

Cruise Weekly today

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

RCI Alaska 2020

ROYAL Caribbean International has revealed the itineraries for its 2020 Alaska season, with three ships sailing the region for the first time.

Ovation of the Seas will return for a second season, offering seven-night cruises from Seattle, Washington, that include a range of options such as northern lights viewings, a visit to Skagway plus a sail to the Endicott Arm fjords.

Sister ships *Serenade* and *Radiance of the Seas* will also sail the region, with itineraries that include calls at Ketchikan, Juneau and Icy Point.

For more information on the new voyages, [CLICK HERE](#).

New Cunard ship flagged for Australia

CUNARD is likely to deploy its newest ship in Australian waters soon after its launch in 2022 as the luxury line increases its presence in the Pacific.

At the World's Leading Cruise Lines Next Wave Summit on the weekend, Cunard Vice President of UK Sales and International Development David Rousham said the 3,000-passenger vessel would be a landmark addition to the fleet, coming 12 years after the launch of the line's last newcomer *Queen Elizabeth*.

Although plans have not yet been confirmed, Rousham said the fourth member of the fleet was likely to come to Australia as part of a roaming deployment, similar to the upcoming seasons being served by *Queen Elizabeth*.

"We are looking at the Pacific involving Australia heavily, Alaska heavily and a light touch of Japan," Rousham said.



"We feel that works well."

The 113,000 GRT ship (pictured second from left) is being built at Fincantieri's Monfalcone shipyard in Italy.

It will be smaller than the line's current flagship *Queen Mary 2*, but will have capacity for about 300 more guests.

Queen Elizabeth will begin a roaming deployment in the Pacific in Feb when she spends

two months in Australia before heading to Japan and Alaska.

The ship will then return at the end of the year for an even longer Australian season lasting almost three months.

Rousham declined to comment on potential names for the new ship, but said its branding would be revealed in Nov next year.

The new ship's first cruises will go on sale in Mar 2020.

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See intrepidtravel.com.

Maori welcome for Princess



MAORI elders at New Zealand's historic Waitangi Marae have created a new market in partnership with Princess Cruises, creating income for the local community and cultural connections for visitors.

Held last week during a visit to the Bay of Islands by *Majestic Princess*, the new attraction is planned for operation during cruise ship visits and will allow Maori-owned enterprises to offer traditional art and craft as well as cultural performances.

Group President of Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia & New Zealand Jan Swartz said it represented the first trade to take place at the marae since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

It had been created after discussions with Maori leaders on how they could collaborate for mutual benefit.

"They were looking to create and operate a market that would

showcase their art, crafts, and cultures because it was, first and foremost, about pride in their people and sharing their talents and ideas," Swartz said.

"For us...it's about enriching the experience for our guests.

"They have an opportunity to get a taste of culture, visit the marae - let alone such a historic one - and have a chat with a local and take a little piece of their culture home with them."

Shuttle buses operating between the local wharf and the town centre of Paihia made stops at the marae, or meeting grounds, to allow passengers to browse at the market during the ship's visit.

The market will now operate on an ongoing basis during visits by Princess Cruises ships and other operators.

Pictured: Maori locals perform a traditional welcome for Princess Cruises guests during last week's visit to the Bay of Islands.

Sea Cloud adds

SEA Cloud Cruises will welcome a brand new tall ship in 2020 with the arrival of the *Sea Cloud Spirit*.

The 138m ship will have capacity for up to 136 guests, and be equipped with 69 outside cabins, 25 with their own balconies.

Other features include a spa and fitness area & hairdresser.

Sea Cloud Spirit will join sister ships *Sea Cloud* and *Sea Cloud II* and will be sailed on various itineraries around the Mediterranean.

For more information on Sea Cloud's range of tall ships and to get in touch with the team, **CLICK HERE**.

New Aqua Mekong

NATURAL Focus Safaris has partnered with Aqua Expeditions to offer a range of itineraries on board the *Aqua Mekong*.

The ship offers a range of voyages through Cambodia and Vietnam, with a capacity of just 40 passengers.

The "architect-designed floating hotel" also features 20 suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, ensuite bathrooms and a daybed, with other guest amenities including an on-board lounge room, dining areas, observatory deck, plunge pool and cinema room - more info **HERE**.

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Celebrity Edge enters Miami



CELEBRITY Cruises' *Celebrity Edge* has officially arrived at her new home of Florida, sailing into the Port Everglades Terminal 25 after her first 15-day transatlantic crossing.

The ship sailed into the port after departing the Chantiers de L'Atlantique shipyard in Saint Nazaire, France, on 04 Nov carrying more than 1,400 crew members and stopping over at Azores, Portugal & the Bahamas.

"The completion of her first-ever transatlantic crossing and arrival at T25 marks such a historic moment for Celebrity Cruises," said President and Chief Executive Officer of Celebrity Cruises, Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

"This has been more than four years in the making...the collaboration and effort between teams across the world all comes together in this moment.

"I can think of no better place to be than with Captain Costas and the crew of *Celebrity Edge* knowing that we are sailing into the future, literally and figuratively, with this beautiful ship," Lutoff-Perlo added.

