

SE Travel  
HD **GREAT CRUISE ESCAPES**

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On a Quest: Azamara Club Cruises will deploy Azamara Quest to Australia for the first time in 2016. The boutique 694-guest ship will undertake five voyages, from 10 to 17 nights, during the two-month season, visiting 25 ports in Australia and New Zealand. Sailings include a 16-night Australia & New Zealand explorers itinerary departing Sydney on January 15 and ending in Auckland; from \$6069 a person twin-share. More: 1800 754 500; [azamarclubcruises.com](http://azamarclubcruises.com).

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Fleets ahead: P&O Cruises will have the largest fleet of ships home-ported year-round in Australia when it welcomes two more vessels, to be transferred from Holland America Line, in November 2015. The ships will be of similar mid-range size to Pacific Dawn, Pacific Jewel and Pacific Pearl and bring P&O's Australia-based inventory to five. The additions will increase Carnival Group's home-ported vessels in Australia to 12, under the P&O, Carnival Cruise Lines and Princes Cruises brands. Carnival says its expansion is in line with strong local demand; Australian cruise passenger numbers have increased 130 per cent in the past five years, with projected further growth from 800,000 passengers last year to one **million** by 2016. More: [pocruises.com.au](http://pocruises.com.au).

Royal visit: Royal Caribbean's Legend of the Seas will sail from Brisbane for the first time during the 2015-16 summer cruise season. Fifteen itineraries in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific will be offered across five months, before the ship — which had a \$50 **million** makeover last year — returns to Asia in April 2016. Highlights include an 18-night Brisbane to **Hong Kong** voyage departing April 20, 2016, calling at the Whitsundays, Cairns, Darwin, Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, and Manila; from \$2499 a person twin-share. Book before May 31 to save up to 50 per cent on the fare for a second passenger. More: 1800 754 500; [royalcaribbean.com.au](http://royalcaribbean.com.au).

One-upmanship: Aurora Expeditions is catering to increasing numbers of solo travellers with a cabin-sharing service on Antarctic voyages. The **company** will find a same-sex cabin partner for those travelling alone; where no suitable sharer can be found, guests will pay only the standard single-occupancy rate of 1.7 times the twin-share fare. Aurora has seen a spike in the number of solo travellers on its small-ship Antarctic itineraries; up to 29 per cent of passengers on early season voyages last year were travelling alone. In the past 12 months 65 per cent of solo passengers were female. More: 1800 637 688; [auroraexpeditions.com.au/solotravellers](http://auroraexpeditions.com.au/solotravellers).

Dover soul: SeaDream Yacht Club will make its first sailing from England this year. The 56-stateroom SeaDream I, which caters for a maximum of 112 guests, will depart Dover on August 16 for a 14-night round-trip visiting ports including Bornholm in Denmark, Sweden's Visby, Tallinn in Estonia and Sassnitz on Germany's Rugen Island, docking in St Petersburg. From \$US8749 (\$9480) a person twin-share. More: [seadream.com](http://seadream.com).

**Sale** of the Century: Save between \$1000 and \$2800 a person on a 16-night Sydney to Singapore Century cruise departing January 11. The voyage on Celebrity Century includes stops at Cairns, Darwin and Bali. The special offer includes two nights at Singapore's Mandarin Oriental hotel, entry to the Singapore Flyer and return flight to Sydney. From \$2459 (Sydney-based passengers); \$2850 (ex Melbourne, Brisbane), \$2909 (Adelaide) or \$3059 (Perth). More: 1300 369 848; [ecruising.travel](http://ecruising.travel).

Talking Turkey: Silversea has modified itineraries for its four Black Sea voyages because of instability in Ukraine, with passengers receiving complimentary experiences and onboard credit on some departures. Silver Spirit's seven-day Istanbul round-trip, departing July 21, will remain a Black Sea itinerary, with Trabzon in northeast Turkey replacing Odessa in Ukraine; three new nine-day Istanbul round-trip voyages, focusing on Greece and Turkey and including the Black Sea ports of Constanza in Romania and Nessebur in Bulgaria, will include a complimentary full-day Silversea Experience in Bucharest or \$US200 (\$217) onboard credit per guest. Departures August 20, September 29 and October 13; from \$US5150 a person. Seven-day sailings from \$4050. More: 1300 306 872; silversea.com.

Just jamming: Sea Cloud Cruises' two windjammer yachts — 64-guest Sea Cloud and 94-passenger Sea Cloud II — will meet and sail together around the Canary Islands in November. A 10-night cruise on Sea Cloud II, departing Cadiz, Spain, on November 5 and sailing to Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, is from €4185 (\$6200) a person twin-share. Ports of call include Casablanca and Agadir in Morocco, Arrecife in Lanzarote and Santa Cruz in Tenerife. The ship will meet Sea Cloud between Tenerife and Gran Canaria on November 14, where the two will sail together. More: 1300 583 572; seacloud.com/en/.

Swede dreams: Windstar Cruises has discounted its eight-day Stockholm-Stockholm cruise on **Wind Surf**, departing August 8. The itinerary includes an overnight stay in St Petersburg and visits to Helsinki and Tallinn; from \$US1654 a person twin-share. More: 1300 857 437; traveltheworld.com.au.

Tall ship stories: Explore Cuba with two new cruise itineraries from Star Clippers. The seven or 18-night voyages cater for a maximum of 170 passengers, start in Cienfuegos in the south and include visits to the private island of Cayo Blanco and Casilda in Trinidad. From \$2425 a person twin-share (seven nights) or \$7165 (18 nights), representing a 25 per cent saving on the normal price. Valid for bookings before June 30. More: starclippers.com.

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