

Cruise Weekly today

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

Silversea goes NE

SILVERSEA Expeditions has introduced its first cruise of the Northeast Passage.

The 25-day voyage will take place aboard the all-suite *Silver Explorer* on 10 Aug 2019, sailing from Nome in Alaska to Tromso, Norway.

"This epic Arctic passage takes passengers across the top of Asia & Europe to discover extraordinary landscapes," said Silversea senior vp of strategic development for expeditions & experiences Conrad Combrink.

Discounts apply to bookings paid in full by 31 Aug, 2018.

Prices for the cruise start from \$50,490 per person.

Celebrity gears up for a revolution

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced the details of a US\$500 million refurbishment of its entire fleet starting next year and continuing through to 2023.

The refresh will update amenities on board each vessel including accommodation, restaurants, bars and shopping precincts.

"We launched The Celebrity Revolution to do one thing – transform the way our guests experience the world," said Celebrity Cruises president and chief executive Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

"We are taking our entire award-winning fleet to the edge and giving people the holiday they truly deserve," she added.

The first ship to be serviced will be *Celebrity Millennium* next year, with South African interior designer Kelly Hoppen enlisted to manage the renovations of the fleet's suites.



All staterooms will feature a fresh look and be fitted with Celebrity's eXhale bedding, RFID locks, and Bluetooth capabilities.

The restaurant Qsine will also be added across the fleet and be completely renovated, while the Oceanview Cafe will receive a refurbishment to reflect more of an open air feel.

Australian-based ship *Celebrity Solstice* is set to undergo its revitalisation by 2023.



Pictured: Renderings of the planned Suite deck (**above**) and Rendezvous Lounge (**inset**).

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CRUISE



Thursday 19th July 2018



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Norwegian Bliss with
us in the July issue
of *travelBulletin*.

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Westerdam sets sail for the Far East

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has highlighted the upcoming 2018-19 season for *MS Westerdam*, which will kick off her Asian sojourn with a 14-day North Pacific crossing from Vancouver to Yokohama.

The 1,916-passenger vessel will operate a series of 10-31 day voyages from Japan, Hong Kong and Shanghai, taking in sights in the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore and Vietnam.

"As travellers seek more meaningful and experiential vacations, our Asia itineraries remain in high demand for their depth of cultural exploration and once-in-a-lifetime experiences," said HAL president Orlando Ashford, with the cruises including the Explorations Central (EXC) program, which aims to bring local traditions, tastes and cultures to life on board the ship.

Crystal Endeavor

CRYSTAL Cruises will unveil the itineraries for its new *Crystal Endeavor* polar expedition yacht on 01 Aug.

The voyages will be open for bookings to Crystal Society loyalty program members on 09 Aug, and then to the general public on 23 Aug this year - for more information call 1300 059 260.

AC Iceland special

CRUISE Traveller is promoting an Adventure Canada special offer on a circle-Iceland expedition in Jul 2019, with savings of almost US\$3,000 per couple.

The earlybird deal is valid for bookings made by 20 Sep 2018 and includes all shipboard meals and zodiac shore excursions - call 1800 507 777.

Crystal webinar success



THE launch of a new webinar series by Crystal Cruises yesterday has proved to be a major success, with hundreds of travel agents already viewing the first episode of the program.

Produced in partnership with *Travel Daily* and *Cruise Weekly* and featuring *TD* editor Jasmine O'Donoghue and Crystal md & svp ANZ Karen Christensen, the

three-part series saw agents able to pre-register prior to the inaugural screening at 2pm.

The next episode will be released in the coming weeks focusing on Crystal Cruises' river cruise offering.

The webinar is still available for viewing, with interested agents able to sign up at no charge by **CLICKING HERE**.

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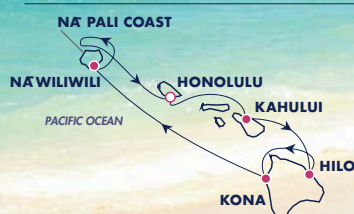
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St Kitts sets record

ST KITTS' Port Zante has set a new record for cruise passenger arrivals, with numbers fuelled by visitors arriving on Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) *Freedom of the Seas* cruise ship.

