

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 03 Nov 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

P&O's new VIP+ fare

THE P&O Cruises 2017/18 program includes a new drinks and wi-fi combo, VIP+.

Available on cruises departing from Feb 2018, the coupling includes a soft drinks deal and 500MB of wi-fi on cruises of six nights or less, while on longer itineraries the VIP+ fare includes the same amount of internet, plus The Lot! beverage package.

Guests aged 17 years or younger will have The Lot! beverage combination swapped out for a soft drinks package.

On sale now, the first 100 room bookings in each room category on the fare will also receive priority boarding and priority tender allocation.

Visit www.pocruises.com.au.

Aussie homeports grow

CRUISE ships homeporting in Australia saw a massive 45% surge in 2015/16, according to a new report commissioned by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia.

Unveiled in Sydney yesterday, the *Contribution of Cruise Tourism to the Australian Economy 2015-16* report uncovered a 27% year-on-year rise in the contribution of cruise to the country's economy to \$4.58b (CW breaking news).

The rise in homeporting boosted the economic impact, with homeport passengers spending an average of \$508 per day per visit, while transit pax spent on average \$159 per visit per day.

For international passengers boarding a ship locally, these numbers snowball to \$708 per day in a homeport and \$186 per day in transit.

While the report indicates passenger port days for domestic

ships was up 32.1%, pax port days for international ships slid 9.4%.

CLIA Australasia chairman Steve Odell attributed the drop to capacity constraints.

NSW accounted for 63% of the economic contribution, (followed by Qld at 21% and Vic at 8%), but this was a decrease of 5% on the previous period.

"What this shows is just how much cruising is growing around the country and I think the capacity restraints in Sydney are forcing that to a certain extent on domestic itineraries," Odell said.

MEANWHILE cruise ship visit days climbed 29% for the period, while direct pax expenditure rose 18% to \$959 million in 2015-16.

During the term, indirect & induced expenditure added \$2.27b to the industry's total economic output and cruise lines spent an additional 5% on agent commission, totalling \$152m.

Fathom Aussie move?

FATHOM is eyeing off ways to incorporate its experiences into other Carnival Corp brands, revealing two social impact experiences in the Dominican Republic will this month be offered on other lines which cruise into Amber Cove.

Guests on board AIDA Cruises, CCL, Costa Cruises, HAL, Princess Cruises and P&O Cruises UK itineraries into Amber Cove can partake in a chocolate experience at a Women's Cooperative, or volunteer at a recycled paper & crafts micro-business.

Fathom president Tara Russell told media last week Fathom was beginning to work with partners all over the world, describing the Australian market as "ripe and hungry" for impact travel.

"Aussies & Kiwis were at it long before the rest of the world," she said, noting "there's possibilities for on board & shore experiences in any one of our brands".

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CLIA and ACA to join hands?



CLIA Australasia and the Australian Cruise Association (ACA) will meet soon to discuss “common ground”, Steve Odell, CLIA Australasia chairman told *Cruise Weekly* yesterday at the release of the 2015/16 economic report commissioned by CLIA (see page one).

Commenting on the similarity of the CLIA report and ACA’s Economic Impact Report released in Sep (*CW* 08 Sep, Odell said while the methodology of the two reports was a bit different, “fundamentally, they’re saying the same thing.

“I believe that’s something we need to come together on and we

are discussing that because really, the statements are close and the story is great, but two statements probably don’t make sense.”

Joel Jatz, incoming CLIA Australasia managing director is pictured above with Odell on board *Explorer of the Seas*, where the stats were presented to cruise heavyweights & media yesterday.

Crystal rebrand

CRYSTAL has announced two new polar class ‘mega-yachts’ as it rebrands its Crystal Yacht Cruises as Crystal Yacht Expedition Cruises.

The new banner will encompass the previously announced *Crystal Endeavor* launching in 2019 plus two other ships due for introduction in following years.

Crystal has also pushed back the launch of its first Crystal Exclusive Class ocean ship until 2022, having previously planned a debut before the decade’s end.

Ponant Explorers

THE 2018 Arctic and Europe cruises for Ponant’s new Explorer class ships have been revealed.

Cruises range from seven to 22 nights visiting destinations including Greenland, Iceland and the Northwest Passage, in addition to Mediterranean and Scandinavian itineraries.

Traveltek funding boost

CRUISE specialist technology firm Traveltek has secured more than £5 million in funding from private equity group YFM Equity Partners, with the boost expected to see significant growth for the operation, including in Australia.

According to a statement issued by Traveltek in the UK, the company hopes to more than double its global workforce to about 200 over the next three years, at the same time expanding its international office network from the current four to 12 locations.

New sites have already been earmarked in Shanghai, Dubai and Sao Paulo, complementing Traveltek’s existing operations in the United Kingdom, Miami, Hyderabad and Sydney.

Group managing director Kenny Picken said “the business is already in a strong position as the booking systems supplier of choice for many of the major travel trade businesses.

