

# CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 09 May 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Scenic Europe 2018

SCENIC has packed a number of new itineraries in its just-released 2018 Europe River cruise brox.

New additions include the 25-day Beautiful Bordeaux with Iberian Splendours, 23-day Icons of France and 18-day Imperial Russia with St Petersburg.

**CLICK HERE** to view online.

## Constellation refurb

CELEBRITY Cruises' *Celebrity Constellation* will be fitted with new dining options Qsine and Top Deck Burger Bar during a two week drydock beginning Fri.

The Rooftop Terrace will also debut on the vessel, RFID door locks will be installed in all staterooms and every Penthouse and Royal Suite will be updated.

## More P&O ships in Bris

P&O Cruises will ramp up its Brisbane deployment, revealing in its 2018/19 brochure it will base a record three ships in the city for the first time in 2018.

*Pacific Jewel* will sail from the Queensland capital from Sep-Nov 2018 and *Pacific Dawn* and *Pacific Aria* will cruise from the destination year-round.

The move will see a total of 126 departures from Brisbane in 2018 - an 18% increase on 2017.

In addition, a record 12 P&O Cruises sailings will depart from South Australia during the year.

P&O Cruises president Sture Myrmell said Queensland was "made for cruising".

"Not only is it the second biggest source of cruise passengers in the country, it offers more cruise destinations than any other state, with our ships sailing to 10 ports along the coastline," he said.

MEANWHILE, P&O revealed details of the dining offering on its new ship, *Pacific Explorer* which will debut in Sydney in Jun.

The line will build on its partnership with celebrity chef Luke Mangan and launch a new poolside grill called Luke's, which Myrmell said would "offer a modern, relaxed setting, providing a great backdrop for some seriously delicious gourmet burgers - including Luke's Chicken Confidential burger".

P&O Cruises has also revealed a new partnership with Melbourne pizza chef Johnny Di Francesco, who will open a new pizzeria, 400 Gradi on the ship.

The 2018/19 program includes 180 cruises featuring 39 three-night roundtrip cruises from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide or Auckland and more than 40 different cruises to the Pacific Islands.

## Cyclone Donna DFAT

DFAT has advised Tropical Cyclone Donna will affect parts of New Caledonia today, with very high winds, strong rain and storm surges expected in coastal areas.

The level of advice remains at the lowest level of "exercise normal safety precautions".

Over the weekend, P&O Cruises' *Pacific Aria* skipped calls to the Loyalty Islands and Vanuatu due to the cyclone.

Today the line said Donna was moving away to the south & that it didn't anticipate an impact on *Pacific Jewel's* upcoming itinerary based on current indications.

## Azamara Cuba dates

AZAMARA Club Cruises has scheduled four new Cuba sailings featuring maiden calls to Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba and two overnights in Havana.

The new cruises depart 04 Jan, 09, 19 and 28 Mar.

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## Fiji seeks port upgrades

**THE** Fijian Government is looking to increase the capacity of the country's two major cruise ports, hoping to cater to larger and more frequent ship visits.

At the Fijian Tourism Expo held in Denarau last week, the country's Tourism Minister Faiyaz Koya said consultations on infrastructure upgrades were underway with port authorities and the private sector.

"Because there's a big interest in Fiji as a cruise destination – last weekend we had two ships in Suva at the same time – the first thing we are doing is the development of the ports to facilitate them," Koya said.

"The main thing is that we get the actual ports right," he said.

"It's not just government, there are private entities interested in developing the port infrastructure also, but it's all in discussions at the moment."

Koya said efforts would focus

on Fiji's two largest ports - the capital Suva on the east coast of the mainland Viti Levu, and at Lautoka on the west coast.

"Ships are getting bigger and bigger by the day," he said.

"So we need to be aligned with that," he added.

### NCL, Alibaba pact

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line Holdings has partnered with Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group ahead of Norwegian Cruise Line's entry into the Chinese market in Jun.

The two companies will work together to provide Alibaba customers with "new and unique" online-to-offline experiences at sea across Norwegian's China-based and global fleet and to promote cruising as a vacation choice among Chinese travellers.

Next month NCL will introduce its first ship purpose-built for the Chinese market, *Norwegian Joy*.



