

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 17 Nov 2015

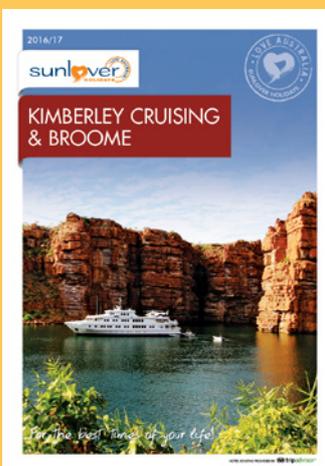
Cruise Weekly today

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



Brochure Spotlight

Sunlover Holidays - Kimberley Cruising



SUNLOVER Holidays' new Kimberley Cruising and Broome program for 2016/17 offers cruising options from a variety of operators.

The selection of Coral Expeditions, APT's *Caledonian Sky*, *Kimberley Quest*, North Star Cruises *True North*, The Great Escape Charter Company and Silversea Expeditions offers something for all price points, and the brochure also has a calendar of events, school holiday periods and travel tips.

Land content to complement the time at sea features new trips with Kimberley Outback Tours, Adams Pinnacle Tours and Kimberley Wild Expeditions.

Frier takes Cruise1st stake

CARL Frier, managing director of the Asia-Pacific operations of online cruise specialist Cruise1st, is among a management team which has purchased the business from former owner Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

Frier, who has headed up Cruise1st locally since taking over from former gm Lance Batty about three years ago (*Travel Daily* 17 Jan 2013) told **Cruise Weekly** there are "exciting times ahead".

The buyout will allow the company to grow independently, building on its strong customer base which already boasts a 40% repeat rate.

The deal includes operations in the UK and Singapore, with other shareholders including UK-based ceo Dan Townsley and the company's finance director, Caspar Moore.

Townley said the management buyout "will allow Cruise1st to become a real force in the market."

"Working with Royal Caribbean over the past seven years has been fantastic and its support has

been crucial in the growth of our company," he said.

The change in ownership will see a significant growth in the Cruise1st call centres, with the company having already grown by 62% so far in 2015.

Townsley said the company would focus on expanding its product base "with the aim of including a world-wide tour operator, more cruises with inclusive tours and a selection of river cruises."

"We have a clear and strategic five year growth plan, which we intend to meet through efficiency, technology, product and customer service."

ASIC records for Cruise1st Australia Pty Ltd have not been updated to reflect the ownership change, with Royal Caribbean Asia-Pacific ceo Gavin Smith still listed as a director alongside Frier and Townsley.

Insight adding cruise tool to website

INSIGHT Vacations will shortly offer a new "widget" to enable travel agents to easily match its products to cruise departures.

Speaking at the Independent Travel Group conference in Singapore on Sat, sales manager David Farrar said the Cruise Tour Planner system would allow users to simply enter particulars of cruises their clients are booked on and automatically receive recommendations for suitable pre- and post- Insight guided holidays.

"We think it's going to be very successful," Farrar said.

Suite class upgrade

CELEBRITY Cruises has unveiled all-new luxury services for Suite Class guests, with the new perks including personal butler service, Bvlgari bath amenities, and access into the 'Luminae' restaurant.

From 16 Dec sky suite guests on board *Celebrity Solstice* will also be invited to join the exclusive Michael's Club which offers complimentary cocktails, appetisers and a concierge.

Prepare for
OUR MAIN ACT
Explorer OF THE SEAS
Arriving in
02 WEEKS



Enjoy the latest in world-class dining onboard our biggest and newest megaliner.

