

Media release

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Port of Cairns cruises into February

Cruise-ship spotters can look forward to a thrilling week as the Port of Cairns prepares to welcome six cruise ships during one of the busiest months of the year.

“It is going to be something quite special as we see these magnificent vessels entering Trinity Inlet almost back to back and in some cases side by side,” Ports North Operations manager David Good said.

Heading the line-up is *Pacific Princess* and *Amsterdam*, adding twice the excitement when they both arrive on Tuesday, February 16.

The Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal will welcome both vessels with *Amsterdam* berthing at wharves 1-3 and *Pacific Princess* berthing at wharves 4-6.

Pacific Princess carries approximately 1100 passengers and crew. It is scheduled to arrive at 0700hrs and depart at 1700hrs.

Amsterdam is expected to arrive at 0800hrs and leave at 1715hrs and carries approximately 2027 passengers and crew. She features a multi-million dollar art collection which includes a three-story, fully functional Astrolabe in the main atrium which took over 15 years to design.

“It will be a fantastic evening to watch both cruise ships depart one after another, perhaps while enjoying one of the many restaurants or bars along the waterfront” Mr Good said. “We get a lot of admirers coming to enjoy our waterfront facilities and take in these vessels.”

The following day, Wednesday February 17, the exclusive, six-star *Azamara Quest* also returns to Cairns. In Australian waters for the first time this season, *Azamara Quest* had her maiden visit to Cairns just over a month ago.

“Here’s another beautiful boutique luxury ship. All the cabins enjoying butler service and she carries around 700 guests and more than 400 crew.”

Azamara Quest will arrive at the Cruise liner terminal at 1600hrs and departs on Thursday, February 18, at 2200hrs.

Friday rounds out the week, with the arrival of *Silver Whisper* at the Cruise Liner terminal at 1800hrs for an overnight stay, before she departs on Saturday at 1800hrs.

Silver Whisper will introduce 382 passengers and 295 crew members to Cairns. Just as the passenger to crew ratio is high, the ship provides more space per passenger than any other cruise ship.

“We have a bit of a rest day on Sunday,” Mr Good said. “Then it’s all aboard for Monday when we have another double act coming in to the harbour, one of which, *Le Soleal*, has her maiden voyage here.”

Le Soleal arrives first at 0800hrs, and will be carrying approximately 400 passengers and crew.

“As it is her maiden visit, we will be presenting the captain with a plaque to commemorate the occasion,” Mr Good said. “The terminal also provides fresh tropical fruit tasting and a band to set the scene when they depart at 1800hrs. It’s a great custom, and people leave pretty happy.

“We’re rather excited about *Le Soleal*’s visit as she is only a few years old and this is her first time in the Asia Pacific region.”

Also on Monday is the arrival of MV *Artania* at 0900hrs and departing at 2130hrs. With a capacity to carry 2488 passengers and crew, *Artania* is a doyenne of the sea with royal heritage. She was first christened by Dianna, Princess of Wales, when built in 1984, and known as *Royal Princess*. In 2005 she was renamed *Artemis*, then in 2011, given the name *Artania*.

“We’ll have quite a display over the coming week, and with reef fleet operators also busy with the influx of Chinese tourists during continuing Chinese New Year celebrations, it will be all hands on deck at the Port of Cairns,” Mr Good said.

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CRUISE SHIP DETAILS

Pacific Princess



Vessel Information

Built: 1999

GT: 30,277

Shipyard: Chantiers de l'Atlantique

Length: 181m

Beam: 25.46m

Draft: 5.8m

Decks: 9

Passenger capacity: 826 (all berths)

Operator: Princess Cruise P&O Cruises
Australia

Crew: 373

Shipping Agent: Inchcape

MS Amsterdam



Vessel Information

Built: 2000

GT: 62,735

Shipyard: Fincantieri (Italy)

Length: 237m

Beam: 32.25m

Draft: 8.1m

Decks: 12

Passenger capacity: 1380

Operator: Holland America

Crew: 647

Shipping Agent: Inchcape

Azamara Quest



Vessel Information

Built: 2000

GT: 30,277

Shipyard: Chantiers de l'Atlantique (France)

Length: 181m

Beam: 25.46m

Draft: 5.95m

Decks: 11

Passenger capacity: 710

Operator: Azamara Cruises

Crew: 410

Shipping Agent: Intercruises

Silver Whisper



Vessel Information

Built: 2000

GT: 28,258

Shipyard: Mariotti Shipyard (Italy)

Length: 190m

Beam: 24.9m

Draft: 6m

Decks: 10

Passenger capacity: 382

Operator: Silversea Cruises

Crew: 295

Shipping Agent: Inchcape

Le Soleal



Vessel Information

Built: 2012

GT: 10,992

Shipyard: Fincantieri (Italy)

Length: 142m

Beam: 18m

Draft: 4.9m

Decks: 7

Passenger capacity: 264

Operator: Compagnie du Ponant

Crew: 139

Shipping Agent: Wilhelmsen

MV Artania



Vessel Information

Built: 1984 (Royal Princess)

GT: 44,348

Shipyard: Wärtsilä Helsinki (Finland)

Length: 230.61m

Beam: 29.60m or 32.2m

Draft: 7.8m

Decks: 8

Passenger capacity: 1188

Operator: Phoenix-Reisen

Crew: 537

Shipping Agent: Inchcape