

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Tauck**.

RCL opens summer

ROYAL Caribbean International has officially opened sales on its 2020/21 Australian summer cruising season, with four of the brand's megaliners set to visit local shores (**CW** 20 Mar).
The 2,400-passenger *Radiance of the Seas* is offering a range of cruises starting from \$809 per person, while *Serenade of the Seas* is offering 21 Sydney sailings ranging from five- to 19-nights. *Ovation of the Seas* will return for her fifth Australian season, while *Voyager of the Seas* will set sail in the Pacific from Oct 2020 - book **HERE**.

Kangaroo Island's visitor centre turmoil

THE Kangaroo Island Visitor Centre has temporarily closed its doors after the tourist office reportedly ran out of money to pay its staff, leaving visitors to the island without a main tourist hub.

The closure comes after several cruise lines pledged their support to South Australia, including Princess Cruises who last month revealed plans to double its cruises to and from Adelaide and the greater state for the 2020/21 cruise season, including making a series of calls at Kangaroo Island (**CW** 20 Mar).

The closure prompted a call for emergency funding to prop up the business, with SA Tourism Minister David Ridgway, voicing his commitment to the centre's reopening in a statement to news service *The Advertiser*.

"I recognise the importance of the Kangaroo Island Visitor Centre to the local community and look



forward to working with the local council, through the South Australian Tourism Commission, to discuss ways in which they may reopen it," Ridgway said.

Kangaroo Island's Mayor, Michael Pengilly, also listed a number of options that could be employed to save the centre, including council running the centre, putting it out to tender, as well as putting a levy on cruise

ship passengers.

"We need to have it operating... but we won't be railroaded into a cash handout in tight times," he said in a statement.

Kangaroo Island experienced its "busiest ever cruise ship season" in 2018/19, with the total number of ships visiting the region climbing to 28, compared with 19 the previous season.

Pictured: Kangaroo Island.

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NCLH extra shows

NORWEGIAN Cruise Lines, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises have extended locations for its NSW Regional Roadshow Series.

The next event is taking place in Newcastle today, with new dates set to be announced for Coffs Harbour, Tamworth, Armidale, and Port Macquarie over the coming months.

Fly Free to Europe

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has launched a "Let's Fly Away" free air offer on its 2020 European cruises.

The deal, which includes complimentary Economy airfares, also offers the chance to upgrade to Business class for \$3,999 per person.

The offer is available on all bookings made until 30 Jun, for more info **CLICK HERE**.

New Rhine ship

GERMAN cruise line A-ROSA Flussschiff GmbH has announced it has commissioned the construction of a new ship, slated for delivery in 2021.

The new vessel, which will operate using a battery-powered drive and air-bubble technology will be deployed mainly along the northern parts of the Rhine River, departing Cologne and calling in at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Bruges, and Antwerp.

"At 135 metres long and 17.7 metres wide - and with a fourth deck - the new ship will provide more space for us to not only meet our guests' expectations, but to exceed them," said Jorg Eichler, Managing Director of A-ROSA Flussschiff GmbH.

The ship will offer 140 double cabins at 21m².

Solstice's island debut



THE Australian-based *Celebrity Solstice* recently made maiden calls to the Pacific island nations of Samoa and Tonga.

Visits during the sailing included a stop in the Samoan capital Apia, where passengers were greeted by locals on arrival before being offered the chance to participate in a range of shore excursions such as guided visits to the local food markets, adventures to the lush Falefa Falls and Falefa Village, or a road trip along the northeastern coast of the island.

Solstice then set course for its first visit to the Tongan island group Vava'u, with guests treated to a traditional performance by local dancers on arrival, before

taking on more shore activities such as a scenic boat cruise to the nearby island of Kapa and a trip across the island to Ene'io Beach, accompanied by an ocean-side lunch of local delicacies.

The final leg of the inaugural cruise included a call in at the Tongan capital Nuku'Alofa, with adventures in the scenic city seeing passengers venturing to the island's Houma Blowholes and jumping on a ferry ride to the deserted island of Pangaimotu for a snorkelling safari of a sunken shipwreck.

