

### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features six pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus full pages from:

- Windstar
- CLIA

### Ponant's sky credit

**PONANT** has launched a new flight credit offer for passengers who book one of the cruise line's Central America 2019/20 itineraries.

The deal, which gives guests \$1,300 towards the cost of flights, is available on bookings made before 31 Mar.

Savings of up to 30% off are also available, with highlights including a range of 31 Central America cruises, as well as the chance to visit a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

For more information, visit the website [HERE](#).

## A new Oasis for Royal Caribbean

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises has confirmed it has placed an order for a sixth Oasis-class ship, which is scheduled to be delivered in the northern autumn of 2023.

The cruise line said it had signed an agreement with French shipbuilder Chantiers de l'Atlantique that was "contingent upon financing", with the deal expected to be finalised in the "second or third quarter" of this year.

"It is such a pleasure to announce the order of another Oasis-class ship," said Richard D. Fain, Chairman and CEO, Royal Caribbean Cruises.

"This order is a reflection of the exceptional performance of this vessel class and the extraordinary partnership between Chantiers de l'Atlantique and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd," he added.

The vessel will be the 23rd ship to be built at the French shipyard,



with the shipbuilder's General Manager, Laurent Casting stating that the deal was "based on the exceptional quality of our long-term co-operation between the two companies and on our capacity to bring innovative solutions to meet our customer's expectations".

Royal Caribbean's Oasis-class

ships are the world's largest and longest passenger ships, with the brand currently offering journeys on board *Oasis of the Seas*, *Allure of the Seas*, *Harmony of the Seas*, and *Symphony of the Seas*.

A fifth Oasis-class ship is also scheduled to arrive in 2021.

**Pictured:** Royal Caribbean's Oasis-class *Symphony of the Seas*.

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Wednesday 20th February 2019

## Arcadia sails into Newcastle

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line's *Arcadia* ship made a surprise stop at the Port of Newcastle on Tue following a last-minute change to the NZ leg of its 99-day World Cruise itinerary.

According to *The Herald*, the ship was sent to Newcastle after Auckland was omitted from its schedule and as an "alternative to staying at sea".

## Norwegian's Epic fail

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's largest ship, *Norwegian Epic* crashed into a dock in San Juan, Puerto Rico earlier this week after "prevailing winds caused the ship to veer towards the pier" while it was attempting to dock.

No passengers were injured, however the collision caused damage to the ship's two mooring points at Pier 3 East, which sank.

## CMV's cruise love

**CRUISE** and Maritime Voyages (CMV) celebrated Valentine's Day last week by inviting clients to tell them "why love and cruising go hand in hand".

The survey, which features responses by 1,000 cruise enthusiasts, revealed that 42% of respondents had travelled on 10 or more cruises, reinforcing Australia's love of cruising, while 87% said they loved to cruise because they "only had to unpack once".

The survey also revealed that 85% of travellers enjoyed cruising because "everything was taken care of for them".

Travel agents were flagged as the most preferred way to book among respondents, with 40% saying they were loyal to their travel agent, while 21% preferred to "shop around" to find the best deal.

## Hapag has a hull of a time



**HAPAG** Lloyd Cruises has reached a milestone moment in the construction of its expedition ship *MS HANSEATIC inspiration*, commencing the transport of its hull from Romania to the Vard shipyard in Norway.

Weighing in at an estimated 6,500 tonnes, the hull will be ferried more than 4,000 nautical miles on a 28-day journey to help complete the final stage of the vessel's construction.

The 230-passenger *HANSEATIC inspiration* will be launched from the Belgian city of Antwerp on 13 Oct this year, with the cruise line heralding the ship to be "in a new

expedition class of its own" due to its cutting-edge technology making it the "highest ice class for passenger ships".

The *MS HANSEATIC inspiration* will be able to navigate remote locations such as the polar regions, as well as warmer regions like the Amazon.

