

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Evergreen strong

EVERGREEN Cruises says it has sold an “amazing 89%” of its best value staterooms, after strong uptake of its 2019 Europe earlybird offers.

Director of sales, marketing and product, Angus Crichton said there had been a particularly strong response to the debut of new Star-Ships in France and Portugal, as well as the addition of Russia and luxury yacht cruises on the Dalmatian coast.

Evergreen still has limited availability on some of the offers which expire on 31 Aug, with savings of up to \$5,300 per couple.

More info on 1300 383 747.

“Cruising is the new cool” - CLIA

A **NEW** report from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has highlighted strong growth in cruise demand from millennial travellers, as part of an overall uplift in the industry in the USA where 79% of travel agents say their cruise bookings are up.

CLIA polled more than 1,300 agencies across America to compile its latest *Travel Agency Cruise Outlook* study, with just 8% of respondents saying their cruise sales have declined year-on-year.

Three quarters of those polled also noted their customers were spending more on cruises this year, as well as adding on more land-based excursions and pre- and post-cruise experiences.

Key trends highlighted include growth in multi-generational and family cruises, as well as strong interest in experiencing the latest “mega-ships” as they launch.



TRAVEL AGENT CRUISE INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

EIGHTH EDITION | SPRING 2018



When it comes to destinations, American cruisers are very interested in Alaska, with 62% of US agents saying more clients are booking voyages to the state.

There was a 41% increase in interest in cruising to the Caribbean, followed by Europe and Canada (tied at 36%), and

then Hawaii (32%), Panama (29%), Northern Europe (29%) and Australia/NZ (28%).

The research also noted strong interest in river cruising, with three-quarters of respondents reporting increases in bookings.

The report is available online at www.cruising.org.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 7th August 2018



Find out what it's like to cruise Alaska with Oceania in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Webinar reminder

DON'T forget to register for the second episode in Crystal Cruises' popular webinar series, which is set to go live tomorrow, 08 Aug at 2pm.

Hosted by *Travel Daily* editor Jasmine O'Donoghue in partnership with *Cruise Weekly*, this week sees Crystal md Australia & NZ Karen Christensen take a closer look at the brand's river cruises.

Consultants who register will go into the running to win a luxury Crystal Cruise for two, **CLICK HERE** to sign up.

Silversea combos

SILVERSEA Cruises has launched a range of combination cruise packages that feature a selection of two or more journeys at discounted rates.

The combo deals apply to a limited number of cruise options and includes the 23-day Venice to Dubai voyage on board *Silver Spirit*, fusing visits to Santorini and Dubrovnik in the Mediterranean, with sailings through the Suez Canal and explorations of select middle eastern cities.

RCI goes to Hollywood



ROYAL Caribbean International's *Harmony of the Seas* stars in the Netflix original film *Like Father*, which debuted over the weekend.

Like Father was filmed on board *Harmony of the Seas* and showcases the actors experiencing the activities and amenities on board including Boleros, The Perfect Storm, FlowRider, Royal Promenade, Rising Tide Bar, and the line's private island destination Labadee, Haiti, where the actors had a go on the longest over-water zipline.

To celebrate, Royal Caribbean hosted the "largest movie premiere at sea" by screening the film across its Oasis Class ships: *Symphony*, *Harmony*,

Allure and *Oasis of the Seas* in the AquaTheatre, the onboard amphitheatre that contains two movie screens.

The guests were also treated to a special event in the signature Boardwalk neighbourhood before the premier, which featured a live DJ, face painting, treats and beverage specials.

Starring Kristen Bell, Kelsey Grammer and Seth Rogen, the film is about a young advertising executive and workaholic, played by Kristen Bell, who was left at the altar and unexpectedly ends up on her Caribbean honeymoon cruise with her estranged father.

Pictured is *Frasier* star Kelsey Grammer learning the finer points of surfing the Flo Rider on *Harmony of the Seas*.

Travel Daily & CRUISE WEEKLY
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Aurora new bpm

AURORA Expeditions has announced the appointment of Jackie Gordon to the role of business development manager, based in the company's Sydney office.

Gordon will be charged with developing sales relationships with trade distribution partners in Queensland, South Australia and WA, and brings with her more than 15 years of experience in the travel and tourism sectors.

"Jackie's appointment signals the organisation's ongoing commitment to the trade as well as the need to service the increase in demand," said Aurora Expeditions managing director Robert Halfpenny.

The news arrives as the company prepares to launch its *Greg Mortimer* vessel in Oct 2019 (**CW** 21 Nov 2017).