Solstice will return to the islands again on 08 Apr 2020.

Pictured: Locals welcoming the arrival of *Celebrity Solstice*.

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Astor assists Mozambique



Silversea's Finest opens



SILVERSEA'S 150-day World Cruise 2021 has officially opened its general sales.

One of two Silversea World Cruises to set sail in 2021, the "Finest World Tour" will unlock "rare and immersive" experiences for the cruise line's guests in 34 countries across six continents.

Travelling onboard *Silver*

Whisper, guests will depart Fort Lauderdale on 07 Jan 2021, and arrive in New York on 06 Jun 2021.

Fares begin from \$90,000pp double occupancy in a Vista Suite, while fares for *Silver Whisper's* two-bedroom Owner's Suite start from \$350,000pp based on double occupancy - [CLICK HERE](#).

CRUISE and Maritime Voyages (CMV) last week invited guests on board its ship *Astor* to contribute to assisting the humanitarian crisis in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Astor visited Maputo, in the south of Mozambique, where CMV encouraged guests to help the aid and relief program in recognition of the current crisis in Mozambique.

"As an organisation, we're committed to supporting the destinations we visit and we're thankful that we are able to give back to the region in this time of need," said Dean Brazier, MD of

CMV Australia.

Maputo is in the south of Mozambique and is largely unaffected by the Cyclone Idai.

CMV and its guests managed to raise \$14,060 for the relief program.

However, over 3,100km² of the country in the northern Beira coastal region has been flooded.

The 21,000grt *Astor* is currently on a 43-night northbound voyage from Australia to the UK with 552 guests on board.

To donate, visit the Disaster Emergency Committee [HERE](#).

Pictured: Cruise and Maritime Voyages' *Astor* ship.

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Sail Vivid in Sydney

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has released a range of sailings running between 24 May and 15 Jun to take full advantage of all of the colour of Sydney's Vivid Festival.

The cruises depart nightly at 6.45pm and 8pm from Barangaroo, King St Wharf No.1, with prices starting from \$39 per person.

Famil trips on the rise



SHIP inspections and travel agent famils on board Carnival Australia-branded ships have hit record highs in 2019, with a total of 5,600 trade partners enjoying time on the cruise line's ships so far this year.

The number, a 40% increase on the same period last year,

recognises how "critical travel agents are to the cruise booking process", said Carnival President Sture Myrmell.

Pictured: Travel agent partners on *Queen Elizabeth* with Carnival Australia hosts Alison Banfield, Jessica Sainsbury, Jessica Rynd and Angus Mackay (front row).



VIRGIN'S head honcho Richard Branson once famously pretended to be in the cockpit flying one of his first Virgin Airlines flights, and the gregarious British scallywag is at it again - this time in cruising!

Virgin Voyages recently tried to trick the public/media for April Fools' Day by claiming to offer private jet services on *Scarlet Lady*, complete with a precarious-looking runway on the vessel's roof.

Promoting itself as a brand keen on "disrupting the industry", this release certainly had a few members of the **Cruise Weekly** editorial team scratching their heads, after all, if anybody were to try and land a plane at high speed on a cruise ship's pool deck, our cash would be on Richard Branson.



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ACA rolls out welcome mat

ACA'S numbers are swelling, with the announcement of two new members extending the membership diversity of the Association.

Trippas White Group, highly regarded for their management of an eclectic portfolio of restaurant, cafe and event spaces across Australia recently joined the Association, attracted by the opportunity to work closely with other destination members to develop interesting itinerary inclusions for cruise passengers.

The company's premium venues currently include interesting locations in several of our east coast capital cities. In Sydney, they are managing the newly opened stylish Reign champagne bar and Esquire at the QVB alongside icons such as Portside Sydney Opera House, 360 Bar and Dining, the Roslyn Packer Theatre and The Calyx experience in the Botanic Gardens.

In Brisbane, Mary Mae's on the river at New Farm and in Canberra – the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Institute of Sports round out the portfolio.

