

Cruise Weekly today

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

NZ cruise increase

STATS New Zealand has today released cruise ship traveller and expenditure figures for the year ended Jun 2018, revealing a rise in expenditure, as a result of more voyages and passengers.

The NZ cruise industry welcomed 259,000 pax, up 17% from 2017, with Aussie numbers increasing by 4,000.

Cruise ship expenditure is up 18.3% (NZ\$67.1m), reaching NZ\$434m, along with spending by cruise visitors which climbed to NZ\$284m, up 31.8% (NZ\$68.6m).

Auckland was the most visited port and spend totalled NZ\$131.4m up 11.2%.

\$200m ports investment for Tasmania

THE body overseeing Tasmania's cruise sector has released a new 15-year masterplan, which will guide \$200m in infrastructure development in Hobart, Burnie, Devonport and Bell Bay.

TasPorts chairman Stephen Bradford said the new Port Master Plans and an array of associated major projects would help meet customer demand, attract new business and provide value to customers.

Key projects include the reorganisation of the cruise precinct at Hobart's Macquarie Wharf to provide additional berths for passenger cruise ships, and more cruise facilities at Burnie to enable additional vessel visits and tourism growth.

Up to \$60 million will be invested in a new Antarctic logistics facility in Hobart to support a new Australian Antarctic Division icebreaker



which will replace the existing *Aurora Australis*, while Devonport East will be expanded to provide a new home for larger *Spirit of Tasmania* ferries.

Paul Weedon, ceo of TasPorts, said the organisation would also continue to support existing operations at King and Flinders Islands, Port Latta, Inspection

Head, Strahan, Stanley and Sullivans Cove in Hobart.

Sullivans Cove will also be enhanced to make it a "visitor-friendly waterfront tourist destination," Weedon said, while \$50-\$60m will be spent at Devonport to extend berthing facilities for passengers, cargo and freight.

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CRUISE



Thursday 16th August 2018

More cruise choice

A NEW report released by travel network Virtuoso has highlighted cruising as a popular choice due to its differentiation, offering travellers "the ability to choose the kind of cruise that is right for them" said Michael Londregan, Virtuoso Asia-Pacific managing director.

The report said cruising has continued to take "a solid share of Australian travellers' focus" with the industry becoming more diverse.

"Across the industry we are seeing so many more options available now which means people are more likely to get something that fits them - they are getting the right tailored solution," Londregan said.

The results were delivered at the 30th annual Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas earlier this week.

Seabourn collection

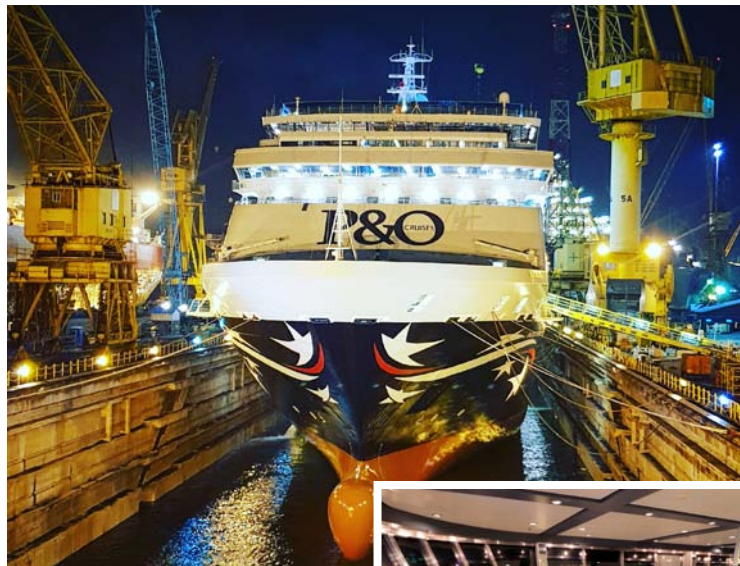
SEABOURN has released its 2019/20 "Extraordinary Worlds" Cruise Collection, showcasing more than 180 cruises that will visit more than 450 destinations in almost 100 countries around the world.

Highlights of the 128-page brochure include Seabourn's first voyage to Cuba, a World Cruise, as well as a page dedicated to Mindful Living Excursions, a range of optional tours created in partnership with integrative medicine pioneer Dr Andrew Weil.

Also featured is a two-page, quick reference Cruise Planning Calendar listing ships and cruises scheduled on Seabourn's five ships through 2019 & northern winter 2020.

To access a copy of the new Collection, visit the website at www.seabourn.com.

Aria's new look on song



P&O Cruises has announced that *Pacific Aria* has emerged from her 12-day dry dock in Singapore boasting a range of new features and furnishings.

Among the new enhancements is a refreshed Dome venue (inset) which has now taken on a modern nautical theme with dark blue and white colour schemes and softer lighting.

Further renovations include updates to the The Elemis Spa, which now sports a new Barber Shop offering professional grooming service, hot towel shaves, and beard trimming.



Aria's 28 suites, 120 balcony cabins and Penthouse now also feature fresh carpet and outdoor furniture, totalling 1,000 furniture units & 10,000m² of new carpet.

Aria returns to her homeport of Brisbane in Oct.

Pictured: *Pacific Aria* during her recent dry dock in Singapore.

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Explorer down under



Restless holidays

A **NEW** survey conducted by Princess Cruises has found that 65% of Aussies find it hard to get to sleep while on holidays.

The cruise line's 2018 *Global Relaxation Report* found many Aussie respondents suffered from "holiday-dampening," sleep-related side effects of travel that included disturbed sleep and insomnia.

