

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 05 Nov 2015

Cruise Weekly today

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

Mega river cruise

EUROPEAN river cruise giant CroisiEurope is celebrating its 40th anniversary next year with a landmark 41-night combination river cruise.

The voyage will depart Seville, Spain in May 2016 and cruise along the Guadalquivir, the Guadiana, the Gironde, the Loire, the Seine, the Rhine, the Danube and the Black Sea.

It will visit Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Four CroisiEurope ships are involved in the journey: *MS La Belle de Cadix*, *MS Cyrano de Bergerac*, *MS Botticelli* and *MS Gérard Schmitter*.

The cruise can be booked through Worldwide Cruise Centres from A\$17,339 per person twin share for a main deck cabin, until the end of Jan 2016 or until sold out.

For more information see worldwidecruisecentres.com.au.

Lindblad incentive

LINDBLAD Expeditions is offering \$1,000 for the best photo from a travel agency featuring its new Explorations brochure (see p2) and the line's "Lindy" penguin mascot - see expeditions.com/lindy for details.

G Adventures river cruises

A NEW younger demographic for river cruising is being targeted by global adventure travel giant G Adventures, which says it has "reimagined the river cruising experience" with the launch of a major new program.

The company said the move would feature active and cultural elements and opportunities to visit and support local communities, "unlike the floating all-inclusive-like experiences that currently saturate the market".

Nine itineraries are on offer, varying from 8-10 days in length exploring rivers in Peru, India, France, Cambodia and Vietnam.

"We know Australian and Kiwi travellers love a water-based adventure, so we've expanded on the success of our 'Marine' travel style to bring a small-group river cruising experience - an innovative approach to a traditional form of travel," said G Adventures Australia/NZ managing director, Belinda Ward.

"River cruising is one of the fastest growing segments in travel and we are excited to be launching all new itineraries to open up this wonderful style of travel," Ward said.

The G Adventures program features group sizes from 22 to 30 passengers, with purpose-built river cruising vessels.

Every cabin has windows and a private bath, the company said, while all departures will have a "knowledgeable Chief Experience

Officer who is locally trained to develop guests' understanding of the wildlife, cultures and ecosystems" of the regions visited.

The program includes the 'Burgundy River Cruise Experience,' 'Mekong River Cruise Adventure' and the 'Ganges River Cruise Encompassed,' all sailing through local villages with land excursions such as winery tours, bike rides and visits to nearby ruins and temples.

See gadventures.com.au.

Sunshine cruise boost

QUEENSLAND'S Sunshine Coast is set for its biggest cruise season ever, with ten ship visits carrying more than 17,000 passengers scheduled to call into Mooloolaba over the next ten months.

The ships will include Holland America's *MS Amsterdam* and the *Azamara Quest* as well as *Carnival Spirit* and P&O's *Pacific Eden*, *Pacific Aria*, *Pacific Jewel* and *Pacific Pearl*.

Sunshine Coast Destination ceo Simon Ambrose said since P&O added the region to itineraries in 2014, the Sunshine Coast's array of accessible activities both close to shore and in the hinterland have made it an "instant favourite" as a stopover port.

"The Sunshine Coast business and general community has shown that they welcome cruise passengers very warmly," he said

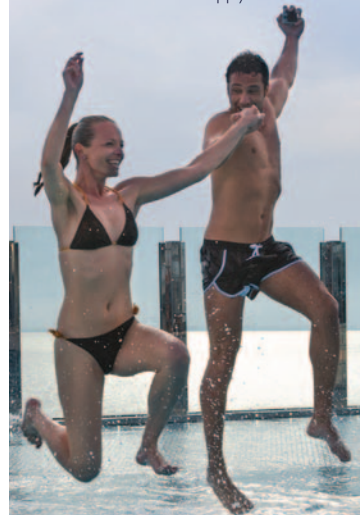
Cruise industry rates

BREAKAWAY Travel Club is offering special rates for travel industry staff on several Carnival Cruises upcoming departures.

The specials apply to some Nov and Dec cruises on *Carnival Spirit* & *Carnival Legend* - 1300 380 747.

