

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Thursday 30 Jun 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

P&O Flagship site

P&O Cruises has launched its first dedicated travel agent website, Flagship, designed specifically for travel consultants in the Oceania region.

The portal will be home to a new education program titled Flagship Master Class and will host information on P&O's product, agent marketing tools and an image and video gallery.

Agents will be able to track their points in the line's incentive program, which has been renamed Flagship Achievers.

The top 20 participants in the program will earn their spot on P&O's Top Achievers Trip and agents can also register interest in ship inspections on the site.

Crystal to open Syd HQ

CRYSTAL Cruises has confirmed it will open a new corporate regional branch in Australia, to be based in Sydney.

The office will represent Crystal Cruises, Crystal Yacht Cruises and Crystal River Cruises and look after sales, marketing, finance and reservations for the Australia and New Zealand market.

From 01 Aug, the centre will be led by industry veteran Karen Christensen, who comes from Silversea Cruises where she has spent the last ten years as general manager & director sales/marketing Australasia.

"We are thrilled to further solidify our presence in Australia and New Zealand as our company grows and offers more options for travellers throughout the world," said Edie Rodriguez, Crystal's ceo and president.

"Karen's depth of knowledge of the Pacific market and its

travellers' wishes, habits and preferences will help ensure that our vast portfolio of luxury travel offerings is effectively communicated and expertly sold."

The move sees the end of Crystal's partnership with Wiltrans International Travel for the past 26 years.

Fathom ups program

PROGRAMMING on board Fathom has been beefed up, with the addition of a number of activities plus Clandestina, a Cuban gift shop.

A range of "getting to know" sessions are new, each diving into the highlights of the ports visited, along with a history lesson, Havana Architecture Bingo, Cuban Coffee Games and Havana/Cienfuegos/Santiago de Cuba bands will jump aboard the vessel to entertain guests.

Miami new terminal

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has inked an agreement with Miami-Dade County to construct and operate a new cruise terminal at PortMiami, which will serve as a homeport to RCI ships.

The 15,794m² terminal is nicknamed the 'Crown of Miami' due to its shape (see below) and at night the facility's facade will be lit up.

Once complete, it's anticipated Royal Caribbean will generate at least 1.8 million passengers at PortMiami, which is 30% of the port's projected passenger traffic.

The agreement will come before the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners on 06 Jul.



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Lines pull out of Istanbul

CELEBRITY Cruises and Windstar have cancelled calls in Istanbul, Turkey in response to the bombing at Atatürk Airport.

The move will see all of Celebrity's upcoming calls into Istanbul replaced with Athens (Piraeus), Greece on four turn around *Celebrity Equinox* sailings and four of *Celebrity Constellation's* round trips.

Windstar has swapped out embarkation/disembarkation port of calls in Istanbul on 16 cruises with Athens and the mid-cruise calls into Kusadasi and Bodrum

have been replaced with visits to Greece's island of Kalymnos and seaport of Nafplio.

Seabourn has also replaced the planned 02 Jul stop in Istanbul with Athens and the cruise line is in the process of assessing other upcoming scheduled visits.

Holland America Line said it is closely monitoring the situation and should any decisions be made regarding itinerary changes, it will be closer to the line's next scheduled call date into Istanbul on 23 Jul.

Royal Caribbean Cruises has not made any modifications since Tue, but advised it "will continue to closely monitor the changing situation".

Likewise, Silversea is closely monitoring the situation and Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines said it is in discussions with Turkish destinations partners and will be taking advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Carnival Corp Q2

CARNIVAL Corporation has experienced a strong second quarter, reporting an adjusted net income of US\$370m, compared with US\$193m for Q2 2015.

Arnold Donald, CCL chief executive officer & president, said the result "demonstrates continued momentum".

Grand Circle tour

GRAND Circle Cruise will be offering new small ship cruise tours to Cuba on board *M/V Clío*.

The 11-night, small group *A Coastal Voyage* sailings from Miami to Cuba will kick off from Jan 2017.

The voyage will stop in at the small cities of Caibarien and Remedios and will explore the colonial streets of Trinidad and the artistic legacy of Cienfuegos before spending three nights in the capital, Havana.

Prices start at US\$6,795pp - for more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Aussies get to know Voyager



THIS group spent five-nights kicking back on board *Voyager of the Seas* recently, cruising from Hong Kong to Vietnam on an Infinity educational.

Hosted by Royal Caribbean's key account manager Tony Soden, the agents from Flight Centre, Escape Travel and Cruiseabout stores came from all over Australia.

Highlights of the cruise included a Bridge and Galley Tour, sampling the menus of the ship's specialty restaurants, including Chops Grille, Giovanni's Table and Johnny Rockets.

Agents carved up the ice skating rink and FlowRider surfing simulator, and off the ship, enjoyed the sights, culture and tastes of Vietnam and Hong Kong.

