

Cruise Weekly today

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

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location in
Wolgan Valley NSW

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you from **Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley Resort** courtesy of **Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings**.

AFTER two days of non-stop networking, meetings and exhilarating nature activities, top achieving Norwegian, Oceania and Regent Seven Seas Cruises agents are heading home today.

Check out our photos of some of the Wolgan Valley action on Facebook **HERE**.

MS Roald Amundsen sets sail on sustainability

EXPEDITION cruise line Hurtigruten has officially launched its highly anticipated *MS Roald Amundsen* polar vessel, the first ever battery-powered hybrid expedition ship to be built.

Picking up its first passengers yesterday from Tromsø on its maiden voyage along the Norwegian coast, the new environmentally sustainable vessel combines spacious cabins, three restaurants and public areas with a dual viewing deck.

"*MS Roald Amundsen* is the first cruise ship equipped with batteries, something deemed impossible just a few years back," Hurtigruten Chief Executive Officer Daniel Skjeldam enthused.

"[The ship] sets a new standard not only for cruising, but for the entire shipping industry to follow," he added.

MS Roald Amundsen's maiden season is scheduled to include



expedition cruises along the Norwegian coast, as well as jaunts from Svalbard and Greenland, before it becomes the first hybrid powered ship to traverse the Northwest Passage.

Hurtigruten Managing Director APAC Damian Perry believes the new trendsetter in sustainable cruising will resonate strongly with the Australian market.

"The interest and support from the Australian industry and travellers alike is overwhelming," Perry said.

"The desire to work and travel with the recognised world leader in sustainable expedition cruise travel is a clear indication that innovation of this type is valued," he added.

Pictured: *MS Roald Amundsen*.



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Norwegian brands “outpacing the market”

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has seen its Australian and New Zealand business surge 130% since establishing its local office in late 2015, and is projecting a further 20% year-on-year uplift for 2020.

The figures were unveiled by Regional Marketing Manager Ben Angell, Senior VP Harry Sommer, and MD Asia Pacific Steve Odell this week, **pictured**, with NCLH also reaffirming its strong focus on agency distribution.

Sommer gave an overview of performance across the Norwegian, Oceania and Regent Seven Seas brands, highlighting the “best in class net yield” and overall revenue growth, despite only adding one ship last year.

Norwegian leads across a range of metrics, he said, including costs per passenger day meaning the company is constantly investing in the guest experience.



He highlighted NCLH’s billion-dollar-plus refurbishments to ensure consistent product across its “better than new fleet,” along with cuisine, entertainment, services and itineraries.

“The results speak for themselves,” Sommer said, with NCLH seeing record guest satisfaction rates, booking levels and repeat customers.

Angell highlighted the strong earning potential for agents

selling Norwegian, Oceania and Regent, with the company’s strength in the growing fly-cruise sector providing significant opportunities for the travel trade.

Odell stressed that while the business was performing, there was still plenty of scope for further expansion, with destinations such as Asia, Hawaii, Alaska and the Caribbean complementing the perennially popular Europe itineraries.

New cruise portal

SEVEN Oceans Cruising has unveiled its new one-stop-shop booking system called Neptune which allows agents to book cruises online 24/7.

The new reservation portal is based on the Odysseus system and also offers consultants the option of adding pre- and post-cruise accom and flights.

“The launch of Neptune is an exciting next step for our Seven Oceans business,” said the company’s General Manager of Sales Steve Brady.

“We’ve delivered a platform that is truly focused on helping our travel agent partners sell efficiently and effectively”.

To mark the launch, Seven Oceans Cruising is running an incentive, with every booking through the portal in Jul earning double trip dollars, as well as weekly prizes.

More info is available **HERE**.



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Wednesday 3rd July 2019



Discover all RCI's new *Spectrum of the Seas* has to offer in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

50 Deg Roadshow

NORDIC tour operator, 50 Degrees North, has paired up with expedition cruise line Hurtigruten to deliver a series of cruising roadshows across six Aussie cities in Aug.

The National Arctic, Antarctic & Nordic Cruising Roadshow will take place in Newcastle, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide, with sessions tailored to both agents and clients.

Each session will feature presentations from Dominic Barrington, Polar Expedition Photographer for Hurtigruten, along with Tietse Stelma from 50 Degrees North.

To book tix, **CLICK HERE**.

Pacific Princess makes six



PRINCESS Cruises has announced a sixth ship will join its fleet of vessels in Australia for the 2020/21 summer cruising season, with the cruise line today confirming that *Pacific Princess* will return to local waters in Dec 2020 (**CW** breaking news).

The arrival of the iconic ship will coincide with the 45th anniversary of Princess Cruises' first roundtrip cruise from Australia, a voyage on the original *Pacific Princess* which starred in the TV series *The Love Boat*.

The 670-guest ship will make 15 maiden calls during what Princess is calling its biggest Australian season (**CW** 27 Mar), including inaugural visits to Kaikoura and New Plymouth in New Zealand, Wewak and Gizo Island in the Solomon Islands, and Madang in Papua New Guinea.

