



CARNIVAL SPIRIT TODAY Carnival Cruise Lines



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Z To A In A Day

That's The Spirit '14

For the 2014 season, Spirit's itineraries will continue to focus on eight-12 day itineraries heading to the South Pacific—with a total of 41 sailings from Sydney starting 09 Jan through 30 Dec to destinations including Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. For those new to cruising, there will be three short-break itineraries from three to five days, two 'cruise to nowhere' trips and one calling in Tasmania. New onboard options for 2014 include a Chef's Table specialty dining experience and a Punchliner Comedy Brunch, combining mid-morning dining with belly laughs.

Essential Information

Onboard currency: AUD.

Powerpoints: New Zealand/Aust.

Casino pokies: AUD coins.

Cruise director: Stu Dunn, Australian.

Capacity: 2680 passengers.

Cabins: 600 balcony, 42 interconnecting, quad/share available.

Entertainment: 16 bars and lounges.

Food: 20 restaurants/food stations.

New Cal Highlights

Complete Cruise Solution has an eight-night New Caledonia cruise onboard Carnival Spirit, departing Sydney 17 Aug 2013 and priced from \$1139pp quad share or \$1385pp twin share. Ports of call include Mare, Isle of Pines and Noumea.



Zen to Adrenaline is the onboard mantra, and on Fri around 2000 travel agents, 65 of them from New Zealand, boarded Carnival Spirit for the first time in Sydney.

The hype leading up to her arrival has been unavoidable, and the atmosphere onboard the one-night cruise to nowhere was buzzing from the outset—agents had less than 24 hours to soak up what Spirit has to offer, and they wanted to check it all out.

There's a reason Carnival's vessels are dubbed 'Fun Ships'—there are more than 40 activities available to take part in each day, from mixology classes to minigolf and educational seminars. Agents onboard in Sydney's sweltering 33 degree heat on Fri took to the water to cool off, trying out the brand-new Green Thunder hydro-slide or the more sedate yellow waterslide overlooking the adults-only Serenity Deck and Sydney Harbour.

For the sun-seekers, there were deck chairs aplenty to lounge in and indulge in a generously poured (read: very strong) cocktail, and too-short sample massages to be had on Serenity.

After the sun had sunk behind Sydney Harbour and we were well out to sea, there was myriad options to work off an indulgent meal, be it belting out a tune in the piano bar, dancing cocktail in hand and poolside on Lido deck or, as the night went on, at the aptly named Dancin' Dance Club.



Sailing Away: **1** Getting a taste of Spirit's sumptuous adults only Serenity deck and sheltering from the Sydney heat is House of Travel Mt Maunganui's Bobby-Lea MacDonald and Shelley Rich. **2** Meanwhile, Jamie McDonald, Cruiseabout Takapuna; Jason Berryman, Cruiseabout Wellington and Cruise World's Kristina Batten steady themselves to try out Green Thunder—but not before enduring some heckling while waiting in the long queue.

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All About Choice

The Carnival Spirit has been given the thumbs up from Kiwi cruise specialists, including GO Holidays business development manager cruise, Chris D'Anvers.

While D'Anvers admits it was only a whirlwind Spirit visit, he believes the ship will be a 'great new alternative for people who have done their first-time cruise with P&O'. "There's more choice, more amenities, more inter-connecting rooms for families and a high quality ship—I think it will sell well with Kiwis," says D'Anvers.

South Pacific Spirit

For agents with clients looking for a new alternative, Complete Cruise Solution is offering an 11-night New Caledonia and Vanuatu cruise on-board Carnival Spirit. The itinerary departs Sydney 17 Jun 2013 and is priced from \$1425pp quad share or \$1729pp twin share.

Highlights include Isles of Pines, Mystery Island, Wala, Santo and Vila. Contact CCS for more details.

Cruising For Grown-Ups On The Spirit



Carnival Cruise Lines is keen to attract a greater share of the growing number of young Kiwi cruisers—from couples to groups of friends looking for a fun-packed holiday with all the trimmings.

A key feature of the Spirit for this demographic is the Serenity Deck, a

child-free deck with a pool, spa, bar and 270-degree views of the ocean on Deck 9 aft.

There are hammocks, deck chairs and shady shell loungers facing outwards (as pictured above) providing privacy for couples when the deck is thronged with cruisers sipping mojitos and enjoying the water. It's also an ideal spot to catch the day's sail away in a more subdued manner—the party action is further up by the Lido pool.

... Specialty Dining

Dining options geared towards adult travellers include the Nouveau Restaurant which specialises in aged prime beef and top-end seafood. A highlight of the menu is the surf & turf, a juicy steak topped with Canadian lobster tail and clarified butter—definitely a meal to enjoy before a good dance workout.

