



“Fee free” cruise traineeships launched

FROM next year, travel agencies and cruise operators will be able to recruit through a recently enhanced “fee free” traineeship program offered by TAFE NSW.

The initiative, a collaboration between TAFE NSW, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia and Apprenticeship Support Australia, will aim to facilitate immediate employment of staff in the cruise sector by offering on-the-job training over the 12 to 24 month period the student is completing a Certificate III in Travel (SIT30216).

Further incentives to engage in the program include potential payroll tax exemptions and payments of up to \$2,000, plus additional funding upon completion of the traineeship.

CLIA’s Head of International Training and Development Peter Kollar said the latest training initiative would provide



strong mutual benefits to both employers and trainees.

“The traineeship program helps businesses find the best new recruits and gives them the... training they need to be effective cruise specialists,” Kollar said.

“The business receives financial incentives for its investment in trainees, while trainees gain the best possible entry to the industry with a Certificate III in Travel as well as advanced progression towards CLIA

accreditation,” he added.

The program is offered with the assistance of Apprenticeship Support Australia and interfaces with the CLIA Learning Academy, resulting in advanced progression towards CLIA accreditation.

To learn more about the program, call 131 601.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Aurora overhauls

AURORA Expeditions has today launched a new website to the market featuring vastly improved functionality.

Describing the new platform as “fact-packed and more user-friendly”, the cruise line said the site now offers real-time availability of pricing, promotions, updates, and webinar announcements.

The platform has also added quote functionality and will build in a live reservation tool from Jan, allowing for a more streamlined process where enquiries are safe for seven days before a deposit is required to allow for final planning decisions.

Seabourn cancels

FOLLOWING on from Royal Caribbean’s decision to cut all land excursions to active volcanoes (**CW** yesterday), Seabourn today confirmed to **Cruise Weekly** that it will no longer include White Island on its list of destinations in 2020.

“The safety of our pax and crew is always our top priority, we would not...operate a shore excursion where we had any indication there may be an undue risk to safety and security,” said Seabourn’s Director, Global Public Relations & Strategic Initiatives Brian Badura.

Venice donations

A NUMBER of cruise lines have combined to collectively donate more than €1 million to the city of Venice to go towards restoration efforts following flood damage last month (**CW** 29 Nov).

The cruise lines included Royal Caribbean, MSC Cruises, Costa Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line.

Hapag-Lloyd deal

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises is currently offering a 20% discount per person on the price of its Expedition Antarctica sailing, which departs in Nov next year.

To take advantage of the deal, bookings need to be made by 12 Jan.

For more information on the offer, **CLICK HERE**.

Lights guaranteed

HURTIGRUTEN has introduced a new Follow the Lights guarantee, assuring all pax booked on its Northern Lights cruise itineraries will definitely depart.

The cruise tour leaves Oslo and traverses the coastlines of Finland and Estonia.

For more information about the tour, **CLICK HERE**.

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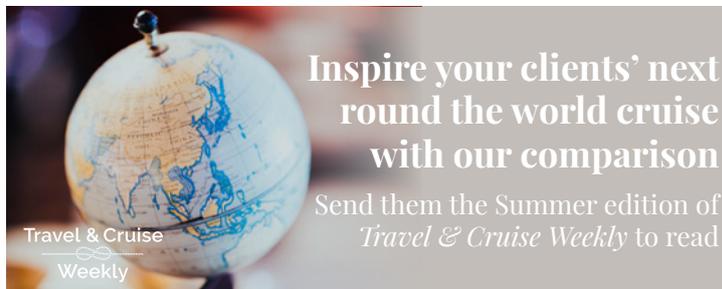
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aurora expeditions

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Ponant extended

CREATIVE Cruising has extended the date of its small-ship cruising offer with Ponant, with up to 30% discounts still available on select 2021 departures until 31 Jan.

Also on offer are 2% bonus agent commissions and €150 of onboard ship credit per stateroom.

Call 1300 362 599 for more.

Burlesque aboard P&O



P&O is adding some Parisian-style glitz and glam to its newbuild *Pacific Adventure*, with the burlesque show *Blanc de Blanc* set to regale Australian guests during the ship's debut season in 2021.

The "bold and lavish" award-winning production, which is fresh from a season on the Las Vegas strip and has also graced audiences at the Sydney Opera House, is strictly adults-only and is best enjoyed with a glass or two of champers.

Featuring aerial stunts and circus cabaret performed by international and Australian acts including "famously attractive" French host Maitre d' Monsieur Romeo, the show promises "all the ingredients for a great evening out" including "big tunes, stunning tricks, plenty of skin and a few surprises".

Bookings for *Pacific Adventure's* maiden season are now open, with prices starting from \$1,099 per person twin share for the 10-night Discover Vanuatu cruise,

departing 22 Mar 2021.

Visit pocruises.com.au or call 13 24 94 for more information or to make a booking.

Pictured: The glamorous cast.

Odyssey Euro debut

ODYSSEY of the Seas will arrive in Rome for its first European season in May 2021.

The Quantum Ultra class ship is the first of its kind to homeport in the city, sailing the eastern Mediterranean for the summer season.

She will sail a combination of seven-, nine- and 12-night itineraries to a range of destinations such as Athens, Crete, Ephesus, Haifa, Heraklion, Jerusalem, Mykonos, Rhodes and Turkey.

Extended stays will be a feature of the new ship's maiden European season, with up to 15 hours at every port, more destinations with overnight stays, including two days in Athens and Naples.



SANTA Claus is swapping out the snow boots for some flippers and heading to Cairns Aquarium on Sat 21 Dec, where he will be with his cheeky underwater elves from 11.45am to 12.15pm daily until Wed 25 Dec.

Visit the aquarium for a unique photo op with Scuba Santa, along with a host of other activities, including daily Christmas card making, face-painting and even a guided aquarium tour by the man in red himself at 10am on Christmas Day.

"It's a really exciting and unique experience for children and adults alike, to see Santa Clause in an underwater environment," said Cairns Aquarium owner Daniel Leipnik.

You can also craft yourself a special party hat from Boxing Day through to NYE.



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