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Brisbane Terminal notches milestones

CONSTRUCTION work on the \$158 million Brisbane International Cruise Terminal (BICT) has ticked off several important milestones over the last three months, with works now “well advanced” on the wharf and terminal building.

In the cruise project’s Nov update report, the ground floor and level one concrete slabs for the two-storey terminal building have now been poured, while the steel frame for the structure has also been installed.

Construction on the wharf has seen 60% of the concrete deck pours to the main structure completed, with all 107 piles also now firmly in place.

To support the new terminal, the Port of Brisbane and Brisbane City Council are jointly funding a \$10 million upgrade to local roads leading to the BICT site which the government bodies say are now



Pictured: The Galvanised structural steel frame for BICT.

“significantly progressed”, and are expected to be finalised by the first quarter of 2020.

The next phase of building over the coming three months will see the final deck pours to the narrow and wide wharf and upstream access bridge structures, the installation of wharf furniture, the construction of the elevated walkway columns and headstocks, as well as the commencement of elevated

walkway construction.

When it opens in Oct 2020, the BICT will be based at the mouth of the Brisbane river and be able to accommodate mega cruise ships for the first time (larger than 270 metres in length), and will present a host of benefits to the local cruise sector including easy access to Brisbane Airport and close proximity to major roads like the Gateway Motorway and Kingsford Smith Drive.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Carnival Cruise Line** and a full page from **Windstar Cruises**.

GoCCL goes live!

CARNIVAL is reminding agents that its revamped GoCCL Navigator agent portal has launched to the Australian market today - see **front cover**.

Xmas river deals

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises has released a range of new sailings on the Danube and Rhine rivers for Xmas 2020.

A total of 16 departures have been released for Dec 2020, with prices starting from \$949ppts - **CLICK HERE** for further details.

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Pictured: Stingray City, Cayman Islands.

Assaults on the rise

FIGURES recently released by the US Department of Transportation showed a rise in sexual assaults on cruise ships between 01 Jul and 30 Sep.

The report documented 35 assaults during the period, an increase from the 21 reported during the previous corresponding time frame.

Of the recorded incidents, 20 took place on Carnival's ships, while eight occurred on Royal Caribbean's vessels.

In response, Carnival released a statement assuring "the safety and security of all our passengers is our top priority and each year nearly six million guests enjoy a Carnival cruise vacation in a safe and secure environment".

Likewise Royal said the safety of its guests was a "top priority" and "when an incident is reported, our policy triggers immediate notification to appropriate law enforcement authorities".

Chicago's new lady

CHICAGO'S First Lady Cruises has announced Chicago's *Emerald Lady* as the newest addition to its luxury fleet, with the 250-passenger vessel due to arrive in May 2020.

The ship will provide an extra 100 seats for the 5.30pm and 7.30pm departures of the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center (CAFC) River Cruise.

The cruise line will also add more departures to its Twilight Cruise option.

"Chicago's *Emerald Lady* will help us meet the popular demand for the CAFC River Cruise now and...provide more guests with our luxury private charter experience in the years ahead," said CEO & President Chicago's First Lady Cruises Holly Agra, highlighting the growing number of visitors to the Illinois city.

THE debate over whether a permanent cruise ship berth should be built in the Cayman Islands is heating up leading into a referendum in the overseas British territory on 19 Dec.

Tourism Minister Moses Kirkconnell told the *Cayman Compass* that a cruise port was needed to "continue to grow the product" and that if one was not constructed, the Cayman Islands' cruise sector would inevitably "start to fall away".

"That section of our tourism product employs 4,500 people, it provides over US\$200 million a year in income and it represents over 80% of the employment for Caymanians in the industry," Kirkconnell said.

However, a groundswell of

support from groups opposing the build has also gained momentum, with Cruise Port Referendum Cayman group recently posting a video from a campaign event condemning the govt plan as causing "more problems than it will solve".

A spokesperson for the group, Chris Saunders, argued that "cruise lines are not our friends but our competitors".

"Their objective is to get as much money spent on their ships as we are trying to get as much money spent on land," he said.

Saunders also suggested that cruise lines generate more than US\$3 billion a year but the bulk of the money was going to the US, with only a "tiny fraction" of the money being spent in the region.

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A splendid team

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has revealed the senior leaders for its upcoming *Seven Seas Splendor* (CW 21 Jun), including General Manager Franck Galzy, Staff Captain Diego Michelozzi, Chief Engineer Giuseppe Russo, and Cruise Director John Barron.

Bellissima debuts in Doha



THE recently launched *MSC Bellissima* (CW 06 Mar) made her maiden call in Qatar late last week, arriving to much fanfare at the Port of Doha.

She is scheduled to undertake a range of seven-night cruises in the Gulf region until Mar 2020, with MSC Cruises CEO Gianni Onorato hailing Qatar as an important future growth market.

"We are especially pleased

to celebrate *MSC Bellissima's* maiden call to Doha," he said.

"It was the opportunity to celebrate another milestone of the broader partnership that our group enjoys with Qatar and its people," Onorato added.

MSC will also berth two of its ships in Doha during the FIFA World Cup to serve as floating accommodation for attendees of the tournament (CW 20 Nov).



ATRIO of castaway cows, originally thought to have died, were found near Cape Lookout after an eight-foot "mini tsunami" generated by Hurricane Dorian swept them out to sea in Sep.

The resourceful bovines, part of a wild herd that freely roams North Carolina's Cedar Island, managed to swim eight kilometres to safety to a barrier island that's part of Cape Lookout National Seashore Park.

According to a spokesperson from Cape Lookout, the cows were found "grazing peacefully after a harrowing feat of survival" for weeks but have since been transported home via ferry, where they "kicked up their hooves and ran down the beach" upon being released.



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Travel Daily



Sustainability SUMMIT

22 April 2020

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Cruising's newcomers

THE southern cruise season is now in full swing, with a succession of new ships giving Australian and New Zealand travellers more choice than ever before.

This week *Carnival Splendor* visited Darwin for the first time, on her way to Sydney where from 10 Dec she will become the latest ship to be homeported year-round in Australia.

She follows other first-time visitors to Australasia this year including *Explorer Dream*, *Ruby Princess* and *Vasco da Gama*, with a further debut to come in Mar next year when *Wind Spirit* calls in to Cairns.

In all, more than 60 cruise ships will sail in local waters in one of the busiest seasons experienced on the southern seas.

Together they represent the increasingly diverse cruise offering available in this part of the world, not to mention the passion Australians and New Zealanders have for cruising.

Importantly, these ships are visiting regional destinations more often, spreading the economic benefits of cruise tourism to communities around Australasia and into the South Pacific.

Each ship we welcome is not only a bonus for those of us who sell cruise, but also a new opportunity for communities to develop economically and create employment through cruise tourism.





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