

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 02 Jun 2015

RCI extends Explorer

TWO new sailings have been added to the maiden 2015/16 season in Australia of Royal Caribbean's *Explorer of the Seas*.

The extension sees the vessel's 24-night repositioning departure to Seattle now set as 23 Apr, with a 12-night roundtrip sailing from Sydney to New Zealand fit in.

Guests can take advantage of the current 'Buy One Get One up to 50% off' on the new sailings, valid for bookings made by 30 Jun.

Perks for Pacific nations

AUSTRALIA'S cruise industry has identified a platform on which all cruise lines operating in the South Pacific region can work together for the mutual benefit of island communities visited.

The Pacific Cruise Market Research and Intelligence Report, funded by The European Union, was prepared by Sydney-based CHART Management Consultants.

The report covers the scale of

the South Pacific, geographic coverage, growth and potential.

South Pacific Tourism Organisation ceo Ilisoni Vuidreketi said the study sets a course for the region to respond to growing economic potential from cruising.

"This report is an extension of the work being carried out in the region to support our member countries set up cruise committees & create a consolidated approach to prepare their ports for visiting cruise liners," Vuidreketi added.

Information on capacity, source markets, destinations and issues & challenges are covered - aimed at helping nations plan and figure relevant infrastructure investment for their own long-term growth.

In addition, island nations will benefit from learning about how the cruise industry works & what facilities and services to provide.

The report also aims to set up Pacific Island nations to prosper from the overall success of the cruise industry in this region.

CLIA Australasia exec director Neil Linwood said cruise lines were eager to work with nations to develop sustainable incomes.

"With good planning, management and collaboration, all Pacific island countries stand to benefit from the growth of cruising - economically and socially," Linwood commented.

A more formal Pacific Regional Cruise Development Strategy with a defined course of action is on track for completion by Nov.

Ponant cash bonuses

FRENCH cruise line Ponant has launched a new trade incentive in Australia for bookings made on its newly launched 2016 brochure.

Kicking off yesterday, all new bookings for departure in 2016 deposited by COB 24 Jul will earn travel agents a \$300 cash bonus per person on top of commission, or \$600 per couple on average.

Rewards will be distributed in the form of a Ponant EFTPOS gift card mailed to agency managers for distribution.

CLICK HERE to register.

MEANWHILE, Ponant has also signed to refine its onboard champagne range through a deal with Veuve Clicquot.

The exclusive arrangement will see the high-end French drop offered on all five Ponant yachts along with themed sample events.

Liz laughing all the way to sea



ELIZABETH Madden from MTA - Mobile Travel Agents saw the funny side of P&O Cruises' recent MAY-HEM product update, walking away with a major prize.

Madden's sides are set to split from laughter as she embarks on an upcoming P&O 'Comedy Cruise' SeaBreak later this year.

The aisles are sure to be packed with rolling people on a number of upcoming P&O SeaBreaks, with several set to depart Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne through this year and into next.

Madden is pictured above left with P&O Cruises director of sales Ryan Taibel.

Film Festival to sea

PRODUCTIONS selected from the Sydney Film Festival will be screened on an upcoming Princess Cruises sailing to New Zealand.

The 12-night 'Travelling Film Festival' roundtrip voyage will sail on *Diamond Princess*, departing Sydney on 04 Feb 2016.

Fares for the sailing start from \$1,719 per person twin share.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news & photos plus a full page about the *Cruise Weekly* iPhone app.

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	05 Jun
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	08 Jun
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	02 Jun
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	06 Jun
<i>Sun Princess</i>	08 Jun
FREMANTLE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	06 Jun
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	04 Jun
GERALDTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	07 Jun
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	06 Jun

Nunavut cruising & Rockies

ONE Ocean Expeditions is set to launch a new seven-night voyage of Canada's northernmost province, developed to appeal to a wider international market.

Ask Aussie travel agents where you can cruise in Canada, most will identify the Inside Passage, St Lawrence Seaway, Great Lakes or the Maritime region, according to One Ocean Expeditions director Reinoud Daniels.

