



NCL partners Rocky Mountaineer

Combined cruise and rail itineraries in the US and Canada are on track to rise.

CLIENTS can now be booked on seamless trips incorporating an Alaskan cruise and train travel through the Canadian Rockies – two of the most popular experiences for Australian travellers.

A new global partnership involving Norwegian Cruise Lines will see five different rail and cruise vacation packages available through Rocky Mountaineer for travel in 2014.

Connecting with Rocky Mountaineer's new Coastal Passage route ex Seattle, as well as train departures from Vancouver, British Columbia, clients can experience a train journey through the US Pacific Northwest and Western Canada before or after a cruise in Alaska aboard *Norwegian Jewel*, *Norwegian Pearl* or *Norwegian Sun*.

"In our research, we have found that nearly half of all of our guests combine our rail journeys with an Alaskan cruise and with this new agreement, both Rocky Mountaineer and Norwegian have come together to combine

two dream vacations into one by both land and sea," said Bob Nicholas, vp Global Sales of Rocky Mountaineer.

NCL and Rocky Mountaineer have had a strong relationship for many years but this is the first official global deal.

Among the options is the popular 14-day package, 'Canadian Rockies Highlights and Coastal Passage', which includes a seven-night round-trip Alaskan cruise from Seattle, a Rocky Mountaineer rail journey, and a helicopter flight over the Canadian Rockies.

Passengers onboard the train are seamlessly connected to the Rockies with stays in Vancouver, Banff and Lake Louise.

For details, see www.rockymountaineer.com.

Titanic II to head to the UAE

PARTNERSHIP talks are underway between a number of United Arab Emirates firms and Australian businessman Clive Palmer's Blue Star Line for the *Titanic II* cruise ship to pay a visit to Dubai, reports from the UAE say.

Blue Star Line global marketing director James McDonald said the company was in active discussion for ways to use the *Titanic II* name in order to show it off in the UAE.

"We are not looking for investment as it is a project we are funding ourselves but yes we have been in contact with a number of companies based in the Emirates who are looking at utilising opportunities that arises with the project and the massive exposure it has generated," McDonald said.

"It is people looking to use the opportunity of the trademark and licencing potential of the project," he added.

Construction of the vessel is on track to begin at the end of this year, according to the line, and due for completion in 2016.

Cruise lines celebrate at NTIA

ROYAL Caribbean International and APT were the two successful winners of Best Cruise Operator for Domestic & International based operations at last Saturday's NTIA Awards.

For a page of photos from the night showing everyone at their best, see **pg 3** of today's **CW**.

Packed with cruise news

Today's trade issue of **CW** features four pages of all the latest cruise information.

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Inaugural Jelly Bean Cruise

CABINS are expected to sell out fast aboard *Celebrity Solstice* on the first ever Jelly-Bean Cruise, departing Sydney on 17 Jan 2014.

The three-night voyage is an initiative of the Danii Meads-Barlow Foundation, which aims to lobby for the implementation of technology to assist in the management of Type 1 Diabetes.

A number of special educational seminars taking place aimed at parents and families of children with Diabetes.

Among those onboard will be nurse educators and diabetes specialists and nurse educators, who will be taking part in hosted workshops.

Topics covered will include the benefits of intensive management, diabetes technology and safety strategies to reduce hypoglycaemia in Type 1.

The voyage is on sale through Cruisescene, with cabins priced from \$461.12pp quad share.

For more information or to reserve a place, see www.bit.ly/jbcruise.



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Crystal unveils new 2015-16 program

A world voyage segment starting in Sydney and a maiden call in Albany, WA are among the local highlights.

CRYSTAL Cruises has revealed details of its 25th anniversary season, with 64 voyages calling in 248 ports including its highest number of maiden calls ever.

Until now, Crystal had only released itineraries through part of 2015, which included an Asia series and a 108-day "Silver Celebration" World Cruise from Miami.

A new announcement is a 102-day World Cruise that, for the first time, follows a route round-trip from San Francisco, with segments beginning in Sydney, Bali, Singapore, Shanghai and Tokyo.

