

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Monday 16th November 2020

# Scenic, Emerald 2022 earlybirds out

SCENIC Group this morning released details of new 2022 "Super Earlybird" deals for both the Scenic and Emerald brands, citing significant demand from clients wanting to secure voyages with a long lead time.

Scenic Group GM Sales & Marketing Australasia, Anthony Laver, said the offers had been created to support trade partners and clients to plan and book now.

As well as attractive pricing, the promotion includes Scenic's Deposit Protection Plan and 60day Flexible Booking Policy, as a complimentary add-on, which is normally valued at \$125.

Guests also have the option of taking Scenic's Platinum Protection Plan on new 2022 bookings, giving them peace of mind to cancel up to 31 days prior to departure and receive a 100% refund.

Earlybird offers for 2022 include

savings of up to 20% on selected Antarctica and Europe departures aboard Scenic Eclipse, while for Scenic European river cruising Business class flights can be secured from just \$2,995pp.

Alternatively Economy class flights are included in the Scenic Europe river fares, with an additional saving of \$1,200pp. In South East Asia Scenic is offering a free suite upgrade on 2022 bookings, valued at up to \$2,695 per person.

Emerald Cruises 2022 Super Earlybird offers include savings of up to \$3,000 per couple on all sailings on the Rhine, Main and, Danube rivers as well as voyages in France and Portugal.

Mekong river cruising with Emerald offers earlybird savings of up to \$3,100 per couple, while discounts of up to 30% are available on selected 2022 departures on the new Emerald

Azzurra super yacht cruising the Mediterannean, Adriatic Coast and the Red Sea.

The new risk-free Platinum Protection Plan (PPP) can be purchased for \$395 per person for river cruising, \$495 per person for Emerald Azzurra and \$595 per person for Scenic Eclipse.

The plan covers clients if they fall ill, or if their travel plans are impacted by COVID-19, up until 31 days prior to departure with a 100% refund (less airline cancellation fees and the cost of the PPP); or a 70% refund between 15 and 30 days prior to departure (less the PPP cost).

The limited offers are available on selected suites and itineraries until sold out, with full payment required 12 months in advance of the departure date.

Offers will also apply to 2022/23 Scenic Eclipse worldwide voyages, to be released next month.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Oceania record

OCEANIA Cruises has set a new booking record for the launch of its 2022 Europe & North America Collection of voyages (CW 05 Nov).

The record sales day was set in Aug 2019 for the 2021 Europe and North America launch, with the new record up more than 20% on the previous high mark.

Cruises to the Mediterranean and Baltics were exceptionally strong performers, along with longer Grand Voyages, and more than 90% of the reservations were new cash bookings with less than 10% of customers utilising future cruise credits.



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page 1



Monday 16th November 2020

*keep dreaming..* Travel inspiration for your client's next holiday

## CDC asked to reinstate No-Sail

**TWO** US Congress members have urged the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to once again ban cruising, after the unfortunate outbreak of COVID-19 aboard *SeaDream I* in the Caribbean on its cruise restart voyage (*CW* 13 Nov).

Seven passengers out of 53 on board were found to have the virus, despite extensive pre-departure protocols and mid-voyage testing.

The politicians wrote to CDC Director Robert Redfield saying "we feel strongly that you should reverse course on the recent decision...to take a phased approach to restarting cruise line operations".

"We implore you to extend the prior no-sail order until a time when the health and safety of passengers and crew can be assured," they said.

# Celestyal confirms new branding

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has unveiled a new brand identity, complementing the logo revealed adorning the line's new *Celestyal Experience* (*CW* 28 Sep) which is scheduled to make her debut in Mar 2021.

The branding is inspired by the "legendary spirit of Greece and the Greek 'love of life'," the company said, with the logo (**pictured** at centre), to be a modern interpretation of the iconic traditional windmills which dot the Greek islands.

Celestyal's new tagline "Experience life, experience the journey" is inspired by a famous poem called "Ithaca" by C.P. Cavafy, and will be reflected through an enhanced onboard guest experience, including cuisine inspired by the Mediterranean diet, an island beach club, specially selected Greek wines, and a range of spa



and wellness treatments.

"This is a most exciting time in our company's history as we look to the future with the addition of the *Celestyal Experience* to our fleet," said Celestyal Chief Commercial Officer, Leslie Peden.

"This was also the perfect time to re-examine our brand and to reimagine it to be more reflective of our new direction and what today's traveller is looking for from their travel experience.

"As we look to grow our audience, we are keen to capture more of a younger demographic, including the key millennial audience," Peden said.