She will join the *HANSEATIC nature* (due Apr 2019) and *HANSEATIC spirit* (due 2021), both of which will operate in the German markets.

**Pictured:** Hapag Lloyd's triple threat: *HANSEATIC spirit*, *HANSEATIC inspiration* and *HANSEATIC nature*.



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## Princess expands Nightlife



**PRINCESS** Cruises has signed a lucrative deal with music subscription service Nightlife Music that will see the cruise line installing the onboard entertainment system across a range of ships in its fleet.

“Cruise ship entertainment is more popular than ever and understanding the diversity of passengers is key when it comes to tourism engagement,” said David O’Rourke, CEO of Nightlife Music.

“Music is a trigger for lasting memories, so we have been working closely with Princess Cruises Manager of Music Direction, Franz Mehrfert, to design a vast array of musical spaces to personalise the cruise experience for passengers no matter what ship they are on,” he added.

The new system has a particular focus on the younger generations, with Princess also adopting the subscription company’s engagement technology, called “CrowdDJ”, which allows pax to choose the music they want to hear in their areas via an interactive touch-screen kiosk.

Nightlife Music has also been tasked with creating Asian Pop playlists along with a range of other cultural-specific music to suits distinct cruising routes and passenger demographics.

The new system has already been rolled out on *Sea Princess*, with *Caribbean Princess*, *Sun Princess*, *Golden Princess*, *Ruby Princess*, *Royal Princess*, *Diamond Princess* and *Coral Princess* also joining the ranks of the updated music system.

**Pictured:** *Diamond Princess*.

## Viking’s EU saving

**VIKING** Cruises is offering a range of “significantly reduced” standard stateroom fares on selected sailings of its 15-day Grand European river cruise, from Budapest to Amsterdam.

Guests can save up to \$3,600 on bookings made before 31 Mar, with prices starting from \$4,995 per person.

Eligible departures include 27 and 31 Jul; 02, 04, 05, 06, 08, 14, 16 and 18 Aug; and 01, 02, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, and 30 Sep.

Call 138 747 for more info.

## More pax in Port

**PORT** Lincoln is set to welcome more than 2,500 passengers and 920 crew today when *The Astor* and *Pacific Jewel* make their way into the city.

The ship’s doubleheader will see the total number of people in the town and around the CBD increase dramatically.

South Australia has seen a 23% increase in the number of cruise ships visiting this season (*CW 06 Feb*) with a total of 84 vessels calling in at a number of the state’s ports and injecting more than \$118 million into local tourism operators and businesses.

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## A whale of a time

**MAJESTIC** Whale Encounters has launched a new six-night whale swim cruise in Tahiti departing on 16 Sep this year.

The sailing includes onboard accommodation, all main meals, five full days whale watching, and the opportunity to swim with other marine life such as stingrays, reef sharks and dolphins.

The package is available from \$5,500 per person, twin-share and does not include international flights.

Trip extensions are also available with stays at either the Hilton Moorea or the Conrad Bora Bora.

For more call 0405 594 253.



## It's what's on the inside that counts

**THE** world's first event focusing exclusively on the interior design, architecture and outfitting of cruise ships is set to be held in Miami from 18 Jun 2019.

The Cruise Ship Interiors Expo is expected to attract a global audience from the cruise industry's interior design and refurbishment community.

The two-day event also includes a conference program boasting speakers from key brands such as Norwegian Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Seabourn and Virgin Voyages.

"Cruise Ship Interiors Expo is an exciting and needed addition to the cruise industry's design and architecture which will provide a source for designers and suppliers to connect, exchange ideas and see the latest products that can be used on future projects," said Carnival Cruises Director of Interior Design Petu Kummala.

## Silver Cloud's biz upgrade



**PASSENGERS** who book an Arctic voyage on board Silversea's luxury ship, *Silver Cloud*, before 14 Mar will receive complimentary Business class flights, plus transfers between the airport and ship.

The featured voyages take in the best the region has to offer, and include trips lasting both 10 and 14 days.

