

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 05 January 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## New Carnival Aust President

CARNIVAL Corporation this morning confirmed an "internal reorganisation at a global level" which has seen Princess Cruises chief executive Jan Swartz additionally designated as "President, Carnival Australia".

Spokesperson Sandy Olsen told CW there were no changes to the structure of the local operation, with Ann Sherry remaining Executive Chairman of Carnival Australia while Sture Myrmell remains President of P&O Cruises Australia.

Both Ann and Sture will report to the new position of Group President filled by Jan Swartz, Olsen confirmed.

## Swan Hellenic, VOD collapse

ALL Leisure Group, the British operator of Swan Hellenic Cruises and Voyages of Discovery, has been placed in administration, impacting around 13,000 cruise pax booked on future departures.

The collapse follows confirmation that two voyages planned for this week were cancelled at the last moment for "operational reasons" (CW Tue).

In Australia the brands are represented by Discover the World, with country director Jeannie Foster telling CW today she is surprised and disappointed by the unexpected news.

"We sincerely regret any inconvenience to our travel agency customers or passengers and are in the process of advising and assisting those affected".

All Leisure Group also operated a number of tour brands including Travelsphere and Just You, which will continue trading

after being sold to G Adventures.

However a spokesperson for administrator Grant Thornton said he had no choice but to close down the cruise operations which had been "significantly loss-making over a number of years."

"The ongoing cost of funding these operations by the tours operation has created significant cash issues for the entire group, which has ultimately led to the administration of all businesses".

All Leisure Group chairman Roger Allard said Swan Hellenic and Voyages of Discovery had historically travelled to places like the eastern Mediterranean and Africa, and had struggled since the instability of the Arab Spring.

He said another key issue had been the devaluation of the British pound after the Brexit vote, with ship operating costs mostly dominated in dollars and euros.

CRUISE WEEKLY

On location in Singapore

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Seabourn which this weekend formally names *Seabourn Encore* in a gala ceremony in Singapore.

SEABOURN'S newest vessel *Seabourn Encore* will be formally christened this Sat by godmother Sarah Brightman, before an inaugural voyage bound for Indonesia.

The luxury 600-guest, all-balcony suite ship will then cruise the Great Barrier Reef before back-to-back 16-day Australia & NZ voyages.

See upcoming issues of *Travel Daily*, *Cruise Weekly* and *travelBulletin* for all the excitement of the christening.

Live Life **BIG**

**NEW YEAR SALE**

SAVE <sup>up to</sup> **30%** + <sup>US</sup> **\$400 ONBOARD CREDIT** + **50% DEPOSITS**

LEARN MORE

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL

Terms and Conditions Apply

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 05 January 2017

## Carnival's new 'Ocean Medallion'

**CARNIVAL** Corporation ceo Arnold Donald (pictured) overnight launched a new interactive technology platform which



he claims will "transform vacation travel into a highly personalised and elevated level of customised service for millions of guests".

Unveiled at the massive annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the system centres on a wearable Ocean Medallion which will be provided at no charge to cruise passengers, engraved with their name and cruise departure.

The Medallion works in conjunction with proprietary technology that features an 'Internet of Things' network of intelligent sensors said to revolutionise guest service - not just on cruise ships but in the broader travel vacation sector.

The wearable device will streamline embarkation and disembarkation, allow guests to access their staterooms without a

keycard, find friends and family on board, allow cashless on-board purchases and record dining and beverage preferences.

It will also power an array of "interactive gaming and immersive entertainment experiences," Donald said, working via a personalised digital concierge called the Ocean Compass which will be available online, on smart devices, onboard kiosks and stateroom TVs.

The wearable platform will initially debut on Princess Cruises' *Regal Princess* in Nov 2017.

Videos showcasing the Ocean Medallion can now be viewed at [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](http://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).

## Dubai unveils new cruise port



**THE** Government of Dubai has announced plans to develop a brand new cruise facility to support growing demand from the sector, located between the Palm Jumeirah and Dubai Marina.

Dubbed 'Dubai Harbour', the 186 hectare development will also be home to a 1,400 berth marina (the largest in the Middle East), a shopping mall, events arena, residential buildings, hotels, cafes and restaurants, offices & the 'Dubai Lighthouse'.

It will also integrate Dubai Int'l Marine Club and Skydive Dubai, with a view to enable the landing strip to be utilised by private jets.

To be developed by Merras and expected to take four years to construct once ground is broken, Dubai Harbour's cruise terminal

will accommodate two vessels and have a capacity of 6,000 pax.

The cruise hub will also offer a range of luxury facilities, leisure, retail and entertainment options.

