

Cruise Weekly today

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

CRUISE WEEKLY

On location at the
CruisePro Conference

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from Auckland, New Zealand courtesy of CruiseCo.

AFTER a trade exhibition, seminars and a gala dinner, the CruiseCo conference is continuing today with a series of presentations from industry leaders - see all the pics at facebook.com/traveldaily.

CruiseCo rolls out dynamic packages

MEMBERS of the CruiseCo consortium will be able to custom-design fly-cruise itineraries for their clients in real-time, with CEO Amanda McClelland unveiling the enhancement to the group's new CruisePro platform today.

Speaking at the CruiseCo conference in Auckland, McClelland demonstrated the system which allows agents to start with a cruise and then opt to add air to the booking.

"You simply select your arrival and departure points and then the flight options best suited to your clients," she said.

The CruisePro API connects in real time to reservation systems, checking fare options, baggage allowances and rules, she said.

"You don't need to be an air expert...you won't be able to add air that does not tie into your selected cruise, so your guest



won't arrive after the ship has departed," McClelland added.

Consultants can select cabin preferences, and also add in pre and post hotels to book a complete cruise holiday itinerary.

She noted that CruiseCo pays 10% commission on air and land, and the functionality is also available via the company's white-label sites for members, allowing clients to "search and create the perfect cruise holiday at any time".

McClelland highlighted other features of the technology project, which is enabling CruiseCo to create custom cruise packages on a member-by-member basis.

Custom packages can leverage either existing CruiseCo group allocations or reflect exclusive arrangements, and they will only show on the individual members' white-label sites.

Laying out the potential of the enhancements, McClelland asked for patience from members as they adapt to the new platform, stressing that feedback from agents was key to driving decisions about future investments in the system.

She said CruiseCo was committed to supporting its members, who are recognised as the leaders in the sector.

"We are the cruise specialists - we are a network of experts with an amazing heritage - this makes us a force to be reckoned with."

Pictured at the conference this morning are, from left; CruiseCo CEO Amanda McClelland; Karen Christensen, Crystal Cruises; Steve Odell, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings; Stuart Allison, Princess Cruises; Adam Armstrong, Silversea Cruises; Sture Myrmell, Carnival Corporation; and Susan Bonner, Royal Caribbean.

Cruise potential

SIX of Australia's top cruise executives this morning highlighted the ongoing strength of the market, despite Australia and New Zealand already enjoying the highest cruise penetration in the world.

A panel session at the CruiseCo conference in Auckland (**pictured**) saw the leaders frankly discuss their current challenges and opportunities.

Carnival Australia CEO Sture Myrmell noted that last year 11 million Australians took a trip overseas - or about 45% of the population.

"Why do we believe that five or six out of 100 is the ceiling for the cruise industry," he said, while Royal Caribbean International VP Susan Bonner noted that the current 6% penetration rate means 94% of the population "hasn't been reached yet".

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Viking's seventh heaven

Cruise doesn't miss a beat



A HOST of blue chip cruise brands made the trip to Bali last weekend, putting their best foot forward to present to agents attending Travel Partners' annual conference.

Beyond traditional networking sessions and group presentations, cruise representatives also participated in an innovative silent disco concept.

Among the cruise brands

promoting their wares via headset were Peregrine Cruises, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection, Silversea Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, and Princess Cruises.



VIKING Cruises recently named seven of its new river ships during a lavish ceremony on the Rhine River in Basel, Switzerland.

The festive event saw *Viking Einar*, *Viking Sigrun*, *Viking Sigyn*, *Viking Tir*, *Viking Ullur*, *Viking Vali* and *Viking Helgrim* all formally welcomed to Viking's fleet, marking a milestone moment for the company which had previously flagged major expansion ambitions in river cruising over 12 months ago (CW 15 Mar 2018).

In keeping with tradition, Viking named seven long-serving employees and important members of the company's family



to serve as honorary godmothers (pictured top) of the new ships, they were: Leah Talactac (*Einar*), Natalia Hofmann (*Helgrim*), Wendy Atkin-Smith (*Sigrun*), Rikke Semb Pertile (*Sigyn*), Gisela Ruckert (*Tir*), Linh Banh (*Ullur*), and Minxuan Zhao (*Vali*).

Viking Einar and *Viking Sigrun* (inset) were docked in person for the party, while the other five ships were welcomed virtually via satellite across four cities.



BOLD ADVENTURE ARRIVES IN BRISBANE

RADIANCE OF THE SEAS® TO HOMEPORT IN BRISBANE FROM NOVEMBER 2020

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Bon appetit: Ponant

LUXURY cruise operator Ponant has revealed it will participate in the Gout de France/Good France event taking place 21 Mar.

The company will use the event to pay homage to French gastronomy, a prominent culinary selling point on board its ships.

Gout de France is organised by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and witnesses 5,000 acclaimed chefs cooking up their best French cuisine.

Captain dive deal

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises is running a Partner Dives Free deal that offers a free dive experience for plus ones at five different locations in Fiji.

All three-, four-, seven- and eleven-night Fiji cruises on board *MV Reef Endeavour* are eligible for the promotion.

The deal is valid until 30 Apr. For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

RSSC Explore brox

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has rebranded its Atlas brochure to Voyages To Explore, with the refresh intended to better reflect its new brand promise - "An Unrivalled Experience".

