

Celebrity Solstice opens to Australia

Australia and New Zealand cruises aboard our most modern ship in 2012-13 are now on sale.

CELEBRITY CRUISES HAS RELEASED THE 2012-13 Australasian program for *Celebrity Solstice* – the biggest, newest and highest rated superliner ever to be based in the region.

Solstice will visit all major ports in Australia and NZ, and then wrap up the season with an 18-night trans-Pacific crossing to Hawaii via Tahiti.

The season kicks off on 23 November 2012 with a 16-night Singapore to Sydney repositioning cruise, which includes Bali call.

Then it will offer five 12-night NZ cruises departing from Auckland and Sydney (including a voyage that spends Christmas and New Year at sea); a 13-night NZ roundtrip cruise from Sydney; a circumnavigation of Australia; and an 11-night Queensland Easter cruise.

The "Round Australia" itinerary can be taken separately as two sailings – a 18-night Australia/NZ cruise and a 17-night "Top End" cruise – or together as a grand 35-night voyage.

In total, *Solstice's* 17 sailings call at 28 ports in seven countries over five months.

"For the first time in cruising history, local and international guests alike are able to experience quintessential cruise itineraries 'down under' on a calibre of ship traditionally reserved for Caribbean and European waters," said Adam Armstrong, Commercial Manager, Celebrity Cruises Australia.

Armstrong described *Solstice* as "undoubtedly the most stylish ship that will call Australia home".

The 2550-passenger, 122,000-tonne superliner will make its maiden call to Australia in Brisbane on Friday 7 December 2012 and its maiden call to NZ in Auckland

on 19 December.

Launched in late 2008, the vessel has the highest ratio of balcony cabins of any superliner in the world, a guest to staff ratio of almost 2:1, butler service in the luxurious suites, an adult-only pool area, several upmarket restaurants and bars, fresh grass on the top deck to play croquet or bocce, an AquaSpa and AquaClass staterooms with access to a relaxation room, steam room and the health-focused specialty restaurant, Blu.

For information, contact your travel agent.

Meanwhile today's CW Youtube channel features an exclusive video showcasing *Celebrity* product on the recently launched *Celebrity Eclipse*, as well as a sneak peek of *Celebrity Solstice*.

See Youtube.com/cruiseweekly.



Celebrity Solstice arriving in Fort Lauderdale

Come inside a cruise line

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE IS OPENING UP ITS DOORS to avid cruisers who want to learn more about its operations via a live webcast.

Led by Andy Stuart, Norwegian Cruise Line's executive vice president of global sales and passenger services, the presentation will canvas the latest news and upcoming promotions, and will also allow cruisers the ability to ask questions and interact with other cruise enthusiasts.

To register visit - <http://ow.ly/4lt71>.

TODAY'S CRUISE WEEKLY

Welcome to today's consumer issue of **Cruise Weekly**, featuring four pages of cruise news and photos, plus two full pages from Star Cruises (p5 and p6).

Last chance for a Star

STAR CRUISES IS REMINDING CRUISERS THAT ITS never to be repeated earlybird sale promotion finishes on 31 March.

The earlybird deals include savings of up to 40% off all Star Cruises' 2011/12 itineraries, as well as added food and beverage credit of up to SGD\$500 for seven-night Balcony Cabin and Suite bookings.

For full details see page 5 and page 6 of today's CW.

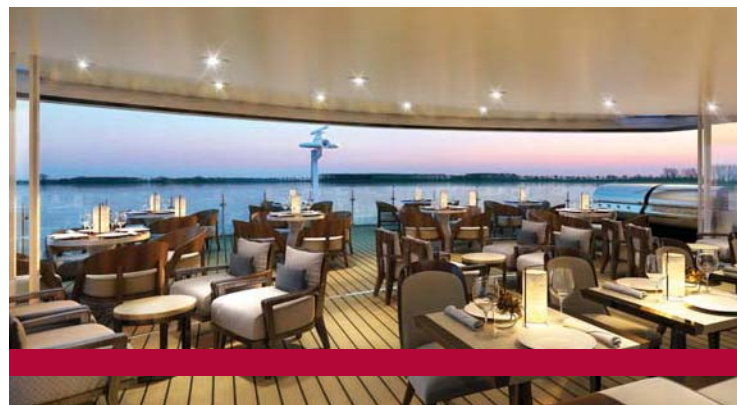
Europe
ONBOARD NAUTICA

JEWELS OF THE AEGEAN
CRUISE DEPARTS MAY 22, 2011
from **\$3,350** per guest
ISTANBUL TO VENICE | 12-DAY VOYAGE

NEW PROMOTIONAL FARE
ACT NOW ENDS 31 MAR 2011

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WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF RIVER CRUISING.

