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Carnival Cruise Lines Launches New Queensland and New Zealand Summer Cruises

From diving the Great Barrier Reef to exploring Middle Earth, Carnival Cruise Lines is ramping up the fun factor for guests next summer with new cruises to Queensland and New Zealand.

The cruise line, which last sailed to New Zealand in 2013, has been inspired to head back across the ditch on two cruises to the country's North Island following feedback from guests.

"Clearly New Zealand is a destination that has captured the hearts of our guests," Carnival Cruise Lines Vice President Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke said. "We've been inundated with requests to sail to New Zealand again so we've decided to offer two great new summer itineraries for New Year 2015 and February 2016."

Carnival Legend will be the first to cross the Tasman on a New Year cruise departing Sydney on December 30, 2015. Prices start from \$ 1899 per person twin share*, the cruise will call at Bay of Islands, Auckland, Tauranga and Napier during a 10-night sojourn.

Carnival Spirit will then depart Sydney on February 12, 2016 for an 11-night cruise to New Zealand, calling at the nation's capital Wellington, as well as Napier, Tauranga, Auckland and Bay of Islands. Fares start from \$1529 per person twin share*.

Ms Vandekreeke said the new cruises would make the most of New Zealand's storied reputation for great adventure, enticing Maori culture and memorable food and wine.

"Our guests will get to the heart of New Zealand with shoreside experiences such as hearing about Maori legends while paddling a traditional canoe, exploring Middle Earth with a visit to the Lord of the Rings set and tasting the latest vintages on the Auckland wine trail."

The cruise line has also launched a new 11-day Christmas cruise on Carnival Legend to Queensland's Great Barrier Reef. Departing Sydney on December 20, 2015, the ship will call at Airlie Beach (Whitsundays) and Yorkey's Knob (Cairns) as well as Port Douglas on Christmas Day and Brisbane, with fares from \$1849 per person twin share*.

"Cruising the warm waters of Queensland is the perfect way to spend Christmas week." Ms Vandekreeke said. "Families can head inland to explore the amazing rainforest or dive into the crystal clear waters for snorkelling off the Great Barrier Reef and then splashing around at iconic Australian beaches such as Whitehaven.

"Guests will also be able to enjoy all the fun onboard Carnival Legend from the Green Thunder waterslide to great family activities like Hasbro, The Game Show and Seuss at Sea," she said.

"It's got to be the best value summer holiday on offer, with great food, accommodation and entertainment plus fantastic destinations all included in the fare."

The new itineraries are now on sale. For more information agents should visit www.GOCCL.com.au, call 13 31 94 or email cclsales@carnivalaustralia.com

*subject to availability, conditions apply

About Carnival Cruise Lines

Carnival Cruise Lines is the largest cruise line in the world with over four and a half million guests travelling every year. The cruise line has two ships based in Australia, Carnival Spirit – the largest and newest cruise ship to be based in Sydney year round – and sister ship Carnival Legend, sailing from Sydney each summer. With 45 activities from zen to adrenalin to enjoy each day, both ships offer fun-loving families and couples memorable and great value holidays.

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