

Big discounts on 2011 P&O cruises

Save up to 60% or upgrade cabins from \$50 in P&O Cruises' annual earlybird sale.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THE EARLYBIRD SALE HAS A late finish – 28 November – but Australians are urged to book as soon as possible.

Fares start at \$649 per person quad-share or \$949 twin-share for a seven-night North Queensland cruise in April.

Bargains can be found on Sydney's newest superliner *Pacific Jewel*, along with the refurbished *Pacific Dawn* sailing from Brisbane and *Pacific Sun* sailing from Newcastle and Fremantle.

Highlights include an eight-night voyage along Western Australia's coastline departing Fremantle in September 2011, with stops at Broome, Geraldton and Exmouth, priced from \$999 per person quad-share or \$1099 twin-share.

In February 2011, South Pacific options include a seven-night cruise, via New Caledonia and Vanuatu, on *Pacific Dawn*, starting at \$729, or a 10-night cruise on *Pacific Sun* from \$899.

An eight-night cruise from Sydney to Noumea onboard the new *Pacific Jewel* in June 2011 is priced from \$799 per person quad-share or \$1199 twin-share.

Upgrades from inside to outside cabins are available from only \$50 per person on select departures.

Jenny Lourey, senior vice president of Carnival Australia, which operates P&O, said that the 2011 sale offered "unprecedented value" across more than 200 cruises.

"Each year we run an earlybird sale to give passengers the opportunity to secure their cruise well in advance, guaranteeing a great value fare and the chance to take advantage

of cabin upgrades for next to nothing," Lourey said.

According to Lourey, cruising is continuing to grow in popularity as more Australians discover the fun of a holiday at sea.

"We run an earlybird sale to give passengers the opportunity to secure their cruise well in advance, guaranteeing a great value fare."

"P&O Cruises offers a range of activities to keep children and adults entertained at sea, from pools and spas, to age-specific kids clubs, circus performances and Luke Mangan's Salt Grill restaurants," she said.

All fares are subject to availability and conditions apply.

For more information and bookings contact a licensed travel agent, or P&O Cruises on 13 24 94 or visit www.pocruises.com.au.



Pacific Jewel in Sydney

Full moon ends badly

FOUR AUSTRALIAN TOURISTS WERE AMONGST 42 people injured this week, when two speed boats collided whilst ferrying tourists from Koh Samui (Thailand) to a small island off its coast, Koh Phangan, for a Full Moon party.

Thirty nine of the injured were rushed to hospital suffering a variety of breaks and bruises, as well as shock, and there are fears for the whereabouts of as many as ten other travellers who may have fallen overboard during the accident.

Currently the Australian Government is in contact with Thai authorities to locate around seven Aussies thought to have been on the boats at the time, as well as to determine whether any other Australians may have been involved in the incident.

Full Moon parties usually attract between 10,000 and 30,000 party-going tourists per month, promising to deliver a night full of booze, dancing and entertainment (including juggling and fire-eating).

The most popular way to get to the overnight festivities (700km south of Bangkok) is to travel via speedboats, which are often packed with as many as 50 tourists at a time.

TODAY'S CRUISE WEEKLY

Today's **Cruise Weekly** issue features five pages of cruise news and photos.

Plus see **page three** for a special Around the World cruise feature!

\$ Last Minute Deals

THIS WEEKLY COLUMN HIGHLIGHTS HOT DEALS ON cruises departing in the next 90 days – ideal for our spontaneous readers.

Check out this week's cruise bargains!

8 nights – Sydney roundtrip onboard *Pacific Sun*

- Departs: 14 August 2010
- From: \$949pp, twin share
- Visits Noumea, Isle of Pines and Emerald Bay
- Includes all onboard meals and entertainment, as well as port fees and taxes
- See www.esecruising.com.au.

7 nights – Miami roundtrip onboard *Norwegian Epic*

- Departs: 14 and 28 August 2010
- From: \$2,479pp, twin share
- Visits St Maarten, St Thomas and Nassau
- Includes return airfares, 1-night accommodation, 7-night cruise and all onboard meals and entertainment
- See www.ecruising.travel.

7 nights – Juneau roundtrip onboard *Spirit of Yorktown*

- Departs: 11, 18, and 25 July 2010
- From: \$6,219pp, twin share
- Visits Tracy Arm, Frederick Sound, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Icy Strait and Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
- Includes return airfares, 1-night pre and 1-night post cruise accommodation, 7-night cruise and all onboard meals and entertainment
- See www.ecruising.travel.