In 2012, Viking will debut four spectacular sister ships in Europe. Expertly designed with you in mind, these new vessels offer state-of-the-art engineering, design and luxury.

Click here to learn more.



Contact your travel agent or call Viking at 1800 829 138
Visit www.vikingrivercruises.com.au for all details.

THE WORLD'S LEADING RIVER CRUISE LINE...BY FAR®

CRUISE CALENDAR



SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	Tue 29 Mar
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Wed 30 Mar
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	Mon 04 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	Sat 02 Apr
<i>Pacific Sun</i>	Sun 03 Apr
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Wed 30 Mar
WELLINGTON	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Sun 02 Apr

Cruise guarantees World Cup tix

Passengers on Adventure World's rugby cruise from Sydney will attend the finals matches in NZ.

ADVENTURE WORLD HAS SHIFTED ITS FOCUS FROM rugby fans to cruise lovers in a bid to sell the remaining cabins on its World Cup 2011 cruise.

Departing from Sydney, Holland America Line's *Volendam* will transport and accommodate up to 1,432 passengers to the sporting event.

Packages include tickets to the quarter-finals, semi-finals or finals, and one-way flights back to Sydney for finals ticket-holders.

Among the special guests onboard will be former Australian captain Nick Farr-Jones; coach Bob Dwyer; 1984 Grand Slam champion, Mark Ella; and the 'voice of rugby', Gordon Bray.

Adventure World's Nigel Adams told **CW** that the cruise would be a "trip of a lifetime"

for rugby fans as well as general cruisers.

"It offers the best of three different worlds – five-star cruising, New Zealand's natural beauty, combined with the thrill of the game – and there is no better time to travel than while a major international sporting event is taking place; when New Zealand will truly come alive," Adams said.

"There's no need to search for and book accommodation while keeping your fingers crossed that tickets come up with your name on them," he added.

Chartered exclusively by Adventure World, the ship will feature Wallabies, All Blacks and Springbok bars, rugby-themed trivia and discussions, and replays of classic games.

Options range from six to 20 nights, with shore excursions such as golf, dolphin-watching and wine-tasting in the Marlborough region.

Packages start at \$5,185 pp.

For bookings, call 1300 412 568 or see <http://rugby.adventureworld.com.au>.

Crystal goes all-inclusive

CRYSTAL CRUISES IS SET TO INCLUDE COMPLIMENTARY fine wines and spirits and open bar service in all lounges throughout *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity* from 19 March and 08 May 2012 respectively.

At the same time, the cruise line is also adding complimentary pre-paid gratuities for all housekeeping, bar and dining staff.

Captain Cook Cruises New Fiji Cruise

MV Reef Endeavour



Captain Cook Cruises welcomed guests onboard *Sydney 2000* last week with traditional Fijian warmth, to celebrate the launch of the cruise line's latest Fiji offering, as well as the completion of renovations onboard its South Pacific vessel *MV Reef Endeavour*.

In fact it seemed as if the city of Sydney itself was joining in the fun, switching from storm flooded

streets to humid sunny skies just in time for *Sydney's* sail-away.

Clutching frosty Midori cocktails guests learned that *MV Reef Endeavour's* overhaul included a refit of her top deck Tabua Staterooms into much larger one bedroom Tabua Suites which include separate lounge and bedroom areas and two ensuite bathrooms.

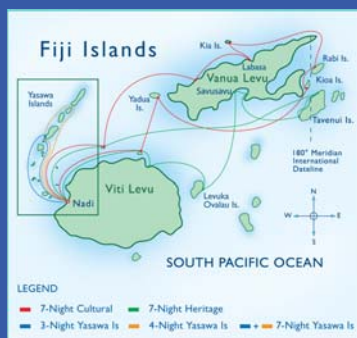
In addition *Endeavour* now features interconnecting family rooms which sleep two adults and two children, as well as inside family cabins which sleep four people in bunk style cabins. *Endeavour's* Senikai Spa has also undergone a complete refurbishment as has her fitness room.

In terms of her newest itinerary offerings, from June this year *MV Reef Endeavour* will debut a series of seven-night Discovery Cultural Cruises which circumnavigate Vana Levu (Fiji's second largest Island).

A first for Fiji, the Cultural Cruise will take guests to remote beaches, rivers, towns and rainforests and offers the chance to experience three different cultures of the Ellice Islanders, and the Banabas and Fijian peoples.

