



Princess targeting telecommuters

PRINCESS Cruises is using its “super-charged” MedallionNet internet connectivity to target the new wave of telecommuters.

The cruise line is leveraging a new constellation of satellites through telecommunications partner SES to offer connectivity akin to that found on land through its MedallionNet wi-fi service, with an aim to make remote working, distance learning, and the opportunity to securely conduct transactions available on board its ships.

Each MedallionClass vessel transmits enough bandwidth to guarantee a superior connection for each guest, for access to cloud-based enterprise applications such as storage, video conferencing, and email.

The bandwidth capacity not only delivers higher wi-fi service levels, but also powers Princess’ wearable OceanMedallion



experience onboard.

With an access point in every stateroom as well as all public areas, guests can move freely around the ship as they work without signal drops.

Other features and amenities

being targeted at professionals include keyless stateroom entry, on-demand food, beverage, and retail items delivered anywhere onboard, and a friends & family locator and chat function for when work is completed.

Cruise Weekly today

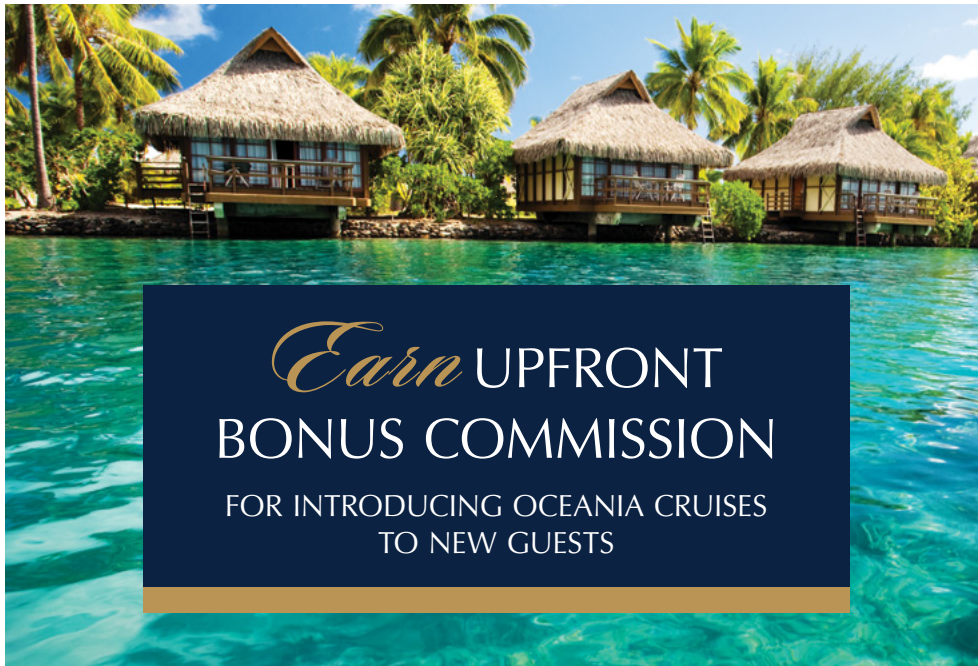
Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

NCL roadshow proving popular

WITH just five days to go before the first event, seats are filling up faster than expected for the Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL), Club Med & Globus roadshow, with the Sydney, Doncaster and Perth events sold out.

Limited spots remain for all other locations for the joint Reboot Regroup Reconnect roadshow, including the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Mornington, Geelong, Hobart, and Adelaide.

Register for all events or learn more by **CLICKING HERE**.



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CLIA online showcase

CRUISE Lines International Association's (CLIA) new online Ocean Debut Showcase will introduce more than a dozen new cruise ships to travel advisor members.

Running each day between 10 and 14 May, the Showcase is designed to give agents valuable insight into 18 new cruise ships, and will include presentations from 13 different member cruise lines.

Participants will earn three CLIA Accreditation points by completing a short post-event quiz for each cruise line presentation they attend live.

There are also five prize packs to be won by collecting a codeword given during each live session.

Each ship will be profiled in detail, covering ship facts, dining, entertainment, accommodation and more.

More Explorer voyages

HISTORY is repeating itself for Heritage Expeditions, with the cruise line announcing its return to New Zealand's Fiordland, where it began back in 1985.

