

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 09 Jun 2015

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.

Harmonies on APT

PRIVATE onboard performances from ensemble members of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will feature as the first of a new series of Special Events cruises by APT.

Now on sale, six departures of the firm's 15-day Magnificent Europe flagship itinerary will offer the musical extravaganza.

Onboard will be four members of the orchestra - Lerida Delbridge, Claire Herrick, Justin Williams and Timothy Nankervis.

Guests will have the chance to enjoy well-known classic tunes as well as new compositions by local European classical artists.

The tie-up between the two groups comes as an extension of APT's sponsorship of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's Master Series at the Sydney Opera House.

"Where better to experience Europe's musical heritage than sailing through the very regions that served as the inspiration for the compositions aboard one of our magnificent river cruise ships," APT chief marketing officer Debra Fox said.

Departure dates to feature the performances are set for 10, 11, 12, 24, 25 & 26 Mar 2016, aboard either the *MS AmaStella*, *MS AmaVenita* or *MS AmaVerde*.

White Bay cable car link

SUPPORT is rapidly growing among business leaders in Sydney for the construction of a cable car system linking the CBD with four locations including the White Bay cruise ship terminal.

Much maligned by cruise ship passengers and line bosses for its lack of transport options, Carnival Australia boss Ann Sherry is among those lending support for the idea of a cable car.

Reports in *The Daily Telegraph* today show renderings of the proposal, which would also be a transport solution for workers in the burgeoning Barangaroo area.

Details of the cable car show a five-stop route running from the

CBD across Sydney Harbour to Pyrmont, before crossing again to the White Bay cruise terminal, the White Bay Power Station and to Rozelle Bay.

It is estimated the entire one-way trip would take five minutes, featuring high-tech cabins able to accommodate up to nine people, with space for luggage & bicycles.

Sherry has been a vocal advocate for better transport links to White Bay for some time, telling **Cruise Weekly** last year the facility needs to be connected better to the city (**CW** 21 Oct 14).

"It's the only purpose built cruise facility in Australia in the last 50 years so it's a good facility but it hasn't been connected properly," Sherry said at the time.

The project has been given the working title "Harbour Skylink" & has also attracted the support of Echo Entertainment, owners of The Star Casino, which has said it would like a station built on top.

Proponents are now seeking support from the NSW Premier Mike Baird, with funding to likely come from the private sector.

Avalon Asia brochure

IN LINE with significant growth in Asia, Avalon Waterways has released a dedicated brochure highlighting cruises in the region.

The 2016 Asia Collection offers details on departures in Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and China, with 10% earlybird savings on two cruises if booked by 30 Jun.

Avalon Waterways introduced *Avalon Siem Reap* - a brand new scaled down 36-pax version of its European Suite Ship - on the Mekong River earlier this year.

A second new vessel - the identical *Avalon Myanmar* - will join the fleet from Sep.

Three itineraries in China on the Century Cruises fleet of ships also feature in the new brochure.

A&K far north charter

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has released a new charter voyage to Iceland and Greenland aboard Ponant yacht *Le Boreal*, departing on 16 Aug next year.

The 11-day itinerary takes in a number of isolated islands and is priced from US\$12,445ppts.

New US Scenic guide

THE second brochure from the rebranded Scenic, focusing on the 2016 US/Canada/Alaska season is rolling out to agencies this week.

Three new itineraries have been developed, including the 24-day 'Eastern Canada, USA and New England Cruise', which travels Montreal to Boston and includes a seven-night cruise on a Holland America Line vessel.

Scenic Enrich events also board the ship, with a wine pairing lunch plus drinks included with dinner.

On the west coast, a highlighted itinerary is the 24-day 'Wondrous Canadian Rockies & Alaskan Cruise' which offers guests the chance to have breakfast with the bears and visit Grouse Mountain.