Awesome refresh

AWESOME Adventures Fiji's catamaran, the *Yasawa Flyer II* (**pictured**), has had a makeover, now featuring a white, blue and green colour palette, new external seats, carpets, decking and refreshed public areas.

The vessel, which transports guests around the Yasawa Islands, is a large high-speed catamaran with air-conditioned seating, a travel desk, licensed bar, cafe and outdoor viewing decks.

It departs Port Denarau at 8:30pm daily to island hop between the Mamanuca Island resorts of South Sea Island, Beachcomber and Treasure Islands.



Coral Adventurer itineraries



CORAL Expeditions has today released full details of the inaugural season of its newbuild *Coral Adventurer* (**pictured**) which is currently under construction by Norwegian shipbuilder Vard.

The vessel will undergo a series of testing and shakedown cruises in Mar and Apr next year, prior to a formal launch ceremony which is scheduled for Singapore on 22 Apr 2019.

Coral Adventurer's maiden voyage has already sold out, and will take 120 pax on an 18-day expedition through the Indonesian archipelago, retracing the explorations of Dutch explorer Abel Tasman.

The 2019 and 2020 itineraries feature a diverse range of expeditions in Australia's tropical north, including explorations of the rarely visited West Papua, the

Kimberley coast, the frontiers of Papua New Guinea and the exotic Spice Islands, also known as the Moluccas or Maluku Islands.

The company confirmed that building has now commenced on the ship's lightweight dual Xplorer expedition tenders - open safari boats that "extend the capabilities of the ship beyond current cruise industry benchmarks by allowing rapid deployment of all passengers on shore excursions".

The Xplorer tenders, a trademark feature of all Coral Expeditions ships, can cruise up rivers, land on beaches and disembark at small village piers.

Coral Adventurer also features a guest observation lounge and a special-purpose room for art workshops, photography and scientific research.



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Aria previews new style



P&O Cruises has released a rendering of the renovations currently taking place on board *Pacific Aria* during its 12-day dry dock in Singapore.

When she emerges from the refurbishment on 15 Aug, *Aria* will boast several enhancements including a reboot of its late night venue, The Dome (rendering

pictured), 10,528m² of new carpet, updated outdoor furniture in each suite, as well as new decor inside the kids' zone areas including Turtle Cove, Shark Shack, and HQ.

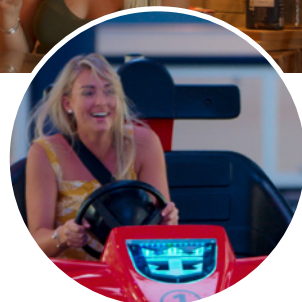
The final touch for *Aria* will see a new Southern Cross livery displayed on her hull, now a signature feature of P&O's fleet.

FC gives standing Ovation



FLIGHT Centre's most recent episode of *The 48 Hour Destination* was filmed entirely on board Royal Caribbean's 4,905-passenger *Ovation of the Seas*.

Travel consultants from Flight Centre, Tayla Barkhusen (**top left**) and Greer Gardiner (**top right**), were treated to all of the ship's entertainment facilities



they could handle in a 48-hour period including surfing lessons on the Flowrider (**left**), the Bumper Cars (**above**), roller skating (**below**), and enjoying some fine dining (**top**).

The episode aired on Network Ten last weekend but will be repeated on 19 Aug and is also available on TenPlay.



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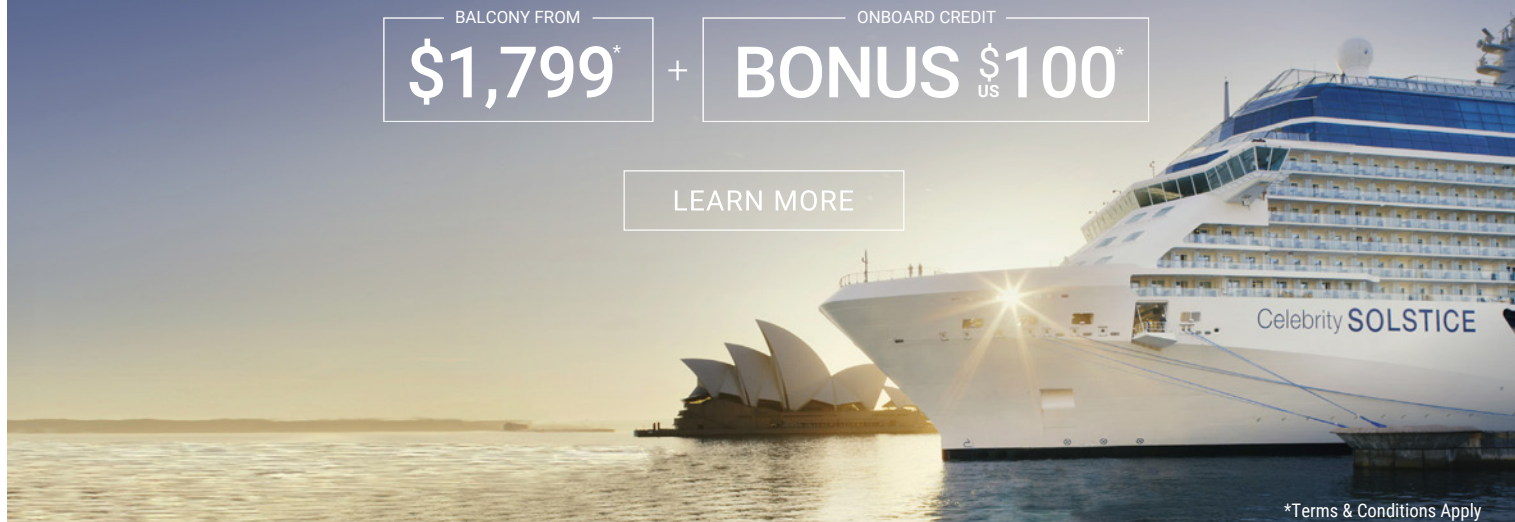
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Captain's party

