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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a front cover wrap from **Princess Cruises**.

Bicton acquisition

CRUISE Lines International Association's 2023 Small Cruise Agency of the Year Bicton Travel has acquired Claremont Cruise & Travel Centre to expand its presence in the Perth market.

The acquisition will be effective from Jul, with Bicton Director Phil Smethurst describing himself as "thrilled".

"This acquisition is a natural fit for us, and we're excited about the opportunities it presents to continue to offer a seamless and exceptional travel planning service to the clients of Claremont Cruise & Travel Centre," he said.

Holland America brings up 150 years

HOLLAND America Line has marked its 150th anniversary in Rotterdam with royalty, citywide fanfare, and dual-ship events.

Holland America's flagship *Rotterdam* arrived at her namesake port on the exact date of the 150th anniversary (18 Apr), after a sesquicentennial crossing which departed Fort Lauderdale on 03 Apr.

Rotterdam's arrival kicked off all-day celebrations which included royalty, local dignitaries, port officials, and other VIP guests.

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands joined the festivities with President Gus Antorcha, Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb, and descendants of the cruise line's original founders for a celebration at Hotel New York, home to the brand's original headquarters from 1901 to 1977.

Attendees included Holland



America team members, and more than 60 of the cruise line's top Mariners, guests who have sailed at least 1,400 days on its ships.

It was here Holland America presented a commemorative 150th anniversary bell (**pictured**), to be permanently displayed at the hotel.

Princess Margriet poured champagne over the bell, which is a Holland America tradition usually reserved for a new ship launch.

Holland America also worked closely with PostNL to design a

collectable 150th anniversary gold-foil stamp featuring an illustration of two of the cruise line's iconic ships: *Rotterdam VII*, its newest ship, and *Rotterdam I*, its first ship.

In addition, members of one of Holland America's founding families presented an original company stock, which will be kept as part of a special collection in the Rotterdam City Archives.

Following a Gala dinner on board *Rotterdam*, Antorcha invited the ship's guests to a party around the Lido Pool, where he toasted Holland America's anniversary, alongside Captain Bas van Dreumel and Cruise Port Rotterdam Executive Director Mai Elmar.

The evening concluded with the city's Erasmusbrug bascule bridge illuminated with a special light display honouring Holland America's 150th anniversary.

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Sun Princess to rise in the US in 2024

PRINCESS Cruises' biggest and newest ship *Sun Princess* (pictured) will sail Caribbean itineraries from Port Everglades late next year.

The cruise line's largest ship ever will make her American debut in Oct 2024 from Fort Lauderdale, sailing seven- and 14-day itineraries.

Sun will take guests on voyages to the Eastern and Western Caribbean in 2024 and 2025, following a season of Europe cruises when she launches in Feb 2024 (**CW** 02 Nov 2022).

The season, which will go on sale on 19 Apr, will be kicked off by a five-day Caribbean getaway, which visits Amber Cove Cruise Port and Grand Turk.

Other highlights will include a seven-day Eastern Caribbean cruise visiting St. Thomas, a late night in San Juan, a visit to the line's private island resort



Princess Cays, and a seven-day Eastern Caribbean sailing visiting the Bahamas.

Cruisers can also combine the seven-day Eastern and Western Caribbean sailings for a 14-day Adventure.

"We are thrilled about the expansion of the Princess fleet and know that homeporting *Sun Princess* in Fort Lauderdale offers a convenient option for guests to explore the most elevated experience ever from the Love Boat," President John Padgett said.

"The warmth, pristine beauty, and crystal-clear waters found throughout the Caribbean form an idyllic backdrop for our iconic new ship and create the perfect setting for Princess guests to enjoy the stunning views and playful adventure that are magnified on this beautiful, iconic new ship."

Travel advisors are also currently able to win a 10-night cruise on *Sun*.

Full details on how to enter are available on the **cover page** of today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Double the power!

FOR the first time, two cruise ships have used the showerpower plant in Warenmunde simultaneously.

The premiere was celebrated on *Sun*, when AIDA Cruises also commemorated the start of this year's cruise season, with the double call of *AIDA Sol* and *AIDAmar*.