“We can now leverage that position and develop Traveltek into a major global technology business and invest in the latest technology, new infrastructure, business systems, business development and new talent”.

Regional general manager Australia Paul Millan welcomed the investment, with a LinkedIn post saying “A new chapter begins and big plans for us in APAC, exciting time ahead”.

Seabourn expedition

A NEW series of excursions will be offered by Seabourn in Australia and New Zealand under The Ventures by Seabourn expedition program.

Guests on *Seabourn Encore* during her maiden Aussie season in 2017 will be able to jump on inflatable boats or double sea kayaks from a fold-out water sports marina on the vessel.

Pax will be able to search for wildlife in the NT, hike to the top of the Whitsunday peak & more.

Uniworld brochure

AN INAUGURAL Generations brochure has been released by Uniworld featuring nine European river cruise itineraries, including a new sailing along the Rhine and Main Rivers in 2017 catering for multi-generational travellers.

Itineraries include shore excursions for young travellers with options such as a hands-on pasta workshop in Bologna and a Venice ghost walk, whilst on board activities include dessert-making classes and language sessions.

Uniworld provides two dedicated family hosts on board and guests between four and 18 get 50% off the price when travelling with an adult.




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Get an update on all the latest cruise news in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

Hurtigruten earlybird

HURTIGRUTEN'S expedition sailings now have an "Explorer Early Booking Discount" available for most cruises departing in 2017/18 & 2019.

Savings of \$900 per person are available when booked between 07 Nov and 31 Dec this year.

Call 1800 487 844.

Fantasea giveaway

TO CELEBRATE their 90-year history in Australia, Fantasea are offering 90 travel industry partners a free Sydney Harbour cruise.

For more information, get in touch with Fantasea by emailing info@fantasea.com.au.



EVER kissed a hooker's lips?

Well, a shore excursion from any number of Caribbean Sea cruises to ports in Costa Rica, Panama or Columbia may just give you the chance.

But before your imagination gets the better of you, all is not what it seems.

The Psychotria Elata plant, or better known as Hooker Lips, or the Hot Lips Plant, displays remarkably human like characteristics with big juicy Kardashian like lips.

Found in tropical locations of Central America, the plant has evolved to attract native hummingbirds & butterflies.

Anyone keen to pucker up!?



PTMs jump aboard Uniworld



SIX personal travel managers recently experienced a six-day Uniworld Boutique River Cruise on the Rhone River, sailing from Lyon to Avignon in France.

The group travelled on Qatar Airways from Adelaide via Doha on the *Dreamliner* aircraft.

Pictured from left are: Beverley Burt; Michelle Collins; Emma Ross; Jeanette Dickson; Fiona Perry; Fiona Dalton, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection and Rosemary Kates.

Celebrity previews

RENDERINGS have been released of Celebrity Cruises' new vessels, *Celebrity Xploration* and *Celebrity Xperience*, which will sail in the Galapagos from Mar.

The reception area of *Xperience* is **pictured**, or for more, see *Cruise Weekly's* [Facebook](#) page.



Princess chef pact

THREE-MICHELIN star Chef Emmanuel Renaut will design Princess Cruises' next specialty restaurant "La Mer – A French Bistro by Emmanuel Renaut".

The fine dining experience created by Renaut will come at a to-be-determined nominal cover charge, while the space will also serve complimentary lunch and breakfast options.

It will debut aboard *Majestic Princess* in six months.

Dream of Penfolds

THE first Penfolds Flagship Wine Vault will be on board *Genting Dream*, storing and pouring a range of Penfolds finest labels of both red and white wines.

A sommelier will man the vault during certain hours of the day and events as part of the ship's enrichment activities will take place in the space.

At the entrance to Penfolds Wine Vault will be a dispenser which can serve wine by the glass at the "perfect" temperature.

Two more dispensers will be placed outside The Lido venue.



CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Brett Jardine
CLIA Australasia

CLIA update

THE inaugural Plan a Cruise Month has been a tremendous success with cruise lines and travel agents across Australia and New Zealand reporting some excellent results from their efforts in supporting this global initiative.

Quote of the month came from one Sydney agent who advised they had "bookings coming out of our earholes" which was not only very funny but great to hear!

We will be conducting a Plan a Cruise Month survey of members to get some further feedback on thoughts and achievements that will be used in planning for next year's event.

The 2017 Masters Conference has returned from a seven-night cruise onboard P&O's *Pacific Eden* with some fabulous feedback on the course as well as the itinerary that focused on Papua New Guinea. For most of the group, this was a first time visit to PNG with the highlight being a magnificent day in the Conflict Islands.

We look forward to welcoming another group of agents into the prestigious Master Cruise Consultant ranks as post event assignments are completed. Our 2017 Masters Conference host vessel and destination will be announced in the coming weeks. CLIA Membership Renewals for 2017 will be open in a couple of weeks, so keep an eye out for material that will be coming your way soon!



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