

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 15 Mar 2016

Network with us

NEXT Tue the travel industry will gather for the **Travel Daily/JITO** networking night taking place at Sydney's Ivy Bar.

The biggest networking night of the year is sponsored by Hawaiian Airlines, with a lucky attendee set to win a trip to Honolulu.

Attendance is free but space is limited and you must register - for details see the **last page**.

Book 3, sail free

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection is giving travel agents the opportunity to experience the product, with a complimentary European river cruise offered to consultants who secure three or more 2016 Uniworld bookings by 15 May.

Celebrity small-ship buy

ROYAL Caribbean Cruise Lines last night confirmed an expansion of its global fleet, with the acquisition of Galapagos-based tour operator Ocean Adventures.

The purchase will be done through RCL's Celebrity Cruises brand, and unlike the line's mega ships this time the additions carry less than 50 passengers each.

Ocean Adventures operates the 48-passenger *Eclipse* and the 16-passenger catamaran *Athala II*, with the vessels to become part of the Celebrity operation in early 2017 after they are refurbished.

They'll complement Celebrity's existing Galapagos operation which utilises the 98-passenger *Celebrity Xpedition* in the region.

Celebrity said the expansion

would allow it to offer new Galapagos itineraries, as well as packages taking in visits to Ecuador and Peru as pre or post cruise land content.

The company said all existing Ocean Adventures bookings would be honoured regardless of sailing date.

The two vessels give Celebrity access to new destinations in the highly regulated Galapagos islands, and are approved for itineraries different from those available on the *Xpedition*, including visits to the smaller islands of Santa Maria and Espanola.

"We've wanted to expand in the Galapagos for a very long time," said Celebrity president Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

"We're constantly booked out far ahead...when the opportunity came up with Ocean Adventures it made a nice marriage for us".

AmaStella debut

AMAWATERWAYS has celebrated the launch of the 158-passenger *AmaStella*, said to be the company's "most advanced vessel to date".

AmaStella introduces new stateroom configurations designed for groups and multi-generational travellers, with six sets of adjoining cabins which can be connected via an internal doorway, accommodating families of up to five.

There are also four suites with convertible sofa-beds suitable for up to four passengers, and twelve staterooms that can accommodate up to three each.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos, plus a full page from the **TD/JITO networking night**.

Ponant to Vietnam

PONANT'S *L'Austral* will operate three nine-night Vietnam voyages between Oct and Nov this year, with the vessel cruising between Hong Kong and Ho Chi Minh City or vice versa.

The "well conceived thoughtful itineraries" have been designed for small group like-minded travellers who appreciate the mental stimulation of exciting destinations, Ponant said.

Excursions include visits to the infamous Cu Chi Vietcong tunnel network, exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Halong Bay and the Tombs of the Emperors on the Perfume River.

The 132-cabin *L'Austral* is able to conveniently moor virtually in the centre of Saigon and can also undertake a transit of the serpentine Saigon River.

Each voyage also includes a visit to Haiphong to allow passengers access to Hanoi as well as Da Nang for visits to Hoi An.

Ponant bonus offers include savings of up to 10% currently available on the 26 Oct 2016 departure, 15% on the 04 Nov voyage and 5% off the 13 Nov departure, with fares starting from \$5040 per person twin share including all port taxes.

A 20% saving is also on offer on the second cruise when booking back to back voyages HKG to Ho Chi Minh on 13 Nov linked to the following Ho Chi Minh-Bali cruise.

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Crystal orders new polar “megayacht”

CRYSTAL Cruises is continuing its rapid expansion, overnight announcing the acquisition of a 200-passenger polar-class megayacht.

To be named *Crystal Endeavour* - in honour of Captain James Cook's *HMS Endeavour* - the newbuild will be constructed at the Lloyd Werft shipyard in Germany and is scheduled for delivery in Aug 2018.

Crystal ceo Edie Rodriguez said the vessel would be the first purpose-built Polar Code compliant yacht in the world, with a PC6 Polar Class designation.

That means *Crystal Endeavour* will be able to cruise in polar regions during the summer and autumn, in medium “first year” ice which may have “old ice” inclusions.

Rodriguez said the move followed the outstanding success of *Crystal Esprit* which debuted late last year.

“We discovered there are many guests, young and young at heart, who enjoy sports at sea and discovering remote islands, and as the interests and age of luxury travellers increasingly vary, we will continue to expand our collection of luxury travel options,” she said.

Endeavour will offer a complete range of “toys” including two helicopters and two landing pads for flightseeing expeditions, as well as two seven-person submarines, eight electric amphibious zodiacs, jet skis, wave runners, kayaks and paddleboards.