Princess' new Princess Luxury Beds will be available to pax aboard the *Majestic Princess*, which arrives locally in Sep.

Patagonia in focus

EXPEDITION cruise line Australis has announced a series of photography-themed cruises hosted by renowned *National Geographic* photographer Nori Jemil.

Cruises sail the waters off Patagonia and will feature seminars run by Jemil, where she instructs passengers on how to master taking photos of the rugged terrain of the South American region.

The first four-night cruise departs 17 Feb 2019.

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises will debut its *Seven Seas Explorer* (**pictured**) in Australian and New Zealand waters from Nov 2020 as part of its newly released 2020/21 series of itineraries.

Seven Seas Explorer will offer nine different itineraries for Australian and New Zealand passengers, including an 18-night Singapore to Sydney "Balinese Celebration" cruise, plus a 14-night Sydney to Auckland "Majesty of Milford" cruise.

Explorer will offer one itinerary less in 2020/21 than the five journeys scheduled in Australia for *Voyager* and *Navigator* in 2019/20.

After completing her Australian season, *Explorer* will head to Asia

and Europe, with new ports of call including La Rochelle, France; Stornoway (Hebrides), Scotland; Porto Empedocle and Porto Torres, Italy; and Cabo Frio, Brazil.

Jason Montague, Regent Seven Seas Cruises' president and chief executive officer, said the new itineraries were about "destinations and explorations that excite and inspire".

"The best luxury voyages pair magnificent, intimate ships and gracious onboard hospitality with remarkable destinations and local immersive activities," he added.

The new collection, which includes 167 voyages across 11 ports on board five ships, will also offer additional free pre- and post-cruise land tour options.

Royal bans emotional support animals

ROYAL Caribbean International has updated its animal policy to prohibit emotional support animals on its cruises, according to a report by *CBS Miami*.

The company now states that emotional support animals are not recognised by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a move that follows a number of travel companies revising their policies on the practice such as American Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

Reservations made prior to 30 Jul will be unaffected by the change.

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Riviera 2019 brox

RIVIERA Travel has launched its new Australian brochure for the 2019 season of European river cruises, featuring three new ships and a fresh Switzerland package.

The brochure includes a seven-night Rhine Cruise to Switzerland with departures in May, Jun and Aug 2019 on board the new *George Eliot*.

Another highlight is the 14-night Heart of Europe sailing from Cologne to Budapest from \$3,959pp twin-share and a Budapest to Black Sea sailing, from \$5,969ppts.

Celebrity's Edgy space



CELEBRITY Cruises has unveiled new technologically advanced entertainment offerings to be on *Celebrity Edge*, including a newly designed theatre and club space.

Set to debut in Nov this year, both areas were designed in collaboration with respected architects to create a progressive and modern feel.

"Entertainment on *Celebrity* is daring and bold, dynamic and refreshing, surrounding you at every turn," said Celebrity Cruises president and chief executive officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

"The entertainment on *Celebrity Edge* takes this philosophy further than ever before...we are changing the future of our



entertainment," she added.

The Theatre features four stage areas, three large projection screens, and a stage that extends into the audience area.

The Club will boast a 1920s theme, offering craft cocktails and the Hypno Cam Experience, an ocean dance party featuring a high-tech cameras.

Pictured: renders of The Theatre (top) & The Club (inset).

OOE launches three Antarctic cruises

ONE Ocean Expeditions (OOE) has launched three new Antarctic cruise itineraries on its three-vessel fleet, starting Nov 2019.

The itineraries include a 12-night voyage, Christmas in Antarctica and the Weddell Sea; a 10-night Antarctica in-Depth (Circle Crossing Voyage); and the 17-night Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica – Mega Colonies adventure on board the *RCGS Resolute*.

Direct flights from Santiago to the Falkland Islands are also available for guests sailing on board *RCGS Resolute*.

For further itinerary information, **CLICK HERE**.



IT SOUNDS like another episode of Celeste Barber's Royal Caribbean #cruisechallengeaccepted, but in fact, the Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta, held annually in the American state of Virginia, is the real deal.

Touted as a family-friendly event, contestants are charged with building their vessels out of cardboard, using only duct tape, masking tape, wood glue or contact cement to keep their creation afloat.

Entries in the regatta included everything from computer-generated laser cut vessels, to carefully designed and researched, pontoon-assisted painted works of art.

Whatever floats your boat!

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**ACA
UPDATE**

with Jill Abel - CEO

Tasmania on show

WITH 119 cruise ship visits expected to arrive in Tasmania this coming season, we were excited to hear about the recent Tassie Cruise Exchange - an opportunity for the state to showcase its new or updated cruise-ready product.

Tourism Tasmania, in close collaboration with its RTOs and operators, hosted a multi-day program for eight shore tour program managers.

The program was split into two distinct regions allowing the group to enjoy an immersive program in the North/Northwest for ships visiting Burnie and south for vessels going into Hobart or Port Arthur.

During the trip, the group participated in two business exchanges with local operators and enjoyed a wide-ranging itinerary including visits to food and beverage outlets such as Hellyers Rd Distillery, Blue Hills honey farm and the Agrarian Kitchen; historic sites such as Port Arthur, cultural venues including MONA and wildlife sanctuaries such as the Tasmanian Devil Zoo.

The group also visited Beauty Point near Launceston which, after support from TasPorts, has now been updated to receive visits to their small ship berth and their anchorage, providing a new cruise access point to the State.

Feedback from the exchange has been excellent with operators reporting requests for rates and allotments for the coming season.

ACA encourages these initiatives as they provide an essential link between cruise lines and destinations which result in the development of highly appealing shore excursions which showcase the best our country has to offer.

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