



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Tauck**.

### Creative Ca\$h offer

**CREATIVE** Cruising has launched a major new "Creative Ca\$h" rewards program offering gift cards for all international cruise bookings, with quarterly payments based on every \$25,000 worth of sales throughout 2020.

Top performing consultants will also become members of the "Creative Crew" giving perks, famil opportunities and an invitation to a Top Achievers VIP trip.

Current offers also include bonus commission on Royal Caribbean and Celebrity - sign up at [creativecruising.com.au](http://creativecruising.com.au).

## Viking allows free 24-hour cancellations

**VIKING** Cruises has announced an "unprecedented" change to its cancellation policy, temporarily allowing customers booked on any upcoming voyage in 2020, 2021 or 2022 to cancel their trip with just 24 hours notice.

No cancellation fees apply, and clients will receive a Future Cruise Voucher for the full value of the amount paid, which can be used towards any future river, ocean or expedition cruise with Viking.

The vouchers are valid for 24 months from the date of issue - and the generous policy also applies to new bookings made across the full Viking portfolio between now and 30 Apr 2020.

That means clients can avail themselves of a range of attractive deals in the current Explorer Sale, with Managing Director Michelle Black saying "right now there are incredible offers across a huge selection



of our cruises, and we hope this temporary exception to our cancellation policy will put their mind at ease so they can book with confidence".

An update to customers has also highlighted some redeployments of Viking's ocean fleet in response to COVID-19, with further details expected in the coming days.

**MEANWHILE**, Viking Cruises is also increasing its engagement

with the local sector by becoming the newest member of the Australian Cruise Association.

ACA CEO, Jill Abel, said the organisation had been engaging with Viking since the arrival of *Viking Sun* (pictured) in 2018, and welcomed the planned return of *Viking Orion* this Nov for her third and longest season yet, "demonstrating the importance of the region to the cruise line".



# THE SEEKER SALE

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## Tauck me to Europe

**TAUCK** is highlighting a range of European river cruises it has on offer in 2020 and 2021, including a 12-day Prague to Budapest sailing along The Danube which features explorations of the a palace in Vienna and Prague's Baroque libraries - see **page four**.

## Royal debuts Flight Finder



**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises (RCL) has launched a new booking tool called Flight Finder, allowing agents to purchase flights and transfers for cruises all on the one streamlined booking portal.

The tool is now available on Espresso via [www.CruisingPower.com](http://www.CruisingPower.com), and allows access to flight bookings for the Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, and Azamara booking programs.

Features of RCL's new Flight Finder site includes a "guaranteed" competitive price

list, continual monitoring of flight cancellations and changes to ensure clients' cruise plans are never jeopardised, and an option to reserve flights and pay later so that packages can be purchased during the same transaction.

"Flight Finder is just another way the innovative cruise line is endeavouring to make their amazing ships and itineraries accessible worldwide, making it easier and faster than ever to create the perfect holiday for all clients," the cruise line said.

## Maldives blocks

**DFAT** has advised that all cruise ships have been suspended from docking at the Maldives until further notice in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The country has also introduced additional health screening at entry points.

## Darwin dealt blow

**CRUISE** ship cancellations in Darwin, such as the previously scheduled *AIDAvita*, are threatening to impact the city's tourism industry.

The cancelled vessels would have brought close to 6,000 tourists to the city, and there are also concerns that Holland America Line's *Amsterdam* is rethinking its scheduled visit due to happen on 16 Mar, according to *NT News*.

## Europa 2 on sale

**THE** 2021/22 season for Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' *Europa 2* vessel is now open for sale.

The latest program includes 27 cruises to destinations such as Easter Island in the South Pacific, America's West Coast, Hawaii and Central America.

Highlights also include a return to the Turkish cities of Istanbul and Marmaris.

Order a brochure for the latest program online **HERE**.

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## Cruise lines hacked

**CARNIVAL'S** Holland America Line and Princess Cruises brands have both been targeted by a series of deceptive emails, resulting in unauthorised third-party access to some staff accounts. Both brands released statements indicating they had "acted quickly" to shut down the cyberattack back in May, since employing a security firm to investigate further.

## UTracks pedals new ship



**EUROPEAN** holiday operator UTracks has announced plans to introduce a new 67-metre vessel to its fleet next month, where she will sail through the canals of the Netherlands and Belgium.

*Magnifique IV* will be able to accommodate up to 36 passengers, with the composition of its decks featuring eight cabins on the lower deck and 10 suites on the upper deck.

Selling points for each cabin and suite include a private en suite bathroom, air conditioning, flat screen satellite TV, mini safe and hair drying facilities.

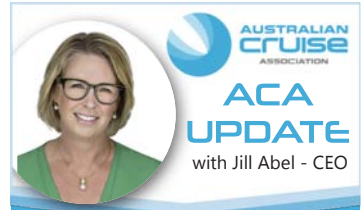
Itineraries offered on voyages will incorporate daily cycling excursions between historic

towns in both countries, with highlights of the ship's program including an eight-day Amsterdam to Bruges - Deluxe itinerary, offering guided bike trips through Antwerp and Ghent on route to the historic Belgian city of Bruges.

