

New beginnings

Would you believe it is March already, and we are knee deep in snow. Not to worry though, as 2018 brings us ships and cruise lines new to Stowaway's pages.

It's not just about new ships however. There's also features on Silversea's new Food & Wine programme, more about luxury river cruise company Scenic's expansion in luxury ocean going ships, Voyages to Antiquity's expanding itinerary programmes, a relaxed ex-UK no-fly Caribbean round trip on board Marco Polo as well as a breathtaking exhibition in London's V&A Museum on the great days of the world's most beautiful ocean liners.



Technology meets luxury with Scenic's new discovery ships

Response by more adventurous sea travellers to the introduction of the all balcony, luxury class ship Scenic Eclipse which enters service in August this year, has been such that the line has already commissioned the building of Scenic Eclipse II to follow in 2020.

The advanced technological specification necessary for expedition cruising, everything from advanced hull design to specially developed navigation systems, is matched by luxury on board, with butler service for all 228 guests in 114 suites, ten dining choices including French, Italian, Asian Fusion and Sushi, together with indoor and outdoor pools, with a further plunge pool in the Scenic Sanctuary Spa, adjacent to which will be a gym, pilates and yoga studio and more.

Professional experts are on board to give

Scenic Eclipse has been specially designed for expedition cruising, everything from advanced hull design to specifically developed navigation systems, this is matched by luxury on board.

lectures on each destination and Zodiac excursions ashore are accompanied by experienced guides. The luxury side kicks in again with chef prepared picnics on shore where appropriate! Two helicopters and a submarine on board also form part of the specification to allow extended contact with sea life and the natural environment.

Scenic Eclipse's early cruise programme includes Antarctica, then north for cruises from South America including departures from Cartagena, Valparaiso and Buenos Aires, taking in Cuba before a transatlantic to the Mediterranean for Spring 2019.

www.scenic.co.uk

Everything's shipshape at the V&A

Open until June 6th this year at the V&A in London is Ocean Liners – Speed & Style, a comprehensive exhibition showing many of the most elegant and for their time innovative ships, including The Normandie, Queen Mary and SS United States with their beautiful interiors, immaculately preserved examples of furniture and ship fittings, supported by many photos, plus posters and videos (or film footage as it was at the time).

There's focus too on passenger fashion styles and technical detail on the designing and operating of these, again for their time, huge vessels. (Editor's note: Pop into the delightful Winnie the Pooh exhibition also now at the V&A while you're there although there's no evidence that the world's most famous bear ever cruised).

The Ocean Liners – Speed & Style exhibition is sponsored by Viking Ocean Cruises which cruise line incidentally plans to expand its three 930 guest boutique ship fleet with a newbuild programme to ultimately create a fleet of 10 ships.

Viking are also partners with Greenwich Music Time, a six day riverside event featuring top names



in contemporary and pop music, like Tom Jones, taking place from 3rd to 8th July this year.

Roman Holiday

Workmen in the town centre of the Spanish port of Cartagena, while removing an old building prior to a new construction project, dug down – and found that far below, was a remarkably well preserved Roman theatre, completely unknown and unrecorded in the town's history.

Cartagena was already an attractive call for cruise lines, with its busy shop and restaurant filled historic town centre, a well preserved medieval castle and even a reproduction of the world's very first submarine which was designed and built in Cartagena.

Now there's another reason to visit this unique port town, with calls there this year including Azamara Club Cruises' Azamara Journey's 29th May 2018 departure, sailing from Barcelona to Lisbon on a ten day cruise, Seabourn Encore departing 28th July on an eleven day cruise



from Barcelona to Monaco, Silversea's Silver Whisper on a nine day cruise from Monaco to Lisbon, departing 9th October 2018 and Crystal Symphony on a 15 day cruise from Lisbon to Civitavecchia, port of Rome, departing on October 21st.

SHIP PROFILE

At a glance: AmaBella

AmaBella sails Australian tour company APT's best-selling Magnificent Europe cruise – a 15-day journey between Amsterdam and Budapest that takes in four waterways and five countries. She launched in 2010 and accommodates 161 passengers.

Here are five reasons to cruise on AmaBella:

- Once you have paid for your holiday, there are no more big expenses as so much is included. UK and overseas transfers, flights, all meals and drinks on board, gratuities, a choice of excursions, even Wi-Fi.
- Twin balcony cabins give you inside and outside verandas from which to enjoy the views. Want more space? Choose an Owner's Suites. Unusually for a river vessel, the main restaurant has two menus. Italian one side; international the other. No bookings are needed; just pick whichever you fancy. A reservation-only Chef's Table at the back of the vessel serves five courses.
- The itinerary really is magnificent. You'll sail through the beautiful Rhine Gorge and Wachau Valley, over the Franconian Alps by way of 16 locks on the Main-Danube Canal and visit historical medieval towns and some of Europe's greatest cities each day.
- Look out for APT's Signature experiences – a train ride to Salzburg on the Majestic Emperor, an opulent replica of the one used by Austrian Emperor Franz Josef and his wife Elizabeth in the late 1800s, and a Mozart and Strauss concert in the lavish Palais Lichtenstein in Vienna. Ever wanted to meet a real princess? You can on this cruise. APT takes you to dinner in grand Nymphenburg Castle in Andernach, home of Princess Heide von Hohenzollern.
- The choice of excursions every day includes walking tours, treasure hunts and dance lessons, but of course you can explore alone. AmaBella carries a fleet of bikes if you'd like to go cycling. Prefer to relax on board? There's a heated pool, massage room and plenty of loungers on the sun deck.



