



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

A third tall Cloud

SEA Cloud Cruises' third tall ship, *Sea Cloud Spirit*, has passed seaworthiness tests this week, ahead of her Aug launch (**CW** 17 Jun).

"Since the tests were successful and the shipyard is running on time, the new ship's maiden voyage is on track for 29 Aug," said Sea Cloud Cruises Chief Executive Officer Daniel Schaefer.

Viking 2021-22

VIKING Cruises has opened bookings for a selection of its ocean ship sailings between Sep 2021 and May 2022.

Itineraries include a 23-day North Pacific Passage cruise priced from \$11,695ppts, a 13-day Mediterranean Odyssey from \$7,995ppts, and a 13-day In Search of the Northern Lights sailing from \$6,695ppts.

The latest deployment details also include the return of *Viking Orion* to her seasonal Sydney and Auckland home ports between Dec 2021 and Mar 2022 - marking her fourth consecutive season based in Australia.

For more info on the latest collection of ocean cruises for 2021/22, call 138 747.

Xpedition runs aground in Galapagos

CELEBRITY Cruises' *Celebrity Xpedition* was evacuated earlier this week after the ship ran aground on a sandbar in the Galapagos Islands.

The ship's 46 guests and all crew were safe, with everyone besides essential staff transferred to *Celebrity Flora*.

"*Xpedition* is afloat and safely at anchor," a Celebrity Cruises spokesperson told **Cruise Weekly**.

"*Flora* is underway to Baltra, where hotel accommodations and return flights home are being provided".

"We are unaware of any environmental impact at this time."

According to Ecuadoran publication *El Universo*, the ship ran aground at Vicente Roca Point, north of Isabela Island.

Members of the Ecuadoran armed forces and officials of Galapagos National Park arrived



to find the ship partially stranded, after they responded to an alert sent by the *Xpedition* at 5.40pm local time.

All of the evacuated passengers will receive full refunds and full credits for future sailings with Celebrity Cruises, the statement confirmed.

"We are grateful no injuries were reported.

"We appreciate those responders who stepped in."

Xpedition currently appears to be off the coast of Fernandina Island, according to Cruise Mapper.

Pictured: *Celebrity Xpedition*.

Paul on sale!

PAUL Gauguin Cruises is offering a two-week sale on a select range of its 2020 Tahiti, French Polynesia and South Pacific voyages.

The two-week sale applies to bookings made until 15 Nov, and includes popular sailings such as the seven-night Society Islands & Tahiti voyage, with departures including 04 Jan, 29 Feb and 22 Aug - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Radiance, Ovation & Serenade for Alaska

ROYAL Caribbean International will take three ships to Alaska for the second consecutive season in 2021-22, with *Ovation of the Seas*, *Radiance of the Seas* and *Serenade of the Seas* returning to the northwestern extremity.

Each ship travelling to the state will offer varying seven-night itineraries sailing from Seattle, Vancouver and Seward, and feature the brand's first line of spa staterooms.

Quantam-class *Ovation* will be the largest ship in the region, sailing seven-night cruises roundtrip from Seattle, visiting Juneau and Skagway; *Radiance* will sail on seven-night journeys between Seward and Vancouver, taking in the Hubbard Glacier, and *Serenade* will sail roundtrip from Vancouver on seven-night sailings paying visit to Ketchikan, and dropping in on the Tracy Arm Fjord.

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YT&C gets luxurious

YOUR Travel & Cruise (YT&C) members will be the first to take part in Travel Training Australia's Luxury Travel Specialist Accreditation.

Aimed at helping participants tap into the profitable high-end market, the program consists of seven modules, including: what is luxury travel; luxury destinations; experiences and suppliers; who is the luxury client and how to market and sell the sector, as well as a practical component, where agents will experience some first-hand luxury.

"Luxury travel is a lucrative and largely untapped sector within the travel industry, presenting a wealth of opportunities for agents who have the confidence and know-how to sell it," said Your Travel & Cruise Managing Director Les Farrar.

"We are thrilled to be able to provide our agents with exclusive access."

New Coral voyages

A TOTAL of three new voyages have been released by Coral Expeditions on its new ship *Coral Geographer*, exploring Zanzibar, Madagascar, Cocos and Christmas Islands.

Following the theme of Small Islands of the Indian Ocean, the new itineraries will form part of the ship's maiden voyage from Feb-Apr 2021.

Onboard historians, anthropologists and destination experts will provide informal interpretation during the sailings, which include the 17-night Small Islands at the Edge of Africa; the 19-night Navigating the Indian Ocean; and the 27-night Island Outposts of Australia's West Coast.

Other *Geographer* inaugural destinations are Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Seychelles.



P&O Cruises has overhauled its menu, with 300 new dishes to be rolled out fleet-wide in Australia over the next month.

