



Royal to explore fourth refurb in 2020

ROYAL Caribbean International has revealed the details of a planned US\$110 million refurbishment of its 3,114-pax *Explorer of the Seas*.

Explorer will become the fourth ship in Royal's Voyager Class fleet modernisation effort, with the vessel scheduled to sail the eastern Mediterranean in 2020 following her "amplification".

Upgrades on the ship will include the addition of water attractions such as The Perfect Storm duo of waterslides, an enhanced poolscape with a wider selection of seating, and the Lime & Coconut poolside bar.

More culinary options will also be available via the opening of Giovanni's Italian Kitchen, the Playmakers Sports Bar & Arcade, an American classics menu at Johnny Rockets Express, as well as a new Starbucks outlet.

For families, *Explorer* will boast



a range of added attractions to keep the kids entertained such as glow-in-the-dark laser tag which will debut in Studio B, a top-to-bottom redesign of the ship's dedicated kids spaces, including a renovated teens space (rendered **pictured**) boasting a revamped look and offering the latest in movies, gaming and music.

When the newly renovated *Explorer* heads to the eastern Mediterranean in 2020, she will

be joined by the refurbished *Allure of the Seas*, which will also be cruising the Mediterranean during the same season.

Explorer will then service five-to nine-night Caribbean sailings.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Windstar Cruises**.



On location aboard
Scenic Eclipse

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you from on board the brand new *Scenic Eclipse* cruising in the spectacular Canadian Maritimes.

SCENIC Eclipse is continuing its cruise in the Labrador Sea, with a delightfully relaxing day at sea yesterday allowing guests to make the most of the on board spa and extensive dining options.

The World's First Discovery Yacht arrives today in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, where a busy schedule will see shore excursions, helicopter flights and the first opportunity to utilise the ship's six-person submarine.



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Seeing polar bears is only the start on a cruise to the Arctic. Read more in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Scenic extended

SCENIC has extended its earlybird offers on select cruises in Canada, Alaska and USA until 31 Oct.

The range of promotions on offer include Premium Economy flights from \$2,595 per person, and Business class flights from \$5,995 per person.

Also available is an additional discount of \$300 per couple for tours of nine to 18 days, and \$600 in savings per person for all tours of 19 days or longer for those booked and paid by 31 Oct.

Scenic's GM Sales and Marketing, APAC Anthony Laver said that recent media focus on Canada had helped rejuvenate consumer interest in the country.

Fractured *Fantasy*

CARNIVAL *Fantasy* has been damaged while passing through the Panama Canal locks last week.

According to Carnival, the ship came into contact with one of the locks while water levels were being lowered.

The oldest ship in the fleet, damage to *Fantasy* was isolated to the Lido Restaurant and the adults-only serenity area on decks nine and 10.

The seaworthiness of the ship has not been impacted.

NZ welcomes Creative



CREATIVE Cruising celebrated its launch in New Zealand on Fri with a joyful event last week.

First Travel Group (FTG), Creative Cruising's partner for the initiative, flew its members to Auckland to celebrate with a festive cocktail function at the Pullman Hotel.

"We are extremely pleased to celebrate the launch of Creative Cruising into New Zealand in partnership with First Travel Group," said Caroline Hitchen, General Manager Creative Cruising.

"Our international expansion helps us do more of what we are passionate about, providing travel agencies with innovative cruise products and industry-leading service.

"With the launch of our new

online booking platform and backed by our local New Zealand call centre operations, we are set to provide exceptional service to a respected network of travel agency partners within First Travel Group," she added.

First Travel Group General Manager Retail John Willson agreed, stating "It was great to have our FTG members meet the Creative Cruising NZ team, and through the support of Carnival New Zealand and Royal Caribbean International, we have some exclusive incentives and reasons for our Agents to use the Creative Cruising NZ booking platform".

Pictured in full celebration mode is Willson alongside Tom Manwaring, Express Travel Group CEO and Malcolm McLeod, First Travel Group CEO.

Viking 2020/21 brox

VIKING Cruises has introduced its new 2020/21 World Cruises and Grand Voyages brochure, showcasing a collection of ocean voyages ranging from 22 to 161 days in duration.

