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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 12 Apr 2016

Myanmar itinerary

TRAVELMARVEL has released a new 2017/18 Myanmar River Cruising Program after this year's sell-out first season.

The main Myanmar river cruise on the new itinerary is the 15-day Majestic Myanmar-Irrawaddy Cruise from Yangon to Mandalay starting at \$6,295 ppts.

The voyage includes highlights such as Shwedagon Pagoda, a journey by horse drawn cart to the 'Leaning Tower of Inwa' and an exploration of Bagan.

The new brochure offers 16 trips between Sep 2017 and Apr 2018.

ms Koningsdam

TO CELEBRATE the launch of Holland America Line's new ship *ms Koningsdam* 2016 departures to Europe and the Caribbean are starting at \$699 per person including free upgrades.

For more information see **Cruise Weekly's** full page cover wrap.

Avalon's new pace for 2017

AVALON Waterways is kicking off a new category of European river cruising next year with Active Discovery cruises to debut in company's 2017 brochure.

The active itineraries include biking, hiking and canoeing along the Danube, with eight departures set to operate between Jul and Oct 2017.

Prices start at \$5219ppts and include a range of "active choices" as part of the cruise fare.

Add three day extensions to Prague for a package price starting at \$6124ppts or to Salzburg and Munich from \$6932ppts.

Avalon's marketing manager Chris Fundell said the concept was designed for an "increasingly active generation of river cruisers" who are seeking more hands-on experiences.

"They can also explore an ice cave, take an archery lesson, go underground in a salt mine or

ascend a mountain on a guided climb," Fundell said.

"This is European travel with a focus on enjoying every moment of the journey".

Other active options include a cooking class in Vienna, a viewing at a private Habsburg art collection, a trek along a World War II smugglers route and wine tasting in the Wachau Valley.

Also new for the Globus offshoot is an Avalon Fresh dining concept, created with the assistance of Austrian culinary stars Karl and Leo Wrenkh and offering a fresh perspective on nutritious dining.

Overall Avalon is offering a total of 55 itineraries in Europe in 2017 with a fly free offer on voyages of 15 days or more when booked by 31 May.

Discounted airfares of \$789pp are on offer with cruises of 7 to 14 days also booked by 31 May.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos, plus a cover wrap from **Holland America Line**.

Carnival ads up

LATEST Nielsen advertising figures show measured media spend by Carnival Australia rose 40% last year to just over \$22m.

Initial figures collated by **Travel Daily (CW 05 Apr)** did not aggregate all spending across Carnival Australia cruise brands due to a change in reporting methods, leading **CW** to incorrectly report that the cruise group's advertising budget declined in 2015.

While Carnival Australia would not confirm the figure, it said its brands were committed to growing the market for cruise and driving guests to their travel agent partners.

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*Price is per person, twin share, cruise only, for an Inside Stateroom. Price is based on the 7 day Western Mediterranean from Barcelona, departing 24 April 2016, onboard Norwegian Epic.



Aurora new catering

AURORA Expeditions has appointed CMI Leisure Management as its catering provider aboard their polar expedition ship *MV Polar Pioneer* from Jun 2016.

All produce will be sourced locally before the ship departs.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	12 Apr
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	14 Apr
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	15 Apr
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	16 Apr
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	18 Apr
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	18 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	12 Apr
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	16 Apr
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	18 Apr
DARWIN	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	13 Apr
<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	16 Apr
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	14 Apr
GERALDTON	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	15 Apr
AUCKLAND	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	13 Apr
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	16 Apr
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	18 Apr
WELLINGTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	13 Apr
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	16 Apr
NAPIER	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	14 Apr
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	17 Apr

Ovation of the Seas is delivered!



ROYAL Caribbean International officially took delivery of its 24th ship the \$US1 billion, *Ovation of the Seas*, in an official handover ceremony held in Bremerhaven, Germany on Fri.

The vessel will be the newest, largest and most technologically advanced cruise ship to sail in Australia when she arrives in Dec.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.'s chairman and ceo Richard D. Fain accepted the new ship from Meyer Werft Yard's managing partner Bernard Meyer.

"*Ovation of the Seas* is magnificent," Fain said.