Crystal Symphony will begin 2016 immersed in South America and Antarctica, while *Crystal Serenity* kicks off the year with a Panama Canal cruise preceding the new World Cruise.

In 2015, the two luxury ships will make 22 maiden calls to lesser-known ports in Japan,

China, Indonesia, Madagascar, Bulgaria, Greece, Brazil, South Africa, Croatia, France, Norway and more, along with a local stop in Albany, Western Australia on 11 Mar, 2015.

Overnight stays are scheduled with most itineraries – often in the port of embarkation or disembarkation – while other cruises feature double overnight calls (three days) in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Monte Carlo, Bassens (Bordeaux), St Petersburg & Yangon, Myanmar.

Round-trip voyages are offered from Singapore, New York, Dover, Monte Carlo, Los Angeles and Montreal.

Other new highlights include a new Baltic route from Copenhagen, a new Black Sea cruise from Istanbul, an 18-day North Cape & White Sea cruise from Reykjavik, a Holy Land & Med cruise via Israel, and European cruises to and from Amsterdam and Marseille.

Pricing details will be released on 31 Aug when the 2015/16 cruises open for booking.

See www.wiltrans.com.au for more details.



CLIA
CRUISE LINES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
AUSTRALASIA

Cruise News
& Views...

Amanda Rixon - Membership and Events Manager

National Cruise Week

Countdown – 5 weeks to go

IT'S just five weeks until National Cruise Week (NCW) kicks off and by now your plans for how you are going to celebrate the week should be well underway.

For CLIA Members - remember that if you will be holding an event or promotion during the week we are happy to promote this in the Events area of the NCW website at www.nationalcruiseweek.com.au.

Simply email a 1 or 2 page pdf to us at info@crusing.org.au and we will load it up for you. The earlier you do this, the more exposure your office will get as consumer traffic to the website starts to increase... think of it as free advertising!

We have also produced an editorial piece for you to personalise and send to local media contacts in your area. This can be downloaded from the Members area of the website (log in using your existing CLIA username and password).

If you are still in the early stages of planning, remember that the Cruise Agency Support Pack (also in the member's area of the website) has a wealth of ideas and strategies to help you make the most of the World's Largest Cruise Promotion.



Cruise on Legend to Sydney

TRAVEL the World has released for sale two itineraries allowing passengers to experience the *Carnival Legend* for themselves just before the ship arrives in Australia for the first time.

Prior to its debut, the ship will enter dry dock for transformation works to prepare for its new summertime home and to maximise its appeal for the local customers in Australia.

Two trips are on sale, with a 12-night sailing from Tampa in Florida via the Panama Canal to Los Angeles departing 17 Aug priced from \$1,925ppts and a 22-night voyage from LA to Sydney via Tahiti, Fiji and Noumea departing on 30 Aug, priced from \$2,795ppts.

Both voyages can also be combined, and for more details, phone 1300 950 622.

Full interior makeover finished

FOLLOWING a complete overhaul of its interior, Victoria Cruises has re-inducted the new look *Victoria Anna* into its fleet of vessels operating on China's Yangtze River.

Among the upgrades fitted to the ship are new carpets and furnishings, redesigned public areas including restaurants, the lobby and spa, as well as new carpet fitted throughout.

The ship has also boosted its entertainment range for passengers, installing a Karaoke room.

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Thursday 25 July 2013

There's nothing like an award to float your boat

CRUISE companies were among travel industry operators to celebrate excellence at last weekend's National Travel Industry Awards.

The event took place at Sydney's Hordern Pavilion, honouring travel agents and suppliers, with two dedicated cruise categories.

Royal Caribbean was thrilled to be a first time winner of the Best Cruise Operator - Australian Based Operation award, while APT took out the Best Cruise Operator - International Based Operation category - a testament to the ongoing popularity of river cruising.

These pictures were taken during the event - for many more see the website of our sister publication **Travel Daily** or [facebook.com/traveldaily](https://www.facebook.com/traveldaily).



ABOVE: What number did they come? The APT team including Chris Hall and Susan Haberle celebrate their sweet victory.

