

Cruise Weekly today

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

Avalon drops Myanmar for 2019

AVALON Waterways has cancelled all of its river cruises in Myanmar next year, citing reduced interest in the destination from US travellers.

2019 Myanmar sailings on the Irrawaddy River are no longer listed on the Avalon website.

Avalon Waterways stressed that safety and security was not a factor in the decision to suspend ops, with the brand's 2018 Irrawaddy departures to continue as scheduled.

Speakers at a recent CLIA river cruise forum noted a decrease in sales due to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar's north-west.

Carnival Corp continues reshuffle

CARNIVAL Corporation has announced another round of appointments across its multiple brands & business units globally.

Kelly Clark, svp and chief ethics officer for Carnival Australia, Princess Cruises, HAL and Seabourn, has assumed oversight of the legal department as general counsel and Simeon Waldron is now svp and cfo of Carnival Australia & Princess Cruises.

Natalya Leahy has stepped into the role of svp and cfo for Holland America Line and Seabourn and Neil Rippon is now vp, domestics, Europe, and exotics product management for Princess Cruises.

MEANWHILE, P&O Cruises has appointed Gabby Oliver as a dedicated bdm for New Zealand.

She was previously a travel agent for Cruiseabout New Zealand and prior to that an onboard photographer for P&O Cruises UK.



Oliver replaces Richard Waugh who looked after the New Zealand market for the past few months and will continue to focus his efforts on Queensland.

Carnival Corporation has also named the senior officers for its new ship for Carnival Cruise Line, *Carnival Panorama* (pictured).

Carnival Panorama's Captain will be Carlo Queirolo, the chief engineer will be Nunzio Priolo & hotel director will be Damir Mrcic.

The appointments follow a series of recent previously announced promotions including Stuart Allison to svp, Asia-Pacific planning and operations, for the Princess Cruises brand, Deanna Austin to cco for Princess (**CW** 21 Dec) and Anthony Kaufman to exec vice president, professional services and cfo for Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, Seabourn and Carnival Australia (**CW** 05 Apr).

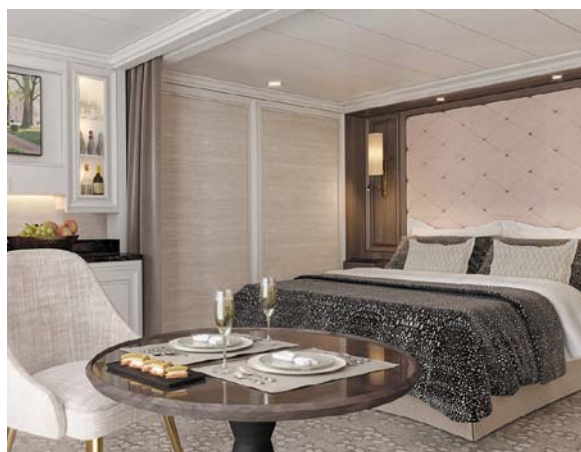
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Evergreen 2019 Europe program



EVERGREEN Cruises & Tours has released its 2019 Europe River Cruising brochure, including the addition of small ship voyages on the Dalmatian Coast and new Russian river combinations.

An array of classic European river cruises is also on offer, with

prices starting at just \$3,000 per person for an eight-day Amsterdam to Basel voyage, or \$4,595ppts for the classic 15-day Amsterdam to Budapest itinerary.

Evergreen gm Angus Crichton told **CW** the company's pax had responded enthusiastically to the recent launch of new 'Star Ships' in France & Portugal, while the new 38-pax *MS Adriatic Princess* luxury yacht in Croatia (**pictured**) is complemented with a land tour taking in Lake Bled, Dubrovnik, Zagreb and Budapest.

Crichton said 2019 earlybird offers could see clients save up to \$5,300 per couple for bookings made by 31 Aug - 1300 383 747.