Spa Living At Sea

If just a two-minute sampler of Spa Carnival's offering is anything to go by—there are many passengers who will spend a great deal of time ensconced with a masseuse, leaving only when they are knot-free and primed for a night out. Treatments include hot-stone and hot-bamboo massage, facials and hair styling for a night out. Bookings can be made onboard.

Party, Spirit Style

When the ocean views have faded into darkness and dinner has been served, the question is, where to grab that night-starter cocktail? With 16 bars and lounges both above and below deck—there's an option for all passengers. Sing along at the piano bar (like Carnival Australia's commercial director Jennifer Vandekreeke did on the Sydney Sail Away), dance under the stars to the latest club anthems at a themed party on the Lido deck, go for belly-toning laughs at the Punchliner Comedy Club or for a toe-tapping good show in the Main Show lounge.

For an all together club experience tell clients to head to the Dancin' Dance Club, where the lighted dance floor and wall panels make all the dance moves look good—trust us, we tried.



Spirit Litmus Test Of Market Downunder

Carnival Cruise Lines has hinted it will consider increased capacity in Australia, and other year-round deployments, if demand for its product is sufficient. Given the AUD7 million investment in the 'Aussification' of Carnival Spirit for this market, and the success of bookings on Spirit for her inaugural season Down Under, perhaps we'll see more from the red whale tail in these waters.



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SYD Res Team From '13

Carnival Cruise Lines commercial director Jennifer Vandekreeke confirmed onboard the Spirit that reservations will be handled by a dedicated Sydney-based res team next year. She acknowledged the work of Complete Cruise Solution in helping to build a successful first season for Spirit Down Under, and emphasised the importance of the Kiwi trade distribution moving forward.

Comedy Brunch

Spirit's Punchline Comedy Brunch is ideal for families. Clients can enjoy mid-morning brunch and family friendly comedy performances.

Babysitting 'Til Late

For parents who want to head out at night during their family Spirit cruise, there are babysitting services available until 0300 for a 'nominal fee'.



Family Appeal

With more than 70% of bookings for Carnival Spirit coming from families this season, it's no surprise that the ship's 12 decks are packed bow to stern with nooks, crannies and activities for the young and young at heart to partake in.

Carnival Australia chief executive Ann Sherry says that like the long-standing

P&O Australia brand, Carnival Spirit is ideal for both families and couples. The vessel caters well to that market, with 42 sets of interconnecting staterooms, quad cabins across all categories, and balconies feature on 60% of Spirit's staterooms.

"We are seeing larger family groups travelling together, up to 12," says Sherry. "It's a trend we've seen in the Northern Hemisphere for a long time, it was only a matter of time before we saw the same here."

Onboard for the Sail Away Celebration last weekend, Francis Travel Marketing's Tony Smith has welcomed the addition of Spirit to the Australasian cruise market too, saying the Kiwi market should embrace the ship's wide offering. "I'd love to see some Auckland-Auckland sailings—there really is something for everyone," he says.

Mondo Travel's Gordon Bayne described Spirit as a mini 'floating Wet n Wild'. "It's a fantastic option for families who are going to be budget restricted but looking for all of the 'bells and whistles' that this great product will offer them," he says.

Top Five Spirit Tips

Carnival Cruise Lines commercial director Jennifer Vandekreeke was among those aboard last weekend's overnight Spirit cruise and has compiled her ship top tips:

1. Urge clients to fill out their online check-in as early as possible so they can get one of the early check-in times. The view of Sydney Harbour from the ship is just beautiful and they'll want to enjoy every moment before Sailaway.
2. Be prepared. Tell clients to take their swimmers onboard in a bag so they can jump in the pool, or on the slide before their bags are delivered to their stateroom.
3. My two favourite onboard experiences are Chef's Table and the Behind the Fun Tour. They fill up quickly so clients should book early.
4. Bring a power strip as there is only one powerpoint in the cabins.
5. Find the Piano Bar...in my humble opinion, it's the best bar on the ship.



Youth Programmes For Cruisers Two-17 Years

Kids aged two to 17 are taken care of with three dedicated youth programmes—Camp Carnival for the littlies (to 11), with toys, crafts, scavenger hunts and games, or Circle "C" for the young teens to watch movies, go for late-night swims and play the latest video games. For teens 15-17, there are dance parties and non-alcoholic drinks to share with friends.

Pacific Shore Excursions

Carnival Spirit offers passengers a raft of shore excursions at each Pacific Island destination, from snorkelling in the Isle of Pines' natural aquarium, to exploring the history of Santo during the Second World War, game fishing, scuba diving or visiting the villages around Suva. There are options for clients of all ages and fitness levels, with a detailed description of activities for clients to view at carnival.com.au

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