

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 28 Apr 2015

Cruise Weekly today

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

Travelmarvel adds Galapagos vessel

TRAVELMARVEL has released its 2016 South America brochure, with the addition of Galapagos cruising on board the newly refurbished *M/V Santa Cruz II*.

The 90-passenger vessel is one of the region's most modern ships, featuring a range of facilities including two Jacuzzis and various dining areas.

Travelmarvel also offers Amazon cruising aboard the boutique *MV Anakonda* while the program expands the company's Chilean Fjords program with a wider choice of departures aboard Holland America's *ms Zaandam*.

There's also a range of land content including the new 11 day Iconic Wonders of Peru tour and a new four day rail journey through Ecuador.

Earlybird specials include a "Travel with Friends" offer under which six or more people who book together can save up to \$800 per couple - 1800 196 420.

A&K Myanmar deal

ABERCROMBIE & Kent is offering savings of up to \$1630 per couple for bookings of 3 or 4 night Ayeyarwady River voyages in Myanmar aboard the *Sanctuary Ananda* - 1300 590 317.

P&O's Eden and Aria revealed

PENTHOUSE suites, live jazz and private dining - the new *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria* are set to break the mould for P&O Australia when they join the fleet in Nov this year.

Boosting P&O to five vessels, the additions continue the line's upmarket push which also includes the elimination of the traditional and time-honoured cruise ship buffet (**CW** 23 Mar).

"*Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden* represent the next generation of P&O ships inspired by modern Australia," said P&O senior vice president Sture Myrmell.

"The new onboard features will drastically change the overall look and feel of our ships...it will be a relaxed vibe, casual enough to

bring the sand in from the beach but with a touch of sophistication that will feel luxurious and indulgent," Myrmell said.

Revealed in the latest brochure, the new offerings will include The Blue Room, "an opulent and intimate space...reminiscent of a New Orleans speakeasy".

There will also be a new Ocean Bar and a private dining room for the popular Chef's Table experience, along with the continuation of Salt Grill by Luke Mangan.

A new-look Lido pool will have an "in-vogue residential resort feel," with Myrmell saying the extra ships will give Australians "a boutique cruise experience year-round right from their doorstep".

Eden and *Aria* will emerge from a dry dock in Singapore in Nov - photos of the new features at facebook.com/cruiseweekly.

Seabourn 2016-17 out

SEABOURN'S newly released 2016-17 program offers 28 itineraries across 104 departures, and will feature the "newest and most modern ultra-luxury fleet at sea" following the debut of the new *Seabourn Encore* which will next year join *Seabourn Odyssey*, *Seabourn Sojourn* and *Seabourn Quest* - see www.seabourn.com.

MEANWHILE Seabourn has also upped its culinary ante via a new partnership with US chef Thomas Keller who runs Michelin-starred restaurants Per Se, the French Laundry and Bouchon and will debut a new "signature" eatery on board *Seabourn Quest*.

Avalon \$799 flights

AVALON Waterways is offering \$799 European airfares in conjunction with its 2016 season, valid for departures Mar-May, Sep and Nov booked by 30 Jun.

For Jun-Aug travel \$999 fares ex SYD, MEL, BNE, PER, ADL and DRW are also on offer on SQ, EK, CX and EY - 1300 230 234.

MEANWHILE Avalon is also set to resume cruises in Egypt from Jan, with the Globus brand to utilise the 148-passenger *Mayfair* for the Nile River departures.

Win an Apple Watch

THE *Travel Daily/Cruise Weekly* Australian industry salary survey wraps up tomorrow, with the opportunity for participants to win an Apple Watch.

Other prizes up for grabs include Samsung Galaxy tablets as well as 100 HOYTS movie vouchers - have your say by clicking the button.

[Click for salary survey](#)

Costa China growth

COSTA Cruises has commenced the year-round deployment of *Costa Serena* out of Shanghai, where she joins *Costa Atlantica* and *Costa Victoria*.

Costa Asia president Buhdy Bok has also announced that *Costa Fortuna* will join the fleet in China by Apr next year.

Chinese actress Gua Yuanyuan has been named as Costa Cruises' brand ambassador, as well as being godmother of *Serena*.

MSC shuffles trips

MSC Cruises has rejigged its upcoming itineraries, with previously planned calls in Egypt and Ukraine replaced with Mediterranean alternatives such as Rhodes, Heraklion, Limassol and Eilat.

The safety-focused itinerary changes are a "response to clear market demand" and affects cruises on board *MSC Sinfonia*, *MSC Opera*, *MSC Fantasia* and *MSC Musica*.

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Cruiseco's ANZAC Quest



ABOVE: Cruiseco directors Phil Hoffmann, Kevin Dale and Steve Lloyd commemorated ANZAC Day just over the horizon from Gallipoli last weekend, aboard the *Azamara Quest*.

Following a private service on board, passengers viewed the direct ABC telecast of the official ceremonies from ANZAC Cove.

Many of the 700 passengers aboard the ship were direct descendants of those who had served at Gallipoli, and were deeply moved to be so closely involved with the historic occasion.

Cruiseco has chartered *Azamara Quest* for a total of 70 days, starting with the 34-day "Mediterranean Montage" which departed Istanbul a week ago followed by the "European Enchantment" voyage which finishes up in Southampton in early Jul.