Following her arrival, a grand opening ceremony was held that was attended by key brand executives and officials.

The event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the official opening of the first terminal designed exclusively for the Celebrity brand.

Celebrity Edge is the cruise line's first new ship in six years, and the first of a new class in more than 10 years.

The vessel will begin her inaugural season sailing alternating eastern and western Caribbean itineraries on 09 Dec - more info [HERE](#).

Carnival Melb Cup

CARNIVAL Cruises' popular Melbourne Cup Cruise is returning in 2019, with a series of "star talent" lined up to join guests on board.

Cup-winning jockey Jim "Pumper" Cassidy will host an exclusive Q&A session onboard *Carnival Spirit*, while media personality and former contributor of the *Australian Women's Weekly*, Deborah Hutton, has been selected to host fashion show, "Fashions on the Spirit".

Hutton will also be a judge at the guests' fashion parade.

Jade cuts voyage

PASSENGERS on board *Norwegian Jade* were forced to debark their 10-day cruise just days into its itinerary following a mechanical issue in the Caribbean.

Guests were forced to make their way home after the ship made an emergency docking in Puerto Rico before sailing to Miami to undergo repairs.

A spokesperson for Norwegian told **CW** all pax would receive a refund plus 100% credit for a future cruise.

"We are very sorry for the inconvenience and disappointment this unexpected situation has caused," the company stated.

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Sales set to open for *MSC Virtuosa*

PRE-SALES are officially open for MSC Cruises' highly-anticipated fourth Meraviglia Generation ship, *MSC Virtuosa*, who will make her maiden voyage in the Western Mediterranean from 08 Nov 2020.

Bookings are initially only open for MSC Voyages Club members, with general public sales going live on 03 Dec.

The "ground breaking" ship features a range of entertainment, dining, relaxation and shopping outlets, including two brand new Cirque du Soleil at Sea shows created exclusively for the company.

The ship will also feature a new bar and lounge called L'Atelier Bistrot, offering lounge seating plus a stage and dance floor.

An array of family-friendly activities also features - [CLICK HERE](#).

Montreal cruise passengers hit milestone

THE 2018 cruise season was a big one for Montreal, with the city welcoming 101,504 international and domestic passengers and surpassing the 100,000-passenger mark for the first time.

The surge in numbers is 10% more than 2017, with a total of 25 ships representing 18 cruise lines visiting the city this year including Victory Cruise Line's *Victory II*, and Silversea's *Silver Spirit*.

"Montreal is now considered an essential stop on cruise itineraries, thanks to the hard work of all local industry stakeholders," said Yves Lalumiere, President and CEO of Tourisme Montreal.

"Given how promising the cruise & luxury travel segments are for our economy, it's important we continue our efforts to attract them."

SHYC celebrates 20 years



SYDNEY Harbour Yacht Charter has celebrated its 20th year of operation, revealing a series of refurbishments across its two ships, *State of the Art* and *A.Q.A.*

"We have built our reputation on our experience in luxury yacht charters, plus our knowledge of Sydney Harbour," said General Manager and Senior Captain Simon Loneragan.

"This expertise has enabled us to provide event services for the likes of HRH The Prince of Wales, Sir Richard Branson, the Invictus Games, and ROLEX.

"With two vessels available that adapt for numerous styles of events, we believe we provide unequalled versatility for hosting on Sydney Harbour."

Improvements to the *A.Q.A*

include the replacement of all navigation equipment, a redesigned fly bridge featuring leather finishes and timber panels, white wash oak flooring, reverse-cycle air conditioning and the installation of draft beer taps.

State of the Art updates include new timber flooring, a new air conditioning system, full lounge suite upgrade, as well as the addition of a new custom-designed bow sun bed.

"This significant investment in the quality finishes, structures and safety of both vessels demonstrates our commitment to providing a contemporary, world-class corporate and private event venue for both local and international guests to enjoy," said Loneragan.



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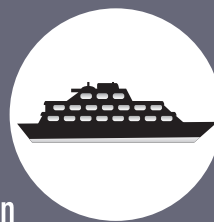
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Need help wading through the huge variety of cruise options out there?

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CRUISE WEEKLY Travel Daily travelBulletin



Carnival salutes PNG in style



THREE Carnival ships that helped support the APEC Summit in PNG this week saluted the host nation by sounding their whistles to mimic a 21-gun salute.

The historic moment was captured from the air (pictured) as *Sea Princess* approached *Pacific Explorer* & *Pacific Jewel* while on her way out to sea.

Carnival has supported the 2018 APEC summit by providing floating accommodation to many of the international

delegates.

"Our organisation's role in APEC is a testament to the strong relations we've had in the Pacific, and we include eight PNG destinations on our itineraries, and are the only cruise brands to sail to the conflict islands," said Carnival Australia Group Pres Jan Swartz.

"We're the only cruise organisation that has ships full time in the region, and as the saying goes, actions speak louder than words," she added.

Delfin Aussie growth

DELFIN Amazon Cruises has reported record growth in Australia so far this year, with bookings increasing by 40% in the last 12-month period.