Make maritime history

DR MCLEAN, SENIOR HISTORIAN WITH THE MINISTRY for Culture and Heritage in Wellington is set to join Silversea's *Silver Shadow* on her 14-day Sydney to Auckland voyage departing this year on 21 December.

The voyage takes in Australia's south east coast as well as New Zealand's Bay of Islands and Fjordland, having written around 40 novels on New Zealand ranging from titles dealing with NZ cities to the history of NZ, throughout the voyage, Dr McLean will provide guests with informative presentations on NZ's rich maritime history.

For more information on the cruise visit www.silversea.com.au.

Hurtigruten extension

HURTIGRUTEN HAS EXTENDED THE BOOKING deadline for its special "50% off the second traveller" deal (**CW** 22 June).

Guests wishing to take advantage of this special now have until 19 September to book.

For more information visit www.discovertheworld.com.au.

NSW PERMIT NUMBER: LTPS/10/04133

WIN

Book a Royal Caribbean fly cruise package between 1 May 2010 – 28 Feb 2011 with ecruising.travel and go into the draw to win return flights and two nights accommodation in Hong Kong for yourself and a friend!

ecruising.travel call us on 1300 369 848 for more information



THIS WEEK AT SEA...

After reading last week's column, a few people emailed me to ask which American websites will sell cruises to non-Americans.

Even if I knew, I wouldn't tell you – that would be unAustralian!

Seriously though, I know some agencies that used to do it, but they don't do it anymore.

The past six months in particular have seen a big change in the way US-based online cruise agents deal with Aussies.

They are now adhering to the policies that do not allow them to sell to people living overseas.

In previous years, a blind eye was often turned, as long as the cabins were filled with somebody from somewhere paying something – but not anymore.

Of course, some people will find a way around it, but that's verging on fraud.

I can understand why people do it – they just want to save money, not save the nation's cruise industry or their local agency.

But don't blame the Australian agent – it's not their fault that American travel agents have it so easy.

As the biggest cruise market in the world, the US has so many more homeports (and therefore last-minute sales and regional discounts) and thousands more potential customers.

One reader, who asked to remain anonymous, had a good idea for Australian agents: "They should be targeting [cruise lines] and demanding better prices, comparable with the US travel agents, so they CAN become competitive."

Indeed, many agents who specialise in cruising do try to get better deals – and they succeed – but it helps to be on their database, so make sure you subscribe to their e-newsletters.

As the biggest market outside the US/Canada for many major lines (including Holland America, Silversea and Regent Seven Seas Cruises), and with all the extra ships being sent here next season, Australia can look forward to some 'buttering up'.

There are some great sales on now, such as this month's offers from P&O, Princess, Star Clippers and most river-cruise companies, as well as the latest specials for those travelling solo (see story, pg 2).

Anyway, thanks to the improving US economy, fares over there aren't as cheap as last year, whereas earlybird specials offered here are cheaper than 2010 prices in some cases.

And guess who's best to ask about that?

Louise Goldsbury
Editor, *Cruise Weekly*

Single sailors back in the spotlight

Next week's debut of 128 studios on *Norwegian Epic* has turned attention to the solo traveller, with special deals across several cruise lines.

THE STUDIO CABINS ON NCL'S NEW *NORWEGIAN Epic* have been hailed a hit by agents and media on preview sailings, and it's focused the industry on the needs of the single cruiser.

More cruise lines have dropped their single supplement policy which forces solo travellers to pay up to double the 'per person twin share' price to have a cabin to themselves – a difference of several thousands of dollars in many cases.

Sea Cloud Cruises is the latest to ditch the surcharge on selected Danube Delta cruises aboard its 88-passenger yacht, *River Cloud II*, in August and September 2010.

(Sea Cloud is also offering 50% off for the second guest in a twin-share cabin on the same Budapest-to-Bucharest river cruises).

The first nine-night cruise departs on 11 August and visits Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary, with fares from €2825 (\$3975 at today's exchange rate) including wine and beer with lunch and dinner, soft drinks, complimentary laundry, bicycle hire and tour guide.

Last week Uniworld Boutique River Cruises waived the single supplement on some of this year's sailings along Europe's Rhine, Danube, Main and Duoro rivers.