RIGHT: Royal Caribbean Australia/NZ ceo Gavin Smith accepts the precious prize from Lee Pownall of AA Appointments.

RIGHT: *Cruise Weekly's* very own Louise Goldsbury rushed back from overseas (yes, she had been on yet another cruise) to attend the awards dinner.

Her diligence was rewarded when she won the Best Travel Writer award, which she's pictured accepting from Brett Wendorf of Princess Cruises.



ABOVE: Donna Meads-Barlow from CruiseScene looking fabulous.

RIGHT: Royal Caribbean national sales manager Peter McCormack with Maureen van Metter from Insight Vacations.



ABOVE and ABOVE RIGHT: Travel the World joint managing directors Justin Montgomery and Andrew Millmore.

RIGHT Tony Archbold, Australasian head of Holland America and Seabourn.



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Future of Gold Coast cruising

QUEENSLAND Tourism Industry Council will next month host a panel discussion concerning the future of the cruise industry on the Gold Coast, featuring a number of guest speakers.

The event will take place at SkyPoint on Level 78 of the Q1 Building in Surfers Paradise from 10:45am until 1:30pm, with lunch provided.

Carnival Cruises Australia CEO Ann Sherry and Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate will participate in the forum, with topics to cover including the debate over a Gold Coast cruise terminal and access to infrastructure, among others.

Visit www.bit.ly/gccruising for more details.

Norwegian to scrub emissions

SCRUBBER technology which cleans cruise ship exhaust fumes will be operational on two upcoming Breakaway Plus style ships from Norwegian Cruise Lines, currently under construction at the Meyer Werft shipyards.

The new technology has also been retrofitted to the line's Hawaii-based *Pride of America* vessel and will be switched on later this year, will help the company meet more stringent guidelines on emissions.

RaMarama resumes to Tivua

AFTER seven months of repairs, Captain Cook Cruises' tall-ship *RaMarama* is again operating the company's Tivua Island Day Cruise in Fiji.

The repaired vessel now boasts new sails, masts and rigging, with the seven-hour day trip departure priced from FJ\$165 per adult.

Aurora new Antarctic Gateway

PUERTO Williams in Chile will now serve as the new 'Antarctic Gateway' for Aurora Expeditions 2014/15 newly released itinerary range, replacing Ushuaia on many departures.

The new port is located within the UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve, with all voyages either departing or returning to the reserve.

Additionally, all departures utilising the port will include a tour of the port town and a scenic flight over the Dientes de Navarino Mountains during transit to Punta Arenas.

Ushuaia will remain as the departure or return port for a selection of voyages.

Prices start from US\$7,100ppts for a 10-day voyage - see www.auroraexpeditions.com.au.



IT'S A BOY!!!

No, wait...it's a BUOY!!!

Princess Cruises decided to add its own unique spin on the hysteria and celebration currently going on around the world relating to the birth of the future King of England.

Considering the newborn king's mother, Kate Middleton's final official engagement before the birth was to name and christen the new *Royal Princess*, the Princess Cruises Australian team staged the photo, below, holding their own *Sun Princess*, or should that be Son Prince, buoys.

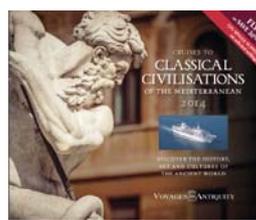
The team is **pictured** below welcoming the future monarch to the world, and from left is Devan Lal, Shaun Fleischer, Tatiana Bersais, Laura Denning, Zach Gregory and Elise Wellfare.



Brochure Spotlight

Voyages to Antiquity has released its much anticipated guide to Mediterranean voyages, which are now on sale.

Guests seeking a small-ship experience with packaged pre/post cruise hotel accom and included shore excursions will want to get their hands on a copy. Simply by booking by 31 Oct 2013, clients can take advantage of value-add bonus inclusions such as Fly Free to Europe, 20% reductions on cabin fares and 15% single supplements for solo travellers. Staterooms are priced from \$4,795ppts. Details at info@voyagestoantiquity.com.au.



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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

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