**AUSSIE** travel agents have the chance to win a cruise to the Mexican Riviera under Carnival Cruise Line's latest incentive marking the Mexican national holiday, Cinco de Mayo.

During May, all Australian agents who book a client on a Carnival Mexican cruise will go in the draw to win a seven-night cruise to the Mexican Riviera or one of three MEXI-FUN hampers up for grabs each week.

Carnival Cruise Line vp Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke and director of sales Anton Loeb launched the incentive on Fri on board *Carnival Spirit*.

Joined by a group of local agents, Vandekreeke and Loeb

tucked into Mexican food and margaritas in the ship's Blueguana Cantina (**pictured**).

"We think this month-long incentive will create a Mexican wave that will lead to more Australians travelling south of the border for their next cruise holiday," Loeb said.

Carnival Cruise Line's Sydney team and agents are **pictured** on *Carnival Spirit*.

### Viking Cruises deal

**VIKING** Cruises is offering savings of \$1,000 per couple on the 05 Jun 2019 sailing of the 11-day Alaska & the Inside Passage cruise, book by 30 Jun.

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Step on board Uniworld's newest ship in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE to read**

**travelBulletin**

## Silversea ballet pact

**SILVERSEA** Cruises and The Australian Ballet have entered into a multi-year agreement.

Amber Wilson, Silversea's md, Asia-Pacific said the premier ballet company's "vision for delivering high standards and a passion for life strongly resonates with Silversea Cruises, making this a partnership which is very well aligned".

Silversea Cruises currently offers enrichment ballet voyages with exclusive performances by world-class ballet stars.

## Montreal Port record

**THE** Port of Montreal has forecast a record 52 int'l and 16 domestic cruise ship visits this cruise season, bringing in over 110,000 pax and crew - a 25% increase over the last season.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	09 May
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	12 May
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	13 May
CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	15 May
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	11 May
GERALDTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	13 May
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	12 May
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	14 May

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## Yangzi Explorer's new look



**SANCTUARY** Retreats has unveiled a new look *Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer* following a comprehensive refurbishment.

The ship's 20 suites and 38 deluxe cabins have been upgraded in a contemporary Chinese style with 'silver leaf' wallpaper design (**pictured**).

*Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer* sails three-night itineraries from Chongqing to Yichang and four-night cruises back to Chongqing.

This northern hemisphere summer there is a program of special family 'summer camp' sailings in Jul and Aug which includes additional on board

child-friendly activities such as kite making and a pyjama party.

Prices are from US\$1,350 per person sharing a Main Deck Deluxe Cabin with a space-available upgrade, based on travel between 01 Jun-07 Sep.

## Viking Med itinerary

**A 13-DAY** itinerary in the Mediterranean has been launched by Viking Cruises.

The voyage on 25 Oct visits 11 ports including Rome, Florence, Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

Savings of \$1,000 per couple and fly free deals are available on the new Western Mediterranean Explorer cruise.

Offer is valid until 19 May.

## Aqua new itineraries

**NEW** Amazon cruise itineraries for 2017 and 2018 have been released by Aqua Expeditions.

New activities are included in Aqua's three- and four- night Discovery and Explorer cruises, including guided jungle walks across suspended bridges and more - **CLICK HERE**.

## Princess film festival

**PRINCESS** Cruises' Travelling Film Festival at Sea will return on *Sun Princess* in Nov.

During the six-night roundtrip cruise from Sydney to Tasmania, film buffs will be able to tuck into a selection of films curated by Sydney Film festival director Nashen Moodley and hosted by film critic Richard Kuipers.

The cruise will also feature a full schedule of activities highlighting the best of Sydney Film Festival.

Fares lead in at \$899ppts.



**THE** concepts for P&O Cruises' newest addition to the fleet, *Pacific Explorer* have received the tick of approval from a group of 10-year-old critics.

The pint-sized humans spent a day on board P&O fleetmate *Pacific Dawn* in Brisbane testing and providing feedback on a multitude of features earmarked for the cruise ship.

They put the new ship's offerings to the test, sampling the food, entertainment, on board activities and assessing interior design.

One young explorer is **pictured** tucking into a slice of Neapolitan pizza which will be served at 400 Gradi, a new family restaurant to be on *Pacific Explorer*.



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