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*Conditions apply



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Fifth Quantum ship ordered

A FIFTH Quantum-class ship has been ordered by Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited, for delivery in the spring of 2020.

Michael Bayley, president and ceo of Royal Caribbean International said the vessel will be "clear evidence" of the cruise line's focus on "continuously improving efficiency and sustainability".

It will also harness the latest technology to "surpass guest expectations," Bayley said.

The vessel will join four other Quantum ships, including Australia's own \$1.3 billion *Ovation of the Seas*, set to arrive in Dec 2016.

Currently under construction and almost 50% complete, the

Ovation megaliner will be the most technologically advanced cruise ship ever, RCI said.

Features of *Ovation of the Seas* include an iFly sky diving experience, 18 dining options, a robotic bar, the fastest internet bandwidth at sea, bumper cars, and the North Star.

Richard D. Fain, chairman and ceo, Royal Caribbean Cruises said the Quantum ships "have been received with excitement, and performed exceptionally well, across the globe.

"We fully expect that momentum to continue as we add to this innovative class of ships."

The fifth Quantum ship will be built by Meyer Werft in Germany.



Cruise 1st is a fast growing and dynamic travel agent, based in North Sydney, where "second to none" service is the key to our success. We are an agent with a difference, operating a hybrid online call centre model. We offer a full range of fly cruise packages with a variety of inclusions, all over the world, with super competitive prices. Our focus is international fly cruise packages.

Call Centre Manager

We are looking for a driven Call Centre Manager to be responsible for meeting the strategic requirements for all call centre operations and people. The ideal applicant would have extensive telephony and IT call centre knowledge, front and back office travel and GDS sales and system understanding, plus proven success in building a successful and profitable customer service and sales team.

If you thrive in a fast paced, results orientated environment and have a passion for cruising and leading a great team, and want to know more about what this great new role entails, please send us your details today.

Fares and Ticketing Expert

We are seeking a knowledgeable fares and ticketing consultant to assist in our expanding journey. You will need to be experienced with fares and ticketing and preference will be shown to Galileo experts, ex consolidation candidates and knowledge with BSP link. This role will facilitate relationships with airlines, assist and fulfil all ticketing requirements on behalf of the call centre consultants, support finance with BSP ADM/ACM/refund requests, confirm and modify flight reservations.

If you are the subject matter expert we are looking for and want to be an integral part of this fast moving retail business please send your CV and covering letter to:
Samantha@sbrconsulting.com.au today

All applications close **COB 17 November 15**, and applicants who have not been responded to within 14 days have been unsuccessful.

Beyond Scandinavia

BEYOND Travel has introduced a range of new activities in Scandinavia in its 2016 Russia & Beyond program, including packages featuring Hurtigruten voyages.

One of the expanded offerings is an 18-day package which combines visits to major cities in Sweden, Denmark and Norway with a five night Hurtigruten voyage from Kirkenes in northern Norway through the Lofoten Islands in daylight, and a crossing on the Arctic Circle on the way to Bergen.

The new Beyond program also features new Scandinavia ferry services, short-stay city and fjord packages and more hotel choices.

Haimark US files for bankruptcy

AMERICAN small ship cruise line Haimark Line has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, with the company saying the move is due to a claim related to a collision with a lock by its 210-pax *Saint Laurent* earlier this year.

The largest creditor is Asian river cruise operator Haimark Limited, which is not affected by the bankruptcy.

The company said it was working through the issues and was hopeful the bankruptcy filing will be able to be rescinded once the claim, by Clipper Cruises which owns the ship, is resolved.

New Celebrity shows

CELEBRITY Cruises is set to introduce a new entertainment roster across its fleet, with additions blending drama, dance, comedy and musical theatre over the next 18 months including "The Chandelier", "Rock City", "Reigning Rocks" and "Topper".



Lindblad Expeditions - Explorations 2016/17

THE new Lindblad brochure introduces all 17 new expeditions that are now available to be booked



ahead of the upcoming seasons. The brochure offers adventure seekers a complete compendium on small-ship expedition travel.

As you flick through the pages of the brochure, you'll see that it includes the *National Geographic Orion's* inaugural 2016 European program.