"Our thanks to the Meyer Werft team for their ongoing partnership in designing & building awe-inspiring ships".

Ovation spans 18 decks, encompasses 168,666 tonnes and can carry 4,180 guests at double occupancy and features 2,091 staterooms.

The ship will sail to Southampton in the UK before heading on her 52-night "Global Odyssey" to arrive in Beijing

for her inaugural China season starting 24 Jun.

On 30 Nov 2016 she will depart Singapore for Sydney on a 15-night voyage repositioning to her new Sydney home for her maiden Australian season.

Final deployment details for the ship's recently extended maiden Australian season will be released later in the month, **CLICK HERE** to register for information.

Pictured above captain Henrik Loy stands with the completed *Ovation of the Seas* where he will serve as captain.

Princess in Adelaide

PRINCESS Cruises new summer 2017-18 program will feature an inaugural South Australian Cruise from Adelaide.

Golden Princess will make history when leaving Adelaide on 08 Jan 2018 for a 17-night cruise to New Zealand calling in on Melbourne, Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington, Gisborne, Tauranga and Auckland.

The ship will also be making maiden visits to SA's Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln.

"With cruising booming around Australia, Princess is thrilled to be adding Adelaide to its homeport offering, providing South Australians with their first ever chance to cruise two New Zealand from their doorstep," Princess Cruises vp Australia & New Zealand Stuart Allison said.

Overall the 2017-18 summer program offers more than 80 departures from cities across Australia and New Zealand.

On sale from 21 Apr the new program sails to 17 countries in the Asia Pacific region from Oct 2017 to Apr 2018.

For more information on the cruises see www.princess.com.

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AGENT
UPDATE

Tuesday 12 Apr 2016

RCI summer specials

ROYAL Caribbean is launching huge savings and free upgrades for upcoming 2016/17 summer voyages.

New bookings made by 30 Apr on Royal Caribbean's *Explorer of the Seas*, *Voyager of the Seas*, *Radiance of the Seas* or *Legend of the Seas*' 2016/17 summer season will receive up to 30% off.

New Oceanview bookings of five nights or more in the same period will receive a free upgrade to a Balcony stateroom.

Fares start from \$1,299pp for a free upgrade to a Balcony stateroom on *Explorer of the Seas*' eight-night South Pacific sailing departing 02 Nov.

Number correction

CRUISE Weekly supplied the incorrect number for Oceania Cruises in relation to their new itineraries and specials.

The correct number is 1300 352 200.

Northern Lights promise

HURTIGRUTEN is again offering a "Northern Lights Promise" on their 2016/17 winter season.

The "promise" that guests will see the lights is being placed on the 12-day Classic Round Voyage from Bergen to Kirkenes between 01 Oct & 31 Mar.

If the Northern Lights don't occur during the trip, Hurtigruten will send the passengers again the following winter.

Free at Sea extended

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's Free at Sea promotion has been extended from now through to 30 Apr.

The offer gives guests a chance to enjoy free amenities which vary depending on the length of sailing and the style of room.

Free offerings include unlimited beverages and free shore excursions.

CLICK HERE to view the full deal.

Norwegian Joy keel laying



THE First block has been placed in the building hall in Papenburg, Germany for *Norwegian Joy*, marking the start of Norwegian Cruise Line's first purpose built ship for China.

The line's executives together with delegates from MEYER WERFT attended the traditional keel laying ceremony last week placing a lucky coin down before the first block was lowered by crane.

During the ceremony, the first of 80 blocks that will comprise the 168,800 tonne vessel were lifted into the building hall.

Another event held at XingTian Temple at Fang Ta Park in Shanghai also celebrated the start of the ship's construction with NCLH China executives gathering for prayers to the Chinese Goddess of the sea.

Pictured at the ceremony are MEYER WERFT md, Bert Kruse; NCLH exec vp of International business development, Harry Sommer; NCL president & coo, Andy Stuart; MEYER WERFT managing partner, Bernard Meyer; NCLH China president, David Herrera and vp of sales for NCLH China, Alex Xiang.

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Superstar 12 nights

STAR Cruises has just released a 12-night Japan, China and Vietnam itinerary on board Superstar Virgo.