"The unique destination, which adds a new dimension to Dubai's flourishing tourism industry, is set to further enhance Dubai's position as a leading global hub for maritime tourism," the govt of Dubai said on Mon.

Merras has already commenced talks with four global cruise liners, "with the aim of offering a strong value proposition for this sector".

The advanced infrastructure and world-class services at Dubai Harbour are expected to stimulate a 100% increase in the number of maritime travellers to Dubai when the project is completed.

**HURRY, ENDS TOMORROW!**

## NORWEGIAN'S FREE AT SEA

Up To US \$2,800 In Overall Value

**CHOOSE UP TO 5 FREE OFFERS\***

1. Beverage Package
2. Specialty Dining Package
3. Shore Excursion Credit
4. 250 Minutes of WiFi
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Guest Sail at a Reduced Rate\*

+ UP TO US\$500 FREE ONBOARD SPEND\*  
+ US\$50 REDUCED DEPOSITS†

**TASMANIA SAMPLER CRUISING ROUNDTrip SYDNEY**  
5 Days NORWEGIAN JEWEL  
Departs 12 NOVEMBER 2017  
From **\$1,208 PP.** \*TWIN SHARE\*

**SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA CRUISING ROUNDTrip SYDNEY**  
9 Days NORWEGIAN JEWEL  
Departs 14 DECEMBER 2017  
From **\$1,654 PP.** \*TWIN SHARE\*

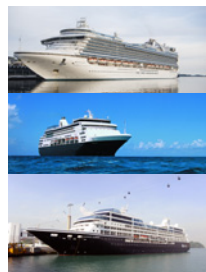
**HAWAII CRUISE 4 ISLANDS IN 7 DAYS**  
7 Days PRIDE OF AMERICA  
Departs EVERY SATURDAY, YEAR ROUND  
From **\$2,112 PP.** \*TWIN SHARE\*

**SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA UP TO 27 DINING OPTIONS**  
9 Days NORWEGIAN GETAWAY  
Departs MULTIPLE DATES  
16 MAY - 1 SEP 2017  
From **\$2,025 PP.** \*TWIN SHARE\*

CHOOSE FROM OVER 350 DESTINATIONS. CLICK HERE FOR MORE ITINERARIES.

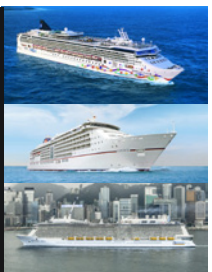
**NORWEGIAN** *Feel Free*  
CRUISE LINE®

\*Prices cover the cruise only for the least expensive inside stateroom, and are per person in AUS based on twin share, inclusive of all fees and taxes, onboard gratuities and fuel costs (subject to change). Prices and itineraries are correct as at 3 January 2017 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Prices do not cover all product and service offerings that relate to the cruise. Tasmania Sampler: Price based on a 12 November 2017 cruise. Southern Australia: Price based on 14 December 2017 cruise. Hawaii: Price based on 2 December 2017 cruise. Scandinavia & Russia: Price based on 1 September 2017 cruise. \*Free at Sea (Hawaii Free at Sea offer varies. Visit [www.ncl.com.au](http://www.ncl.com.au) for full details.); Valid on 5+ day sailings. Offer valid until 16 January 2017 unless extended. Offer is non-refundable, non-transferable, and has no monetary value. US\$2,800 value includes all 5 offers when you book. The Haven or a Suite. Applicable dates subject to change at any time without notice. Haven & Suites bookings receive all 5 offers; Oceanviews & above choose 2 offers or Studios or Insides get 1 free offer. -Onboard credit offer ends on 6 January 2017. Credit amount is per stateroom, in USD, and will be applied to the 1st and 2nd guest in the stateroom. Onboard credit is per stateroom, based on cruise length and category booked. Onboard credit has no monetary value and is non-transferable. It may not be used toward onboard service charges or pre-purchased activities. †US\$50 deposit: per person deposit for mini-suites & below. Applicable on fleetwide sailings. Haven & Suites categories are not applicable for this offer. Offer is not applicable to any Norwegian Sky sailings visiting Cuba as a port of call. Sailings must be booked 90 days in advance. Offer and combinability with other promotional offers is subject to change at any time per Norwegian Cruise Line's discretion. Other restrictions may apply. For full terms & conditions, visit [www.ncl.com.au](http://www.ncl.com.au). All rights reserved. Norwegian Cruise Line is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. All rights reserved. Norwegian Cruise Line is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Ships' registry: BAHAMAS & UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ©2016 NCL Corporation Ltd. NCL Australia Pty Ltd. ABN 80 607 578 781.



