

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 03 Mar 2016

CLIA Cruise Finder

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) in the US has unveiled a brand new tool aimed to give its members in-depth information to plan group bookings, meetings and events at sea.

Content will continuously be updated and populated by CLIA's 28 global cruise line members, providing agents with educational content, itineraries as well as onboard offerings.

The new tool is exclusive to CLIA members only - for more info on CLIA visit cruising.org.au.

OOE comp flight offer

ONE Ocean Expeditions (OOE) is offering complimentary charter flights between gateways Edmonton and Ottawa for bookings from now until 01 Apr, on sea departures to the Canadian Arctic, during the peak cruising season in Aug.

Genting Dream Nov debut

ASIAN cruise giant Genting Hong Kong will launch its brand new Chinese focussed cruise concept Dream



Cruises, with its maiden voyage scheduled for Nov this year.

Itineraries range from two to seven nights with voyages scheduled for Ha Long Bay, Hong Kong, Sanya, Da Nang Guangzhou.

Cruising aboard the newbuild *Genting Dream*, the 151,300 tonne ship will offer 18 decks, 1,674 staterooms and over 35 restaurant and bar concepts.

Facilities aboard the *Genting Dream* includes a variety of pools, waterslides, a 610 metre wraparound promenade, play rooms, ropes course, bowling alley, mini golf putting course, jogging track, mahjong and cards room as well as duty-free shopping outlets.

Spa and wellness facilities are also included, offering a mix of barbers, salons, clinics and

fitness centres.

Private access to facilities such as lounge, dining room and pool decks are also on offer, included in stays for its Dream Mansion Suites and villas, with 70% of its staterooms featuring private balconies of up to 28 sq metres.

MEANWHILE, Genting has announced the acquisition of Nordic Yards' three shipyards in Wismar, Warnemunde and Stralsung, Germany for €230.6 million (approx AU\$342 million).

The new acquisition will ensure heightened capacity to construct newbuilds for its cruise brands Crystal Cruises, Star Cruises and Dream Cruises.

The Nordic Yards will sit as part of the Lloyd Werft Group.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Pacific Pearl's maiden call to Stewart Island

P&O Cruises' *Pacific Pearl* made its maiden call to Stewart Island this week, kicking off the cruise line's first circumnavigation of New Zealand.

Port calls will span Napier, Wellington, Christchurch, Picton and Stewart Island.

The 10-night voyage is expected to inject more than \$3 million into local communities.

Other itineraries on offer include a three-night food and wine themed cruise sailing on 10 Jun (from NZ\$399) and a 10-night South Pacific round trip cruise from Auckland departing 16 May.

Pacific Pearl will visit 11 ports incl 20 cruises to NZ & Sth Pacific.

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NZ cruise pax uncounted

A LOOPHOLE which excludes cruise transit passengers from the official annual visitor count for New Zealand, could mean almost 176,000 cruise ship visitors remain uncounted said Cruise New Zealand.

Currently, arrival and expenditure statistics are collected only at international ports, meaning transit passengers are completely overlooked.

Cruise New Zealand chairman Kevin O'Sullivan called the move "ironic", as despite those passengers being largely unaccounted for, transit pax are still required to pay the new border clearance levy (NZ\$26.23) for when they enter and depart the country.

More accurate record keeping would help with local and

regional government funding, infrastructure investment and resource management, said O'Sullivan,

The peak cruise group is now lobbying the Government to "accurately record" the cruise industry's contribution to New Zealand's economy.

Backing Cruise New Zealand's cause are The Tourism Industry Association, Tourism Export Council and Regional Tourism Organisations New Zealand.

Tourism Industry Association chief, Chris Roberts, said "the missing 176,000 is equivalent to all the annual visitors we get from Germany, France, Holland, Spain, Italy and Ireland combined".

Ovation float video

ROYAL Caribbean has released a video showcasing *Ovation of the Seas* (CW 23 Feb) floating out of the construction hall and into the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany.

Ovation of the Seas is on track to be completed in two months and will debut in Australia in Apr.

To view the behemoth newbuild entering water for the first time, [CLICK HERE](#).