The cruise line's President Felix Eichhorn said its goal is to be able to use shorepower in all ports it calls in the future.

"We therefore welcome the decisions of other ports to develop a corresponding solution," he said.

"With our commitment to decarbonisation, we are not only driving the energy transition in the cruise sector, we are also providing an example of how to shape local value creation in our destinations sustainably."

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Travel Daily



A CARNIVAL Cruise Line passenger has been captured fishing from their balcony in a recent viral video.

The person was captured reeling in a catch from the unidentified Carnival ship, which was docked in Nassau.

The fish was identified by some as a buffalo trunkfish, but its fate is uncertain, with the publisher leaving no clues as to whether it was tossed back, or met a less desirable fate.

Many who viewed the video were left wondering whether or not the behaviour is permitted aboard Carnival ships, and the answer is an unequivocal no, with many pointing out even if the fisherman had acquired a Bahamian fishing permit, the practice is disallowed by most, if not all, cruise lines.

Six new cruises for Tauck

TAUCK has announced six new European river cruises for next year.

The 'Danube Kingdoms: Bavaria, Austria, & Hungary', 'Three Rivers: Danube, Main, & Rhine', and 'Rhine Connoisseur: Montreux to Brussels' are all new for this year.

Also making their debut will be 'Hidden Waterways of Flanders & Holland', 'River Seine: Chateaux, Impressionism, & Normandy', and 'La Belle Vie: The Rhone, Geneva, & The Riviera'.

Several of the trips incorporate included pre- or post-cruise hotel stays in new-to-Tauck cities including Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Montreux, and Geneva.

Each of the new sailings includes an evening with a reception and dinner in a historic palace or castle, such as Palais Fries-Pallavicini and Schlosshotel Kronberg, which are featured on the Danube Kingdoms cruise.

The season will also see guests enjoy lunch at the summit of Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany.

Tasting tours are on tap in a number of cities and towns, including Frankfurt, Strasbourg, and Chalon-Sur-Saone.

Tauck guests will also have an opportunity to quench their thirsts during wine tastings in Burgundy & Lavaux on a craft beer tour in Dusseldorf, during a brewery tour in Antwerp, and with a tasting of local brandies and apple ciders in Normandy.

Beyond food and wine experiences, Tauck guests are also extended "pre-opening" admission to the house and gardens of Claude Monet, a guided excursion into the rock-cut tunnels beneath Nuremberg, and a stroll across the Peak Walk, a pedestrian suspension bridge linking two mountain peaks in the Swiss Alps.

All of Tauck's special dining and tasting experiences are included in the price of the company's river cruises, as are all shore excursions, all gratuities, all onboard beverages, airport transfers, luggage handling, and more.

Visit tauck.com.au.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Another big year ahead

THIS week marks one year since P&O's *Pacific Explorer* became the first international cruise ship to return to Sydney, proudly signalling the start of our industry's revival in Australia.

Since then, more than 40 international cruise ships have sailed in Australia and New Zealand, carrying hundreds of thousands of guests.

Despite being one of the world's last major cruise markets to revive operations, it's likely our recovery will outpace that of other regions where cruising returned much sooner.

CLIA's global forecasts show we're likely to meet or exceed pre-pandemic passenger volumes by the end of this year – around 31.5 million people are expected to cruise worldwide during 2023.

Australia won't be far behind, and we can confidently say our region is already reclaiming its status as one of the world's most passionate cruise markets.

To help our travel agent community capitalise on cruising's resurgence, CLIA is working to ensure our members are the best equipped and most highly trained cruise specialists.

Next month's CLIA LIVE training events are a great example, and there will be plenty more education opportunities this year as we sail towards an even better cruise season ahead.



NW Passage deal

A NEW Northwest Passage package with savings and no solo supplement is available through Cruise Traveller with Adventure Canada.

Travellers can save 15% and get a free hotel stay for the 2024 package, and can utilise a buy now, pay later offer.

Cruisers must book before the end of next month, with no deposit required until Sep.

Call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.

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