

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 28 Jun 2016

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Odyssey wine cruise

SEABOURN'S head sommelier Sebastian Pacheco will host a 10-day wine-themed cruise from Athens to Monte Carlo on 29 Oct. The sailing will feature Seabourn Conversations with wine experts, tastings and pairings, winery tours and special events on shore, a shopping with the Chef event and a cooking demonstration.

Departing Athens, the cruise includes port calls in Greece, Italy, Malta and France with fares starting from \$4,299ppts.

## Celebrity newbie details

SIX itineraries, 15 islands and more than 30 ports of call are on the cards for Celebrity Cruises' 2017 season in the Galapagos, with *Celebrity Xploration* and *Celebrity Xperience* set to enter service from Mar next year.

*Celebrity Xpedition* is a catamaran and will offer eight rooms, each with a window or veranda, while the larger *Celebrity Xperience* has 24 rooms.

The staterooms on both luxury vessels have upgraded mattresses, pillows and bedding, along with LCD TVs and high-speed internet service will be available throughout the ship.

Shore excursions will be led by naturalists and fresh regional seafood will be served up as part of each holiday.

Regional coffee, chocolate and

premium spirits and a curated wine list will also be available.

*Celebrity Xperience* will sail seven-, ten- and thirteen-night all-inclusive holidays, stopping in at the new ports of Mosquera Islet, Black Turtle Cove, Cerro Brujo, Santa Fe, Darwin Bay and El Barranco.

A highlight of the program is the 13-night itinerary, which will see guests spend two-nights exploring Quito (Ecuador), sailing for seven-nights and then disembarking for a three-night experience.

*Celebrity Xploration* will stop by a number of new ports & will be available for seven-night charters which can be combined with pre- and post-cruise experiences.

## Malaysia cruise push

THE Malaysian government has set its sights on developing the country into one of Southeast Asia's major cruise hubs.

Three ports, Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Kuching in Sarawak and Labuan on the Malaya Peninsula have been identified as having significant potential to attract more visitors to the country.

Malacca is also under development, slated for completion in 2025, with Port of Klang Authority chairman Tan Sri Kong Cho Ha commenting "Ideally we would like to see a major cruise company like Royal Caribbean collaborating with the Malacca government to develop the Malacca terminal as its regional hub".

## BingBing names Ovation

AFTER sailing from Southampton in the UK to Tianjin, China without a name, *Ovation of the Seas* has finally had her official naming ceremony.

The event had a series of firsts, with a naming ceremony in China, a Chinese Godmother, actress Fan BingBing and making China its homeport immediately after its delivery.

In keeping with maritime tradition, the ceremony included the breaking of a champagne



bottle on the hull of the ship BingBing and president and ceo of Royal Caribbean International, Michael Bayley, are pictured at the naming ceremony.

## US cruises under fire

A CONTROVERSIAL investigation conducted by Univision Noticias and New York's Columbia Journalism School has accused the US cruise industry of "operating under the laws of tax havens" & being "one of the least regulated industries in the US".

Titled *Vacations In No Man's Seas*, the multimedia presentation is a result of four months of investigation.

The report alleges the US cruise industry takes advantage of favourable legislation in some countries to manage its vessels, employees are not protected under the US justice system if they suffer any mishaps and investigates the environmental impact of the vessels.

Broken up into five chapters, the presentation covers the ownership in the US cruise industry, investigation of on board crimes, employee work conditions, environmental regulations and impact and the major company's influence.

View the report [HERE](#).

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## Mozart godmother

**MANAGING** director of Vienna's iconic Hotel Sacher and acting director of Vienna's Spanish Riding School, Elisabeth Görtler has been named godmother of Crystal River Cruises' first river ship, *Crystal Mozart*, which will be christened on 11 Jul.



## Crystal to Everglades

**FROM** 27 Oct 2017, Crystal Cruises will return to Port Everglades due to its close proximity to an international airport and high level of service. *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* are scheduled to sail a total of eight sailings to and from Port Everglades next year. "Fort Lauderdale is an ideal fit for our ships, itineraries and discerning guests," said Crystal president and ceo Edie Rodriguez. "We are relocating select fall sailings and look forward to working with Port Everglades to expand our itineraries."

## ms Joy christened

**THE** new addition of *ms Joy* has been welcomed into the Tauck fleet at a christening ceremony on the Danube River last week. Carrying 130 guests, the 130m *ms Joy* will have a Tauck cruise director, & three Tauck directors on board, two dining venues & twenty-two 91m<sup>2</sup> suites. Following the conclusion of its inaugural cruise, *Joy* will sail along the Danube.

