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To celebrate the launch of our 2018/19 Alaska Cruising Guide we've partnered with Jamala Wildlife Lodge to give one lucky agent and a companion a luxury escape in a Jungle Bungalow*.

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Royal brings luxury Silversea aboard

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises (RCL) has purchased a 66.7% stake in the luxury line Silversea Cruises (*CW* breaking news 15 Jun), considerably bolstering its luxury and expedition credentials.

The agreement between the two companies was announced on 14 Jun, with RCL paying US\$1 billion for its stake in Silversea.

The move introduces ultra-luxury cruising into RCL's portfolio which includes Royal Caribbean, Celebrity and Azamara, plus shareholdings in Tui Cruises and SkySea Cruises.

"Silversea is a crown jewel, and the acknowledged leader in luxury and expedition cruising, two key markets that are poised for growth," said RCL chairman & ceo Richard D. Fain.

"Uniting our two companies presents an extraordinary opportunity to expand vacation options for pax & create revenue



in strategic growth areas."

Silversea's Manfredi Lefebvre D'Ovidio will remain executive chairman after the deal closes and chief executive Roberto Martinoli will also stay on.

"This new partnership gives Silversea the opportunity to accelerate the growth of the most successful luxury and expedition cruising brand in the world," Lefebvre said.

The strategic rationale for the partnership includes: driving

long-term capacity growth in the burgeoning luxury and expedition segments at a much larger scale than Silversea would achieve independently.

Pictured: Silversea's Manfredi Lefebvre D'Ovidio and RCL's ceo Richard D. Fain agree to terms.

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **NCL**.

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location on Oceania Regatta

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you en route to Seattle aboard Oceania Cruises' delightful *Oceania Regatta*.

WE ARE wrapping up a fabulous 'Panoramic Passages' itinerary with a day at sea as *Regatta* steams back to Seattle.

The voyage has featured some great adventures, with many passengers enjoying wildlife viewing in Ketchikan and Sitka, Alaska and Prince Rupert, British Columbia, as well as being treated to an up-close view of the stunning Dawes Glacier in the Inside Passage during a day of scenic cruising.

Regatta cruises Alaska until late Sep this year with a series of 7, 10 and 11-day voyages.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 19th June 2018



Find out who is still sailing in Myanmar in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

Norfolk upgrade

NORFOLK Island will receive an investment of almost \$5 million for passenger transfer vessels, as part of the Federal Government's efforts to support local businesses and the tourism sector.

Carnival Australia has welcomed the investment and noted that, together with the recent upgrades to Cascade Pier, the vessels should improve cruise passenger access to Norfolk Island and also help to minimise disembarking risks.

This also gives passengers a chance to tour the Island, spend time in local shops and invest in the local economy.

The three catamaran vessels are planned to be finished by mid-2019, and according to the Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government John McVeigh, will "increase the potential number of tours."

Norwegian bdm

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has appointed Aaron Christian as its business development manager for NSW and ACT at time of expansion for the company.

Christian brings 18 years of industry experience to his new role, in which he will be the key contact for NCL's NSW and ACT based travel partners.

Viking Orion lifts off



AMERICAN chemist and retired NASA astronaut Dr Anna Fisher christened Viking's fifth ocean ship, *Viking Orion*, at a spectacular celebration in Livorno, Italy on 15 Jun.

During the naming ceremony, guests enjoyed a high-tech show and musical concert that paid tribute to Nordic mythology and "the spirit of exploration".

Fisher used a historic Viking broad axe to cut the ribbon that launched a bottle of Norwegian spirits against the ship's hull.

New features on the 930-passenger ship include the Explorers' Dome, a planetarium-like theatre that will screen space-themed movies, and the Explorations in Space collection, a photo journey through space.

Viking is bringing a resident



astronomer on board – Howard Parkin, a Royal Astronomical Society Fellow & founding member of the IOM Astronomical Society, who will run stargazing sessions during the ship's maiden season throughout 2018.

Viking Orion will sail in the western and eastern Mediterranean before heading east in Aug to sail itineraries in Asia, Australia and Alaska.

Viking Orion pictured top is welcomed with a glittering ceremony in Italy while former astronaut Dr Anna Fisher (inset second from left) watches on.

Norwegian comp

TO CELEBRATE the launch of its 2018/19 Alaska Cruising Guide Norwegian Cruise Line is giving one agent and a friend the chance to win a luxury escape in a Jungle Bungalow. See **cover page** for more.



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MSC ramps up to five



MSC Cruises' newly ordered Meraviglia-class ship, scheduled to launch in 2023, will be the line's fifth LNG-powered ship to be built at STX France.

MSC announced the newbuild on 14 Jun while celebrating the steel cutting of *MSC Virtuosa* (the fourth Meraviglia-class ship), the float-out of *MSC Bellissima* and the coin ceremony on *MSC Grandiosa*.

Pierfrancesco Vago, MSC Cruises' executive chairman, said, "With the announcement of yet another new vessel, the 13th under our 10-year investment plan, we are affirming our commitment to sustainable growth for our company."