Highlights of the new brochure include new destinations, new pre- and post-cruise land programs, new categorisation for upper suites, a fold-out calendar, and a World Cruise section.

View the e-version of the brochure online [HERE](#).



Dreaming up Innovation



SEADREAM Yacht Club has revealed plans to expand its fleet for the first time since 2001, adding a new "revolutionary yacht" called *SeaDream Innovation*.

The luxury vessel will commence operations in Sep 2021 and is scheduled to cruise all seven continents in its first year, visiting more than 200 ports in 49 countries.

Destinations flagged for *Innovation* include Svalbard, the Northwest Passage, Antarctica, the fjords of Norway, Japan, New Zealand, & the Great Barrier Reef.

"This project has been a dream

of mine for many years," said SeaDream CEO Atle Brynstad.

"It has been a true labour of love to meticulously design every aspect of this yacht, from the interiors and facilities to the itineraries," he added.

Ship attractions include 110 ocean-view suites, five-star outdoor dining areas, and many spacious outdoor spaces.

Bookings are open for its inaugural 2021 season for past SeaDream guests, while reservations for new passengers will open 17 Apr.

Pictured: A rendering of the new *SeaDream Innovation*.

The Victory Experience

Victory Cruise Lines offers 202 Guests an inclusive experience, exploring the rich & diverse shorelines of North America.



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VICTORY
CRUISE LINES

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Find out which cruise lines have your coffee fix covered in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Role set in stone

CRUISE Traveller has welcomed Laura Stone to the role of Key Partnership Manager Vic/Tas.

Stone brings 10 years of sales experience to the position, including most recently with Qantas Holidays' range of wholesale brands.



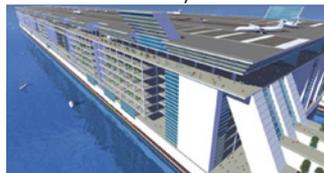
ARE you ready to up your cruise game to "monster"?

A cruise line in the USA has proposed to build "the largest vessel in maritime history", a ship that's more than 1.5 kilometres long, as wide as 2.5 football fields, and towering more than 105 metres.

Freedom Cruise Line's *Freedom Ship*, renders **pictured**, is projected to cost around US\$11 billion to build, and would include condominium housing for 60,000 people, a hospital, a range of schools, a hotel, casino, duty-free shopping as well commercial and office occupancies.

The first "Mobile City at Sea", *Freedom Ship* proposes to sustain a population of 100,000 people, including residents, crew and daily visitors.

Whatever floats your boat!



Yokohama cruise push



THE Yokohama Convention and Visitors Bureau in Japan believes two new cruise piers opening in the city this year will facilitate its biggest year ever for cruising.

In 2019, 190 cruise ships are scheduled to arrive in Yokohama, a 25% increase over 2018, and a surge that will make it the most frequently visited Japanese port for English-speaking passengers.

The cruise hubs of Daikoku and Shinko are due to open in Apr and Nov this year respectively, with the former able to receive large-scale cruise ships such as the *Queen Elizabeth II* which will

arrive from Sydney on 19 Apr.

The opening of the two piers will make Yokohama the largest port in Japan in terms of capacity, able to accommodate seven ships at one time and 11 times greater than 2018 in terms of welcoming "super large ships".

Reinforcing Yokohama's cruise credentials will be the simultaneous docking of four large cruise ships in Apr, *MSC Splendida* (Daikoku Pier), *Azamara Quest* (Daikoku Pier), *Norwegian Jewel* (Yamashita Pier), and *Diamond Princess* (Osanbashi Pier).

Paul Gauguin gets Christmassy in Tahiti

SOUTH Pacific cruise line Paul Gauguin has released a new itinerary timed for departure over the 2019 festive season.

The "Tahiti & Society Islands" voyage departs 21 Dec, taking guests on a seven-night cruise around Papeete before heading to Huahine to enjoy the rainforests, and stopping in at Taha'a to experience the white sandy beaches and coral reefs.

The cruise also visits Bora Bora and Moorea, before making its return to Papeete.

Fares lead in at US\$4,644 per person, including return airfares, onboard food and beverages, and gratuities - more info **HERE**.

Croatian babymoon

LUXURY cruise specialist Unforgettable Croatia has released a new selection of "deluxe babymoon breaks" designed to offer couples "one last adventure" before their new addition arrives.

The new cruises explore the Croatian coast, with highlights including a seven-night Deluxe Dubrovnik to Opatija itinerary that takes in the scenery at Metkovic, Krka National Park, and Zadar.

Other stops on the cruise include the UNESCO protected city of Split, as well as Rab Island - "the island of love".

Prices lead in at \$3,092 and include guided tours, entrance to the National Park and Captain's Dinner - more **HERE**.

Cunard pops cork

CUNARD has revealed the lineup of headline speakers for its second annual "Voyage Du Vin", taking place on board *Queen Victoria* in Sep.

Global wine connoisseur Oz Clarke will present on the cruise alongside columnist and broadcaster Will Lyons and the International Wine Challenge's co-Chairman, Charles Metcalfe.

Guests will also have the chance to participate in daily wine tastings, pairings, and fine dining, with the cruise making calls at French, Spanish and Italian wine regions.

The 14-night voyage departs Southampton, England on 06 Sep - for more information, **CLICK HERE**.

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