The city of Albany has also joined ACA. Albany is growing its cruise ship visits and has recently enjoyed some maiden calls. It is attracting these first-time visits by providing fascinating points of interest for cruise passengers which tick all the boxes for wildlife (whale watching heaven from Jun to Oct), nature (stunning national parks and beaches) and history - including the important National Anzac Centre which proudly tells the story of the 40,000 servicemen and women who departed from Albany for Gallipoli in 1914.

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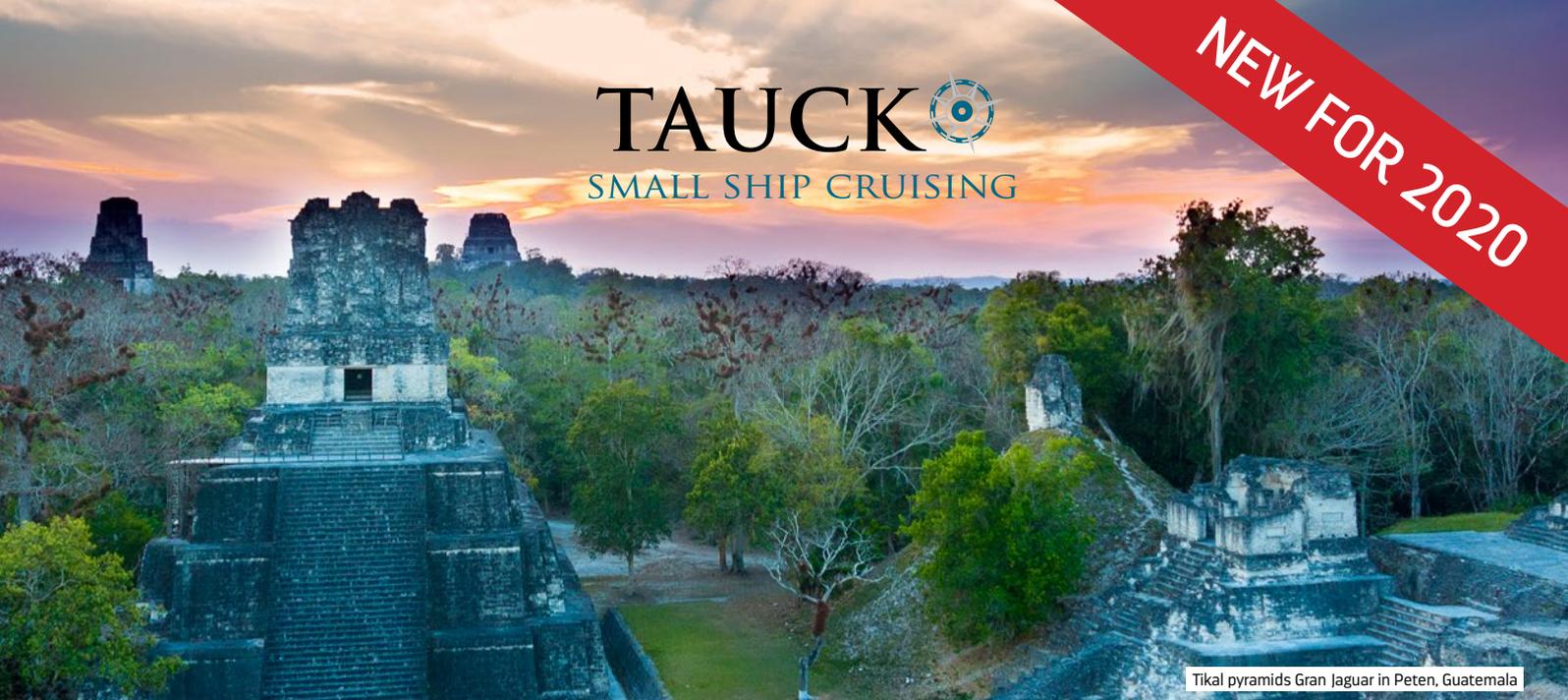
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Tikal pyramids Gran Jaguar in Peten, Guatemala

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- **Copán, Honduras** – known for its impressive sculptures, towering pyramids, and stunning hieroglyphic stairway
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