"I say this while three more next-generation MSC Cruises vessels are now simultaneously under construction."

The agreement for the fifth Meraviglia ship represents an additional investment of €900 million (A\$1.4 billion).

It will be joined by the line's first two World Class LNG-powered ships in 2022 and 2024; they will also feature environmentally friendly technology such as advanced wastewater systems.

MSC Bellissima will be christened in Southampton on 02 Mar 2019 while *MSC Grandiosa* will be christened in Hamburg in Nov 2019.

MSC Bellissima will be the first ship to feature Zoe, a digital cruise personal assistant, and both ships will offer two exclusive new shows from Cirque du Soleil at Sea.

Pictured: MSC Cruises executive chairman Pierfrancesco Vago & STX France ceo Laurent Castaing cut first steel for *MSC Virtuosa*.

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TTF urges govts to up cruise investment

THE Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) has urged the NSW and Federal Governments to allocate more funding for a secondary berthing option east of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

"With the NSW Budget being handed down (today)...it is the time for NSW to continue its push to take full advantage of the cruise revolution," said TTF chief executive Margy Osmond.

"Sydney remains one of the world's most popular cruising destinations, but port congestion during peak seasons is impacting on future growth of the sector," she added.

The industry body is also calling on the NSW Government to continue to develop the NSW Cruise Development Plan, which provides a framework for future cruise investment.

To read TTF's full pre-Budget Submission, **CLICK HERE**.

Bundaberg debuts

BUNDABERG received its first cruise ship ever to call in the city last week when Silversea's *Silver Discoverer* docked as part of its 15-day Port Vila to Cairns cruise.

The Port of Bundaberg has worked with key partners such as government departments and local tourism operators over the last three years to ensure it is equipped to handle large cruise ships.

"This presents a great opportunity for our region and its tourism ambassadors to shine and give a small taste of what the Bundaberg region... has to offer the expedition cruise market," said Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism general manager Katherine Reid.

Major attractions in the city include the Bundaberg Rum Distillery & Fairymead House.



TAKING a cruise is a great way for people to get up close and personal with marine life, however, the proximity can be a deciding factor in whether the ride becomes too personal.

A man sailing off NZ captured the moment a shark attempted to board his boat by clamping down on his deck.

"I was about to jump in the water to swim with this mako shark, and this is the welcome I get," the man said.

His intentions were to change perceptions of sharks as being inherently dangerous.

Well, his video has certainly given us plenty to chew on for now anyway.

Watch the video **HERE**.

PRISTINE TASMANIA COASTAL EXPEDITIONS JAN-MAR 2019

Small ship Coastal Treks *plus* Sydney to Hobart cruise



DISCOVER MORE



Cruise360 comp

CLIA Australasia is reminding agents that tix to Cruise360 purchased by 30 Jun could win one of two \$250 Breakaway Travelclub vouchers.

Agents who have already bought tix are also eligible.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	20 Jun
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	22 Jun
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	24 Jun
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	25 Jun

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Eden</i>	20 Jun
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	22 Jun
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	23 Jun
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	24 Jun

CAIRNS

<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	22 Jun
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DARWIN

<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	21 Jun
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Golden Princess reborn



PRINCESS Cruises' *Golden Princess* will boast a raft of new enhancements when she arrives in Melbourne to service her biggest ever New Zealand season in 2018/19.

The multimillion refurbishment was completed last month in order to cater for cruise passengers of all ages.

"Multi-gen cruising is on the rise and opens up an easy way for families to access some of Australia's favourite holiday destinations, such as New Zealand," said Princess Cruises Asia Pacific senior vice president

Stuart Allison.

"*Golden Princess* will arrive in Melbourne with a host of new features for family cruising, enabling loved ones to create fun and enriching memories during their cruise holiday," he added.

Aussie pax this season can expect to enjoy an enhanced Movies Under the Stars screen, new Princess Luxury Beds, transformed youth centres, and new menu options at Sabatini's Italian Trattoria restaurant.

Golden Princess (pictured) is scheduled to arrive in Melbourne for the summer season on 25 Oct.

Oceania Savings

OCEANIA Cruises has launched a new PreCruise Savings Program which allows already booked guests who have access to benefits and savings up to 30 days prior to their embarkment date.

Guests will receive savings from \$1,900 per stateroom, reduced deposits from \$350pp, plus a US\$100 shipboard credit per booking for their upcoming trip.

To book, call 1300 355 200 or visit www.oceaniacruises.com.

Volga Dream deal

BEYOND Travel is offering earlybird savings of up to \$1,200pp for 2019 river cruises in Russia aboard the *Volga Dream* when bookings are made before 31 Jul.

The 13-day itinerary between Moscow and St Petersburg (or vice-versa) offers three nights in both cities and sightseeing.

Prices start at \$4,750 for Gold, \$5,940 for Platinum and \$7,360 for Imperial ppts.

Also on offer is the *Grand Volga* - to book, [CLICK HERE](#).

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