





cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Monday 2nd December 2019

#### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Eclipse makes Antarctic debut



**SCENIC** Eclipse arrived in Antarctica for the first time ever over the weekend, with passengers and crew posting some spectacular photos on social media including the one above from the vessel's Director of Hotel Operations, Patrick Fourtanet.

Eclipse is currently on a 29 day voyage which wraps up in Buenos Aires next Sat.

# Voyager offering "amped-up adventure"

THE Sydney Harbour arrival of Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas (pictured) last Sat morning marks the debut of the line's first "amplified" vessel to Australasian

The ship, which recently underwent a six week US\$97 million makeover in Singapore, involving over 2,200 tradespeople, was welcomed by water cannons followed by an action-packed event in which two Ninja Warriors showcased some of Voyager's experiences.

Josh O'Sullivan and Bryson Klein took on the on-board rock climbing walls and the threestorey heights of the "Perfect Storm" racer waterslides.

Voyager is the fourth ship to be re-imagined under the Royal Amplified fleet modernisation project, with the makeover including a new Quantum Blue hull, which was repainted at the



suggestion of an Aussie cruiser. First-to-market features such as the slides complement a reinvigorated Vitality Spa and redesigned kids and teens spaces, along with a glow-in-the-dark laser tag adventure titled "Battle for Planet Z".

Technology has also been upgraded, with Voyager now supporting the enhanced Royal Caribbean International mobile app which allows guests to check in and manage their on-board experience including booking activities, shows, dining and shore excursions.

The 3,200 passenger ship will homeport from Sydney until 19 Apr 2020, offering a series of cruises to Queensland and the South Pacific.





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#### Pandaw milestone

**PANDAW** River Cruises is celebrating a key achievement after its Katha Pandaw successfully reached Varanasi after a 14-night voyage up the Ganges River from Kolkata.

Varanasi is said to be the world's oldest inhabited metropolis, and is also Hinduism's most sacred city with stunning cremation "ghats" on the riverside.

The arrival in Varanasi was part of Pandaw's new Upper Ganges River itinerary.

#### VLSFO available

VIVA Energy Australia is highlighting the availability of Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) for ships docking in Melbourne and Geelong.

Developed over the last 12 months, the product is the first low sulphur fuel oil to be produced in Australia.

### Blue Lagoon tick

FIJIAN operator South Sea Cruises, the parent company of Blue Lagoon Cruises and South Sea Island, has received a new ISO accreditation relating to its Environmental Management Systems.

The achievement followed an audit by NZ-based Telarc, which is the country's key body for accrediting ISO standards recognised in over 160 countries globally.

South Sea Cruises CEO Brad Rutherford said the group was also the only tour and transport operator in Fiji to receive Telarc accreditation for its Quality Management systems and Occupational Health & Safety.

The ISO tick follows a major fleet replacement and modernisation program, as well as reduction of single-use plastic by the cruise operator.

# Jewel returns to Oz



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Lines' Norwegian Jewel (pictured) has docked in Sydney Harbour over the weekend, officially marking the beginning of her third season sailing Australasian waters.

The 2019/2020 season will see the recently refurbished Jewel (CW 12 Nov 2018) making many ports-of-call across the nation, including Milford Sound, Akaroa, Picton, Wellington, Eden, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Highlights of the season include a 14-day itinerary departing Sydney on 06 Dec, visiting Dunedin, Marlborough (Picton) and the Bay of Islands; a 14-day itinerary from Sydney on 20 Dec, where she will stop in Eden, Burnie and Auckland;

plus voyages in the South Pacific before she heads across to Alaska for the 2020 North America summer season.

Norwegian Jewel will be joined in regional waters by Norwegian Jade and Norwegian Spirit, the latter of which is scheduled to undergo "an extensive refurbishment" in early 2020 (CW 30 Oct).

"Local cruisers have really embraced Norwegian Jewel... bookings since her first Australasian season in 2017 have exceeded all expectations - one of the key reasons she has already been confirmed for a 2020/21 local sailing season," said Vice President and Managing Director NCL APAC Ben Angell.





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#### Splendor to Darwin

**CARNIVAL** Splendor has made her maiden visit to Darwin today after sailing from Singapore, with over 3,000 passengers on-board.

The 14-deck high ship is the newest and largest to homeport year-round in Australia, with her arrival expected to "provide a boost to the economy and an opportunity to showcase the Territory to international visitors".

Overall, 76 cruise & expedition ships will head to the Top End this season, carrying over 64,000 passengers to Darwin.

"The inclusion of Darwin on cruise ship itineraries supports local jobs and stimulates the Territory economy by providing an influx of tourists into our region with passengers and crew undertaking tours, visiting local attractions and shopping at local retail outlets, cafes and restaurants," said Member for Port Darwin, Paul Kirby.

#### NCL Black Fri deal

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is marking the Black Friday silly season by introducing up to 30% discounts on select cruises in destinations such as Europe, Asia, Hawaii and Alaska and Australia and New Zealand.