Cruise Calendar

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------|
| SYDNEY | | |
| <i>Sun Princess</i> | | 10 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Pearl</i> | | 10 Jun |
| <i>Legend of the Seas</i> | | 11 Jun |
| BRISBANE | | |
| <i>Pacific Dawn</i> | | 13 Jun |
| <i>Legend of the Seas</i> | | 13 Jun |
| DARWIN | | |
| <i>Dawn Princess</i> | | 15 Jun |
| PORT DOUGLAS | | |
| <i>Sun Princess</i> | | 14 Jun |
| <i>Pacific Pearl</i> | | 15 Jun |
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| <i>Pacific Pearl</i> | | 14 Jun |

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Sherry welcomes fathom

CARNIVAL Australia chief executive Ann Sherry has sent her congratulations to Carnival Corp in the US on the launch of its new social awareness brand fathom.

The local Carnival boss labelled the brand as a “ground breaking move for the tourism industry”.

“We know from our own experience in the Pacific Islands that cruise ships are uniquely able to take travellers to remote areas and to generate much needed economic opportunities for island communities as part of our commitment to sustainable tourism,” Sherry commented.

Announced late last week, fathom will connect passengers with humanitarian opportunities in underprivileged destination.

Sourcing its first ship in the form of the 710-pax *MV Adonia* from P&O Cruises World Cruising, the line will initially launch seven-day cruises to the Dominican Republic.

The first departure from Miami is scheduled for Apr next year.

Pax will be able to select from a

range of activities to get involved with either onboard or onshore, depending on their interests, passions, skill sets and abilities.

Carnival Corp ceo Arnold Donald said the new brand will connect passengers keen to have a positive impact on people’s lives who may not know where to start.

“We believe travel is a meaningful way to allow for personal growth while making purposeful and engaging contributions to the world.

“We are so pleased that fathom will give travellers a unique opportunity to work alongside local people as part of a larger scale effort that will demonstrably improve lives.”

Fathom has been in the pipeline since late 2013, under direction from humanitarian activist and entrepreneur Tara Russell, who set on creating its business model.

“Our Australian and New Zealand guests are always eager to engage with the communities we visit and to provide assistance wherever needed, as we have just seen in Vanuatu in the wake of Cyclone Pam,” Sherry added.

“I think fathom is a wonderful initiative that combines cruising with the desire of people to make a difference.”

India sees Quantum

ROYAL Caribbean’s *Quantum of the Seas* has become the largest ship ever to dock at an Indian port after arriving in the city of Kochi late last week.

The 4,000+ pax ship is midway through a 14-day voyage from Dubai to Singapore which is also part of its repositioning voyage to its new home in Shanghai, China.

Port growth in Korea

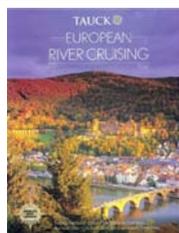
TWELVE ports around South Korea have been identified as key to short and long-term growth of the country’s cruise industry.

A panel workshop on the topic will take place this Fri at Seatrade Cruise Asia, taking place in Busan & moderated by Destination Asia.

Cruising is projected to be worth more than US\$1.1 billion to South Korea annually from this year, with a hint of optimism at the industry’s future potential.

Brochure Spotlight

THE 90-year-old family owned brand rolls out a range of new highlights to its 2016 Europe river cruise guide.



Destination features include a chance for guests to luxuriate at Four Seasons properties in Prague and Budapest at either end of their Tauck river cruise.

Despite growing demand, pricing for 2016 has come down, with new savings available of up to US\$1,200 per couple due to the rise in the US Dollar.

New for 2016 is an updated seven-night Belgium & Holland river cruise beginning either in Brussels or Amsterdam.

Two new Inspiration-class river ships will join the Tauck fleet in the form of the *MS Grace* and *MS Joy*, with the newfound capacity offering significantly more space per passenger.

MS Joy will sail on the Danube, with *Grace* on the Rhine, the latter operating a brand new nine-night itinerary departing from Zurich or Amsterdam.

