

CRUISING TRENDS TO TRY



The friendly team at Clarke & Turner Travel Associates. For years, cruising has been a fairly straightforward affair; pick a cruise line, pick an itinerary, pack your bag and sail away. Now, cruise lines are living both new and experienced cruisers alike to sea and river with exciting trends and unique destinations to explore. Whether you're new to cruising or a seasoned sailor, jump aboard these alternate itineraries.

Caribbean cruises for the families

Colourful and diverse, the islands of the Caribbean are a bottomless chest of pirate's gold, holding untold bounty for family cruisers. Book an island-hopping adventure through impossibly crystal clear waters and you'll get a taste of the vibrant culture, music, food and rich history the region is known for. Disney Cruise Lines, Princess and Carnival all set sail from various US ports including Orlando, so you could pair a cruise with theme park visits.

Red River in north Vietnam

Lesser-known but no less significant, the Red River Delta in North Vietnam should be next for all Asia river cruise aficionados. An ancient trade route, the Red River flows from China across northern Vietnam before discharging into the Gulf of Tonkin.

Witness Greek history on a Mediterranean cruise

Ancient ruins and rugged coastlines give way to quaint cobblestoned villages and sun-drenched cities as you sail across the Mediterranean. Renowned for its calm, azure waters, a cruise through the Med uncovers myriad historical charms. Explore the remnants of the rise and fall of the Greek and Roman empires as you sail from continental European ports to the Greek Isles, Sicily and Crete, among others.

Nile to spy ancient Egypt's treasures

Follow in the footsteps of once-almighty pharaohs by gliding peacefully up the world's longest river — the majestic River Nile. Tour and cruise operators are filtering back into the country following years of civil unrest so now's the time to cruise if you're a history buff with a burning desire to explore epic ancient Egyptian treasures without huge crowds.

A classic steamboat along the Mississippi River

Layered with a social and cultural history so complex that it's more like a state of mind than a strict geographical location, America's Deep South is easily explored from the waters of the iconic (and majestic) Mississippi River. Embark on a cruise that harkens back to a bygone era aboard the historic American Queen paddle steamer making your way between famous cities and historic landmarks in style.

Cruise on the Zambezi Queen

The Zambezi Queen — a collection of four sumptuous houseboats — traverses the banks of the Chobe River from Namibia to Botswana, highlighting the wild natural beauty of Chobe National Park as it goes. With only 14 suites and your own private balcony, you'll be able to enjoy the splendour and majesty of the African landscape (and its famous inhabitants) far from the madding crowds.

Cruise North America's inland oceans (Great Lakes)

As expansive as a small sea, the Great Lakes of Ontario — dubbed North America's inland oceans — are an ideal place to become your own captain. Embark on a self-cruise adventure with Le Boat, a trend that's been gaining popularity in waterways around the world, and see this part of Canada from a different vantage point.

Cruise to the Galapagos

The Galapagos Islands is, deservedly, one of the world's most bucket-listed destinations with cruises to the Ecuadorian province at an all-time high. The 13-island archipelago is popular with expedition adventurers and nature lovers who want to see unique flora and fauna and a pristine environment up close.

If you would like to find out any further information of cruises and latest trends in cruising please give us a call or call in to Tanunda.

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Speaking out for sex workers

By Mel Jaunay

With a bill to decriminalise sex work currently before Parliament, Lyndoch grazier, poet and mental health activist, Tim Barritt has renewed his call for sex work reform.

"I never set foot in a brothel until sometime after I started living alone," said Tim, who has been advocating for the rights of sex workers for nearly a decade.

"Someone said it was illegal, I made some enquiries and ended up sitting on the steps of Parliament House for three whole days from November 2010, supporting the then sex work reform bill."

For three years Tim was a casual client of the sex industry network at six brothels in and around Adelaide.

"I was always treated with courtesy, love, respect, and dignity, and never felt unsafe, or that I was 'in contact' with criminal activity," he said.

"I never suspected anyone was underage, under the influence of drugs, nicotine excepted, had been 'trafficked', or was working against their will. I always got the service I negotiated and the full time I paid for."

Tim wrote a small booklet of poems for sex workers and clients, titled *It wasn't just because you called me Darling*, "penned by an Old Timer, Clumsy Hearted Rhymer".

Wanting to promote the industry as safe, clean, professional and discreet, he also added to the booklet a suggested redesign of their logo and name change from Sex Industry Network to Industrie Sex.

"From the age of consent through to my age and beyond, there are many important, different and sometimes urgent reasons why we may need the services of a professional sex worker," said Tim.

"We are not just human beings, but sexual beings, and sex is such an important, fundamental part of our lives, not just for making babies, it feeds our bodies, hearts and minds."

"But most importantly, sex is also soul-food for us all."



Tim Barritt at his historic Highlands Homestead, built 1879.

Bill moves to Lower House

The current bill, introduced by Greens member, Ms Tammy Franks, passed the Upper House in June, and is currently being debated in the House of Assembly.

There have been multiple attempts to reform sex work laws since the 1980s, with only one bill relating to sexual servitude passing both houses in 1999.

Member for Schubert, Mr Stephan Knoll spoke in Parliament on September 25, expressing his opposition to the bill.

"This is a bill and a notion that this Parliament has considered or been asked to consider on a huge number of occasions over the past 30 years and every single time — with one exception... the Parliament has chosen to make the same decision," he said.

"The idea that a brothel would set up shop in a country town next to a bakery or would be horrified by."

"At its heart, Parliament needs to decide whether it wants to see more prostitution in our community or less. Do we accept this is a legitimate career, a legitimate industry? Should it be normalised and accepted? As a father of daughters, I cannot accept this premise."

Barossa Valley escort, Ms Lexie Mannion said that legalisation of the industry would offer workers the ability to seek help from authorities without fearing repercussions.

"If it's decriminalised it can help us in the sense we can go to the police and actually report a crime, whereas at the moment now, we're sort of dubious going to the police because of the situation," she said.

"Having it decriminalised would give us that extra bit of support... If something happens to us we don't feel like we've got to keep it to ourselves."

Lexie, who has worked in the industry for seven years, says there is much more to her

profession than what most people realise, and that legalising it would not change the discreet way she and others operate in the community.

"This is the problem, people think that a prostitute is this dirty, disgusting person that sleeps around and walks the streets, and we're not like that at all," she said.

"We have regular health checks every three months... We're very discreet, private people, who go about our business, not making it look like it's obvious what we do. And we provide a range of services, not just for sex."

"I've had gentlemen who have booked me, and we've had no sex. They sometimes just want somebody as an ear, somebody to listen to them, somebody to put their arm around them and just hold them."

Lexie also has been called on to work with the elderly, gentlemen with erectile dysfunction who still desire a woman's touch, people with disabilities and couples where sex has become challenging for any number of reasons.

"We offer so much, and people just straight away think the wrong thing, and that's frustrating," she said.

"Everybody needs their needs met."

The bill to decriminalise sex work in SA will go to a Lower House vote in the coming weeks.

Regardless of the outcome, Tim will continue to campaign for the rights of sex workers with trademark passion and dedication.

"Us males urgently need prostitution legalised, easily accessed and available, with the stigma and sin taken away from both clients and sex workers," he said.

"This non-action is, I believe, both bullying and abusive against a very small, very vulnerable group of mostly women who do such important and lifesaving work in our community."



Tim Barritt on the steps of Parliament House in 2010, where he sat for three days in support of sex work law reform.

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