Only a small number are aware of the options available north of Manitoba and Quebec, in the province of Nunavut, Daniels told **CW** last week at the Rendez-vous Canada 2015 trade show. One Ocean has been operating voyages in the region for a number of seasons, with its core product - a 12-night sailing between Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay & vice versa - centred on the Northwest Passage and Baffin Island.

The majority of Baffin Island is located within the Arctic Circle, and between Aug and Sep it is a haven for sealife and wildlife.

Daniels said the rugged terrain is teeming with seabirds, polar bears, seals, muskox and walrus, with beluga and narwhal also commonly spotted.

Its polar research designed ship *Akademik Ioffe* accommodates 98 pax and accesses remote sections of Baffin Island using Zodiacs.

The line's cruise priorities are focused on hikes, wildlife spotting, history and photography.

For 2016, One Ocean is offering

a week-long voyage in the region, which Daniels says is "sharply priced" and will appeal to Aussies who could combine the cruise with a fly-drive package or coach/rail tour of the Canadian Rockies.

The shorter cruise operates roundtrip from Resolute, enabling guests to gain quicker entry into the "heart of the action".

Sister ship *Akademik Ioffe Vavilov* also operates two sailings of the Northwest Passage.

The region is accessed from Edmonton or Ottawa, charter services One Ocean can organise.

Daniels told **Cruise Weekly** in Niagara Falls last week that with greater awareness and education of Nunavut, agents will be able to better sell the destination and One Ocean's adventure product.

See oneoceanexpeditions.com.

Collette adds to range

AMERICAN tour firm Collette, now with a burgeoning office in Sydney, has expanded its river cruise range for 2015/16, adding two new itineraries in Europe.

To become available 01 Jun, the eight-day Timeless France sails the Saône and Rhône onboard the *MS Amadeus Symphony*.

In addition, the Magical Rhine and Moselle tour departs from Amsterdam on the *MS Amadeus Silver II*, available to book now and priced from \$3,409ppts.

Sailing South America

G ADVENTURES has expanded its South American product range with a new 38-day cruise itinerary sailing the south-western coast.

The entire trip takes pax from Ushuaia, Argentina to Cartagena in Colombia, however segments of 12-days can also be booked.

In all, 21 ports in Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Colombia are visited, with a three-day land trip to Machu Picchu also included.

Segments of the voyage start from \$9,999ppts, with the entire itinerary at \$19,999pp, with departure scheduled for 21 Mar.

Back-Roads sets sail

SMALL group Europe tour firm Back-Road Touring has released its maiden brochure for its new range of European barge touring product launched recently.

The 'Charming Waterways of Europe' guide features a range of boutique barges sailing the canals of France and islands of Croatia, Greece, Turkey and more.

Reported first by **CW** sister title **Travel Daily** in Apr (TD 29 Apr), Back-Roads' move onto water comes in time to allow Aussies "to see Europe like never before", brand mgr Hugh Houston said.

"As well as taking guests on the water, the tour series will still provide the quintessential Back-Roads Tours experience, with leisurely days on the road, authentic local experiences and cuisines, and exclusive shore excursions," Houston added.

An exclusive fleet of barges has been commissioned by the firm to deliver the Charming product.

1,2,3 back on Celebrity

FREE cabin upgrades on top of a choice of three offers are available from Celebrity Cruises as part of its relaunched 123go promotion.

Valid on voyages of three nights or more departing from 01 Aug to 30 Apr 2016, pax can select a free Classic Beverage Package, free gratuities for two or up to US\$300 in onboard credit - book by 05 Jul.

Un-Cruise Alaska plan

SIX ships operating 113 cruises will make up the 2016 schedule in Alaska for Un-Cruise Adventures, with two new roundtrip itineraries ex Juneau headlining the season.

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HOLLAND America Line has seen its latest onshore venture bloom, this one quite literally.

The Dutch-founded line was given the honour of naming and christening its own field of tulips in the Netherlands.