Scheduled to depart on 07 June, 02 August, 04 October and 06 December, guests will explore a crested iguana sanctuary, swim with manta rays, see the world's third largest barrier reef, snorkel and watch the underwater world from a glass bottom boat, and also visit local schools, villages and markets.

The Cultural Cruise is priced from \$1,300pp twin share- see your travel agent for details.



CALL OF THE ARCTIC TERN

16 DAY CRUISE DEPARTS 21 JULY, 2011

FARES FROM
\$3,916
PER PERSON

Portsmouth to Portsmouth

Explore the Norse world, hear about the sagas, volcanic landscapes and islands. Discover Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, geysers and waterfalls, whale watch and discover active volcanic landscapes and islands.



TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

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African Safari ceases

EGYPT AND AFRICAN RIVER CRUISE OPERATOR African Safari Club has suddenly shut up shop in a move which has affected around 500 travellers currently on holidays, and around 3000 forward booked passengers.

In addition to Egyptian and African river cruises, the company also operated the ocean cruiser *MS Royal Star* on voyages around the Seychelles, Mauritius, Zanzibar, South Africa and Madagascar.

Founded over four decades ago by a group of Swiss investors the company has been plagued of late, with reports it was not paying its employees as well as the closure of its UK wing last year.

UK passengers currently travelling and who are affected by the closure will be flown home under an arrangement with the UK Civil Aviation Authority, whilst other passengers and forward booked clients are advised to contact their travel agent for information.

At present, it is unclear if there are any Australian passengers affected by the shut-down.

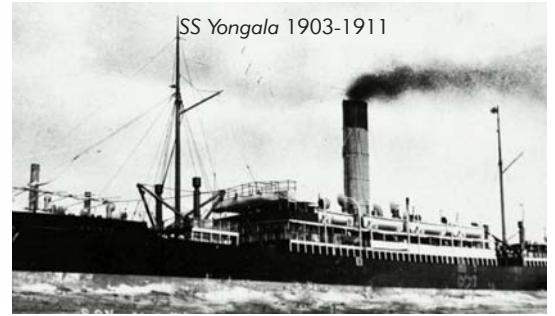


122 Passengers and Crew Vanish Without a Trace

by Roderick Eime

Ceremonial flowers were cast onto the water while dignitaries and relatives made speeches last week during the centenary service for one of Australia's most famous maritime tragedies, the *SS Yongala*.

On the evening of 23 March 1911, one of the most capable and experienced captains to work the busy Australian coastal route aboard a stout and well-maintained vessel sailed past the lighthouse on Dent Island in the Whitsunday Passage and was never seen again.



On board the *SS Yongala* as she steamed leisurely out of Mackay were 49 passengers, 73 crew, a racehorse named "Moonshine" and a prize bull.

What 14-year veteran Captain William Knight didn't know was that a cyclone warning had just been received and with her brand new Marconi radio still on its way from England, the frustrated keeper could only watch her sail away.

He was the last person to ever see the *Yongala*.

Three days later, concern escalated and *Yongala* was posted as missing.

Every possible vessel was thrown into the search but apart from some debris washed up on the beaches, no trace was ever found and the subsequent inquiry was inconclusive. It stated in conclusion:

"with no desire to indulge in idle speculation, (we) simply find that after becoming lost to view by the light keeper at Dent Island, the fate of the Yongala passes beyond human ken into the realms of conjecture, to add one more to the mysteries of the sea".

The only body ever to be recovered was Moonshine's that washed up in a creek near Townsville.

Sightings of a ghost ship kept public interest going for a few years, but the outbreak of WWI all but erased her from memory.

During WWII, a minesweeper fouled on something eleven miles east of Cape Bowling Green and a subsequent search by an RAN survey vessel all but confirmed the *Yongala's* location in around 25m of water.

But the Navy did nothing.

It wasn't until 1958 when local skin-divers, Don Macmillan and Noel Cook, brought back a steel safe from a wreck that the world was forced to remember the *Yongala*.

The anticlimactic opening revealed only mud, but the safe's serial number was traced back to Chubb in the UK who confirmed it was installed in the pursers cabin aboard *SS Yongala* in 1903.

The wreck is now a world famous wreck dive attracting some 10,000 divers annually.

It is protected by legislation, so divers can only visit the wreck with a licensed operator.

It is at a perfect depth for OW Advanced divers, but OW divers can still enjoy the experience at their 18m limit as no penetration of the wreck is permitted.

Ironically, Cyclone Yasi blasted off much of the century's marine growth, revealing detail and artefacts never seen before.

SS Yongala, and her ghostly complement, now await thousands more submarine visitors.



