

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Ahoy issued notice

AHOY Buccaneers has received a direction notice from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) after a guest was left on a beach in the Kimberley.

Director Doug Gould told CW the pax was at no time at risk.

"She had wandered away from the group and was on the beach less than five minutes before the tender returned with firewood as that was the camp site for that night".

Gould said "a head count is now completed at the end of each excursion," and added "AMSA has an obligation to investigate every complaint regardless of whether there is any grounds to the claim".

## Cunard to grow its fleet to four ships

CUNARD has inked a deal for a new ship to debut in 2022 to help it "meet increasing consumer demand" and "drive its long-term global growth strategy".

The 113,000 GRT vessel will be the second largest ship in Cunard's fleet (CW breaking news), behind the 149,215 GRT *Queen Mary 2*, but will pack in 309 more pax than *QM2* for a total capacity of 3,000 guests.

To be built at Fincantieri's shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy, the "next-generation" vessel will be the fourth in the fleet and the 249th to fly the Cunard flag since the company's founding in 1839.

The new order brings the total tally of ships which parent company Carnival Corporation has ordered for delivery 2018-2022 to 18.

Arnold Donald, chief exec officer of Carnival Corporation said "while today's news helps drive



Cunard's overall strategic growth plans, we also look forward to launching this next-generation cruise ship to help meet increasing global demand and entice even more travellers to explore the Cunard experience."

Donald added that "fleet enhancement is an important part of our ongoing goal to exceed guest expectations.

"This includes replacing less efficient ships with more efficient vessels over time as part of our managed capacity growth."

Cunard promised further details about the new ship from 2018.

The line hasn't officially released the name of the ship, however rendered images and files for the vessel are titled 'Halifax', which is the birth city of the line's founder.

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# CRUISE

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Learn why Cuba is so hot right now and who's sailing there in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

## Princess expands NZ



**PRINCESS** Cruises will roll out phase two of its "Across the Ditch Program", expanding the offering over the next 12 months to introduce 50 new shore tours and a refreshed menu.

Launching on Princess Cruises' New Zealand itineraries this summer, the additions follow the program's launch last year (*CW* 01 Nov 16).

Princess said this year's edition had been "designed to further immerse guests in NZ culture and cuisine," with fresh offerings including expansion of the Matariki Festival to provide more opportunities to learn about Maori heritage and participate in traditional customs.

A new menu will serve up local delicacies such as a traditional Hangi dinner, NZ lamb & Pavlova,

washed down with NZ beers.

Fresh shore tours include a Piha bush and beach eco tour in Auckland, a Te Puia Thermal Reserve, Maori arts and Agrodome tour in Tauranga and Mt Sunday.

Also new is a Lord of the Rings sights tour in Akaroa and an Oamaru and Moeraki Boulders adventure in Port Chalmers.

Princess Cruises vice president Australia & New Zealand, Stuart Allison said the expansion follows the success of the program.

"Australians' love of visiting their trans-Tasman neighbours shows no signs of waning," Allison said, adding "with the expansion of our Across the Ditch program, these guests will now be able to enjoy an even more enriched, uniquely NZ experience".

## Viking takes delivery of 4th ocean vessel

**VIKING** Cruises has taken delivery of its fourth ocean ship, *Viking Sun*, which will visit Australia during Viking's first world cruise, sailing from Miami-London on a 141-day itinerary departing 15 Dec.

The occasion was marked by a delivery ceremony which took place yesterday at Fincantieri's shipyard in Ancona, Italy.

*Viking Sun* has capacity for 930 guests in all-veranda rooms starting from 25m<sup>2</sup> in size and features 14 Explorer Suites ranging from 70m<sup>2</sup> through to 108m<sup>2</sup>.

## Royal Caribbean push



**ROYAL** Caribbean International has launched a new brand campaign in Australia and New Zealand urging consumers to "come seek" the Royal Caribbean difference.

A 30 second ad in NSW and Queensland went live during last night's primetime TV slot and forms part of a larger blast which includes a mix of outdoor, press, digital and social amplification.

The push is targeting Australians who are new to the Royal Caribbean brand and new to cruising and highlights features and technologies which are uniquely Royal Caribbean, such as the 90m tall North Star viewing platform, the ice-skating rink and iFLY skydiving simulator.

"Come Seek is an invitation to Australians and New Zealanders to re-consider everything they think they know about cruising," said Kathryn Valk,



director of sales and marketing, Royal Caribbean.

The new campaign comes as the brand marks its 10th anniversary of bringing its ships down under.

"Each year for the past 10 years, we have been lifting the bar even higher and taking the cruise experience to a new level, by bringing newer and larger award-winning ships to Australian and New Zealand waters and helping to drive the incredible growth in cruise nationally," Valk concluded.

**MEANWHILE**, RCI has celebrated its 10th year and the launch of the summer cruising season with a birthday sale offering up to 40% off a range of local and int'l itineraries.

Sale ends 31 Oct.

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## Silversea details *Whisper* & *Wind* refurbbs

SILVERSEA Cruises has confirmed details of its planned refurbishments of *Silver Whisper* and *Silver Wind* in Dec.

Both ships' public spaces will be refreshed and decor will be updated to reflect that of Silversea's new ship, *Silver Muse*.

*Silver Whisper* will undergo technical improvements and carpet replacements and upgrades will be carried out in La Terrazza restaurant, the Observation & Panorama lounge.