More than 200,000 of the HAL Signature Tulips reached full bloom during the recent northern spring, covering an entire field.

The fields of beautiful tulips were lovingly tended by Dutch horticulturalist Jan Pennings, who is pictured below right with Holland America Line director sales & marketing North and Central Europe Nico Bleichrodt.



Mega Antiquity cruise

VOYAGES to Antiquity has released a new 41-day one-way Grand Voyage from London to Istanbul aboard *Aegean Odyssey*.

Departing Jun next year, the package includes return flights, pre and post-cruise hotel stays, 32 shore excursions, free internet and laundry onboard and a \$500 onboard credit - (02) 9959 1333.

Brochure Spotlight

FRESH from inducting its fourth and newest luxury yacht into its fleet in the form of *Le Lyrial*, Ponant will



once again take on the world in 2016 on its bolstered fleet of five.

New destinations are always being added, with Alaska, the Arctic Far North and Canada becoming the latest additions for the northern summer period.

They join an already extensive line up of global ports across the Mediterranean, Aegean and Baltic Seas for Apr-Oct 2016.

The new brochure features a very user-friendly design, with a season-long calendar outlining all voyages across all ships, helping pax to identify sailings available for their travel month.

Deck and stateroom plans are all detailed within, as well as the advantages of joining Ponant's Yacht Club loyalty program.

Voyages themselves are backed with evocative imagery, full itinerary schedules and highlights not to be missed.

CLICK HERE to download.

Cargo cruising goes up a notch



RENDERINGS of the next evolution in cargo cruising have been released by Aranui Cruises for its upcoming vessel *Aranui 5*.

Scheduled for launch next year, the 125-metre long freighter will offer 14-night cruises departing from Tahiti to the idyllic Society and Tuamotu Islands.

Decorated in Polynesian style, cabins feature a natural colour scheme with original paintings by German artist Erhard Lux.

Like its predecessors, *Aranui 5* provides a lifeline to remote Tahitian communities, delivering food, fuel and essential supplies, while passengers spend their days

enjoying shore excursions.

The first five voyages of 2016 - each able to accommodate 260 passengers - are available at a discounted rate starting from \$7,397ppts for a Deluxe Balcony or \$8,506 for a Premium Balcony.

Public facilities onboard include restaurant, four bars, meeting rooms, disco, a library, computer room, gym and swimming pool.

The cabin is **pictured** above.

Cruise New Zealand

REGISTRATIONS are now being accepted for the 2015 Cruise New Zealand tradeshow & conference, which will take place at the Pullman Auckland on 30-31 Jul.

Themed as 'Cruising Towards 2025', the conference will feature plethora of cruise executives as speakers and panel discussions focusing on the sector's future.

Topics will include developing Auckland as a turnaround port for ships & opportunities from China.

Speakers will include Ports of Auckland CEO Tony Gibson & CLIA Australasia chair Neil Linwood.

Explorer pool luxury

CIRCULAR sunbeds & oversized lounge chairs feature in an elegantly designed "outdoor oasis" currently in development on the new *Seven Seas Explorer*.

The ship, still in construction, is being billed as "the most luxurious ship ever built" by its operator Regent Seven Seas Cruises, part of the Norwegian Cruise Line collection of brands.

It is due for delivery next year. Lounge seating will border an expansive pool area, the line said this week, "ringed by teak decking" which will be the centrepiece of its outdoor areas.

Inspired by high-end pool retreats, the recreation area will feature marble and natural stone, with sea-inspired ceramic tiles.

Star Legend inducted

WINDSTAR Cruises has formally welcomed the third and final vessel purchased from Seabourn into its fleet, last week christening *Star Legend* in Rome following a US\$8.5 million renovation.

Online travel agent entrepreneur Gloria Bohan served as the ship's Godmother, breaking a bottle of champagne across its bow in a ceremony attended by 250 guests.

Windstar has refurbished and reintroduced its three purchases as *Star Pride* & *Star Breeze*, taking its inventory to 1,242 berths.



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