Windstar sales chief

WINDSTAR Cruises has hired ex Holland America/Seabourn director of international sales Steven Simao as its new vice president of travel agency sales.

American Eagle launch

AMERICAN Cruise Lines has formally christened its second Mississippi riverboat, the new *American Eagle*.

The ceremony took place in New Orleans, with the ship then departing on its maiden cruise, a seven night Lower Mississippi voyage taking in Natchez and Vicksburg in Mississippi as well as Baton Rouge, St Francisville and Vacherie in Louisiana.

The *American Eagle* and sister ship *Queen of the Mississippi* each boast 84 outside cabins.

Disney Dream to add Star Wars youth area

DISNEY Cruise Line's *Disney Dream* is set for an upgrade, with an upcoming dry dock to add a range of enhancements including a Star Wars themed area in its onboard Oceaneer Club which is for passengers aged 3-12 years.

The "Force-filled play area" allows children to join the Rebel Alliance and play in the Millennium Falcon, with Star Wars-themed crafts, games and activities.

There will also be an on-board version of the Jedi Training Academy, a popular Disneyland interactive attraction.

The makeover will include a new adults area called Satellite Falls as well as a Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique where younger passengers can be transformed with the help of a fairy godmother.

The changes will debut on *Dream's* 26 Oct departure from Port Canaveral to the Bahamas.

Leak cancels voyage

ROYAL Caribbean International has been forced to undertake an unexpected dry dock for its *Majesty of the Seas* which developed an oil leak.

Majesty is the line's oldest vessel, with the repair seeing the last minute cancellation of a sailing out of Miami yesterday.



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APT flies the ANZAC flag

APT hosted more than 500 guests from Australia and New Zealand on the Gallipoli Peninsula last weekend, with both land and ocean-based operations.

On the water, APT's own *MS Island Sky* as well as a charter of Ponant's *Le Soleal* were full, while a special ANZAC land tour had 105 guests travelling on behalf of NZ travel agency group House of Travel.

APT founder Geoff McGeary and his son Robert - pictured with special guest speaker on *Le Soleal*, Australian naval commander Peter Martin - were on

hand to host the various cruises and accompany guests on tours of the region in the lead-up to the dawn service.

"We are incredibly proud to be here on the Gallipoli Peninsula hosting our guests from across Australia and New Zealand," said Geoff McGeary.

"It has been a truly humbling experience to hear so many



moving stories from our guests, all of whom are here to experience this once-in-a-lifetime event and to pay their respects, often for very personal reasons, to the brave young soldiers who lost their lives here 100 years ago," he said.

Quebec upgrade

CANADA'S Port of Quebec is set for a major cruise terminal upgrade, with the operator saying it will reinforce its "market-leading position" in New England.

The \$90m project will see the redesign and expansion of the existing Ross Gaudreault Cruise Terminal, doubling capacity and allowing the facility to handle larger vessels.

Quebec is targeting growth to 400,000 cruise passengers annually by 2025.

Sea Cloud bike tour

SEA Cloud Cruises is operating a special cycling departure of its *Sea Cloud II* which will voyage from Malta to Malaga on 23 Oct this year, in partnership with bike holiday specialists Terranova.

The sailing trip is priced from €3895pp with a €795pp surcharge for a "bike and tour" package which includes all guided cycling and hiking tours - seacloud.com.

Cruise Calendar



This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	29 Apr
<i>Sun Princess</i>	29 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	30 Apr
FREMANTLE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	29 Apr
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	29 Apr

Green Un-Cruise

SEATTLE-BASED Un-Cruise Adventures has been recognised by the US Passenger Vessel Association as a member of its Green WATERS program.

The voluntary scheme aims to reduce waste and help the environment by reducing fuel consumption, using less harmful chemicals near waterways and conserving energy.

Un-Cruise ceo Dan Blanchard said the company was "committed to operating responsibly as we explore in some of the most scenic and awe inspiring places on earth".

He said Un-Cruise follows "Leave No Trace" practices on all voyages, and explores remote areas in small groups to minimise environmental impact.

Royal Caribbean role

PAUL T. Parker has been appointed as senior vice president and chief human resources officer for Royal Caribbean, with responsibility for more than 64,000 employees.



AN AVID cruiser literally takes the cake for enthusiasm after commissioning a special birthday cake.

British pastrychef Blondie's Bakes posted the photo below on Twitter, after baking it for a client's 50th birthday.

The vessel depicted looks to be the brand new P&O Cruises World Cruising *Britannia*, showing the Union Jack livery being gradually rolled out right across the P&O UK fleet.



THE world's first underwater oxygen bar is now in operation - and cruise ship passengers on Carnival Corporation brands can experience it at the company's dedicated port in Puerta Maya located in Cozumel, Mexico.

Dubbed "Clear Lounge," the underwater attraction is described as a 'truly unique social novelty,' with guests immersed in a 13,000 gallon freestanding aquarium where they wear special masks fed by enriched oxygen.

The air feed also includes aromatherapy scents, and during the 20 minute "near-zero gravity" underwater experience the participants are entertained by a bartender who helps them to play jenga, take photos in an underwater photo booth and conduct "target practice with high powered bubble guns".

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