

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 03 May 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

Scenic's guarantee

SCENIC has incorporated river cruising travel insurance into its product to provide guests with a cash refund if there are delays or cancellations.

Our ACE insurance is included in the cost of the cruise & is designed to insure for unforeseen events rather than minor delays or deviations.

The Scenic Group new river cruise guarantee will also be rolled out across Evergreen Tours.

MEANWHILE, Scenic yesterday released its 2017 Europe River Cruising brochure.

Scenic Diamond, *Scenic Emerald* and *Scenic Sapphire* will be rebuilt for 2017 with 78 cabins, along with larger wellness centres and gyms and a vitality pool.

The new program will also debut an on board cooking school and six new combination cruises.

View the brochure [HERE](#).

Norwegian free at sea

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is offering two free on board extras for new bookings made between now and 22 May.

Guests booking new five-day or longer sailings in an oceanview, balcony or mini-suite can choose from free unlimited drinks, shore excursion credits or wi-fi.

Fathom sails into Cuba

THE first US cruise to arrive in Cuba in over 50 years sailed into Havana yesterday morning.

Fathom's 704-passenger *Adonia* luxury cruise ship departed Miami on 01 May for a seven-night voyage and will also stop by Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba.

Following the inaugural cruise for the line this week, *Adonia* will operate its weeklong itineraries to Cuba every other week.

The vessel's arrival also marks the first time in decades that Cuban-born individuals have been able to travel by sea to or from their home country.

Fathom is Carnival Corporation's tenth and newest brand and operates social impact travel, which will see pax work alongside residents on programs focussed on improving the lives of families and communities (**CW** 26 Apr).

"As we worked to become the first US cruise company to sail

from the US to Cuba in more than five decades, it was clear just how much interest there is from travellers who want to experience Cuba," said Arnold Donald, ceo of Carnival Corporation.

MEANWHILE, Lindblad Expeditions is set to follow suit, following the announcement of a 10-night people-to-people itinerary titled Cuba by Land and Sea: Cultural Heritage and Natural Wonders.

The trip spends three nights in Havana before driving to Cienfuegos and embarking on a seven-night voyage of Cuba's southern coast aboard the 44-guest *Panorama II*.

On 07 Dec the first cruise will depart, with consecutive departures scheduled through Mar 2017.

Sealink buys CCC WA

SEALINK Travel Group on Fri completed its acquisition of the Captain Cook Cruises Western Australia business.

Earlier this year Sealink announced it would purchase the business, along with its seven vessels, plant equipment, all contracts & intellectual property for \$12 million (**CW** 25 Feb).

The acquisition brings Sealink's fleet to 72 vessels and the company now employs over 1,100 staff around Australia and carry approx seven million passengers a year.

RCL Q1 earnings up

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has more than doubled its adjusted new income for Q1, which came in at US\$124m (AU\$161.5m), compared to US\$45.2m (AU\$58.5) in Q1 2015.

The cruise line says its bookings remain strong, similar to last year's record high levels.

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean International has today introduced its high-speed internet service, **VOOM** fleetwide.

The internet is the fastest at sea and is offered in two packages.

Surf, the lower package leads in at US\$12.99/device/day while Surf and Stream package starts at US\$17.99/device/day.

IN ADDITION, RCI has released its itineraries for 2017/18 Caribbean Canada sailings.

New to the season are expanded Caribbean itineraries from New York and for the first time two Royal Caribbean ships - *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *Anthem of the Seas* - will be sailing from Cape Liberty.

CLIA appointment

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has appointed Caroline Johnson as senior vice president, Membership Operations in North America.

Johnson has been with CLIA for the past four months as a contractor and was most recently senior director, marketing and comms at Meetings Professional International (MPI).

Viking world cruise

VIKING Ocean Cruises has revealed *Viking Sun's* inaugural season will be spent sailing the company's first world cruise.

The 141-day voyage will stop by five continents, 35 countries and 66 ports, with 12 port overnights.

It will depart Miami 15 Dec, 2017 and explore Cuba and the Caribbean, the Panama Canal and the South Pacific, Asia, the Arabian, Red and Mediterranean Seas and will conclude in London.



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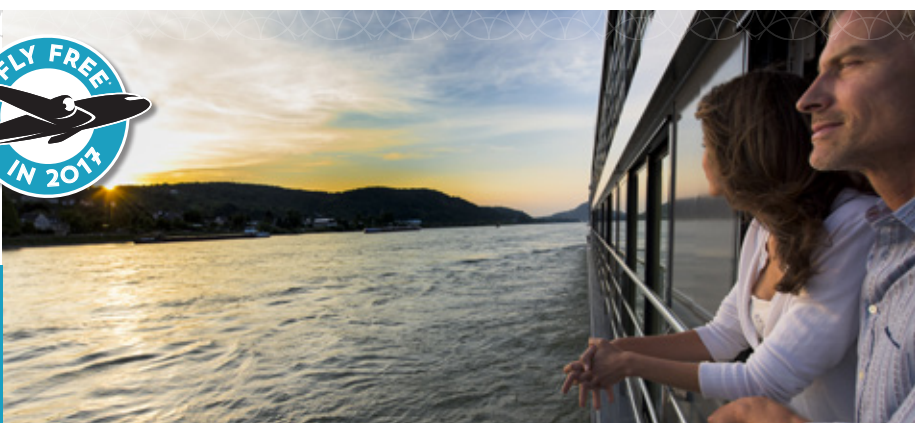


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Ovation sailings on sale

THE cruises which form the extended 2017 Australasian season for *Ovation on the Seas* have gone on sale to the public.

Four new sailings added to the season comprise of two short cruises and two mid-length voyages departing in Jan and Feb.