An eight-day cruise from Basel and Amsterdam is priced from \$2577; a 10-day

'holiday markets' cruise from Nuremberg to Cologne starts at \$3214; and 11 days from Lisbon, Portugal, to Porto, Spain, costs from \$3952 per person.

Luxury cruise ships are also getting into the singles action, with Silversea recently reducing its supplement to as low as 10%.

Azamara Club Cruises also dropped its surcharge from 100% to 25% for sailings in the Mediterranean, valid until tomorrow.

Fast-acting solo travellers can pay as little as \$1938 (normally \$3100) for a seven-night cruise on *Azamara Quest*, departing on October 16 from Rome to Barcelona via Sorrento, Taormina, Malta and Menorca – plus they are eligible for a bonus US\$500 in onboard spending credits.

For the rest of the year, Cruise West has set aside a limited number of cabins on all of its small ships for solo sailors with no supplement.

Meanwhile, the 'everyday' single supplement charged by Crystal, Hurtigruten, Regent Seven Seas and Seabourn is less than 25%.

Other cruise lines with cabins built-for-one include Costa, Holland America, Swan Hellenic, Viking River Cruises, Fred Olsen, Cunard, P&O UK, Saga, and Hebridean Island Cruises; however numbers are very limited and tend to be on older vessels.

Norwegian Epic, which will be named in New York on 2 July, has an industry-record 128 studio cabins, measuring 10 square metres, with a communal lounge area.

According to the Cruise Lines International Association, more Americans than ever cruised alone in 2009. (Figures for Australia are unavailable.)

For details of special deals for solo cruisers, contact a travel agent.

Costa breaks in a new era of China cruising



Costa Romantica pulling into Tianjin

Costa Romantica made history last week when she was the first-ever vessel to call into China's brand new cruise terminal in Tianjin.

The gateway to China's northern provinces and Beijing, China's newest port is set to become the homeport for international cruise lines Costa Cruises and Royal Caribbean in north China.

The new facility is located in the south of the Dongjiang port area and covers around 1.2 million square metres, with its first stage comprising of 700,000 square metres that can comfortably accommodate a total of six vessels at a time.

Both *Costa Romantica* and *Legend of the Seas* have berths in Tianjin, with *Romantica* set to feature five-and six-day itineraries to South Korea and Japan from now until 26 Aug, and *Legend* to offer eight voyages between China, Korea and Japan from now until Oct .

CRUISE CALENDAR



Each week *Cruise Weekly* summarises which ships are in town.

AUCKLAND

Pacific Sun Sat 03 Jul

RCL's Dubai expansion

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL PLANS TO expand and extend its Middle Eastern cruise offering, with its 2,501-passenger *Brilliance of the Seas* set to head to Dubai two full months ahead of schedule for the 2011/12 Northern Winter season, where she will offer a total of seven 12- and 18-night voyages.

Debating in Dubai in January this year, the decision to extend and expand *Brilliance's* Dubai offering was made after sales in the UK and Ireland for her inaugural season measured 30% ahead of Royal Caribbean's projections.

"Dubai is very popular with UK & Irish travellers," said Royal Caribbean International, UK and Ireland's associate vice president, Jo Rzymowska.

"We have adjusted the itinerary based on our trade partner feedback," Rzymowska added.

Highlighted itineraries in the extended season include a 12-night Dubai roundtrip to India, which will feature an overnight stay in Muscat, Oman, as well as calls at Cochin, Goa and Mumbai in India.

As for her 2011-2012 season, Royal Caribbean has responded to feedback by replacing the overnight stay in Dubai-featured at the beginning of *Brilliance's* seven-night Dubai itineraries (which include port calls to Fujairah, Abu Dhabi and Muscat), with a Dubai overnight at the end of the voyage.

Royal Caribbean has also said it plans to change the order of port calls, in order to expedite and simplify visa processes.

For more information on RCL's Dubai offerings see your local travel agent, or visit www.royalcaribbean.com.au.



Around the World - The Ultimate Cruise?

By Roderick Eime

Many still believed the world was flat when Ferdinand Magellan set out from Spain in search of the Spice Islands of Indonesia in 1519.

Three years later, with Magellan himself dead and just one ship and 18 men remaining, the first known circumnavigation of the world was completed.

Such is the allure of adventure and exploration that today, nearly five hundred years later, the thrill of a journey around the world by sea is just as intoxicating and exciting as it was then.

The great ocean voyages are the ones that have defined us as a species.

Perhaps the pinnacle of ancient maritime architecture were the enormous Chinese Ming-dynasty treasure ships of the 15th Century.