Highlights of the brochure include the 22-day European Highlights itinerary, sailing from Venice to London via destinations such as Croatia, Greece, Italy, France & Spain.

Prices for the voyage start from \$13,195ppts, with bookings made before 31 Nov eligible for Viking's companion flight offer, allowing one traveller to fly free while the other can fly return to Europe from \$1,895 per person.

For more info call 138 747.

CLIA tickets on sale

CLIA Australasia has revealed that tickets to the 2020 Cruise Industry Awards are now available to CLIA members.

Reprising his role as host of the awards night will be Tim Campbell, who has officially signed on for the 2020 event.

More details available **HERE**.




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Silversea's milestone



FOR the first time in the cruise line's history, Silversea has crossed the Northeast Passage, with *Silver Explorer* achieving the milestone (**pictured**).

Between 10 Aug and 05 Sep, travellers journeyed 5,019 nautical miles between Nome, Alaska and Tromso, Norway, calling in at 27 destinations across three countries.

"Nothing is guaranteed this

far north, but we were very fortunate with the weather and ice conditions," said Silversea Expedition Leader Stefan Kredel.

"We are delighted to have unlocked so many unique and memorable experiences for our guests in this remarkable region, from a folkloric performance by locals in Provideniya to various sightings of polar bears and walrus."



THE team from Auckland's Midday Travel are among several NZ travel agents on board *Scenic Eclipse* this week, taking the opportunity to experience the newbuild on its voyage from Halifax, Canada to New York.

Midday Travel is one of the country's top cruise agencies, having won multiple Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia awards.

Principals Evelyn Lee and Jeffrey Liu have worked closely with Scenic and have a group booked on an upcoming *Eclipse* departure - one of several trips on their

busy schedule.

Scenic Eclipse has an open bridge policy, with the agents on board taking the opportunity to interact with the crew - in between other experiences including the 10 dining options, an extensive spa & wellness area, as well as enrichment lectures.

That's not to mention the onboard "toys" including two six-passenger helicopters and even a submarine.

Pictured are Jeffrey Liu and Evelyn Lee from Midday Travel with their Scenic BDM (and birthday girl) Karyn Blenkiron.

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A Royal Christmas

ROYAL Caribbean International has released details of two new Christmas cruises leaving Sydney.

One is a 10-day voyage stopping at New Caledonia, Mystery Island in Vanuatu, and Auckland, priced from \$1,799ppts.

The other is a 10-night cruise stopping at Noumea, the Isle of Pines in New Caledonia, and Mystery Island in Vanuatu.

Both cruises provide a range of Christmas-themed activities such as decorating gingerbread cookies and a chance to have a pleasant chinwag with Santa Claus.

Call 1800 754 500 for more info.

Cheers to that idea

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced the introduction of a new beverage program for cruises leaving Australia, allowing guests to pay a flat fee for a range of drinks.

The new CHEERS! offering is available for bookings on cruises of seven days or longer departing from Australia through to the end of Jan 2020, and includes alcoholic beverages such as sparkling wine, domestic and imported wine, beer, and cocktails featuring top-shelf brands such as Grey Goose, Hennessy and Patron.

Soft drinks, frozen cocktails and mocktails and small bottled water are also available under the program, which retails for \$119 per person per day.

Guests can also pre-purchase CHEERS! from 01 Oct 2019.

Small ship training

WINDSTAR Cruises and CLIA Australasia have teamed up to launch the first CLIA accredited small ship training program on board *Wind Spirit*.

Prices start from \$1,320ppts. See **page six** for more info.

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has been granted approval to undertake a major expansion at its Linez Terminal F At PortMiami to accommodate its Excel Class ship for arrival in 2022.

The yet-to-be-named sister ship to *Mardi Gras* will homeport out of the city when it is delivered, with Christine Duffy, President of Carnival Cruise Line saying, "Over the last several months, we have had very constructive discussions with PortMiami and Miami-Dade leaders about our plans for Miami and our goal to enhance and grow our capacity and operations in our hometown".

"Everyone is very excited about Miami being home to our next

liquefied natural gas ship in North America."

When completed, Terminal F will be the largest Carnival terminal in North America, and the third cruise terminal at PortMiami dedicated to the cruise line.