The ship will also offer

passengers a 90-day roundtrip voyage from Sydney around South America.

"*Pacific Princess* was christened in Australia and became a popular favourite amongst Australian cruisers, offering the first premium cruise experience in the region," said Stuart Allison, SVP Asia-Pacific, Princess Cruises.

"We can't wait to welcome her back to our shores and celebrate our 45th anniversary at the same time," he added.

The addition of the ship means Australian cruisers will have a wide choice of six Princess ships over the course of the season, including *Sapphire Princess*, *Sun Princess*, *Sea Princess*, *Majestic Princess* and *Regal Princess*.

Bookings open on 11 Jul for Elite members, and 12 Jul for the general public.

Pictured: *Pacific Princess*.

A&K's Indonesia

LUXURY travel company Abercrombie & Kent has launched a new seven-night cruise from Bali across to the Komodo and Moyo Islands. For more information on the trip, phone 1300 590 317.

Royal adds Icon

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises Ltd has announced it has entered into an agreement with shipbuilder, Meyer Turku, for a third Icon-class ship.

The new vessel, which is due to arrive in 2025, will join two sister ships already scheduled for completion in 2022 and 2024 respectively.

"We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to our Icon-class fleet that affirms our commitment to clean-power technologies at sea," said Richard Fain, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.



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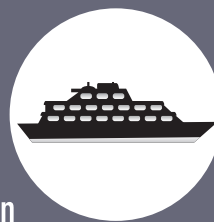
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Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Need help wading through the huge variety of cruise options out there?

Check out the 2019 Cruise Guide for a comprehensive tool.

CRUISE WEEKLY Travel Daily travelBulletin



Sea Cloud 2020

SEA Cloud has announced its 2020 routes and sailings on board *Sea Cloud* and *Sea Cloud II*.

The brochure for the 2020 sailings comes out this month, and includes a number of themed cruises, as well as VIP and exclusive events for all passengers.

Highlights of the new itineraries include Central America, the Lesser Antilles and Grenadines across the Canary Islands, and Morocco.

MSC's magic 20 million



MSC Cruises celebrated its 20 millionth passenger yesterday, on board *MSC Seaside*.

Gianni Onorato, MSC Cruises Chief Executive Officer, said, "reaching our 20 millionth cruiser is truly a milestone achievement for MSC Cruises, and a representation of how far we've come while building a global brand that serves guests from over 170 nationalities across

five continents.

"With our capacity set to triple by 2027, we will continue to raise the bar in two main areas, on board and ashore, offering our guests a unique experience each time they sail with us," he added.

Pictured is MSC's 20 millionth passenger, a member of the Bonachea family, with a group of Yacht Club Butlers at *Seaside's* Top Sail Lounge.

Carnival announces Japanese terminal

CARNIVAL Corporation is designing its first cruise terminal in Japan, named Urashima Cruise Terminal, in the port city of Sasebo.

Led by Berenblum Busch Architects (BBA), the terminal will support the Japanese Government's initiative to develop its ports and encourage tourism in the region.

The new cruise terminal is situated between Sasebo Bay and the mountains, and will be a part of the green landscape, with BBA's design considering Sasebo's culture, building traditions, geography, and surroundings.

The development will include retail spaces, passenger waiting areas, immigration, customs, offices, a second-floor terrace overlooking the sea, a public plaza, a designated drop-off area, as well as parking spaces.

The terminal is expected to be operational by 2020 ahead of the Tokyo Olympic Games, with cruise ships sailing from mainland China also using Urashima as a port-of-call.



OLYMPIC gold medal-winning Aussie Stingers Junior Water Polo Squad splashed down on the Great Barrier Reef over the weekend, after Sunlover Reef Cruises was given approval to stage a one-off water polo game at Moore Reef Marine Base.

A special inflatable court was placed in a deep area alongside the pontoon where boats normally depart - well clear of the Moore Reef corals.

A fitting preparation for the 2019 FINA World championships, to be "shore".



CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Sustainability Guide

AMONG the many initiatives cruise lines are deploying to reduce their impact on the environment are a series of measures aimed at cutting emissions. Billions of dollars are being invested in new fuels and emerging technologies that will help cruise lines reduce their footprint and achieve the targets our industry has set for the future.

One key area of cruise line investment is in exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS), which have been shown to make significant reductions in emissions. To date, 111 cruise ships worldwide have been fitted with EGCS and another 42 are due to be retrofitted. This has put the cruise industry on track to meet a 01 Jan deadline when all ships worldwide will be required to use low-sulphur fuel or an approved ECGS, as part of International Maritime Organisation regulations developed alongside CLIA.

To share more information on this and other sustainability measures, CLIA Australasia has updated its Cruise Industry Sustainability Guide, created in partnership with the Australian Cruise Association and New Zealand Cruise Association.

CLICK HERE to download a copy for details on emissions initiatives and a whole range of other important environmental measures.



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