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises is offering savings of up to 40% for table bookings of 10 pax or more on its Sunset, Starlight, Brilliant Dinner & Drinks, and Gold Penfolds Dinner cruises.

Prices start from \$65 per person for The Sunset Dinner Cruise, including a free upgrade to a private room.

The five-star Gold Penfolds Dinner cruise is priced at \$195 per person, normally \$259pp, and includes a private room, six course dining experience, welcome Captain's cocktail reception, and exclusive sky deck seating.

The offers are valid for bookings before 31 Aug and apply to travel until 30 Sep.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

FACE-2-FACE: Sanjay Basu

CHAIRMAN of Indian river cruise operator Adventure Resorts & Cruises.



1. What motivates you in your career?

I was a mountaineer and a lover of nature and during my explorations I realised that India with its great natural landscapes was a great destination for adventure. So this motivated me to develop our eco-lodges and cruises.

2. Most common assumption people make about your job?

People naturally believe that it is a lot of luxury and holidaying.

3. What is the key to building great relationships with agents?

Reliability, transparency, honesty and being able to project the great experiences for the travel agents to realise the value of them. And, naturally, sending our cruise guests back raving about their experiences to their travel agents helps build relationships.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

We are a relatively new destination and the first challenge is, essentially, to let the potential travellers know about the great experiences awaiting them on our cruises.

5. Advice for up-and-comers?

Hard work, innovation, risk taking, perseverance, quality,

creativity and value – all mixed together as a cocktail - makes for a successful business. Get to know the rivers and waterways in India. It's a great, untapped destination for the cruise industry.

6. What was your best fam?

I have rarely taken a fam elsewhere but of the few I have taken, both the Danube and Irrawaddy Rivers were very enjoyable.

7. My next cruise will be...

On the Ganges River from Kolkata to Varanasi, which is the most ancient living city on Earth.

8. Favourite cruise destination?

Sailing down the Brahmaputra River into the sunset, with the moon rising, dolphins swimming around, storks flying above and the Himalayas soaring in the distance.

9. Celebrity you'd like to cruise with?

Angelina Jolie.

10. Favourite thing to do in port?

Safaris.

11. When not at work, how do you enjoy spending your time?

Reading.

Euro Waterways sale

EUROPEAN Waterways is offering group travellers earlybird specials of 10% off whole-boat charter prices when booked before 14 Sep.

Specials include the 24 and 31 Mar, 2019 departures on the 12-passenger *Panache* as it cruises The Netherlands during the country's tulip season.

Prices start at €44,910 (A\$70,300) - **CLICK HERE**.



WHICH cruise line looks to hook kids with lot of books?

Well it's Carnival Cruise Line in this case, with the company recently announcing 213m Dr Seuss words were read through educational activities taking place across its fleet this year.

"(We are) the leader in family cruising, carrying more than 800,000 kids a year and are very proud to be the official seagoing partner of the Dr Seuss's Word Challenge," said Carnival director of youth programming Caroline Lombardi.

Now there's a bunch of boats who totes gets to gloat about hitting the right notes with those books that Geisel wrote!



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY		
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		09 Aug
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		13 Aug
BRISBANE		
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		07 Aug
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>		11 Aug
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		11 Aug
CAIRNS		
<i>Pacific Eden</i>		07 Aug
DARWIN		
<i>L'Austral</i>		07 Aug
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>		09 Aug