



On location aboard  
*Voyager of the Seas*

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Cruiseco, whose annual conference is this week.

**WE'RE** docked in Hobart today as the Cruiseco conference provides attendees with several options to enjoy.

Golfing enthusiasts will be able to tee off with Cruiseco's Chairman Kevin Dale at a personally selected golf course, while Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings is providing a day of indulgence at an invitation-only event.

Tonight, attendees can get dressed up for the annual Cruiseco gala dinner & awards.

## Extra cruises to boost local economy

A NUMBER of cruise lines have recently announced an extended Australian season as a result of having to redeploy ships from Asia amid the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz welcomed the additional cruise visits, telling *CW* they are "great news, especially at a time when the tourism industry is focused on recovery".

"The extra deployments cruise lines have announced in Australia will boost visitation and provide new economic opportunities for destinations around the country.

"This is especially welcome in many of our regional communities impacted by the summer bushfires, so it's great to see destinations like Eden and Kangaroo Island included in some of these new cruises."



CREDIT: Barry Mitchell from SnapAction

One of those destinations is Geraldton in WA's mid-west, with Mid West Ports revealing it may get thousands of extra tourists this year, thanks to a yet-to-be-confirmed visit by the *Sapphire Princess*, which will be its largest visiting cruise ship to-date, with a capacity of 2,670-pax.

"The cruise industry provides significant economic benefits... with the downturn of Chinese tourists this year, we welcome the opportunity to [boost] our local tourism industry," said Mid West Ports CEO Dr Rochelle Macdonald.

Among the ships heading to, or remaining in, local waters are Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth* (*CW* 20 Feb) and *Queen Mary 2* (*CW* 11 Feb); Royal Caribbean's *Spectrum of the Seas* (*CW* 17 Feb); and Princess Cruises' *Sapphire Princess* (*CW* 19 Feb).

**Pictured:** CMV's *Vasco da Gama* at Geraldton Port in Jan.

### Cruise Weekly today

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



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## Tech helps Cruiseeco



**SEVERAL** enhancements made to the CruisePRO technology platform will help provide Cruiseeco agents with a continued competitive advantage in the market.

The announcement was made yesterday at the consortium's conference, which is currently underway onboard Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas*.

Speaking on stage, Monish Luthra, President & CEO of tech provider Odysseus Solutions, told Cruiseeco members the company had continued to develop and enhance the software platform by adding more "rich media" including images, 360-degree views and virtual reality tours of ship facilities.

Luthra told the audience that "more exclusive packages are

being built for Cruiseeco", saying that research indicated greater demand for dynamic packaging to bundle hotels, airfares and other ancillaries.

"A big addition in our product roadmap will be transfers and activities, which will come out later this year in the platform," Luthra said.

He said cruise lines which have been newly added to the platform included Croisi Europe, A-Rosa Cruises, Hurtigruten and Virgin Voyages, with the company's roadmap indicating direct connections will be established with Disney and Silversea Cruises by 2021.

**Pictured:** President and CEO Odysseus Solutions Monish Luthra speaking on stage at the Cruiseeco conference.

### Princess pax death

**TWO** elderly passengers, who had contracted COVID-19 onboard the *Diamond Princess*, died yesterday.

The passengers, who were Japanese, were an 87-year-old man and an 84-year-old woman; both reportedly had pre-existing medical conditions.

### P&O cancels Asia

**P&O** has cancelled *Pacific Explorer's* Indonesian Explorer cruise, scheduled to depart Singapore on 28 Feb, due to the ongoing "operational uncertainty" in Asia.

Guests have been contacted and offered a full refund of the cruise fare paid, a 50% future cruise credit, and will potentially get reimbursed for some out-of-pocket expenses.

### NCL's big offer

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) is offering up to US\$500 onboard credit per stateroom across all cabin categories in its "Biggest Sale of the Decade".

The offer includes NCL's Free At Sea deal, and is available to Australian and New Zealand guests across 400 select 2020/21 departures.

Bookings must be made by 03 Mar - **CLICK HERE**.



### Coronavirus update

**THE** cruise industry has come under scrutiny as the spread of coronavirus continues.

ACA is taking this situation very seriously and we are working closely with other industry associations such as CLIA and relevant bodies such as the WHO, the PM's office and Border Force to continue to monitor the situation.

Important measures are in place for our port and destination members and we remain vigilant to the updates.

We are grateful that there have been no changes to any planned cruise ship calls to any Australian destinations.

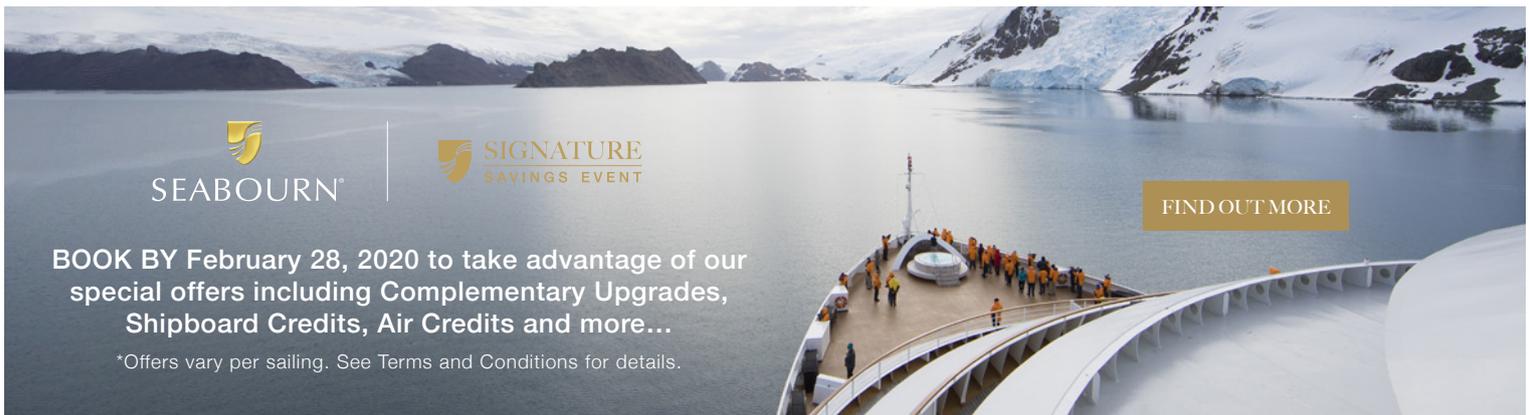
In fact, we can take some solace in knowing that we have been able to accommodate changing itineraries as ships need to divert around ports in Asia.

