



New Look Pacific Dawn Delivers Top Deck Thrills at Sea

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P&O guests can now slip and slide their way to the Pacific onboard Pacific Dawn, which features the wildest and longest waterslides on an Australian cruise ship.

The two new slides, both around 80 metres long, form the centrepiece of a massive refurbishment of the Brisbane-based superliner which has taken place over two weeks in Singapore.

One slide is transparent so that spectators can watch guests shoot through its twists and turns, while the other slide is multi-coloured, with music pumping through it to give guests a high impact ride to the bottom.

Other additions include a waterpark and P&O's first virtual reality activity at sea from Sony Interactive Entertainment Australia.

As part of the refurbishment, the 2000-guest Pacific Dawn has also become the first in the fleet to wear the cruise line's striking new livery featuring the Southern Cross, a national symbol in both Australia and New Zealand.

A team of 700 contractors spent more than 100,000 hours transforming the ship during its drydock, with work including the installation of more than 18,000 square metres of carpet – almost enough to carpet all four exhibition halls at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Additions to the 70,000-tonne ship include more than 3000 pieces of new and reupholstered furniture, more than 1500 pieces of art and accessories and more than 500 new pieces of signage.

The two waterslides took almost 40 days to build offsite and onboard the ship, with final installation and testing occurring as Pacific Dawn returned to Australia.

In the teenage clubs, HQ and HQ+, the entertainment has gone to a whole new level with the cruise line's new virtual reality experience, featuring a range of popular Sony PS4 titles including Tearaway Unfolded, Gravity Rush 2 and Ratchet & Clank as part of the exclusive partnership with Sony.

Pacific Dawn's guests can now also enjoy a range of other new features on the ship including The Pantry, an international market place of nine fresh food outlets which replaces the traditional ship buffet. Among its offerings are the Mediterranean-inspired Nic and Toni's and seafood restaurant, Shell & Bones.

Meanwhile some of the ship's key public spaces – including the atrium, Charlie's cafe, The Orient and the Promenade Bar – have been redesigned to mirror the contemporary look which has become a trademark of the P&O fleet in recent years.

P&O President Sture Myrmell said the refurbished Pacific Dawn was the next step in the evolution of P&O's modern Australian holiday offering, designed to deliver good times in a stylish yet relaxed setting.

"Pacific Dawn not only features the new look and feel which has been so popular on our latest ships, Pacific Aria and Pacific Eden, she also provides a taste of what's to come on our next ship Pacific Explorer, which debuts in June. We think she'll be a real winner and we can't wait to welcome guests onboard," Mr Myrmell said.

The refit comes at the start of P&O's biggest year of Queensland cruising, with two ships sailing from Brisbane year round. Between them, Pacific Dawn and Pacific Aria will offer a record 108 cruises to holidaymakers this year, up from 98 cruises in 2016.

According to the latest statistics, Queensland is the second biggest source market for Australian cruisers with more than 280,000 Queenslanders cruising in 2015, up almost 30 per cent on the previous year.

During the 2015-16 financial year, cruising contributed an estimated \$976 million to the State's economy.

Fares on the refurbished Pacific Dawn include a seven-night Pacific Island Hopper departing Brisbane on April 1, 2017 starting from \$749* per person quad share.

For more information visit pocruises.com.au, call 13 24 94 or see a licensed travel agent.

*subject to availability, conditions apply

About P&O Cruises

Sailing local waters for almost 85 years, P&O is Australia's only homegrown cruise line and the largest cruise operator in the region, offering a fleet of five ships cruising year round from eight home ports in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. With a contemporary look and feel which captures the spirit of modern Australia, P&O's ships carry more than 460,000 guests a year on great value holidays. Itineraries range from short getaways and cruises exploring the Australian coast to longer holidays to the South Pacific and exotic destinations such as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Asia. In June 2017 P&O Cruises will welcome its latest ship, Pacific Explorer, while in 2019 it will take delivery of its largest ever ship, a 3000-guest, 113,000-tonne vessel which will be the biggest ship ever to be based full time in Australia.