Welcoming its one millionth passenger of 2018 in just seven months, St Kitts Tourism Authority ceo Racquel Brown said, "St Kitts is now considered by the cruise lines to be in the same elite port status category as much larger destinations in the region".

So far this year, RCI has brought 102 port calls and more than 350,000 cruise visitors to the island.

Seabourn world trip

SEABOURN has released a 146-day "World Cruise: Extraordinary Destinations" on *Seabourn Sojourn* in 2020.

The ship will visit the Caribbean, Africa, India, Arabia, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Australia, South Pacific, and Hawaii.

Some of the destination highlights include one night in Dakar, Senegal and two nights in Mombasa, Kenya.

Seabourn Sojourn will depart Miami on 04 Jan 2020 and arrive in San Francisco on 28 May, 2020.

Shorter segments from 30 to 116 days are also available.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Lindblad's fourth polar ship



LINDBLAD Expeditions overnight confirmed a firm order for a new polar expedition ship, to be delivered in 2021.

Details of the new ship haven't been made public at this stage, but it's expected to be a sister vessel to the *National Geographic Endurance* (pictured) which is currently under construction and scheduled for a 2020 debut.

"As demand for high quality and authentic expedition travel continues to accelerate, both through market expansion as well as from sustained investment in their marketing and sales infrastructure, Lindblad is committed to expanding capacity to provide a growing audience with the opportunity to explore the world's most unique and

remote locations," the firm said.

The company's ceo Sven-Olof Lindblad said the order was the next stage in a long term growth strategy for Lindblad Expeditions.

"By marrying additional capacity with a dedicated and growing loyal customer base and fifty years of experience, we will be able to build upon our proven track record of delivering unparalleled expeditions to the world's most remarkable destinations," he said.

The newbuild will become Lindblad's fourth polar vessel, alongside the existing *National Geographic Explorer* and *National Geographic Orion* (acquired along with Australia's Orion Expedition Cruises) as well as *National Geographic Endurance*.

New cruise terminal underway in Lombok

CONSTRUCTION is underway on a new cruise terminal located in West Lombok, Indonesia which, when complete, will facilitate the arrival of cruise ships with capacity of up to 4,000 passengers.

The Gili Mas Terminal, which is being constructed by Indonesia's state port authority PT Pelindo III, aims to boost cruise tourism for the region as well as help with local economic growth.

Pelindo III ceo Ari Askhara told local media the terminal would "spur economic activity" and complement the upcoming billion-dollar Mandalika integrated resort zone, as well as "functioning as another main gate for foreign tourists visiting the province".

"The Gili Mas Terminal is an expansion of the Lembar Seaport and is intended to facilitate the increase in economic activity for West Nusa Tenggara," he added.

The building, which spans 440m by 26m received a total investment of US\$90.35 million and is expected to be completed by the middle of 2019.

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FACE-2-FACE: Karen Newbury

STATE Manager QLD
APT Travel Group.



1. What motivates you in your career?

I am motivated by challenges, success, a happy team, happy travel agents and happy pax. I love assisting everyone to exceed their goals and expectations.

2. Most common assumption people make about your job?

People think a job in the travel industry is relatively easy and you are always off travelling around (well that's kind of true) but they do not realise the huge amount of hours and weekends we work.

3. What is the key to building great relationships with agents?

Communicating in a timely and efficient way. Having a positive attitude. Being open and honest, pro-active, a good listener and exceeding their expectations.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

A challenge with river cruising is attracting the younger demographic. APT has introduced "Get Active" Freedom of Choice options to entice a younger age group.

5. Advice for up-and-comers?

Set yourself a goal and if you are enthusiastic and driven you will succeed. Your dedication and hard work will result in you travelling and experiencing the world.

6. What was your best fam?

An APT Top Achievers river cruise - Amsterdam to Budapest, whilst I was an agent. Now working for APT I have done this trip several times and I still love it.

7. My next cruise will be...

An APT Small Ship Expedition Cruise of the Kimberley, from Darwin to Broome. We can't wait to explore this magical destination.

8. Favourite cruise destination?

Antarctica.

9. Celebrity you'd like to cruise with?

Sandra Bullock.

10. Favourite thing to do in port?

Getting off the beaten track and go explore and sample the local delicacies and vinos.