The cruise which departs Pearl River Delta in Guangzhou, China on 25 Sep will stop in Naha and Miyakojima in Japan plus Halong Bay and Danang in Vietnam as well as Sanya in China.

Prices start from \$2199 per person and \$4398 per couple.

The sailing is aligned with a Buy 1 Get 1 Free deal with the first passenger paying cruise fare and taxes and the second passenger paying taxes only.

Book more than 30 days prior to departure to save an extra 15%.

P&O explores Asia

P&O Cruises is offering deals on *Pacific Eden's* inaugural Singapore season until 27 Apr.

Fares start from \$849 per person quad share for a 14-night roundtrip cruise leaving Singapore on 13 Aug including visits to nine ports across Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Seven-night cruises are priced from \$549 per person quad share.

The deals include up to \$300 on board credit per room and free soft drink package per person.

Crystal showcase

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced plans to refit the historic Shrine Building in downtown Miami, Florida as a "central display location for its luxury portfolio".

The 1930s Art Deco landmark on Biscayne Boulevard is set to be transformed into the first land-based member of the burgeoning Crystal portfolio which now encompasses ocean and river cruising, Crystal Residences and Crystal Luxury Air.

In particular the building will allow travellers to preview Crystal Residences at Sea, with ceo Edie Rodriguez saying it will "personify the grand scale of Crystal's future as it offers the opportunity for travellers to preview the 'World's Best' before they even step foot onto a ship, yacht, plane or residence".

The showcase building in Miami is scheduled to open in about a year's time.

CLIA Germany chair

KARL J. Pojer, who's ceo of Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, has been appointed as chairman of the leadership council of Cruise Lines International Association Germany, which was established three years ago.

Windstar resignation

HANS Birkhoz has resigned as president of Windstar Cruises, five years after joining the company under its former ownership as part of Ambassadors International.

Windstar was taken over in 2011 by Xanterra Parks & Resorts, with Xanterra ceo Andrew Todd to serve as the cruise line's interim president until a replacement can be appointed.

Todd thanked Birkholz for his service, saying since joining Windstar the fleet had doubled in size as part of a major investment program by Xanterra which saw it acquire 3 former Seabourn ships.

Cunard 2017 program

CUNARD'S 2017 Europe program unveiled this week features new special event cruise itineraries and four new ports.

Special event itineraries include a visit to Le Havre to coincide with the city's 500th anniversary, three cruises which stop by the Arena di Verona Opera Festival and two Europe Christmas market short cruises in Dec.

The new ports are Souda Bay in Greece; Sibenik in Croatia; Brindisi in Italy and Praia da Vitoria in Portugal.

High tea at sea

EXTRA departure days have been added to Captain Cook's high tea cruise schedule.

The cruise now departs Jetty 6, Circular Quay at 2.30pm every Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun priced at \$59 pp.



HERE'S why they do those lifeboat drills.

It's not quite *Lost*, *Castaway* or *Gilligan's Island*, but three men have been rescued after they were marooned on an uninhabited Pacific island.

The trio, who were fortunately wearing life jackets, spent an entire night swimming after their vessel capsized some hours after they departed from Pulpap in the Federated States of Micronesia last Mon.

They eventually pulled themselves ashore on the remote island of Fanadik which is several hundred kilometres north east of PNG, where they were stranded for three days before being rescued by a team from the US Navy.

The search party managed to spot them after the castaways spelt out a gigantic "HELP" on one of the island's beaches using palm fronds (pictured below).

The US Navy's Lieutenant William White said the successful rescue was the result of "our combined efforts coupled with the willingness of many different resources to come together and help".



Buy One Get One Free on Star Cruises

Unveiling the mystery of Asia in style

SuperStar Virgo	7-night Japan Cruise from Hong Kong 16 th Apr to 24 th Sep 2016	from \$1,333 per person / \$2,666 per couple
SuperStar Virgo	12-night Japan & Vietnam Cruise from Guangzhou 25 th Sep 2016	from \$2,199 per person / \$4,398 per couple
SuperStar Gemini	5-night Malaysia Cruise from Singapore 12 th Jun to 7 th Aug 2016	from \$800 per person / \$1,600 per couple

Contact your preferred wholesaler for further information or visit www.starcruses.com

*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY.

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