ACL expanded sched

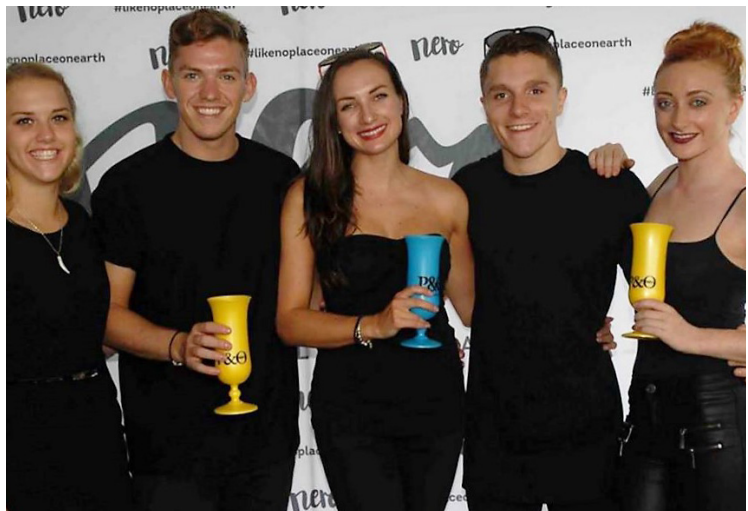
AMERICAN Cruise Lines has expanded its scheduled departures on its Columbia and Snake Rivers offering and introduced a new itinerary.

New on the agenda is the 5-day Highlights of the Columbia River itinerary, which features scenic areas of the Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah Falls, Mount St Helens and Fort Clatsop.

The new itinerary will depart on four dates in 2016, with three more to be scheduled for 2017.

To keep up with "overwhelming interest", ACL has bolstered its departures on its eight-day Columbia and Snake Rivers itinerary to include four additional dates, departing aboard the *Queen of the West*.

P&O black-out party



P&O Cruises is flying the All Black flag, introducing a brand new party concept for Kiwis during *Pacific Pearl's* five-month New Zealand deployment.

Cruisers departing on *Pacific Pearl* in Auckland have been invited to pack black for Nero, the P&O All Black Party - with All Blacks gear expected to be a popular outfit choice for the deck soiree.

P&O Cruises head of entertainment, Brett Annable, expects the shindig to be a hit.

"*Pacific Pearl* is New Zealand's ship so we wanted to create a party that was as distinctly Kiwi as the All Blacks," he said.

"With Nero featuring as the sailaway party of a cruise, *Pacific*

Pearl's Auckland sail-aways are set to take on a fun, new shade."

Pictured above are guests getting into the All Black spirit at the Nero deck party.

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Happy 112th birthday Dr Seuss!



MORE than 40 Sydney students hopped on board the *Carnival Spirit* while it was docked at Circular Quay, to celebrate the 112th birthday of beloved author, Theodor Seuss Geisel, more widely known as Dr Seuss.

Students from Plunket Street Public in Woolloomooloo and Fort Street Public School in Millers Point enjoyed a green eggs and ham breakfast with the Cat in the Hat and Friends, as well

as a Seuss-a-Palooza Character Parade.

Addressing the students, Carnival Cruise Line vice president Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke quoted Seuss: "The more you read, the more things you will know. That more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Pictured enjoying the company of the Cat and the Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2 are the attending Sydney students.

Vivid Cruises on sale

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises is offering early bird savings of up to 35% off its Vivid cruises.

The trip will cover dinner and drinks, giving passengers the opportunity to experience the city's festival of lights cruising from Darling Harbour.

Prices start from \$99 per person (down from \$145).

Vivid Sydney will run from 27 May to 18 Jun.

Book at captaincook.com.au.

HAL vid no. 6 debut

HOLLAND America Line has released the sixth instalment of its 'Countdown to Koningsdam' series, which gives viewers a glimpse of the *ms Koningsdam's* sea trials.

The latest video features Captain Emiel de Vries, the ship's inaugural master, discussing sea trials and his future headquarters, the Bridge.

CLICK HERE to watch.

Pandaw Borneo trips

LUXURY cruise operator, Pandaw, has added a new 7-night river voyage called "Into The True Heart of Borneo".

The expedition explores the Kapuas River System in western Kalimantan - **MORE HERE**.

Crystal Serenity '17

LUXURY cruise liner, *Crystal Serenity*, will return to the Northwest Passage next year, departing on a 32-day voyage across the Arctic Ocean from Anchorage, Alaska to New York.

"We are thrilled to offer intrepid luxury travellers a second opportunity to explore this historical sea passage," said chief executive officer and president of Crystal Cruises, Edie Rodriguez.

Port calls include Anchorage, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor and Nome, Alaska; Ulukhatok, NW Territories; Cambridge Bay and Pond Inlet, Nunavut; Ilulissat, Sisimiut, Nuuk, Greenland; Bar Harbor, Maine; Boston, Massachusetts; Newport, Rhode Island and New York.

Fares start at \$21,855 per person, double occupancy, if bookings are made by 29 Apr.

NCL amenities offer

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has launched the Free at Sea promotion, which gives guests who book a five-day or longer voyage in an inside or studio stateroom the chance to choose two free on board amenities.