Cunard's *Queen Mary 2* has now arrived in WA.

Royal Caribbean has diverted *Spectrum of the Seas* to Sydney, announcing bushfire recovery cruises.

The *Sapphire Princess* will be deployed to Australia in May adding 44 new cruises and 171 port calls, and more may come.

While we take no joy in these troubling times, we are grateful that these new visits and home-ported plans will aid in the very important recovery program for our regional ports following the bushfires. We stand with our industry colleagues and remain poised to help.

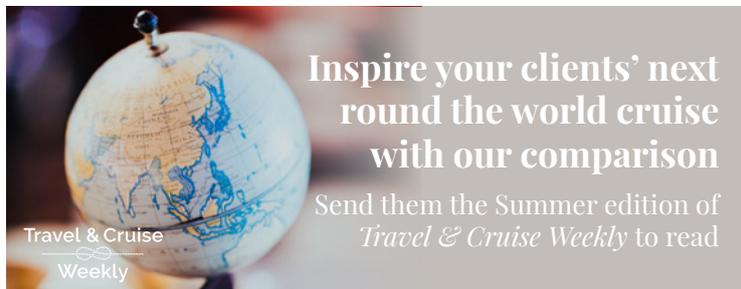


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## Cruise Calendar

The next few port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>The World</i>	21 Feb
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	22 Feb
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	22 Feb
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	23 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	23 Feb
<i>Astor</i>	23 Feb

BRISBANE	
<i>Arcadia</i>	22 Feb
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	22 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	23 Feb

MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	21 Feb
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	21 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	22 Feb
<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	22 Feb
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	22 Feb

FREMANTLE	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	22 Feb

HOBART	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	21 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	21 Feb
<i>Noordam</i>	22 Feb

ADELAIDE	
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	23 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	23 Feb

CAIRNS	
<i>Viking Sun</i>	21 Feb

EDEN	
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	21 Feb

AUCKLAND	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	21 Feb
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	21 Feb
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	22 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	23 Feb

WELLINGTON	
<i>Columbus</i>	21 Feb
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	22 Feb
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	23 Feb

## Hurtigruten to warmer waters



**HURTIGRUTEN** has launched a new season of warm water expedition cruises for 2021, with destinations across the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The voyages will sail aboard the cruise line's small-sized expedition ships, the *MS Roald Amundsen*, *MS Fridtjof Nansen*, and the upgraded *MS Fram*.

Highlights include ziplining, white-water rafting, and surfing

in Central America; visiting the Amazon River and Chilean fjords in South America; and exploring Costa Rica, Cuba and Jamaica in the Caribbean.

"Hurtigruten's take on warm waters is offering sustainable and unique, life-changing experiences on top of sun and warm weather. we heighten our off-the-beaten-path expeditions," said Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam.

## Magic in the Med

**ECRUISE** has announced its new 18-night Celebrate the Mediterranean cruise package from Barcelona to Athens.

The itinerary begins on 06 May 2021 with two nights at the Grand Hotel Central before passengers board the *Enchanted Princess* on 08 May for a 14-night cruise, concluding with two nights at the King George in Athens.

Prices start from \$7,899ppts including return int'l Economy airfares from Australia.

## Quark sustains

**QUARK** Expeditions has decreased emissions from its fleet by 28% since 2010, the Polar region expedition company revealed in its first annual *Sustainability Report*.

Quark has also eliminated single-use plastics, including 14,000 individual yogurt containers and 320,000 single-use plastic bottles, and donated \$250,000 to-date to the citizens science group Penguin Watch.

**CLICK HERE** to see the report.



**WE ALL** know plenty of cruise passengers are just into the "eating and drinking" part of cruising - and arriving in Sydney to cater to those passengers is Glass Island, a floating hospitality venue with a champagne lounge and Mediterranean beach club.

Spread over three decks, this newest party boat sails from Pyrmont, and has been created by the team who thought up Seadeck - another Sydney Harbour excursion perhaps more well-known for the "wetter" parts of sailing.

The experience also promises to highlight entertainment, with the musical stylings of Sneaky Sound System and Yolanda Be Cool.

Docking in Sydney until the end of Apr, Glass Island will then head to Brisbane, where it will remain until Oct, when it will return to the Harbour City.

## Save on Croatia

**CRUISE** Croatia is offering savings of up to \$800 per couple on the limited cabins still available on one-way cruises from Split and Dubrovnik, when booked and paid for by 31 Mar.

Included in the offer is the eight-day Adriatic Discovery cruise, with departures from May to Oct, now priced from \$2,030 per person twin share. **CLICK HERE** for more info.