Carnival Cruise Line has also committed to operating out of Terminal F for 20 years, with the option of two additional seven-year extensions.

The company is the largest cruise operator in Miami, with more year-round ships sailing from PortMiami than any other cruise line.

Pictured is a rendering of the finished Terminal F.



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Travel & Cruise Weekly

It's common sense

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company has attached nutrient sensors to its ships sailing the Mississippi River to help collect data on water quality of the river.

The move was undertaken in partnership with the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative, the US Geological Survey, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Maritime Administration.

Avalon Origins sailing



Source: Twitter @RichardDawkins

AVALON Waterways is gearing up to host an eight-day Mekong River cruise organised by The Origins Project Foundation, where guests will learn from experts about the natural ecosystem of the river.

Prominent evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins (**pictured**), climate scientist Richard Somerville and theoretical physicist Lawrence Krauss will all be on board *Avalon Saigon* to deliver talks and key

observations of the area.

Hosting 26 travellers, the cruise will depart Siem Reap in Cambodia on 06 Jan 2020, and sail to Ho Chi Minh City, visiting the temples of Angkor Wat, the Cu Chi tunnels, Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh, and Cu Lao Gieng Island along the way.

The cost of the cruise leads in at \$9,950 per person twin share.

For further information the cruise and its list of expert speakers, [CLICK HERE](#).



A FREE cruise - everyone wants one of those!

The North Americans among us are in luck, with Norwegian Cruise Line celebrating the debut of *Encore* by giving away a select choice of its itineraries to one person from each US state and each Canadian province; including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico - that's 64 cruises all up.

"If you feel someone is an everyday hero in their community, feel free to tell Norwegian Cruise Line why and cast your vote."

The most voted candidate from each place will be rewarded with a free cruise for two, as well as an invite to an award ceremony in NYC in Dec.

Eagle-eyed readers would have noticed the promotion should offer 65 cruises - Quebecois are not invited to enter - etre en mosus!



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CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Oct is cruise month

Cruise Month begins next week, with CLIA and its cruise line members set to launch a busy schedule of marketing initiatives that showcase the best that cruise has to offer.

We'll also be highlighting the benefits of booking through a cruise specialist, including the additional skills and knowledge offered by a CLIA-accredited travel agent.

To help spread the word, we've created some great new collateral that members can download and use in their own marketing activity, including fact sheets, infographics, posters and social media tiles.

They're all contained within our new travel agent toolkit, which can be accessed by signing in to the Members Hub on the CLIA website.

This year Cruise Month will also have an added dimension as we celebrate our wider cruise community.

It's part of our global #WeAreCruise campaign and it will help highlight the benefits that cruising brings, including to millions of people in the communities we visit.

Travel agents are a key part of that wider cruise community, and we'll be giving agents a chance to get involved and tell their own stories.

Look out for our social media activity on Facebook and Instagram.

Agents should also be sure to use the #WeAreCruise hashtag throughout Cruise Month.



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Every Thu we publish our consumer newsletter - *Travel & Cruise Weekly* - sign up free at www.travelandcruiseweekly.com.au.



WINDSTAR'S VOYAGE OF LEARNING

Supported by CLIA's Small ship Cruising Training Program

Windstar Cruises and CLIA Australasia are excited to be launching the first CLIA accredited Small Ship Cruising Training Program in conjunction with Windstar's Agent Training onboard the elegant Wind Spirit from Cairns to Noumea.



Book in early as there is limited space available and will be strictly allocated on a first come first served basis

Embarkation: Cairns 1 June 2020

Disembark: Noumea 8 June 2020

Cost: \$1,320*pp twin share | \$1,979*pp solo traveller

CLIA Accreditation Points: 50

Includes: 7 night cruise onboard Wind Spirit, all meals whilst onboard, non-alcoholic beverages including espresso coffee whilst onboard, Windstar Product & CLIA Small Ship Cruise Specialist training program, welcome cocktail beverage, exclusive CLIA Agent Cocktail party, ship tour, galley tour, cooking demonstrations and so much more!

How to book:  Register your interest here

 deals.windstar.com.au/voyage-of-learning/

or contact Windstar Cruises Groups Department on 1300 749 875