The menu is designed to "cater to the adventurers as well as those who like their creature comforts," as described to **Cruise Weekly** by P&O Cruises Australia Director of Guest Experience, Food and Beverage Simon Blacoe.

Drawing inspiration from the "melting pot" of Australian culture to offer something for everyone, classic dishes like chicken schnitzel and beef and mushroom pie provide a "point of familiarity", while dishes like the grilled swordfish and red wine braised beef cheeks will entice the tastebuds of more adventurous guests.

Maintaining partnerships with local suppliers, farmers and



vendors was an important factor when it came to designing the new menu, as was the inclusion of plant-based options to cater for a range of diets, from vegan to pescatarian, reducing the need for special dietary requests.

Blacoe said the feedback on the new menu has been positive, with guests loving the structure and variety, with the only criticism being the too-large portion sizes - **CW** can think of worse problems!

Pictured is the P&O Cruises chefs table, and **inset** is "Our Smashed Avo" breakfast dish.

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22 April 2020



Want to know what a cruise on *Scenic Eclipse* is like? Read more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Tahiti's Variety

WILD Earth Travel's Variety Cruises has released new itineraries within French Polynesia.

The new destinations will be visited by the 49-guest, 25 ocean-view cabin motor-sailer *Panorama II*, which currently sails throughout Indonesia.

With itineraries debuting next year, *Panorama II* will embark on an eight-day Tahiti and the Pearls of French Polynesia voyage, exploring all but one of the Society Islands, and an 12-day Tahiti, the Society and Tuamotu Islands trip, which also crosses over into the Tuamotu Archipelago.

Sailing dates are from Dec 2020 to Mar 2021.

Uniworld & U savings



UNIWORLD and U River Cruises are celebrating The Travel Corporation's 100th anniversary in 2020 offering savings on next year's river cruises.

Travellers are able to save up to 30% off all cruises for new bookings made until 03 Jan, on select sailings across most itineraries and room categories.

"For 100 years, travel advisors have booked the companies of The Travel Corporation with supreme confidence and Uniworld and U are no exception," said Uniworld and U River Cruises MD Fiona Dalton.

"The tradition of excellence in hospitality established long ago by the Tollman family influences everything we do...to honour

that and celebrate with our loyal customers, we have created 100th Anniversary Celebration savings to give our guests the opportunity to experience our new Super Ships, itineraries and immersive programming at the best value in 2020."

Uniworld and U River Cruises' sales team has also implemented a Keeping it 100 initiative, which will see 100 agencies throughout Australia visited from Nov to Feb, with the initiative's goal to ensure partners are educated.

"Travel advisors are our most trusted partners and an extension of our team," said Uniworld Head of Sales Alice Ager.

Pictured is Uniworld's *S.S. Bon Voyage*.



WE'VE all seen Western Australia's famous "pink lake", Lake Hillier, located off the edge of Middle Island.

That time is rolling around again when Esperance Island Cruises takes 40 lucky people to visit on 11 Jan.

The isolated saline body of water takes about two hours to cruise to from the Duke of Orleans Caravan Park, located in Condingup, WA.

Typically, the only way to lay eyes on the marvel is to take a scenic flight, but for \$320 per person, a small few will get this once-a-year opportunity.

Ecruising's rail & sail Easter celebrations

ECRUISE is inviting travellers to celebrate Easter on its 23-night RAIL & SAIL: Eastern & Oriental Express, Sri Lanka & India journey.

Departing Apr, the itinerary takes guests to destinations such as Dubai, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and includes a three-night train trip aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express, followed by a 15-night cruise aboard *Azamara Journey*.

Departing Bangkok on 05 Apr, the trip leads in at \$10,959pp.



A welcome from NZCA

A **BIG** thank you to **CW** for the opportunity to have a regular column, especially as **CW** is now in New Zealand, and daily also!

It is widely read throughout Australia and New Zealand and has become a regular source of information for us.

NZCA is a membership organisation representing more than 100 members across the whole spectrum of the cruise industry – cruise lines, ports, airports, airlines, shipping agents, ground handlers, regional tourism organisations, iSites, local bodies, and transport companies.

The dedication of our members drives the success of cruise in NZ regions, making sure NZ continues to be a cruise friendly destination.

The popularity of cruising holidays throughout the world and the opportunities that cruise provide to easily visit our beautiful country has seen little slowing in cruise ship calls, which have been growing by around 14% over the last five years.

We are seeing new ports emerge too, often because NZCA has been promoting new destinations with the cruise lines, and we will profile some of the less well known from time to time.

NCZA to CHC

LYTTLETON Port Company will partner with the NZ Cruise Association for the latter's conference in Christchurch, showcasing its under-construction cruise berth.