National Geographic Orion is a fully stabilised, ice-class vessel with an ice reinforced hull, enabling it to navigate polar ice as well as small harbours from Europe to the South Pacific.

Also featuring in the brochure are new Arctic itineraries and special savings across Lindblad Expeditions - National Geographic's entire suite of expeditions.

C360 for Vancouver

CRUISE Lines International Association has opened registrations for its major annual conference, which is this year being held in Vancouver under a slightly new name - Cruise360 rather than Cruise3sixty.

More than 2,000 people are expected to attend the event which will take place 01-06 Jun 2016, including travel agents, cruise line executives, suppliers and destination representatives.

See www.cruise360.org.

HURTIGRUTEN

GO TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD TO WIN AN APPLE WATCH*

Make and deposit any two new bookings on select Hurtigruten 2016/17 sailings to go in the draw to win an Apple Watch

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY



Emissions Facts

WHILE cruise ships comprise less than 1% of the global maritime community, they are leaders in developing responsible environmental practices and innovative technologies that lead the world's shipping sector in reducing emissions and waste. Many cruise lines actually exceed environmental regulatory requirements in a number of areas and continue to work closely with regulators around the world. In many cases cruise lines even exceed the practices of land based sewerage treatment facilities. No matter where on the earth they are, cruise line members of CLIA must process sewage through treatment systems in accordance with international requirements (mandated by the IMO) prior to discharge, and even then it's only discharged many miles from shore. With more than 80,000 tons of paper, plastic, glass and aluminium cans recycled each year, cruise ship waste management practices are also world leaders. Across the board the cruise industry recycles 60% more waste per person than the average person recycles on shore each day! At the end of the day what we are all focused on is ensuring that the oceans we cruise on – a primary reason for many to get on a ship in the first place – are respected and treated in the most environmentally friendly way possible.



Oceania Cruises proud of gong

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings ceo Australasia, Steve Odell, was in Hong Kong last week and accepted an award for Oceania Cruises in the World Travel Awards.



Oceania was named "Australia's Leading Cruise Line," with executive vice president of international business development, Harry Sommer confirming that Australia is "one of our most important and fastest growing markets".

Odell said the company was also "grateful to our longtime partner

in Australia, David Bunn and his team at Cruise Management.

"They have done an amazing job of building the brand awareness and enviable level of success over the past decade," he added.

Bhaya Classic video

INDOCHINA cruise operator Bhaya Cruises has undertaken major renovations and upgrades of its four "classic" ships.

All cabins have been completely renovated with new floors and bedding, with Bhaya releasing a video of the works undertaken which is now live on our website at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.



US Honduras warning

THE US State Department has reissued its travel advisory for Honduras, warning that levels of crime remain "critically high".

Cruise ship passengers are advised to take care to book only with reputable tour companies on Honduras shore excursions.



YOU always thought cruising was about heading to warmer climes, didn't you?

Not so, at least when it comes to the newest on-board spa trend - the "snow room".

Norwegian Cruise Line's brand new *Norwegian Escape* boasts the super-chilled facility (pictured below) which is kept at minus ten degrees Celsius - and there's apparently not a shot of vodka in sight.



Located in the ship's Mandara Spa, the icy enclave features "flurries of powdery snow" falling from the ceiling, and is apparently very good for aches and pains.

There's also a sauna, and the idea is to go from hot to cold which has the effect of dilating and constricting blood vessels which is good for circulation.

Norwegian's snow room isn't the first such on-board spa feature, with Viking Ocean Cruises' *Viking Star* debuting the concept in Apr on a cruise line.

And the 2,800 passenger Baltic ferry *Viking Grace*, which plies the route between Finland and Sweden, also has a snow room.

If you want to take the concept home, a company in the UAE called "Desert Snow" will also install one for you - for about the same price as a luxury car.

AUCKLAND HOP ON, HOP OFF EXPLORER



The Auckland Hop On Hop Off Explorer bus stop is directly at front of the new Queens Wharf cruise ship terminal

[Click here for more details](#)

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of Cruise Weekly is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at www.cruiseweekly.com.au.

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