Pictured from left are: Heather

Skelton, Flight Centre Helensvale; Tony Soden, Royal Caribbean; Amber Foster, Cruiseabout Pakington St; Nicole Hogan, Infinity Cruise; Deb Evers, Cruiseabout Camden; Tegen Richards, Flight Centre Robina; Kathryn Baker, Escape Travel Greensborough; Emily Mitchell, Flight Centre Gladsville and Ben Flick, Infinity Cruise.

Andaman discount

PANDAW is offering savings of over US\$1,000pp when booking the cruise company's Andaman Explorer itinerary and Mandalay Pagan Packet trip back-to-back.

By combining the 10-nt cruise of southern Burma & the Mergui Archipelago with the seven-night Mandalay itinerary, pax save 50% on the short journey.

More details on the offer **HERE**.

P&O & Cunard move

CARNIVAL UK is consolidating its P&O Cruises and Cunard ship operations and technical departments with those of Costa Cruises in Hamburg to create a single organisation.

In a statement, the cruise line said "some work from this shared maritime team will be consolidated in Southampton and some in Germany in a phased operation which will take around nine months to complete".

Up to 50 people based in Carnival House in Southampton will be affected.



Travelmarvel - China



Travelmarvel has released its 2017 China brochure, featuring Yangtze river cruises aboard

Victoria Cruises' *MS Victoria Anna*, *MS Victoria Selina* and *MS Victoria Lianna*.

Cruises are built into the firm's 13-day Imperial China and 17-day Cities of the Orient itineraries which lead in at \$4,795 per person twin share. The popularity of Imperial China has seen two extra departure dates added with 14 trips throughout 2017.

The journey includes three-nights in Beijing, a four-night Yangtze river cruise and two nights in Xi'an, a night in Wuzhen and two nights in Shanghai.

Guests are also invited to add 'Select Experiences' extras to their itineraries.

To view the brochure online **CLICK HERE**.

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CLIA Cruise360 details

CLIA president and ceo Cindy D'Aoust will make her first visit to Australia since taking the helm at the organisation for the Cruise360 Australasia conference on 16 Sep.

D'Aoust will make the opening address on the global state of the industry at the CLIA Australasia conference, which will be themed Navigating the Future.

Panel sessions and presentations will look at the future impact of the cruise industry, with panellists including P&O Cruises president, Sture Myrmell; Ponant chairman APAC, Sarina Bratton; RCI md Australia & New Zealand, Adam Armstrong & NCLH exec vp Int'l business development, Harry Sommer and APT executive gm Global Sales and Marketing Debra Fox.

Visit www.cruising.org.au.

Vista visits the Mediterranean



CARNIVAL Cruise Line's new ship *Carnival Vista* showed off all her new entertainment and thrill experiences to 14 Aussie agents on a recent week-long famil.

When they weren't exploring Naples, Rhodes and Crete, the group were watching *Captain America* on the first IMAX Theatre at sea, cycling high above the ship's top deck on SkyRide, sliding down the 138m Kaleid-O-Slide, and watching the latest Playlist Productions' *America Rocks!* and Flick: *The Power of Motion Pictures*.

Participants are pictured

preparing to take a spin on *Carnival Vista's* Skyride, from left: Ivanka Matic, Cruiseabout Shellharbour; Tammy Dennis, Infinity Holidays; Sandra Pearce, Flight Centre; Amy Kathleen, Cruiseabout Rouse Hill; Janet Temple, Temple Travel; Leah Temple, Temple Travel; Shane Gibbons, Carnival Cruise Line; Anton Loeb, Carnival Cruise Line; Suzanne Gower-Macdonald, Flight Centre Travel Group; Kate Reimers, Infinity; Amanda Secomb, Our Vacation Centre and Wayne Secomb, Our Vacation Centre.



ELVIS has left the building.

The 18-month-old seal, (pictured below) dubbed Elvis for his shuffling moves was released back into the wild yesterday after being rescued by Taronga Zoo last fortnight.

The thin, malnourished pup washed up at South Curl Curl Beach during Sydney's storms.

Before his release he was treated with antibiotics, fluids and a diet of fresh fish.



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CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS
with Peter Kollar
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As Good as New

Newbuilds get all the publicity, they are featured in the latest brand's marketing campaigns, and are now numerous enough to have changed the industry's business model, with innovative features accommodating and entertaining new cruisers that occupy all those additional cabins.

Yet where does that leave older vessels in a brand's fleet? Refurbishment projects are bigger than ever – it's not just the carpet and drape alteration we once imagined. Ships from the 90's are ripe for conversion work that will not only boost capacity on average 5-6%, but more importantly, meet the expectations of today's cruisers with new innovative features including digital connectivity. Dig deeper and you will realize that more restaurants means more galleys and everything that goes with them – new ventilation, additional fire doors, enhanced fire safety systems, more automation, new escape routes – all of which require significant structural work, along with the ship's overall electrical systems, technical specifications, and SOLAS compliance verifications. Even ducktail structures are added to a ship's stern, a necessity when renovations add weight as well as height to the ship, which has less to do with an effect on a vessel's speed-to-power performance but rather it typically means better stability than when it was new. You can't judge a ship by its built date anymore!



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