

Cruise Weekly today

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

ACA promotes Oz

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has sent a record number of delegates to fly the flag for Australian cruising at the Seatrade Cruise Global event in Miami.

The 18-member group is comprised of state tourism members, port reps, and ground handlers, with ACA Chairman Grant Gilfillan set to participate in a panel session on the Asia Pacific region.

Seatrade attracts reps from over 75 cruise lines.

Quasar Expeditions' new eco ship

THE Galapagos Islands are set to get one of the most eco-friendly and conservation orientated upscale passenger yachts in decades as Quasar Expeditions announced the details of a new ship in the final stages of construction at a media conference in Sydney yesterday.

Eric Andrews, Sales Manager for Quasar Expeditions, said the new 18-passenger concept yacht will be operational by Christmas and that he's "99% sure it will be called the *Conservation*".

"We bought this mega yacht in Italy but basically redid the whole thing with final touches being made in Florida in terms of mechanics and technical aspects," Andrews said.

"Over in the United States they have the materials and the know-how to ensure we get what we want in terms of conservation and eco-friendliness."

A commitment to the preservation of the Galapagos Islands was at the forefront of the new yacht design, with Andrews saying "the engines are very fuel



efficient and able to travel at 16 knots, which is very important because it's great for the guest experience and it's less time sailing with motors running in the water".

"It's going to have biodegradable materials, no single use plastics on board at all and carbon neutral as well and the materials used in the

construction are very eco-friendly and good for long term ocean use which means less waste when we do dry docks."

Sponsored scientists and conservationists will be on board with guests taking part in research studies upon the islands.

Pictured: Rob Gurr, MD for Ynot Concepts with Eric Andrews, Sales Manager for Quasar Expeditions.

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Ensemble local

ENSEMBLE Travel Group has unveiled plans to place a greater focus on the Australian market in the next 12 months.

The intention arrives on the back of the company recently developing a cruise portal with members now able to select from new amenity offers from preferred cruise partners.

Speaking at the annual members' forum for 2019 yesterday, Ensemble's US based Co-President, Libbie Rice, said "We want to make sure we're supporting Australia with products and programs that are relevant and help drive your bottom line".

Rice added work done by the US office in tech and marketing will benefit local members.

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Azamara back-to-back

AZAMARA Club Cruises has launched 21 Grand Voyages, a series of itineraries throughout 2019 and 2020 that allow guests the chance to sail back-to-back cruises through different regions.

Grand Voyages consist of two, three or more consecutive individual voyages - all featuring combinations of over 25 "popular and lesser-known" ports.

The sailings include the 42-night Ancient Worlds Up Close option departing 24 Aug on board *Azamara Pursuit*, visiting eight destinations in Greece including Athens, Volos, Rhodes as well as Kusadasi in Turkey.

MEANWHILE Azamara is offering travellers to "Buy One, Get One Half Price," plus USD\$500 of onboard spending money & free wi-fi.

Bookings on Oceanview Staterooms & select itineraries need to be made by 31 May to qualify for the offer - view [HERE](#).

Scenic Asia 2020/21

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has released its 2020 pre-release brochure for South East Asia river cruising, offering 2019 prices for bookings made prior 30 Jun.

Itineraries include the 13-day Treasures of the Mekong, Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap, starting from \$7,695pp, with passengers exploring the ancient hilltop pagoda of Wat Hanchey, and the Silver Pagoda in Phnom Penh.

Additionally, travellers will get to experience the 18-day journey along the Mekong, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, starting from \$10,595pp, with stops at Laos & Luang Prabang.

As an added incentive for bookings made by 30 Jun, Scenic has launched a range of promo offers incl 50% off the single supplement fares for the solo traveller - [CLICK HERE](#).

Aqua flags coastal plans



BOUTIQUE luxury river cruise line Aqua Expeditions has revealed intentions to "diversify its business operations and enter the coastal cruises market as part of its global expansion plan".

Three new coastal destinations will be opened up in Q4 this year, the details of which will be revealed in greater detail in May.

Aqua also has plans to grow its fleet from two to four vessels, with ship names and amenity details to be revealed at the same time next month.

"As with all Aqua Expeditions vessels, we will be partnering

with a renowned designer and also a critically acclaimed chef to deliver a world-class dining experience," said Aqua Expeditions Chief Executive Officer Francesco Galli Zugaro.

The luxury cruise line also announced it had refreshed its brand imagery in a bid to emphasise the theme of personalised luxury experiences focused on design, cuisine, tailored service, and immersive cultural excursions.

View the sneak preview of what destinations have been chosen by Aqua Expeditions [HERE](#).

