

# CRUISE



## WEEKLY



Tuesday 11 Aug 2015

### Incentive at Academy

**PRINCESS** Cruises has put up an eight-night cruise from Japan as a major prize available to all agents registering for the free Princess Academy online training course over the next 10 weeks.

Twenty EFTPOS cards of \$200 in value are also available to win.

Agents will earn a point upon registering, with points added as an agent progresses up the ranks through to Commodore.

Winners will be drawn randomly, with the major prize rewarding the agents with the most points.

More info at [www.wlcl.com.au](http://www.wlcl.com.au).

### RCI emissions target

**THIRTEEN** more ships in the Royal Caribbean International fleet & six belonging to Celebrity Cruises will be fitted with exhaust scrubbers as part of an Advanced Emissions Purification scheme.

Full implementation of the scheme is due for completion by 2017, with installation on some ships to be done in drydock and others while in scheduled service.

Once complete, 19 ships across RCI and Celebrity will feature the exhaust purification technology.

RCI said in May that scrubbers were being retrofitted on *Freedom of the Seas*, *Liberty of the Seas*, *Independence of the Seas* and *Adventure of the Seas*.

The systems work by infusing seawater - which is naturally alkaline - into the sulphur dioxide ship emissions to neutralise and then be cleanly discharged.

## Yacht designs for Crystal

**CRYSTAL** Cruises has released more details about its fledgling Crystal River Cruises offshoot unveiled last month (**CW** 21 Jul), with an initial fleet to comprise two "six-star service" vessels.

Employing a "yacht-like" design (**pictured**), Crystal's new class of river cruise vessels will commence operations in Europe in Mar 2017.

Both of the line's ships, will be built by Germany's Lloyd Werft shipyard, offering 70 suites, each 250sqf in size with walk-in wardrobes, king size beds and double vanities, with two double-size penthouses. Public areas will include a Palm

Court with glass-domed roof, fitness centre and spa facility.

The new Crystal River Cruises brand says it will offer "larger accommodations and space-to-guest ratio than any other river cruise Ship...plus a fresh approach to the traditional river itineraries and experiences".



Crystal Cruises president and ceo Edie Rodriguez said river cruises were "a natural

extension" of the core Crystal ocean cruising product.

Itineraries and fares for Crystal River Cruises will be detailed on 01 Dec, with bookings set to go on sale from the same date.

### All connected by 2016

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line will roll out its modified onboard social media-focused internet package fleet-wide by early 2016 following a "tremendous response" from a guest trial on *Carnival Breeze*.

Already available on a number of the line's ships, the package will cost US\$5 per day and allow access to a range of popular websites and social media portals.

The line's new mobile app, which offers a chat feature for guests to communicate with each other, will be available across the fleet by the middle of next year.

### Next Star itin delayed

**PASSENGERS** due to join the next scheduled sailing on Viking Ocean Cruises' *Viking Star* have joined the ship today, two days later than originally planned.

Following an engine fault which stranded the ship in Estonia last week (**CW** 04 Aug), guests due to board *Star* last Sat instead spent two nights in Bergen pre-cruise and were hosted on shore tours.

The majority of those affected by last week's shortened sailing took charter flights to Bergen and will be compensated for their disrupted itinerary, Viking said.

### Today's issue of CW

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news and photos.

### NCL Asian footprint

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line will set up a regional base office in Hong Kong as it continues its expansion into the Asian market.

NCL has recruited former Carnival Asia vice-president for market development Bill Harber to become president & managing director for Norwegian in Asia.

Norwegian Cruise Line president Andy Stuart has said it was considering whether to operate longer cruises to Asia for clients in established Europe and America markets, or to position a ship in Asia for the Asian market on a long-term or permanent basis.

"We are putting a team in place and building a plan that makes sense for the short term and also for the longer term," Stuart said.

The line this week confirmed it would return to Australia after 15 years away (**CW** Tue) with a pair of port calls by *Norwegian Star* to Sydney in Feb 2017.

**MEANWHILE**, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings has joined the race to Cuba, applying for permits for its brands to sail to the region.

NCLH is also working with Cuban authorities to obtain approval for the voyage at the other end.

It follows news last month that Carnival Corporation brand fathom had been granted rights to cruise in Cuba (**CW** 09 Jul).

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## Cruise on a freighter

**GERMAN** freight shipping line NSB Reiseburo has opened up its Singapore to Australia route to passengers, offering cabins on a voyage departing every 35 days.

Sailing onboard the *MV Lisbon*, the next departure bound for Fremantle, Melbourne & Sydney is scheduled for 11 Sep.

Travellers keen to cruise in the opposite direction can board the freighter in Sydney on 24 Aug or the second departure on 05 Oct.

At this stage, pax can only join the voyage in 2015, with no bookings taken for next year yet.

Accommodation onboard consists of three cabins - a 323sqft Owner's Suite and Purser's Suite as well as a 169sqft Single cabin.

British booking firm The Cruise People are handling reservations for the freight voyage, with rates starting from €85 (A\$181) per day for the single cabin or €90 (A\$191) per person per day for double occupancy cabins.

Port charges, booking fees and deviation insurance is additional.

## Astor confirms its return

**CRUISE & Maritime Voyages** has confirmed it will bring its premium ship *Astor* back to Perth for a fourth consecutive year based from Fremantle in 2016/17.

*Astor* will arrive in Fremantle on 09 Dec 2016 after completing a 53-night westbound itinerary from London Tilbury, travelling via the Panama Canal.

For the first two seasons from Perth *Astor* has completed to date, the ship has travelled in an easterly direction via the Suez.