Choices include free unlimited beverages, dining packages or \$50 per port excursion credits.

CLICK HERE to view the deal.

EXTENDED TO 31 MARCH

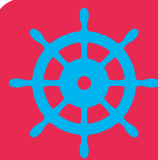
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ACA Update

Jill Abel - CEO

Future Ports

A \$100M "mega ship" facility is in the planning stages by the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL).

The terminal, proposed for the mouth of the Brisbane River, is being developed to meet the global trend to superliners.

By 2020, 62% of cruise vessels in the Aussie market are expected to be over 270m in length.

A Demand Study Update has been commissioned by Ports North to forecast the increased number of cruise ship visits to Cairns along with the emerging changes in the cruise industry again including increased vessel length.

In Tasmania, significant upgrades are being undertaken to improve capacity at the ports of Hobart and Burnie. Both projects will be completed by October for the 2016/17 cruise season when 89 cruise vessels are booked to arrive – up from 55 last season.

In NSW, the State Government's Cruise Development Plan has begun that will take into consideration the development of a third berth in Sydney which now receives almost one third of all cruise ships that berth in Australia.

Work has also started on a \$1.2m shaded walkway that will allow passengers to stroll from the Cruise Ship Terminal to the Darwin Waterfront Precinct in comfort, to be completed mid-2016. The walkway will cater for a growing cruise industry in the Top End which currently delivers around 70,000 passengers a year.

ACA welcomes this infrastructure boom as it heralds exciting times ahead for the Australian cruise industry.

Cunard tells: what agents want?



AUSTRALIAN travel agents are "greedy for the commission" when selling luxury liner Cunard, says Int'l Development Director David Rousham.

The Cunard exec made the remark when responding to *Cruise Weekly* on a question as to what he's learnt from the local trade while in Australia this week.

Rousham met with 80 agents on *Queen*

Victoria and 300 off-ship in the past few days, in addition to 10 senior agency executives during a whirlwind trip down under.

The Brit - **pictured** in *Queen Victoria's* Commodore Club on Mon - said consultants prefer a variety of options to promote in Australia, rather than just shorter duration sailings such as the recent three-day *QE* voyage from Brisbane to Sydney.

"[Agents] realise there is not much to make out of those. The trade is actually saying they want a decent mix of cruise lengths because they are greedy for the commission."

"They don't want price dumping, they really like the idea of inclusivity [*CW* Tue], because it means we commercially don't need to push for our final point of occupancy," Rousham added.

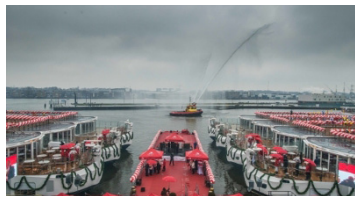
MEANWHILE, Rousham said last week's Brisbane-Sydney sampler voyage, operating via Newcastle had a younger demographic aboard than usual for Cunard.

"They were much younger than we thought & they were spinning on the dance floor til 3am".

Viking christening

VIKING River Cruises christened six of its new Viking Longships at a waterfront celebration in Amsterdam this week, naming prominent travel trade partners as the ships' "Viking Godmothers".

AAA Washington director of travel products, Lisa Anciau; Bath Butzlaff, managing director of cruise sales, Virtuoso; Michelle Chimko, chief operating officer, Alberta Motor Association; Jennifer Gasser, vice president of supplier relations and production operations; Beryl Gibson, joint owner, Northumbria Travel and Sinead O'Connell, director of industry relations, Vacation.com will serve as Viking Godmothers to *Viking Rolf*, *Viking Kadlin*, *Viking Alruna*, *Viking Egil*, *Viking Vilhjalm* and *Viking Tialfi*, respectively.



RCL Facebook scam

ROYAL Caribbean have issued a statement regarding a false Facebook page dubbed 'Royal Caribbean Australia' which has emerged, promising followers the chance to win a cruise if the link is clicked and shared.

RCL are warning users not to click the scam link, and are working with Facebook to have the page removed.



FORMER SAS Trooper, Tom McClean, has built a 65 ft whale named Moby, with aspirations to sail it across the Atlantic.

Currently beached on the shores of Loch Nevis in the Highlands of Scotland, the 73-year-old dreams of making his way to America right in the belly of the 62 tonne beast.

McClean has invested 20 years and £100,000 (AU\$193,008) on the mammoth structure, which still requires new electric motors and a complete retrofit of the interior, which includes a bridge, lounge and bunks for a crew of 10.

"I've learned to stick at things when other people might give up...it makes you feel alive to have a challenge, not just working to pay the bills," said McClean to the *Telegraph*.



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