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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 07 Jun 2016

Webjet to acquire Cruise Republic

LISTED online travel agency Webjet yesterday confirmed an NZ\$85 million (AU\$80.3m) deal to acquire Auckland-based Online Republic, which operates several brands including Motorhome Republic and Cruise Sale Finder.

Webjet has had a long relationship with Online Republic, which has operated the Webjet Cruise website under a white label arrangement for some years now (**CW** 21 Aug 2014).

Online Republic's B2C Cruise Sale Finder business operates in Australia and New Zealand, with the site saying it's booked more than 220,000 cruise passengers since launching in 2008.

Webjet ceo John Guscic said the acquisition "represents a unique opportunity to leverage Webjet's core capabilities into the attractive online car rental, cruise and motorhome segments.

"We see significant opportunities in applying the benefit of our marketing and branding expertise, together with our scale, to drive market share gains across Online Republic's respective segments," he added.

The deal is being funded by a combination of cash and shares, with about 2.8 million new Webjet shares being issued to the vendors at \$6.21 per share, representing 22% of the price.

Online Republic generated TTV of NZ\$229m for the year to 31 Mar, with pro-forma EBITDA of NZ\$12 million.

Jewel's new Aussie home

NORWEGIAN Jewel has found a new home in Sydney, with its inaugural season set to begin from Oct 2017-Mar 2018.

Making the announcement from Sydney this morning, group executive vice president of international business development Harry Sommer said they were "delighted that Australians will now be able to experience premium-contemporary freestyle cruising much closer to home".

He added the new itineraries will give "local travellers the opportunity to cruise to or from Sydney on a range of amazing itineraries along the Australian and New Zealand coastlines, together with enticing island destinations such as Tahiti, Fiji and New Caledonia".

Seven roundtrips departing from Sydney feature in the cruiselines' new dedicated brochure 'Norwegian Jewel - A new style of cruising to call Australia home'.

The season will kick-off with a five-day Tasmanian taster cruise on 12 Nov which will explore Burnie and Hobart before returning to Sydney.

Other cruise highlights include the 13-day Australia and New Zealand itinerary which is set to make stops in Melbourne, Burnie, Wellington, Napier, Tauranga, Auckland and Bay of Islands, and the nine-day Southern Australia voyage which explores regional areas such as Geelong, Kangaroo Island and Eden.

For a 40-day cruise experience, the 18-day Australia and Southeast Asia sailing is combinable with the 11-Day Southeast Asia from Singapore trip and the 11-Day China, Korea & Japan voyage.

Following her debut season in Australia, *Norwegian Jewel* will set sail on a range of Asian itineraries visiting Vietnam, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Korea and more.

Bookings for *Norwegian Jewel's* inaugural Australasian sailings will open on 29 Jun.

The new brochure can be viewed online **HERE**.

P&O internet pkgs

THOSE cruising with P&O will be able to choose from new internet packages, which have been rolled out across the fleet.

Prices lead in at \$10 per day for the bronze social unlimited package and plans vary according to data levels.

P&O Cruises president Sture Myrmell said the packages would simplify the internet offering.

Bordeaux cycling trip

TOUR De Vines has launched two 2017 cycling departures in conjunction with APT Bordeaux River cruises, with daily bike forays across the region.

The trips include two local guides and a support van, with high quality carbon road bikes also available for hire.

Departures are 06 Jul and 28 Sep 2017 - 1300 278 278.

Legend off to the UK

ROYAL Caribbean's *Legend of the Seas* has been sold to British operator Thomson Cruises (**CW** breaking news Fri) forcing the cancellation of five Brisbane departures early next year.

Royal Caribbean said it had not taken the decision lightly, and was contacting affected guests or urging them to contact their travel agent.

The cruise line is providing full refunds of any deposits paid, or helping passengers secure an alternative Royal Caribbean departure as well as discussing hotel and flight arrangements.

Legend's final Australian sailing will depart BNE on 20 Feb 2017, with onward voyages also impacted.

Her previously scheduled series of Mediterranean voyages in the northern summer of 2017 will now be operated by *Rhapsody of the Seas* ex Venice, while *Rhapsody's* season from Cape Liberty, New York over the same period has been cancelled.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos plus a front cover wrap from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

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Ian Cook retires

CARNIVAL Australia's Air Services Coordinator, Ian Cook, has announced his retirement.

Cook's career in the travel industry spans more than half a century and will come to a close on 27 Jul.

He worked for Qantas and Air New Zealand before changing to a role in cruising, starting with Carnival in Nov 1997.

Aussies explore the Magellan



SEVERAL Australian and NZ agents jumped on *Magellan* on a famil hosted by Cruise and Maritime Voyages to test out the vessel's facilities first-hand.

The group flew return to London, then boarded *Magellan* in Tilbury for a cruise to Norway, taking in Bergen, Molde, Romsdalsfjord, Andalsnes, Geirangerfjord, Geiranger, Sognefjord and Flam.

Pictured are: Jonathan Hickman, Travel on Crown; Amy Stephens, Wingsaway; Nicole Xiang, CMV; Kelly Gray, RACQ; Laura Cann, CMV UK; Shelley Hibbert, Cruise Connections NZ; Jasmine Hayter, Bicton Travel; Joanne Allen, RAC; Ann Hope, CMV; Erin Nash, PHT; Lyn Morris, Travel Masters; Christopher Reilly, Cruisescene and Michael Hayter.

Dream butler & spas

DREAM Cruises' *Genting Dream* will have a butler service available 24 hours a day to guests staying in the Dream Mansion.

The inaugural vessel for the line will also have two different types of Crystal Live Spas on board - the Crystal Life Asian Spa and the Crystal Life Western Spa.

The Crystal Life Asian spa will be a reflexology lounge while the Western Spa will offer massages, scrubs and warm wraps.

Spirit of Tas cancelled

TONIGHT'S *Spirit of Tasmania* I and II sailings have been cancelled because of heavy rains and debris in the Mersey River.

All affected passengers are being contacted.

OTG Greenland tours

TWO new Greenland cruises have been introduced by On The Go Tours to operate this summer on the *S/V Rembrandt van Rijn*.

The eight-day East Greenland Sailing Voyage follows in the footsteps of the first explorer of Greenland, Fritofj Nansen, sailing parallel along the eastern coast.

The South Greenland Sailing Voyage starts in Narsarsuaq and visits Vagar, the remains of a Viking homestay, and Brattahlid, homeplace of Erik the Red a thousand years ago.

See www.onthegotours.com.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	10 Jun
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	10 Jun
<i>Sun Princess</i>	11 Jun
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	13 Jun
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	13 Jun
DARWIN	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	13 Jun
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	08 Jun
<i>Sun Princess</i>	09 Jun
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	11 Jun
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	12 Jun
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	07 Jun
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	10 Jun
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	13 Jun



RESEARCHERS have popped the bubble of divers who thought they had discovered an underwater "lost city" in shallow waters off the Greek Island of Zakynthos.

What could have been a new tourist attraction for the country has instead been identified as the aftermath of a gas leak.

The discovery looks like circular column bases and courtyard floors, but it is actually objects formed by the release of methane from cracks in the sea floor, *The Telegraph* is reporting.

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