EXPLORE NOW



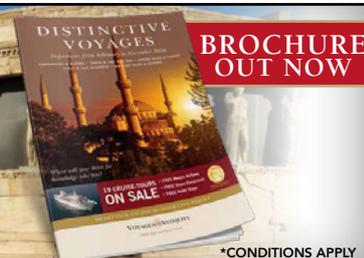
DISTINCTIVE VOYAGES 19 CRUISE TOURS ON SALE

DEPARTING FEBRUARY TO NOVEMBER 2016

FROM ONLY

\$4,275* PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

VOYAGES TO ANTIQUITY



*CONDITIONS APPLY



Scenic Spirit gathering pace

INSIDE three months from its debut, Scenic's own launch vessel for Southeast Asia continues to take shape ahead of its inaugural departure on the Mekong River.

Scenic staff attending a recent sales and marketing conference in Vietnam have provided **Cruise Weekly** with exclusive imagery of the 34 suite *Scenic Spirit* following a visit to shipyard 76 outside Ho Chi Minh City.

The structure of the five-star ship is now complete (**pictured**), with the internal fit-out underway and on track for completion for the first departure on 26 Jan.

Onboard features of the 68-pax *Scenic Spirit* include a pool, steam room, bar and open-air cinema.

Spirit will operate seven-night voyages between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap.

Scenic's general manager of Journey Design Aleisha Fittler told **Cruise Weekly** *Scenic Spirit* continues

to be highly sought since its inception.

"The trend since the launch of the product has been very high demand resulting in over

half the sailings being sold out and high occupancy on the remaining," Filter said.

"The usual peak travel periods of Nov and Mar have been the highest demand however we have seen a consistent trend across the year".

Spirit's captain and the entire crew have been hired or recruited from Scenic's experienced European operation and are now working around the clock to have the vessel ready for its Australia Day inauguration sailing.



View a recent video of *Spirit's* launching ceremony **HERE**.

Pictured on the Sun Deck of *Scenic Spirit* at shipyard 76 in Ho Chi Minh City from left are Scenic's Max Miller, Jane Moggridge, Charlie Done, Alison Rooke, Liz Glover and Mike Kaye.



Cruise driving air demand

THE addition of new ports in Europe by airlines servicing Australia can be partly attributed to the massive surge in demand from the cruise market, according to John O'Shea, Travel & Tourism Analyst at Bell Potter Securities.

O'Shea gave a presentation at last weekend's Independent Travel Group conference in Singapore, and said the Australian market has seen a massive 20% compound annual growth rate in cruise passenger numbers.

Analysing the data further he highlighted the fastest growing destinations, where "cruising is a key factor," he said - particularly when it comes to spending, with France, Germany and "other Asia" coming in the top five.

He highlighted the addition

of ports such as Dusseldorf in Germany and the increasing availability of open jaw and combinable sectors as a result of demand from the cruise sector.

O'Shea urged ITG agents to focus on key demographics, again highlighting that spending on holidays is growing fastest in the 70-74, 80+ and 75-79 age brackets.

"Older people are going cruising in their droves...they have extended their travel lifespan considerably," he said.

Carnival climate change compliment

CARNIVAL Corporation has been identified as a leader in climate change disclosure, earning a position on the FTSE 350 and S&P 500 "Climate Disclosure Leadership Index".

Data on carbon emissions and energy usage released by Carnival has been independently assessed by non-profit group CDP for its transparency, earning the cruise line a rating of 99 out of 100.

American certification

AMERICAN Cruise Lines has launched a new On-Demand Agent Certification program, with six sessions available for travel consultants to learn about fleet and destination details.

The video educational program allows agents to learn about American Cruise Lines at their own pace and schedule, with the first session introducing the company's Mississippi River itineraries and the *America* and *Queen of the Mississippi* fleet.

See americancruiselines.com.

Aranui 5 is alive

ARANUI Cruises' new *Aranui 5* has arrived in Tahiti, with the 126m-long freighter cruise ship welcomed last week with traditional tugboat water jets.

She'll now spend a month in port preparing for her maiden voyage on 12 Dec which coincides with the Marquesas Art Festival.

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

GRAND PACIFIC TOURS

NZ CRUISE & COACH

2016 / 17

COMPLETE NZ EXPERIENCE

FULLY ESCORTED

BONUS valued at up to US\$1720 per couple!