These wooden leviathans dwarfed the petty craft sailed by Magellan, da Gama and even Cook with the largest of these vessels measuring some 150 metres, over five times more than Cook's *Endeavour*.

It is now known that vast fleets of these huge ships, and their supporting entourage, ranged throughout the Indian Ocean, stamping China's colonial authority on lands as far away as South Africa, perhaps even further.

It wasn't until the coming of the Industrial Revolution and the widespread use of iron and steel before this mark could be surpassed.

In 1858, after enormous technical and financial difficulties, the *SS Great Eastern* was launched.

At 211 metres, she was the largest ship ever built and was designed to carry as many as 4000 passengers on transatlantic voyages.

Her size was her undoing and after a series of accidents and mishaps, she was finally broken up in 1890.

The 20th Century saw the great ocean liners come of age and the stories of *RMS Titanic*, *Britannic* and others are well known.

But the story of Cunard's *RMS Laconia* has almost faded into insignificance.

In 1923, she became the first passenger vessel to circumnavigate the globe, taking



130 days and visiting 22 ports.

Built by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson at Wallsend-on-Tyne, she was launched in April 1921 with a gross tonnage of 19,860 tons and a length of 183m.

For a relatively small ship by today's standards, she still managed to carry around 2200 passengers and was one of the first Cunard vessels to exploit "cruising" for pleasure's sake.

Cruising for pleasure and indeed, world cruising, is now almost commonplace.

Yet the vessels undertaking today's voyages are anything but and are virtual palaces of the sea.

Without doubt, the most prestigious world cruiser is Cunard's newest Queen, the *Queen Mary 2*.

She preserves all that is traditional and romantic in a great ocean liner without compromising luxury or prestige.

Round the World Cruise

Of all travel possibilities, the trip which encircles the globe is undoubtedly the most interesting & memorable.

It is offering a Round the World Cruise. It is a trip in which three fundamental factors are in mind: first, the most complete, for usually this trip is made but once.

The Raymond-Whitcomb Cruise is more comprehensive than any other cruise ever arranged. It visits all the countries that are ordinarily included (Japan, China, India, Java, the Malay States, the Philippines) and adds Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Tasmania—a whole quarter of the Eastern World, which will be visited for the first time in cruise history.

The time should be convenient for departure and return and should be the best season for the various countries visited. The Raymond-Whitcomb Cruise will sail on October 10 and members can go directly from their summer residences. Sailing westward it will visit Japan at the fall glory of the chrysanthemum season; India, before the hot weather begins; China, in the fashionable season; and the Riviera when it is gayest.

The ship, which will be the home of cruise members for five months, should be fresh and new—thoroughly up-to-date in every detail—convenient to public rooms, restaurants and decks.

The Raymond-Whitcomb Cruise-Ship—S.S. "Carinthia", of 20,000 tons registered in the port of the Cunard Lines and was launched only this year. She was designed especially for cruising and is notable for wide decks. There are also gymnasium and swimming pool; hot and cold running water in every room used on this Cruise.

Sailing October 10, 1925. Rates \$7,000 and upwards.

<p>Western Hemisphere Cruise</p> <p>Sailing October 10, 1925. Rates \$7,000 and upwards.</p> <p>Includes: Japan, China, India, Java, the Malay States, the Philippines, Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Tasmania.</p>	<p>West Indies Cruise</p> <p>Sailing October 10, 1925. Rates \$7,000 and upwards.</p> <p>Includes: Japan, China, India, Java, the Malay States, the Philippines, Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Tasmania.</p>
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Write for booklet, ship plans and brochures

RAYMOND & WHITCOMB CO.
26 Beacon Street Boston

to its regal fleet as a sister ship to *Queen Victoria* and in January 2011 she sets sail on a 103-day World Cruise.

She will be the third glamorous liner to bear the name.

Other lines offering Around the World cruises include Princess (107 days), Cruise West (335 days), Hapag-Lloyd (170 days), P&O (84 days) and Holland America (110 days). Visit your favourite ICCA specialist cruise travel agent for all the details.



Visit www.msccruises.com.au for more information

Titanic memorial cruise

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of the *Titanic's* tragic voyage, which departed Southampton on the 8th April 1912, Fred Olsen cruise lines is giving the public the chance to cruise onboard *ms Balmoral* for a one-off memorial voyage, tracing the exact itinerary taken by the *Titanic* on her fateful debut.