P&O GoCatch deal

P&O Cruises is rolling out its partnership with ride-sharing company GoCatch nationwide following a pilot in Brisbane earlier this year.

The tie-up sees passengers departing on cruises of up to six nights from any of P&O's Australian homeports receive a \$50 per room GoCatch credit to go from home to port.

Those on cruises of seven nights or longer will receive \$100 GoCatch credit per room.

The service is one of the features of P&O's 3 x Free Sale which also includes up to \$300 onboard spending money and a daily scoop of New Zealand Natural Ice Cream on all bookings made before 05 Jun.



Discover Silversea's splitting of *Silver Spirit* in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

Explorer bids farewell



ROYAL Caribbean Cruises wrapped up its 2017/18 season down under on Sun, with *Explorer of the Seas* setting course for her winter homeport of Seattle.

Six ships spread across the Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises brands were based in Sydney during the season, offering 96 cruises throughout Australia, NZ, the South Pacific and Asia.

The season saw a total of

330,000 guests deliver an injection of around \$198m into the Australian economy in passenger spend alone.

Highlights include the second and longest season for *Ovation of the Seas* while Azamara Club Cruises launched its first country intensive voyages and inaugural World Journey, a 102-night cruise from Sydney to London.

Explorer is **pictured** leaving Sydney on Sun.

Photo Credit: Tim Faircloth

Celebrity Cruises new fitness program

CELEBRITY Cruises and Canyon Ranch have revealed a new onboard program with 20 new fitness classes and seminars.

The fresh offerings are across six categories which include interval workouts, conditioning pilates classes, acupuncture and seminars on what Celebrity Cruises is calling "age-defying technology", mindfulness and nutrition.

The program will launch in Jun.

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Carnival

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CRUISE



Tuesday 24th April 2018

New Viking voyages

VIKING Cruises has released five segments of its 2019 world cruise on *Viking Sun*, two of which visit Australia.

The Australian options are the 32-day Islands of the South Pacific, which will sail from Santiago to Sydney on 12 Feb, and the 29-day Southern Australia to South Africa, leaving Sydney on 16 Mar to head to Durban.

Viking Cruises md Australia and New Zealand Michelle Black told **CW** "guest feedback indicated that there is huge demand for ports on the world cruise but consumers wanted the option to visit them on shorter itineraries".

MEANWHILE, Viking Cruises yesterday kicked off a Winter Wanderlust campaign featuring savings of up to \$6,300 per couple and fly free deals on select itineraries.

Regent incentive

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises is running a "sell three & sail free" incentive for Australian & New Zealand travel agents.

Agents who make three new bookings by 30 Jun on select European cruises departing between 02 Jul-18 Nov will receive a luxury suite on a Mediterranean cruise on *Seven Seas Voyager*.

For more information, on the promo, **CLICK HERE**.

MEANWHILE, Regent Seven Seas Cruises has set a new record for the most bookings in a single day, with the debut of reservations for *Seven Seas Splendor* sparking a 32% increase over the previous all-time high.

Although *Splendor* bookings for 2020 were strong, the company said interest also drove heavy demand for the other four Regent vessels.

Norwegian Bliss delivery



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has taken delivery of *Norwegian Bliss* from Meyer Werft during a ceremony in Bremerhaven, Germany, late last week.

The ship embarked on a two-day European inaugural preview cruise hosted by senior executives before beginning her transatlantic journey over the weekend.

Her inaugural tour will commence with two-night preview events in New York, Miami and Los Angeles and will wrap up with a christening ceremony, sailing from her first homeport at Pier 66 in Seattle, Washington on 30 May.

"*Norwegian Bliss* is one of our most highly-anticipated ships to date, and today marks another exciting milestone for the newest

and most innovative ship of our young and modern fleet," said Andy Stuart, pres and ceo of NCL.