A major factor leading to the sales spike has been the local market's uptake of the company's newest vessel, *Delfin III*.

"We know that Australians are experienced cruisers so we are thrilled that more are choosing Delfin Amazon Cruises to explore the Amazon in comfort," said Delfin Amazon Cruises Chief Executive Officer Aldo Macchiavello.

"Australians have really embraced the *Delfin III* which makes us more than happy".

Delfin III is the company's largest vessel and can cater to a maximum capacity of 43 pax.

MEANWHILE Delfin recently won the Best Service category for Central & South America in the Conde Nast Johansens Awards for Excellence 2019.

Portal drops anchor

A NEW agent portal has officially launched for the Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises brands in Australia - two months after its upcoming introduction was announced (CW 04 Sep).

The new online platform HomePort will provide users with access to travel agent rates, marketing collateral, the latest news on all brands, and an archive of deployment guides and fact sheets.

"HomePort has been designed specifically while keeping our valued travel partners in mind," said Royal Caribbean Cruises Australia and New Zealand Director of Sales Jason Triebel.

"It is an online platform where travel agents will interact with our brands like never before," he added.

Register for HomePort **HERE**.

Scenic reveals revamped NZ brochure

FOLLOWING customer feedback, Scenic has launched a series of enhanced Scenic Freechoice options in its Pristine Wonders of New Zealand 2019/20 brochure.

The brochure, which features six itineraries ranging between six and 24 days, covers both North and South Islands, with highlights including a 24-day Ultimate New Zealand from Auckland to Christchurch, and a 15-day Royal New Zealand experience where travellers have the chance to meet the team behind *Lord of The Rings* as well as visit the Hamilton Gardens in Rotorua.

A range of earlybird deals is also available, including free flights on selected 15-day trips, & savings of \$300 per couple - more **HERE**.

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Black Fri savings

EUROPEAN Waterways is offering 30% off select six-night hotel barge European cruises in 2019 as part of its Black Friday promotion.

The deal is valid between 23-27 Nov and represents total savings of up to \$23,350.



AS THE ancient maritime proverb goes, give a man a fish and he'll cruise for a day, teach a man to throw some dead fish in the fuel tank and he'll cruise emission-free for a lifetime.

Hurtigruten is certainly harnessing that wisdom, recently announcing it will be powering some of its ships using fossil-free, renewable gas produced from dead fish.

"While competitors are running on cheap, polluting heavy fuel oil, our ships will literally be powered by nature," boasted Hurtigruten Chief Executive Daniel Skjeldam.

Now before you accuse the cruise line of killing fish to save fish, they will be sourced from the waste of fisheries.

So what's next for Hurtigruten?

More green initiatives, the cruise line says - talk about having bigger fish to fry!



FACE-2-FACE: James McCullagh

BDM Vic/SA/Tas
Norwegian Cruise Line.



1. What is your favourite part of the job?

I really enjoy ship inspections, showing off our wonderful ships to our travel partners either locally or internationally.

2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

Honestly it was pushed onto me when I was in wholesale, however you could see instantly cruising was a big part of the travel industry and I have embraced every moment.

3. What is the key to success in the cruise industry?

Product knowledge and quality

hardware and knowing your market, but certainly passion is a key component.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Lack of sufficient travel knowledge and experience are some of the biggest challenges for both small and large companies.

5. What is your advice for up-and-comers?

Work in an agency to gain good knowledge and experience of the industry. Travel as much as you can, attend networking and industry events, and always introduce yourself.

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Ship debuts

CRUISE season has kicked off with some great news on homeporting and maiden calls coming from cruise lines.

Princess Cruises has announced plans for its biggest deployment out of Sydney, with *Regal Princess* set to call the city home for four months from December 2020 during her Australian maiden season, joining sister ship *Majestic Princess* - together they will increase the cruise line's capacity by 40% in Sydney.

Relative newcomer to our waters, Cruise and Maritime Voyages (CMV), has announced its new ship *Vasco da Gama* will make the world's first cruise line visit to the SA port of Wallaroo in the 2019/20 season. She will also make maiden calls to Kuri Bay (WA) and to Portland and Philip Island (Vic).

CMV's premium ship *Astor* will cruise in Australia again this season, mostly out of Fremantle and Adelaide, before heading back to the UK in March 2019.

The newest ship in the Dream Cruises fleet, *Explorer Dream*, will offer seven-day cruises out of Sydney from Oct 2019 during the brand's first season in Australia. She will offer two itineraries stopping in numerous secondary ports such as Newcastle, Gladstone and the Sunshine Coast, Eden, Philip Island and Burnie.

This news confirms that Australia continues to be a highly attractive destination for the cruise lines, with both major and regional ports benefiting from these visits.

This of course brings valuable income to these destinations, allowing them to invest back into development for the future.

CRUISE
WEEKLY

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Managing Editor – Jon Murrie

Contributors – Adam Bishop,
Sarah Fairburn, Jasmine O'Donoghue,
Anastasia Prikhodko
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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