Included voyages are the V1914, and V1917 cruises, which depart in Jun and Jul 2019.

The 14-day journeys take passengers along the Icelandic and Norwegian coastline between Reykjavik and Tromso, where guests will have the

chance to take in the waterfalls of Dynjandi, the historical sites of Vigur Island, as well as the fjords of the Svalbard region.

Voyages V1915 and V1916 will sail between Tromso and Longyeabyen over 10 days, passing through the almost 100-strong islands of the Gjesvarstappen Archipelago, as well as enjoying sightings of local puffins colonies in Northern Norway plus enjoy hikes ashore with Silversea's dedicated expedition teams.

For more information on the itineraries and the special deal, call 1300 306 872.

**Pictured:** *Silver Cloud*.

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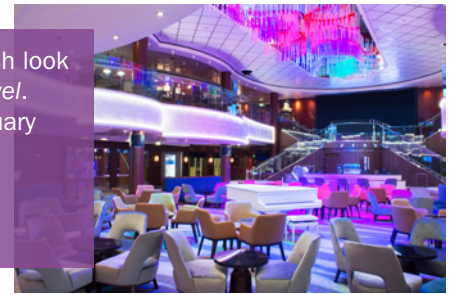
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Take a peek at the fresh look onboard *Norwegian Jewel*. Read more in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read  
**travelBulletin**



## Sitmar staff back together



**FORMER** staff and colleagues of Sitmar Cruises, the cruise line that dominated the Australian market in the 1980s got together last weekend at a reunion dinner hosted by the line's first Managing Director Ted Blamey.

The night was filled with fun and laughter as the group rekindled old relationships while reminiscing about times gone by, before Blamey took to the floor

to regale the group with tales of the "glory days".

A number of attendees donated a range of Sitmar memorabilia to the evening's lightning auction, with proceeds to be donated to the Mercy Ships charity as part of the upcoming CLIA awards this Sat 23 Feb.

**Pictured:** A group of Sitmar alumni pose with the brand's original flag.

## Two for Tivua Island

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises Fiji is set to add a second daily departure for its Tivua Island Day Cruise experience, effective from 01 Apr.

The seven-hour cruise will depart from Denarau Marina daily at 11.30am, in addition to the regular 10am departure.

The new sailing offers the same inclusions as the original departure, including a tropical buffet lunch, all activities, plus the option to go diving or enjoy a spa treatment.

Tix can be purchased open dated, with free amendments able to be made until 5pm the day prior - more info **HERE**.

## SeaLink on show

**THE** spotlight was on SeaLink WA on Sun when it featured on Channel 9's travel show, Destination WA.

The segment highlighted a number of the brand's local products, including the Swan River Gourmet Wine Cruise to local wineries Sandalford and Mandoon Wines; the new service that takes passengers 50 metres from the gates of Optus Stadium; the "new and improved" lunch and dinner cruises between Fremantle and Perth, as well as showcasing SeaLink Rottnest Island, a new ferry service to visit the tourist spot.

## New terminal to open in Puerto Vallarta

**THE** Mexican city of Puerto Vallarta, **pictured**, is set to welcome a new cruise terminal in time for the northern summer cruising season.

Carlos Gerard, founder of the private company responsible for building the new terminal, Puerto Magico, told local media that the new terminal is not an attempt to directly compete with the ports in the south of the country, but instead "all the other ports in the world".

"Our main objective is to become more competitive as a port destination ...we're a team," he said.

The new terminal will be set on Pier 1, which handles approximately 80% of cruise calls to the region, with plans calling for a "spacious welcome centre of over 27,870m<sup>2</sup>".



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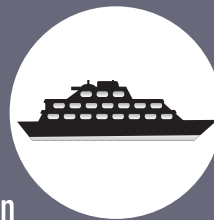
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Need help wading through the huge variety of cruise options out there?

Check out the 2019 Cruise Guide for a comprehensive tool.

