



Watch us on The Living Room on Network 10!

Antarctica's Scenery & Wildlife



Friday 29th November at 7:30pm (AEDT)

Tune in to watch the 2nd episode on The Living Room with Dr. Chris Brown as the travel presenter. This segment will feature Antarctica's icy landscape teaming with wildlife including penguins and seals!

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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a front cover wrap from **Aurora Expeditions**.

Aurora episode 2

AURORA Expeditions' new *Greg Mortimer* will once again be showcased on Channel 10 tomorrow night, with the second instalment of a story filmed in Antarctica to feature on *The Living Room* at 7.30pm.

Dr Chris Brown journeyed to Antarctica recently aboard the newbuild, and the new episode features a range of inspirational wildlife encounters.

Last week's broadcast from the ship can still be viewed online or via the TenPlay app.

For more details see the **cover page** of today's *CW*.

Hurtigruten to assist One Ocean pax

EXCLUSIVE

HURTIGRUTEN Cruises is offering special "compassionate fares" to Australasian travellers impacted by the repeated cancellations of voyages by One Ocean Expeditions (OOE).

Industry concern continues to rise over the future of OOE, which yesterday cancelled a fourth itinerary as it undergoes what its CEO has described as a "difficult period of restructuring".

It's believed that once again no refunds are being offered, with the newly cancelled voyage being an 11-day Falkland Islands cruise due to depart this Sun.

Earlier this week CATO MD Brett Jardine warned agents about OOE (*CW* 25 Nov), with the industry particularly wary given the lack of transparency around the recent collapse of Tempo/Bentours despite repeated assurances that it was "business as usual".



Hurtigruten is once again stepping into the breach, via significant fare reductions for pax directly impacted by cancelled cruises, or future potential cancellations this season.

Hurtigruten MD Damian Perry (**pictured**) said the initiative was in line with the firm's core values.

"We care...we care about the environment, cultures, oceans, and we care about travellers."

The offer is being made independently, and will not resolve disputes between OOE and travellers over cancellations.

"Yet we understand the stress this causes agents and travellers."

"Guests may get some comfort that they will travel at a premium standard with one of the industry's most recognised expedition teams and operations on Hurtigruten, at a heavily reduced compassionate fare," Perry said.

To apply for a special fare, agents need to email Hurtigruten on ApacAssist@hurtigruten.com.

"This is not a giveaway, not a refund for their existing booking or a windfall for agents, as nobody wins in these circumstances," Perry said.

He said Hurtigruten would take a financial hit on these offers, "but we believe it is the right thing to do for the traveller and for the trade to lift its professionalism while rebuilding trust with consumers."

"Our focus is on the traveller and the professional agents in the market that value putting the traveller first," Perry concluded.



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Best Alaska Cruise



Bourbon and cruise



A NEW American river cruise package with American Queen Steamboat Company is available aboard upcoming riverboat, *American Countess*.

To be launched in Apr, travellers can currently score savings of up to US\$2,000 on the seven-night Bourbon and Blues river cruise.

The itinerary takes guests along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, peeking behind the curtain of Kentucky's bourbon

region, departing Louisville on 05 Jul and arriving in Memphis on 12 Jul, with stops in Madison, Brandenbug, Owensboro, Henderson, Paducah and New Madrid.

The cruise will also feature live blues performances; cooking demonstrations; special talks from guest historians, and several hop-on, hop-off excursions.

Pictured is a rendering of *American Countess*.



VIETNAM-BASED luxury expedition cruise line Lotus Cruises plans to introduce a new boutique, 14-cabin ship *RV Mekong Muse* from Oct 2021.

The new vessel will offer "exotic journeys on the Upper Mekong River in Laos" and will join the cruise line's existing ship *RV Mekong Navigator* (**pictured**), as well as another vessel on order, *RV Mekong Jewel*, due to join the fleet in 2020.

Mekong Muse will offer 10-night itineraries, both upstream and downstream, between Vientiane and Chiang Saen in Laos, in addition to shorter five-night itineraries between Vientiane

and Luang Prabang or between Chiang Saen and Luang Prabang.

Features on board the ship are set to include a large sun deck, three suite types including two Grande Suites, which at 30m² are billed by Lotus as "the largest suite sailing on the Upper Mekong River", as well as six Signature Suites, which offers guests 20m².

Reflecting Lotus Cruises' authentic approach to luxury river travel, the boutique river ship will feature romantic French colonial decor inspired by the spirited heritage of the region, combined with elegant spacious suites with modern facilities.

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Travel Daily



22 April 2020

Starboard appoints

STARBOARD Cruise Services has appointed Stacy Shaw to lead its newly formed Luxury Division.

Overseeing the company's portfolio of lux cruise brands, Shaw will "lead new business development efforts within the luxury cruise sector and identify partners in land-based luxury travel who are seeking highly curated retail experiences."

With experience in the luxury, premium and contemporary segments of the hotel and cruise industry, Shaw possesses experience in a large range of companies and business sizes, and joins Starboard from Virgin Voyages.

Eclipse land programs



SCENIC has released its Antarctica and America Land Journeys 2020/22 brochure, revealing *Scenic Eclipse's* (pictured) shore program on its maiden voyages to Antarctica.

New land experiences include a journey on the Belmond Hiram Bingham train to Machu Picchu; available on the Highlights of Peru sailing, a mini-voyage on the La Pinta yacht around the Galapagos Islands, which Scenic claims boasts some of the largest cabins in the region, available on the Highlights of Peru with

Galapagos and Amazon Cruising; and new touring in Rio de Janeiro, walking through the city's Botanical Garden, a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Scenic is also offering a range of earlybird offers in step with the brochure release, including 10% off cruises and suite upgrades, when combined with a land tour.

Early payment discounts also apply when paid for in full by 31 Mar, with cruises of less than 10 days triggering a \$450 per person discount, and cruises of over 10 days a \$700 per person discount.

CMV savings event

TRAVELLERS can currently save up to 45% on already reduced itineraries with Cruise & Maritime Voyages, offering flash sale discounts.

Cruisers can depart for as little as \$75 per person per night, with Australian cruises currently on sale, and international cruises to go on sale tomorrow, both until 02 Dec.

Applicable on all cabin categories on new bookings, call 1300 307 934 to book.



IT IS rare we get such a glimpse into our past, but Twitter user @knightkingycbm recently provided the internet with this photo of Matson Line's SS Malolo arriving in Circular Quay in Sydney in 1929.

Visible in the background is the under-construction Harbour Bridge.



More Royal Caribbean San Juan cancels?

ROYAL Caribbean has denied reports in the Puerto Rican media it plans to cancel 90 calls to the capital of San Juan for the 2020-21 season.

Royal Caribbean International in Jul cancelled two scheduled stops in the city due to political unrest (**CW** 19 Jul), but denied it had yet made any wholesale cancellations for the season, despite indications from *El Nuevo Dia*.

"Royal Caribbean reviews and adjusts itineraries and deployments every year," the company said in a statement.

"The rumours regarding cancellations of sailings departing between Apr 2020-Mar 2022 from San Juan are incorrect...we have not cancelled any of our ships visiting or homeporting in San Juan."