CLASSIC MEDITERRANEAN \$2,112

LISBON TO DUBROVNIK
11 NIGHTS | SEP 19, 2011



Europe's finest cities - renaissance Florence, mighty Rome and incredible Dubrovnik, form the centrepiece of this cruise combining a touch of chic with the classic

Includes meals, entertainment, port taxes, fuel supplement, government fees & gratuities.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

Voyages
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www.voyagesofdiscovery.net.au

Virtual APT tour

APT IS GIVING AUSSIES THE CHANCE TO INSPECT ITS Aria and Concerto class European river ships via new high definition 360 degree image technology on its website.

For a tour visit www.aptouring.com.au.

Smart ocean traveller

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS UPDATED ITS Smart Traveller sea travel advice to urge Australians sailing in the area bounded by the following latitude and longitude: 15° north in the Red Sea, 23° north in the Arabian Sea, 78° east and 15° south in the Indian Ocean, to maintain "a high level of vigilance and to exercise extreme caution" due to the increasing number of pirate attacks on vessels cruising around the west coast of India, western Maldives, and off Madagascar.

"Pirates have been using small boats, launched from motherships, to attack shipping further than 1,000 nautical miles (1,850 km) from the coast of Somalia," the advice said.

For more information visit - www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Silver Shadow makeover

THIS MONTH MARKS THE COMPLETION OF Silverseas' *Silver Shadow* makeover, following two weeks in a Singapore drydock.

As part of the services, *Shadow* received a new Suite look with all carpets, headboards, curtains and veranda furniture replaced, and new sofas, upholstery and mattresses, whilst Owner's Grand, Royal and Silver Suites also scored a new audio system.

In addition, *Shadow's* public spaces were also refreshed with new carpeting, upholstery, wall treatments and curtains, as well as new flooring, tiling and decor in the vessels' spa, and an upgraded sound system in the Show Lounge, Panorama Lounge and La Terrazza.

Shadow's jogging track received new turf, whilst the pool was decked out with new tiles, new deck furniture and a new light and sound system for shows.

La Terrazza was also fitted with new furniture, whilst the Pool Grill got a new awning and was kitted out to host the new Black Rock cooking concept which debuted onboard *Silver Spirit*, and which allows guests to have an 'interactive dining experience'.



CAN YOU IMAGINE ANYTHING BETTER?

Quiltcruises.com is hosting a special quilt themed cruise onboard Holland America Line's *ms Zuiderdam* between 06 - 17 February next year.

The fun never stops on the 12-day Panama Canal voyage, with back to back quilting classes scheduled with brand new Bernina sewing machines available for use, as well as quilting seminars and various quilt presentations.

For quilters who can't manage to lug their own supplies, US store Quiltworks is also planning to set up shop, allowing for easy quilt supply and purchase.

For quilters who can drag themselves away from their Bernina, the cruise calls into Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Half Moon Cay, Colon, Panama, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica.

NOTHING CAN STOP A FORMAL DINNER.

Recently a report on the chase between pirates in the Indian Ocean and the *Spirit of Adventure* in January this year, found that rather than running for cover in a cold panic, the 350-strong elderly passenger contingent calmly moved from their formal dinner to the middle of the ship and sat down on the floor in full formal attire.

"Everyone was so calm," one 73-year old passenger said.

"The pianist played a bit, but thankfully not for too long," she added.

Following an hour-long chase, *Adventure* shook off the pirates, and then according to the report, all passengers returned to their dining table to resume their evening's meal and entertainment program.

GETTING VERY CLOSE TO NATURE.

Small ship company eWaterways is hosting its very first nudist cruise around the Adriatic.

Further to the voyage being a first for eWaterways, the company is claiming the naturist cruise will be a first for the region, with scheduled calls in Rab, Zaadar, Molat, Olib, Mali Losinj, Cres and Volosko.

The cruise departs 07 August, and is expected to draw a variety of European cruisers.

Antoinette kicks-off Uniworld's most ambitious year



Antoinette Tollman (Godmother) with Captain Frank Versluis christening S.S. Antoinette

The launch of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's newest vessel, *SS Antoinette* (CW 22 March), has heralded the dawn of the cruise line's "most ambitious year to date", which includes the arrival of three new vessels (*Antoinette*, *River Victoria* and *Douro Spirit*) as well as the rebuild/remodelling of Uniworld's entire fleet.

"All of these ships reflect the authentic boutique style

that has become the hallmark of Uniworld Boutique River Cruises," Uniworld President, Guy Young told guests at the lavish Port of Amsterdam launch ceremony.