Four new voyages have been released aboard the new 18-guest *Heritage Explorer* (**CW** 02 Mar) which will be bound for the region's remote coves and inlets from Jul.

The new five-, seven- and 10-day expeditions will explore iconic destinations only accessible by sea, including Preservation Inlet, Dusky and Doubtful Sounds, Acheron Passage, Chalky Inlet, Milford Sound and more.

Commercial Director & Expedition Leader Aaron Russ said the New Zealand-based family owned-and-operated cruise line pioneered expedition cruising more than 35 years ago with its intimate five-guest

explorations of Fiordland.

"It was our early exploration of these rarely visited and remote ice-carved mountains, verdant forests and winding fjords rich in wildlife, conservation and New Zealand history which inspired our dream for responsible travel," said Russ.

The new voyages join the recently announced Marlborough Sounds and Abel Tasman expeditions, (**CW** 18 Mar) with upcoming itineraries including Hauraki Gulf, Bay of Islands and Stewart Island to be released shortly.

Explorer set sail on her maiden voyage, Discover Marlborough Sounds, on Sun.

Russ said the seven-day voyage was completely full, with guests to explore Queen Charlotte Sound, D'Urville Island, French Pass and Pelorus Sound.

Pandaw helps out

PANDAW Clinics has to date raised more than US\$120,000 for Myanmar in the midst of the ongoing coup d'état.

"Our Pandaw clinic medical teams have been treating a number of gunshot wounds and have ramped up operations to extend to a broader area beyond the seven villages where they normally run day clinics," Pandaw founder Paul Strachan said.

"With these funds we have been able to expand our usual GP clinics with free medications to a much larger geographical area and to more people across rural Burma, many of whom are now in dire circumstances due to the collapse of the economy."

Pandaw has also delivered 500 food parcels and cash doles to families of the fallen.

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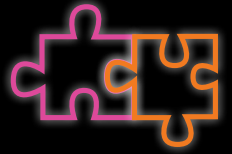
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Travel Daily



IT APPEARS the Suez Canal obstruction incident is not yet over, with antagonist ship *Ever Given* being held in the Canal as authorities argue over compensation.

The ship blocked the Suez for almost a week last month, and Canal authorities are now pursuing an almost US\$1 billion compensation claim against her Japanese owner.

Ever Given's protection company UK P&L Club said the Canal's claim included US\$392 million each for a "salvage bonus", and for "loss of reputation".

If anything, one could argue the reputational damage has been dealt to *Ever Given*, but when a billion dollars is on the line, you'd fight for it too!

Encounter is close



P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Encounter* (pictured) has completed her transformation, leaving her dry dock in Singapore with her name badge and a range of finishing touches to the ship's onboard spaces and features.

The 14-day project was the second stage of *Encounter's* transformation after undergoing a wet dock in Feb (**CW 05 Feb**).

Encounter has emerged with all major public venues revamped, including the Encounter Hotel and the Blue Room, which will offer guests a chance to enjoy a wide selection of vibrant live music from some of Australia's leading musicians.

P&O's trio of restaurants - Angelo's, Dragon Lady and The Waterfront have all been fitted with new carpets and artworks, while international marketplace The Pantry has been completed with bright, new graphics.

Encounter will offer speciality restaurants by chefs Luke Mangan and Johnny Di Francesco as well as family friendly activities and vibrant night-time venues.

The new Brisbane International Cruise Terminal will be the new home port for *Encounter* later this year, before she is joined by *Adventure* and *Explorer*.

EMBARK to launch

A **LIVE** conversation and Q&A session featuring Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) President & Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer and other NCL executives and team members will take place at 9:30am AEST tomorrow, before the first episode of EMBARK with NCL launches (**CW 09 Apr**).

Titled *Great Cruise Comeback*, the 30-minute episode will stream live at www.ncl.com/embark, and on Facebook.

The series will chronicle the real-time "work in progress" decisions and preparations being made as the brand prepares to redeploy its fleet (**CW 08 Apr**).

Ponant Smithsonian

PONANT has announced an alliance with cultural & educational tour operator Smithsonian Journeys to offer a series of small ship expeditions.

The new itineraries will feature Smithsonian-crafted Cultural Experiences both on board and on land for select voyages next year.

The selection of 19 departures will explore Antarctica, the British Isles, the Great Lakes, Iceland, Japan, the Mediterranean, Norway's fjords and more.



Travel & Cruise Weekly

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