For divers there will be a full range of snorkelling and scuba equipment as well as a dive support tender and even a recompression chamber.

Standard guest suites will have a minimum size of 400 square feet, “larger than all current expedition and luxury cruise ships” while two Owner Suites will be a massive 3,122 square feet in size with a master and two guest bedrooms, a private conservatory and garden with an outdoor Jacuzzi and private spa/gym.

Rodriguez said *Crystal Endeavour* would initially cruise to the Arctic then follow the route of migrating whales along the coast of the Americas and Europe to Antarctica during the northern winter.

Cunard 2018 launch

CUNARD has released a new series of itineraries, covering departures in 2017 as well as the 2018 World & Exotic Voyages Programme.

The 2017 Cunard brochure sees the fleet of *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Victoria* travel to 93 destinations in 32 countries, covering a whopping 207,000 nautical miles.

Maiden calls include Souda Bay in Greece; Sibenik in Croatia; Brindisi in Italy; and Praia da Vitoria in Portugal.

Overnights feature in eight cities including St Petersburg, Venice and Barcelona and there are 14 round trip New York sailings.

The 2018 World Voyage program will see *Queen Elizabeth* undertake a full 122 night world circumnavigation; *Queen Victoria* will cruise in South America while *Queen Mary 2* will take a 120-night East-West voyage with calls in Margaret River, Kangaroo Island and NZ's South Island.

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Qatar targets cruise sector

THE Qatar Tourism Authority looks set to further ramp up its focus on the cruise market, with the appointment of Inchcape Shipping Services (ISS) to provide strategic advice on cruising.

Under the agreement ISS Qatar will provide the authority with an assessment of the potential for cruise and a strategy to engage, expand and drive the sector's growth to maximise returns.

The scope of the works include a study of the state of the global cruise industry and current market trends, the development of a sustainable cruise industry business for Qatar from a short, medium and long term perspective and the creation of cruise volume projections right through until 2035.

In the short term the Qatar Ports Management Company plans to use an existing berth to accommodate cruise lines from the second half of 2016

as a temporary cruise terminal, with several operators having committed to the destination as part of upcoming itineraries starting later this year.

Qatar's involvement in the Cruise Arabia Alliance will see Inchcape provide assistance in attracting "world class cruise operators to Qatar" as an integral part of regional itineraries, and the scope also includes support for the Qatar Tourism Authority to station cruise ships in Doha to accommodate visitors for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

In the longer term the Qatari government is working towards transforming the existing commercial port of Doha into an "attractive tourist facility," with cultural, recreational and retail facilities as well as luxury accommodation and ultimately a modern cruise terminal, all served by a state-of-the-art transport system.

NCLH board shuffle

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings is changing the composition of its board, with the resignation of investor representatives Karl Peterson of TPG and Kevin Crowe from Apollo Global Management.

NCLH will eliminate the vacant seats created by three departures, reducing its board size from 11 to nine members.

Mangan competition

P&O Cruises has highlighted a promotion with celebrity chef Luke Mangan, to celebrate him becoming "the first restaurateur in the world to have dishes served on land, air and sea".

Mangan's Salt Grill operates aboard P&O Australian vessels and he is also involved with the menus on Virgin Australia, while he has also just sealed a new partnership with rail operator Eastern & Oriental Express - and to celebrate has launched a search for a new CEO (Culinary Experience Officer).

The CEO, who will be "Australia's biggest foodie", will receive a money-can't buy smorgasbord of travel and tasting experience during Oct 2016, as well as training from Tourism Australia's social media team.

See lukemangan.com/CEO.



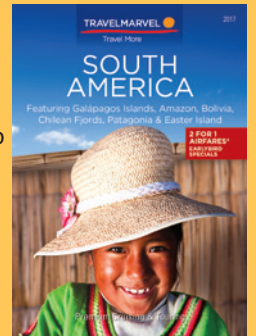
Brochure Spotlight

Travelmarvel

South America 2017

TRAVELMARVEL'S new 2017 South America program features

a range of cruise options allowing guests to explore both the Amazon and the diverse wildlife of the



Galapagos islands in conjunction with a range of land options.

In the Galapagos Travelmarvel offers the 90-passenger *M/V Santa Cruz II* which features a range of social and dining spaces as well as two onboard Jacuzzis.

Amazon cruise options are aboard the boutique sized *MV Anakonda*, with each suite offering a private balcony and panoramic windows.

Chilean fjord cruising is also available as part of the Travelmarvel program for 2017, with voyages operated by Holland America's *ms Zaandam*.

