cruise-related businesses and wages and other benefits reached €11.05b.

Europe is the second biggest passenger market, with 3% more Europeans opting to cruise in 2015 and the continent remains the world's second most popular

cruise destination, behind the Caribbean.

Passenger numbers embarking from European ports hit 6.12 million, a 4.5% jump.

Europe's shipbuilding industry is also going strong, with 48 vessels currently on the order books of shipyards in the zone until 2019, with a total value of more than €27 billion.

"More Europeans are choosing a cruise holiday, more cruise passengers are choosing Europe as a destination, and more cruise ships are being built in European shipyards," Vago continued.

"This translates into great economic benefits for the entire continent, including coastal areas that were hit disproportionately hard by the economic downturn."

During 2015, 39 cruise lines resided in Europe, operating 123 cruise ships with a capacity of around 149,000 lower berths.

See the report **HERE**.

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Number 5 Alive

TUI Cruises took delivery of its fifth ship, the *Mein Schiff 5* from the Meyer Turku shipyard on Mon, 10 days ahead of schedule and marked the occasion with a traditional handing over ceremony in Finland.

Speaking at the ceremony, ceo of TUI Cruises Wybcke Meier said "although this is already our third new build, it's still incredibly exciting to see a new ship grow from the first steel cutting to the finishing interior touches".

The *Mein Schiff 5* is now making its way with 1,000 staff aboard to Kiel in Germany where she will home port.

NCLH director leaves

BOB Salerno is stepping down as a director of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, effective 05 Jul.

Salerno is a veteran of the car rental industry and began his career with the Hertz Corporation.

Back-Roads + Ama

IN 2017, AmaWaterways and Back-Roads have revealed they are doubling their river cruise offering, with an expanded lineup of active river cruise departures.

The companies will offer more than 100 sailings in 2017, including the launch of a new walking tour on the Douro, which it says makes it the only river cruise with a comprehensive active trip in Spain or Portugal.

Visiting the gorges and vineyards of northern Portugal and Western Spain, the trip will also explore the Douro River Valley, Madrid, Porto and Lisbon.

Together, AmaWaterways and Back Roads present river cruises combined with the land operators' walking, biking and hiking tours, multiple trip leaders, custom titanium or electric bikes, support vans, and a range of cycling, walking and hiking routes for all abilities.

The departures are open for bookings now - [CLICK HERE](#).

Hamish & Andy cruise a hit



COMEDIANS Hamish and Andy have returned to Sydney after their "People's Cruise" on board *Carnival Spirit* last week.

The duo took 110 of their listeners along for five days during their slot on the Hit Network, as *Carnival Spirit* sailed from Sydney to Vanuatu.

A whopping 27,000 listeners entered the competition to win a spot on board, the biggest response ever to a Hamish & Andy competition.

More than two million Australians tuned in to their program during the cruise as the pair advanced their skill tester prowess, farewelled dead thongs,

cemented relationships with friendship bracelets, sat for a portrait, rode Green Thunder and ate *Spirit* out of cheesecake.

Carnival Cruise Line vp Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke, who joined The People's Cruise, said it was a blast having two of Australia's funniest personalities on board.

"It was so exciting to have the free-spirited duo of Hamish and Andy share their cruise experience on *Carnival Spirit* with their 2.5 million listeners. For an entire week, they did a great job of bringing all the on board fun to life for their fans back home in Australia," Vandekreeke said.

The pair are **pictured** above.

PRINCESS ACADEMY

10th

Anniversary Celebration

Only a few days left to register to win one of 10 \$200 AUD Visa Gift Cards!

Eligibility criteria and T&Cs apply. Ends 11:59pm AEST 30/6/16. Max 1 entry/person. NSW Permit LTPS/16/03642.

CLOSING SOON



Seen the latest tB?

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's Australia director of sales stars in the latest edition of **Cruise Weekly's** sister publication, **travelBulletin**.

The cover story zones in on six "young guns" in the travel industry, probing them on their motivation, career highlights and top tips for up-and-comers.



travelBulletin can be read online at travelbulletin.com.au, or subscribe for \$50 a year at travelbulletin.com.au/shop.

Signature/Platinum create new alliance

PLATINUM Travel Corporation has formed a new pact with Signature Travel Network to provide a range of new privileges for Platinum customers.

Clients will receive special benefits across thousands of luxury cruise voyages with some of these experiences including complimentary and exclusive shore events and even a car and driver at some selected destinations.

Tall ship experience

A **SPECIAL** opportunity is available on 27 Jul to sail in the company of *Tenacious*, the largest operating wooden vessel in the world.