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APT sails for tomorrow



APT Travel Group has launched a new charity called One Tomorrow, an organisation that aims to create immediate and long-term positive influences on environmental and humanitarian causes.

"As a team of passionate travellers, we want to ensure that we are supporting, not only the destinations and communities we visit but also

our guests, wherever they may be from," said APT Travel Group Director, Robert McGeary.

The new foundation will be headed up by Madeleine Curtain who will manage a number of humanitarian projects and initiatives.

Pictured: One Tomorrow head Madeleine Curtain with APT Travel Group Director Robert McGeary.



P&O Cruises is gearing up to welcome *Pacific Adventure* to the fleet in 2020 as the cruise line farewelled *Pacific Eden* this week, completing her final cruise in Singapore.

The changing of the guard also saw *Pacific Jewel* recently sail her last voyage, with both ships carrying more than one million guests on a total of 646 cruises and contributing a combined economic impact of \$600 million.

"Both of these ships have been wonderful members of our fleet and while it is always sad to say farewell, adventure literally awaits in every sense of the word with the arrival of *Pacific*

Adventure in 2020 and a second Grand-class vessel in 2021," said P&O Cruises President Sture Myrmell.

"It's a very exciting time for Australia's home brand with *Pacific Adventure* set to play an integral role in P&O's next chapter of growth and innovation," he added.

The 3,100-passenger ship offers many contemporary onboard experiences such as dining concepts from Australian chef and restaurateur Luke Mangan and respected Melbourne-based chef Johnny Di Francesco.

Pictured: A rendering of the upcoming *Pacific Adventure*.

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Discover the delights of the Mekong River in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Royal cancels trips

ROYAL Caribbean has cancelled three upcoming *Oasis of the Seas* cruises after a crane fell on the ship while it was undergoing a dry dock in the Bahamas earlier this week.

The cruise line has offered affected guests a full refund plus a credit for a future cruise, as well as compensation on airfare change fees of up to US\$400.



ONE of the most enduring mysteries of the deep seas has finally been solved.

The mysterious river barge that famed Greek historian Herodotus described nearly 2,500 years ago has been discovered by a team of scuba-diving archaeologists.

"It wasn't until we discovered this wreck that we realised Herodotus was right," Damian Robinson, Director of Oxford University's Centre for Maritime Archaeology said.

"What Herodotus described was what we were looking at".

The vessel would have measured 28 meters in length and likely sank in the first half of the fifth century B.C.



FACE-2-FACE: Richard Waugh

Business Development Manager,
P&O Cruises Australia.



1. What is the favourite part of your job?

Being able to travel to exciting destinations and meeting people from all walks of life. There's always something new happening!

2. Why did you choose a career in the cruise industry?

After 12 years in the retail industry I was looking for a new challenge, and the cruise industry provided some amazing opportunities unique to any other.

3. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

The real challenge is finding consumers new to cruising and convincing them to give it a go. As cruise lines continue to bring larger ships to the market, we need to find more and more

guests to fill beds.

4. Advice for up-and-comers?

Having a social media presence is important, but even more so is being engaged with your audience. My advice is to prioritise your engagement with the trade.

5. Your best fam trip?

I'm lucky to have been on over 20 cruises with different brands in the last four years, but the highlight has been the Norwegian fjords on the Holland America ship *MS Ryndam* to showcase her ahead of becoming P&O Cruises' *Pacific Aria*.

6. Where do you see yourself in five years?

I'll be celebrating my son's fifth birthday on a P&O Cruise.

Virgin's Cuban call

VIRGIN Voyages has announced that its new ship, *Scarlet Lady*, will head to the Cuban port of La Habana when she makes her debut in 2020.

The ship will be the largest and newest to ever sail into Havana Harbor, offering a range of four- and five-night Havana After Dark itineraries which are scheduled to depart 01 Apr 2020.

The itineraries include an overnight stay in Cuba's capital plus a visit to Bimini in the Bahamas, where guests can experience The Beach Club at Bimini, Virgin Voyages' private club while on-island.

The cruise line is also working on building its shore excursion program, Shore Things, which will include a visit to the Cuban capital.

"We are excited to take part in Virgin Voyages' Shore Things program, and we look forward to welcoming Virgin Voyages' first ship, *Scarlet Lady*, and its Sailors to Havana," said La Habana Cruise Port General Manager Jorge Mandiola.

HAL early savings

HOLLAND America Line has launched its Early Booking Bonus promotion, offering customers benefits including a Signature Beverage Package, dinner at Pinnacle Grill, a 50% reduced deposit, and free or at reduced fares for third and fourth guests.

The booking bonus is available on bookings made before 31 May.

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