CRUISE WEEKLY Travel Daily travelBulletin



## True North adds

**TRUE** North Adventure Cruises has announced that its 2019 Kimberley season will feature a new 13-night Coast and Coral itinerary.

The new trip visits the King George Falls, Mitchell Falls, Montgomery Reef and the Hunter River, with prices for an Ocean Class cabin leading in at \$22,995 per person.

## FACE-2-FACE: Cameron Mannix

Key Account Manager Australia and New Zealand, RCL Cruises.

### 1. What is the favourite part of your job?

People! We have the best product in the market but it is the people that I get to work with that makes it the best job.

### 2. Why did you choose a career in the cruise industry?

I used to work on ships as an entertainer and was lucky enough to see the world. I then worked as a cruise travel agent back on land and when an opportunity arose to join RCL Cruises I jumped at the chance.

### 3. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

I think differentiation between brands is so crucial and a challenge. All ships are not the same and it is so important for guests to cruise on the right product to ensure they return time and time again. We are lucky at RCL as



we have four fantastic brands - something for everyone.

### 5. Your best fam trip?

I was lucky enough to host a small group of partners on board *Celebrity Edge* at the shipyard in Saint Nazaire. The ship was around six weeks from completion and it was an amazing experience. I also got to rock a hard hat.

### 6. How do you wind down after a busy week?

An espresso martini and a casual stroll down by the river.

### 7. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

A luxury resort that just happens to be at sea... beautifully designed spaces, fabulous restaurants and cocktail bars. In fact we already have the ship of the future - *Celebrity Edge*.



**WHEN** people think of shipwrecks it generally evokes images of sunken treasure such as gold coins or old bottles of spiced rum, but rarely have brewers looked upon it with view to cultivating a new beer.

A 133-year-old bottle of suds brought up from the shipwrecked *SS Oregon* might change all that however, with biotechnology students at the State University of New York determined to extract the yeast to create a brand new brewski.

The news follows an Australian brewer last year successfully producing beer from yeast recovered from a shipwreck.

Sure makes a tinny of Tooheys Old look pretty lame now, right?



## Paradise Cruises offers new day trip options

**HA LONG** Bay cruise operator Paradise Cruises has revealed it is bringing luxury private cabin options to the day cruise market.

Two of cruise line's 17-cabin luxury vessels have been repurposed to cater for the new day trip experience, providing passengers with 23m<sup>2</sup> of cabin space equipped with private balconies, ensuite bathrooms, and larger beds.

"Travellers who can't squeeze an overnight trip into their schedule now have the opportunity to see Ha Long Bay in a day in style," said Paradise Group Chief Operating Officer Nguyen Cao Son.

The Paradise Luxury day cruise accommodates up to 50 pax.



## Cruising for a good cause

**WE WERE** all devastated regarding the damage caused to communities by the recent fires in Tasmania.

It was on a much brighter note that we received the news last week, on board *Queen Elizabeth's* maiden call to Hobart, that Carnival Australia is working with their ground operators and Tourism Tasmania to organise tours which support the wonderful attractions and local businesses operating in the fire-affected areas south of Hobart.

This is not the first time cruise lines have stepped up to assist with disaster relief. In 2017, P&O's *Pacific Dawn* was the first ship to return to Airlie Beach following Cyclone Debbie's trail of destruction through the Whitsundays.

A total of 34 ships across Carnival's brands visited the region that year bringing economic relief and helping to signal to the world that the region was open for business. The company also made a much-needed cash donation which went to rebuilding efforts.

Last year, the company stepped in again, this time to help drought-affected farm owners. The company ran two "drought relief" cruises - one on *Pacific Dawn* from Brisbane to the Whitsundays and the other on *Pacific Explorer* from Sydney to Moreton Island.

There are many examples of how cruise lines across the world have played a key role in community revival. They are nimble in their decision making and have the reach to market to a broad range of guests to offer them opportunities to make a difference.

It's just one more reason to celebrate cruising.

CRUISE WEEKLY

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