

Hurtigruten plots Australian voyages

EXCLUSIVE

EXPEDITION cruise specialist Hurtigruten is currently making plans to deploy one of its state-of-the-art new hybrid-powered vessels in Australasian waters.

Hurtigruten MD Asia-Pacific, Damian Perry, confirmed he was already in discussions with port authorities in the region about the deployment, expected to occur in the next couple of years.

"We believe there is a huge opportunity for our small ship expedition-style product to operate in Australia," Perry said.

Potential itineraries would include the Kimberley, West Papua and trips featuring Tasmania along with New Zealand and the sub-Antarctic islands.

However, Antarctica trips out of Australia are "not necessarily" on the agenda, Perry said, because of the long sea crossing required.



Hurtigruten's *Roald Amundsen* is taking its first polar voyage this week; sister ship *Fridtjof Nansen* will take to the water in 2020; and also in the pipeline is an as-yet unnamed third 500-pax ship.

One of these three new ships will be part of the Australasian market, Perry confirmed.

Hurtigruten is also boosting its expedition presence on the Norwegian coast with complete refurbishments of existing vessels to the same environmental standards of the trio of new

ships, with the fleet powered by a combination of LNG, biogas, shore power and batteries.

Pictured is *Roald Amundsen*'s first ever polar bear sighting, captured off the coast of Greenland this week (73° 19' N and 18° 53' W) by Patti Cooper of Inspiring Vacations.

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Windstar Cruises**.

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location in
The Arctic

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you courtesy of Hurtigruten, aboard the brand new *Roald Amundsen*.

THE *Roald Amundsen* is today sitting in a remote fjord in northern Greenland, with guests exploring a former trappers camp in Myggbukta.

Great excitement ensued this morning with another polar bear sighting followed by a group of narwhals which frolicked in the distance.

In the coming days there are high hopes of embarking on an adventurous kayaking trip, while stunning weather has seen some pax enjoy a "polar plunge" in the icy waters during today's shore visit.

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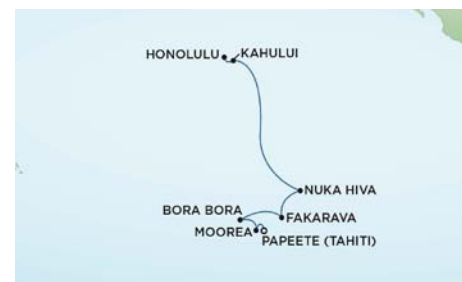
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Dream appointment

DREAM Cruises has announced the appointment of Natalie Freeman (**pictured**) to the role of Sales Manager, Victoria and Tasmania.

Freeman was most recently the National Key Account Manager and BDM (Qld & WA) for Creative Cruising, and has also enjoyed stints at The Travel Corporation & the now defunct airline Ansett.

She will also bring first-hand knowledge of Dream Cruises' newest ship *Explorer Dream*, having taken her first ever cruise on board the vessel when it was *SuperStar Virgo* back in 2003.



100 day countdown

TOMORROW marks 100 days until the launch of MSC Cruises' first Meraviglia-Plus ship *MSC Grandiosa*, where she will be welcomed in Hamburg, Germany on 09 Nov.

The vessel will boast 11 dining venues, as well as 21 bars and lounges.

Find out more about her onboard features and future voyages **HERE**.

Local getaways

WINDSTAR Cruises is currently offering a range of seven- to 30-night small ship itineraries exploring Australia and New Zealand in 2020/21.

Prices for the voyages lead in at \$2,322 per person, twin share for a seven-night Coral Sea crossing taking place aboard *Wind Spirit*.

For more info see **page six**.



CRUISECO is currently on the hunt for a new Chief Executive Officer after confirming to **Cruise Weekly** that its chief Amanda McClelland (**pictured**) has resigned from the role after serving a notification period.

In a statement released yesterday, Cruiseco Chairman Kevin Dale hailed McClelland's "dedication and commitment to the company" over the last

two years, adding that "the company will appoint an interim CEO with the intention to start a recruitment process within the next few months".

McClelland had previously held roles in customer sales and business improvement at P&O in Australia, before taking the reins at Cruiseco in Jul 2017 (**CW** 06 Jul 2017) and replacing retiring CEO Steve Lloyd.

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There goes *Harmony*



EVERGREEN Cruises & Tours has released a special time-lapse video of its upcoming Star-Ship *Emerald Harmony* to mark the 30-day countdown until her official launch.

The 84-passenger vessel features onboard amenities such as spacious suites, the lines' signature sun and pool

decks, a wellness area with a spa, the Horizon Bar & Lounge, and Reflections Restaurant.

Harmony is Evergreen's eighth Star-Ship, and the first to operate outside of Europe where she is scheduled to sail popular destinations in SE Asia.

For bookings call 1300 383 747, and watch the video [HERE](#).

Princess...and all that jazz



PRINCESS Cruises has announced that it will soon debut the stylish new jazz theatre Take 5 on board two of its ships.

Available from Oct this year on *Sky Princess* and from Jun 2020 on *Enchanted Princess*, the new cultural attraction will offer passengers hand-crafted cocktails, live jazz performances, dance lessons, speakers discussing the history of the art form, and after-hours parties.

"Our new signature lounge Take 5 introduces jazz theatre, a harmonious collection of live performances and interactive experiences that bring to life the stories behind this music

genre," said Princess Cruises Vice President of Entertainment Experience Denise Saviss.