Works in *Silver Wind*'s public spaces include the reupholstering of chairs and new carpets for the casino, and a new floor upgrade in the spa and beauty salon.

The move is part of the line's fleetwide refurbishment program.

## Port Spotlight: Kotor, Montenegro

**AZAMARA Quest's** Captain Carl Smith reveals his top tips for his favourite European port to pass on to your clients.



**DO:** I love the hike up to St John's Fortress at the top of the hill. Dotted with old churches and war-time ruins, the walk is rich in history as well as beauty. And the view at the top looking out upon Kotor Bay is out of this world!

**EAT:** I love the pizza with Njegušk prosciutto! Montenegro's crisp sea and mountain air apparently give this cured meat its flavour!

**SECRET INSIDER TIP:** Visit "The Lady of the Rock" opposite Perast – this beautiful church sitting atop a man-made island is teeming with maritime

history and mythology, and is considered a guardian angel to all sailors – and cruise ships - that pass by.

### BEST TRAVEL ADVICE I'VE BEEN GIVEN:

Pack everything you think you will need - then remove 20% from the case! You're always bound to pick up keepsakes of your travels along the way, so you want to leave room in those suitcases, especially if you're catching a flight back to Australia, post cruise.

## India river cruise push



**FAR** Horizon Tours India, operator of *MV Mahabaahu*, which sails the Brahmaputra River, has embarked on an awareness campaign in Australia in partnership with India Tourism and Taj Hotels & Resorts.

In Sydney last night for an event with 60 attendees from the Australian travel trade, Sanjay Basu, managing director Far Horizon Tours India, hailed the vessel as being among the newest and largest river cruise ships in India to traverse the north east Assam region.

Launched in 2011, *MV Mahabaahu* has capacity for 46 guests across 23 rooms, 11 of which feature a private balcony.

The ship also offers a pool, Jacuzzi, spa and lounge area. Itineraries range from two to seven nights with an array of touring options through villages, safaris, temples and tea estates.

For details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Basu is **pictured** (second from right) with Kanchan Kukreja, assistant director India Tourism (third from left) and other trade dignitaries in Sydney last night.

## Viking launches new Alaska extensions

**VIKING** Cruises has added two new cruise extensions to its 11-day Alaska & the Inside Passage ocean itinerary.

The additions are a three-day extension to Anchorage or the more in-depth six-day Denali Explorer with Anchorage and Talkeetna which travels deep into the Denali National Park.

**MEANWHILE**, Viking Cruises' agent incentive giving away an eight-day Danube Waltz (Christmas Markets) river cruise and an eight-day Turquoise Caribbean Seas ocean cruise ends 11:59pm AEST 30 Sep.

The prizes will go to agents with the most river & ocean bookings.

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## G Adv new trip

**G ADVENTURES** has launched a new small-group sailing adventure in Sri Lanka commencing 02 Feb.

The seven-day return trip from Mirissa travels along Sri Lanka's southern coast, calling at Galle, Kudawella & villages.

"We're thrilled to be the first adventure company to explore Sri Lanka by sea," says Vince Donnelly, global sailing manager, G Adventures.

## Tauck Passion Play

**TAUCK** has begun accepting bookings for its 2020 Oberammergau Land Tours and River Cruises packages.

The Passion Play has been combined with two cruise packages along the Danube and Rhine rivers.

For more information, or to book call 1300 732 300.

## SAGA Cruises' new ship



**UK-BASED** Saga Cruises has confirmed a second ship option with shipbuilder Meyer Werft, to begin sailing in 2020.

To be named *Spirit of Adventure*, the vessel will be similar in external design to its sister ship, *Spirit of Discovery*, which will debut in Jul 2019.

It will be approx 236m long, carry fewer than 1,000 passengers and offer all-balcony cabins.

Saga chief executive officer Lance Batchelor said "our first new ship, *Spirit of Discovery*, will be in service in Jun 2019 and with pre-sales being very strong,

this confidence in demand has supported our decision to expand the newbuild fleet and purchase our second new ship, to be delivered in Aug 2020".

The cruise line offers boutique cruising departing from UK ports and its smaller sized ships sail allow it to venture to lesser-known ports.

Destination the line visits include Norway, The Mediterranean, Caribbean, Baltic, Canary Islands and Iceland.

In 2019 Saga Cruises will retire its smaller, 449-passenger ship, *Saga Pearl II*.

## Carnival digi apps

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has launched two new digital entertainment options for cruise passengers.

PlayOcean is a portfolio of mobile games split into two apps - PlayOcean Everywhere and PlayOcean Casino - which will be downloadable from the Apple and Android app stores.

Carnival Corp will also launch OceanView, a digital streaming channel that will be available for free on land and at sea on streaming platforms Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV and Roku.

OceanView will be available on more than half of its ships.

The products will be available later this year.

## Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	02 Oct
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	29 Sep
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	30 Sep
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	02 Oct
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	29 Sep
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	02 Oct

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**THE Titanic** is setting sail again in the form of an immersive re-enactment of James Cameron's 1997 film *Titanic*.

Sydney Harbour will play host to the cinema experience, which includes meals, drinks and a recreation of the tragic sinking.

The five-hour cruise will involve a mix of theatre and cinema across First, Second and Third classes of the ship.

Guests will be required to dress up in 1912 fashion and will be assigned roles during the night.

Organisers Beyond Cinema are still trying to work out how to recreate the famous sinking scene on the Harbour.

Tickets start from \$75.

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