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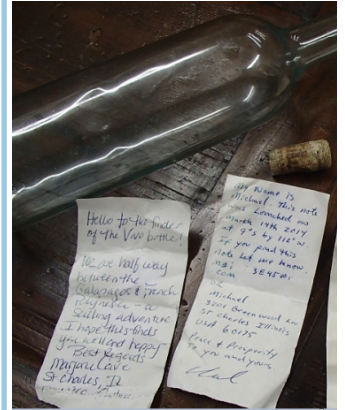
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 AUSTRALIA'S PIONEERING CRUISE LINE

Guerlain for RSSC

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has revealed its new *Seven Seas Explorer* will feature amenities from French perfume house Guerlain, including shampoo, soap, shower gel and body lotion in Penthouse Suites & above.



QUEENSLAND police have managed to make contact with some foreign sailors after discovering five messages in a bottle which had drifted more than 14,000km in two years.



Released into the South Pacific Ocean near the Galapagos Islands in 2014, the messages were written in French and English by a group of friends on a sailing adventure aboard a small vessel called the *Vivo*.

The bottle survived the Great Barrier Reef before drifting ashore on a remote beach in Far North Queensland.

Three female officers from Barnaga Police Station - Australia's northernmost mainland police station - found the bottle on the beach while exploring Ussher Point near Cape York on their day off.

After extracting the messages they found they included email addresses and attempted to send them a message.

The first to respond was 26-year-old Frenchwoman Iris Jeusel, while others included the captain of *Vivo* Michael Roberts, who said "we sent the bottle on its way at the midpoint between the Galapagos and the Marquesas Islands."

"Amazing that it not only survived but that the notes are still legible," he wrote.

Also amazing is that the sailors recorded the moment they released the bottle, with a video viewable on youtube.com.

Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY
Carnival Legend 15 Mar
Diamond Princess 16 Mar
Pacific Jewel 17 Mar
Explorer of the Seas 17 Mar
Celebrity Solstice 20 Mar
Explorer of the Seas 21 Mar

MELBOURNE
Pacific Eden 15 Mar
Diamond Princess 18 Mar
Pacific Eden 19 Mar

BRISBANE
Celebrity Solstice 17 Mar
Pacific Aria 18 Mar
Pacific Dawn 19 Mar
Pacific Aria 21 Mar
Pacific Jewel 22 Mar

HOBART
Diamond Princess 19 Mar
Explorer of the Seas 19 Mar
Diamond Princess 20 Mar
Noordam 21 Mar

DARWIN
Queen Victoria 17 Mar
Coral Discoverer 18 Mar
Dawn Princess 18 Mar
Radiance of the Seas 19 Mar
Celebrity Millenium 19 Mar

ADELAIDE
Pacific Eden 21 Mar

FREMANTLE
Astor 15 Mar
Sun Princess 20 Mar
Costa Luminosa 20 Mar

NEWCASTLE
Celebrity Solstice 19 Mar

WELLINGTON
Noordam 15 Mar

AKAROA
Noordam 16 Mar

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Taking a stroll with Ovation



ROYAL Caribbean's new *Ovation of the Seas* - which is set to grace Australian shores from Dec this year - has completed her "conveyance" from the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany.

The massive vessel took 12 years to make the trip down the River Ems to the North Sea, with thousands of revellers from the surrounding local villages lining the banks to celebrate.

The Quantum-class vessel will officially launch next month before departing Southampton for Beijing on a 52-day Global Odyssey - and after a five month Chinese season she will reposition from Singapore on a 15-day Cruiseco charter in the lead-up to her Sydney debut.

Star Japan excursions

STAR Cruises will offer 21 new shore excursions in Japan in conjunction with the change of itinerary for *SuperStar Virgo* to include Japan.

A late night stay in Naha gives guests the opportunity for both day and night excursions, while tours are also on offer to all sides of Miyakojima as well as snorkelling opportunities.

A visit to Nansha also opens up the Pearl River Delta to allow guests to explore Guangzhou, Macao, Shenzhen and Shuhai.

MEANWHILE Star Cruises is reminding agents that earlybird offers for *SuperStar Gemini* expire 31 Mar, with 2, 3 and 5 night options exploring Malaysia.

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Win a trip for two to HAWAII



Prize sponsored by Hawaiian Airlines and winner to be drawn at the event subject to terms and conditions

JITO CONNECTED Industry Networking Night

Jito Connected and The Travel Daily Group have partnered with some key industry players to bring you our largest networking night of the year

This event is a traditional mix of complimentary food, drinks and networking & is open to anyone in the Travel & Hotel Industry at all levels

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