Hurtigruten's Au growth



HURTIGRUTEN is witnessing strong growth in the local market, with the company's primary focus in Australia to engage with agents and boost awareness, managing director of APAC Damian Perry told *Travel Daily* in Sydney yesterday.

Hurtigruten is highlighting its product offering in Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, Franz Josef Land and the Northwest Passage, while Norway is currently proving popular with Australians travelling with the company.

Perry explained Hurtigruten was seeing the Australian traveller typically doing longer journeys and opting for the company's Explorer product.

Next year, Hurtigruten will

increase its number of ships in Antarctica from two to three, with the addition of the hybrid-powered *MS Roald Amundsen*.

"We're offering new and varied product in Antarctica," Perry said, emphasising it would provide appeal "to a broad audience".

Amundsen will debut in 2019 as the first of two battery hybrid-powered ships the cruise line will add to its fleet, with *MS Fridtjof Nansen* scheduled to follow.

Perry said Hurtigruten would offer three unique ships in Antarctica, allowing guests to choose between the hybrid-powered *Amundsen*, the expedition ship *MS Midnatsol* and value offering of *MS Fram*.

Damian Perry is pictured.

CMV first-timers

CUSTOMER satisfaction questionnaires completed by passengers aboard Cruise & Maritime Voyages' cruises from 11 UK ports this year have indicated that 25% were first-time cruisers.

Over 42,000 passengers completed the surveys, which also found 57% of regular customers had sailed with CMV five times or more.

Carnival inclusion

CARNIVAL Corporation has been recognised for its dedication to racial and ethnic diversity, through its inclusion in the inaugural NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Equity, Inclusion and Empowerment Index.

The new index monitors equity policies in firms with a US\$2b or more capitalisation.

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Cruiseco account

CRUISECO has appointed Sydney agency, This is Flow, to handle its \$5 million media account which includes handling its planning and buying strategy, according to a report by *Adnews*.

This is the first time Cruiseco has appointed an agency to handle media, with the organisation keen to combat audience fragmentation.



AS CRUISE enthusiasts would know all too well, the fun typically happens on the water, however, Lake Macquarie in New South Wales recently paraded most of the entertainment on land close by to the marinas instead.

Creative LAKE is an outdoor art exhibition that aims to inspire unique artworks from locals and visitors in order to enjoy a fresh perspective of the lake, whether exploring it by bike, car or boat.

Artistic works included a bronze sky pig, a dingy (pictured), a granite hibiscus and 3D graffiti murals.



Celebrity goes to the Edge



CELEBRITY Cruises has unveiled renderings of the US\$500 million "reimagining" of its fleet.

Taking place over a four-year period from 2019 to 2023 in partnership with more than 500 leading architects, designers and engineers, refurbishments will include updates to accommodation, outdoor spaces, culinary offerings and



entertainment attractions.

The illustrations include previews of the Sunset Bar (top), the Celebrity Suite (inset above), the main dining room (inset left), and an on-board casino (below).

Celebrity Millennium will be the first ship to be upgraded, commencing in 2019.



Counting down to conference

EARLYBIRD registrations close soon (31 Jul) for the Australian Cruise Association's (ACA) annual conference being held in Broome from 12-14 Sep.

Newly added to the speaker line-up is Dean Brazier from Cruise and Maritime Voyages (CMV).

CMV is a small ship, independent cruise line out of Britain offering what they call "country house style" cruising.

One of their premium ships, *Astor*, will homeport in Fremantle again from late 2018, with 13 cruises that will allow guests to explore Western Australia's South West.

They will also visit Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney next season.

Dean rounds out a record line-up of cruise line executives including Sture Myrmell – president, Carnival Australia and CLIA chairperson, Susan Bonner, recently appointed vice president and managing director, Australia and New Zealand for Royal Caribbean International, Timothy Little, Seabourn's senior director deployment & itinerary planning, Bruce Krumrine, Princess Cruises vice president, shore operations, and Michael Mihajlov from Carnival Australia.

Other interesting topics such as infrastructure development, government and environmental regulations will be covered under our theme - "Forging Stronger Relationships."

Western Australia Tourism Minister, Paul Papalia, will open the Conference which is being held in Broome to recognise the important contribution regional ports are making to our rapidly growing cruise industry.