Departing from Southampton the voyage will sail along the French Coast before calling into Cobh (Ireland).

From here *Balmoral* will cross the Atlantic, to arrive at *Titanic's* final resting place (41 43'57"N, 49 56'49"W) at the exact time that she went down on 14/15 April.

Here crew and guests will hold a memorial service, to remember those who tragically lost their lives and to recognise the brave souls who sacrificed themselves so that others could make it to safety.

Balmoral will then continue on *Titanic's* planned route to Halifax and New York, where she would have concluded her epic voyage.

Prices for the memorial voyage start at AU\$6,645 per person and include a Captain's Gala Dinner, as well as all onboard meals and entertainment.

For information call 1300 362 599.

SeaCloud bargains

SEA CLOUD IS OFFERING SOME FANTASTIC DEALS FOR selected nine/10-day Danube Delta cruises between Budapest, Hungary and Bucharest, Romania onboard *River Cloud II* in August and September this year.

The deal includes 50% off cruise rates for a second guest in a twin share cabin, as well as no single supplements for solo travellers.

The cruise itself takes travellers across five different countries including Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary with highlighted visits to the picturesque villages of Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanassi in Bulgaria, as well as the Kazan Gorge between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains and the UNESCO protected university city of Pécs.

Prices for the voyage start at €2825 for the first guest and €1413 for the second guest, including all onboard meals, wine and beer with lunch and dinner, soft drinks, complimentary laundry, all port charges, onboard entertainment, an English speaking tour guide and use of bicycles for adventures on land.

For more information see your local travel agent or visit www.seacloud.com.



European Christmas

GLOBUS' NEW 2010/11 European Christmas program has been released, as part of its newest brochure offering.

Featuring a choice of 21 combinable festive season river and land itineraries from across its Globus Christmas tours, Avalon Waterways Christmas river cruises and Cosmos winter tours holdings, Globus' latest Winter Vacations 2010/2011 brochure is a must see for readers wanting to cruise over the festive season.



As part of the offering, Avalon Waterways river cruises will feature three different itineraries along the Main and Danube rivers, allowing guests to view and walk amongst a selection of Europe's beautiful medieval villages dressed to impress in all their Christmas decoration finery.

Highlighted Avalon itineraries include an eight-day Christmas in the Heart of Germany (priced from \$2622 per person/ twin share) voyage from Frankfurt to Prague, which features a five-night cruise and visits to the Christmas markets in Rothenburg and Nuremberg.

For more info see your local travel agent.

WIN A 10-DAY RIVER CRUISE IN EUROPE



CRUISE Weekly is giving readers the chance to win an incredible Europe river cruise for two people, courtesy of **Sea Cloud Cruises**.

This amazing prize includes nine nights cruising from Budapest to Bucharest onboard the exclusive river yacht, *River Cloud II*; all meals (6 per day), wine and beer with lunch and dinner; soft drinks 24 hours a day; use of onboard bicycles; all port and lock charges and an English speaking tour guide on board.

Life onboard the *River Cloud II* is utterly relaxed. The yacht's Mediterranean style is most alluring featuring blonde wood paneling and sensuous fabric in natural colours, golden accents and an airiness reminiscent of a grand Italian palazzo. Panorama windows let the sun and the scenery in and add a sense of easy living.

Every Tuesday over the next 12 weeks, **CRUISE Weekly** will ask a different question regarding Sea Cloud Cruises product, with the first question being revealed in last week's river cruise issue.

To be in the running to win, you must read **CRUISE Weekly** over the next 12 weeks and correctly answer each of the questions featured, plus send in a response to a final question that will be published in the last week of the competition.

Hint! Most of the answers can be found at www.seacloud.com

Email your answers each week to seacloudcomp@cruiseweekly.com.au

Click here for full terms and conditions.

Question 2 ~ How many outside cabins are on the *River Cloud II*?

For anyone who missed out on Q1, it was "Name four vessels operated by SeaCloud Cruises".



RIVER CLOUD II





AMA fleet expansion

AMAWATERWAYS HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL LAUNCH its brand new river cruiser, the 124-passenger *AmaLotus* in September 2011.

Featuring 226 square-foot deluxe staterooms, *AmaLotus'* accommodations are set to delight guests, with 82% of suites and staterooms also set to feature balconies, whilst junior suites will measure in at a healthy 462 square-feet.