First *Ovation* will depart Sydney on 23 Jan for a five-night Tasmania taster cruise, followed by a 12-night voyage to New Zealand on 28 Jan.

Next the vessel will spend eight nights sailing to Tasmania and South Australia departing 09 Feb and will later embark on a three-night weekend sampler cruise departing 17 Feb.

"It's clear from the incredible response to *Ovation of the Seas*' maiden season that Australia is hungry for the best of the best – not only the biggest, boldest cruise ship these waters have ever seen, but for an entirely new way to holiday," said Adam

Armstrong, md Royal Caribbean Australia & New Zealand.

Earlier this month Royal Caribbean International announced *Ovation of the Seas* would spend an additional four weeks in Australian waters, hence the repositioning cruise would be rescheduled.

Guests booked on the original 23 Jan cruise from Sydney to Singapore have been offered first choice of sailings to rebook, including the revised itinerary sailing four weeks later.

Getaway on Douro

OVER the weekend the first of three *Getaway* episodes exploring the Douro River in Portugal with Scenic went to air.

The three episodes see *Weekend Today's* David Whitehill and *Getaway's* Catriona Rowntree venture to Lisbon, Porto, Guimarães and Provesende.

Carnival Vista arrives



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has taken delivery of *Carnival Vista* at a traditional maritime handover ceremony at the Fincantieri shipyard in Italy.

The 133,500-tonne, 3,954-pax ship boasts a suspended cycling experience called SkyRide, the first IMAX Theatre at sea and the RedFrog Pub & Brewery, serving three different kinds of beer brewed onboard.

Carnival Vista will also feature 'Family Harbor', a 24-hour area with breakfast, snacks during the day and a concierge service.

Family accommodations include tropics-inspired Havana staterooms and suites with a dedicated pool area.

The children-friendly experience extends to WaterWorks aqua park, with a 138m-long "Kaleid-o-slide" - the longest on a Carnival Cruise Line vessel.

Vista departed on her maiden voyage on 01 May, starting a summer schedule in Europe that runs through until Oct.

Mozart shore roster

CRYSTAL Cruises has released the roster of shore excursions for *Crystal Mozart's* maiden season this year.

The excursions opened for prereservation today, through Crystal's Priority Check-in & Planning Center.

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Cruise1st TV channel

CRUISE agent Cruise1st UK yesterday launched a TV Cruise Channel on Sky Digital channel 261 from 7am to 7pm.

The channel will feature in-destination guides and cruise news delivered by cruise journalists, bloggers and celebrity presenters, Cheryl Baker, Julie Peasgood and Steve Milne.

It will also feature deals from Cruise1st.



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

SYDNEY
Carnival Spirit 03 May
Pacific Aria 05 May
Dawn Princess 05 May
Pacific Jewel 06 May
Carnival Spirit 07 May
Insignia 09 May
Pacific Jewel 09 May
Pacific Aria 09 May

BRISBANE
Carnival Spirit 05 May
Pacific Dawn 07 May
Pacific Aria 07 May
Carnival Spirit 09 May

DARWIN
Coral Discoverer 06 May
Silver Discoverer 07 May
Sun Princess 08 May

CAIRNS
Insignia 04 May

COOKTOWN
Insignia 03 May

NEWCASTLE
Insignia* 08 May

AUCKLAND
Pacific Pearl 07 May

Agents cruise through France



CRUISE Marketing Group and Croisi Europe recently hosted a twin cruise famil tour on the rivers of France led by joint md John Simos.

Pictured are: Lyn Carter, Global Jetsetting; Carli Fergusson, Clean Cruising; Melissa Gartshore, All About Travel; John Simos, Cruise Marketing Group; Jantine Visser, Destination International; Kirk Walpole, Emma Whiting Travel & Cruise; Keith Lindsey, Impulse Travel; Phyllis Glavinas, Cathay International Travel and Stacey Baker, The World @ Braeside Travel.

Celebrity free flights

CELEBRITY Cruises is offering free return flights for two 14-night *Celebrity Solstice* repositioning cruises.

The first departs Sydney 08 Oct and sails to Singapore and the reverse itinerary dep 31 Oct.

Insignia cancelled

OCEANIA Cruises' *Insignia* will forego a visit to Newcastle this weekend due to a planned coal protest, *ABC News* is reporting.

Around half the guests on board had reportedly already booked tours on shore.

When contacted by CW, Oceania Cruises would not confirm the cause or if guests would be offered an alternative.

"On occasion we may alter a ship's itinerary to avoid potential disruptions that may have a negative impact on the guest experience," a spokesperson said.

Mystery Island pier

THE new \$2.5 million Mystery Island pier on Vanuatu, undertaken by RCI has opened.

It replaces a smaller pier and will allow the island to handle large cruise ships year-round.

Evergreen brochure

EVERGREEN Tours has launched its 2017 European River Cruise brochure featuring new river cruises in Portugal and France.

New additions include the 15-day Three Rivers Discovery Cruise in Portugal and France, which features two seven-night deluxe Star Ship cruises on the Douro, Rhône and Saône Rivers including transfers and 39 meals.

Prices start from \$7,985pp twin share including selected flights.

The new brochure can be downloaded **HERE**.



A MAN from Florida who was trying to run to Bermuda in an inflatable bubble has been rescued by the US coast guard.

The long-distance runner set out despite receiving a letter from the coast guard on 15 Apr warning him not to depart.

Having reviewed the man's plan, the coast guard said it would be "manifestly unsafe" and warned of possible "criminal penalties of up to seven years' confinement & a \$40,000 fine".

It's not the first time the man has attempted his journey, after he failed in Nov 2014.

The man is **pictured** in his bubble below.



The Auckland Hop On Hop Off Explorer bus stop is directly at front of the new Queens Wharf cruise ship terminal

[Click here for more details](#)

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