Hanseatic Inspiration plans to cruise the Antarctic in 2020



Waiting for Inspiration

The wait will be over on 14th October 2019 when Hapag-Lloyd's new 230 guest expedition ship Hanseatic Inspiration sails an inaugural 15 day voyage from Antwerp to Tenerife with fares starting at £7,260 per person. Planned itineraries though to 2020 include travel to Arctic and Antarctic polar regions, the Amazon, Chile's fjords and North America's Great Lakes.

Teams of professionals will be on board who will lead guests ashore for close engagement with wildlife and unspoilt natural surroundings, with shore landings where appropriate by Zodiac inflatables. Guests can use on board interactive technology in Hanseatic Inspiration's Ocean Academy, to search information on expedition destinations.

There are three dining choices; the main open seating restaurant, a speciality restaurant offering Japanese and Peruvian dishes and an indoor/outdoor bistro. A new Hanseatic Inspiration brochure detailing twenty two 2019/2020 expedition itineraries has just been published and is available at your travel agent.



A balcony onboard the Hanseatic Inspiration



The atrium onboard the Hanseatic Inspiration

SHIP PROFILE

At a glance: Star Clipper

Launched in 1992, Star Clipper is a four-masted sailing ship that turns heads wherever she goes, especially when in full sail with 36,000 square feet of canvas billowing in the wind. One of three ships owned by Star Clippers, she carries just 170 passengers and sails year-round in Thailand and Indonesia.

Here are five reasons to cruise on Star Clipper:

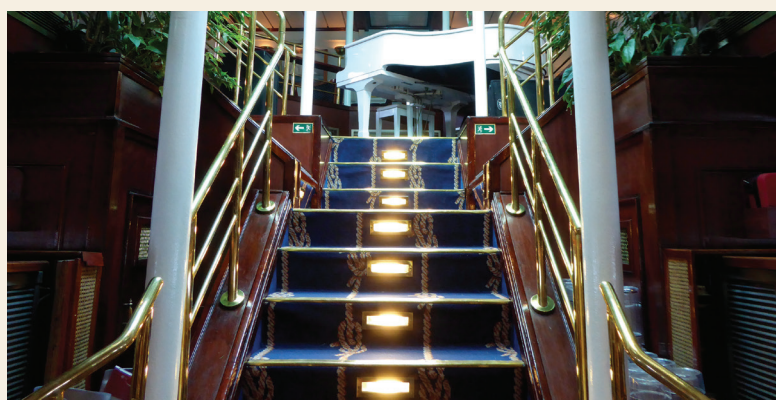
- The haunting strains of the theme tune from the movie 1492: Conquest of Paradise fill the air, the crew start to haul the ropes and the wind catches the canvas as it is hoisted up the masts. It's sailaway time on Star Clipper and you'll never tire of watching it (you can also lend a hand if you want to).

- With just 170 passengers on board, you quickly get to know other people and make friends. Breakfast and lunch are buffet-style, dinner is served. It's all very relaxed. Dress code is casual; mealtimes open seating so you can sit with whomever you wish.

- The décor mimics the clipper ships of old, with acres of teak decks, brass railings and mahogany panelling. There are a couple of dip pools and one bar with inside and outside seating where you can catch up with friends after a day ashore.

- Star Clipper sails two alternate island-hopping cruises along the coast of Thailand, visiting one idyllic beach after another where you can swim, snorkel, sail or just laze on the sand. In summer she moves to Bali for cruises around Indonesia. Landings are made by tenders and inflatable zodiacs so a good level of mobility is vital to get ashore.

- Entertainment is fun rather than polished, with evening quizzes and talent shows in the mix. There are talks morning and evening, and once per cruise, everyone can go out in the tenders to see how she looks with all her sails set (magnificent, in case you were wondering). Those with a head for heights can even climb the mast.



Plan your own cruise with Voyages to Antiquity

Voyages to Antiquity's 350 passenger ship Aegean Odyssey (with, it's worth noting, 39 dedicated cabins for solo travellers, some with balconies), embarks on an extended cruise itinerary, taking in several new ports of call, sailing from Athens (Port of Piraeus) through the Suez Canal and on to Jordan and Egypt, with visits to Petra, Luxor and the Valley of the Kings. Then on to Delhi, visiting Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan and the Taj Mahal before arriving at Singapore for an overnight.

