

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from AA Appointments.

New HAL segments

HOLLAND America Line has released a four- and a five-day shorter segment of the 31-day Pacific Explorer itinerary on *ms Maasdam* this upcoming cruise season.

The five-day sailing leaves Sydney on 22 Nov and makes a three-day Tasman crossing before visiting Tauranga and ending in Auckland.

On 19 Dec the four-day departure will sail from Auckland onto the Bay of Islands, followed by a two-day crossing to Sydney.

Both lead in at \$749ppts with \$200pp air credit for select flights if booked by 20 Oct.

CCL teams up with Signature Travel

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has entered a multi-year preferred supplier partnership with Signature Travel Network (STN).

The US-based network includes more than 200 member agencies with retail locations in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Australia, NZ, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Partnership benefits for the agencies will kick off on 01 Oct with a "Signature Welcome" program led by the cruise line and offering training and support.

Carnival joins its sister brands Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, Cunard, and Seabourn, which were already part of the World's Leading Cruise Lines preferred supplier team with STN.

"Our executive leadership and sales team are fully dedicated to growing our relationship with Signature Travel Network and leveraging the strength of both organisations to deliver an



incredible experience for tens of thousands of travellers each year," said Adolfo Perez, vp of sales and trade marketing for Carnival Cruise Line.

"Signature's owners and agents are widely respected for being highly skilled and knowledgeable travel experts and we're thrilled to begin this preferred relationship so that we can work together on growing their overall

business and increasing their Carnival sales," he added.

STN president and ceo Alex Sharpe said the company offered a members first, service-oriented culture; strong and supportive relationships with preferred partners and access to customisable, turnkey tools.

Magellan Travel Group last week announced a partnership with the network.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Thursday 21st September 2017



Learn why Cuba is so hot right now and who's sailing there in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Mahler joins Crystal fleet



CRYSTAL River Cruises officially added *Crystal Mahler* to its fleet during a handover ceremony held at an MV Werften shipyard in Germany yesterday.

Crystal's new president and ceo Tom Wolber received the ship, which was then christened by godmother and American volleyball star Lauren Barfield.

The 106-guest vessel will sail seven-, eleven- and 16-day voyages along the Rhine and Danube Rivers and be followed by two additional Rhine Class ships,

Crystal Debussy and *Crystal Ravel* in 2018.

Pictured are: Colin Au, group president of Genting Hong Kong; Gustaf Gronberg, senior vice president of marine operations of Genting Cruise Lines; Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay, chairman of Genting Hong Kong and Crystal Cruises; Lauren Barfield, godmother of *Crystal Mahler*; Harry Glawe, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's Economics Minister and Tom Wolber, president and ceo of Crystal Cruises.

Hurricane Maria

CRUISE ships have been rerouted away from Hurricane Maria, which has been downgraded to a category 2 storm but has caused severe damage to Puerto Rico.

Carnival Cruise Line modified a number of departures in the area through to 01 Oct.

Royal Caribbean Int'l has changed itineraries on two ships and Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Breakaway* is sailing a modified itinerary.

Dubai terminal

DEVELOPER Meraas has announced Dubai Harbour will have a second cruise terminal in addition to the one already revealed in Jan.

The two terminals will have capacity for 1.2m pax annually.

Nexus incentive

NEXUS Holidays will give an agent a balcony cabin on a two-night sampler cruise dep 01 Dec on Royal Caribbean Int'l's *Voyager of the Seas* under its latest incentive.

The prize will go to the agent who generates the highest number of bookings via Nexus Holidays for RCI, Celebrity Cruises or Azamara Club Cruises from 18 Sep-18 Oct.

New Viking cruises

TWO new 2019 Viking Cruises ocean itineraries to Iceland and Russia have been announced for the northern hemisphere spring and summer months of 2019.

The new additions are the 11-day Russia & the Baltic Sea and the 13-day Iceland's Majestic Landscapes.

World Dream leaves shipyard for Asia

DREAM Cruises' new ship *World Dream* has bid farewell to the Meyer Werft shipyard in Germany and begun her voyage to Asia.

The ship was conveyed on the river Ems to Eemshaven in the Netherlands over the weekend.

World Dream will continue to Bremerhaven, Germany for sea trials and will start sailing from Hong Kong on 17 Nov, offering two weekly alternating five-night itineraries, as well as two-night cruises.



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VA check-in at OPT

VIRGIN Australia has implemented a service allowing passengers to drop off their bags and check-in away from the airport following a pilot in Sydney at the OPT for cruise guests.

The service offered by Amadeus and Off Airport Check-In Solutions (OACIS) then transports luggage to the airport and injects it directly into the baggage system.

Using the technology, a fully mobile check-in service could be offered at any location.

OACIS plans to be live at the Sydney OPT and White Bay Cruise Terminal.

Cruise Masters' Dream



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia's 2017 Masters Conference is underway with close to 30 Aussie and Kiwi agents sailing on Dream Cruises' *Genting Dream*.

The CLIA accredited agents are on board to gain the highest level of cruise industry accreditation and will hear from US-based travel industry trainer, business coach and motivational speaker

Scott Koepf and Thatcher Brown, president of Dream Cruises.

Genting Dream is currently on a five-night cruise to Japan taking in the ports of Naha & Miyakojima.

Agents who successfully complete a post-conference work-based assignment will attain the elite Master Cruise Consultant accreditation.

Attendees are **pictured** at the welcome party.



Gladstone Ports tie up to ACA

GLADSTONE Ports Corporation has come on board as ACA's latest member. Joining right before our annual conference in Mooloolaba in early Sep, we were delighted to have Andrew Davis, business operations mgr at the event.

Andrew was in good company attending with Darryl Branthwaite from Gladstone Area Promotion and Development.

Gladstone is one of the largest commercial shipping ports in Queensland but only started welcoming cruise ships 18 months ago. In that time 13 ships have visited and several more are on the books for this season.

And with a \$30m waterfront development - including new arrival and interpretive facilities and a transport hub about to commence - the destination is set to become one of the country's most exciting itinerary inclusions.

"It was such a valuable time to join the Association. We learned so much at the conference about what ships are being built, pax expectations, and what we need to do to be "cruise ready" as a destination," Andrew mentioned.

As one of the state's largest deepwater ports, Gladstone is also well positioned to welcome future superliners and is also looking at being in a position to homeport.

Darryl Branthwaite is optimistic about the future of the destination - "We are all on the same page here about growing the cruise industry opportunity. We are really keen to see it happen and we will make it happen."



DREAM Cruises is working on another type of newbuild.

The line has set itself the goal of smashing the record for the world's largest LEGO cruise ship.

The 8.44m replica of the line's ship, *World Dream*, is expected to be certified by the Guinness Book of World Records and completed in time for *World Dream's* arrival in Hong Kong.

The initiative will be led by Andy Hung, the first LEGO Certified Professional in Greater China region.

As part of the project, consumers who have booked a five-night cruise in a balcony deluxe and above cabin category can take part in the actual building of the model.

Canaveral edges closer to new terminal

A NEW terminal at Port Canaveral, Florida, is one step closer with the Canaveral Port Authority engaging engineering company CH2M to design a new facility.

The 427m-long terminal berth will join the port's Cruise Terminal One in its ability to serve ships like Royal Caribbean's Oasis-class, today's largest passenger vessels.

CH2M will provide permit support, dredging, bidding support and construction support as part of the tie-up.

Port Canaveral is ranked as the world's second busiest cruise port in terms of multi-day embarkations.



CRUISE
WEEKLY

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