Which ship is for you?  
Find out in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE to read**  
**travelBulletin**



## Symphony on Sydney harbour



**PASSENGERS** lucky enough to be on board *Crystal Symphony* on New Years Eve were treated to spectacular views of the Sydney Harbour fireworks show.

*Crystal's* guests were brought aboard catamarans to join the Harbour of Light parade - a flotilla of vessels decorated with rope lights and other adornments to glide through Sydney Harbour as they made their way from Goat Island to Cockatoo Island and back, in time for a front-row seat of the Sydney Fireworks display.

The view from their impressive location on the harbour is pictured above.

**MEANWHILE** *Crystal* has also expanded its 'Crystal Clear Choices' promotion which offers incentives such as discounts, air credits or shipboard credits.

More than twelve 2018 sailings have been added to the roster of included voyages, with a new booking deadline of 31 Mar 2017.

Newly added itineraries explore Australia, the South Pacific and the Panama Canal and also notably include *Crystal Serenity's* second Northwest Passage expedition planned for Aug.

## SkySea appointment

**CRUISE** industry veteran Ken Muskat has been named as the new ceo of SkySea, a Royal Caribbean-backed cruise brand focusing on the Chinese market.

SkySea is a joint venture between RCL and Ctrip, and currently operates the *Golden Era* on regular Shanghai departures.

Muskat joins the cruise line from MSC Cruises where he was in charge of expanding the company's US operations, and is also a former chairman of CLIA's Trade Relations Committee.

## Uniworld sales role

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruise Collection this morning announced the appointment of Linda Hussey as its new sales manager for Western Australia and South Australia.

Perth-based Hussey commenced with Uniworld last month, and has more than 20 years' experience across retail, customer service and sales including a decade with Qantas Holidays and more recently with King Tours & Travel.

## Silversea Cuba offer

**SILVERSEA** Cruises has confirmed it still has limited availability on its *Silver Explorer* voyage to Cuba this coming Oct.

The 11-day expedition cruise departs from Nassau on 06 Oct and cruises via Cuba and Colombia to Panama, with fully inclusive fares leading in at \$10,700 per person.

Early booking savings of 10% are also available for bookings made and paid in full by 28 Feb 2017.

More info on 02 9255 0600.

## Princess kids' centres

**PRINCESS** Cruises has unveiled plans to expand its "Discovery at Sea" partnership, with new look on-board child and youth centres which will roll out fleet-wide.

The new offering will include 'The Treehouse' for ages 3-7 (formerly Pelicans); 'The Lodge' for 8-12 year olds (formerly Shockwaves); and 'The Beach House' for ages 13-17 (formerly known as Remix).

New child and teen centre programming will include *MythBusters* science activities, along with new Camp Discovery destination-themed programs focusing on the Caribbean, Alaska and Europe which will "immerse young cruisers into the culture, nature and customs of these regions".

*Sea Princess* will be the first ship in Princess Cruises' Australasian-based fleet to offer the new centres from Oct 2017, with *Sun Princess* to follow in May 2018.

Princess Cruises vice president for Australia & NZ, Stuart Allison, said the Discovery brands were part of the cruise line's commitment to its youngest cruisers and their families as part of its 'Come Back New' promise.

## Voyager visits 'Gong

**ROYAL** Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* became the second and largest ever passenger cruise ship to visit Wollongong, south of Sydney, last week, with her maiden arrival following last year's *Radiance of the Seas* visit.

*Voyager* returns to Wollongong again on 18 Jan, while *Radiance* will return in Jan 2018 prior to the maiden visit by *Explorer of the Seas* scheduled for Mar 2018.



**CRUISING** on a very very small scale is set to hit Australia's Murray River, with a record field of participants for next month's Red Bull Dinghy Derby.

Hosted by the Riverland Dinghy Club, over 100 entrants are expected for the 100km race which sees competitors cruise from the Murray before being diverted to a network of narrow creeks where their tinnies weave a path through submerged logs and overhanging branches at speeds of over 50 knots.

It's the 37th time the Dinghy Derby has taken place - but the event has gained global prominence since Red Bull came on as a sponsor in 2015.

To view a promotional video for the white-knuckle event see [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](http://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).



*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).

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications

*Cruise Weekly* is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper

Editorial: [info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Managing Editor: Jon Murrie

Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Nathalie Craig, Bonnie Tai, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan, Melanie Tchakmadjian [advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Business Manager: Jenny Piper [accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Travel Daily CRUISE WEEKLY **travelBulletin** business events news **Pharmacy DAILY**