The sailings will depart between Apr and Oct, with prices leading in at \$2,490 per person.

*Magnifique IV* will also service an eight-day Best of Holland Bike and Barge between May and Sep, providing guests with the chance to spend time in the villages of Vianen, Weesp and Dordrecht.

Prices start from \$2,690pp.  
**Pictured:** Rendering of the vessel's restaurant area.



## Viking signs on with ACA

**SMALL** ship cruise line, Viking Cruises, has signed up as ACA's newest member.

With a focus on providing immersive destination experiences that bring pax closer to the culture, wildlife, history and cuisine of the places they visit, this couldn't be a better fit with our membership.

We have been working closely with the cruise line since 2018, when *Viking Sun* first visited Australia.

I was delighted to be invited on board again when she recently stopped in Hobart as part of her impressive Guinness World Record-setting cruise.

*Viking Orion* is home-ported in Sydney seasonally each year and will return in Nov for her third and longest season yet, demonstrating the importance of the region to the cruise line.

Viking's small-ship fleet allows its vessels the opportunity to call at both major gateway ports and smaller regional destinations such as Newcastle, Hobart, Darwin, Townsville and Thursday Island.

As cruise passengers select their cruise line to enjoy the onboard offerings as well as the onboard experience, joining ACA will allow us to connect Viking with key destination members and ground handlers to share information and seek out mutually beneficial opportunities.



**USUALLY** a boat run aground requires some immediate rescue effort, but a yacht owner who suffered this problem in New Zealand last week is standing resolute and refusing to move.

The man, who got his yacht stuck on a beach in Days Bay, is now living at the scene in breach of council bylaws.

But a refusal to leave is just part of the story, with the unnamed sailor making himself at home, spreading his belongings across the beach, which at this stage includes an inflatable boat, kayak, books, sails, an umbrella, clothing, outdoor gear and a bicycle.

There are now suggestions local law enforcement may soon pay the beach squatter a visit.




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Lorch in Germany, The Rhine

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### The Blue Danube

#### 12 days from Prague to Budapest

Departing Eastbound: 13, 20, 27 Apr; 25 May; 1, 8, 15, 22 Jun; 6 Jul; 3 Aug; 7, 14, 21, 28 Sep; 5, 19 Oct 2021  
Westbound: 20 Apr; 11, 18, 25 May; 27 Jul; 7, 21, 28 Sep; 12 Oct 2021 onboard *ms Joy* or *ms Savor*

Starting from **\$7,760\***pp twin share |  
**\$7,760\***pp solo travellers  
**No single supplement on all departures!**

#### INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Private Imperial Evening at a palace in Vienna featuring a gala dinner and Viennese performers
- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Private aperitif and dinner in Prague at Lobkowicz Palace, Prague Castle
- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – A private tour of Prague's Baroque libraries, Strahov Monastery
- All private Tauck shore excursions – AUD \$4,292 Value
- Two nights each in Prague and Budapest at centrally located hotels in the heart of the cities



[View Itinerary](#)

### Savouring France: Paris, Lyon & Provence

#### 10 days from Paris to Lyon

Departing 7, 14, 21 Apr; 16, 23, 30 May; 29 Jun; 11 Jul; 10, 17 Aug; 11, 18, 25 Sep; 20, 27 Oct 2021  
onboard *ms Emerald*

Starting from **\$6,940\***pp twin share |  
**\$6,940\***pp solo travellers  
**No single supplement on all departures!**

#### INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Evening at the 12th-century Duché d'Uzès
- Tauck's private shore excursions and distinctive inclusions valued at AUD \$3,958
- Pastry class for Tauck guests at Le Cordon Bleu Paris
- Reception and dinner at Fouquet's, followed by a city lights tour of Paris at night
- Provençal lunch at a private ranch in La Camargue
- Private wine tastings in Beaujolais and Châteaufort-du-Pape



[View Itinerary](#)

### The Rhine and Moselle

#### 15 days from Amsterdam to Basel

Departing Southbound: 30 Jun; 1 Aug; 6 & 17 Oct 2021  
Northbound: 19 May; 14 Jul; 15 Aug; 01 Sep 2021  
*ms Esprit, ms Inspire, ms Grace* or *ms Treasures*

Starting from **\$9,690\***pp twin share |  
**\$9,690\***pp solo travellers  
**No single supplement on all departures!**

#### INCLUDES

- **TAUCK EXCLUSIVE** – Dinner at the historic Schloss Ehreshoven in Germany
- Tauck's private shore excursions and distinctive inclusions valued at AUD \$3,181
- Insider tour of the Gothic-Renaissance Heidelberger Schloss and lunch at a popular local restaurant
- Choices of bicycle excursions in Boppard and Arnhem's De Hoge Veluwe National Park
- A scenic cruise along the canals of Amsterdam



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