The cruise on board tall ship *Soren Larsen* will greet *Tenacious* as she sails into Sydney Harbour.

Priced at \$99pp, it includes brunch, bubbly and music. Call (02) 8015 5571 to book.

Lindblad departures

TWO Antarctic departures have been added in Nov by Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic, in response to increased demand.

Departing on 07 and 17 Nov, the cruises will chart the 11-night Journey to Antarctica: The White Continent itinerary on board the *National Geographic Orion*.

The action-packed adventure offers kayaking among icebergs, Zodiac cruises past resting leopard seals, and hikes with the ice team - an expedition leader, eight veteran naturalists, a National Geographic photographer, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and an undersea specialist.

Guests will also have the chance to see wildlife such as penguins, birds and whales.

Prices lead in at \$16,700pp in a category one cabin and guests on the two departures will also receive a \$1,000 discount and a free charter airfare roundtrip between Santiago/Ushuaia.

Port Everglades pilot

PLANS have been revealed by Broward County's Port Everglades in the US state of Florida to pilot Automated Passport Control (APC) kiosks and Mobile Passport Control (MPC) kiosks this summer.

Working with Carnival Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean International and US Customs & Border Protection, Port Everglades will be the first cruise port in the United States to test the programs.

Both are designed to streamline the inspection process and enable officers to focus more on the inspection.

The APC kiosks allow passengers to provide their travel documents and customs declaration forms prior to speaking to a customs officer, while the MPC program uses a smartphone app.

US citizens debarking a cruise ship will be able to complete their Customs declaration using their phones, speeding their clearance.



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*Restrictions apply - visit Seabourn.com for full terms and conditions.



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Atlanta splash park

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has celebrated the opening of a US\$500,000 "Splash Island" at Adams Park in Atlanta, of which it partially funded.

The contribution from the cruise line allowed The City of Atlanta to expand the scope of the project, which features a spray pool, water cannons, a huge dumping water bucket, new lifeguard chairs and deck space.

Uniworld to Lux

FOR the first time, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection will exhibit at luxury travel trade forum Luxperience in 2016.

Uniworld will showcase its new range of biking cruising along the Danube, golf cruises along the Seine and a kayak expedition on the Gardon River.

NCLH casino system

SYNKROS casino management system will be rolled out across Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' fleet this year.

First introduced to the company's two newest ships in 2012, the system will manage the operations of the company's 3,666 slots and 289 table games.

Carnival sale on now

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's 72-hour sale will end tomorrow at 11:59pm AEST.

Cruises are available from \$72ppts per day in an interior twin share room.

New Caledonia and Vanuatu cruises are on sale with departure during Oct and Nov.

To book, or for more information on the sale, head to www.carnival.com.au.

Free family program

THE Ambassadors of the Environment Family Program will be offered for free on the 21 Dec sailing of the seven-night Tahiti & the Society Islands itinerary aboard the *m/s Paul Gauguin*.

Designed to introduce children aged nine-17 to the natural wonders of French Polynesia through hands-on, interactive learning, the program has a value of \$329 per child.

Adults are encouraged to join in for the additional cost of the excursions.

The itinerary departs Papeete, and sails to Huahine, Taha'a (Motu Mahana), Bora Bora (overnight), and Moorea (overnight) in the Society Islands.

For more information, visit www.pgcruiises.com.

CLIA Europe talks

YESTERDAY CLIA Europe director of Government Affairs Marco Digiola attended a roundtable at the European Parliament on 'Maritime and Coastal Tourism: Challenges and Opportunities'.

The roundtable focused on the challenges and opportunities of maritime and coastal tourism.



SOMETHING fishy is happening with *Finding Dory*.

First Dory gets a little gory when someone decided the movie needed to be restyled *Game of Thrones* style.

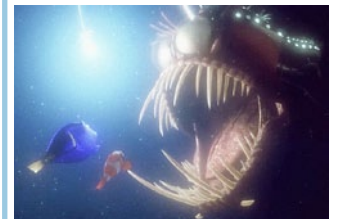
The mashup uses audio clips from the film's voice actors juxtaposed against some slightly more bloody images than *Finding Dory* fans would expect.

You can check out the violent version of the *Finding Nemo* Sequel **HERE**.

At the other end of the spectrum, another *Finding Dory* clip has been released with a Justin Bieber twist.

"Is it too late now to find Dory" appropriates Justin Bieber's hit song "Is it too late now to say sorry".

Check it out **HERE**.



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