Following her debut celebrations, *AmaLotus* will join *ms La Margareite* (which joined the fleet last year) on the Mekong River running the seven-night 'Vietnam, Cambodia and the Riches of the Mekong' itinerary from Siam Reap, Cambodia to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.



La Margareite

MEANWHILE

in more AmaWaterways fleet expansion news, the cruise line has announced that next year it will also launch another European river cruiser, sister-ship to *ms AmaBella*, *ms AmaVerde*, whilst the completely refurbished *ms AmaKatrina* will debut in Spring next year on the Volga-Baltic Waterway.

As part of her refurbishment, *AmaKatrina* will feature a total of 10 different stateroom categories, including 76 staterooms with balconies, an alternative restaurant, conference hall, sauna and solarium and will delight guests on a voyage from Moscow to St Petersburg.

AmaWaterways has also confirmed that next year, it will continue to run its Provence & Spain program, which features a seven-night voyage from Lyon to Arles onboard *ms Swiss Pearl*.



ms Amabella

"River cruising is growing at an

unprecedented rate and we are in a very fortunate position because we offer superb accommodations plus excellent service," said AmaWaterways president Rudi Schreiner.

"Our ships are designed to deliver a premium experience every step of the way.

"Our goal is to be the leader in river cruising and deliver the best river cruise vacation in the business," Schreiner added.

For more information, see your local travel agent or visit www.amawaterways.com.

Nieuw's suite success

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE HAS RELEASED PICTURES of the suites onboard its latest vessel, *Nieuw Amsterdam* - which is set to make her inaugural voyage on 04 July.

Nieuw Amsterdam's accommodations include 175 ocean-view staterooms, 152 interior staterooms, 56 spa staterooms, 46 veranda ocean-view, four ocean-view, four interior and two spa deluxe verandah suites.

According to the cruise line when designing *Amsterdam's* rooms, its designers took into account the huge wealth of positive feedback HAL had received from the contemporary motifs that debuted onboard her sistership *ms Eurodam*.

As such, *Nieuw Amsterdam's* designers chose to blend both modern and classical



Suites splash colour with earth tones

elements to create an overall ambience reflective of the historic and modern

glamour of New York City (*Nieuw Amsterdam's* namesake).

The staterooms will feature a mixture of artworks including classical, surrealist and abstract as well as historic photographs of old New York and Amsterdam.

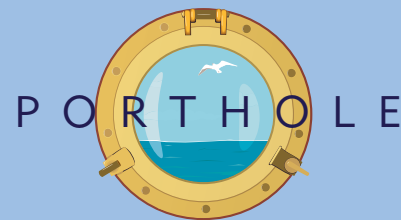
The artwork is complemented by sophisticated NYC styled furniture and bedding in earthy tones with splashes of colour.

"With all of the exciting activities that take place on a cruise ship, we wanted to create a stateroom environment that is an escape for guests to relax and enjoy, yet at the same time remains visually intriguing," said Nancy Burfiend of *Amsterdam's* design team, NB Design Group.

For more information on *Nieuw Amsterdam* see your local travel agent or visit www.traveltheworld.com.au.



Another suite view



SHARKS CAN FLY?!

Two leopard sharks are being spared the swim between Townsville and Melbourne, having nabbed themselves two special seats on a plane.

The sharks, part of a captive breeding program, are being transferred between Townsville and Melbourne aquarium's, firstly via car to Cairns, where they will be loaded onto a flight inside their special self-sustaining transport tanks.

According to Reef HQ's Stephen Menzies, the sharks will be put on a two day diet pre-flight in order to help maintain their water quality during transport.

"That's always fun when you unload some sharks after a long transport; that first feed, because they do feed with a bit of passion," Menzies said.

THAT'S ONE SERIOUS EXPO FAN!

Chinese national, Bao Zhengbin, is hoping to swim some 750 miles in the murky waters of the Changjiang River in order to visit Shanghai's World Expo.

According to 56-year old Zhengbin, swimming the river has been a dream he has held onto since the tender age of 12, when his parents took him to Shanghai via the river.

"The scenery along the water way touched me a great deal, and I thought that one day I'd swim to Shanghai," he said.

Zhengbin expects his epic adventure will take him 32 days to complete, swimming at a rate of 25 miles per day.

Supported by friends travelling near him in a motor boat, Zhengbin plans to stay overnight in all the major cities along the way, with the aim of spending his "port calls" handing out educational environmental leaflets on the benefits of keeping carbon levels low.



Zhengbin in training