Young also revealed that as a "highly customised vessel", *Antoinette* features impressive green credentials including a waste-management system consisting of a food macerator and tank, and glass-crushing and compactor machines, as well as a newly developed noise and vibration reduction feature which includes double-resilient mounted frames for the engine and thruster.

Antoinette's christening ceremony was followed by an onboard champagne reception where guests were serenaded by the 26-piece Amsterdam Brass band, whilst enjoying the vessel's first voyage across the Yssel Lake to the historic port town, Hoorn.

Antoinette has now commenced her scheduled run of eight-day Castles along the Rhine cruises from Basel to Amsterdam, which will she will feature until 13 November 2011.

SuperStar Libra

EARLYBIRD

SALE

3 NIGHT CRUISES from **\$552*** per person

Penang, Phuket, Krabi *Sunday Departure*

Cruises include all meals⁴ and entertainment onboard plus port and fuel charges.



HURRY BOOK NOW



*CONDITIONS APPLY: All prices are cruise only, AUD, per person twin share and subject to change and availability. Prices based on Inside Cabin DB. Prices include port charges and fuel surcharge. ⁴Meals included in selected restaurants. 2011 departure dates 3 NIGHT CRUISE ex Penang Feb 20 & 27, Mar 06, 13, 20, & 27, Apr 03, 10, 17 & 24, May 01, 08, 15, 22 & 29, Jun 05, 12, 19 & 26, Jul 03, 10, 17, 24 & 31, Aug 07, 14, 21 & 28, Sept 04, 11, 18 & 25, Oct 02, 09, 16, 23 & 30, Nov 06, 13, 20 & 27, Dec 04, 11, 18 & 25. Holiday surcharge imposed on peak sailings. Strict cancellation fees apply. Please note that a surcharge may be imposed on credit card transactions. A service fee will be charged. Rates are valid until 31 March 2011. SCS 24574

SuperStar Virgo's Earlybird Savings



Cruise Asia in Style **Hurry book now**

7 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Penang, Phuket,
Malacca, Kuala Lumpur (Port
Klang), Pulau Redang
Selected departures from
3 April – 18 Sept 2011

Singapore, Phuket, Langkawi, Pulau
Redang & Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang)
Selected departures from
10 April – 25 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$1292* per person
Window Cabin \$1597* per person
Balcony Cabin \$2132* per person

5 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Penang,
Phuket, Malacca,
Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang)
Selected departures from
3 April – 25 March 2012

Singapore, Phuket, Langkawi,
Pulau Redang
Selected departures from
10 April – 25 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$930* per person
Window Cabin \$1175* per person
Balcony Cabin \$1540* per person

3 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Penang, Phuket
Selected departures from
3 April – 25 March 2012

Singapore, Phuket, Langkawi
Selected departures from
10 April – 25 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$588* per person
Window Cabin \$728* per person
Balcony Cabin \$958* per person

2 NIGHT CRUISES Departing Singapore on Wednesdays

Singapore, Malacca,
Kuala Lumpur (Port Klang)
Selected departures from
6 April – 28 March 2012

Singapore, Pulau Redang
Selected departures from
13 April – 28 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$387* per person
Window Cabin \$482* per person
Balcony Cabin \$632* per person

7 NIGHT SPECIAL CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City,
Pulau Redang, Kuala Lumpur
(Port Klang)
Departing 5 & 12 June, 3 July,
11 Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$1377* per person
Window Cabin \$1707* per person
Balcony Cabin \$2292* per person

5 NIGHT SPECIAL CRUISES Departing Singapore on Sundays

Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City,
Pulau Redang
Departing 5 & 12 June, 3 July, 11
Sept 2011

Inside Cabin \$990* per person
Window Cabin \$1235* per person
Balcony Cabin \$1600* per person



Cruises include all meals and entertainment onboard plus port and fuel charges.



*CONDITIONS APPLY: All prices are cruise only, AUD, per person twins share and subject to change and availability. Offer is valid until 31 March 2011. Prices based on following cabin categories: Inside Cabin DC, Window Cabin CB, Balcony Cabin BB. Price includes port charges and fuel surcharge. Holiday surcharge imposed on Peak Sailings Dates: 24 April 2011; 23 Dec 2011; 01 Jan 2012. Vietnam Visa surcharge applicable to Ho Chi Minh sailings of \$30 per person. *Meals included in selected restaurants. Strict cancellation fees apply. Please note that a surcharge may be imposed on credit card transactions. A service fee will be charged. SCS 24148


STAR CRUISES
The Leading Cruise Line In Asia-Pacific™