"Take 5 sets the stage for our guests to enjoy the music and dance in a space that recalls noteworthy jazz clubs in their heyday," she added.

Era themes to be explored through the venue when it launches include a sample of jazz through the Roaring Twenties, the post-WW2 period featuring the birth of the Big Band and BeBop genre, as well as a Afro-Cuban fusion celebrating the influences of jazz in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Pictured: A render of Take 5.



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Ha Long plastic ban

THE management board of Ha Long Bay in Vietnam has revealed details of a new pilot program that will see 15 tourist boat operators remove plastic water bottles and replace them with refillable dispensers.

The increasing popularity of the bay as a cruise destination has seen issues develop with plastic waste, with a spokesperson for the management board of Ha Long Bay stating 70% of garbage collected are plastic bags, bottles and food packaging.

Scenic e-training

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has introduced a new learning module on South East Asia river cruising to its global e-learning platform.

The cruise line has also revealed an incentive for agents to complete the new course on its Agent Academy site, offering \$250 Scenic Rewards points to the first consultant in each Australian state to complete the two courses by 30 Aug.

The next 50 agents to complete the courses will score themselves \$50 worth of Scenic Rewards points.

The platform has added content for two South East Asian river cruising courses - one for Evergreen's product on the Mekong, and one for Scenic's product on both the Mekong and Irrawaddy rivers.

Access the training [HERE](#).

TRAVEL agents have an increasingly diminishing appetite for live training webinars, according to Celebrity Cruises Training Manager Leon Hand.

The cruise line's maestro of digital training told *Cruise Weekly* the trend was mainly down to agents being time-poor.

"I do lots of podcasts and vodcasts now because people are more likely to engage with your message when they can tune in at a time they choose," Hand said.

Hand also believes the secret

to Celebrity's high learning engagement is its distinctive "blended learning" approach.

"We talk about blended learning in this business and basically that means an element of lots of different things to keep agents engaged and concentrating".

"Agents want to have fun while they're learning, we inject fun and activity instead of the old 'death by PowerPoint' approach".

To access Celebrity's agent platform, [CLICK HERE](#).

Pictured: Leon Hand.

Cool cruise credit

EXPEDITION cruise line One Ocean Expeditions (OOE) is offering US\$1,000 travel credit on select Antarctica voyages in Nov and Dec when bookings are made before 31 Aug.

See info about its Antarctica cruises offered [HERE](#).



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We were on hand at *AmaMagna's* christening – check it out in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Seabourn holidays

SEABOURN has released five new holiday cruises in 2019 to celebrate the festive season.

The cheery voyages include a 14-day Holiday Antillean Gems cruise exploring a host of island destinations such as Guadeloupe, Saint Kitts, and Jamaica, with prices leading in at \$8,999 per person for an Ocean View Suite.

Also available is a 14-day cruise through Thailand and Vietnam featuring a Christmas Day visit to the Thai island of Ko Kood for a Caviar in the Surf beach barbecue party.

For info on reservations, call 1800 929 9391.

Cunard sisters in da hood



PHOTO credit: Steve Farmer for Cunard.

CUNARD'S flagship liner *Queen Mary 2* had a rare meeting with sister ship *Queen Elizabeth* on 26 Jul in Halifax, Canada, birthplace of the company's founder Samuel Cunard.

The rendezvous was arranged in celebration of Zita Cobb and Sandra Greer, this year's recipients of the Samuel Cunard Prize for Vision, Courage and Creativity and The Innovative Spirit Award, respectively.

From Halifax, *QM2* sailed to NY

and England, with special guest on board, Cunard historian John Langley, Director and Chair of the Cunard Steamship Society.

Queen Elizabeth is currently partaking a 49-night Vancouver to Southampton journey.

Guests on board *Queen Mary 2's* transatlantic crossing will have the opportunity to see select pieces from the collection and attend talks given by Langley.

Pictured: The two Cunard ships greeting each other in Canada.

Catamaran fuels more Croatian shore trips

INTERCRUISES Shoreside & Port Services has purchased a catamaran which it operates to undertake seven shore experience programs in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Services to the cruise industry include picking up passengers from the gangway, and ferrying them to sought after destinations nearby such as Lokrum or the Elaphite islands.

The 80-passenger vessel

called *SeaGULL 30* also offers swimming trips directly from the catamaran itself.

"This investment shows Intercruises' dedication... to the destination and also to supporting cruise lines in diversifying the shorex portfolio," said National Manager Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia & Albania, Maro Saulovic.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Community partnerships

THE spectacular Croatian city of Dubrovnik has rightly become one of the most sought-after destinations in the Mediterranean, but its rise in popularity has also brought concerns about how visitation can be managed sustainably. That's why our industry is pleased to have embarked on a process that will make Dubrovnik a model for sustainable cruise tourism in the region and provide solutions to be considered by global destinations.

Last week, CLIA signed a partnership with the City of Dubrovnik aimed at preserving the city's cultural heritage through responsible tourism management.

By engaging with key stakeholders in the community, the industry will help create a stewardship roadmap for the city based on UN sustainable tourism criteria and backed by a "Respect the City" visitor education campaign. It will also progress an existing 2020 cruise ship berthing policy, involving seasonal caps on pax among other measures.

Globally, the cruise industry represents just 2% of tourism, but we aim to play a much greater role in sustainable tourism measures with the communities we visit.

Initiatives like the Dubrovnik partnership will become the key to ensuring communities can manage future cruise tourism in a sustainable way.



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