



Ponant signs on to double the luxury

PONANT has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri to construct two “new-generation” luxury expedition cruise vessels.

Both ships are due for delivery in 2022, and will be operated in the South Pacific by Ponant’s recently acquired Paul Gauguin Cruises brand (**CW 09 Aug**).

The two vessels will weigh 11,000 gross tonnes each with the capacity to accommodate about 230 passengers.

Sustainability will also be at the forefront of the ships’ design, featuring an advanced battery package application allowing for smokeless operation at anchor, in ports and in “environmentally sensitive areas”.

Commenting on the latest construction agreement, Ponant Chief Executive Officer Jean Emmanuel Sauvee said the new ships would allow the company to



Pictured: m/s Paul Gauguin.

propel Paul Gauguin’s position in the expedition cruise space.

“This agreement for two additional ships allows us to develop Paul Gauguin brand acquired a few weeks ago and consolidates our position as the world leader of luxury expedition cruise,” he said.

Sauvee also hailed the environmentally-friendly design of the vessels as the template for the brand moving forward.

“For the first time in the world of cruising, these two new vessels will cut their engines and cease

all emissions each day during each stop, for nearly 10 hours per day,” he said.

“These are small-capacity ships at the cutting-edge of technology and environmental preservation; this project fully matches our philosophy of sustainable tourism,” Sauvee added.

Fincantieri’s latest agreement with Ponant cements an already strong relationship between the two companies, with the shipbuilder previously constructing *Le Boreal*, *L’Austral*, *Le Soléal*, and *Le Lyrial*.

Cruise Weekly today

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

See Machu Picchu

SILVERSEA Cruises is offering savings of up to \$600 per person on four-night land tours of Machu Picchu in Peru when bookings are made on select *Silver Moon* voyages.

Applicable cruises depart either 23 Nov or 08 Dec, 2020, for bookings made by 30 Nov.

The Machu Picchu program includes luxury hotel accommodation, Economy class flight to Lima, breakfast daily, guided tours, rail journeys to and from the site, and airport transfers.

The price for the fully inclusive land experience is \$2,399 per person, based on double occupancy.

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Want to know what a cruise on *Scenic Eclipse* is like? Read more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

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New tools of the trade



EXCLUSIVE

HURTIGRUTEN has revealed it will introduce a new online agent tool for the Australian market, with the cruise line gearing up to introduce the more “matured solution” in Q1, 2020.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* this week, Managing Director, APAC Damian Perry said Hurtigruten had spent a lot of time in the development phase to perfect the tool, collaborating with McKinsey & Company on the project.

“Over the last six to eight months, we’ve been doing research and development in different markets so that we can get it ready to drop it live into the Australia market,” Perry said.

“The new tool will allow any travel agent to manage, book, report, and do everything they

need to do to manage their own business, which will be fantastic,” he added.

Perry conceded that Hurtigruten had a “very basic tool in place at the moment”, but said that the results of ongoing testing in other markets for its new agent platform had been “overwhelmingly positive”, and would remove as many hurdles as possible for an agent to sell its suite of products.

“This tool will also have all of our product in there, it will have all of their agency information... this is going to solve all of the problems for travel agents, make it easier to book, easier to manage, all at your fingertips,” he said.

Pictured: Hurtigruten’s *Roald Amundsen* breaking through the ice for the first time.

Come and see the “Dreamboats”!

GUESTS sailing on board Dream’s *Explorer Dream* from Sydney, Brisbane, or Auckland will have the opportunity to see the *After Dark: Dream Boys*, described by the cruise line as “the most risqué late-night show on the high seas”.

The stars of the show include Leonardo De Souza Martins, a “Brazilian beauty” who brings a “sexy South American flavour” to the show.

Also treading the boards is Gabriele Cuccu, who Dream describes as having a “seductive



charm and elegance”, while Belarussian dancer and model Aliaksei Kravtosov has an anchor tattoo that “proves he was born to entertain at sea”.

Tickets can be purchased for \$30 each and attending guests must be over the age of 18.

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Travel Daily



22 April 2020

Ahoy there Doc!

CELEBRITY vet Dr Chris Brown was recently aboard Aurora Expeditions' new *Greg Mortimer* vessel on a voyage to Antarctica.

Appearing on board to tape a special episode of *The Living Room*, Brown will showcase what life is like on board the ship, especially the array of wildlife guests are able to see.

The episode airs on Network 10 at 7.30pm (AEDT) tonight.

Going deep sea diving



Image credit: f-Stop movie.

THE first look at *Scenic Eclipse's* exclusive *Scenic Neptune* submarine in action has been unveiled by Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, with the underwater vessel taking its inaugural dive in Caribbean waters piloted by Remy Izendooren (**inset** below).

The images capture guests on board during the deep-sea adventure on the custom built U-Boat Worx Cruise Submarine, with the craft exploring many underwater attractions such as sunken wrecks and marine and biological reserves.



To jump aboard the submarine, guests will need to book on select 2020 *Scenic Eclipse* sailings, including the 12-day Antarctica In Depth itinerary departing round-trip from Buenos Aires in both Mar and Feb.

The voyage is priced from \$18,580pts.

Trips on the *Scenic Neptune* can also be booked on the 20-day Antarctica, South Georgia and Falkland Islands adventure which departs round-trip from Buenos Aires, Argentina in Feb and Mar.

Prices for the sailing leads in at \$30,740 per person twin share.

California power

PROPOSED new regulations in California, USA may mandate the connection of all cruise ships that dock in the state to shore power.

If approved, the California Air Resources Board plan would become effective from 01 Jan 2021, superseding existing rules which require ships visiting major Californian ports five times or more to plug in.

Ships which previously visited four or less times would remain exempt from the regulations until 2023, a spokesperson confirmed.

Wild about Hurti

HURTIGRUTEN has experienced a "very strong" sales performance in Australia over the last 12 months.

Speaking with **Cruise Weekly**, the line's Managing Director, APAC Damian Perry said the growth pattern was especially pleasing because it also showed the Aussie market was broadening its tastes for Hurtigruten's products.

"What we've seen in the last 12 months, which is very exciting, is a much broader engagement and association across the market," Perry said.

"Historically, Hurtigruten has been known very much for our cruises to Norway but right now we are moving to a stage where we are going to have as much capacity on our expedition program worldwide as we have on our Norway packages - so we are seeing this fantastic growth on our expedition range," he added.

Popular destinations for Aussies include Antarctica, with Hurtigruten now deploying three ships to the continent and making the cruise line the world's largest operator to the region.

"We have three different ships in Antarctica serving three different itineraries, so that people aren't pigeonholed to one solution," Perry said.

Aussies have traditionally flocked to Hurtigruten's Norway product, but Perry says even that destination is now diversifying, recently expanding beyond traditional port stop cruising to a new expedition Norway program.



TWINS, Basil, twins!

There was a potential case of mistaken identity at last night's Australian Cruise Association Christmas drinks, which took place at the offices of the Sydney Ports Authority.

ACA CEO Jill Abel and Anthea Somerville from Captain Cook Cruises (**pictured** below) clearly both have good taste, because they were wearing exactly the same glasses.

For any cruise industry fans wanting to be uber-on-trend, they are Bailey Nelson branded "Markova" style - in green.



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