The promotion can also be combined with NCL's 'Free at Sea' offer, giving guests a choice from up-to five free offers including a beverage package, shore excursion credit and a wi-fi package.

Bookings must be made by 13 Dec to take advantage of the promotion.

#### Celeb Cyber Mon

UNTIL tomorrow, guests can secure a stateroom with Celebrity Cruises for just \$25 deposit, plus get up to \$500 in on-board credit - CLICK HERE.

## Vasco da Gama explores Aus



**CRUISE** & Maritime Voyages (CMV) brought its new *Vasco da Gama* into Sydney for the first time yesterday, for her inaugural season sailing out of Australasia.

The ship will homeport in Adelaide and Fremantle, in addition to sailing from Auckland, Singapore and Sydney, and will pay visits to key domestic markets such as Tasmania and Yorke Peninsula.

Vasco da Gama carries 1,220 passengers and cruised into Sydney wrapping up a 53-night voyage from Tilbury in the United Kingdom.

The ship has undergone

a refurbishment since her acquisition by CMV earlier this year, with *Vasco da Gama* previously sailing with P&O as *Pacific Eden*.

The fast-growing CMV last week confirmed it would expand its fleet further in 2021 with the addition of P&O's *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Dawn* (*CW* 29 Nov).

**Pictured** cheersing guests aboard *Vasco da Gama* is Cruise & Maritime Voyages Australia Managing Director Dean Brazier, who was the first to sample a glass of Coopers, which had arrived on board the ship just moments beforehand.



\* Offer correct as at 25 November 2019 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 13 December 2019 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.



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This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

#### **SYDNEY**

Voyager of the Seas	o <sub>3</sub> Dec
Maasdam	o <sub>3</sub> Dec
Ovation of the Seas	o4 Dec
Ruby Princess	o5 Dec
Pacific Explorer	o5 Dec
Silver Muse	o5 Dec
Carnival Spirit	o6 Dec
Regatta	o6 Dec
Majestic Princess	o7 Dec
Noordam	o7 Dec
Explorer Dream	o8 Dec
Radiance of the Seas	o8 Dec

#### MELBOURNE

vasco da Gama	04 Dec
Noordam	o5 Dec
Golden Princess	o7 Dec
Silver Muse	o8 Dec

#### BRISBANE

Silver Muse	o <sub>3</sub> Dec
Regatta	o4 Dec
Pacific Aria	o5 Dec
Explorer Dream	o6 Dec
Pacific Dawn	o7 Dec
Sea Princess	o8 Dec

#### **CAIRNS**

Pacific Aria	o2 Dec
DARWIN	
Carnival Splendor	o2 Dec

Le Laperouse	o6 Dec

### **FREMANTLE**

Queen Elizabeth	o6 Dec

#### **ADELAIDE**

Vasco a	la Gama	o6 De
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#### HOBART

#### Noordam o<sub>3</sub> Dec

#### AUCKLAND

Celebrity Solstice	o2 Dec
Golden Princess	o <sub>3</sub> Dec
Sea Princess	o4 Dec
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#### Maasdam o<sub>7</sub> Dec Ovation of the Seas o8 Dec

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**☆**CRUISE

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# Armonia spied in dock



MSC Cruises' 2,065-passenger MSC Armonia has been spotted in dock by a "fan" receiving some refurbishment attention at Freeport, Bahamas.

The line's EVP & Chief Operating Officer USA Ken Muskat hailed the "great shot" on Twitter.

Armonia will soon offer

expanded onboard entertainment space to entertain guests with more on-deck activities such as dance classes & evening parties, as well as dining options.

Considered one of MSC's intimate ships, Armonia features bright, window-lined public rooms & a laid-back atmosphere.

#### Cruiseco Black Fri

**CRUISECO** is offering a range of cheap deals to mark Black Friday across the Azamara, Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean, and Celestyal Cruises brands.

For more info, CLICK HERE.



IFYOU think reeling up a big fish is exciting, try reeling up a 100-year-old explosive - just ask Joseph Alexander, who pulled a World War I-era grenade (pictured below) out of Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan, earlier this week.

Alexander had been "magnet fishing" from a bridge, which is a relatively new hobby that helps clear debris from waterways and is also a form of treasure hunting.

Alexander told media he "thought it looked like a grenade" but "not one he'd seen before" - which makes sense when you consider the grenade is over a century old!

Grand Rapids police identified the grenade as a "German Granatenwerfer" and said that although it's probably not dangerous anymore, it will be "stored until detonated safely".



## **Advertising Coordinator**





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#### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi and Melanie Tchakmadiian

advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz

#### BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220 Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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Janie Medbury

FDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Sarah Fairburn, Jasmine O'Donoghue,

Nicholas O'Donoghue, Myles Stedman,

Contributors – Adam Bishop,

info@cruiseweekly.com.au