VIEW ORDER

Call **1800 622 768**

www.grandpacific.com

Do you have the **Cruise Weekly** app?



Next generation of P&O cruise ships unveiled

WITH next week's official induction of *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria* into P&O Cruises' Australian fleet, the cruise line is laying foundations for its next generation of ships.

CW had a sneak peek onboard *Pacific Eden* in Fremantle last week, and while retaining some of the P&O hallmarks, such as its signature Waterfront restaurants, almost everything else has been enhanced.

In fact, the new ships look more like a luxury hotel than a cruise ship once inside, with moody restaurants, modern paintings, quirky artworks and Romanesque statues lining the halls.



P&O Cruises senior vice president, Sture Myrmell said the new onboard experience has been shaped to reflect the latest trends expected by Australian cruise passengers.

"We see the arrival of *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria* as an evolution for P&O Cruises that will set the benchmark for our future cruise products and services to customers.

"With these ships, we had an opportunity to totally revisit everything we do to determine if there was a better way – and some of the changes are quite dramatic," Myrmell said.

He said with food and beverage now an important part of domestic cruising P&O has

redesigned its dining offerings to provide greater diversity, with the former buffet-style meals replaced with the food court model of The Pantry.

Also sure to wow guests is Luke Mangan's Salt Grill, as well as the moody and intimate Dragon Lady pan-Asian restaurant. In all, the ships boast 15 different dining experiences.

The ship's clever floorplan provides large areas for social gatherings, while also tucking away more intimate spaces for those seeking privacy – such as the Blue Room jazz bar and the quirky 'Monkey' Bar.

Onboard activities are also highlighted with the P&O Edge Adventure Park on the top deck offering a range of fun and adrenalin experiences, such as abseiling the funnel, walking the plank and whizzing across the top decks on a flying fox.

Also new is an onboard wine-tasting experience based on the Hunter Valley's Glandore Estate cellar door winery.

The ship's main pool on the Lido deck features a retractable roof, which converts the area into an entertainment and party hub with live bands and artificial 'snow' on hand for specially-themed white parties.

There are also kid's club facilities and the adults-only Oasis & large day-beds by the rear deck pool.

More pics on our website and at [facebook.com/cruiseweekly](https://www.facebook.com/cruiseweekly).



Cruise Calendar	
This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.	
SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	17 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	18 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	19 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	20 Nov
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	21 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	21 Nov
<i>Noordam</i>	22 Nov
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	22 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	23 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	23 Nov
MELBOURNE	
<i>Volendam</i>	18 Nov
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	19 Nov
<i>Noordam</i>	20 Nov
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	23 Nov
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	17 Nov
HOBART	
<i>Noordam</i>	18 Nov
FREMANTLE	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	17 Nov
ADELAIDE	
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	17 Nov
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	20 Nov
GERALDTON	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	18 Nov
EDEN	
<i>Volendam</i>	20 Nov
NEWCASTLE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	23 Nov
WELLINGTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	17 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	18 Nov
<i>Golden Princess</i>	19 Nov
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	20 Nov
AKAROA	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	18 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	19 Nov
<i>Golden Princess</i>	20 Nov
AUCKLAND	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	20 Nov



LOOKS like there's going to be lots of action aboard Royal Caribbean's new *Harmony of the Seas*, with the ship carrying almost 3,500 items of sporting equipment.

The cruise line demonstrated the scale of its shipboard activities in a promotional stunt on Britain's famous Brighton Beach (below), laying out about half of the sports inventory.

A team of 20 staff spent seven hours painstakingly creating the display which included 192 golf balls, 30 basketballs, 31 surfboards, 16 ice hockey sticks, 144 pool balls, eight table tennis tables, 900 "ball pit" balls and 144 badminton shuttles.

That's not to mention other activities such as ziplining and the exciting new sport of "Blongoball".



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.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
 Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
 P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

Editor: Bruce Piper info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik ads@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