The 168,028 gross tonne vessel offers the largest competitive race track at sea, with a two-level electric-car race track, along with an open-air laser tag course & an Aqua Park with two multi-storey waterslides, one of which extends over the edge of the ship and loops down to the deck below.

Norwegian Bliss is also home to exclusive suites in The Haven by Norwegian, studio staterooms for solo travellers with virtual ocean views, and connecting staterooms for large groups and families.

Pictured are: Bernard Meyer, md of Meyer Werft; Captain Karl Staffan Bengtsson and Andy Stuart, president and ceo of NCL.



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iExpeditions Legend

IEXPEDITIONS is offering Australian and New Zealand travel agents 5% commission on an Antarctic voyage on EYOS Expeditions' *Legend*.

Spots on the private super-yacht departure are being offered on a per cabin basis, with the vessel previously only being available for full charter (**CW** 19 Apr).

The eight-day expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula departs 05 Jan - **CLICK HERE**.

Pacific Princess World cruise



PRINCESS Cruises has unveiled details of a 2020 World Cruise to be undertaken by *Pacific Princess*.

The 670-guest ship will visit 42 destinations on five continents, with the 2020 voyage following a similar itinerary to the 2019 World Cruise which proved very popular with guests.

The 111-day roundtrip voyage departs Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on 05 Jan 2020 and crosses the equator four times, with maiden visits to Zanzibar, the Seychelles and Kaikoura, New Zealand.

There's also a call in Melbourne - the first on a World Cruise for Princess Cruises.

The voyage goes on sale tomorrow, with Princess in the USA promoting fares from US\$22,999 per person, along with early booking perks such as onboard credits and discounts for past Princess guests.

Local pricing for the 2020 *Pacific Princess* World Cruise wasn't available via the Princess Australia website as **Cruise Weekly** went to press today.

Wolber to host Crystal president's cruise

GUESTS sailing on Crystal Cruises' annual President's Cruise aboard *Crystal Serenity* departing 29 Jul will be joined by the cruise line's new pres, Tom Wolber.

The 14-day "Vineyards and Vistas" voyage will feature special events and activities hosted by Wolber and his wife.

This will include a presentation by Wolber on what is on the horizon for Crystal, receptions and dinners throughout the sailing, as well as a hosted shore excursion in Barcelona, Spain.

Wolber joined Crystal Cruises from Walt Disney Company in Sep, following the exit of Edie Rodriguez (**CW** 19 Sep).



Tomato eyes cruise

NEW entrant to the travel technology space, Tomatosoft, has flagged plans to eventually add cruise to its offering.

The soft-launched travel agent platform pays agents up to 10% commission on online deals from daily deals & group buying sites including Kogan Travel and Groupon.

Co-founder and md Derek Lam said the next phase for the platform was to add other products - including cruise.

He said Tomatosoft aspired to cut out admin work for agents, so they could save time and instead spend it on "whatever they want to do".

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Pacific Eden</i>	24 Apr
<i>Sun Princess</i>	26 Apr
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	26 Apr
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	29 Apr
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	30 Apr

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Aria</i>	24 Apr
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	28 Apr
<i>Sun Princess</i>	28 Apr
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	28 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	29 Apr

CAIRNS

<i>Sea Princess</i>	25 Apr
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DARWIN

<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	25 Apr
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	26 Apr
<i>Insignia</i>	30 Apr

AUCKLAND

<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	25 Apr
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THIS woman probably won't be seen on a commercial cruise liner any time soon.

Tatiana Akhmedova, the estranged wife of Russian billionaire Farkhad Akhmedov, has been awarded ownership of a \$500m superyacht as part of a divorce settlement ordered by a UK court.

The 115m *MV Luna* is currently impounded in a Dubai dry dock, with the judge saying Akhmedov tried to hide his ownership of the vessel and shift it to the UAE to put it beyond the reach of a British jurisdiction.

Luna, originally built for rival oligarch Roman Abramovich, has 50 crew, a 20m swimming pool and two helipads.