The ship was originally booked for three seasons based from the Western Australia port, the last of which was 2015/16, however demand for the line's offerings has warranted an extension.

Staterooms for the southbound repositioning itinerary departing London on 16 Oct 2016 are currently on sale at up to 40% off for bookings made by 31 Oct, with prices starting at \$6,299pp for a twin-share inner cabin.

An additional 10% discount can

be enjoyed by repeat guests on all categories booked by this date.

Ports scheduled for the 2016 southbound journey include Funchal, St Johns, St Lucia, Barbados, Acapulco, French Polynesia and Papeete before reaching Auckland on 27 Nov.

Guests keen to experience the repositioning without journeying all the way to Fremantle can also book sectors from London Tilbury to Auckland (42 nights), Sydney (46 nights) or Adelaide (49 nights).

The remainder of *Astor's* 2016/17 season from Fremantle is not yet on sale - **CLICK HERE**.

## Jew heads to PNG

**UNDERWATER** photographer Darren Jew will join *True North's* Archipelago Adventure to share his wisdom with guests onboard.

The five-night trip around PNG's Louisiade Archipelago departs Cairns on 13 Dec and includes snorkelling over WWII wrecks.



**PERHAPS** you enjoy checking under cushions for surprises, you think twice before you "smell the cheese", or you flat out refuse to smell any flowers...if this sounds like a hilariously good time, festival-at-sea organiser Sixthman has announced the cruise for you.

New York-based comedy group The Tenderloins, known for their practical jokes, will take over the *Norwegian Pearl* from Miami to Cozumel from 11-15 Jan 2016 as part of a special jokers cruise.

Tenderloins Sal, Joe, Q and Murr are known for coercing one another into doing very public and embarrassing pranks while being filmed by hidden cameras.

The cruise will also feature a range of other comedians, live bands and DJs as well as Q&A sessions with the Tenderloins - see [impracticaljokerscruise.com](http://impracticaljokerscruise.com).

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## Cruise Calendar

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

City	Ship	Date
SYDNEY	<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	15 Aug
BRISBANE	<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	11 Aug
	<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	16 Aug
	<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	17 Aug

## Excursions by evening

**FOURTEEN** new "unique" night-time shore excursions have been released by Celebrity Cruises designed for overnight in-port stays on 2016 Caribbean sailings.

The 'Evenings Around The World' range will take place on over 40 Caribbean departures for pax travelling onboard *Celebrity Eclipse* and *Celebrity Equinox*.

Excursions range in price from \$45pp up to \$239pp and include evening jazz concerts, exclusive parties on boats and by bonfires, wine tastings, sunset cruises and horse-drawn carriage tours.

Celebrity said night tours will be held in ports including Cartagena, Cozumel, Curacao & more, aimed at providing a unique experience.

## Fiji dep dates released

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises Fiji has released the 2016 and early 2017 departure dates for its three itineraries to Fiji's remote corners.

The seven-night '4 Cultures Discovery Cruise', the first cruise to circumnavigate the entire island of Vanua Levu, will depart 03 May, 05 Jul and 06 Sep 2016.

The seven-night 'Colonial Fiji Discovery Cruise', which explores the Northern Fiji Islands leaves 05 Apr, 07 Jun, 02 Aug, 04 Oct, 06 Dec 2016 and 07 Feb 2017.

Finally, the longer 11-night 'Lau and Kadavu Discovery Cruise' to the Lau Islands and Kadavu, departs 01 Mar & 01 Nov 2016 and 03 Jan & 07 Mar 2017.

## Ecruising Cuba deals

**ONLINE** cruise retail portal Ecruising.travel has developed a range of travel packages to Cuba in conjunction with MSC Cruises' upcoming voyages to the island.

MSC will base the *MSC Opera* in Havana from Dec this year to run 16 departures of a seven-night itinerary to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Mexico (**CW** 07 Jul).

Thirteen-night packages leaving from Sydney including return air, the cruise and a six-night land tour are priced from \$8,239ppts.

## Trade marks five years of Salt



**P&O CRUISES** recently celebrated five years of satisfying passengers' tastebuds via the fine dining of celebrity chef Luke Mangan's Salt Grill.

The famed foodie hosted an anniversary celebration on the Gold Coast, in which he invited esteemed members of the local travel trade to share in the occasion.

Speaking at the event, P&O Cruises senior vice president Sture Myrmell detailed the story behind how Salt Grill came to be onboard P&O's three vessels.

"Luke said to me he'd like to try putting a restaurant on a ship and at the time I was thinking about ways to add something new to P&O's food offering.

"So I rang him a few months later and suggested we give it a try - and we haven't looked back since," Myrmell added.

After debuting on *Pacific Jewel* in Dec 2009, the concept proved so popular that it was expanded to *Pacific Dawn* and *Pacific Pearl* within the first year.

Over the five year life since, Salt Grill has served 350,000 guests.



The concept will soon also be rolled out on *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden* upon their addition to the fleet in Nov this year.

Myrmell is **pictured** above with Luke Mangan at the event, while inset are Paul and Anne Graham from Gold Coast agency Just Cruises with P&O key account manager Andrew Thwaites.

## Antarctica by the lens

**AURORA** Expeditions has released a five-minute short film showcasing a journey to Antarctica onboard the small expedition ship *Polar Pioneer*.

Captured by cinematographer Abraham Joffe, the piece visits one of the world's largest King Penguin rookeries in South Georgia and shows Antarctica's giant icebergs and landscapes.

To watch the video, **CLICK HERE**.

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