For a copy of the new guide or to book, phone Travel the World in Australia on 1300 857 437.

New barge for Euro

LUXURY barging firm European Waterways has unveiled a new double-decker barge vessel, which will debut next year on the Saône River and Canal du Centre.

The barge caters to eight pax & a crew of five including a chef.

Explosive Endeavour

LINDBLAD Expeditions was in the right place at the right time recently, in perfect position for its guests to witness the eruption of Wolf Volcano in the Galapagos.

Guests on *National Geographic Endeavour* benefited from a late change in itinerary, made by its expedition leader in order to be in position for the natural event.

The eruption was the first activity on Wolf Volcano in 33 years, with guests sitting 1km offshore to witness the spectacle.

Lindblad Expeditions released a special video of the event, which can be viewed by **CLICKING HERE**.



CLIVE Palmer apparently isn't building a Titanic replica, so a Chinese state-owned energy company has stepped in to complete something similar.

While this one won't be a reconstruction of the ill-fated cruise ship for ocean-going voyages itself, it will instead be a major theme park attraction.

Set to be a full-size recreation of the fabled early 20th century liner, the Qixing Energy project will also include what it says will be a high-tech iceberg collision simulation, to be open in 2017.

The total project cost funded by the firm is estimated at over one billion yuan (AUD\$211m).

It is expected the replication will be down to the smallest detail including cabins, carpets, lights and period furniture.

Complete with lights and sound, the company says the sinking simulation will feel like “a dream-like experience”.

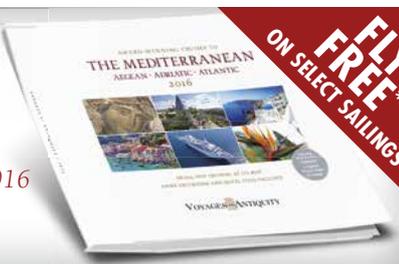
Qixing Energy group chairman said: “The *Titanic* was a great ship and we will revive it.”



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DRINKS were well and truly on Frontier Travel pair Roland Hewitt and Sarah Whyte recently, winners of a cruise training promo from Discover the World.

The North Sydney agents successfully completed an online workshop to fine-tune their knowledge of niche cruise brands Voyages of Discovery, Hebridean Island Cruises and Swan Hellenic.

Already cruise aficionados, the pair used the course to become better equipped with the three All Leisure Group brands, which each operate a single vessel on voyages in Europe and beyond.

Hewitt and Whyte are **pictured** above centre and right being presented with their prize by Stefanie Eberhand from Discover the World.

SSE pan-Asian dining

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has released details of a pan-Asian restaurant set to feature on its upcoming luxury vessel *Seven Seas Explorer* upon its debut.

Diners will enjoy ocean views through lotus-shaped windows. The ship is scheduled for launch in mid-next year, with a maiden voyage setting sail on 20 Jul.

Lindblad up on deck

LINDBLAD Expeditions founder Sven Lindblad will personally host a five-night Icelandic expedition from Reykjavik to the west coast.

The 'Iceland Hangout' voyage departs 15 Jul 2015, priced from US\$5,540pp twin share.

New activities for HL

EUROPEAN small-ship line Hapag-Lloyd Cruises has launched a new range of active excursions for guests on 2015 Mediterranean voyages in the northern summer.

New diving adventures in the Greek island of Thassos, authentic Greek cooking in Rhodes & scenic sailing on the Viareggio coastline now feature, while the popular mountain biking tours continue.

The line is represented by two agencies in Australia - **CLICK HERE**.

Lounging on Encore

SEABOURN has peeled back the covers on newly designed lounge areas to feature in its upcoming ship *Seabourn Encore*.

Offering up a country club atmosphere on deck five, the lounge will feature nautical elements in decorations.

Attention gaining lighting will aim to illuminate the bar area as a central focal point (**pictured**).

As well as entertainment, the lounge will house the casino.



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