## P&O \$10k for Vanuatu

**P&O** has announced \$10,000 from the P&O Pacific Partnership will be devoted to the immediate needs of the families of the Ni Van locals who lost loved ones in the bus crash (**CW** 21 Jun). This is in addition to the action already taken by the line's local port agent in Vanuatu.

## Carnival Wiggle for Westmead



**GUESTS** on board *Carnival Spirit* put on their dancing shoes for the cruise line's first "Wiggle for Westmead" event. The activity was created in partnership with The Children's Hospital at Westmead, with 120 guests raising more than \$2,200 for the children's hospital, a feat quickly topped last week by

guests during the second party, which raised \$3,100. The dance events are held on the last sea day of each cruise, with guests purchasing a "Wiggle for Westmead" t-shirt and wrist band for \$15 and 100% of the purchase price donated. One of the recent dance parties on board *Spirit* are **pictured**.

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## CCC Fiji kids free

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises Fiji is running a 'Kids Eat, Play and Cruise for free' deal valid for all three-, four- and seven-night Yasawa Islands and remote North of Fiji cruises between 01 Aug-31 Mar 2017.

## Pacific Pearl delay

**THE** arrival of P&O's *Pacific Pearl* into Sydney Harbour yesterday was delayed due to adverse conditions on her return from Auckland.

*Pacific Pearl's* next sailing was unaffected by the delay.

## Spirit of Tas e-guide

A **FREE**, interactive e-guide, 'Tasmania: On the Road' has been launched for *Spirit of Tasmania*.

Available until 24 Aug, the e-guide features five driving itineraries (including *Spirit of Tasmania* sailings), with videos, local knowledge and activities.

The guide covers Binalong Bay, Bruny Island, Port Arthur & more.

Visit [spiritoftasmania.com.au](http://spiritoftasmania.com.au).

## First cruise ship calls into Conflict



**PACIFIC Jewel** made her maiden call into the Conflict Islands in Papua New Guinea last week.

The uninhabited island is the cruise line's eighth port in Papua New Guinea and is surrounded by one of the world's most biodiverse reef systems.

Guests made the most of their time kayaking, snorkelling and stand-up paddleboarding and took tours on a glass bottom boat and outrigger canoe tours.

P&O Cruises president Sture Myrmell said "Even though they are close to Australia, many of Papua New Guinea's picturesque islands are rarely visited because

they are difficult to access.

"Cruising really is the easiest way to see this stunning corner of the world so we're thrilled to add the beautiful Conflict Islands to our great list of destinations," Myrmell added.

## Local Connections

**PRINCESS Cruises** has launched a "Local Connections" program which will see speakers come aboard *Regal Princess* overnight to share their personal stories.

More than 70 speakers will join *Regal Princess* during 2016 as she sails to Scandinavia and Russia.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.



There's a silver lining for the England team following their loss to Iceland in the Euro 2016.

Icelandic holiday firm North Sailing last week preempted England's loss, offering the players a free day tour in Husavik "as a bandage for wounded pride, after the loss against Iceland".

Posing with 23 free tickets for the squad dated for today, manager Guðbjartur Jónsson said his offer was "only polite and a part of the Icelandic hospitality culture.

"The poor English players will anyways not be able to return immediately to England after the match on Mon, as 60 million English football fans will be furious when losing to a small island state with only 300,000 inhabitants," he continued.

"Therefore we offer a peaceful day with whale-watching in a small town in Northern Iceland with beautiful nature and nice people. That should be the perfect compensation."

The company went one step further today, offering all English supporters a free whale watching trip tomorrow.

| Cruise Calendar  |        |
|--|--------|
| This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia. |        |
| SYDNEY   |        |
| <i>Carnival Spirit</i>   | 01 Jul |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i>   | 02 Jul |
| DARWIN   |        |
| <i>Caledonian Sky</i>  | 30 Jun |
| BRISBANE   |        |
| <i>Pacific Jewel</i>   | 30 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Dawn</i>  | 02 Jul |
| <i>Pacific Aria</i>  | 03 Jul |
| PORT DOUGLAS   |        |
| <i>Pacific Dawn</i>  | 29 Jun |
| FREMANTLE  |        |
| <i>Pacific Eden</i>  | 28 Jun |

## Hong Kong departure

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**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](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).

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