From there Aegean Odyssey travels to Thailand's islands, Malaysia and Sri Lanka with two nights in Rangoon, then on to the Andaman Islands, Mauritius, Reunion, the Maldives and the Seychelles, before arriving finally at Durban and then Cape Town.

Then it's back to the Mediterranean via the Atlantic and Bom Bom Island, Cape Verde and Las Palmas in the Canaries, Morocco and finally through the Straights of Gibraltar to Malaga.

The entire extended itinerary can be taken in sectors. For instance Athens – Delhi, 37 days or an extended programme of Athens to Singapore of 55 days. There's also sectors of Delhi to Singapore at 29 days, Singapore to Colombo at 20 days and



Singapore to Cape Town at 51 days. The return trip to Malaga can be taken from Singapore at 81 days or Colombo at 63 days or Cape Town at 33 days. The complete circumnavigation starting in Athens and ending in Malaga takes 129 days although Med fans can also add on the 14 day Malaga to Athens final leg.

Voyages to Antiquity is extending its Odyssey Club for repeat cruisers, with additional benefits for Sapphire members who have cruised on board for over 50 days, and Emerald members who have cruised for over 100 days, to include on board spend allowances and for Emerald guests, cabin upgrades (subject to T's and C's of course). Members at all levels enjoy other benefits including exclusive Club members receptions, luxury bathroom toiletries, a welcome bottle of wine, free wifi and laundry

Laid back Transatlantic

The 800 passenger Marco Polo, one of the five small and charming boutique ships in the Cruise & Maritime Voyages fleet which has special appeal to those who enjoy a classically British ambiance and lifestyle on board, is offering possibly the most relaxed no-fly cruise available this year, sailing from London Tilbury on 5th November on a thirty four day voyage with plenty of relaxing days at sea as well as ports of call both sides of the Atlantic.

Marco Polo visits Ponta Delgada and Horta in The Azores, sailing on to Caribbean calls in Antigua & Barbados, Saint Marteen, St. Kitts, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Grenada and Barbados, before returning across the Atlantic with final calls this side of the Pond, to Funchal in Madeira and Lisbon, to disembark back at London Tilbury. This cruise has a special offer of discounted fares,



typically with a reduction of the ocean view cabin rate of £5,249 per person down to £1,999 per person with two sharing a cabin. Click on the video to see what Marco Polo offers. [VIDEO LINK](#) Or visit: <https://www.cruiseandmaritime.com/cruise/p822/west-indies-azores>

Anorak corner

It's technical but it's for passenger benefit. A new system called SafeAshore, designed by Barcelona based international port services company InterCruises allows cruise ships to track excursion groups at all times during their tour ashore, maintaining real time connection with guides, ensuring passenger safety and updates on any

shoreside happenings, allowing guides to reroute the itinerary and contact onshore support services, perhaps in the event of mundane happenings like weather change and traffic problems or for more critical events.

Reassuring to know that such technology is being put to good use on passengers' behalf.

Dine and wine? Fine.

Silversea Cruises has just embarked on a series of fine dining and wine appreciation cruises, called Enriched Voyages, with sailings taking throughout 2018 and 2019 in Singapore, China and Japan, The Amazon, Northern Europe, the Western Mediterranean, South America, Africa and the Indian Ocean.

For The Asian Collection, on Silver Shadow and Silver Whisper, in partnership with the luxury Peninsula Hotels group, guest chefs from the Peninsula Hotels will demonstrate their skills and involve guests in Asian culinary culture. Other world itineraries will focus on regional dishes, with cooking demonstrations and conducted trips ashore to local markets to buy the freshest local ingredients. Visit www.silversea.com/asian-collection.html for more information on dates and itineraries.

The Culinary Voyages, on Silver Muse, Silver Wind, Silver Shadow will take a more global view of culinary arts from countries around the world, again including cooking demonstrations and dinners highlighting regional dishes and with market visits with the ships' own chefs. More at www.silversea.com/culinary-cruises.html

For wine appreciation, there will be private tours to vineyards and wineries, with tastings and special focus on the finest varietals and vintages, travelling on Silver Spirit and Silver Whisper. More at www.silversea.com/wine-voyages.html



The Indochine restaurant for Asian culinart culture.



Next issue

More news on ships and destinations of course but watch out for an announcement on a comprehensive Stowaway issue dedicated to expedition cruising – the specially designed ships and the exciting, often unexplored and little known destinations, all in the company of on board experts whose knowledge of their specialist environments is equalled by their desire to protect these unique places. Meanwhile if you're looking for a getaway in the next few weeks on a small top notch ship, don't forget to check our website www.cruiselates.com

Keith Ellis
Editor
kmellis@btinternet.com