



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

No more New Cal

P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Adventure* will no longer call Lifou or Noumea in New Caledonia, due to the state of emergency declared in the country.

Adventure will instead spend an additional day at Mystery Island, as P&O Australia continues to closely monitor the situation in Noumea and surrounding areas.

P&O Australia's sister brand, Carnival Cruise Line, has also revised its itinerary for *Carnival Splendor's* South Pacific voyage, which is set to depart on Sun.

The voyage will instead include stops at Santo and Vila.

itravel adds cruise to booking platform

ITRAVEL has added cruise to its booking platform HQ by itravel, as demand within the sector continues to surge (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

The travel agency recognised the need to equip its advisors with the tools required for success in cruise, as the volume of bookings in the sector flows.

HQ by itravel now connects advisors with a vast network of cruise lines, as well as hotels, transfers, and activities in one centralised location, simplifying the booking process.

Key features include comprehensive booking capabilities, enabling advisors to reserve various components of a booking; efficient management, storing all bookings in one location; dedicated support with various aspects of the process; and white-label solutions, providing advisors with a direct



bookable website.

The company has already experienced tremendous success with the new tool, boasting a high adoption rate across the network.

HQ by itravel has become the primary booking tool for its agents, resulting in increased conversions and margins.

"The addition of cruise to HQ by

itravel has already transformed our members' booking processes," Chief Executive Officer Steve Labroski said.

"We've had an unwavering positive response from our network, with the majority using it as their primary booking tool."

Pictured are Labroski and Head of Commercial Josh Gordon. *MS*



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CARNIVAL Cruise Line has been going big in Texas, becoming the first company to sail 10 million passengers from Galveston, as it continues to expand its capacity in the Lone Star State.

Guest totals in Teaxs increased by 20% this year, with a Houston woman aboard *Carnival Breeze* recently recognised as the 10 millionth Carnival guest cruising from Galveston (**pictured**).

The cruise line first launched its year-round cruise program from Galveston in 2000.



Cruise spend is up

NINE out of the last 10 record-setting spending days in the global cruise industry have occurred this year, according to new data from Mastercard Economics Institute's (MEI) fifth annual report.

Travel Trends 2024: Breaking Boundaries has found the count of global cruise transactions in the first quarter of the year is roughly 16% above 2019.

New Paspaley Pearl team



PASPALY Pearl by Ponant has recruited a team of industry experts ahead of its launch next year, which will be led by the cruise line's General Manager Sales & Marketing Asia Pacific Deb Corbett.

The cruise line's long-time executive will be joined by Alex Stragalinos, who has been appointed to the new role of Paspaley Pearl by Ponant Marketing and Sales Manager.

Stragalinos will be supported by two new team members, Wendy MacFarlane, and Jamie Van Jones (**inset**), who have been appointed to the newly created roles of Yacht Concierge and Expedition Sales Executive respectively.

Ponant is searching for another Yacht Concierge to join MacFarlane from Jul, and is creating another operations role, which will be announced in Sep.

"After months of development work, our new team is in place to support our valued trade



partners in offering this incredible 30-guest boutique expedition motor yacht to their clients," Corbett said.

"It's an exciting chapter of growth as we continue to lead the way in innovation.

"I look forward to working with Alex and the team as we blend the legacies of two globally renowned names Paspaley Pearl by Ponant."

The cruise line's new yacht will set sail on her inaugural 10-night expedition on 10 Jan, promising unique encounters with whale sharks, Komodo dragons and seldom-experienced Indonesian cultures. *MS*

Pictured are MacFarlane, Corbett, and Stragalinos.

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	19 May
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	23 May
BROOME	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	17 May
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	18 May
<i>Scenic Eclipse II</i>	20 May
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	24 May
DARWIN	
<i>Le Jacques Cartier</i>	21 May
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	23 May

Aroya sets sail

AROYA Cruises has set sail, with the new Saudi line launching its inaugural season.

Trips are now available for booking on Aroya's website, with cruises scheduled in the Red Sea in Dec visiting Aroya's private island, as well as Egypt and Jordan.

"As the first Arabian cruise line, Aroya Cruises is proud to lead the way with its authentic Arabian experience offered to guests at sea and on land," Cruise Saudi said.

"It also stands out for its unique design, which reflects Arabian generosity and Saudi Arabia's hospitality by providing exceptional experiences," it added.