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He said the brand aimed to embody the essence of Greek hospitality and the "spirit of happiness, joy, passion, sharing and discovery which make travel so special."

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## Mackay takes key P&O role

**ANGUS** Mackay has been named as P&O Cruises Australia's first Key Account Manager to complement the line's new Flagship Concierge in-house sales support operation (*CW* 23 Sep).

Mackay (**pictured**) has been with P&O for 12 years, most recently as trade BDM for northern NSW.

He takes up his new role effective from 01 Dec, with responsibility for growing a portfolio of key relationships across Australia, offering "a premium level of business development and comprehensive support to travel agent partners".

Mackay said he was looking forward to supporting the travel agent community to rebuild and reinvigorate their businesses.

"I'm excited about this new role and working with our key trade partners to maximise opportunities when cruising



resumes in Australia," he said. "This role will be pivotal in giving our key partners the tools and information they need to maximise their P&O sales, and I'm keen to learn even more about their businesses in the interim as

we work together towards this day," Mackay added. The Flagship Concierge initiative

replaces P&O's previous field trade sales team, allowing travel agents to "go to the heart of the organisation to have their support needs met during this complex and ever-evolving time for the cruise industry," P&O said. Norwegian teases cruising comeback

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has launched a new "docuseries", inviting consumers to experience its brand and "enjoy a front row seat to its highly anticipated comeback".

Submit you cocktail recip

The online EMBARK NCL Spotlight Series is kicking off with two episodes showcasing some of the line's iconic talent, taking viewers into London's West End Garrick Theatre for a reunion of *The Choir of Man* cast - a production performed across the world including residencies aboard *Norwegian Escape* and *Norwegian Encore*.

The first 40-minute episode will stream live on Fri 20 Nov at 1pm AEDT at ncl.com/embark.

## Malaysia restart plan under consideration

AUTHORITIES in Malaysia are reportedly mulling a plan to introduce domestic "cruises to nowhere" according to Captain K. Subramaniam, GM of the Port Klang Authority, the facility 40km from Kuala Lumpur which in better times regularly hosts cruise ships to the capital.

The *Malaysian Reserve* newspaper quoted Subramaniam confirming a proposal had been requested two months ago, with a set of tight Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure COVID-19 risks are mitigated.

"We actually planned to start last month, but since the cases have spiked again, we are unsure if we will get the goahead," he said.

The port of Penang is also involved in the proposal.

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**Cruise Weekly** 

page 3



Monday 16th November 2020

## Destination: The Perfect Storm



SHIP: Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas. LOCATION: Deck 13, aft.

**LOOKING** to double your waterslide fun? Look no further than The Perfect Storm, available to cruisers on board *Voyager of the Seas*.

Choose between Typhoon and Cyclone, **pictured**, and challenge friends and family to a slippery ride that will get hearts pumping and the adrenalin racing. Filled with winding bends, unexpected drops and bucketloads of water, riders will rocket through three storeys of slide, with translucent panels offering panoramic views for those brave enough to sneak a peek at the outside world on

the way down. **RESTRICTIONS:** The minimum height for users is 121cm, with the max weight 136kg.

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## Ponant eclipse

**ONE** of the inaugural cruises of Ponant's upcoming *Le Commandant-Charcot* (*CW* 09 Nov) will see guests experience a total solar eclipse in Antarctica.

The 15-night expedition voyage departs Ushuaia on 30 Nov 2021, and will explore the eastern part of the Weddell Sea, the only spot on Earth where the 04 Dec 2021 eclipse will be totally visible.

Mostly frozen by a thick and compressed ice floe, the region is rarely accessible.

The trip will also see guests discover the Larsen Ice Shelf, and enjoy regular outings and shore visits in Zodiacs, hovercraft activities, hot air ballooning and electric snowmobile rides.

Staterooms are available from \$25,340 twin share, and for more details on the voyage, **CLICK HERE**.

Registrations are also still open to join Ponant for an online event this Thu to hear more about *Le Commandant-Charcot*, including more of her scheduled voyages - **CLICK HERE**.



**QANTAS'** centenary celebration has once again brought to light the almost-forgotten Short Empire chapter of QF's history, when it operated flying boats.

The airline on the weekend released a very rare nine-minute colour film reel of the boat (**pictured**) from the 1930s, which was uncovered inside a small tin at a storage base in Sydney.

The unique footage has been digitised and released by Qantas, showing two of the Short Empires on a journey from Darwin to Singapore via the Dutch East Indies - not a trip you'd be able to take today, in more ways than one!

Other destinations the Shorts travelled to which no longer exist include Batavia, which has since been renamed Jakarta.



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page 4